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## E-newsletter

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### Speaker news: April 2008

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### AFTER



#### Isabel Allende Recalls The Sum of Our Days

The legendary author's new memoir debuts on the best-seller list

*The Sum of Our Days*, just released, is Isabel Allende's memoir of her life and friends, and a sequel to her 1995 memoir, *Paula*. "Allende's insight is keen, her prose polished and her language hypnotic," writes *Publishers Weekly*. "This is a book to savor." With over fifty million copies in print, Allende continues to produce majestic writing and to enlighten audiences with her lectures.

[More on Isabel Allende as a Speaker](#)

### ANTHROPOLOGY



#### Jared Diamond on Our Need to Get Even

A much-read New Yorker article explores our obsession with revenge

In "Vengeance is Ours," **Jared Diamond** (*Guns, Germs and Steel*) writes about the vengeance practices of tribal societies in New Guinea – and what they tell us about our appetite for revenge. Based on his time in New Guinea with **Daniel Wemp** (who avenged his uncle's death at the hands of a neighboring tribe), the essay was featured on *Boing Boing* and has become one of the most emailed articles this month.

### CALL IT A COMEBACK



#### The Good News and The Bad News Of Being Alive

Evan Handler looked death in the face...and laughed

Best known for his role on *Sex and The City*, Evan Handler was only 24 when he was diagnosed with Acute myeloid leukemia and told, by a humorless doctor, that he would not live. Handler did survive, beating a supposedly incurable disease. In his memoir, *It's Only Temporary... The Good News and the Bad News of Being Alive*—excerpted this month in *Oprah* magazine—Handler writes of his incredible comeback. On stage, he shares an unforgettable message of living your life in a more meaningful way. "He pulls you inside his life," Neil Simon says, "and you come out his very close friend."

### THE RETURN OF HAROLD AND KUMAR



#### From White Castle to Guantanamo Bay

Kal Penn reprises his immortal big screen role

"The simple fact that a movie exists with the title *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay* is cause for hope," writes *The New York Times*. The paper calls Kal Penn and co-star John Cho, "a postcollegiate multicultural odd couple... nerdy achievers caught in the gears of meritocracy." When not on set – he also stars on Fox's *House* – Kal Penn is a popular campus speaker, talking about the role of pop culture to shape perceptions, combat stereotypes in the media, and engage a young electorate during this election.

[More on Kal Penn as a Speaker](#)

### THREE PLANETARY FUTURES



#### The World, With Us, Fifty Years from Now

For *Vanity Fair*'s Green Issue, Alan Weisman explores what the future might look like

In this month's *Vanity Fair*, Alan Weisman, author of *The World Without Us*, peers ahead 50 to 100 years to construct plausible scenarios for three widely divergent ecosystems, and the people who inhabit them. Weisman's book was one of last year's most celebrated titles, earning top nonfiction honors from both *Time* and *Entertainment Weekly*. In his talks, he looks at what we can realistically do in the short, medium and long term to live in harmony with – not opposition to – nature.

[More on Alan Weisman Speaking Engagements](#)

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