

HOUSTON

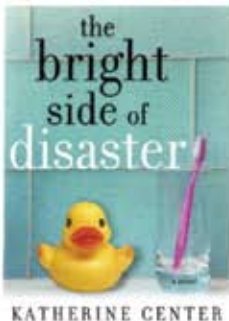
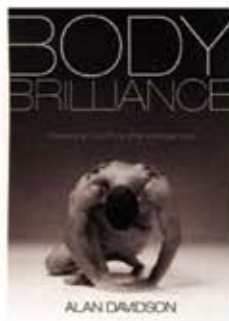
MODERN LUXURY™

THE LOOP NOW!



ECO-CESSORIZE!

The Kabbalahists have their red strings, and now the cult of green can have its own status accessory: the grass ring. French jewelry designer Philippe Ratinaud's La Bague Gazon (from \$95) is essentially a mini garden, which owners sow, water and trim—all set inside a tiny Limoges porcelain flower pot that's shaped to fit around a finger. After the seeds are sprinkled, the tiniest micro tract grows. Within 15 days, the tuft of blades is ready for tending and trimming. www.labaguegazon.com. —Alexis Johnson



LUST FOR LIT

Three local writers release their smokin' hot new reads just in time for lazy summer days in the chaise lounge.

BODY BRILLIANCE, ELITE BOOKS

Body Brilliance by Alan Davidson is an encouraging book about engaging the "five essential intelligences" (physical, mental, emotional, moral and spiritual) to develop the body's full potential. To steam things up, the book includes glossy pages of nude models demonstrating practical exercises to help awaken the body.

THE MEN'S GUIDE TO THE WOMEN'S BATHROOM, HARPERCOLLINS

Jo Barrett explains her new book *The Men's Guide to the Women's Bathroom*: "I attempted to answer the age-old question, 'What are you ladies doing in there?'" Compared to *Sex and the City*, this fresh novel follows a New York lawyer-turned-writer to Austin as she reveals what really goes on behind those closed doors marked "Women." The book has also been optioned by CBS and Paramount Studios with actor Hugh Jackman's production company.

THE BRIGHT SIDE OF DISASTER, BALLANTINE BOOKS

Katherine Center's *The Bright Side of Disaster* tells the story of a spirited woman who is nine months pregnant when her fiancé runs to the store and never comes back. Too busy with her baby to dwell on her broken heart, she becomes self-sufficient, thanks to a helpful (and handsome) neighbor. —Erin Russell