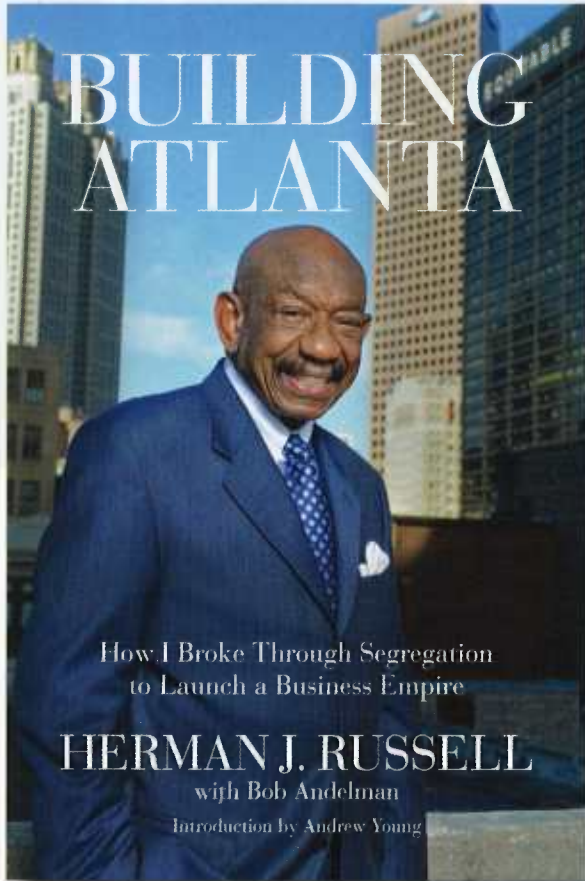


SOUTHERN TALES

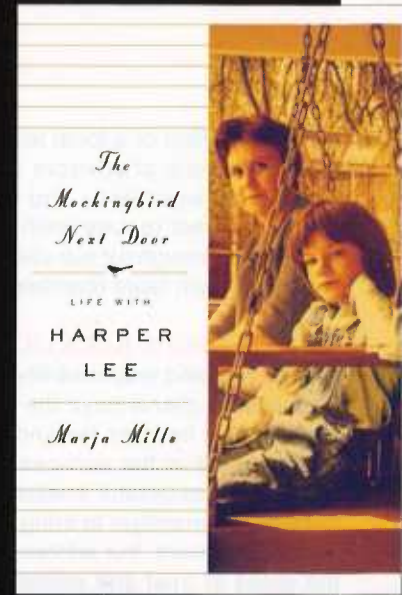


■ **BUILDING ATLANTA: HOW I BROKE THROUGH SEGREGATION TO LAUNCH A BUSINESS EMPIRE**, HERMAN J. RUSSELL (CHICAGO REVIEW PRESS)

Born in deeply segregated Atlanta during the Great Depression, the last of eight children, Herman J. Russell started working when he was just six years old. Russell would go on to become one of the nation's wealthiest African Americans, growing his Atlanta business empire from his first entrepreneurial endeavor: a modest shoeshine business. He would later put his business career and real estate holdings on the line in the name of the Civil Rights movement by repeatedly bailing protestors out of jail – including his close friend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In *Building Atlanta*, Russell provides a behind-the-scenes look at the important role that the business community played, black and white working together, in Atlanta's peaceful progression from the capital of the racially divided Old South to the financial center of the New South. Beyond a typical rags-to-riches story, the book brims with his winning advice for anyone with an enterprising spirit.

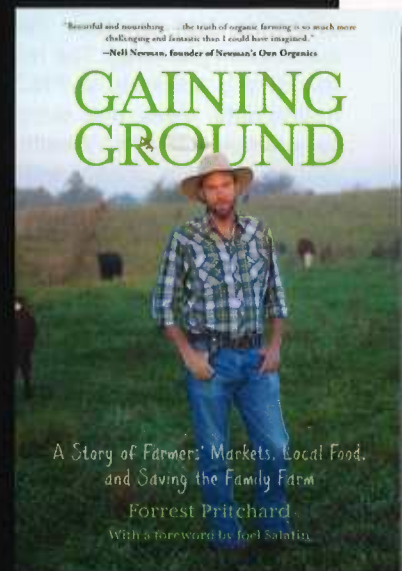
■ **THE MOCKINGBIRD NEXT DOOR: LIFE WITH HARPER LEE**, MARJA MILLS (THE PENGUIN PRESS, JULY 15)

For the past 50 years, Harper Lee has remained a mystery, saying almost nothing on the record. Over the years, countless journalists have trekked to her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama – where she has lived with her sister Alice for decades – trying and failing to get an interview. But in 2001, the Lee sisters opened their door for *Chicago Tribune* reporter Marja Mills. It was the beginning of a friendship that continues to this day. In *The Mockingbird Next Door*, Mills draws on the extraordinary access the Lees gave her to their home and their lives—as their friend and, for well over a year, as their next-door neighbor. Lee's voice leaps off the pages, ruminating on her upbringing, her beloved corner of the Deep South, how *To Kill a Mockingbird* affected her life, and why she chose never to write another novel.



■ **GAINING GROUND: A STORY OF FARMERS' MARKETS, LOCAL FOOD, AND SAVING THE FAMILY FARM**, FORREST PRITCHARD (LYONS PRESS)

One fateful day in 1996, upon discovering that five freight cars' worth of glittering corn reaped a tiny profit of \$18.16, young college graduate Forrest Pritchard undertakes to save his family's seventh-generation farm in the Shenandoah Valley. Whether he's selling firewood and straw, raising free-range chickens and hogs, or acquiring a flock of Barbados Blackbelly sheep, his learning curve is steep and always entertaining – with colorful local characters bringing the story to life. The farm eventually becomes a recognized success, and Pritchard must make a vital decision: to continue serving the local community or answer the exploding demand for his wares with lucrative Internet sales and shipping deals.



■ **A LONG TIME GONE**, KAREN WHITE (NAL HARDCOVER, JUNE 3)

Inspired by childhood summers spent at her grandmother's house in Mississippi, where she would sit under the kitchen table and eavesdrop as the women in her family shared "southern sister girl talk," Karen White returns to the winding rivers, rolling cotton fields and cypress-dotted swamps of the Deep South for this touching story about the complicated relationships between mothers and daughters. Vivien Walker swore she'd never return to the Mississippi Delta as generations of Walker women had. But reeling from her recent divorce, she heads back to the family home. When a violent storm uncovers the remains of a long-dead woman buried in the backyard, Vivien vows to uncover her family's secrets and break the cycle of loss that has haunted the Walkers for generations.

* Look for Karen on tour this summer.

