Books

Men and Dogs

by Katie Crouch | ★★★★

REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

Prepare to have your heart broken while laughing out loud at this breathtaking, scathingly sardonic novel. From her opening line—"Two days before Hannah's father disappeared, he took her out in his boat"—Crouch (*Girls in Trucks*) grabs you and never lets go.

The story is delivered in the alternating voices of Hannah at age 11 and Hannah the thirtysomething "adult," a train wreck of a woman whom we first meet in her San

Francisco loft. Hung over and recently aban-

doned by the husband she's been cheating on, she is composing a shopping list. "Better rug. Music contraption.

More wine. Husband." Crouch renders San Franciscans in caustic living color: the hipsters' ironic T-shirts ("Nuke a Gay Whale for Jesus"); the "trustafarian couple" downstairs; the yuppies' \$115 takeout pasta. When Hannah goes home to Charleston to dry out and try to find her father, Crouch brings her eccentric southern kinfolk to life

with equal verve. In the hands of a less adept author, this tightly wound tale of one woman's unraveling and redemption might seem more grim than guffawworthy. But with Crouch in charge, the reader is assured of a reflective yet riotous ride.

NONFICTION



THE BRIDGE

AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLES

TRUCKS

AND DOGS

by David
Remnick
A well-researched account of
Obama's "political, racial and sentimental education" en route to the White House.

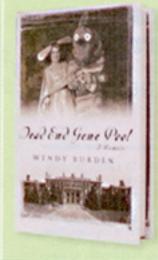
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NEW IN NONFICTION

& JAMES

by Brooke Newman
A mathematician's
daughter recalls
the sustaining
bond between her
dad and the family's numbers-savvy
maid.



DEAD END GENE POOL

by Wendy Burden

Raised by "Gaga and Popsie" while her mom jet-setted, this Vanderbilt heir has tales aplenty.