

Ta-Nehisi Coates writing comic book series

End of story at Oyster, e-book subscription startup

WASHINGTON, Sept 23, (Agencies): Oyster, the startup seeking to be the "Netflix for e-books" by offering unlimited reading for a monthly fee, says its story is coming to an end.

The company announced in a blog late Monday it "will be taking steps to sunset the existing Oyster service over the next several months."

Oyster readers will be informed about the shutdown over the next few weeks, the statement said.

The Oyster blog said the company launched "with a simple idea to build a better way to read on mobile," and that "we've made incredible progress towards that goal."

"We look forward to sharing more details soon, but rest assured, your account will continue to operate normally in the meantime," the company said.

Oyster launched in 2013 with a \$9.95 monthly subscription plan for a wide selection of books — but without most top-selling titles — a deal similar to that of Netflix's streaming video service.

It later allowed users to purchase

New info on website

Rowling tells a new Potter story

NEW YORK, Sept 23, (AP): Eight years after writing the last of her "Harry Potter" novels, J.K. Rowling is still adding to the boy wizard's story.

The author posted new information Tuesday about the Potter family, the background provided on a "newly imagined" and mobile friendly version of the Pottermore Web portal (www.pottermore.com) that Rowling established in 2012.

best-selling e-books directly from its website.

But it faced tough competition from Amazon — which offers a similar subscription service — and from other digital book providers including Apple, Google and Barnes & Noble.

The news website Re/code reported that Google had hired some members of the Oyster team, in preparation for a possible subscription service through

Google Play Books.

Also:

NEW YORK: One of the country's top writers about race, Ta-Nehisi Coates, has signed up with Marvel Comics for a Black Panther series.

Coates, whose open letter to his son "Between the World and Me" is a best-seller and National Book Award nominee, is collaborating with artist Brian Stelfreeze on a storyline about revolu-



This Oct 16, 2012 file photo shows 'Harry Potter' novels author J.K. Rowling at an appearance at The David H. Koch Theater in New York. (AP)

tion, terrorism and heroism inspired by the militant organization founded in the 1960s. The 39-year-old Coates long has been a fan of comics, often tweeting about them on his popular feed @tane-

hiscoates. The new, year-long series begins next spring, Marvel announced Tuesday.

In a statement, Marvel editor in chief Axel Alonso praises Coates as a "pow-

erful and singular literary voice" who will tell a story about "the world we have created, and the world we want to live in."

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NEW YORK: Chris Colfer is seeing a long and varied future for his "Land of Stories" fantasy books.

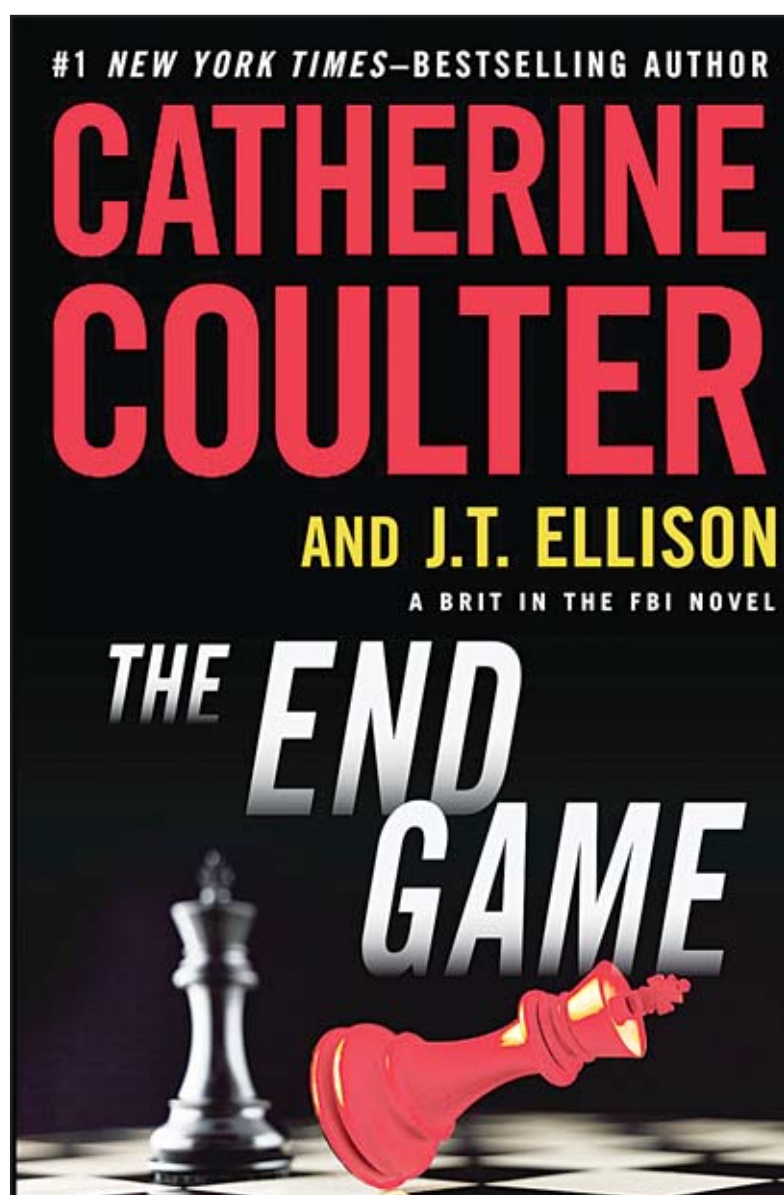
The actor, who played Kurt Hummel on the TV show "Glee," has signed a new multiyear deal for his best-selling series.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers announced the agreement Tuesday. It will extend "Land of Stories" to a sixth and (presumed) final book, along with a graphic novel and fairy tale collection based on the series. Four books have come out so far.

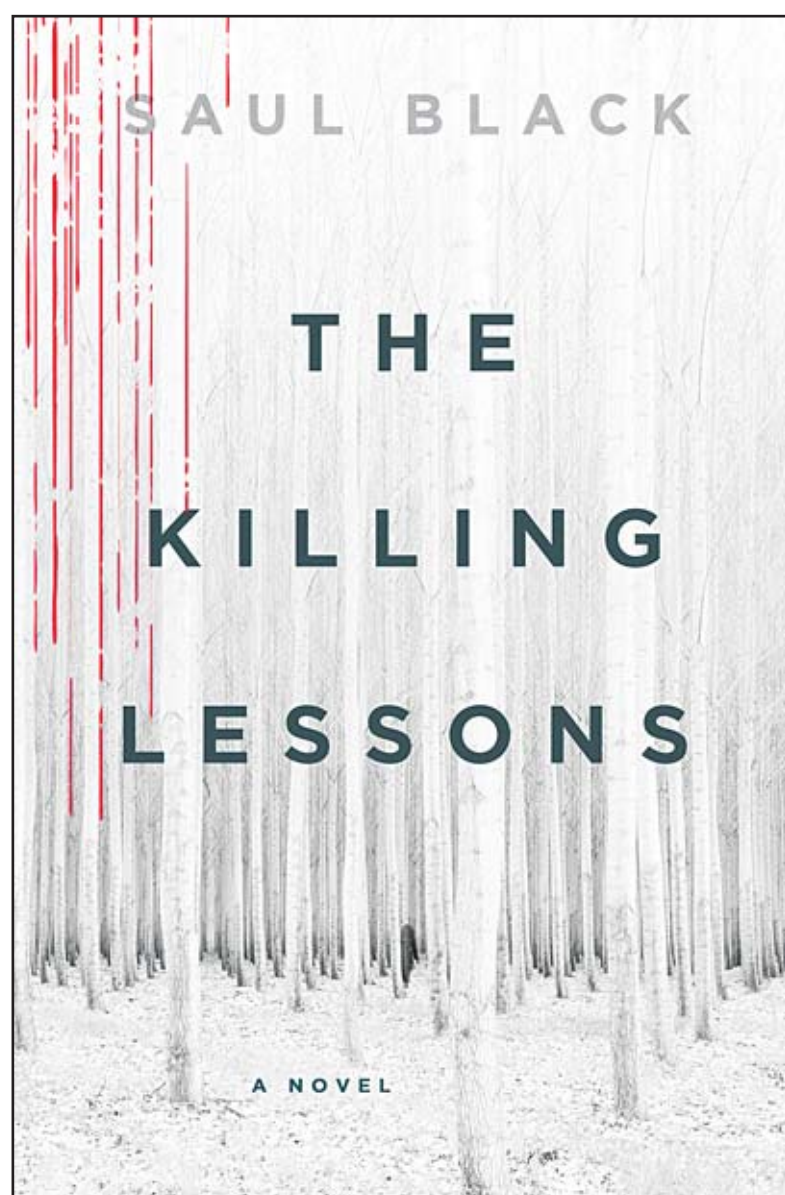
The sixth book, currently untitled, is scheduled for July 2017, followed in the fall of that year by the graphic novel. The fairy tale book will come out in the fall 2016.

According to Little, Brown, the "Land of Stories" series has sold more than 1 million copies and has been translated into 16 languages.

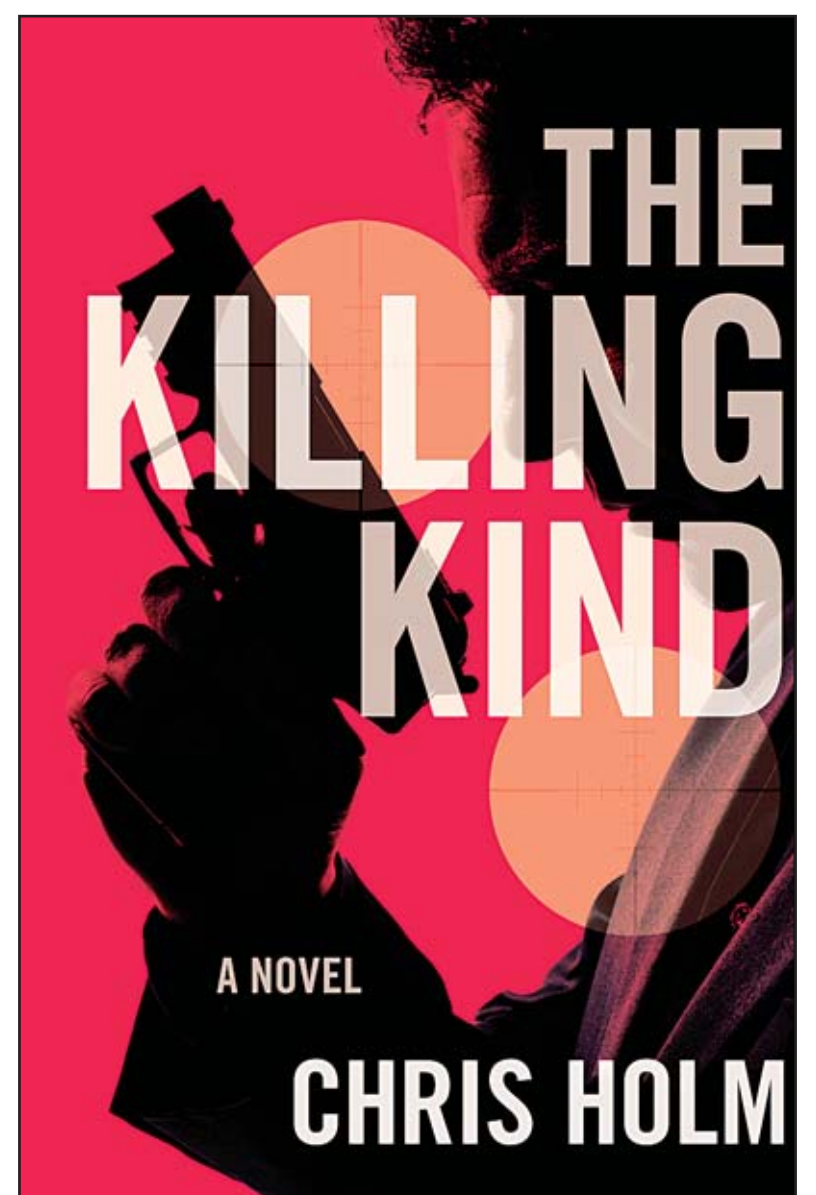
Books



This photo provided by Putnam shows the cover of the book, 'The End Game', by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison. (AP)



This photo provided by St Martin's Press shows the cover of the book, 'The Killing Lessons', by Saul Black. (AP)



This photo provided by Mulholland Books/Little, Brown and Company shows the cover of the book, 'The Killing Kind', by author Chris Holm. (AP)

'The End Game' is worth 'checking' out

click

Latest

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Mavelikara. We are cordially inviting all members, families and friends to join the association's this year's Onam Fest 2015 which will be held at Pravasi Auditorium 9.00 am onwards on Oct 2, 2015, Friday. We have organized various cultural programs, Mahabali, Kummatti, Thiruvathira, Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, Ghanamela, Mannan and Manga from audience.

For more details please contact: Sabu Mavelikara (Program Convener) 65849043, Ninan John (President) - 66898264, Francis Lawrence (General Secretary) - 65176333

Oct 7

DAI announces Story Time: We need your help. Over the summer, the DAI started a Story Time programme that was a terrific success. The children, many of whom came every week, loved the stories and so did the parents. (Truth be told, so did the readers!)

So, due to popular demand, we're going to launch CS21 Story Time, held in two locations. We'll be doing Story Time at the Yarmouk Culture Centre on set Wednesday afternoons for all the kids in the neighbourhood (and anyone else who wants to come). We'll also have Story Time at Americani Cultural Centre on set Saturday afternoons. The schedule for both is shown below.

Of course, this means we need 32 volunteer readers.

Will you be one of them?

Ideally, the book will be read twice, once with minimal interruptions, followed by a more interactive reading. The first reading is designed to help kids get comfortable listening to stories. The second reading, with questions and prompts like "what happens next?" "what do you think she sounds like?" and "why did he do that?," promotes the development of critical thinking, creativity, and communication

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Gilbert saws fear in half in 'Big Magic'

By Brooke Lefferts & Jeff Ayers

'Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear' (Riverhead Books), by Elizabeth Gilbert

Over a lifetime committed to writing, Elizabeth Gilbert has learned that engaging fear is part of the creative process. In her new book, "Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear," she offers tricks to make fear disappear, at least long enough to get some work done.

The author of the best-selling memoir "Eat, Pray, Love" encourages readers to follow their curiosity, maintaining that a creative life is "bigger, happier, and a hell of a lot more interesting." Gilbert tackles fear as the main obstacle keeping people from filling up their creative buckets. Whether you're a committed writer working on the great American novel, or a businesswoman who always loved to ice skate, admitting a desire to pursue your passion and embarking on a new endeavor can be as terrifying as it is exciting.

Gilbert takes on the delicate but important work of self-examination to help others recognize fear as a deterrent. Known for her honest and thoughtful prose, she looks at her own journey as a writer and shares experiences that helped her acknowledge her fears and move past them. Many readers will recognize themselves and how they use fear to procrastinate trying.

Gilbert's signature conversational style creates intimacy, as does her self-deprecating, humorous tone. Short, easy-to-read chapters filled with inspirational quotes and relevant stories about herself and other writers build momentum.

The book delivers practical advice on living a creative life: eliminate distractions, carve out consistent work time, be flexible about making changes, let go of perfection and find authenticity. Gilbert tackles heavy, sensitive subject matter but keeps it light, making what's essentially a self-help

'Killing Lessons' is compelling thriller

Writing tight and tense in 'Killing Kind'

"The Killing Lessons" (St Martin's Press), by Saul Black

British novelist Glen Duncan uses the pseudonym Saul Black and jumps into the graphic crime genre with this stomach-turning, but ultimately compelling thriller. The elements are graphic and disturbing — and no one is spared — in the opening pages of "The Killing Lessons". Somehow with the harsh details and intense choice of words, the reader is given enough to keep going.

Two men appear in a Colorado farmhouse and kill a mother and her young son. A 10-year-old girl was outside when everything went tragically wrong. Frozen and scared, she ends up at the isolated home of a hermit, and he might have ulterior motives when he says he will

help her.

San Francisco homicide detective Valerie Hart is investigating a string of murders all over the country because she sees a pattern. She has let her work and mindset destroy her life, and hopes she can solve the case before there's another victim. Unfortunately, she fails.

Black utilizes the psychological edge of his characters to elevate the story above a gore-ridden tale. The characters, including Hart, are flawed, but they're still worth following. The conclusion isn't quite as good as the first half, but it's still worthwhile.

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"The Killing Kind" (Mulholland Books), by Chris Holm

Chris Holm takes an interesting spin



This photo shows book cover of 'Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear' by Elizabeth Gilbert. (AP)

book feel like a good talk with a friend rather than a sermon.

Inspiration

We have to be open to inspiration, the author contends. Good ideas are all around us, if we're looking and listening for them. Those familiar with Gilbert's work know she has strong spiritual connections and reverts the power of the universe to provide signs that guide us on a creative path.

"The universe buries strange jewels deep within us all, and then stands back to see if we can find them. The often surprising results of that hunt that's what I call Big Magic," Gilbert writes.

Gilbert animates fear —making it seem alive, like a powerful, demanding dragon that needs to be carefully manipulated before it is slain. Her two-page list of the specific fears that keep people from attempting or completing artistic dreams will ring true for many paralyzed by self-doubt. She suggests courage, hard work and trust are the

on the anti-hero scenario with his new novel, "The Killing Kind".

Mike Hendricks was a soldier with a fiancée and a wonderful life waiting for him when he returned from his overseas deployment. But the horrific results of a mission make him decide to declare himself dead, and he now spends his days as a hitman with extreme skills.

The violence in "The Killing Kind" is visceral, the writing is tight and tense, and the characterizations are more in-depth than usual for this genre. This is a fun spin on crime fiction by having a hero who may also be the villain. The unpredictability of the story will also have readers wondering what's going to happen next, if this is indeed the first in a series. (AP)

weapons to conquer it. In one empowering exercise, she writes an amusing but firm letter to fear, calling it "dude" and telling it to back off and know its place.

Exposing her own triggers and blocks, Gilbert suggests that creative work should come from joy, not fear and misery. She debunks the allure of the tortured artist, addicted to drama and convinced good work requires pain and suffering. She's candid about her own mental health struggles and how they can affect her work, but don't control it. Her love of writing is the greatest incentive to stay as "sane, healthy and stable" as possible.

Gilbert says she wrote "Big Magic" because she loved the idea and the process. Her enthusiasm for her work shines through and is likely to create a ripple of inspiration. While helping readers is a lovely bonus, it's not her main goal. The book's most powerful message is to not worry about what others think —loved ones, editors, crit-

ics —but create for yourself.

If you love the work, she writes, "the words 'failure' and 'success' essentially become irrelevant."

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"The End Game" (Putnam), by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison

"The End Game," the third collaboration by Catherine Coulter and J.T. Ellison, is another outstanding entry in this series that features FBI agent Nicholas Drummond and his partner, Michaela Caine.

A ruthless organization known as the Celebrants of the Earth (COE) has been bombing power grids and oil refineries. Up to this point, no one has been hurt. But that changes with an explosion at a New Jersey refinery. While Drummond and Caine are investigating, a secondary device goes off, almost killing them. A cyberattack on several oil companies causes even more havoc.

Meanwhile, undercover CIA agent Vanessa Grace is trying to destroy COE from within. She's earned the trust of the leader of the group, but someone else has joined the party — ruthless assassin wanted by several world governments. He has a bold plan to not only use COE to destroy the United States financially, but also to assassinate the president and vice-president. The pieces are moving rapidly toward the end game, and the FBI needs to work with other government agencies if it is going to stop the chaos.

Readers who like romance with their suspense will especially enjoy this latest installment of Coulter and Ellison's stellar series. To add more fun to the reading, each chapter opens with a chess move from the match in 1956 between Bobby Fischer and Donald Byrne that was dubbed The Game of the Century. The pacing of the novel follows closely to the events of this historic event.

Layer upon layer, "The End Game" is worth "checking" out. (AP)