



thisweek

Readings & signings on LI

Wednesday

Ian Doescher speaks and signs copies of "William Shakespeare's The Jedi Doth Return." At 7 p.m., *Barnes & Noble, 91 Old Country Rd., Carle Place; 516-741-9850*

Thursday

Jamie McGuire speaks and signs copies of "Beautiful Oblivion." At 7 p.m., *Book Revue, 313 New York Ave., Huntington; 631-271-1442, bookrevue.com*

Saturday

J.D. McClatchy, Paul Muldoon, Eileen Myles, Edmund White and others read and pay homage to poet Frank O'Hara (1926-66) at the Frank O'Hara Fire Island Pines Poetry Festival. Tickets \$10. At 4 p.m., *Albert LePage Pavilion, Whyte Hall, 577 Coast Guard Walk, Fire Island Pines; fipap.org*

Jean Hanff Korelitz

reads and signs copies of "You Should Have Known." At 5 p.m. *BookHampton, 41 Main St., East Hampton; 631-324-4939, bookhampton.com*

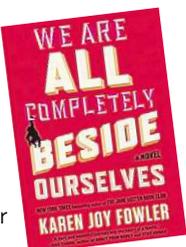


plus

bookclub

The Newsday Book Club is meeting once a month this summer to discuss a book with its author. The lively conversation continues with our

next pick: **Karen Joy Fowler's "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves"** (Plume), winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and a Newsday Top Book of 2013. In the book, narrator Rosemary Cooke recalls her 1970s Midwestern childhood and the scientific experiment conducted by her father — one involving a chimpanzee — that tears apart her family. On **July 14 at noon**, we'll discuss the novel with Fowler in a live online chat. To read an excerpt, go to newsday.com/bookclub



reviews

Single mum, big romance

ONE PLUS ONE, by Jojo Moyes. Pamela Dorman Books/Viking, 368 pp., \$27.95.

BY MARION WINIK
Special to Newsday

I have read books that are so clichéd and lazy, my eyes have bled. But I also have read books marketed under the chick-lit umbrella that are so honest, clever and gritty that I've wanted to give up writing and paint walls instead."

That's Jojo Moyes, in an opinion piece a few years back in *The Telegraph*, an English newspaper. Since her sixth novel, "Me Before You," hit U.S. bestseller lists last year, the British author has come to be as well loved here as she is at home.

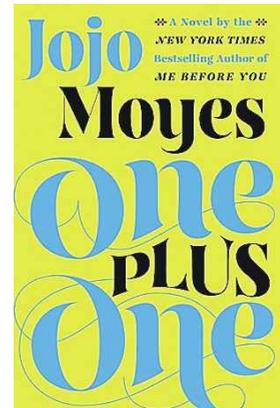
Moyes' seventh novel, "One Plus One," focuses on the plight of a beleaguered optimist named Jess. Since her husband, Marty, moved out two years ago, she has been nearly crushed by financial difficulties, working both as a housecleaner and a bartender



Jojo Moyes' new novel has an unlikely foursome on a road trip.

to support two kids. One of them, her teenage stepson, Nicky, is the result of a long-ago fling of Marty's, but nobody wants the kid except Jess. With his eyeliner and dyed hair, Nicky is a bully magnet.

The other child is a 9-year-old math prodigy, Tanzie. Sweet Tanzie has been offered a scholarship to an excellent private school, but even the fraction Jess would have to pay is out of reach. Then she's told of a math competition in



Scotland with a cash prize. They have to go — even if it means taking the unregistered, uninsured, broken-down vehicle in the garage.

They don't get far. Meanwhile, among Jess' clientele in both her professions is a super-successful, super-selfish tech exec named Ed who gave an insider stock tip to an ex-girlfriend. When the scandal hits, his world falls apart. But somewhere between corporate hell and prison, he

runs across Jess and her kids broken down on the side of the highway.

Most of the story takes place on the road trip to the math contest, during which everybody in this unlikely foursome falls in love with everybody else. Of course, when they get home, beautifully engineered plot twists wreck everything.

Then there are a few more twists after that.

One hallmark of British popular fiction is its economic grit: Among everything else you can learn from J.K. Rowling's "The Casual Vacancy" or Caitlin Moran's "How to Build a Girl" is just what life is like on a council estate. Similarly, Moyes' story of Cinderella and the Prince doesn't romance the class issues. They shape both plot and characters in a realistic way, down to the last nasty tuna-paste sandwich and desperate bad decision.

No house painting for Moyes.

Jojo Moyes signs copies of "One Plus One" tomorrow at 7 p.m. at *Book Revue, 313 New York Ave., Huntington; 631-271-1442, bookrevue.com*

The litigious race to the sky

BIRDMEN: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies, by Lawrence Goldstone. Ballantine Books, 428 pp., \$28.

BY MATTHEW PRICE
Special to Newsday

The flight was not even really a flight, just a short hop — some 120 feet. But in successfully flying a controlled, powered aircraft on the beach of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright did what many had tried and failed to do before.

Their accomplishment, a combination of American ingenuity, pluck and perseverance, is familiar fodder for high school reports. The story that Sagaponack author Lawrence Goldstone tells in "Birdmen," his enthralling new account of flying's wild early

years, is a much darker version. The brothers' ingenuity is not in question — Wilbur was a self-taught tinkerer who mastered complex aeronautical principles — but they were also petty, vindictive, litigious businessmen who, Goldstone suggests, impeded the progress of American aviation.

At stake was a central issue: Was powered flight a concept open to all who could master it, or a patented process that could be owned? The Wrights insisted it was the latter, and moved to patent flying itself, and their decisive innovation of lateral control, a twisting of the wings that provided stability. The patent claim was breathtaking in its sweep. Yet, as Goldstone shows, flying could not be contained.

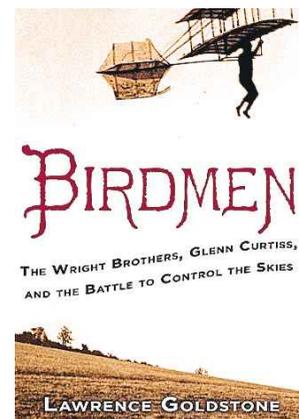
Another American aviation genius, Glenn Curtiss, became the focus of the Wrights' wrath. Curtiss, a motorcycle builder, would construct the

first seaplane and design the first retractable landing gear and first enclosed cockpit. But, as the first decade of the 20th century unfolded, he was harassed by the Wrights at every turn with lawsuits and patent-infringement claims.

"The ferocity with which Wilbur Wright attacked and Glenn Curtiss countered first launched America into pre-eminence in the skies and then doomed it to mediocrity," Goldstone writes.

The author's account of the grinding legal process is dry and deals with complex legal terms, but his sections on powered flight's pioneering years brim with exciting (and deadly) exploits.

The Wrights were first, but they were left in the dust by Curtiss planes and the pilots who flew them. Aviators pushed the limits in contests across the country, flying higher, faster and harder,



breaking records and taking cash prizes. Most famed of all was Lincoln Beachey, whose "Dip of Death" enthralled crowds everywhere.

The joyless Wrights eschewed such showmanship. They may have a place in the history books, but Goldstone shows how innovation curdled into obsession, keeping the brothers earthbound when they could have soared to even greater heights.