

Booklist



Leading book discovery

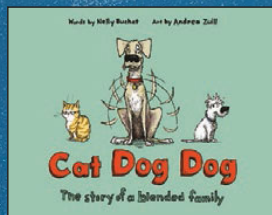
Vol. 117 No. 8
12/15/2020

★ Starred Reviews 2020

The Year in
Review

Random House Children's Books

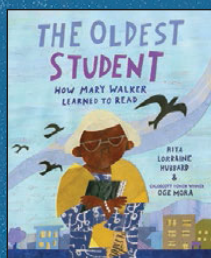
Picture Books



HC: 9781984848994

Cat Dog Dog

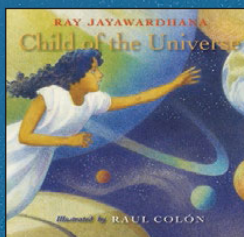
Nelly Buchet
Illustrated by Andrea Zull
★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*



HC: 9781524768287

The Oldest Student

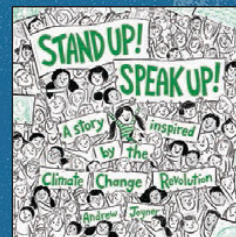
Rita Lorraine Hubbard
Illustrated by Oge Mora
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *BookPage*
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781524717544

Child of the Universe

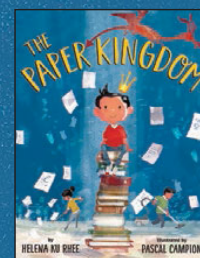
Ray Jayawardhana
Illustrated by Raul Colón
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780693301586

Stand Up! Speak Out!

Andrew Joyner
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection



HC: 9780525644613

The Paper Kingdom

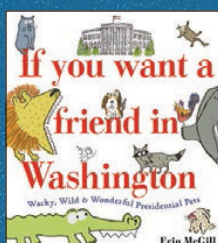
Helena Ku Rhee
Illustrated by Pascal Campion
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Shelf Awareness*



HC: 9781984849268

Digging for Words

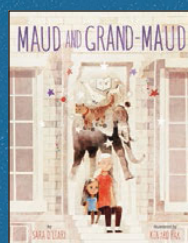
Angela Burke Kunkel
Illustrated by Paola Escobar
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780593122693

If You Want a Friend in Washington

Erin McGill
★ *Booklist*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780599554582

Maud and Grand-Maud

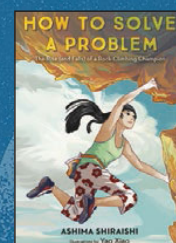
Sara O'Leary
Illustrated by Kenard Pak
★ *Booklist*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9781984849489

Who Will You Be?

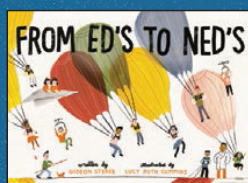
Andrea Pippins
★ *Booklist*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781524773274

How to Solve a Problem

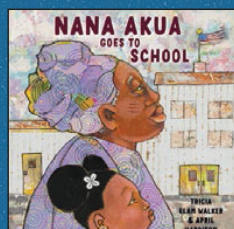
Ashima Shiraishi
Illustrated by Yao Xiao
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780525648062

From Ed's to Ned's

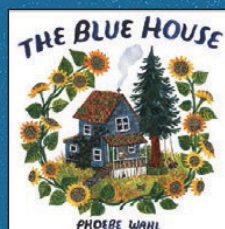
Gideon Sterer
Illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780525581130

Nana Akua Goes to School

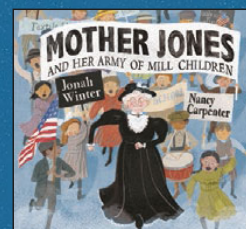
Tricia Elam Walker
Illustrated by April Harrison
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly* ★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781984849369

The Blue House

Phoebe Wahl
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Horn Book*
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780449812914

Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children

Jonah Winter
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
★ *Booklist*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*

Middle-Grade



HC: 9781984845205

The Water Bears

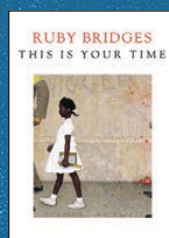
Kim Baker
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780593121368

Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero

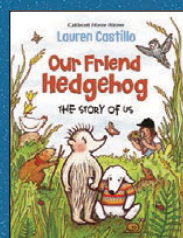
Kelly J. Baptist
★ *Booklist*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780593378526

This Is Your Time

Ruby Bridges
★ *Booklist*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781524766719

Our Friend Hedgehog

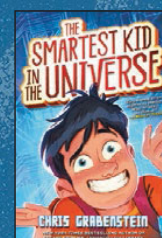
Lauren Castillo
★ *Booklist* ★ *BookPage*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Shelf Awareness*



HC: 9780593173084

The Longest Night of Charlie Noon

Christopher Edge
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780525647782

The Smartest Kid in the Universe

Chris Grabenstein
★ *Booklist*
★ *School Library Journal*



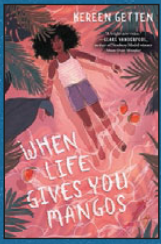
RANDOM HOUSE

TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

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Celebrates Our Stars of 2020!

Middle-Grade



HC: 9780593173978

When Life Gives You Mangos
Kereen Getten
★ *The Bulletin*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780593121610

The Talk
Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9781524715700

When You Trap a Tiger
Tae Keller
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



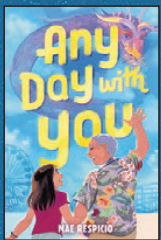
HC: 9780593125243

Stepping Stones
Lucy Knisley
★ *The Horn Book*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781984838333

The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane
Kate O'Shaughnessy
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780525670757

Any Day with You
Mae Respcio
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection



HC: 9780525647416

How We Got to the Moon
John Rocco
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Horn Book*
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Publishers Weekly*



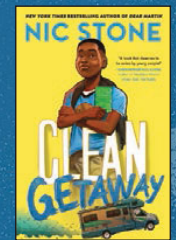
HC: 9781984895337

Donut Feed the Squirrels
Mika Song
★ *Booklist*
★ *Shelf Awareness*



HC: 9781101938096

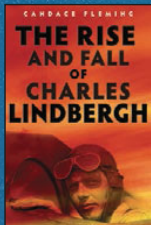
The List of Things That Will Not Change
Rebecca Stead
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *BookPage* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *The Horn Book* ★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*
★ *Shelf Awareness*



HC: 9781984892973

Clean Getaway
Nic Stone
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist*
★ *Publishers Weekly*

Young Adult



HC: 9780525646549

The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh
Candace Fleming
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *The Horn Book* ★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9780593125298

The Magic Fish
Trung Le Nguyen
★ *Booklist*
★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780593118764

This Is My America
Kim Johnson
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9781984848635

19 Love Songs
David Levithan
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *School Library Journal*



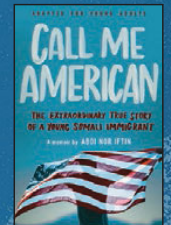
HC: 9780385744799

Again Again
E. Lockhart
★ *Booklist*
★ *The Bulletin*
★ *School Library Journal*



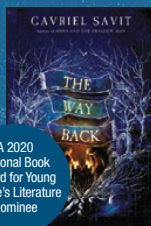
HC: 9780593537710

What I Carry
Jennifer Longo
★ *BookPage*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780593537710

Call Me American (Adapted for Young Adults)
Abdi Nor Iftin
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *School Library Journal*



HC: 9781984894625

The Way Back
Gabriel Savit
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *Publishers Weekly* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Booklist* ★ *The Bulletin*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



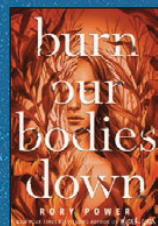
HC: 9781524701963

Breathless
Jennifer Niven
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection



HC: 9780525646761

The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand
Nathan Page
Illustrated by Drew Shannon
★ *Booklist*
★ *Kirkus Reviews*



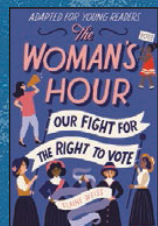
HC: 9780525646627

Burn Our Bodies Down
Rory Power
★ *Booklist*
★ *Publishers Weekly*
★ *Shelf Awareness*



HC: 9781984829665

Dear Justyce
Nic Stone
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
A *School Library Journal* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Kirkus Reviews* ★ *Booklist*
★ *Publishers Weekly*



HC: 9780593125182

The Woman's Hour (Adapted for Young Adults)
Elaine Weiss
★ *The Bulletin*
★ *School Library Journal*



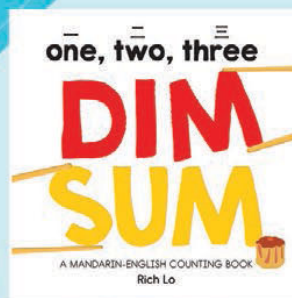
HC: 9781524715915

When You Were Everything
Ashley Woodfolk
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best of 2020 Selection
★ *Kirkus Reviews*
★ *Publishers Weekly*

Workman Publishing

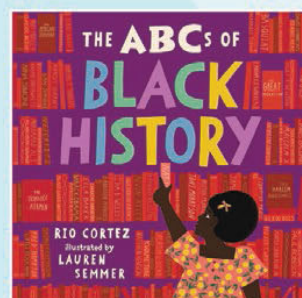
Celebrates Its Stars!

EARLY CHILDHOOD



One, Two, Three Dim Sum
9781950500017

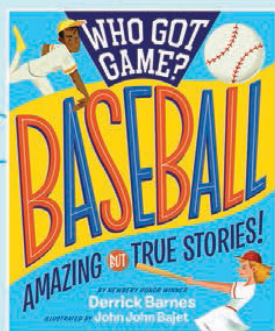
★ SLJ



ABC's of Black History
9781523507498

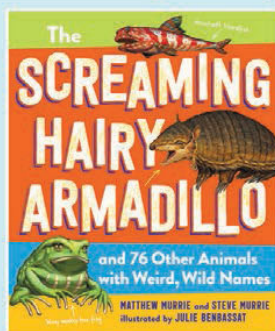
★ KIRKUS

MIDDLE GRADE



Who Got Game? Baseball
9781523505531

★ SLJ ★ BOOKLIST



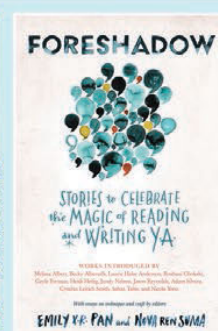
Screaming Hairy Armadillo
9781523508112

★ KIRKUS



Furia
9781616209919

★ KIRKUS ★ PW



Foreshadow
9781643750798

★ KIRKUS



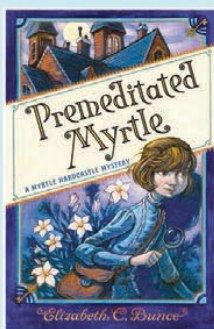
The Scapegracers
9781645660002

★ KIRKUS ★ PW

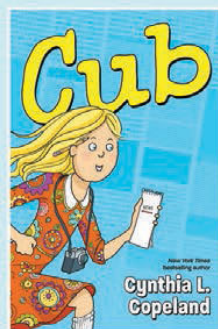


The Oddmire Book Two
9781616208400

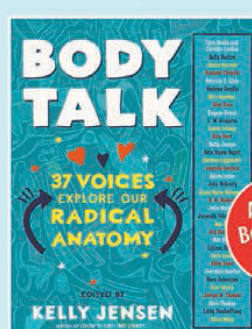
★ SLJ ★ BOOKLIST ★ BOOKLIST ★ KIRKUS ★ KIRKUS ★ PW



Premeditated Myrtle
9781616209186

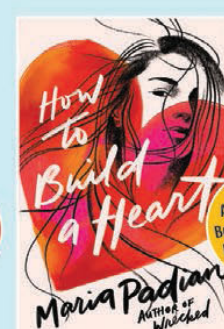


Cub
9781616208486



Body Talk
9781616209674

★ SLJ



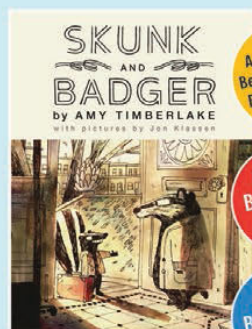
How to Build a Heart
9781616208493

★ KIRKUS



In the Role of Brie Hutchens...
9781616209070

★ KIRKUS ★ PW



Skunk and Badger
9781643750057

★ BOOKLIST ★ KIRKUS ★ PW



Tigers, Not Daughters
9781616208967

★ KIRKUS
★ SLJ
★ BOOKLIST
★ PW
★ BCCB
★ SHELF AWARENESS

workman

ALGONQUIN
YOUNG READERS

EREWON

dp duopress

Booklist

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December 15, 2020
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Letter from the Editor / George Kendall



In the January 1 & 15, 2020, issue, which, considering all that has happened since seems like ancient history, I described *Booklist's* yearlong initiative, Women in Focus: The 19th in 2020, as recognition of the “progress women have made since 1920” and the “challenges women continue to face today.” In this issue, we bring to a close this timely focus at the end of a year full of breakthroughs and accomplishments at the magazine, while, as a country, we have elected Kamala Harris as the first woman and the first Black and South Asian to become Vice President of the United States.

Over the past 12 months, *Booklist* featured around 300 Women in Focus titles. The series began with *Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote*, by Ellen Carol DuBois, reviewed by Adult Books Editor Donna Seaman. It closes with a starred review of the audiobook version of *This Is Your Time* (p.103), by Ruby Bridges, read by the author and reviewed by Audio Editor Heather Booth. “In clear, simple, inspiring words—and with tones to match,” Heather writes, the author “walks listeners through her perspectives on racism as a learned disease, and on grace as the key to our collective salvation.” This powerful message inspires deep reflection and practice during a turbulent and deadly time.

As exemplified by our Women in Focus collection, there were fantastic books published this year. When adding up the numbers, you'll find that *Booklist* published well over 7,000 reviews in 2020. All of the books published and reviewed in 2020 that received a *Booklist* starred review are presented in this issue, the latest of our annual compilations of *Booklist* starred titles. We are extraordinarily proud of this issue and recommend sharing it widely with friends and patrons, because, as a gift to all who love to read, and for a limited time, this issue is free online for everyone!

And so from here we move on with hope and best wishes for the new year. Although future reviews may not be tagged with Women in Focus, *Booklist* will continue to cover great books by and about women in 2021 and the years to come, and, with you, we will celebrate progress.

May you have a healthy, safe, and restful holiday season!

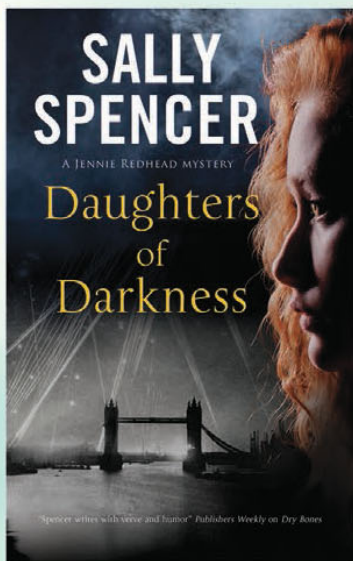
I wish you all the very best for the holidays and look forward to connecting with you in the new year.



On the Cover

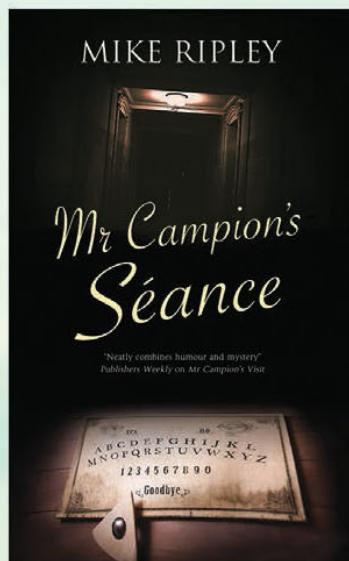
Our “star” cover collage for this special issue features art from the covers of ten books published and given starred reviews in *Booklist* in 2020, listed here in alphabetical order with our congratulations: *Bride of the Sea*, by Eman Quotah (Tin House); *Elarsoe*, by Darcie Little Badger (Levine Querido); *Entangled Life*, by Merlin Sheldrake (Random); *Everything Sad Is Untrue*, by Daniel Nayeri (Levine Querido); *In the Valley*, by Ron Rash (Doubleday); *Mañanaland*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic); *The Night Lake*, by Liz Tichenor (Counterpoint); *Papaya Salad*, by Elisa Macellari (Dark Horse); *Punching the Air*, by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam (HarperCollins/Balzer & Bray); *The Unpassing*, by Chia-Chia Lin (Farrar).

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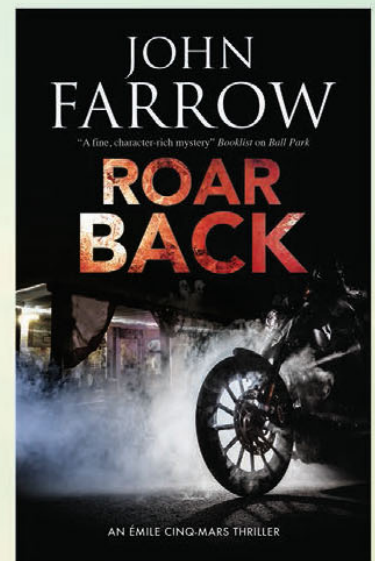
ISBN 978 0 7278 8949 2

"A deeply affecting and disturbing novel, both suspenseful and tragic, one of Spencer's best over a long career. Riveting reading from first page to last"
Booklist Starred Review



ISBN 978 0 7278 8961 4

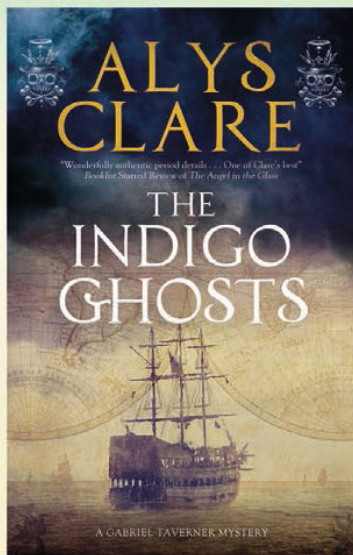
"Ripley spins a head-scratching whodunit while effectively recreating Allingham's tone and characters. This clever continuation of a beloved series keeps getting better"
Publishers Weekly Starred Review



ISBN 978 0 7278 8937 9

"Remarkable stuff. Fans of Bill James' Harpur and Iles saga of cops and robbers are in for quite a treat"
Kirkus Reviews Starred Review

BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR FROM SEVERN HOUSE



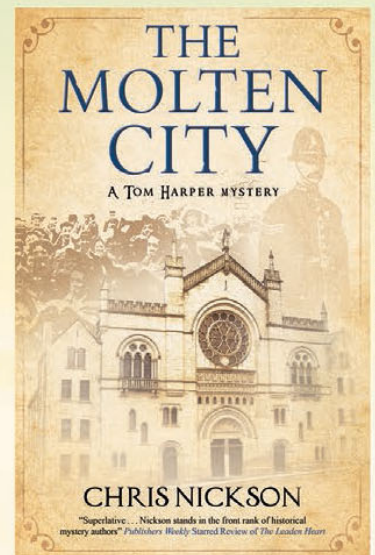
ISBN 978 0 7278 9027 6

"Excellent . . . Clare matches well-drawn characters, in particular the charismatic lead, with a head-scratching puzzle and creepy atmospherics. Imogen Robertson fans will be pleased"
Publishers Weekly Starred Review



ISBN 978 0 7278 8992 8

"Excellent . . . The surprising revelations that populate the book, mixed with a mood of regret and wistful longing for dead loves, imbue the story with a seductive power"
Publishers Weekly Starred Review



ISBN 978 0 7278 8976 8

"Superior . . . Even minor characters are fully fleshed out in this trip down the mean streets of early 20th-century Leeds. Nickson's consistent high quality across multiple series continues to impress"
Publishers Weekly Starred Review



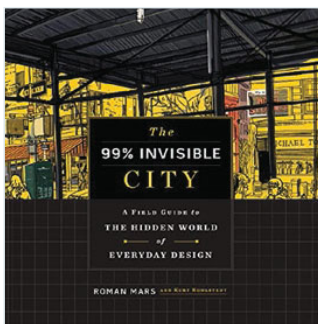
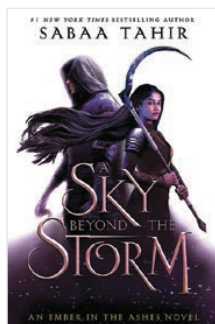
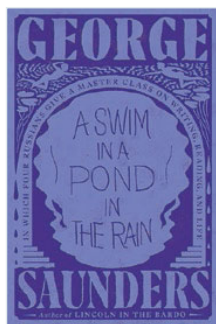
Booklist

December 15, 2020
Volume 117, Issue 8

In This Issue

Sections

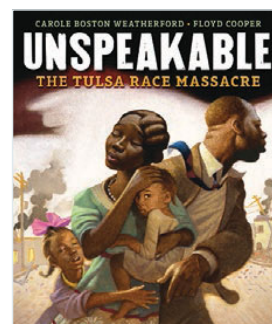
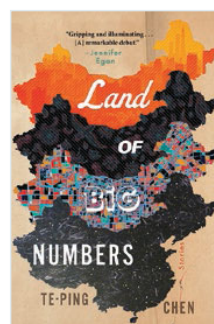
- 80 Adult Nonfiction
- 86 Adult Fiction
- 92 Youth Nonfiction
- 95 Youth Fiction
- 101 Audio



p. 85, 96, 101

Starred Reviews, 2020

- 6 Adult Nonfiction Stars
 - 9 Women in Focus: Memoirs
 - 13 Women in Focus: Politics
- 24 Adult Fiction Stars
 - 25 Women in Focus: Fiction
- 44 Graphic Novel Stars
- 46 Youth Nonfiction Stars
 - 48 Women's Lives in Focus
- 54 Youth Fiction Stars
 - 64 Sports in Fiction
 - 72 Novels in Verse
- 76 Adult Audio Stars
- 79 Youth Audio Stars



p. 86, 94

Features

- 101 Podcast Connection
 - The 99% Invisible City
 - by Heather Booth
- 103 Classics Corner
 - P. D. Eastman's *Go, Dog, Go!*
 - by Heather Booth
- 104 *Booklist* Backlist
 - Truly Expansive Fantasy
 - by Sarah Hunter

Index to Advertisers

Abrams	75
Algonquin	2
Bloomsbury	46, 47, 52, 53
Candlewick	56
DC Comics	cover 3
Disney	cover 4
HarperCollins	60
Holiday House	70, 97
Interlink	15
Lerner	69
Macmillan	58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67
McPherson	87
Owlkids	73
Peachtree	49
Penguin	50
Peter Pauper	55
Random House	cover 2, 1, 93
Rowman & Littlefield	11
Servn House	4
Tundra	65



Starred Reviews

2020

Adult Nonfiction

Journalism & Publishing

Before and After the Book Deal: A Writer's Guide to Finishing, Publishing, Promoting, and Surviving Your First Book. By Courtney Maum. Catapult, paper, \$16.95 (9781948226400).

Invaluable for the serious writer who is dedicated to publication, and the rare title that's both a reference manual and a page-turner.

Bright Precious Thing. By Gail Caldwell. Random, \$27 (9780525510055).

Caldwell's newest, vibrant memoir recounts the inspiration derived from a five-year-old neighbor, and views women's issues through the lenses of the #MeToo movement and the Trump presidency.

The Museum of Whales You Will Never See: And Other Excursions to Iceland's Most Unusual Museums. By A. Kendra Greene. Penguin, \$22 (9780143135463).

In this tremendously engaging and idiosyncratic guidebook, Greene celebrates Icelandic curiosity and creativity, reporting on some of the country's many unusual museums.

Nothing Is Wrong and Here Is Why. By Alexandra Petri. Norton, \$25.95 (9781324006459).

This brilliant and wry collection of essays, lists, letters, plays, and more hilariously roasts the last five years in American culture.

Screening Reality: How Documentary Filmmakers Reimagined America. By Jon Wilkman. Bloomsbury, \$30 (9781635571035).

In this many-faceted, dynamic, and thought-provoking history of nonfiction films in America, Wilkman elucidates the motivations of intrepid documentarians as they "struggled to capture and honestly portray the real world."

Philosophy & Psychology

Can't Even: How Millennials Became the Burnout Generation. By Anne Helen Petersen. HMH, \$26 (9780358315070).

Buzzfeed culture reporter Peterson explores how millennials of all backgrounds and income brackets suffer because of the gig economy they inherited.

Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender, and Social Justice. By John A. Buehrens. Beacon, \$32 (9780807024041).

A sterling, inspirational group portrait of the Transcendentalists, the parents of modern American liberalism.

Dress Your Best Life: How Fashion Psychology Can Help You Take Your Look—and Your Life—to the Next Level. By Dawnn Karen. Little, Brown/Spark, \$28 (9780316530996).

A thoughtful and fashion-forward approach to figuring out what to wear—and understanding how clothes reflect lives well lived.

Group: How One Therapist and a Circle of Strangers Saved My Life. By Christie Tate. Avid Reader, \$27 (9781982154615).

Tate's debut memoir invites readers to sit alongside the author in one of the chairs circled for group therapy, and watch her struggle, fail, and very slowly learn.

See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love. By Valarie Kaur. Random/One World, \$28 (9780525509097).

Activist and lawyer Kaur's call for revolutionary love as a resolution to social injustice is expansive, nuanced, and inspiring.

Sign Here If You Exist and Other Essays. By Jill Sisson Quinn. Ohio State Univ., paper, \$19.95 (9780814255926).

Over nine essays, Quinn finds connections between the natural world and her life, from grappling with her religious upbringing to adopting a child.

The Socrates Express: In Search of Life Lessons from Dead Philosophers. By Eric Weiner. Avid Reader, \$27 (9781501129018).

Weiner's writing is fresh and revelatory as he pulls together seemingly disparate notions and asks meaningful (and often unanswered) questions.

Strange Situation: A Mother's Journey into the Science of Attachment. By Bethany Saltman. Ballantine, \$27 (9780399181443).

This fascinating mix of memoir and scientific history examines attachment research into the bonds between infants and their caregivers.

Religion

The Bible with and without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently. By Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler. HarperOne, \$34.99 (9780062560155).

Levine and Brettler offer a fascinating analysis of how Jews and Christians read the same Bible stories but come to profoundly different conclusions about what they mean.

Broken Faith: Inside the Word of Faith Fellowship, One of America's Most Dangerous Cults. By Mitch Weiss and Holbrook Mohr. Hanover Square, \$28.99 (9781335145239).

Compelling in its evidence, this shocking narrative examines the bonds of family, the limits of endurance, and how far people will go to save their souls.

Demystifying Shariah: What It Is, How It Works, and Why It's Not Taking Over Our Country. By Sumbul Ali-Karamali. Beacon, \$22.95 (9780807038000).

An introduction to the facets and historical development of Sharia law, which clearly presents its complexity and fluidity in a way that is accessible to both Muslim and non-Muslim general readers.

For All Who Hunger: Searching for Communion in a Shattered World. By Emily M. D. Scott. Convergent, \$25 (9780593135570).

Scott recounts the founding and early strug-

gles of St. Lydia's, a "dinner church" centered around the sharing of a meal.

The Islam Book. By DK. DK, \$25 (9781465491480).

While the ideas in this overview of Islam are complex, the narrative is easy to follow, and the visual aids will enhance readers' understanding.

Kingdom of Nauvoo: The Rise and Fall of a Religious Empire on the American Frontier. By Benjamin E. Park. Norton/Liveright, \$28.95 (9781631494864).

A gripping, at-last-it-can-be-told account of the 1840s crisis of Mormonism.

Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times. By Jonathan Sacks. Basic, \$30 (9781541675315).

In this probing analysis of modern individualism, Sacks finds a heedlessness that has undermined family, but also sees hope as young people rediscover the value of service to others.

The Princess and the Prophet: The Secret History of Magic, Race, and Moorish Muslims in America. By Jacob S. Dorman. Beacon, \$28.95 (9780807067260).

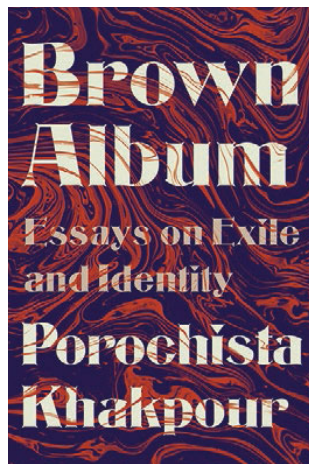
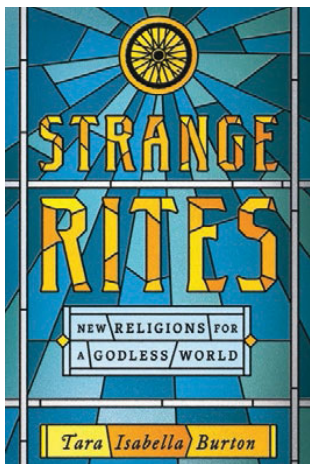
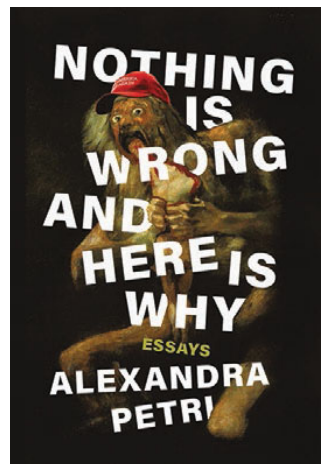
Dorman tells the little-known and fascinating story of the ingenious founder and uplifting impact of Chicago's Moorish Science Temple, the precursor to the Nation of Islam.

Strange Rites: New Religions for a Godless World. By Tara Isabella Burton. PublicAffairs, \$28 (9781541762534).

Theology scholar Burton blends research and analysis to suggest that faith is actually surging in forms that privilege personal intuition over institutions.

Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife. By Ariel Sabar. Doubleday, \$29.95 (9780385542586).

A provocative and probing piece of narrative nonfiction that follows the story of *The Gospel of Jesus's Wife*, at first hailed as a religious breakthrough, then revealed to be a fake.



White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity. By Robert P. Jones. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781982122867).

Jones holds up a mirror to white religious culture, cautioning those who "read their worldview back into the Bible," in this powerful, heavily researched book.

Social Sciences

#futuregen: Lessons from a Small Country. By Jane Davidson. Chelsea Green, \$19.95 (9781603589604).

Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing Davidson, who ushered the remarkable Well-being of Future Generations Act through the Welsh Parliament, offers advice for passing similar legislation elsewhere.

The Affirmative Action Puzzle: A Living History from Reconstruction to Today. By Melvin I. Urofsky. Pantheon, \$35 (9781101870877).

Urofsky's extensively researched account explores the full history, controversies, and impact of affirmative action policies and practices.

African American Culture: An Encyclopedia of People, Traditions, and Customs. Ed. by Omari L. Dyson and others. ABC-CLIO, \$319 (9781440862434).

This timely and necessary three-volume work highlights the ways African Americans have shaped U.S. culture, covering history, religion, art, biographies, and more.

Agent Sonya: Moscow's Most Daring Wartime Spy. By Ben Macintyre. Crown, \$28 (9780593136300).

In this suspenseful, multilayered read for fans of spy novels, truth becomes more exciting and astonishing than fiction.

Ancient Bones: Unearthing the Astonishing New Story of How We Became Human. By Madelaine Böhme and others. Greystone, \$28.95 (9781771647519).

This engaging overview of early humans raises several lingering questions that inquisitive readers will love.

Baseless: My Search for Secrets in the Ruins of the Freedom of Information Act. By Nicholson Baker. Penguin, \$30 (9780735215757).

Baker uses a suspenseful diary format to chronicle his long quest to uncover the truth about Project Baseless, an attempt to deploy biological and chemical weapons in 1950s Korea.

A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son. By Michael Ian Black. Algonquin, \$24.95 (9781616209117).

A series of essays that tackle tough topics like toxic masculinity and fatherhood, all featuring Black's signature sarcastic comedy style.

Black Futures. By Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham. Random/One World, \$40 (9780399181139).

Drew and Wortham seek to answer the question, "What does it mean to be Black and alive right now?" with this intriguing and beautiful book of conversations, art, poetry, and essays from an incredible array of creative people.

Blood and Oil: Mohammed bin Salman's Ruthless Quest for Global Power. By Justin Scheck and Bradley Hope. Hachette, \$29 (9780306846663).

Wall Street Journal reporters Scheck and Hope investigate the dramatic rise of Mohammed bin Salman, documenting the Saudi crown prince's disruptive ambitions and utter ruthlessness.

Brown Album: Essays on Exile and Identity. By Poro-chista Khakpour. Vintage, paper, \$16 (9780525564713).

Khakpour presents candid and illuminating essays written over a decade in which she explores nuances of personal and communal identity as an Iranian immigrant.

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents. By Isabel Wilkerson. Random, \$32 (9780593230251).

Wilkerson's brilliant blend of history and journalism reveals the roots and destructive force of the caste system that underlies the economic, social, and political structure of the U.S.

Children of the Land. By Marcelo Hernandez Castillo. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062825599).

Poet Castillo's memoir tracks the traumas his family has endured in its struggles with the U.S. immigration system.

A Collective Bargain: Unions, Organizing, and the Fight for Democracy. By Jane McAlevey. Ecco, \$26.99 (9780062908599).

Labor activist McAlevey makes a strong case for labor unions as a corrective to the economic and political disparity between the corporate superrich and underpaid workers.

Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America. By Laila Lalami. Pantheon, \$25.95 (9781524747169).

Lalami treats the complex, incendiary topic of the intersection of racism and citizenship

with personal candor, nuanced consideration, and blistering insight.

The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X. By Les Payne and Tamara Payne. Norton/Liveright, \$33.99 (9781631491665).

Payne's monumental biography places Malcolm X within the continuum of Black struggle as he transformed the Nation of Islam into a powerful movement paving the way for Black Lives Matter.

Death in Mud Lick: A Coal Country Fight against the Drug Companies That Delivered the Opioid Epidemic. By Eric Eyre. Scribner, \$28 (9781982105310).

A local reporter takes on the many Goliaths of the opioid crisis of West Virginia, from drug distributors to incompetent bureaucracies to corrupt politicians.

Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy. By Larry Tye. HMH, \$36 (9781328959720).

Tye brings anti-communist firebrand Senator Joseph McCarthy and all the harm he did back to ferocious life in this must-read biography full of resemblances to today's fraught politics.

Democracy in One Book or Less: How It Works, Why It Doesn't, and Why Fixing It Is Easier Than You Think. By David Litt. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062879363).

Litt covers every aspect of American governance and politics at perspectives both granular and big picture, writing conversationally yet powerfully and offering solutions to challenging problems.

The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America. By Eric Cervini. Farrar, \$35 (9780374139797).

In this insightful, meticulously detailed book, Cervini tells the story of Dr. Frank Kameny, who was at the forefront of the fight for gay rights a decade before Stonewall.

Dewey Defeats Truman: The 1948 Election and the Battle for America's Soul. By A. J. Baime. HMH, \$30 (9781328585066).

Baime narrates the fascinating story of the 1948 presidential election, in which Truman fought scrappily against what seemed to be overwhelming support for Dewey's pro-corporation stance.

Distributed Blackness: African American Cybercultures. By André Brock Jr. New York Univ., paper, \$29 (9781479829965).

Brock examines the racial bias of mainstream internet browsers and the creative and empowering uses African Americans make of the web and social media.

The Ferrante Letters: An Experiment in Collective Criticism. By Sarah Chihaya and others. Columbia Univ., \$75 (9780231194563).

Three scholars and one writer explore what

it means to develop ideas together, with Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Quartet as their subject.

Fight of the Century: Writers Reflect on 100 Years of Landmark ACLU Cases. Ed. by Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman. Avid Reader, \$27 (9781501190407).

Chabon and Waldman have created a stunning collection of original essays by premier writers about landmark cases to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Folly and the Glory: America, Russia, and Political Warfare, 1945–2020. By Tim Weiner. Holt, \$29.99 (9781627790857).

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Weiner traces the history of U.S.-Russian political warfare, from the end of WWII through the Mueller report, just in time for the homestretch of the 2020 presidential campaign.

Footprints: In Search of Future Fossils. By David Farrier. Farrar, \$27 (9780374157333).

Farrier travels the world in search of the "future fossils" we're creating with our environmentally destructive ways, calling on science and the arts for illumination.

Friendship: The Evolution, Biology, and Extraordinary Power of Life's Fundamental Bond. By Lydia Denworth. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393651546).

This critical and convincing scientific investigation into friendship urges readers to understand quality friendship as a biological necessity, not a luxury.

Gay like Me: A Father Writes to His Son. By Richie Jackson. Harper, \$24.99 (9780062939777).

Jackson, a gay man, wrote these wise and compassionate epistolary essays about the experience of being LGBTQ in America today, to his 18-year-old son, who had just come out.

The Genius of Women: From Overlooked to Changing the World. By Janice Kaplan. Dutton, \$27 (9781524744212).

Readers will be enlightened, stupefied, and provoked as Kaplan harpoons ingrained notions about genius being the exclusive domain of men.

Henry Kissinger and American Power: A Political Biography. By Thomas A. Schwartz. Farrar, \$35 (9780809095377).

Schwartz centers his sophisticated, well-textured, and masterly written biography of Henry Kissinger on the former secretary of state's relationship with Richard Nixon.

Hunger: The Oldest Problem. By Martín Caparrós. Tr. by Katherine Silver. Melville, \$29.99 (9781612198040).

Caparrós' titanic exploration of world hunger masterfully blends interviews, geopolitical

history, social observation, and biting commentary to righteous effect.

The Hungover Games: A True Story. By Sophie Heawood. Little, Brown, \$27 (9780316499064).

In this smart, funny, and touching memoir, British-based journalist Heawood tells the story of her life in Hollywood, interviewing celebrities and going to posh parties while barely making ends meet

Hunting the Unabomber: The FBI, Ted Kaczynski, and the Capture of America's Most Notorious Domestic Terrorist. By Lis Wiehl and Lisa Pulitzer. Thomas Nelson, \$26.99 (9780718092122).

Former prosecutor Wiehl crafts a powerful dual narrative of the unfolding investigation of the Unabomber and the life story of Ted Kaczynski.

I Am Not Your Slave. By Tupa Tjipombo and Chris Lockhart. Lawrence Hill, \$27.99 (9781641602372).

Tjipombo's vivid, soulful account of surviving sexual trafficking and her escape and reclamation of her life reveals a hidden hell and the need for justice.

I Don't Want to Die Poor. By Michael Arceneaux. Atria, paper, \$17 (9781982129309).

Arceneaux's writing is meticulously researched, gut-bustingly funny, and rich with niche cultural references that will delight audiences.

I'll Be Seeing You. By Elizabeth Berg. Random, \$27 (9780593134672).

Beloved novelist Berg beautifully and insightfully recounts the emotions raised as she helps her aging parents as health issues lead to their moving into assisted living.

The Inevitability of Tragedy: Henry Kissinger and His World. By Barry Gewen. Norton, \$30 (9781324004059).

Focused on Henry Kissinger's major influences, this is diplomatic and intellectual history at its best.

A Knock at Midnight: A Story of Hope, Justice, and Freedom. By Brittany K. Barnett. Crown, \$28 (9781984825780).

A riveting memoir of injustice, resilience, and hope, and a personal look at a modern humanitarian crisis.

The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias: How to Reframe Bias, Cultivate Connection, and Create High-Performing Teams. By Pamela Fuller and others. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781982144319).

Using data, observations, anecdotes, and helpful exercises, three industry consultants and executives explore unconscious (or implicit) bias and its impact in the workplace.

Long Time Coming: Reckoning with Race in America. By Michael Eric Dyson. St. Martin's, \$25.99 (9781250276759).

Dyson presents profound letters to Black martyrs in this consequential scrutiny of "the racial calamity at the heart of our democracy."

Madison's Sorrow: Today's War on the Founders and America's Liberal Ideal. By Kevin C. O'Leary. Pegasus, \$27.95 (9781643134345).

O'Leary defies the liberal-conservative dichotomy by introducing the anti-democratic, caste-driven concept of illiberalism, whose origins he traces to pre-Revolutionary American history.

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor. By Layla F. Saad. Sourcebooks, \$25.99 (9781728209807).

Saad's call for readers to take personal responsibility for dismantling systemic racism is informed, insightful, and inspiring.

Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning. By Cathy Park Hong. Random/One World, \$27 (9781984820365).

In seven stupendous essays of reclamation and declaration, poet Hong addresses Asian American history and identity in a mix of memoir, sociopolitical treatise, and revolutionary call-out.

Money: The True Story of a Made-Up Thing. By Jacob Goldstein. Hachette, \$28 (9780316417198).

Goldstein pulls readers in with his entertaining approach to a complicated topic.

Monopolized: Life in the Age of Corporate Power. By David Dayen. New Press, \$27.99 (9781620975411).

Dayen's clarifying investigation into the far-reaching and malignant impact of monopolies is disturbing, compelling, and invaluable.

The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move. By Sonia Shah. Bloomsbury, \$28 (9781635571974).

Science journalist Shah presents a beguiling and richly illuminating exploration of how the concept of migration for plants, animals, and humans has been politicized and distorted throughout history.

Nobody Will Tell You This but Me. By Bess Kalb. Knopf, \$25 (9780525654711).

Voiced from the perspective of her late grandmother, Kalb's first book is a monumental act of attention, love, and memory.

Notes on a Silencing. By Lacy Crawford. Little, Brown, \$28 (9780316491556).

Crawford's meditation on the effects of silence, shame, and belief will add to evolving discussions of sexual assault and power.

Women in Focus: Memoirs

All year, *Booklist* marked books about women's rights and women's lives with the tagline: Women in Focus: The 19th in 2020. In the Adult section, we called out 194 titles and 44 received starred reviews. We've chosen several categories to highlight some of those stellar titles, beginning with memoir. No other genre puts women in focus as intimately as memoir and 2020 was, fittingly enough, a banner year for women's memoir in sports, science, and the arts.

The Dragons, the Giant, the Women. By Wayétu Moore. Graywolf, \$26 (9781644450314).

Moore follows her stunning first novel, *She Would Be King* (2018), with a powerful, stirring, and imaginatively allegorical memoir anchored in her family's experiences in the Liberian civil war and immigration to the U.S.

Empty. By Susan Burton. Random, \$27 (9780812992847).

Burton's stirringly crafted memoir of disordered eating is also an extraordinary depiction of growing up, with breathtakingly related intimacies of family, friendship, and romantic love.

Knockout. By Mia Kang. Abrams, \$26 (9781419743320).

In this must-read memoir for the #MeToo era, Kang recounts how her discovery of the combat sport of Muay Thai enabled her to reclaim her self-worth.

Lady in Waiting: My Extraordinary Life in the Shadow of the Crown. By Anne Glenconner. Hachette, \$28 (9780306846366).

Former lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret, Glenconner has lived a fascinating life, as detailed in this entertaining peek behind the royal curtain.

Me & Patsy Kickin' Up Dust: My Friendship with Patsy Cline. By Loretta Lynn and Patsy Lynn. Grand Central, \$28 (9781538701669).

Lynn's countless fans will be delighted to find that she writes the way she talks in this memoir about her all-too-brief friendship with her mentor, Patsy Cline,

One Life. By Megan Rapinoe and Emma Brockes. Penguin, \$27 (9781984881168).

Soccer star and gay activist Rapinoe's memoir combines compelling testimony for equality in sports with a resounding message of hope.

Recollections of My Nonexistence. By Rebecca Solnit. Viking, \$26 (9780593083338).

Solnit's unconventional and galvanizing memoir-in-essays illuminates key formative moments in her valiant writing life and the perils women face in a complex, violently sexist world.

The Sediments of Time: My Lifelong Search for the Past. By Meave Leakey and Samira Leakey. HMH, \$30 (9780358206675).

In her exciting and richly informative scientist's autobiography, paleoanthropologist Leakey covers dramatic personal matters briskly while passionately sharing her driving fascination with our hominin ancestors.

The Smallest Lights in the Universe. By Sara Seager. Crown, \$28 (9780525576259).

Astrophysicist Seager's engaging memoir of her life, work, and autism diagnosis is technical writing at its best.

This Is What America Looks Like: My Journey from Refugee to Congresswoman. By Ilhan Omar. Morrow/Dey St., \$27.99 (9780062954213).

Omar tells the story of her life as a Somali war refugee, a newly arrived child with no English in America, and a U.S. Congresswoman in this compelling memoir.

Untamed. By Glennon Doyle. Dial, \$28 (9781984801258).

Doyle writes candidly about her life, including falling in love with a woman while married to a man and being a mother of three, to help others break free.

What We Carry. By Maya Shanbhag Lang. Dial, \$27 (9780525512394).

In this deeply moving memoir, novelist Lang shares the complex realizations she experienced while caring for her mother, an Indian immigrant and a physician, as she struggles with Alzheimer's.

On Account of Race: The Supreme Court, White Supremacy, and the Ravaging of African American Voting Rights. By Lawrence Goldstone. Counterpoint, \$26 (9781640093928).

Constitutional-law historian Goldstone provides a timely examination of the checked past of voting rights in the U.S., a tale of racism and politics aimed at disenfranchising African Americans.

One Mighty and Irresistible Tide: The Epic Struggle over American Immigration, 1924–1965. By Jia Lynn Yang. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393635843).

Yang presents a dramatic history of anti-immigration legislation and rhetoric in twentieth-century America, and all the harm done.

Our Bodies, Their Battlefields: War through the Lives of Women. By Christina Lamb. Scribner, paper, \$17 (9781501199172).

Longtime British war correspondent Lamb considers the impact of war on women in this powerful, wrenching, and global account that gives voice to those who have experienced unimaginable horrors.

Our House Is on Fire: Scenes of a Family and a Planet in Crisis. By Greta Thunberg and others. Penguin, paper, \$17 (9780143133575).

This blazingly candid family memoir about the impetus behind young environmental activist Greta Thunberg's galvanizing global campaign traces the symbiosis between human and planetary health.

Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America. By Stacey Abrams. Holt, \$27.99 (9781250257703).

Abrams recounts her long involvement in voter issues, shares her solutions for overcoming racist voter suppression, and reaffirms the importance of voting to keep democracy alive.

The People, No: A Brief History of Anti-Populism. By Thomas Frank. Holt/Metropolitan, \$26.99 (9781250220110).

With clarity and a fine ability to make connections, Frank looks at the history of populism

in the U.S., turning many common assumptions on their heads.

The Pink Line: Journeys across the World's Queer Frontiers. By Mark Gevisser. Farrar, \$30 (9780374279967).

Reinforcing the social justice belief that the personal is political, Gevisser alternates between contextualizing political events and profiling the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

The Presidential Fringe: Questing and Jestling for the Oval Office. By Mark Stein. Potomac, \$29.95 (9781640120327).

In this one-stop history of third-party presidential candidates, Stein shows how outliers provided a politics-weary populace with plenty of distraction.

Pretty Bitches: On Being Called Crazy, Angry, Bossy, Frumpy, Feisty, and All the Other Words That Are Used to Undermine Women. Ed. by Lizzie Skurnick. Seal, \$28 (9781580059190).

In short, incisive essays, 29 outstanding women writers consider how 29 ordinary words are used to undermine and disparage women and their accomplishments.

The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy, and the Life of John Maynard Keynes. By Zachary D. Carter. Random, \$35 (9780525509035).

In this sweeping intellectual biography, Carter traces Keynes' career and the impact of his economic and social ideas.

Pure Invention: How Japan's Pop Culture Conquered the World. By Matt Alt. Crown, \$28 (9781984826695).

In his brilliant survey of Japan's modern global cultural influence, Alt focuses on a toy car, anime, karaoke, kawaii culture typified by Sanrio's Hello Kitty, and the Sony Walkman.

The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart. By Alicia Garza. Oneworld, \$27 (9780525509684).

Garza, a founder of Black Lives Matter, offers a moving, instructive, and timely account of her in-the-trenches experience as a social justice warrior.

The Quiet Americans: Four CIA Spies at the Dawn of the Cold War—a Tragedy in Three Acts. By Scott Anderson. Doubleday, \$30 (9780385540452).

A disturbing origin story of the CIA, seen through the work lives of four American spies.

Race against Time: A Reporter Reopens the Unsolved Murder Cases of the Civil Rights Era. By Jerry Mitchell. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781451645132).

Mitchell's riveting reporting makes for both an important Civil Rights document and a timely read.

Rigged: America, Russia, and One Hundred Years of Covert Electoral Interference. By David Shimer. Knopf, \$29.95 (9780525659006).

Shimer's deep history of Soviet and Russian interference in American elections and democracy is thoroughly engaging.

Running against the Devil: A Plot to Save America from Trump—and Democrats from Themselves. By Rick Wilson. Crown Forum, \$28 (9780593137581).

A very smart and very funny look back at the Trump years and forward to 2020, detailing how the Democrats could win—or blow it.

Saving America's Amazon: The Threat to Our Nation's Most Biodiverse River System. By Ben Raines and E. O. Wilson. NewSouth, \$35 (9781588383389).

Raines reveals that Alabama has the most diverse ecosystem in the nation and boasts the worst record of environmental protection.

Say I'm Dead: A Family Memoir of Race, Secrets, and Love. By E. Dolores Johnson. Lawrence Hill, \$28.99 (9781641602747).

Johnson powerfully describes the love, hate, and anguish catalyzed by the 1943 marriage of her white mother, who "disappeared" to protect her family, and Black father.

The Scientist and the Spy: A True Story of China, the FBI, and Industrial Espionage. By Mara Hvistendahl. Riverhead, \$28 (9780735214286).

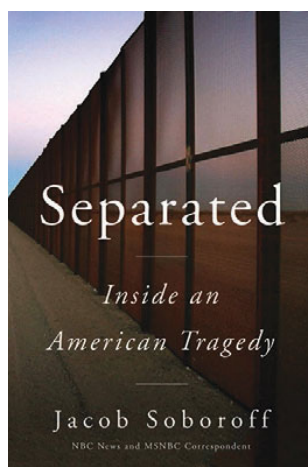
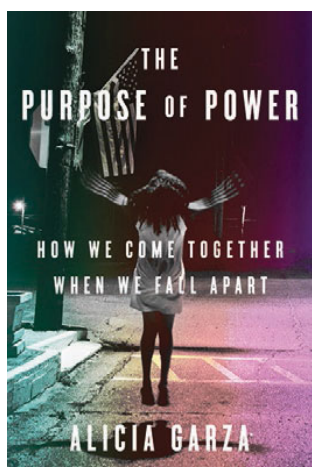
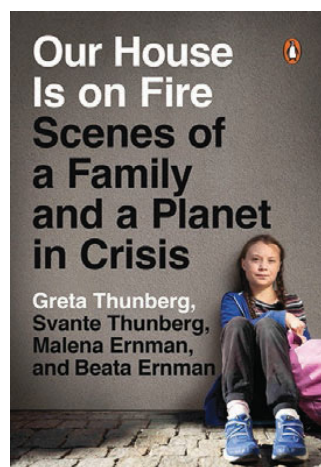
Science writer Hvistendahl writes about how the sighting of an Asian man bending over corn in an Iowa farmer's field led to a multifaceted FBI investigation into industrial espionage by China.

The Second Chance Club: Hardship and Hope after Prison. By Jason Hardy. Simon & Schuster, \$27 (9781982128593).

Following several cases from his time as a New Orleans parole officer, Hardy illustrates the whole person behind each story.

Separated: Inside an American Tragedy. By Jacob Soboroff. Morrow/Custom, \$29.99 (9780062992192).

Soboroff's exposé of the inner workings of a corrupt and unfeeling government is essential



Bestsellers OF 2020

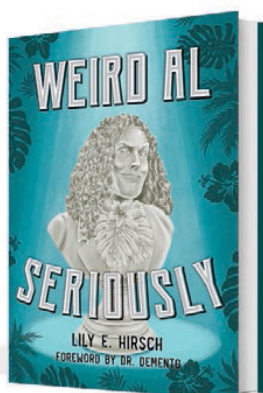
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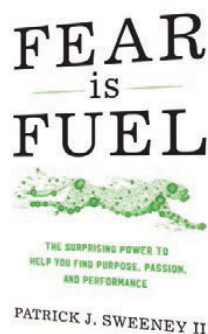
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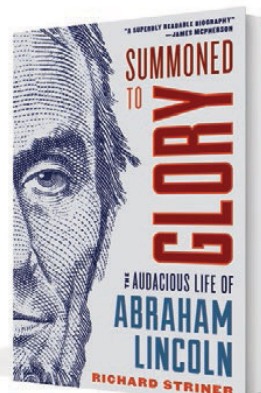
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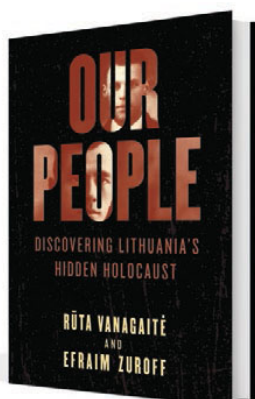
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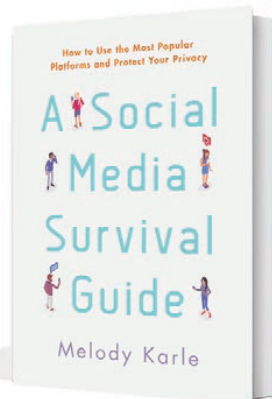
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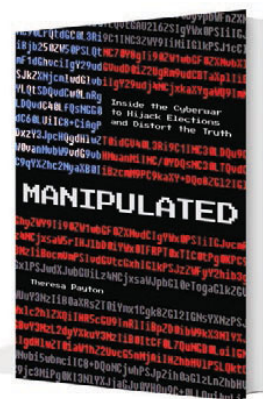
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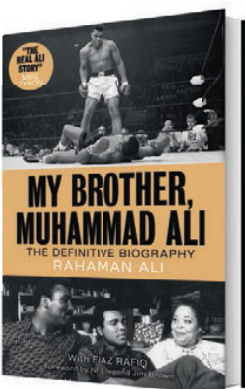
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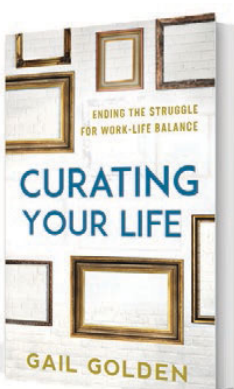
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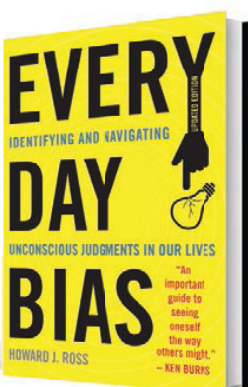
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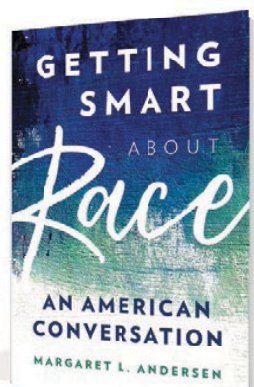
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to understanding America's current immigration misery.

Sex Robots and Vegan Meat: Adventures at the Frontier of Birth, Food, Sex, and Death. By Jenny Kleeman. Pegasus, \$27.95 (9781643135724).

Investigative journalist Kleeman explores how technological advances are affecting intimate areas of human life, with possibly destructive outcomes.

Smacked: A Story of White-Collar Ambition, Addiction, and Tragedy. By Eilene Zimmerman. Random, \$27 (9780525511007).

This brutally honest account of the author's ex-husband's death from drug addiction underscores that addiction knows no demographic barriers.

The Sprawl. By Jason Diamond. Coffee House, paper, \$16.95 (9781566895828).

Diamond walks readers through the origins of American suburbs and presents a new way of viewing them.

Stakes Is High: Life after the American Dream. By Mychal Denzel Smith. Perseus/Bold Type, \$26 (9781568588735).

Smith holds up a mirror to America in the hope of bringing about the righteous nation it has always aspired to be.

The Stars in Our Pockets: Getting Lost and Sometimes Found in the Digital Age. By Howard Axelrod. Beacon, \$23.95 (9780807036754).

This slim, powerful book is a meditation about what happens to consciousness when people spend large swaths of time on-screen.

Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do about It. By Erin Brockovich and Suzanne Boothby. Pantheon, \$28.95 (9781524746964).

Brockovich reports on legal battles over protecting water supplies across the country, combining riveting personal stories with invaluable scientific information and guidelines for citizen action.

Supreme Inequality: The Supreme Court's Fifty-Year Battle for a More Unjust America. By Adam Cohen. Penguin Press, \$30 (9780735221505).

Cohen argues that the court's five-decade pattern of "siding with the rich and powerful against the poor and weak" bears some of the blame for our historic levels of socioeconomic inequality.

Surviving Autocracy. By Masha Gessen. Riverhead, \$26 (9780593188934).

Gessen offers a clarion analysis of the autocratic aspects of the Trump presidency and calls for defense of the constitutional rule of law.

Tales of Two Planets: Stories of Climate Change and Inequality in a Divided World. Ed. by John Freeman. Penguin, paper, \$18 (9780143133926).

Essays, stories, and poems by 35 writers around the world illuminate yoked environmental and humanitarian crises in this powerful literary anthology created by editor of conscience and poet Freeman.

Team of Five: The Presidents Club in the Age of Trump. By Kate Andersen Brower. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062668974).

Insights into presidential life beyond the rancor of everyday politics will appeal to a wide variety of readers.

The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia. By Emma Copley Eisenberg. Hachette, \$27 (9780316449236).

In chronicling the murder of two young hippies in rural West Virginia, Eisenberg offers a powerful commentary on society's notions of gender, violence, and rural America.

Twisted: The Tangled History of Black Hair Culture. By Emma Dabiri. HarperPerennial, paper, \$16.99 (9780062966728).

Guardian contributor Dabiri explores the strands of racism which are tangled up in considerations of Black hair, reaching back to pre-European-invasion Africa and into the present.

Un-American: A Soldier's Reckoning of Our Longest War. By Erik Edstrom. Bloomsbury, \$28 (9781635573749).

West Point graduate and Bronze Star recipient Edstrom recounts his experiences in Afghanistan and questions our national perspective on patriotism, the military, and war.

Uncounted: The Crisis of Voter Suppression in the United States. By Gilda R. Daniels. NYU, \$30 (9781479862351).

Daniels' presents a thorough and rousing history of voter suppression, rich in personal stories, to create a valuable resource for everyone in the public square.

The Undocumented Americans. By Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Random/One World, \$26 (9780399592683).

Journalist Cornejo Villavicencio reports on the lives of her fellow undocumented Americans from New York to Miami and beyond in this valuable, imaginative, and moving inquiry.

The Violence inside Us: A Brief History of an Ongoing American Tragedy. By Chris Murphy. Random, \$28 (9781984854575).

Senator Murphy digs deeply into the forces behind America's epidemic of gun violence in this compelling, frank, bracing, and caring inquiry.

Voting and Political Representation in America: Issues and Trends. Ed. by Mark P. Jones. ABC-CLIO, \$204 (9781440860843).

Comprehensive coverage of the fragile history of suffrage in the U.S. includes entries on political parties, movements, and processes, as well as primary documents.

Voyage of Mercy: The USS Jamestown, the Irish Famine, and the Remarkable Story of America's First Humanitarian Mission. By Stephen Puleo. St. Martin's, \$28.99 (9781250200471).

With deep research, Puleo recounts how American citizens ferried tons of food and clothing to Ireland in 1847 for relief from the Irish Potato Famine.

Wandering in Strange Lands: A Daughter of the Great Migration Reclaims Her Roots. By Morgan Jerkins. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062873040).

A thrilling, emotional, and engaging ride that almost commands the reader to turn the page, this memoir accurately widens the lens of American history.

We Should Have Seen It Coming: From Reagan to Trump—a Front-Row Seat to a Political Revolution. By Gerald F. Seib. Random, \$28 (9780593135150).

Followers of contemporary political history will appreciate how Seib gathers together the many strands of people and events culminating in present realities.

Why Did I Get a B? And Other Mysteries We're Discussing in the Faculty Lounge. By Shannon Reed. Atria, \$26 (9781982136093).

Reed's love and respect for her students shines through in every entry in this very heartfelt and funny combination of memoir and riffs on teaching.

Business

How to Lead: Wisdom from the World's Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers. By David Rubenstein. Simon & Schuster, \$30 (9781982132156).

Businessman and PBS host Rubenstein shares 30 conversations with influential leaders, including Jeff Bezos and Oprah.

Unapologetically Ambitious: Take Risks, Break Barriers, and Create Success on Your Own Terms. By Shellye Archambeau. Grand Central, \$28 (9781538702895).

Concrete career and life advice from the first African American woman CEO in Silicon Valley.

Witches: The Transformative Power of Women Working Together. By Sam George-Allen. Melville, paper, \$17.99 (9781612198347).

Funny and kind but also angry, incredulous, demanding, smart, harsh, gentle, and compli-

cated—all those words describe the women to whom George-Allen gives voices.

Science

Becoming Wild: How Animal Cultures Raise Families, Create Beauty, and Achieve Peace. By Carl Safina. Holt, \$30 (9781250173331).

Safina demonstrates that culture is not only a human construct as he reports on the lives and cultures of sperm whales, scarlet macaws, and chimpanzees.

The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think. By Jennifer Ackerman. Penguin, \$28 (9780735223011).

Ackerman shares fascinating findings about bird intelligence and behavior which indicate ingenious adaptations and great cognitive diversity within the avian world.

Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther. By Craig Pittman. Hanover Square, \$27.99 (9781335938800).

Pittman's chronicle of how the Florida panther was saved from extinction is absorbing and exciting.

The Cougar Conundrum: Sharing the World with a Successful Predator. By Mark Elbroch. Island, paper, \$30 (9781610919982).

Elbroch provides a rich history of the mountain lion and lion management, bridging the divide between pro and con perspectives in this brutally honest book.

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, & Shape Our Futures. By Merlin Sheldrake. Random, \$28 (9780525510314).

Biologist Sheldrake's superb science book brings to light and vivid life the ubiquitous yet vastly underappreciated world of fungi: molds, yeast, and mushrooms.

Envisioning Exoplanets: Searching for Life in the Galaxy. By Michael Carroll. Smithsonian, \$34.95 (9781588346919).

This illustrated exploration of the possibility of other life-sustaining Earth-like planets across the universe will inspire both scientific curiosity and wonder.

Fathoms: The World in the Whale. By Rebecca Giggs. Simon & Schuster, \$27 (9781982120696).

Deeply researched and deeply felt, Giggs' intricate and lyrical investigation into the natural history and current predicament of whales urges us to save these magnificent animals, the oceans, and ourselves.

A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America's Hurricanes. By Eric Jay Dolin. Norton/Liveright, \$29.95 (9781631495274).

Dolin's vivid history of hurricanes along

Women in Focus: Politics

Politics has consumed our attention this year, and with the first woman vice president-elect, and a woman of color, it seems only right to honor stellar books about women in politics past and present.

Eleanor. By David Michaelis. Simon & Schuster, \$35 (9781439192016).

Michaelis clarifies and repositions Eleanor Roosevelt's unique and exceptional life in ways that emphasize just how relevant her struggles and achievements are in this time of political reckoning.

Fannie Lou Hamer: America's Freedom Fighting Woman. By Maegan Parker Brooks. Rowman & Littlefield, \$34 (9781538115947).

An in-depth testimonial to a courageous woman and her deep commitment to human rights.

Free Thinker: Sex, Suffrage, and the Extraordinary Life of Helen Hamilton Gardener. By Kimberly A. Hamlin. Norton, \$28.95 (9781324004974).

Hamlin portrays a forgotten force in the freethought, women's rights, and women's suffrage movements, an unconventional and successful woman fascinating for her courageous and creative activism.

Pelosi. By Molly Ball. Holt, \$27.99 (9781250252869).

An entertaining and balanced biography of Nancy Pelosi, veteran politician and current Speaker of the House.

Queens of the Resistance: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. By Brenda Jones and Krishan Trotman. Plume, \$18 (9780593189856).

Queens of the Resistance: Elizabeth Warren. By Brenda Jones and Krishan Trotman. Plume, \$18 (9780593189863).

Queens of the Resistance: Maxine Waters. By Brenda Jones and Krishan Trotman. Plume, \$18 (9780593189870).

Queens of the Resistance: Nancy Pelosi. By Brenda Jones and Krishan Trotman. Plume, \$18 (9780593189887).

The Queens of Resistance series combines sass and savvy to vividly portray four courageous and powerful women politicians and illuminate their causes, strategies, and accomplishments.

Reclaiming Her Time: The Power of Maxine Waters. By Helena Andrews-Dyer and R. Eric Thomas. Morrow/Dey St., \$26.99 (9780062992031).

A suitably buoyant and zesty portrait of determined, dauntless, and always dazzling Congresswoman Waters.

She Votes: How U.S. Women Won Suffrage, and What Happened Next. By Bridget Quinn. Chronicle, \$35 (9781452173160).

The story of women's fight for equality, from the example set by the Haudenosaunee to the riot grrrl movement and the founders of Black Lives Matter.

Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote. By Ellen Carol DuBois. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781501165160).

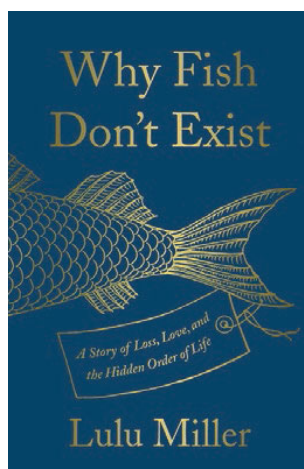
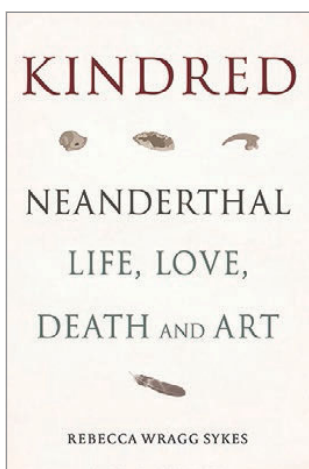
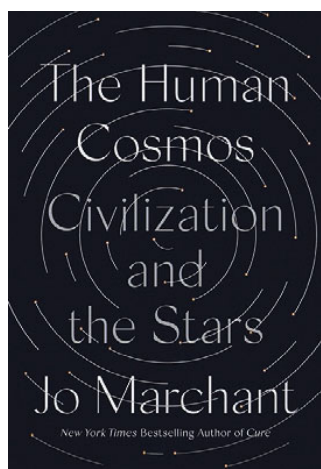
DuBois meticulously and vibrantly chronicles the leaders and every phase of the arduous, complicated, 75-year battle for women's suffrage in America, culminating in the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

This is What America Looks Like: My Journey from Refugee to Congresswoman. By Ilhan Omar. Morrow/Dey St., \$27.99 (9780062954213).

Omar tells the story of her life as a Somali war refugee, a newly arrived child with no English in America, and a U.S. Congresswoman in this compelling memoir.

Use the Power You Have: A Brown Women's Guide to Politics and Political Change. By Pramila Jayapal. New Press, \$27.99 (9781620971437).

Congresswoman Jayapal recounts her political education in a memoir of remarkable generosity, humor, and spirit.



U.S. coasts combines science and human drama to take full measure of the impact of these immense storms.

A History of Plants in Fifty Fossils.

By Paul Kenrick. Smithsonian, \$24.95 (9781588346711).

Natural History Museum, London, paleobotanist Kenrick, through the representations of some 50 fossils, tells the origin story of plant life on Earth.

The Human Cosmos: Civilization and the Stars. By Jo Marchant. Dutton, \$28 (9780593183014).

Marchant conducts a many-faceted inquiry into humankind's enthrallment to and study of the stars and ponders our loss of the glory of the night sky to artificial light.

Ice Walker: A Polar Bear's Journey through the Fragile Arctic. By James Raffan. Simon & Schuster Canada, \$18 (9781501155369).

While polar bear Nanu hunts and gives birth to cubs, Raffan ties her story to that of Hudson Bay itself, emphasizing how humans' existence and future are interconnected with Nanu's.

Kindred: Neanderthal Life, Love, Death and Art. By Rebecca Wragg Sykes. Bloomsbury/Sigma, \$28 (9781472937490).

Sykes' evocative and enthusiastic presentation of discoveries about the lives of Neanderthals brings them to life as cognitive, emotional, toolmaking kin.

The Language of Butterflies: How Thieves, Hoarders, Scientists, and Other Obsessives Unlocked the Secrets of the World's Favorite Insect. By Wendy Williams. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781501178061).

An entertaining and wide-ranging look at the beauty, history, science, and future of butterflies.

Some Assembly Required: Decoding Four Billion Years of Life, from Ancient Fossils to DNA. By Neil Shubin. Pantheon, \$26.95 (9781101871331).

Evolutionary biology is on a roll, and Shubin is one of its best chroniclers.

What It's Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing—What Birds Are Doing, and Why. By David Allen Sibley. Knopf, \$35 (9780307957894).

A unique take on the usual nature guide explores avian behavior from the bird's point of view, offering new insights in a beautifully illustrated volume.

Why Fish Don't Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life. By Lulu Miller. Simon & Schuster, \$23 (9781501160271).

Miller's research into the life of scientist David Starr Jordan reads like a podcast episode, blending investigative journalism, biography, and a dash of memoir.

x + y: A Mathematician's Manifesto for Rethinking Gender. By Eugenia Cheng. Basic, \$28 (9781541646506).

Using mathematical models, Cheng makes a clear and impassioned case for the eradication of gender bias.

Technology

Decoding Your Cat: The Ultimate Experts Explain Common Cat Behaviors and Reveal How to Prevent or Change Unwanted Ones. By American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. HMH, \$27 (9781328489906).

This helpful guide encompasses almost every mental, physical, and emotional cat symptom and behavior imaginable.

The Domestic Revolution: How the Introduction of Coal into Victorian Homes Changed Everything. By Ruth Goodman. Norton/Liveright, \$27.95 (9781631497636).

Historian Goodman presents an entertaining and wide-reaching investigation of the extensive ripple effects of the choice by late-sixteenth- and early-seventeenth-century Londoners to use coal to power their homes.

If Then: How the Simulmatics Corporation Invented the Future. By Jill Lepore. Norton/Liveright, \$28.95 (9781631496103).

Lepore tells the story of the Simulmatics Corporation's early use of computerized simulations

to predict human behavior in a perceptive work of historically informed dissent.

Leading with Gratitude: Eight Leadership Practices for Extraordinary Business Results. By Adrian Gostick and Chester Elton. HarperBusiness, \$29.99 (9780062965783).

Gostick and Elton understand their audience of leaders and aspiring leaders and "sell" their concept—leading with gratitude—with examples from well-known business personalities and case histories.

Child Care

The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read (and Your Children Will Be Glad That You Did). By Philippa Perry. Viking/Life, \$24 (9781984879554).

In a warm and judgment-free style, Perry helps readers examine their childhoods to decide which parenting patterns to let go of and which to keep.

Parent Up: Inspire Your Child to Be Their Best Self. By Kelly Rippon. Sourcebooks, paper, \$16.99 (9781728222356).

Single mom Rippon, whose six children include Olympic figure skater Adam Rippon, offers inspiring insights, compelling family stories, and sound advice for everyone who interacts with children.

Ready or Not: Preparing Our Kids to Thrive in an Uncertain and Rapidly Changing World. By Madeline Levine. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062657756).

Best-selling author and renowned clinician Levine takes a close look at how anxiety affects parental decision-making and child development.

Health & Medicine

Biography of Resistance: The Epic Battle between People and Pathogens. By Muhammad H. Zaman. Harper/Wave, \$28.99 (9780062862976).

Zaman's vividly informative history of antibiotics, the scientists who discovered them, and why antibiotic-resistance infections are increasing is a dramatic call for action.

COVID-19: The Pandemic That Never Should Have Happened and How to Stop the Next One. By Debora MacKenzie. Hachette, \$27 (9780306924248).

Science journalist MacKenzie's thorough coverage of COVID-19 and the global response offers many hard-learned lessons in pandemics and public health.

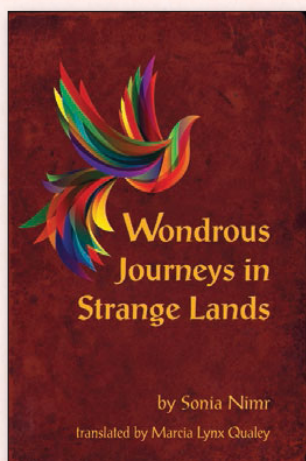
Exercised: Why Something We Never Evolved to Do Is Healthy and Rewarding. By Daniel Lieberman. Pantheon, \$29.95 (9781524746988).

Harvard paleoanthropologist Lieberman

INTERLINK PUBLISHING

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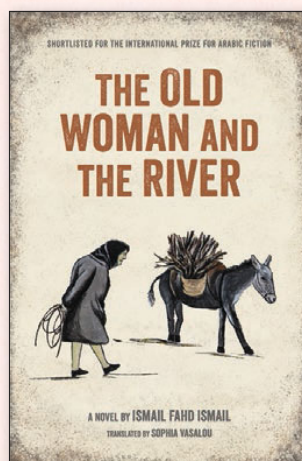
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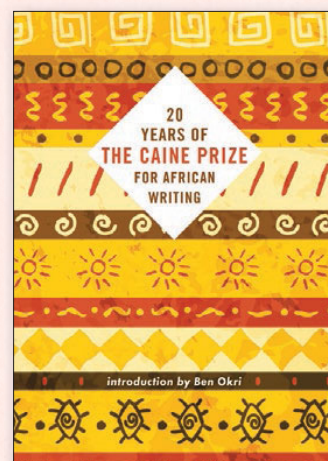
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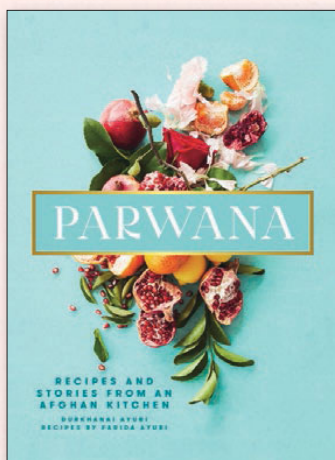


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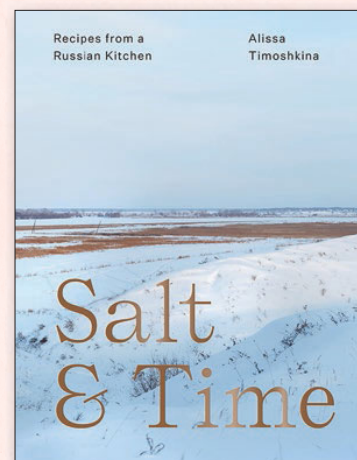
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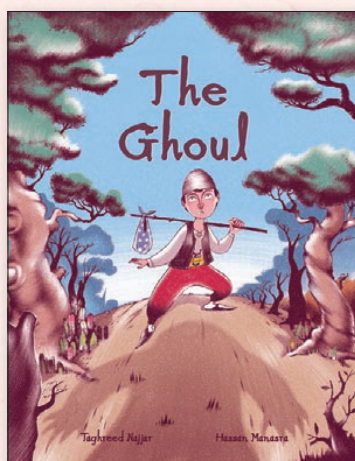


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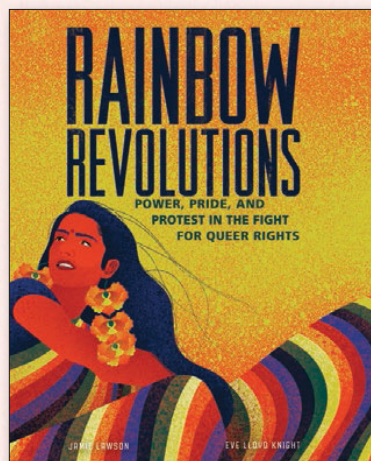
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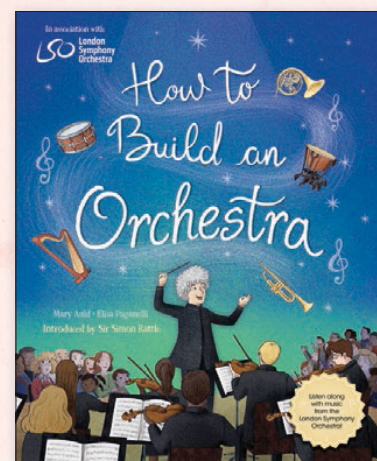
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How to Build an Orchestra

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investigates our evolutionary past and explains why exercise is necessary and healthy.

Fevers, Feuds, and Diamonds: Ebola and the Ravages of History. By Paul Farmer. Farrar, \$40 (9780374234324).

Renowned physician and global health expert Farmer chronicles the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia, and explores the deep history of exploitation behind it.

Finding Comfort during Hard Times: A Guide to Healing after Disease, Violence, and Other Community Trauma. By Earl Johnson. Rowman & Littlefield, \$28 (9781538127094).

Johnson, a hospital chaplain with the American Red Cross, offers thoughtful guidelines for helping survivors of and first responders to natural and human-made disasters.

Golem Girl. By Riva Lehrer. Random/One World, \$30 (9781984820303).

In her frank, darkly humorous, illustrated memoir, artist, writer, and disability activist Lehrer recounts her struggles with spina bifida and people's responses to her socially challenged body.

Good Morning, Destroyer of Men's Souls. By Nina Renata Aron. Crown, \$27 (9780525576679).

Aron's memoir of a codependent and all-enveloping relationship is a beautiful and nuanced portrait of living alongside addiction.

Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family. By Robert Kolker. Doubleday, \$29.95 (9780385543767).

Kolker delves into the diagnosis and treatment of schizophrenia by chronicling the staggering tragedies of the Galvin family, in which six of 12 siblings suffered from the disease.

The Lady's Handbook for Her Mysterious Illness. By Sarah Ramey. Doubleday, \$27.95 (9780385534079).

Ramey's chronicle of her ongoing medical nightmare pivots on her realization of how medicine fails to treat women with proper expertise and respect.

Pharma: Greed, Lies, and the Poisoning of America. By Gerald Posner. Avid Reader, \$35 (9781501151897).

To read Posner's encyclopedic, explosive exposé of the pharmaceutical industry and the government's role in its development is to peer into a Pandora's box of malfeasance, perfidy, and corruption.

The Remarkable Life of the Skin: An Intimate Journey across Our Largest Organ. By Monty Lyman. Atlantic Monthly, \$27 (9780802129406).

Lyman covers many aspects of human skin, going far beyond the obvious, in this thoughtful, informative treatise.

The Sensitives: The Rise of Environmental Illness and the Search for America's Last Pure Place. By Oliver Broudy. Simon & Schuster, \$27 (9781982128500).

Broudy ventures into the realm of those who suffer from the mysterious ailment known as Environmental Illness (EI) to provocative effect.

Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World. By Fareed Zakaria. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393542134).

Zakaria presents the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and offers innovative, logical, and considered options for how to emerge with more resilience and strength.

Gardening

Ikebana Unbound: A Modern Approach to the Ancient Japanese Art of Flower Arranging. By Amanda Luu and Ivanka Matsuba. Artisan, \$24.95 (9781579659134).

A modern take on a centuries-old art based in naturalness, movement, simplicity, and balance.

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard. By Douglas W. Tallamy. Timber, \$29.95 (9781604699005).

A science-based call to heal the planet in the comfort of our own yards.

A Year in My Garden. By Jacqueline van der Kloet. IPG/Helene Lesger, \$55 (9789082683691).

It's hard to argue with Dutch master gardener van der Kloet's decades of experience—and amazing illustrations.

Cookery

The Baja California Cookbook: 60 Recipes from Lower California. By David Castro Hussong and Jay Porter. Ten Speed, \$30 (9780399582837).

Sidebars on Baja's food and culture add a compelling narrative to Baja native Castro Hussong's collection of 60 traditional and novel recipes.

Beyond the North Wind: Russia in Recipes and Lore. By Darra Goldstein. Ten Speed, \$37.50 (9780399580390).

Informative sidebars envelop and elevate food scholar Goldstein's 100 recipes.

Chasing Flavor: Techniques and Recipes to Cook Fearlessly. By Dan Kluger. Harcourt, \$35 (9781328546333).

Kluger leaves readers with a "takeaway" in each of his recipes: pairing unusual flavors, spotlighting a single element, boosting a technique

The Chilean Kitchen: 75 Seasonal Recipes for Stews, Breads, Salads, Cocktails, Desserts, and More. By Pilar Hernandez and Eileen Smith. Skyhorse, \$24.99 (9781510752856).

This authentic introduction to the cuisine of central Chile shares generally quick-to-make recipes, culminating in *once*, the last meal of the day in which nearly anything goes.

Dessert Person: Recipes and Guidance for Baking with Confidence. By Claire Saffitz. Clarkson Potter, \$35 (9781984826961).

High-quality, foundational instructions paired with a splendid array of recipes, from a salty-rosemary nut tart to French pastries to St. Louis (Saffitz's hometown) gooey butter cake.

Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking. By Bill Buford. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780307271013).

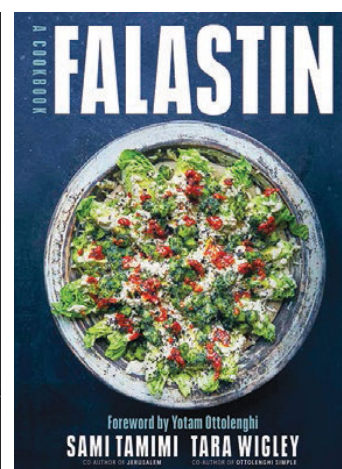
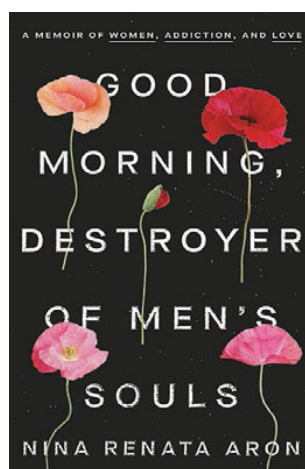
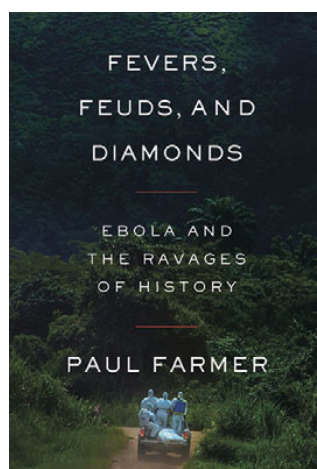
Buford's memoir of his apprenticeship in France's gastronomic capital is an inside look into haute cuisine.

East: 120 Vegan and Vegetarian Recipes from Bangalore to Beijing. By Meera Sodha. Flatiron, \$35 (9781250750730).

For readers of all cooking levels, Sodha shares thoughtfully written recipes with a sincerity that home cooks will find encouraging.

Falastin: A Cookbook. By Sami Tamimi and Tara Wigley. Ten Speed, \$35 (9780399581731).

This celebration of Palestinian cooking addresses the history and politics of the region



while also highlighting local culinary experts, with 120 unique and familiar recipes.

The Flavor Equation: The Science of Great Cooking Explained. By Nik Sharma. Chronicle, \$35 (9781452182698).

In scientific yet wholly readable terms, the Mumbai-born molecular biologist maps out the nature of *delicious*. With 100-plus recipes.

Foolproof Fish: Modern Recipes for Everyone, Everywhere. By America's Test Kitchen. America's Test Kitchen, \$35 (9781948703109).

Novice fish cooks will discover just about everything they need to take advantage of the bounty of the world's oceans, lakes, and rivers.

Fresh from Poland: New Vegetarian Cooking from the Old Country. By Michal Korkosz. The Experiment, paper, \$19.95 (9781615196555).

Korkosz's photographic talent and his inventive ways with Polish cuisine make his first book a real standout.

Friuli Food and Wine: Frasca Cooking from Northern Italy's Mountains, Vineyards, and Seaside. By Bobby Stuckey and others. Ten Speed, \$50 (9780399580611).

A love letter to Northeastern Italy, a place bordered by Austria, Slovenia, and the Adriatic Sea

Gordon Ramsay Quick and Delicious: 100 Recipes to Cook in 30 Minutes or Less. By Gordon Ramsay. Grand Central, \$32 (9781538719336).

An instructive and inspiring entry, rich in international flavors and careful preparation, that stands out among the vast array of quick-meal cookbooks.

Homemade Yogurt & Kefir: 71 Recipes for Making & Using Probiotic-Rich Ferments. By Gianaclis Caldwell. Storey, paper, \$19.95 (9781635861099).

Caldwell shows readers that, with the proper starter, making yogurt at home proves fairly easy, incorporating recipes for cheeses, dips, and drinks along the way.

Open Kitchen: Inspired Food for Casual Gatherings. By Susan Spungen. Avery, \$35 (9780525536673).

Simplicity shines in this collection of family-style meals that can be prepared with agility at a moment's notice or planned-for in stages with more ample time.

Parwana: Recipes and Stories from an Afghan Kitchen. By Durkhanai Ayubi and Farida Ayubi. Interlink, \$35 (9781623718756).

Into a skillfully told narrative of her ancestral land, Afghanistan, Ayubi weaves the cross-pollinating of foods, culture, and recipes there.



Pie Academy: Master the Perfect Crust and 255 Amazing Fillings. By Ken Haedrich. Storey, \$35 (9781635861112).

Readers will find everything they'd ever wanted to know about making pie, and a recipe for almost any filling eaters hanker for.

Pieometry: Modern Tart Art and Pie Design for the Eye and the Palate. By Lauren Ko. Morrow, \$32.50 (9780062911223).

Ko's artful tart recipes—both sweet and savory—will unleash home chefs' creative spirits in the kitchen.

Resetting the Table: Straight Talk about the Food We Grow and Eat. By Robert Paarlberg. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780525656449).

A broadly and deeply informed look at the system that supplies massive quantities of food to a still-growing global population, and how to make that system work better.

The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food. By Marcus Samuelsson. Little, Brown/Voracious, \$38 (9780316480680).

A celebration of Black culture through food, and a must for all readers of culinary history.

Rose's Ice Cream Bliss. By Rose Levy Beranbaum. HMH, \$25 (9781328506627).

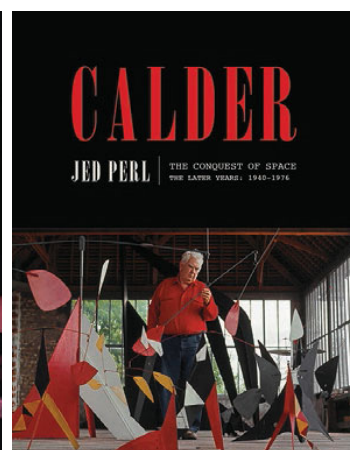
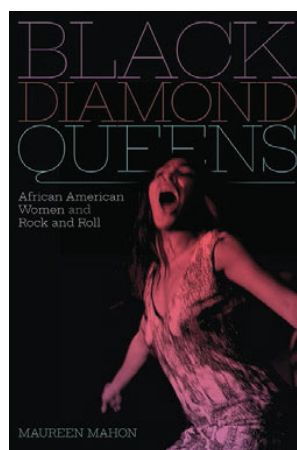
Who better than the reigning monarch of baking to share her always thorough and ever-enticing grasp of home ice cream making?

See You on Sunday: A Cookbook for Family and Friends. By Sam Sifton. Random, \$35 (9781400069927).

Sifton credits his appreciation for Sunday dinners to delightful meals prepared at his Brooklyn parish, encouraging others to cook and serve such joyful repasts.

The Tahini Table: Go Beyond Hummus with 100 Recipes for Every Meal. By Amy Zitelman and Andrew Schloss. Agate, \$29 (9781572842892).

This unfussy cookbook is fun to read, full of bright photographs, and easy to use.



This Will Make It Taste Good: A New Path to Simple Cooking. By Vivian Howard. Little, Brown/Voracious, \$35 (9780316381123).

Home chefs will clap with surprise and awe at these 100-plus recipes organized around Howard's 10 "flavor heroes."

The Arts

150 Glimpses of the Beatles. By Craig Brown. Farrar, \$30 (9780374109318).

The many twists and turns in this addictive, immersive, funny, bizarre, silly, poignant, weird, and amazing mix of biography and cultural history make this an essential Beatles title.

Alright, Alright, Alright: An Oral History of Richard Linklater's Dazed and Confused. By Melissa Maerz. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062908506).

Undeniably fun reading enhanced by Maerz's expert chapter introductions and many conversations with everyone from Linklater to the stars to the film crew.

The Art of Drag. By Jake Hall. Nobrow, \$22.95 (9781910620717).

This beautifully crafted and vibrantly illustrated volume celebrates drag as an art form that's at once glamorous, amusing, and subversive.

The Big Goodbye: Chinatown and the Last Years of Hollywood. By Sam Wasson. Flatiron, \$28.99 (9781250301826).

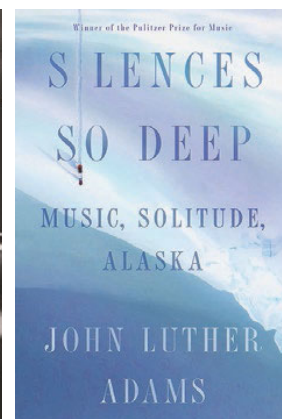
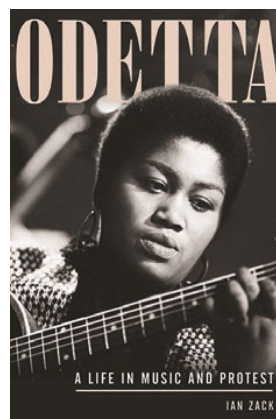
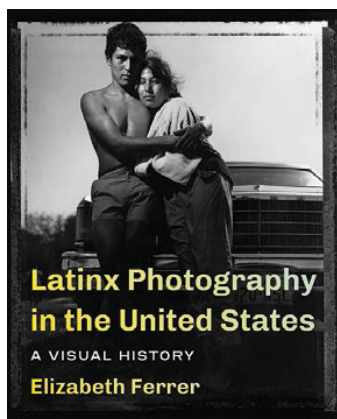
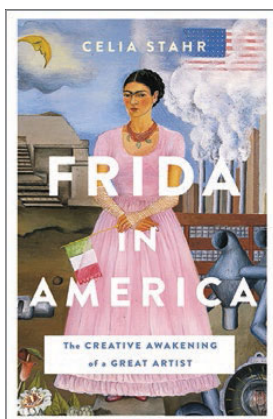
Wasson, a veteran Hollywood writer, looks both at the particulars of how *Chinatown* came to be as well as the larger societal and cultural forces swirling behind it.

Black Diamond Queens: African American Women and Rock and Roll. By Maureen Mahon. Duke, \$114.95 (9781478010197).

With depth and breadth, Mahon's work centers the many African American women who heavily influence rock and roll, from LaVern Baker to Tina Turner.

Calder: The Conquest of Space: The Later Years: 1940-1976. By Jed Perl. Knopf, \$60 (9780451494115).

With expertise and narrative vitality, Perl



completes his magnificent two-volume biography of sculptor Calder, focusing on his monumental public works and exuberantly radical creativity.

Counterpoint: A Memoir of Bach and Mourning. By Philip Kennicott. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393635362).

An approachable, keenly thoughtful rumination on the nature of musical study, biography, and Bach's place in the firmament of classical composers.

Frida in America: The Creative Awakening of a Great Artist. By Celia Stahr. St. Martin's, \$29.99 (9781250113382).

Stahr draws on vivid primary sources to chronicle Kahlo's often wrenching early-1930s sojourn in the U.S. and the profound impact her experiences had on the arc of her creativity.

Ghostbusters: The Inside Story: Stories from the Cast and Crew of the Beloved Films. By Matt McAllister. Hero Collector, \$29.95 (9781858758541).

This wonderful making-of account of the 1984 classic *Ghostbusters* features new commentary from the key players, rarely seen concept art, and plenty of behind-the-scenes stories.

Happiness Becomes You: A Guide to Changing Your Life for Good. By Tina Turner. Atria, \$26 (9781982152154).

This is Turner's quasi-biography wrapped around an exploration of Buddhism, with roughly equal emphasis on personal anecdotes and devotional practices.

It's Never Too Late: Make the Next Act of Your Life the Best Act of Your Life. By Kathie Lee Gifford. Thomas Nelson, \$26.99 (9780785236641).

Running the gamut from hilarious to heartbreaking, the iconic television personality shows readers that it's never too late to start over, chase a dream, or accept Jesus into their lives.

Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History. By Elizabeth Ferrer. Univ. of Washington, paper, \$34.95 (9780295747637).

Ferrer's richly diverse and well-curated history

of Latinx photography is a powerful testament to a people's artistic vibrancy and legacy.

The Making of Aliens. By J. W. Rinzler. Titan, \$60 (9781789093100).

Rinzler, a rock star in the world of making-of movie books, delivers another lavishly illustrated stunner, this time chronicling the genesis of James Cameron's *Aliens*.

Modesty: A Fashion Paradox. By Hafsa Lodi. Neem Tree, \$45 (9781911107255).

A thoughtful consideration of modest-clothing trends from numerous social, religious, and commercial aspects.

More Than Love: An Intimate Portrait of My Mother, Natalie Wood. By Natasha Gregson Wagner. Scribner, \$28 (9781982111182).

Wagner's memories of her mother, Natalie Wood, are vivid and heartbreaking as she recalls her childhood and her mother's fatal accident and candidly shares her lifelong struggles with anxiety.

Mozart: The Reign of Love. By Jan Swafford. Harper, \$45 (9780062433572).

Swafford, a composer himself, presents Mozart in his full complexity, accompanied by keen musical insights into his subject's entire canon.

Niche: A Memoir in Pastiche. By Momus. Farrar, \$28 (9780374144081).

Nick Currie, aka Momus, an avant-garde singer, songwriter, and blogger, offers a marvelously eccentric mock oral history of his life allegedly recounted by 217 deceased authors and artists.

Nightmares in the Dream Sanctuary: War and the Animated Film. By Donna Kornhaber. Univ. of Chicago, \$35 (9780226472683).

One of those rare "academic" books so well done that anyone interested in its subjects—animated cartoons and war—will bless it.

Nobody Ever Asked Me about the Girls: Women, Music, and Fame. By Lisa Robinson. Holt, \$27.99 (9781627794909).

Music journalist Robinson writes about the talented women musicians she met over the

decades and the difficulties and even violence they faced in the sexist music industry and wider world.

Odetta: A Life in Music and Protest. By Ian Zack. Beacon, \$28.95 (9780807035320).

In the first in-depth biography of profoundly influential if underappreciated singer and civil rights icon Odetta, Zack offers a thoughtful portrait of a pioneering, deeply independent African American artist.

Shit, Actually: The Definitive, 100% Objective Guide to Modern Cinema. By Lindy West. Hachette, \$27 (9780316449823).

In what she calls an "extremely stupid book," West reviews nearly two dozen cult-classic films through the lens of 2020.

Silences So Deep: Music, Solitude, Alaska. By John Luther Adams. Farrar, \$26 (9780374264628).

Composer Adams, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a Grammy Award, inspires and enchants in his memoir about the Alaskan wilderness, friendship, and creativity.

Small Hours: The Long Night of John Martyn. By Graeme Thomson. IPG/Omnibus, \$28.99 (9781787600195).

This sympathetic biography of Anglo-Scots John Martyn, a complicated but important singer-songwriter-guitarist, establishes his key role in the 1960s-70s British folk scene and his ongoing influence.

Tomoko Fuse's Origami Art: Works by a Modern Master. By Tomoko Fuse and David Brill. Tuttle, \$29.99 (9784805315552).

Familiar or not with the works of origami artist Tomoko Fuse, readers will be astonished and intrigued by the pieces gathered in this anthology of her designs.

The Way of Bach: Three Years with the Man, the Music, and the Piano. By Dan Moller. Pegasus, \$27.95 (9781643135809).

This story of a man struggling to achieve his own aesthetic meaning will move anyone seeking to grasp the power of music in human existence.

West Side Story: The Jets, the Sharks, and the Making of a Classic. By Richard Barrios. Running Press, \$28 (9780762469482).

This well-researched book on the making of *West Side Story* in 1961 offers a guided tour through an important piece of film history.

What Becomes a Legend Most: The Biography of Richard Avedon. By Philip Gefter. Harper, \$35 (9780062442710).

Gefter's expert and engrossing portrait of a master portraitist vividly proves his claim that photographer Avedon is "one of the most consequential artists of the twentieth century."

Crafts & Hobbies

Botanical Art Techniques: A Comprehensive Guide to Watercolor, Graphite, Colored Pencil, Vellum, Pen and Ink, Egg Tempera, Oils, Printmaking, and More. By The American Society of Botanical Artists. Ed. by Carol Woodin and Robin A. Jess. Timber, \$40 (9781604697902).

A spectacular how-to book for drawing, sketching, and painting fruits, flowers, tree parts, and vegetables.

The Complete Guide to Drawing for Beginners: 21 Step-by-Step Lessons. By Yoshiko Ogura. Tuttle, paper, \$16.99 (9784805315767).

It's difficult to see how an in-person class could teach more than Ogura's unique and helpful drawing how-to book.

Japanese Wonder Knitting: Timeless Stitches for Beautiful Hats, Bags, Blankets and More. By Nihon Vogue. Tr. by Gayle Roehm. Tuttle, paper, \$15.99 (9784805315729).

After viewing these elegant knits, crafters will emerge with a sense of delight and, perhaps, a resolve to try.

Life in the Studio: Inspiration and Lessons on Creativity. By Frances Palmer. Artisan, \$35 (9781579659059).

This very intimate portrait of a potter, gardener, photographer, and entrepreneur is guaranteed to, as its title insists, inspire.

Mini Amigurumi Animals: 26 Tiny Creatures to Crochet. By Sarah Abbondio. Search, \$11.95 (9781782219163).

Both crocheters new to and experienced with amigurumi will enjoy the cuteness as they easily whip up these delightful creatures.

Storey's Curious Compendium of Practical and Obscure Skills: 214 Things You Can Actually Learn How to Do. By How-to Experts at Storey. Storey, \$29.95 (9781635861914).

The "makers and doers" at Storey compile their favorite projects, from simple to complex, in this how-to book of how-to books.

Sports & Recreation

The Back Roads to March: The Unsung, Unheralded, and Unknown Heroes of a College Basketball Season. By John Feinstein. Doubleday, \$28.95 (9780385544481).

Feinstein profiles the players and coaches at smaller schools in the world of NCAA basketball, teams that occasionally achieve the pinnacle of the sport: a trip to the Final Four.

The Cup of Coffee Club: 11 Players and Their Brush with Baseball History. By Jacob Kornhauser. Rowman & Littlefield, \$29.95 (9781538130810).

In one of the very best baseball books in years, Kornhauser details the journeys of 11 baseball players who made the majors for a single game.

Exploring the History of Childhood and Play through 50 Historic Treasures. By Susan A. Fletcher. Rowman & Littlefield, \$36 (9781538118740).

Period photos, chapter notes, and a timeline attest to this offering's scholarship, while its insightful and often amusing commentary will keep readers' attention.

Little Wonder: The Fabulous Story of Lottie Dod, the World's First Female Sports Superstar. By Sasha Abramsky. Akashic/Edge of Sports, \$25.95 (9781617758195).

Abramsky tells the inspirational story of England's Lottie Dod, who was a five-time

Wimbledon champion in the late nineteenth century and a star in multiple other sports.

The Second Life of Tiger Woods. By Michael Bamberger. Avid Reader, \$28 (9781982122829).

In the most insightful book yet about one of the signature athletes of the last 25 years, Bamberger details Tiger Woods' phenomenal comeback, culminating with his victory in the 2019 Masters Championship.

Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon through North America's Stolen Land. By Noé Álvarez. Catapult, \$26 (9781948226462).

This eloquently written running memoir by a young Mexican American describes not only a grueling "spirit run," but also the challenge of embracing one's heritage while forging an individual path forward.

This Land of Snow: A Journey across the North in Winter. By Anders Morley. Mountaineers, paper, \$19.95 (9781680512724).

In this captivating memoir, Morley describes his winter trek across Canada, from Prince Rupert, British Columbia, to Swan Lake, Manitoba. A fine chronicle of one man's journey of self-discovery.

Three-Ring Circus: Kobe, Shaq, Phil, and the Crazy Years of the Lakers Dynasty. By Jeff Pearlman. HMH, \$30 (9781328530004).

With an eye for revealing detail, Pearlman profiles the Los Angeles Lakers team that won three straight NBA championships in the early aughts behind Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Tom Seaver: A Terrific Life. By Bill Madden. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781982136185).

In this engrossing biography, Madden chronicles the remarkable career that put pitcher Tom Seaver in baseball's Hall of Fame.

A Voyage across an Ancient Ocean: A Bicycle Journey through the Northern Dominion of Oil. By David Goodrich. Pegasus, \$27.95 (9781643134468).

Retired NOAA climate scientist Goodrich brings thoughtful focus to the complicated issues surrounding the controversial Keystone Pipeline.

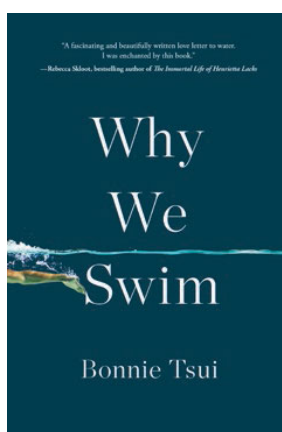
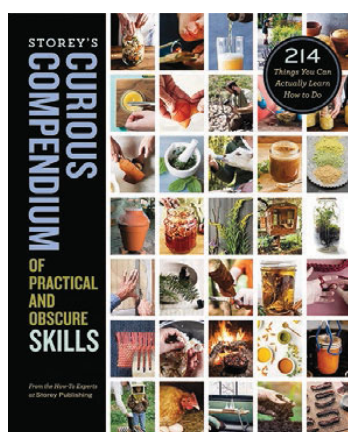
Why We Swim. By Bonnie Tsui. Algonquin, \$26.95 (9781616207861).

In this eloquent exploration of the human relationship to water, Tsui examines the "universal experience of being immersed in water," whether it's in an ocean, lake, or swimming pool.

Literature

Austen Years: A Memoir in Five Novels. By Rachel Cohen. Farrar, \$28 (9780374107031).

Cohen recounts how she found herself seeking comfort in the reading and rereading of



Jane Austen's five complete novels in this wondrous mix of memoir and literary biography.

Child of Light: A Biography of Robert Stone. By Madison Smartt Bell. Doubleday, \$35 (9780385541619).

Robert Stone remains one of America's finest novelists, and his friend Madison Smartt Bell pays moving tribute to Stone's genius and to the man behind the books in this insightful biography.

Grabbed: Poets & Writers on Sexual Assault, Empowerment and Healing. Ed. by Richard Blanco and others. Beacon, paper, \$15 (9780807071847).

In this richly diverse, creative, and gender-inclusive anthology, poets and writers address sexual assaults physical and psychological and the trauma that followed in works staggering, sometimes witty, and always empowering.

House Lessons: Renovating a Life. By Erica Bauermeister. Sasquatch, \$22.95 (9781632172440).

In her memoir of falling in love with a 100-year-old house, Bauermeister details every cranny, cove, and piece of plaster.

How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America. Rev. ed. ed. By Kiese Laymon. Scribner, paper, \$16 (9781982170820).

Laymon's artful revised essay collection shares truth without limit and could not feel more timely.

I Have Something to Tell You. By Chasten Buttigieg. Atria, \$27 (9781982138127).

This smoothly written, insightful memoir recounts Chasten Buttigieg's coming-of-age as a gay man and his experiences on the campaign trail with his husband, presidential candidate Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

The Inner Coast. By Donovan Hohn. Norton, paper, \$16.95 (9781324005971).

Hohn's sparkingly witty and complex essays, which bring those of John McPhee to mind, address coastal regions and watery subjects with an exciting mixture of science, literature, and history.

Just Us: An American Conversation. By Claudia Rankine. Graywolf, \$30 (9781644450215).

Rankine presents an arresting blend of essays and images about the overwhelming power of whiteness perfectly attuned to this long-overdue moment of racial reckoning.

Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir. By Natasha Trethewey. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062248572).

Distinguished poet Trethewey recounts her childhood and all that led to her mother's murder in this lyrical, courageous, and resounding remembrance.

The Mystery of Charles Dickens. By A. N. Wilson. Harper, \$32.50 (9780062954947).

Blending perceptive analysis of the novels with parallel experiences in Dickens' life, Wilson offers a compelling exploration of what he calls the writer's "divided self."

Places I've Taken My Body. By Molly McCully Brown. Persea, \$24.95 (9780892555130).

In these searing and ineffable essays, Brown describes in gorgeous prose her lifelong struggle with cerebral palsy.

The Planter of Modern Life: Louis Bromfield and the Seeds of a Food Revolution. By Stephen Heyman. Norton, \$26.95 (9781324001898).

Heyman tells the lively story of forgotten Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Bromfield, who was also a gardener, conservationist, and sustainability pioneer.

The Saddest Words: William Faulkner's Civil War. By Michael Gorra. Norton/Liveright, \$29.95 (9781631491702).

Gorra's transcendent study of Faulkner, his many contradictions, and the nearly incomparable artistry of his work provides a compelling and necessary reexamination of a towering literary figure.

Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In. By Phuc Tran. Flatiron, \$27.99 (9781250194718).

In this deeply felt coming-of-age memoir, Vietnamese immigrant Tran writes of growing up in "very white" Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and attempting to assimilate through academic excellence and punk rock.

This Is Major: Notes on Diana Ross, Dark Girls, and Being Dope. By Shayla Lawson. HarperPerennial, paper, \$16.99 (9780062890597).

The totality and the essence of Black women are front and center in Lawson's heartfelt essay collection.

Three Brothers: Memories of My Family. By Yan Lianke. Grove, \$26 (9780802148087).

In this tender and powerful memoir, leading Chinese novelist Yan looks back at his rural childhood, his family's struggles, and his passion for literature and need to escape.

The Toni Morrison Book Club. By Juda Bennett and others. Univ. of Wisconsin, paper, \$17.95 (9780299324940).

Four scholars commune through this collection of personal essays examining the brilliance and relevance of Toni Morrison's classic works.

Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs, and Revolution in the Americas. By Roberto Lovato. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062938473).

In a profoundly personal and historically

significant memoir, Lovato digs deep into his family's history to illuminate the troubled relationship between Central America and the U.S.

Vesper Flights. By Helen Macdonald. Grove, \$27 (9780802128812).

There is abundant wonder in these gorgeous and revelatory essays, but they are shadowed by grief because the north to which Macdonald's compass points is climate change.

What We Carry. By Maya Shanhag Lang. Dial, \$27 (9780525512394).

In this deeply moving memoir, novelist Lang shares the complex realizations she experienced while caring for her mother, an Indian immigrant and a physician, as she struggles with Alzheimer's.

Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times. By Katherine May. Riverhead, \$24 (9780593189481).

In this introspective, beautifully written mix of memoir and philosophy, May explores winter, the hardest season, and offers lessons in acceptance and solace.

The Writer's Library: The Authors You Love on the Books That Changed Their Lives. By Nancy Pearl and Jeff Schwager. HarperOne, \$27.99 (9780062968500).

The 23 literary conversations gathered here are substantial and effervescent—magnetic qualities attributable to the focus on reading and the expertise and passion of the two interlocutors.

Poetry

African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song. Ed. by Kevin Young. Library of America, \$45 (9781598536669).

Young's expert anthology of resonant poems by 250 African American poets, reaching back to colonial times and into the present, is a powerful and imperative resource.

After Rubén. By Francisco Aragón. Red Hen, paper, \$17.95 (9781597098571).

Aragón pays dexterously erudite and sensitive tribute to poet and hero Rubén Darío in this exquisite balance of scholarly appreciation and creative passion.

The Caiplie Caves. By Karen Solie. Farrar, \$25 (9780374117962).

Solie, a master of the sardonic sublime, presents poems of loneliness set in caves along the Scottish coast, labyrinthine works in which something is learned at every turn.

Cinderbiter: Celtic Poems. By Martin Shaw and Tony Hoagland. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450277).

Stories to tell and songs to sing, these retold old Celtic pieces sparkle, dazzle, and beg for reading aloud.

Cross of Snow: A Life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. By Nicholas A. Basbanes. Knopf, \$35 (9781101875148).

Basbanes draws on previously untapped sources to tell the full story of poet, novelist, and translator Longfellow's success and subsequent neglect in this thoughtful and resurrecting biography.

Fantasia for the Man in Blue. By Tommye Blount. Four Way, paper, \$16.95 (9781945588495).

Blount's captivating, unrelenting collection of poetry composed of sharp-edged truths and beautiful complexities explores questions of race and violence from startling perspectives.

Habitat Threshold. By Craig Santos Perez. Omnidawn, paper, \$17.95 (9781632430809).

Wickedly intelligent, endlessly talented poet Perez explores environmental themes related to his native home, Guam, and the planet.

Homie. By Danez Smith. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450109).

Dynamic, breathtaking, and utterly brilliant, the poems in Smith's third dazzling collection are not only magnificent weapons but also salves to share and songs to shout.

Imperial Liquor. By Amaud Jamaul Johnson. Univ. of Pittsburgh, paper, \$17 (9780822966067).

Vibrant and deeply felt, Johnson's imaginative poems pay tribute to earlier poets and other icons as he combines contemporary verve with an astonishing breadth of history and culture.

Indigo. By Ellen Bass. Copper Canyon, paper, \$18 (9781556595752).

Bass' bold, passionate, and compassionate collection embraces history and personal desire to marvel over the miracle of being.

Lean Against This Late Hour. By Garous Abdolmalekian. Tr. by Ahmad Nadalizadeh and Idra Novey. Penguin, paper, \$20 (9780143134930).

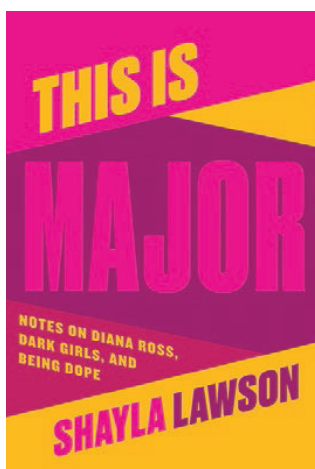
This dazzling bilingual collection of poems by Iranian author Abdolmalekian explores disparate yet intertwined topics of nature, politics, and personal relationships with humor, candor, and awe.

Ledger. By Jane Hirshfield. Knopf, \$27 (9780525657804).

Hirshfield performs cosmic accounting in meticulous poems charting our ecological debts as we pump carbon into the air, and species vanish.

Little Big Bully. By Heid E. Erdrich. Penguin, paper, \$20 (9780143135920).

Erdrich's fully alive and timely poems face painful truths about oppression personal and societal, making us bear witness as if viewing body-camera video that does not lie.



Postcolonial Love Poem. By Natalie Diaz. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450147).

Diaz's electrifying poems buzz with erotic energy as she parses attraction, paints vivid landscapes, considers imperialism and reservation life, and creates surprising illuminations.

Stranger by Night. By Edward Hirsch. Knopf, \$27 (9780525657781).

Hirsch brings new life to the elegy in these consummate, passionate, generous, and resplendent poems of grief and consolation.

Summer Snow. By Robert Hass. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062950024).

In his first collection in ten years, former U.S. poet laureate Hass presents bright, glowing poems shaped by intellectual momentum and emotional precision.

Three Poems. By Hannah Sullivan. Farrar, \$24 (9780374276713).

Sullivan's accessible and rewarding debut collection elevates otherwise mundane daily interactions through artful specificity and repetition of sounds, perfect images, and exquisitely captured sentiments.

What Is the Grass: Walt Whitman in My Life. By Mark Doty. Norton, \$25.95 (9780393070224).

Doty's scintillating work of literary exegesis and gay memoir informed, as Whitman would want it, by heart, soul, and body alike, is a unique illumination of Whitman's poetic achievement.

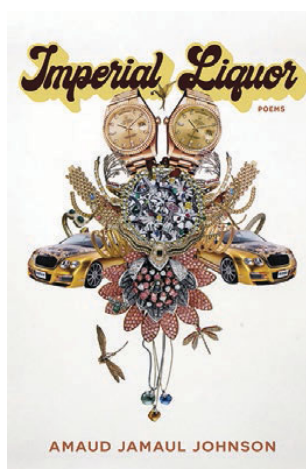
When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through. Ed. by Joy Harjo. Norton, paper, \$19.95 (9780393356809).

U.S. poet laureate Harjo's decades of writing and activism on the subject of indigenous peoples have generated the most comprehensive and nuanced anthology of Native Nations poetry to date.

Geography & Travel

America the Beautiful: A Story in Photographs. By National Geographic. National Geographic, \$40 (9781426221422).

These aren't just beautiful images; they're



momentary encapsulations of people, wildlife, environment, and emotion at their essence.

Arctic: Culture and Climate. Ed. by Amber Lincoln and others. Thames & Hudson, \$60 (9780500480663).

This substantial, gorgeously illustrated volume documents the rich and resonant past and vital present of arctic cultures now imperiled by climate change.

The Impossible First: From Fire to Ice—Crossing Antarctica Alone. By Colin O'Brady. Scribner, \$28 (9781982133115).

Adventurer and endurance athlete O'Brady tells the exciting story of how he became the first person to cross Antarctica alone with no outside help.

A Walk around the Block: Stoplight Secrets, Mischievous Squirrels, Manhole Mysteries & Other Stuff You See Every Day (And Know Nothing About). By Spike Carlsen. HarperOne, \$24.99 (9780062954756).

Carlsen's entertaining walk around the block illuminates the stories behind our water and power systems, city trees, and many other aspects of everyday life that we take for granted.

History

Abe: Abraham Lincoln in His Times. By David S. Reynolds. Penguin, \$45 (9781594206047).

Even readers who think they know Lincoln's life deeply will find new insights here.

American Rule: How a Nation Conquered the World but Failed Its People. By Jared Yates Sexton. Dutton, \$29 (9781524745714).

Sexton surveys the leaders and policies of American rule from the Founding Fathers to now, laying bare a collective, consistent, centuries-long gaslighting of the American people.

Author in Chief: The Untold Story of Our Presidents and the Books They Wrote. By Craig Fehrman. Avid Reader, \$30 (9781476786391).

Fehrman records the literary efforts and reading tastes of presidents from the beginnings of U.S. history to the present.

Between Everything and Nothing: The Journey of Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal and the Quest for Asylum. By Joe Meno. Counterpoint, \$26 (9781640093140).

Meno recounts the long and torturous journeys to reach the U.S. of two Ghanaian asylum-seekers, Seidu Mohammed and Razak Iyal, who arrived only to be treated with brutality.

Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture. By Sudhir Hazareesingh. Farrar, \$30 (9780374112660).

Hazareesingh presents a deeply researched, energetic, and comprehensively reenvisioned study of the extraordinary life and still-growing influence of Haiti's liberator and founding father.

The Book Collectors: A Band of Syrian Rebels and the Stories That Carried Them through a War. By Delphine Minoui. Tr. by Lara Vergnaud. Farrar, \$25 (9780374115166).

A heartbreaking and heartwarming account of the pro-democracy rebels of Daraya, Syria, and their library of salvaged books that brought hope to the besieged townspeople.

Catching the Wind: Edward Kennedy and the Liberal Hour, 1932–1975. By Neal Gabler. Crown, \$40 (9780307405449).

In the first of a two-volume biography of Edward M. Kennedy, Gabler discerningly traces the formative moments of one of the twentieth century's most persuasive and popular statesmen.

Chicago's Great Fire: The Destruction and Resurrection of an Iconic American City. By Carl Smith. Grove, \$28 (9780802148100).

Smith's in-the-moment account of the fire and all the social injustices that led to it and festered in its aftermath vividly sets the historical record straight.

The Deepest South of All: True Stories from Natchez, Mississippi. By Richard Grant. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781501177828).

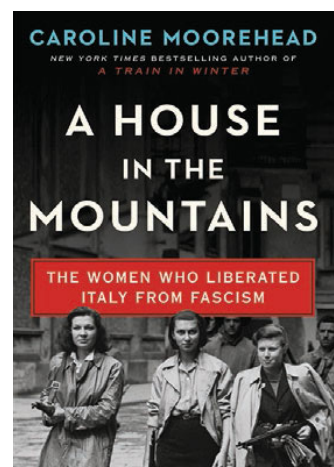
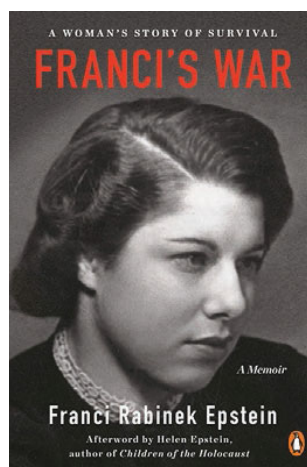
British travel writer Grant portrays Natchez, Mississippi, in all its fascinating and appalling contradictions.

Eat the Buddha: Life and Death in a Tibetan Town. By Barbara Demick. Random, \$28 (9780812998757).

Demick provides the missing human dimension in coverage of twenty-first-century Chinese-occupied Tibet by telling the harrowing stories of individual Tibetans from a town with a legacy of resistance.

The Equivalents: A Story of Art, Female Friendship, and Liberation in the 1960s. By Maggie Doherty. Knopf, \$28.95 (9781524733056).

Doherty resurrects the exhilarating history of the Radcliffe Institute for Independent Study by vividly profiling participating writers



and artists Maxine Kumin, Anne Sexton, Tillie Olsen, Barbara Swan, and Marianna Pineda.

Franci's War: A Woman's Story of Survival. By Franci Rabinek Epstein. Penguin, paper, \$17 (9780143135579).

Published by the author's daughter, this searing memoir recounts a Czechoslovakian Jewish woman's Holocaust imprisonment in three concentration camps and her survival of unimaginable atrocities.

Franklin & Washington: The Founding Partnership. By Edward J. Larson. Morrow, \$29.99 (9780062880154).

Students of American Revolutionary history and the birth of the Republic will find here an inspired approach for considering the lives and legacies of these two founding fathers.

Gambling with Armageddon: Nuclear Roulette from Hiroshima to the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1945–1962. By Martin J. Sherwin. Knopf, \$35 (9780307266880).

Sherwin insightfully examines nuclear policy as it evolved in the Cold War, culminating with the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

A Game of Birds and Wolves: The Ingenious Young Women Whose Secret Board Game Helped Win World War II. By Simon Parkin. Little, Brown, \$29 (9780316492096).

Parkin shines a spotlight on the largely overlooked contributions of the British Wrens, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service, many of whom were teenagers.

His Very Best: Jimmy Carter, a Life. By Jonathan Alter. Simon & Schuster, \$37.50 (9781501125485).

Alter offers a balanced portrait of the Carter presidency, acknowledging shortcomings but seeing him as more successful in his labors as chief executive than is generally acknowledged.

A History of the Second World War in 100 Maps. By Jeremy Black. Univ. of Chicago, \$35 (9780226755243).

This spectacular and scrupulous survey of early 1940s to mid-1950s cartography includes Theodor Geisel's alert to malarial

zones, a secret map of Germany's attempted new world order, and more mundane but no less illuminating maps.

A House in the Mountains: The Women Who Liberated Italy from Fascism. By Caroline Moorehead. Harper, \$29.99 (9780062686350).

In this deeply moving, beautifully told history, Moorehead tells the overlooked story of northern Italian resistance during WWII, paying special attention to women anti-Fascists.

HRH: So Many Thoughts on Royal Style. By Elizabeth Holmes. Macmillan/Celadon, \$35 (9781250625083).

A visual feast suitable for fashionistas and royal watchers alike.

Inge's War: A German Woman's Story of Family, Secrets, and Survival under Hitler. By Svenja O'Donnell. Viking, \$27 (9781984880215).

O'Donnell tells the true story of her German grandmother Inge, who long repressed memories of immense hardship during WWII.

JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917–1956. By Fredrik Logevall. Random, \$40 (9780812997132).

Expansive in scope yet detailed in implementation, Logevall's biography of young JFK portrays him as an embodiment of the two world wars, the twentieth century's defining events.

The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets, and the Murder of an American Monarch. By Miles Harvey. Little, Brown, \$29 (9780316463591).

Harvey's zestful chronicle of nineteenth-century con man James Strang, who anointed himself divine king of a Mormon enclave on a remote Lake Michigan island, captures the ferment of antebellum America.

Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy. By Edward Ball. Farrar, \$28 (9780374186326).

Ball's history of his great-great-grandfather as

a microcosm of white supremacist U.S. society is sober, dominated by a deep sense of shame and outrage, and intentionally disquieting.

Magdalena: River of Dreams. By Wade Davis. Knopf, \$30 (9780375410994).

Davis recounts the natural and human history of Colombia's Río Magdalena in a deeply inquisitive, dazzlingly fluent scientific, cultural, and spiritual investigation.

Mengele: Unmasking the "Angel of Death". By David G. Marwell. Norton, \$32 (9780393609530).

Marwell, former investigator for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations, details decades of fruitless hunting for the infamous Nazi, and has deeply researched his life.

Oak Flat: A Fight for Sacred Land in the American West. By Lauren Redniss. Random, \$30 (9780399589720).

Redniss creates an enthralling convergence of oral history, narrative, and illustrations to tell the dramatic story of the battle over copper mining on public and, for Native Americans, sacred land in Arizona.

Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America. By Maria Hinojosa. Atria, \$28 (9781982101404).

Award-winning journalist Hinojosa, known for covering overlooked and marginalized communities, has written a formidable memoir of personal and professional struggles.

Overstated: A Coast-to-Coast Roast of the 50 States. By Colin Quinn. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250268440).

Based on his travels as a stand-up comedian, Quinn offers a biting, funny look at what makes each state unique, from Alabama's football obsession to Maine's inner creepiness.

Paper Bullets: Two Artists Who Risked Their Lives to Defy the Nazis. By Jeffrey H. Jackson. Algonquin, \$27.95 (9781616209162).

Jackson tells the extraordinary story of how gender-bending artists Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore became a two-woman resistance movement against the Nazi occupation on the English Channel island of Jersey.

Paris, City of Dreams: Napoleon III, Baron Haussmann, and the Creation of Paris. By Mary McAuliffe. Rowman & Littlefield, \$27 (9781538121283).

Armchair historians in particular will appreciate McAuliffe's readable yet detailed history supplemented with illustrations and bibliography.

Pravda Ha Ha: True Travels to the End of Europe. By Rory Maclean. Bloomsbury, \$27 (9781408896525).

MacLean's morbidly fun, often surreal trek through Eastern Europe reveals a land in retrograde as fragile postwar optimism gives way to predatory capitalism and the reanimation of age-old prejudices.

River of Blood: American Slavery from the People Who Lived It: Interviews & Photographs of Formerly Enslaved African Americans. Ed. by Richard Cahan and Michael Williams. CityFiles, \$39.95 (9780991541850).

Nearly 100 photographs of men and women who survived enslavement are paired with excerpts from their 1930s conversations as part of the Federal Writers Project's Slave Narrative Collection to resounding effect.

Shadow on the Mountain: A Yazidi Memoir of Terror, Resistance, and Hope. By Shaker Jeffrey and Katharine Holstein. Da Capo, \$28 (9780306922831).

Jeffrey, a Yazidi combat interpreter with the U.S. Army in Iraq, shares his harrowing experiences during the ISIS genocide against his community.

The Silver Swan: In Search of Doris Duke. By Sallie Bingham. Farrar, \$30 (9780374142599).

Bingham vividly recounts the extraordinary adventures and heartbreaks of independent and gutsy philanthropist Doris Duke, who, heretofore, has not received the respect she deserves.

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz. By Erik Larson. Crown, \$32 (9780385348713).

Larson's skill at integrating vast research and talent for capturing compelling human dramas allow him to bring Churchill and his inner circle into fresh perspective.

Tecumseh and the Prophet: The Shawnee Brothers Who Defied a Nation. By Peter Cozzens. Knopf, \$35 (9781524733254).

Cozzens brings new dimension to our understanding of famed Shawnee warrior Tecumseh by illuminating the crucial influence of his younger brother, Tenskatowa.

Those Who Forget: My Family's Story in Nazi Europe—A Memoir, a History, a Warning. By Géraldine Schwarz. Scribner, \$28 (9781501199080).

This brutally honest memoir is also a smart historical analysis and a relevant warning for the future.

Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope. By Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Knopf, \$27.95 (9780525655084).

Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Kristof and WuDunn's investigation into why the U.S. lags behind in aspects of health, education, safety, and well-being will be hard for readers to stop thinking about.

War: How Conflict Shaped Us. By Margaret MacMillan. Random, \$30 (9781984856135).

Historian MacMillan sets the record straight on just what war is and what it does to a nation.

We Gather Together: A Nation Divided, a President in Turmoil, and a Historic Campaign to Embrace Gratitude and Grace. By Denise Kiernan. Dutton, \$25 (9780593183250).

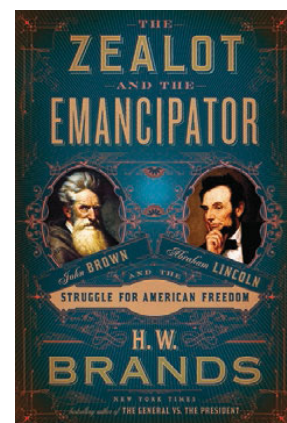
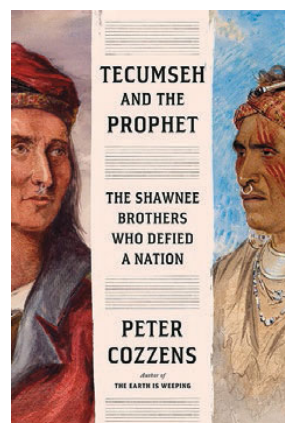
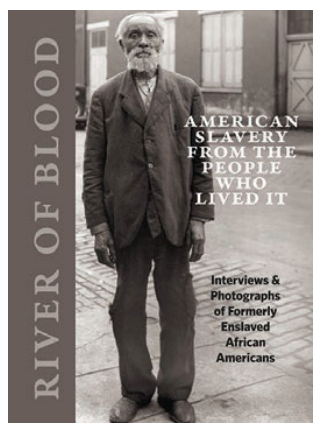
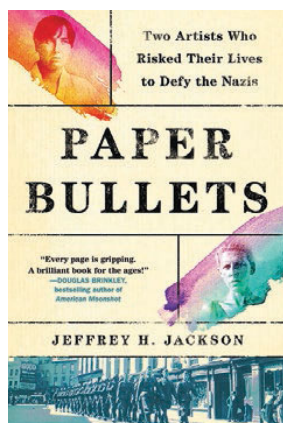
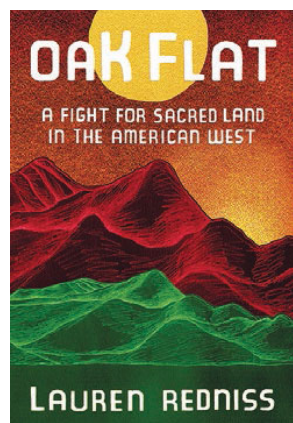
Journalist Kiernan offers a history of the American Thanksgiving holiday in three aspects, with humor, pathos, and surprises.

When Time Stopped: A Memoir of My Father, Survival, and What Remains. By Ariana Neumann. Scribner, \$28 (9781982106379).

From her father's mysterious documents, Neumann pieced together the history of her Czech Jewish ancestors' bravery amid the horrors of the Nazi regime.

The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom. By H. W. Brands. Doubleday, \$30 (9780385544009).

In this dual biography, historian Brands explores how two radically different men contributed to the abolition of slavery in the U.S.



Adult Fiction

General Fiction

142 Ostriches. By April Dávila. Kensington, paper, \$15.95 (9781496724700).

Dávila's beautifully executed debut novel may feature quirky 300-pound birds, but imperfect-yet-likable protagonist Tallulah's hardest problems come from her human family.

Actress. By Anne Enright. Norton, \$26.95 (9781324005629).

Enright's indelible tale of a daughter's attempt to understand her renowned actress mother and herself is a brilliant inquiry into the toll art exacts.

After Me Comes the Flood. By Sarah Perry. Morrow/Custom, paper, \$16.99 (9780062666406).

On a hot summer day, John Cole closes his London bookshop and travels to the Norfolk coast. What follows is a dreamlike tale of obsession, guilt, and love.

Afterlife. By Julia Alvarez. Algonquin, \$25.95 (9781643750255).

Alvarez portrays the four Dominican American Vega sisters as one, a professor and writer, is widowed, another disappears, and a pregnant, undocumented teenager appears, needing sanctuary.

All Adults Here. By Emma Straub. Riverhead, \$27 (9781594634697).

A multigenerational celebration of the life force we find in ourselves and in our families.

Almond. By Won-pyung Sohn. Tr. by Sandy Joosun Lee. HarperVia, \$25.99 (9780062961372).

Sohn's affecting, at times violent, debut sensitively portrays neurodiverse 15-year-old Yunjae, who risks communication and connection to connect with a bully and the first girl whose attention he seeks.

American Dirt. By Jeanine Cummins. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250209764).

Lydia Perez's quotidian life is upended when her extended family is killed by a cartel jefe, and she and her young son flee to the U.S. border in an odyssey that is full of heartbreak and possibility, told in beautiful, straightforward language.

The American Fiancée. By Eric Dupont. HarperVia, \$28.99 (9780062947451).

Dupont's multigenerational epic, stemming from Montreal and reaching Europe and paralleling *Tosca*, is immensely entertaining and revels in the marvels of storytelling.

Apeirogon. By Colum McCann. Random, \$28 (9781400069606).

McCann fictionalizes with poetic precision and associative expansion the story of Palestin-

ian Bassam Aramin and Israeli Rami Elhanan and the murders of their young daughters in the region's ongoing violence.

The Awkward Black Man. By Walter Mosley. Grove, \$26 (9780802149565).

In 17 short stories, master storyteller Mosley portrays a complex range of Black men who defy stereotypes and struggle against racism and other forms of disaster.

b, Book, and Me. By Sagwa Kim. Tr. by Sunhee Jeong. Two Lines, paper, \$16.95 (9781931883962).

In a novel at once raw and dreamy, lauded Korean writer Kim tells the story of two Seoul teen girls suffering abuse and indifference who meet a "strange guy" named Book.

Barn 8. By Deb Olin Unferth. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450154).

Unferth's vividly provoking, revelatory, and mordantly funny work of ecofiction entwines family complexities and an exposé of the horrors of the egg industry to powerful effect.

A Beginning at the End. By Mike Chen. MIRA, \$26.99 (9780778309345).

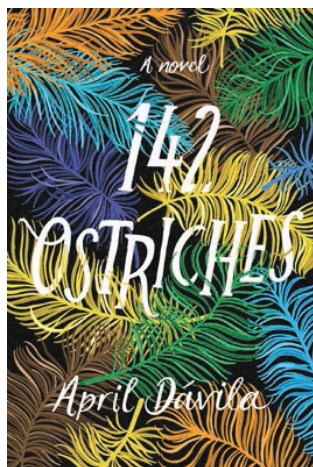
This dystopian tale is deeply rooted in realistic emotion, portraying a world recovering from a flu epidemic that left the government intent on preserving the nuclear family, and citizens paranoid, shy, and traumatized.

The Best American Short Stories, 2020. Ed. by Heidi Pitlor and Curtis Sittenfeld. HMH/Mariner, paper, \$16.99 (9781328485373).

From a diverse array of writers, this incredible entry to the popular series explores topics like childhood, love, privilege, and parenthood.

The Big Door Prize. By M. O. Walsh. Putnam, \$27 (9780735218482).

Walsh's soulful tale about an odd little machine that informs people of their true life calling, and the resulting revelations about life's tenuousness, is eerily fitting for the COVID-19 pandemic.



Big Girl, Small Town. By Michelle Gallen. Algonquin, paper, \$16.95 (9781643750897).

A darkly comic novel about an isolated young woman struggling to find her place in a town still deeply divided in a post-Troubles world.

Bird Summons. By Leila Aboulela. Black Cat, paper, \$16 (9780802149152).

Aboulela sensitively portrays three very different Muslim immigrant women in the Scottish Highlands, illuminating Celtic and Muslim traditions via the sacred hoopoe bird.

The Bitter and Sweet of Cherry Season.

By Molly Fader. Graydon, paper, \$17.99 (9781525804557).

A page-turning story about family secrets that begins with a woman and her silent daughter showing up on her aunt's doorstep, and the three bonding over the course of cherry season.

The Blaze. By Chad Dundas. Putnam, \$26 (9780399176098).

Iraq War veteran Matthew Rose returns to Montana suffering from traumatic brain injury and trying to make sense of his dimly remembered past with the help of an old friend, journalist Georgie.

Blue Ticket. By Sophie Mackintosh. Doubleday, \$26.95 (9780385545631).

In her thought-provoking novel about fate, control, and biology, Mackintosh creates a world in which women's fate as mothers, or not, is decided for them.

Bluebeard's First Wife. By Seong-nan Ha. Tr. by Janet Hong. Open Letter, paper, \$15.95 (9781948830171).

Once again author Ha and translator Hong collaborate on a provocative short story collection that, despite a significant body count, expresses startling comedy.

The Boy in the Field. By Margot Livesey. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062946393).

Livesey portrays three teen siblings living near the University of Oxford who are deeply affected by an inexplicable attack in this masterful tapestry of emotion and action.

The Bright Side of Going Dark. By Kelly Harms. Amazon/Lake Union, \$24.95 (9781542020916).

Harms examines both sides of the ever-growing technology debate, especially the pros and cons of life as an influencer.

Bubblegum. By Adam Levin. Doubleday, \$29.95 (9780385544962).

Levin's monumentally imaginative, breath-takingly bizarre novel in the form of the protagonist's memoir is set in an alternative future and teems with humanity, humor, and pathos.

A Burning. By Megha Majumdar. Knopf, \$25.95 (9780525658696).

Majumdar's electrifying debut about Jivan, a shopgirl who is beaten and jailed for a Facebook post, serves as a barometer measuring the fragility of human life and connections.

Butter Honey Pig Bread. By Francesca Ekwuyasi. Arsenal Pulp, paper, \$19.95 (9781551528236).

Ekwuyasi's craftsmanship is stunning as her debut tells a complex story of family, love, trust, wounds, and intimacy.

The Cactus League. By Emily Nemens. Farrar, \$27 (9780374117948).

In this melancholy but curiously hopeful first novel set in the world of Major League Baseball's spring training, Nemens focuses on a gallimaufry of characters struggling to hang on just a little bit longer.

A Candle for San Simón. By Kelly Daniels. Owl Canyon, paper, \$18.95 (9780998507392).

Daniel's powerful debut novel portrays a long-gone, alcoholic American entangled in gang crime in Guatemala and his missionary son's thwarted attempt to save him.

Catherine House. By Elisabeth Thomas. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062905659).

Ines Murillo enrolls in Catherine House, an immersive post-secondary school with devoted alumnae, only to become so involved in the odd curriculum and formal traditions that she barely notices something unsettling is afoot.

The Chicken Sisters. By KJ Dell'Antonia. Putnam, paper, \$16 (9780593085141).

Rival fried chicken restaurants and estranged sisters battle it out on a reality TV competition that brings out old secrets and wounds in Dell'Antonia's hilarious debut.

The Choice. By Gillian McAllister. Putnam, paper, \$16 (9780593188002).

A smart, ferociously paced novel about a woman who fatally fends off an attacker and tells two stories, one in which she turns herself in and the other in which she runs.

Cleanness. By Garth Greenwell. Farrar, \$26 (9780374124588).

Expanding the story introduced in *What*

Women in Focus: Fiction

Real-life women, their experiences, and the ongoing battle for women's rights inspired these women writers to create exceptionally powerful, women-centric biographical and historical novels.

Betty. By Tiffany McDaniel. Knopf, \$26.95 (9780525657071).

A sweeping and heart-wrenching exploration of how we understand our parents' lives and how our children will one day understand our own.

Code Name Hélène. By Ariel Lawhon. Doubleday, \$27.95 (9780385544689).

Lawhon's magnificent and gripping novel dramatizes the valor of a real-life woman molded by war, sacrifice, and love: Australian expat journalist Nancy Wake, who helped organize French resistance fighters.

The Joyce Girl. By Annabel Abbs. Morrow, paper, \$16.99 (9780062912879).

Abbs' moving U.S. debut novel delivers a luminous portrait of James Joyce's daughter, Lucia, whose dreams of becoming a dancer were thwarted by her role as helpmate and muse to her father.

The Once and Future Witches. By Alix E. Harrow. Orbit, \$28 (9780316422048).

Women's suffrage and witchcraft collide in this story of three sisters who unknowingly call forth a mythical tower that proves that magic still exists.

The Paper Daughters of Chinatown. By Heather B. Moore. Shadow Mountain, \$26.99 (9781629727820).

Moore vividly fictionalizes real-life Dolly Cameron, who ran a home for young Chinese women, such as Mei Lien, the novel's other main character, who were lured to 1880s San Francisco and enslaved as prostitutes.

Red Letter Days. By Sarah-Jane Stratford. Berkley, paper, \$17 (9780451475572).

Stratford's latest historical novel tells the too-little-known story of blacklisted women in the early days of television who left the U.S. to work in England.

Something Worth Doing. By Jane Kirkpatrick. Revell, paper, \$15.99 (9780800736118).

Kirkpatrick offers a powerful fictionalized version of the remarkable life of Abigail Scott Duniway, a fierce advocate for women's rights.

Tsarina. By Ellen Alpsten. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250214430).

This debut chronicles the extraordinary rise of Catherine I from humble serf to Empress, and the often-uncredited role she played in husband Peter the Great's strides in modernizing Russia.

Belongs to You (2016), an American expat in Bulgaria prepares to leave the country while reflecting on his evolving understanding of his own desire.

Crooked Hallelujah. By Kelli Jo Ford. Grove, \$26 (9780802149121).

A multigenerational Own Voices novel that reads like interlinked short stories, connecting readers to the heart of a family of Cherokee women.

Daughters of the Wild. By Natalka Burian. Harlequin, \$27.99 (9780778310013).

The powerful story of foster siblings, who grew up cultivating a magical plant on a family farm, searching for a missing baby both in the Vine and in the outside world.

Days of Distraction. By Alexandra Chang. Ecco, \$26.99 (9780062951809).

Chang portrays her narrator's early-adulthood exploration of her Asian American identity

with elegance and an offbeat humor that complements her poignant observations.

Dear Edward. By Ann Napolitano. Dial, \$27 (9781984854780).

This expertly paced, wondrous read follows the 12-year-old sole survivor of a plane crash in his efforts to build a new life.

The Death of Jesus. By J. M. Coetzee. Viking, \$27 (9781984880901).

Coetzee concludes his Jesus trilogy with a novel rich in allegory and philosophical discourse, intensified by strong currents of grief.

The Death of Vivek Oji. By Akwaeke Emezi. Riverhead, \$27 (9780525541608).

Emezi's novel about a young man's struggles in Nigeria, a society which too often strait-jackets one's identity, is achingly raw and ultimately redeeming as it upends established definitions of family and community.

The Discomfort of Evening. By Marieke Lucas Rijneveld. Tr. by Michele Hutchison. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450345).

Readers who can persist through the agonies of a family falling apart, will find their breath taken away by Rijneveld's prose.

Echo on the Bay. By Masatsugu Ono. Tr. by Angus Turvill. Two Lines, paper, \$16.95 (9781949641035).

Ono's exquisite and concentrated novel about the sole policeman in a coastal Japanese village and his family begins comically wry and ends with shocking resonance.

The Enlightenment of the Greengrass Tree. By Shokoofeh Azar. Europa, paper, \$18 (9781609455651).

Azar portrays a mother who has lost two children in the wake of Iran's Islamic Revolution and worries about her third in this tragic yet charming novel of unbreakable human bonds.

An Everyday Hero. By Laura Trentham. St. Martin's/Griffin, paper, \$16.99 (9781250145550).

Trentham explores the complex range of emotions facing members of the military and their loved ones, emphasizing the power of connection.

Everything Here Is Under Control. By Emily Adrian. Blackstone, \$24.99 (9781982639648).

A new mother returns to her best friend in their rural Ohio hometown in a book that explores complex relationships with the town and between the friends.

Exciting Times. By Naoise Dolan. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062968746).

A young Irishwoman teaches English in Hong Kong and tries to reconcile two love affairs.

The Fallen. By Carlos Manuel Álvarez. Tr. by Frank Wynne. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450253).

Álvarez unravels this searing story of a Cuban family-in-crisis—an ill mother, an idealistic hotel manager father, a reluctant soldier son, and a worried daughter working a menial hotel job—with symmetrical precision.

Fauna. By Christiane Vadnais. Tr. by Pablo Strauss. Coach House, paper, \$15.95 (9781552454169).

In ten unsettling, interconnected climate fiction stories imbued with a weighty, wet sensuality, Vadnais explores a world where survival and contagion battle and characters fight primitive hunger.

Followers. By Megan Angelo. Graydon, \$26.99 (9781525836268).

Jumping to the year 2051, this is an intricate and brave story of friendship, ambition,



and love and the lengths people will go to protect it all.

The Freedom Artist. By Ben Okri. Akashic, \$30.95 (9781617757914).

Man Booker-winner Okri's modern allegory set in a world without books and art beautifully renders how the elimination of history and truth impacts the human spirit.

Friend. By Nam-nyong Paek. Tr. by Immanuel Kim. Columbia Univ., \$60 (9780231195607).

A Supreme Court Judge handling a divorce begins to examine his fraught marriage to an often-absent biologist in this rare state-sanctioned and translated North Korean novel.

Frying Plantain. By Zalika Reid-Benta. Anansi/Astoria, paper, \$16.95 (9781487005344).

Tracing the life of Jamaican Canadian Kara from ages 10 through 19, these 12 interrelated stories, set in Toronto, recount vividly rendered coming-of-age moments in straightforward prose.

The Gimmicks. By Chris McCormick. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062908568).

McCormick's masterfully structured and deeply moving first novel traces the trauma of the Armenian genocide through the stories of two cousins and a former wrestling manager in the U.S.

The Glass Hotel. By Emily St. John Mandel. Knopf, \$26.95 (9780525521143).

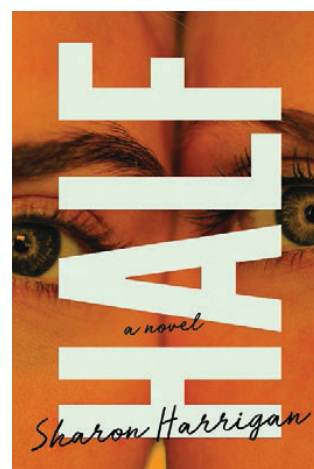
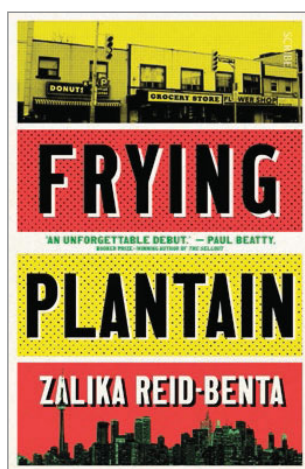
A beautiful bartender and a shady investor are at the center of this gorgeously spun spider web of a tragedy about a Ponzi scheme.

The God Child. By Nana Oforiatta Ayim. Bloomsbury, \$26 (9781408882429).

Maya, a young Ghanaian royal living in Europe, struggles to understand her heritage as Kojo, a "god child," joins the family and inspires visions for a thriving Ghana.

Godshot. By Chelsea Bieker. Catapult, \$26 (9781948226486).

Bieker's debut observes how mothers shape daughters, biological or otherwise, and how



daughters must ultimately learn to mother themselves.

A Good Family. By A. H. Kim. Graydon, paper, \$17.99 (9781525804588).

Law librarian Hannah Min feels like an outsider in the powerful Lindstrom family until her sister-in-law is arrested and secrets are revealed.

A Good Man. By Ani Katz. Penguin, paper, \$17 (9780143134985).

A man who is a devoted father and husband is the unreliable narrator of his own demise.

The Gringa. By Andrew Altschul. Melville, \$26.99 (9781612198224).

Altschul's culturally aware novel about a well-intentioned American woman sent to prison for terrorist activities in Peru is a captivating depiction of passion, disenchantment, and hope gone violently awry.

Half. By Sharon Harrigan. Univ. of Wisconsin, paper, \$17.95 (9780299328542).

This haunting and lyrical debut novel explores twin sisters' shared identity, with a clever narrative structure.

Heart of Junk. By Luke Geddes. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781982106669).

Geddes' first novel invites belly laughs and thoughtful, genuinely moving introspection on how what we collect comes to define us.

Hench. By Natalie Zina Walschots. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062978578).

Data nerd Anna is catapulted into a world of superheroes, supervillains, and henchmen in Walschots' refreshing, diverse, subversive, and darkly humorous debut novel.

Hieroglyphics. By Jill McCorkle. Algonquin, \$26.95 (9781616209728).

McCorkle's novel of two historical tragedies, a long-married couple touched by both, and a struggling mother connected to them by place is a deeply insightful look at longing and hope.

Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick:

Stories from the Harlem Renaissance. By Zora Neale Hurston. Ed. by Genevieve West. Amistad, \$25.99 (9780062915795).

Hurston's 21 short stories, gathered together for the first time, showcase her wit and insights into African American lives in Harlem and the South.

Homeland Elegies. By Ayad Akhtar. Little, Brown, \$28 (9780316496421).

Akhtar's bold, memoristic novel-in-stories confronts issues of race, money, family, politics, and sexuality in a tale about a young Pakistani American man and his family before and after 9/11.

How the Penguins Saved Veronica. By Hazel Prior. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9781984803818).

A charming journey of a stubborn old lady hoping to counter her many hardships with an altruistic act.

How to Pronounce Knife. By Souvankham Thammavongsa. Little, Brown, \$26 (9780316422130).

Thammavongsa writes with an elegance that is both brutal and tender, giving her stories and their characters a powerful voice.

I Hold a Wolf by the Ears. By Laura Van den Berg. Farrar, \$26 (9780374102098).

In 11 perceptive and wildly imaginative short stories, Van den Berg portrays vulnerable yet tenacious women in untenable situations.

I Know You Know Who I Am. By Peter Kispert. Penguin, paper, \$16 (9780143134282).

Kispert's short fiction is a performative lie that reveals truth to readers in subtle, surprising ways that literary fiction lovers will devour.

If I Had Your Face. By Frances Cha. Ballantine, \$27 (9780593129463).

With unblinking focus, Cha confronts some of the darkest consequences of contemporary gender inequity in South Korea in her magnificent first novel.

The Illness Lesson. By Clare Beams. Doubleday, \$26.95 (9780385544665).

Beams' suspenseful and vividly evocative tale of an 1870s Massachusetts girls' school in which strange afflictions and shocking revelations break out explores sexism and sexuality through the eyes of a complicated narrator.

In Her Shadow. By Kristin Miller. Ballantine, paper, \$16 (9781524799496).

In a modern-day *Rebecca*, a pregnant woman moves in with her boss-turned-boyfriend, only to find that his wife disappeared not long before, and his seaside manor is full of secrets.

In the Valley: Stories and a Novella based on *Serena*. By Ron Rash. Doubleday, \$26.95 (9780385544290).

Rash's lyrical and atmospheric short stories

and a novella, a sequel to his novel, *Serena*, span more than a century, and all are set in North Carolina.

Indelicacy. By Amina Cain. Farrar, \$25 (9780374148379).

Cain's bewitching debut subtly portrays a woman enthralled by art and writing who works as a museum cleaning woman, then uneasily marries a wealthy man.

Inside Story. By Martin Amis. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780593318294).

Amis is at his literary finest in this autobiographical novel brimming with portraits of his literary friends and inspirations, most poignantly his longtime wingman, Christopher Hitchens.

Interior Chinatown. By Charles Yu. Pantheon, \$25.95 (9780307907196).

Resembling a movie script, Yu's rollicking and scathing tale portrays Willis Wu, an Asian actor struggling to move beyond generic roles within scenes saturated with commentary on racism and other social evils.

Jane in Love. By Rachel Givney. Morrow, paper, \$15.99 (9780063019089).

First-time novelist Givney has Jane Austen time-travel to 2020 Bath in search of love, allowing for a clever contrast of eras and gender expectations.

Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982. By Nam-Joo Cho. Tr. by Jamie Chang. Norton/Liveright, \$20 (9781631496707).

Already an international best-seller, television scriptwriter Cho's debut novel has been credited with helping to "launch Korea's new feminist movement."

Lake Life. By David James Poissant. Simon & Schuster, \$25 (9781476729992).

In Poissant's stunning, unforgettable first novel, the bonds that hold together a dysfunctional family unravel over the course of a single vacation weekend.

Last Couple Standing. By Matthew Norman. Ballantine, \$27 (9781984821065).

Mitch and Jessica decide to open up their

marriage, but no amount of guidelines and conversations could have prepared them.

The Last Interview. By Eshkol Nevo. Tr. by Sondra Silverston. Other, paper, \$17.99 (9781635429879).

An interview with a writer grows increasingly intense in Nevo's clever, delightfully unreliable, occasionally headshaking, sometimes eye-rolling portrait of an artist as a not-at-all-young man.

Last One Out Shut Off the Lights. By Stephanie Soileau. Little, Brown, \$26 (9780316423403).

Southwest Louisiana native Soileau portrays the beauty and struggles of the people of Sulphur, a town beaten down by unemployment and hurricanes, with empathy and love.

The Last Story of Mina Lee. By Nancy Jooyoun Kim. Park Row, \$27.99 (9780778310174).

In Kim's haunting and heartbreaking debut, knotted threads between a mother and daughter blend together in a delicate and rich weave.

Latitudes of Longing. By Shubhangi Swarup. Random/One World, \$27 (9780593132555).

Swarup's magical realism debut exalts in the majesty of South Asia as characters fall in love, communicate with spirits, and recognize nature's overwhelming power.

Leave the World Behind. By Rumaan Alam. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062667632).

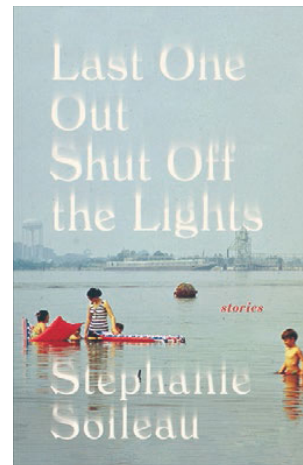
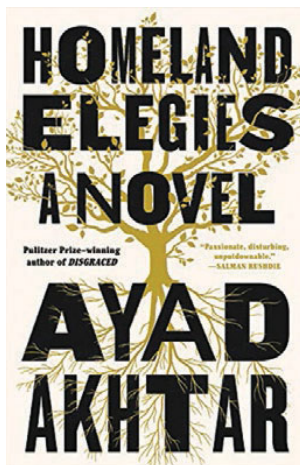
A white family vacating in a rented Long Island cottage is unexpectedly joined by the returning Black owners as strange things occur in the woods.

The Lehman Trilogy. By Stefano Massini. Tr. by Richard Dixon. HarperVia, \$35 (9780062940445).

The family epic of a great American bank, magnetically realized in storyteller's verse.

The Lending Library. By Aliza Fogelson. Amazon/Lake Union, paper, \$14.95 (9781503904019).

A wide-ranging emotional debut about 35-year-old Dodie, a small-town art teacher



who opens a makeshift library in her home, while her secret dreams of romance and motherhood feel out of reach.

Little Family. By Ishmael Beah. Riverhead, \$27 (9780735211773).

Unflinching and unadorned, Beah's novel portrays a "little family" of two teens and three children living a precarious, hustling, desperate existence in a war-torn land.

Little Gods. By Meng Jin. Morrow/Custom, \$27.99 (9780062935953).

Jin's adroit debut pieces together the hidden family history of a young woman, brought to the U.S. as a child, who returns to China in search of her father.

Little Wonders. By Kate Rorick. Morrow, paper, \$15.99 (9780062877215).

Two preschooler moms—one perfect, one not—find surprising common ground when a toddler meltdown video goes viral.

The Lives of Edie Pritchard. By Larry Watson. Algonquin, \$27.95 (9781616209025).

Watson's taut, understated narrative follows Edie Pritchard from the mid-1960s to 2007, as she desperately seeks to find a sense of self not defined by men.

The Lost Book of Adana Moreau. By Michael Zapata. Hanover Square, \$26.99 (9781335010124).

Zapata spins an iridescent web of grief, loss, and memory that spans the globe and a century and involves a lost novel of alternative realities and two orphaned boys.

Love after Love. By Ingrid Persaud. Random/One World, \$27 (9780593157565).

Set in a richly realized Trinidad, Persaud's debut novel tells the moving story of an unconventional family comprising a widow, her son, and their lodger, a closeted gay man.

The Love Story of Missy Carmichael. By Beth Morrey. Putnam, \$26 (9780525542445).

Missy Carmichael, 79, must choose between comfortable wallowing in loneliness or allowing new friends (and a lovable mutt) in, in this uplifting "coming of old" story.

Love, Death & Rare Books. By Robert Hellenga. Delphinium, \$26.95 (9781883285852).

Hellenga's story of a family of booksellers is both an ode to the physical book and an attempt to prove that one can both live life and read about it.

Luster. By Raven Leilani. Farrar, \$26 (9780374194321).

Leilani's radiant debut belongs to its brilliant, fully formed narrator, who has an otherworldly way of seeing the world and reflecting it back to readers.

The Lying Life of Adults. By Elena Ferrante. Europa, \$26 (9781609455910).

A confessional, perceptive, gut-wrenching, and often funny story of a girl's "arduous approach to the adult world."

Man of My Time. By Dalia Sofer. Farrar, \$27 (9780374110062).

In Sofer's gorgeously written character study, Hamid, a former Iranian interrogator, is forced to confront his past when he learns his late father's final wishes.

Members Only. By Sameer Pandya. HMH/Mariner, paper, \$14.99 (9780358379928).

A realistic, character-driven novel, with well-developed threads of suspense, that engages contemporary identity politics and what it means to belong.

Memorial. By Bryan Washington. Riverhead, \$27 (9780593087275).

Washington's first novel, about boyfriends, one African American, one Japanese American, separated by family crisis, is a love story writ large that sings in small moments.

Memories in the Drift. By Melissa Payne. Amazon/Lake Union, paper, \$14.95 (9781542004725).

In an isolated small town in Alaska, Claire suffers from anterograde amnesia and functions through a system of notebooks, alarms, and calendars.

The Midnight Library. By Matt Haig. Viking, \$26 (9780525559474).

When Nora Seed considers ending her life full of regrets, she finds the midnight library, where she can try on other potential lives, in this emotionally resonant novel.

Migrations. By Charlotte McConaghy. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250204028).

McConaghy's transfixing econovel portrays mysterious Franny, who flees a traumatic past to try to follow what may be the last flock of Arctic terns on their perilous migration.

A Million Aunties. By Alecia McKenzie. Akashic, paper, \$15.95 (9781617758928).

American-born artist Chris travels to his

mother's island, Jamaica, to mourn for his wife, acquiring a global family as the story moves to Paris and encompasses matters of identity and relationships.

Missionaries. By Phil Klay. Penguin, \$28 (9781984880659).

Klay's masterful mosaic of modern Colombia and its ongoing turmoil is told through the perspectives of a young revolutionary, an American journalist, and a colonel, all facing complex moral dilemmas.

Monogamy. By Sue Miller. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062969651).

Miller's novel of a woman's loss of her beloved husband of 30 years compounded by the shock of an affair traverses an emotional minefield with crystalline focus and boundless empathy.

More Than We Remember. By Christina Suzann Nelson. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764235382).

The lives of three women struggling with faith and personal issues intersect when a tragic accident occurs in their small Oregon town.

A Mother's Goodbye. By Kate Hewitt. Grand Central/Forever, paper, \$12.99 (9781538704356).

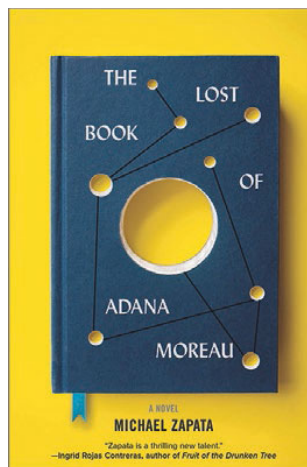
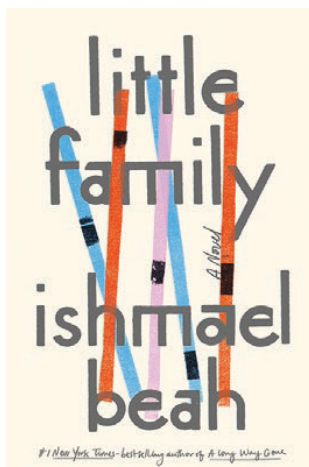
Single Grace adopts Heather's baby, and the two women embark on a heart-wrenching journey that explores love and motherhood.

The Museum of Forgotten Memories. By Anstey Harris. Gallery, paper, \$16.99 (9781982126896).

A family's peculiar museum in a small English village becomes a surprising source of renewal and hope for a grief-stricken widow and her special-needs son.

New Waves. By Kevin Nguyen. Random/One World, \$27 (9781984855237).

Nguyen's debut novel about an Asian American tech worker run amok illuminates issues of race, sex, millennial ennui, and the digital onslaught and is superb and surprisingly moving.



The New Wilderness. By Diane Cook. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062333131).

In Cook's gripping and incisive debut novel, a mother and daughter struggle to survive in a decimated world as part of a diabolical wilderness experiment.

Night. Sleep. Death. The Stars. By Joyce Carol Oates. Ecco, \$35 (9780062797582).

Oates traces the impact of the death of a former mayor at the hands of police officers on his family, with a particularly impassioned portrayal of his widow.

The Office of Historical Corrections.

By Danielle Evans. Riverhead, \$27 (9781594487330).

Evans writes with a wealth of knowledge of American history, serving as a catalyst for both the prisons and the freedoms her characters are allowed to explore.

Oona Out of Order. By Margarita Montimore. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250236609).

Oona lives her life non-chronologically, waking up in a different year every January, in this heartwarming, freewheeling romp.

The Orchard. By David Hopen. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062974747).

This brilliantly conceived and crafted coming-of-age novel follows 17-year-old Ari and his circle of friends as they grapple with heady philosophical questions at a prestigious yeshiva in Florida.

Ordinary Hazards. By Anna Bruno. Atria, \$27 (9781982126957).

This atmospheric small-town novel unfolds over a single night as a woman's vision for her future becomes increasingly clear.

Parakeet. By Marie-Helene Bertino. Farrar, \$26 (9780374229450).

In Bertino's fantastically untethered-from-reality second novel, the Bride experiences "a very specific nervous breakdown" during the week before her wedding.

Payback. By Mary Gordon. Pantheon, \$27.95 (9781524749224).

Gordon's nuanced novel of rage and repentance involving an art teacher and a student over decades explores moral quandaries steeped in sexism with scintillating energy and piercing inquisitiveness.

Perestroika in Paris. By Jane Smiley. Knopf, \$26.95 (9780525520351).

Smiley's spellbinding fable about a young runaway racehorse in Paris and the animals and boy who befriend her celebrates freedom, generosity, and love.

The Perfect Nine: The Epic of Gikūyū and Mūmbi. By Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o. New Press, \$23.99 (9781620975251).

Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o's eloquent retelling in verse of an epic Kenyan origin story is essential

reading and especially vital at this time for both its uniqueness and its universality.

Piranesi. By Susanna Clarke. Bloomsbury, \$27 (9781635575637).

Clarke's narrator, Piranesi, describes a bizarre world, a vast labyrinth through which tides rise and fall, in an occult puzzle of a novel that pits reverence against the lust for power.

Pretty Things. By Janelle Brown. Random, \$28 (9780525479123).

Brown offers a glittering, high-stakes drama, stacking childhood nostalgia against the power to reinvent oneself in the age of social media.

Qualityland. By Marc-Uwe Kling. Tr. by Jamie Searle Romanelli. Grand Central, \$27 (9781538732960).

A sharply satirical novel about an Everyman who challenges the infallible algorithms of TheShop in a land where those algorithms control every aspect of a person's life.

Quotients. By Tracy O'Neill. Soho, \$27 (9781641291118).

O'Neill's slow-burning yet suspenseful tale of the hidden realm of data mining and surveillance, and the bond between a spy and a branding genius, is a powerful warning and a lament.

Real Life. By Brandon Taylor. Riverhead, \$26 (9780525538882).

Contained in one weekend, Taylor's steadily exciting debut finds biochem grad student Wallace forced to reckon with the walls he's built.

Red Pill. By Hari Kunzru. Knopf, \$27.95 (9780451493712).

Kunzru portrays a mentally unstable Brooklyn-based writer unhinged by the 2016 U.S. presidential election as he embarks on a writer's residency near Berlin, where history compounds his struggles.

The Resisters. By Gish Jen. Knopf, \$26.95 (9780525657217).

In this uniquely witty and powerful dystopian tale set in AutoAmerica, Jen creates a family of resisters, including courageous attorney Eleanor and young baseball star Gwen.

The Resurrection of Fulgencio Ramirez. By Rudy Ruiz. Blackstone, \$27.99 (9781982604615).

Mexican immigrant Fulgencio has persistently courted his beloved, only to run afoul of a curse he must dispel in Ruiz's beguiling, magical, and magnetic tale of perseverance and steadfast love.

Road Out of Winter. By Alison Stine. Harlequin, paper, \$17.99 (9780778309925).

As the climate cools, a young woman moves her trailer from Appalachian Ohio to California, picking up stragglers along the way in this

feminist dystopian novel of survival, desperation, and, ultimately, hope.

Rodham. By Curtis Sittenfeld. Random, \$28 (9780399590917).

Sittenfeld imagines an alternative life for Hillary Rodham Clinton in an exhilaratingly trenchant, funny, and affecting novel, a gloriously cathartic antidote to the actual struggles women politicians face.

Roy's World: Stories, 1973–2020. By Barry Gifford. Seven Stories, \$24.95 (9781644210222).

These indelible slices of life detail the unorthodox coming-of-age of a Chicago boy named Roy, a sharp observer who finds warm hearts beating within the sadness of those he encounters.

Run Me to Earth. By Paul Yoon. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781501154041).

Yoon's novel follows three inseparable Lao-tian orphans across countries and through decades of loss and suffering, kindness and survival to mesmerizing and profound effect.

Ruthie Fear. By Maxim Loskutoff. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393635560).

Loskutoff's debut novel is narrated by Montanan Ruthie Fear, who resentfully witnesses the gentrification of the wilderness and very strange goings-on.

Sad Janet. By Lucie Britsch. Riverhead, \$27 (9780593086520).

Sadness is not situational for the narrator of Britsch's radical debut; rather, it is a way of being in response to the difficulty of living.

The Second Home. By Christina Clancy. St. Martin's, \$26.99 (9781250239341).

With nostalgia as thick as the scent of coconut-scented sunscreen, this explores the consequences of emotional decisions and the strength needed to set things right.

The Seep. By Chana Porter. Soho, \$25 (9781641290869).

First novelist Porter's gripping, literary speculative tale features an alien invasion that engenders peace and allows humans to radically transform themselves.

She Gets That from Me. By Robin Wells. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9781984802002).

A beautifully complicated story about a woman whose best friend unexpectedly dies, leaving her with her child and the unexpected arrival of the child's sperm-donor father.

Shiner. By Amy Jo Burns. Riverhead, \$27 (9780525533641).

Teens will enjoy this captivating novel and identify with the protagonist, Wren.

The Silence. By Susan Allott. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062983558).

Allott's intense novel about two unhappy couples in Australia, and the disappearance

of one of the women, includes a murder investigation and an ignoble chapter in the country's past.

The Silence. By Don DeLillo. Scribner, \$22 (9781982164553).

In this razor-sharp, deeply unnerving tale, DeLillo brings together five characters to watch the 2022 Super Bowl when suddenly everything stops; all devices go dark, and silence grows.

Sisters. By Daisy Johnson. Riverhead, \$26 (9780593188958).

Sisters September and July are so close they often share thoughts, which pass through the skin like an electric current in this feverishly written and haunting novel.

Sorry for Your Trouble. By Richard Ford. Ecco, \$27.99 (9780062969804).

Unforeseen encounters and surprising power shifts shape Ford's nine emotionally intricate, stealthily unnerving, and mordantly funny stories of men coping with divorce, widowhood, and fathoms-deep loneliness.

The Summer Set. By Aimee Agresti. Graydon, paper, \$17.99 (9781525823589).

An ensemble of narrators tells the story of a summer of Shakespearean theater in the Berkshires, complete with hijinks and moments of creative magic.

Sweet Sorrow. By David Nicholls. HMH/Mariner, \$17.99 (9780358274278).

As a man looks back on an unforgettable summer, Nicholls' addictive story is as much about time's passage as it is about first love.

Tender Is the Flesh. By Agustina Bazterrica. Tr. by Sarah Moses. Scribner, paper, \$16 (9781982150921).

Argentinian novelist Bazterrica's unflinching dystopian tale of a society in which humans are bred to be a protein source is a scorching exploration of the limits of moral ambiguity.

Then the Fish Swallowed Him. By Amir Ahmadi Arian. HarperVia, \$25.99 (9780062946294).

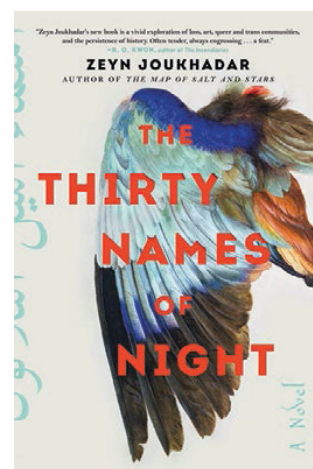
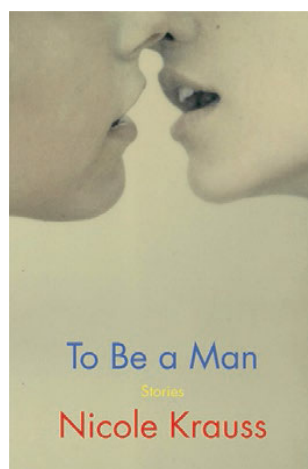
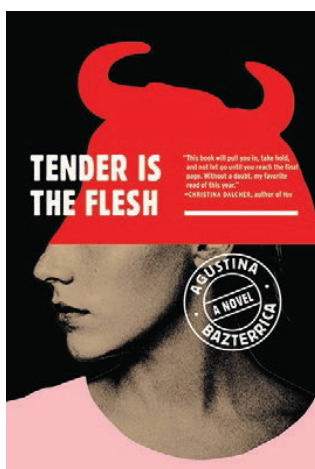
In a novel of literary and moral brilliance, Iranian writer Arian portrays an Iranian political prisoner, and through Yunus's story, the hard truths faced by all in his brutal situation.

These Ghosts Are Family. By Maisy Card. Simon & Schuster, \$24 (9781982117436).

Across generations, a family reckons with the ghosts of enslavement's legacy in this stunning, kaleidoscopic debut novel.

Things You Would Know If You Grew Up around Here. By Nancy Wayson Dinan. Bloomsbury, \$27 (9781635574432).

This strange brew of a book nods to the picaresque novel, is shot through with magical



realism, and undergirded by a naturalist's concern for Mother Earth.

The Thirty Names of Night. By Zeyn Joukhadar. Atria, \$27 (9781982121495).

Nadir, a trans Syrian American artist mourning his mother and painting murals of birds at night, is linked to fellow artist Laila Z in Joukhadar's stunning novel.

To Be a Man. By Nicole Krauss. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062431028).

Krauss addresses many weighty issues, including familial guilt, in her short stories, which pay homage to strong women.

Tokyo Ueno Station. By Miri Yu. Tr. by Morgan Giles. Riverhead, \$25 (9780593088029).

Yu considers modern society's traps driven by nationalism, capitalism, classism, and sexism in this surreal fable of splintered families, disintegrating relationships, and the casual devaluation of humanity.

Tropic of Violence. By Nathacha Appanah. Tr. by Geoffrey Strachan. Graywolf, paper, \$16 (9781644450246).

Appanah's harrowing, surreally relevant tale of the undoing of a young boy on an Indian Ocean island riddled with illegal immigration, stifling poverty, and crime is also gorgeous.

The Truants. By Kate Weinberg. Putnam, \$26 (9780525541967).

With a mystery at its core, this slow burn of a novel explores the years-long reverberations of a fractured friend group.

True Story. By Kate Reed Petty. Viking, \$26 (9781984877680).

A genre-busting puzzle box of a novel that uses metafictional narratives to tell the story of an alleged assault and its far-reaching repercussions.

The Two Lives of Lydia Bird. By Josie Silver. Ballantine, \$26 (9780593135235).

When the love of Lydia Bird's life dies suddenly, she relies on a sleeping pill that

causes hyperrealistic dreams in which Freddie is still alive.

Utopia Avenue. By David Mitchell. Random, \$30 (9780812997439).

This addictive Big Gulp of a narrative may be the best novel about a rock band since Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*.

The Vanishing Half. By Brit Bennett. Riverhead, \$27 (9780525536291).

Bennett introduces twin sisters, living very separate adult lives, and their teenage daughters in this intergenerational epic of race, reinvention, and the ever-present past.

Verge. By Lidia Yuknavitch. Riverhead, \$26 (9780525534877).

A collection of strange, provocative stories about captivity, grief, and tortured relationships with the body; but ultimately, also about healing and endurance.

The Wanting Life. By Mark Rader. Unnamed, paper, \$18 (9781944700997).

In Rader's ambitious and deeply moving first novel, a beloved pastor and his niece each confront the universal dilemma of having to hurt others in pursuit of true love.

We Had No Rules. By Corinne Manning. Arsenal Pulp, paper, \$15.95 (9781551527994).

Wistful, funny, angry, bitter, raw—Manning's first short story collection shocks and enthralls as it explores the myriad ways of falling, making, betraying, and celebrating love.

Weather. By Jenny Offill. Knopf, \$23.95 (9780385351102).

Offill's irresistibly incisive and mordantly funny narrator, Lizzie, a university librarian concerned about climate change and toxic politics, tries to keep herself and others from "tipping into the abyss."

Well-Behaved Indian Women. By Saumya Dave. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9781984806154).

Three generations of Indian women living in India, New Jersey, and Manhattan try in vain to do what is expected of them—but follow their dreams instead.

What Are You Going Through. By Sigrid Nunez. Riverhead, \$26 (9780593191415).

With both compassion and joy, Nunez contemplates how we survive life's certain suffering, and don't, with words and one another.

When I Hit You; or, a Portrait of the Writer as a Young Wife. By Meena Kandasamy. Europa, paper, \$17 (9781609455996).

Kandasamy's thoughtful fictionalization of the nature of abuse and its effects is a call-to-action to believe and support all women, and Indian women in particular.

Where the Wild Ladies Are. By Aoko Matsuda. Tr. by Polly Barton. Soft Skull, paper, \$16.95 (9781593766900).

Matsuda's 17 stories, loosely linked via recurring women characters who work for the enigmatic Mr. Tei, enthrall with both insight and bite.

White Ivy. By Susie Yang. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781982100599).

This spellbinding debut gives insight into the immigrant experience and life in the upper class, challenging the stereotypes and perceptions associated with both.

Who Rescued Who. By Victoria Schade. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9780593098837).

A delightful romp through the English countryside, Schade's second novel is resplendent with sheep, dogs, cats, and lovely people.

Why Visit America. By Matthew Baker. Holt, \$27.99 (9781250237200).

Baker's 13 cautionary speculative tales offer approachable, optimistic perspectives on morally ambiguous topics facing Americans, including what it means to be one nation.

The Wild Laughter. By Caoilinn Hughes. Oneworld, \$24.95 (9781786077806).

In this poetic and affecting novel, Hughes portrays a father sticking to the old ways and his two sons as Ireland booms into the Celtic Tiger, then busts.

Writers & Lovers. By Lily King. Grove, \$27 (9780802148537).

A closely observed and romantic story of a

young writer finding her voice while working through grief.

Yellow Earth. By John Sayles. Haymarket, \$28 (9781642590210).

Sayles animates a vibrant, complex, and diverse cast of characters in this rambunctious, perceptive, hard-driving novel about a shale oil boom in a North Dakota town near the Three Nations reservation.

You Were There Too. By Colleen Oakley. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9781984806468).

Mia and Harrison's struggle with infertility is taking a toll on their marriage, and when Mia meets a man she recognizes from her dreams, she begins to wonder if fate has other plans for her.

Crime Fiction

The Abstainer. By Ian McGuire. Random, \$27 (9780593133873).

An exceptional period thriller in which James O'Connor, a disgraced cop, attempts to revive his career by rooting out members of the Irish Fenian Brotherhood in 1867 Manchester, England.

All the Devils Are Here. By Louise Penny. Minotaur, \$28.99 (9781250145239).

In Paris for the birth of a grandchild, Armand Gamache and his wife, Reine-Marie, must work together to expose a conspiracy that threatens their entire family.

Are Snakes Necessary? By Brian De Palma and Susan Lehman. Hard Case Crime, paper, \$22.95 (9781789091205).

Film director De Palma and journalist Lehman deliver a deliciously deceptive, dark thriller distinguished by beautifully synchronized plotting and a fusillade of surprises that suggest one of De Palma's twisty movies.

The Art of Violence. By S. J. Rozan. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643135311).

The thirteenth Bill Smith and Lydia Chin novel finds the New York PIs trying to determine if their client, who suffers from memory loss, is a murderer.

The Better Liar. By Tanen Jones. Ballantine, \$27 (9781984821225).

To claim her inheritance, Leslie must reconcile with her vanished sister, who turns out to be dead. No problem: find a look-alike and pass her off as the sister. A clever debut with a stunning ending.

Blacktop Wasteland. By S. A. Cosby. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250252685).

In this superb debut, a former wheelman trying to go straight must take "one last job," which leads to another last job, even more star-crossed than the first one.

Blackwood. By Michael Farris Smith. Little, Brown, \$27 (9780316529815).

Smith's latest country noir offers an uncompromising, poetic journey into the darkness of a small Mississippi town that is gradually being consumed by the malevolent kudzu vines on its outskirts.

The Book of Lamps and Banners. By Elizabeth Hand. Little, Brown, \$27 (9780316485937).

Hand's teeth-grindingly tense thriller finds photographer Cass Neary on the trail of a legendary rare book purported to possess magical qualities.

Broken. By Don Winslow. Morrow, \$29.99 (9780062988904).

After three epic-scale masterpieces, Winslow returns with a delicious serving of small plates: novellas that reunite fans with characters from the author's earlier novels.

The Burden of Truth. By Neal Griffin. Forge, \$27.99 (9780765395627).

Griffin's tale of murder in a small Southern California town is rich with bubbling vitality, boundless curiosity, and sympathy for people doing their best in a brutal world.

Cactus Jack. By Brad Smith. Arcade, \$24.99 (9781950691456).

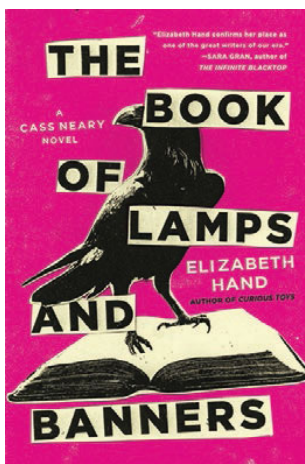
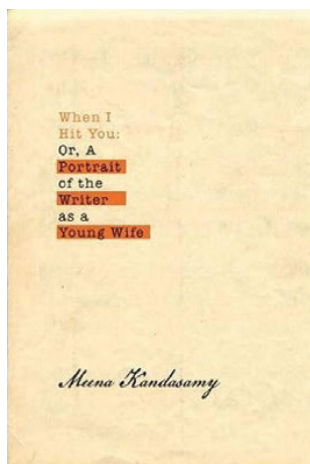
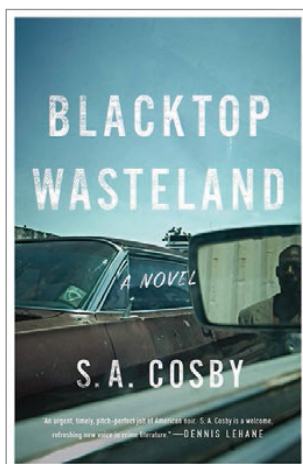
Mixing elements from multiple genres, Smith tells the story of a steely-willed woman who inherits a racehorse and takes on an unscrupulous ranch owner.

The Case of the Reincarnated Client. By Tarquin Hall. Severn, \$28.99 (9780727888785).

The fifth in the hilarious Vish Puri series finds the Delhi private eye investigating during the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The Chocolate Cobweb. By Charlotte Armstrong. Penzler/American Mystery Classics, \$25.95 (9781613161661).

This outstanding example of early domestic crime fiction, originally published in 1948, builds on a switched-at-birth premise to deliver a suspenseful tale awash in intricate plotting.



Christmas Cupcake Murder. By Joanne Fluke. Kensington, \$22.95 (9781496729125).

Fans of Fluke's cozy series featuring baker Hannah Swensen and her family in Lake Eden, Minnesota, will be thrilled with this entry, which offers a kind of origin story.

The Clutter Corpse. By Simon Brett. Crème de la Crime, \$28.99 (9781780291246).

This first Decluttering mystery from genre star Brett delivers a quirky, warmhearted tale about a professional declutterer who finds a body amid the mess in a client's home.

Condor. By M. L. Buchman. Buchman Bookworks, \$19.99 (9781949825619).

Miranda Chase and her team get involved with Russian espionage involving transport jets and satellites in this nail-biting technothriller.

Confessions on the 7:45. By Lisa Unger. Park Row, \$27.99 (9780778310150).

Unger delivers a master class in plotting with this brilliantly crafted psychological thriller about what happens when two women meet on a stalled commuter train.

A Conspiracy of Bones. By Kathy Reichs. Scribner, \$27 (9781982138882).

Forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan is recovering from a cerebral aneurysm when she is thrust into a new case that suggests conspiracy, but can Temp trust her own mind to make connections?

Cut to the Bone. By Ellison Cooper. Minotaur, \$27.99 (9781250173898).

Sayer Altair, a Black female FBI neurologist, races against time when the abductor of a busload of high-schoolers starts killing his captives one by one.

Dark August. By Katie Tallo. Harper, paper, \$16.99 (9780062948045).

Hoping to learn more about her mother's death, 20-year-old Augusta journeys, often dangerously, through a small town's secretive past, looking for answers,

The Darkling Halls of Ivy. Ed. by Lawrence Block. Subterranean, \$50 (9781596069657).

Mystery master Block collects 18 sterling

crime stories set in the ever-competitive world of academia. Contributors include Ian Rankin, John Lescroart, and Peter Lovesey.

Daughters of Darkness. By Sally Spencer. Severn, \$28.99 (9780727889492).

Cop turned PI Jennie Redhead traces the murder of a British doctor in Oxford back to New Guinea in the 1930s and London after WWII.

Dead Land. By Sara Paretsky. Morrow, \$28.99 (9780062435927).

In this series bar-raiser, V. I. Warshawski investigates a musician's disappearance and uncovers a web of greed linking the South Side of Chicago, rural Kansas, and a Chilean mining town.

The Dead of Winter. By S. J. Parris. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643136547).

These three fine novellas—a prequel to the Giordano Bruno series—detail Bruno's early life in sixteenth-century Italy, before he became a master spy for Elizabeth I.

Dead to Her. By Sarah Pinborough. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062856821).

Two much-younger wives are at the center of a tightly wound thriller with tension as stifling as the Georgia heat and an unsettling touch of the supernatural.

Dead West. By Matt Goldman. Forge, \$26.99 (9781250191342).

A simple case—and a quick trip to LA to escape the Minnesota winter—turns complicated for private investigator Nils Shapiro and his friend/hired muscle Jameson.

Dear Child. By Romy Hausmann. Tr. by Jamie Bulloch. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250768537).

In this exquisitely twisty debut thriller, Hausmann starts her story where Emma Donoghue's *Room* ends—with the escape of a kidnapped and long-imprisoned woman.

Death and the Maiden. By Samantha Norman and Ariana Franklin. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062562388).

This is a fascinating, page-turning historical mystery, with dashes of twelfth-century poli-

tics and religion, intriguing period ambience, charismatic characters, and a completely unexpected ending.

Death in a Fancy Dress. By Anthony Gilbert. Poisoned Pen, paper, \$14.99 (9781464212253).

In this jaunty country-house mystery, mixing wicked social commentary and a complicated, unnerving plot, a bold murder is committed at a masked ball taking place at Feltham Abbey in England.

Deception by Gaslight. By Kate Belli. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (9781643854649).

Genevieve Stewart, aka reporter Polly Palmer, flaunts Gilded Age New York conventions by chasing a killer in the company of one of the city's richest men.

The Dilemma. By B. A. Paris. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250151360).

A husband and wife have devastating news to share about their daughter but are reluctant to do so on a special day. An unusual premise, breathtakingly executed.

The Distant Dead. By Heather Young. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062690814).

Young's second stunning novel puts a young boy at the center of a mystery and surrounds him with adults' unresolved guilt for the loved ones they have lost.

Double Agent. By Tom Bradby. Atlantic Monthly, \$26 (9780802157645).

With her personal and professional lives in free fall, MI6 officer Kate Henderson attempts to outmaneuver both the Russians and Britain's perfidious and possibly traitorous prime minister.

Earth eater. By Dolores Reyes. HarperVia, \$24.99 (9780062987730).

In the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Earth eater is ostracized by her gift: she sees the fates of the missing when she ingests earth connected to them.

Eddie's Boy. By Thomas Perry. Mysterious, \$26 (9780802157775).

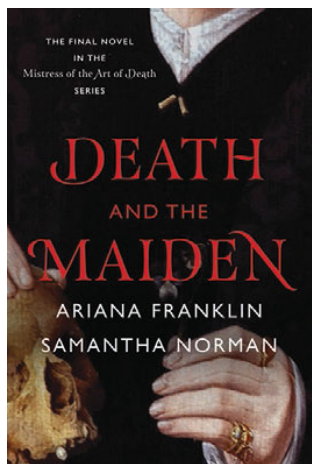
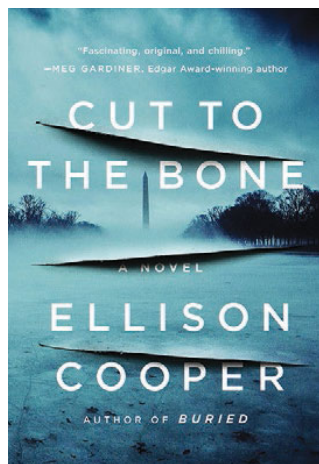
In his fourth Butcher's Boy novel, Perry sends retired Mob hit man Michael Shaeffer on the killing road again, where he hopes to carve a more permanent separate peace.

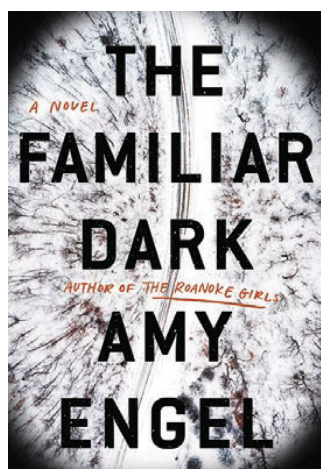
Edgar Allan Poe and the Empire of the Dead. By Karen Lee Street. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643134222).

In this most macabre of Street's three Poe and Dupin mysteries, Edgar Allan Poe shares the stage with his own fictional characters—particularly master sleuth C. Auguste Dupin,

Eight Perfect Murders. By Peter Swanson. Morrow, \$26.99 (9780062838209).

A Boston bookseller lands in the middle of a murder investigation when a blog post he





wrote about eight perfect murders in mystery fiction becomes a serial killer's playbook. A devilish premise combined with jaw-dropping execution.

The Eighth Detective. By Alex Pavesi. Holt, \$26.99 (9781250755933).

Pavesi's inventive debut follows a book editor who finds disturbing connections to a real-life murder within a manuscript she's publishing.

The End of October. By Lawrence Wright. Knopf, \$27.95 (9780525658658).

This gripping medical thriller, which mirrors the coronavirus outbreak, follows epidemiologist Dr. Henry Parsons, who is marooned abroad by a travel ban while a pandemic ravages the world.

The Evil Men Do. By John McMahon. Putnam, \$27 (9780525535560).

Georgia detective P. T. Marsh, obsessive in his craving for justice, walks a thin line between right and wrong in conducting a murder investigation with ties to his own life.

Fair Warning. By Michael Connelly. Little, Brown, \$29 (9780316539425).

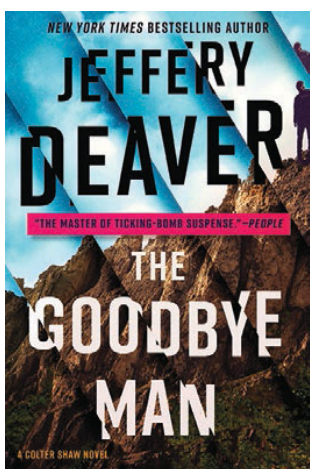
Connelly brings back reporter Jack McEvoy in this riveting thriller about a misogynistic serial killer who targets victims using DNA identified on the dark web.

The Familiar Dark. By Amy Engel. Dutton, \$26 (9781524745950).

Eve Taggart, a waitress in the Missouri Ozarks, attempts to find her daughter's killer in a gritty mystery about women struggling to provide the best lives possible for their children.

The Finders. By Jeffrey B. Burton. Minotaur, \$26.99 (9781250244536).

The first in the Mace Reid K-9 series, starring a dog trainer and a special golden retriever, is a terrific thriller: fascinating characters, sparky dialogue, wry humor, sweaty-palm tension



The Finisher. By Peter Lovesey. Soho, \$27.95 (9781641291811).

Lovesey's nineteenth Peter Diamond mystery finds the Bath, England, copper working security at a marathon and stumbling into a case involving human trafficking. Served, as always, with gin-dry humor.

Ghostrider. By M. L. Buchman. Buchman Bookworks, paper, \$19.99 (9781949825695).

The latest in Buchman's Miranda Chase series is suspenseful and moving, while its autistic savant protagonist grows more intriguing with each installment.

The Glass Kingdom. By Lawrence Osborne. Hogarth, \$27 (9781984824301).

After stealing \$200,000 from an author suffering from dementia, Sarah escapes to Bangkok, where her life spirals out of control. Karma or bad choices? A gripping psychological thriller.

The Goodbye Man. By Jeffery Deaver. Putnam, \$28 (9780525535973).

Missing-person tracker Colter Shaw finds himself not only searching for a missing woman but also going undercover to expose a mysterious cult in Washington State.

Hammer to Fall. By John Lawton. Atlantic Monthly, \$26 (9780802148124).

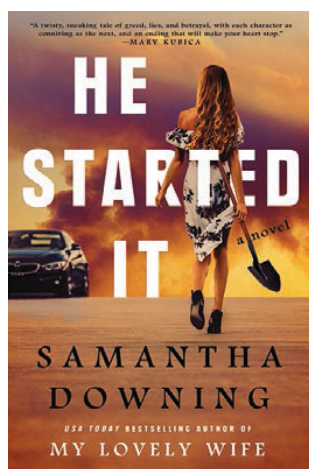
Joe Wilderness, incorrigible black marketeer and unconventional MI6 spy, ruffles feathers on both sides of the Iron Curtain, from Finland to Prague to Berlin, leading up to a jaw-dropping finale.

Hard Cash Valley. By Brian Panowich. Minotaur, \$26.99 (9781250206923).

This splendid genre-bender combines superb thriller plotting with the emotional resonance and fine writing that comes with literary fiction, all while a Georgia investigator tries to solve a murder.

He Started It. By Samantha Downing. Berkley, \$26 (9780451491756).

To collect their inheritance, siblings from a dysfunctional family embark on the mother



of all road trips, a cross-country car jaunt in which greed and betrayal rule the road.

Hi Five. By Joe Ide. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$27 (9780316509534).

Isaiah "IQ" Quintabe, the Sherlock Holmes of East Long Beach, must keep a murder suspect with multiple personality disorder out of jail in the fourth in Ide's outstanding series.

Hide Away. By Jason Pinter. Amazon/Thomas & Mercer, paper, \$15.95 (9781542005906).

Pinter does a masterful job of ramping up suspense in this fine blend of domestic thriller and police procedural that centers on what happened to Rachel Marin's family seven years ago.

Hold Your Breath, China. By Qiu Xiaolong. Severn, \$28.99 (9780727890436).

The tenth Inspector Chen mystery again takes up Xiaolong's passionate concern with China's pressing environmental problems, especially that of air pollution. Written with urgency and grace.

House on Fire. By Joseph Finder. Dutton, \$28 (9781101985847).

In his fourth Nick Heller thriller, Finder sends his hero on a quest to prove that a Big Pharma company knowingly profited from peddling addictive products. Excruciatingly suspenseful.

House Privilege. By Mike Lawson. Atlantic Monthly, \$26 (9780802148476).

Political fixer Joe DeMarco comes to the aid of a 15-year-old girl, who is the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Adirondacks.

How Quickly She Disappears. By Raymond Fleischmann. Berkley, \$26 (9781984805171).

In isolated Tanacross, Alaska, in 1941, Elizabeth Pfautz encounters a man accused of murder who claims to know where her sister, who disappeared 20 years earlier, is and how to contact her.

Hunter Killer. By Brad Taylor. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062886026).

When Pike Logan and the Taskforce become targets of Russian assassins, Logan is after revenge. Breathless action from a master of the black-ops thriller.

In the Absence of Miracles. By Michael J. Malone. IPG/Orenda, paper, \$15.95 (9781912374793).

Glaswegian teacher John Docherty sets out to learn more about a brother he never knew existed and finds himself embroiled in a depraved conspiracy. Celtic noir at its best.

Indigo. By Loren D. Estleman. Forge, \$25.99 (9781250258359).

Estleman adds another sterling entry to the list of crime fiction about film noir with this tale of film archivist Valentino's efforts to solve a mystery involving a long-lost fifties film.

The Janes. By Louisa Luna. Doubleday, \$26.95 (978038554518).

PI Alice Vega is nothing less than an utterly compelling protagonist as she and her partner, Max Caplan, struggle to save young Latina women from the clutches of a Mexican cartel boss.

The Killing Tide. By Jean-Luc Bannalec. Tr. by Peter Millar. Minotaur, \$26.99 (9781250173386).

Bannalec's latest Commissaire Georges Dupin novel delivers a ravishing travel guide to Brittany—its beautiful coastline, mouth-watering cuisine, fascinating history and myth—alongside an intriguing mystery about murder in the imperiled fishing industry.

The Kingdom. By Jo Nesbø. Tr. by Robert Ferguson. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780525655411).

Nesbø returns with a creepy stand-alone featuring Roy Opgard, an introverted auto mechanic in a remote Norwegian village whose attempts to protect his family lead to tragedy.

Lady of Perdition. By Barbara Hambly. Severn, \$28.99 (9780727889096).

Benjamin January, a free Black man living in nineteenth-century New Orleans, must venture to Texas to rescue a woman sold into slavery in the seventeenth in this long-running and much-acclaimed series.

The Lantern Men. By Elly Griffiths. HMH, \$27 (9780358237044).

British forensic archaeologist Ruth Gallo-way returns to Norfolk after a convicted killer announces that he will reveal where more bodies are buried, but only if Ruth heads the excavation.

Last Day. By Luanne Rice. Amazon/Thomas & Mercer, \$24.95 (9781542018203).

The death of a gallery owner in a small New England town echoes the death of the victim's mother 23 years earlier, in this suspenseful thriller.

The Last Day. By Andrew Hunter Murray. Dutton, \$27 (9781524745813).

In this near-perfect alternate-future thriller, it's 2059. Forty years ago, Earth stopped spinning on its axis, leaving half the world in perpetual daylight and half in unending darkness.

The Last Hunt. By Deon Meyer. Tr. by K. L. Seegers. Atlantic Monthly, \$27 (9780802156921).

Two plotlines connected by high-level corruption in South Africa converge as Benny Griessel and Vaughn Cupido attempt to solve a murder and avoid political repercussions.

The Last Tourist. By Olen Steinhauer. Minotaur, \$27.99 (9781250036216).

The Tourists, once a group of CIA black-ops specialists, are back in a new, more lethal, non-

Company form, and Milo Weaver is being framed as the ringleader.

The Last Trial. By Scott Turow. Grand Central, \$29 (9781538748138).

Turow's signature absorbing legal details, cerebral suspense, and fascinatingly flawed characters are all on full view in this compelling story of a legendary attorney's final case.

The Law of Innocence. By Michael Connelly. Little, Brown, \$29 (9780316485623).

Connelly's first Mickey Haller novel since 2013 finds the brash defense attorney arrested for murder and forced to mount a defense from inside his jail cell.

Lazarus. By Lars Kepler. Tr. by Neil Smith. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780593317839).

How do you escape a killer who can attack in two places at once? Stockholm detective Joona Linna must answer that question in this gripping thriller.

The Less Dead. By Denise Mina. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$28 (9780316528511).

After her adoptive mother's death, Glaswegian physician Margo Dunlop searches for her birth family and soon finds herself involved in exposing the murderer of her natural mother.

Line of Sight. By James Queally. Polis, \$26 (9781947993891).

This riveting debut thriller concerns a PI's attempt to determine if covering up excessive force by police was at the root of a murder.

Long Bright River. By Liz Moore. Riverhead, \$26 (9780525540670).

A Philadelphia beat cop realizes her drug-addicted sister is missing, and possibly murdered, in this character-driven crime novel that balances a moving, affecting story with a page-turning plot.

Love & Other Crimes. By Sara Paretsky. Morrow, paper, \$17.99 (9780062915542).

Paretsky's 14 zesty and inventive crime stories display her trademark wit and concern about social injustice, from trailblazing sleuth V. I. Warshawski's Chicago to 1920s Kansas.

Matthew Henson and the Ice Temple of Harlem. By Gary Phillips. Polis/Agora, \$27.99 (9781951709358).

This rollicking, genre-blending, Doc Savage-style adventure, set in 1920s Harlem, stars explorer (and real-life character) Matthew Henson, the first Black man to reach the North Pole.

The Missing American. By Kwei Quartey. Soho, \$25.95 (9781641290708).

Fans of Quartey's Darko Dawson series who are ready for another armchair visit to Ghana will be pleased to meet Emma Djan, introduced here in the same riveting style,

which blends crime fiction with a literary travel guide.

More Better Deals. By Joe R. Lansdale. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$27 (9780316479912).

The postman rings again in this grisly homage to the classic noir of James M. Cain, set in East Texas in the '60s.

Never Turn Back. By Christopher Swann. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (9781643855370).

This compulsively readable literary thriller follows a brother and sister who must deal with their parents' murders and, later, with the brother becoming a suspect in another killing.

The Night Swim. By Megan Goldin. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250219688).

The latest from Goldin introduces Rachel Krall, the host of a popular true-crime podcast who investigates two cases in a small North Carolina coastal town with a dark past.

No Bad Deed. By Heather Chavez. Morrow, \$26.99 (9780062936172).

In a mesmerizing debut thriller, Cassie Larkin's family and friends become the target of persons unknown, forcing her to find within herself the ferocity to fight back.

Once You Go This Far. By Kristen Lepionka. Minotaur, \$26.99 (9781250309372).

Did the woman whom Columbus, Ohio, PI Roxane Weary met on a hiking trail die of an accident later the same day, or was she murdered?

One by One. By Ruth Ware. Simon & Schuster/Scout, \$27.99 (9781501188817).

Ware's latest, an updating of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, finds eight shareholders in a tech start-up trapped in a snowed-in chalet, with murder on the agenda.

The Opium Prince. By Jasmine Aimaq. Soho, \$27.95 (9781641291583).

This searing debut thriller follows Daniel Sajadi and Taj Maleki, on opposite sides of Afghanistan's opium trade in the years preceding the communist takeover of the country in 1978.

The Order. By Daniel Silva. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062834843).

Silva's latest Gabriel Allon thriller, about the death of a pope and the search for a long-suppressed gospel, combines escalating tension with powerful themes of international politics and religious history.

Outsider. By Linda Castillo. Minotaur, \$27.99 (9781250142894).

During a massive blizzard in Painter's Mill, Ohio, police chief Kate Burkholder hides her old friend Gina Colorosa, who believes that her fellow cops in Columbus want her dead.

The Paladin. By David Ignatius. Norton, \$27.95 (9780393254174).

Ignatius' latest spy thriller combines a famil-

iar genre trope—the agent as fall guy—with a plot that employs cutting-edge computer technology to show how easy it is to distort reality.

Percentages of Guilt. By Michael Niemann. Coffeetown, paper, \$15.95 (9781603816748).

Summoned to Antwerp by his former employers, UN investigator Valentin Vermeulen must prove that he is not responsible for the death of a police informant.

Please See Us. By Caitlin Mullen. Gallery, \$26.99 (9781982127480).

Mullen's debut delivers a wrenchingly detailed, utterly credible "woman in peril" thriller about a psychic reader and a spa employee in Atlantic City who attempt to find out what happened to a girl who went missing.

The Poison Garden. By Alex Marwood. Penguin, paper, \$16 (9780143110521).

Having survived the mass poisoning of the cult in which she was raised, Romy, pregnant with the cult leader's child, has her own plan for saving the world.

Pretty Little Wife. By Darby Kane. Morrow, paper, \$16.99 (9780063016408).

In this page-turning debut featuring skillful plotting and an intriguing protagonist, Lily matches wits with a CID detective who senses there's something fishy about Lila's husband's disappearance.

A Private Cathedral. By James Lee Burke. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781982151683).

Burke melds horror and crime in his twenty-third Dave Robicheaux novel, which finds the Cajun detective battling racist evil and confronting a time-traveling demon from the sixteenth century.

The Red Right Hand. By Joel Townsley Rogers. Penzler/American Mystery Classics, \$25.95 (9781613161647).

This outstanding thriller, a stellar reissue in the American Mystery Classics series, details what happens when an eloping couple pick up the hitchhiker from hell.

The Right Kind of Fool. By Sarah Loudin Thomas. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764234019).

Thomas brings compassion and insight to this tale of a long-absent father and his deaf 13-year-old son, who reunite to solve a murder in 1934 West Virginia.

Running from the Dead. By Mike Knowles. ECW, paper, \$15.95 (9781770415195).

Knowles tells the story of a private eye, Sam Jones, in desperate need of personal and professional redemption. A case involving a missing child offers the chance he seeks.

The Russian Pink. By Matthew Hart. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643135502).

After discovering that a presidential candidate is in debt to Russian oligarchs for a rare

diamond called the Russian Pink, Alex Turner sets out to expose an international conspiracy.

Salt River. By Randy Wayne White. Putnam, \$27 (9780735212725).

Doc Ford and his hippie pal Tomlinson have their hands full with Spanish gold and the revelation that Tomlinson fathered numerous children via sperm donations made years ago.

The Searcher. By Tana French. Viking, \$27 (9780735224650).

Country noir lives in West Ireland in French's moving tale of a retired Chicago cop who looks for peace in an Irish village and finds something else entirely.

The Sentinel. By Lee Child and Andrew Child. Delacorte, \$28.99 (9781984818461).

If this terrific Jack Reacher thriller, the first coauthored by Child and his brother, Andrew Grant, proves a harbinger of what is to come, the iconic Reacher is in good hands.

Seven Years of Darkness. By You-Jeong Jeong. Tr. by Chi-Young Kim. Penguin, paper, \$17 (9780143134244).

This beautifully written redemption story explores the tragic reverberations that echo for years after a young South Korean girl is murdered at a reservoir in South Korea.

Shadow Ridge. By M. E. Browning. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (9781643855356).

In this first entry in a series set in small-town Colorado, police detective Jo Wyatt challenges the official view that a computer-game creator killed himself.

The Shadows. By Alex North. Macmillan/Celadon, \$26.99 (9781250318039).

North follows his best-selling *The Whisper Man* (2019) with another riveting thriller set in the small town of Featherbank in which North again displays his total mastery of misdirection.

Shakespeare for Squirrels. By Christopher Moore. Morrow, \$28.99 (9780062434029).

Pocket, star of two previous Moore romps based on Shakespeare plays, must turn hard-

boiled sleuth if he is to solve the murder of Puck, King Oberon's fool.

The Shooting at Château Rock. By Martin Walker. Knopf, \$25.95 (9780525656654).

A real-estate scam drives the mystery in Walker's latest Bruno mystery, but, as always, the real joy here is Chief Bruno's lifestyle, the envy of every foodie Francophile.

The Siamese Twin Mystery. By Ellery Queen. Penzler/American Mystery Classics, \$25.95 (9781613161548).

A forest fire forms the sinister backdrop to this exquisite puzzle, originally published in 1933, the seventh in the classic Ellery Queen series, featuring old-fashioned, quirky, and meticulous deduction.

The Sicilian Method. By Andrea Camilleri. Penguin, paper, \$16 (9780143134978).

The next-to-last entry in the Salvo Montalbano series finds the Sicilian police inspector investigating two murders while reeling under the spell of a comely forensics expert.

A Silent Death. By Peter May. Quercus, \$26.99 (9781784294984).

May delivers a tour de force of psychological suspense in which a fugitive plots an elaborate revenge scheme against the cop he holds responsible for the death of his girlfriend.

The Silent Wife. By Karin Slaughter. Morrow, \$28.99 (9780062858108).

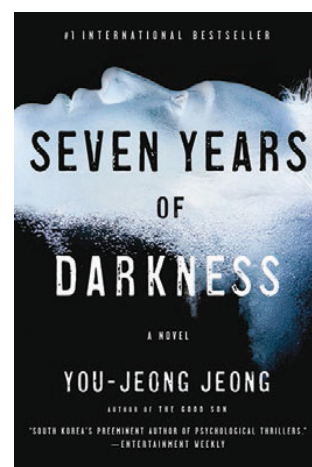
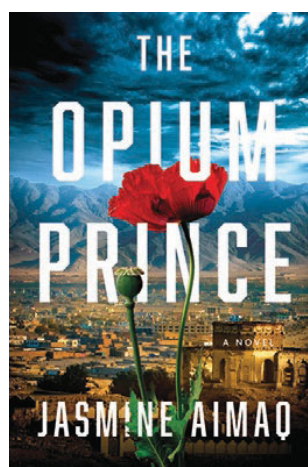
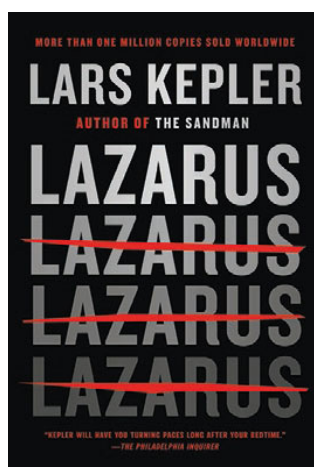
The latest in Slaughter's Will Trent series delivers another slam dunk, pitting Trent and partner Faith Mitchell against a serial killer while exposing strains in the couple's relationship.

The Sleeping Nymph. By Ilaria Tuti. Tr. by Ekin Oklap. Soho, \$27.95 (9781641291217).

A recently rediscovered painting from 1945 leads Italian police superintendent Teresa Battaglia, recently diagnosed with dementia, to track a killer whose motives stretch back to WWII.

A Small Town. By Thomas Perry. Mysterious, \$26 (9780802148063).

The versatile Perry is in no-holds-barred



thriller mode here, in the gripping story of a one-woman hit squad empowered to track the escaped convicts who pillaged her small town, and to kill them all.

Snow. By John Banville. Hanover Square, \$27.99 (9781335230003).

In 1957 Ireland, DI St. John Strafford investigates the murder of a Catholic priest, stabbed and castrated at the country home of a reclusive protestant family.

A Song for the Dark Times. By Ian Rankin. Little, Brown, \$27 (9780316479257).

A call from his daughter, Samantha, sends retired Edinburgh copper John Rebus to the north of Scotland, where he becomes involved in a murder investigation with links to WWII.

Squeeze Me. By Carl Hiaasen. Knopf, \$28.95 (9781524733452).

Hiaasen's latest mix of crime fiction and rampaging satire features a hungry python, a "crude-spoken commander-in-chief," and a plot rich in the author's signature craziness.

Still Life. By Val McDermid. Atlantic Monthly, \$26 (9780802157447).

Fife, Scotland, detective Karen Pirie juggles two cases complicated by false identities that emerge after a fisherman pulls a dead body from the Firth of Forth.

The Sun Down Motel. By Simone St. James. Berkley, \$26 (9780440000174).

Carly Kirk's aunt disappeared from a small New York town 35 years ago while working as a motel night clerk. Carly takes the same job, and the creepy stuff starts up again.

Take It Back. By Kia Abdullah. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250273017).

Zara Kaleel, a Muslim working as a sexual-violence adviser in London, takes the case of a 16-year-old white girl who claims she was raped by four Muslim boys.

Tell Me My Name. By Erin Ruddy. Dundurn, paper, \$15.99 (9781459746152).

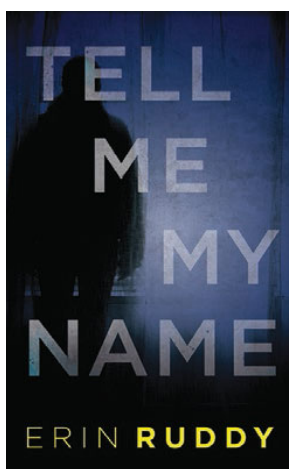
Who is the kidnapper who has abducted Ellie and her husband, Neil? Ellie has three chances to identify him, but with each wrong answer, Neil loses a body part.

Things in Jars. By Jess Kidd. Atria, \$27 (9781982121280).

Kidd's eerie historical mystery, set in Victorian England, delivers a richly woven tapestry of fantasy, folklore, and history.

Three Hours in Paris. By Cara Black. Soho, \$27.95 (9781641290418).

In this historical thriller, Black contemplates one of WWII's enduring mysteries: Why did Hitler come to Paris in June 1940 but abruptly leave three hours later?



The Three Mrs. Wrights. By Linda Keir. Amazon/Lake Union, paper, \$14.95 (9781542019705).

In this compulsively readable blend of thriller and women's fiction, three women gradually realize what they have in common. Is it the men (or man?) in their lives?

A Time for Mercy. By John Grisham. Doubleday, \$29.95 (9780385545969).

Grisham's third Jake Brigance novel finds the Mississippi attorney defending a 16-year-old boy charged with the murder of a police deputy.

To Fetch a Felon. By Jennifer Hawkins. Berkley, paper, \$7.99 (9780593197080).

In a quaint English village, Emma Reed and her corgi, Oliver, must unmask a killer before Emma can proceed with her plans to open a tea shop.

Trace Elements. By Donna Leon. Atlantic Monthly, \$27 (9780802148674).

Leon melds topical social issues with timeless considerations of human imperfection in a novel that looks at both the water crisis in Venice and the enduring problem of injustice.

Twisted. By Steve Cavanagh. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250207326).

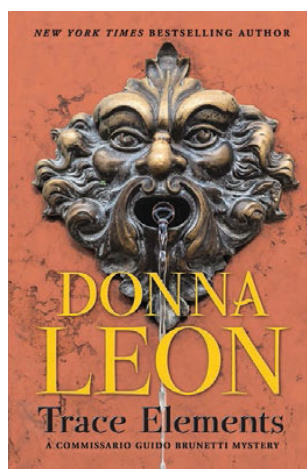
Why is the real identity of mega-best-selling crime-fiction author J. T. LeBeau so closely guarded? Maria Cooper tries to find out and in so doing lets a monster into her life.

Untamed Shore. By Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Polis/Agora, \$25.99 (9781947993921).

Viridiana has outgrown her dreary hometown in 1970s Baja, California, but her attempts to become someone new come at a price in this insightful portrait of a sardonic yet lonely soul.

Victim 2117. By Jussi Adler-Olsen. Tr. by William Frost. Dutton, \$28 (9781524742553).

Copenhagen's renowned investigative group Department Q is rocked when one of its members, Hafez al-Assad, learns that his long-



lost wife and daughter are being held by a notorious Iraqi interrogator.

When No One Is Watching. By Alyssa Cole. Morrow, paper, \$16.99 (9780062982650).

With a mix of romance, horror, and suspense, Cole reveals the insidious forces behind the gentrification of a Brooklyn neighborhood.

When She Was Good. By Michael Robotham. Scribner, \$26 (9781982103637).

Robotham provides backstory here on how psychologist Cyrus Haven and his sort-of ward, "feral child" Evie Cormac, introduced in *Good Girl, Bad Girl* (2019), encountered one another. A powerhouse of a novel.

When You See Me. By Lisa Gardner. Dutton, \$27 (9781524745004).

Bones discovered in a remote mountainous area in Georgia link to a notorious serial killer in this nail-biter by suspense master Gardner.

Without Sanction. By Don Bentley. Berkley, \$27 (9781984805119).

In this stunning debut, intelligence agent Matt Drake gets a chance to right a wrong by capturing an ISIS-connected Pakistani scientist who has developed a chemical weapon. Nonstop immersive action.

Wrong Alibi. By Christina Dodd. HQN, paper, \$17.99 (9781335080820).

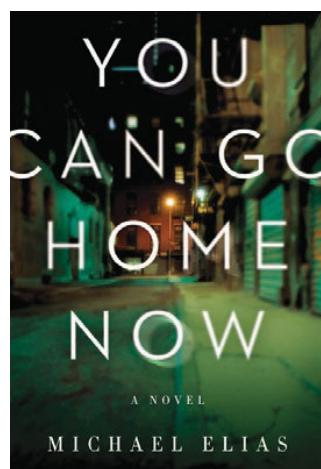
In Dodd's fiendishly clever tale of suspense, Evie is framed for murder but avoids a lifetime behind bars, changes her identity, and waits for revenge.

You Can Go Home Now. By Michael Elias. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062954169).

Decades after her physician father was murdered, Long Island City homicide detective Nina Karim continues to search for his killer, in this compulsively readable thriller.

You Let Me In. By Camilla Bruce. Tor, \$25.99 (9781250302045).

Cassandra Tipp lives in two worlds, one with the appearance of everyday reality, the other a faerie world dominated by the evil Pepper-Man—but what is real, and what is fantasy?



Historical Fiction

The Age of Witches. By Louisa Morgan. Redhook, \$28 (9780316419512).

Morgan's third witch-centric historical novel, set in Gilded Age New York, features a scheming stepmother, Frances; her heiress stepdaughter; and Harriet, a good witch determined to thwart Frances' dark plot.

The Bell in the Lake. By Lars Mytting. Tr. by Deborah Dawkin. Overlook, \$27 (9781419743184).

In this tale of conjoined twin artisans, church bells, and a beautiful stave church in Norway, Mytting perfectly evokes a place and a culture, Norse tradition and rampant modernity.

Black Bottom Saints. By Alice Randall. Amistad, \$26.99 (9780062968623).

Randall draws on a real-life entertainment columnist and emcee to reveal and celebrate untold stories of early-twentieth-century Detroit's remarkable Black art community.

Black Sun Rising / La Corazonado. By Barry Gifford. Seven Stories, paper, \$18.95 (9781609809980).

Gifford's short novel combines an action-filled western with a vivid recounting of the fascinating history of the Seminole Indians, who integrated with fugitive slaves called the Mascogos.

The Book of Kane and Margaret. By Kiik Araki-Kawaguchi. FC2, paper, \$18.95 (9781573661843).

Dozens of avatars of Kane Araki and Margaret Morri inhabit the world of a Japanese internment camp in this magical realist exploration of an insular world with boundless mythologies.

Book of the Little Axe. By Lauren Francis-Sharma. Atlantic, \$26 (9780802129369).

Francis-Sharma's saga of Rose Rendon, who grows up in 1790s Trinidad, and ends up marrying into the Crow Nation of Montana, dramatizes how historical forces shape private lives.

Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey. By Kathleen Rooney. Penguin, paper, \$17 (9780143135425).

Rooney portrays with bravura, empathy, and preternatural detail two WWI heroes: Cher Ami, a conscripted British homing pigeon who saves the Lost Battalion, and American Charles White Whittlesey, the officer in charge.

The Cold Millions. By Jess Walter. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062868084).

With deep research and love for his home city, Walter takes readers to Spokane in 1909 as two hard-luck brothers find their place in the fights for fair labor and free speech.

The Color of Air. By Gail Tsukiyama. HarperVia, \$26.99 (9780062976192).

As an erupting volcano threatens the Hawaiian town of Hilo in 1935, characters grapple with long-buried secrets in Tsukiyama's lush, dramatic, and charming novel of a Japanese migrant community.

Coming Up for Air. By Sarah Leipziger. Anansi, paper, \$18.95 (9781487006501).

A captivating and thought-provoking story centered on the real death mask of *L'Inconnue de la Seine* (the Unknown Woman of the Seine River).

Daughter of Black Lake. By Cathy Marie Buchanan. Riverhead, \$28 (9780735216167).

Buchanan's detail and dramatic portrayal of a troubled family in a first-century settlement in Roman Britain is a richly atmospheric and beautifully emotive tale of community and love.

Deacon King Kong. By James McBride. Riverhead, \$28 (9780735216723).

McBride's richly detailed, emotionally sensitive, and socially insightful tragicomedy about the denizens of a 1969 Brooklyn neighborhood, including an unlikely hero, sets a new standard for multicultural fiction.

The Eighth Life. By Nino Haratischvili. Tr. by Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin. Scribe, \$28 (9781950354146).

Haratischvili's imaginative and expansive epic of a family, the country Georgia, and the twentieth century is rich in unique, vibrant characters and richly illuminates the history of Russian socialism.

An Elegant Woman. By Martha McPhee. Scribner, \$27 (9781501179570).

A richly animated tale of an unusual mother and her two very different daughters, McPhee's enthralling novel glides through early-twentieth-century Billings, Montana, to Prohibition in the Adirondacks and beyond.

Exile Music. By Jennifer Steil. Viking, \$27 (9780525561811).

The little-told tale of European Jewish refugees in Bolivia during WWII is a moving, evocative coming-of-age tale of a young woman facing her trauma and accepting her sexuality.

Fast Girls. By Elise Hooper. Morrow, paper, \$16.99 (9780062937995).

The powerful story of three very unheralded female track-and-field athletes from vastly different backgrounds, spanning three Olympic Games, from 1928 to 1936.

A Girl Is a Body of Water. By Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi. Tin House, \$27.95 (9781951142049).

In this modern retelling of the story of Uganda's mystical first woman, young Kirabo's quest to learn about her absent mother reveals the ups and downs of womanhood.

Glorious Boy. By Aimee Liu. Red Hen, paper, \$18.95 (9781597098892).

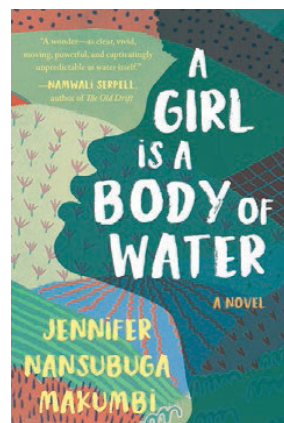
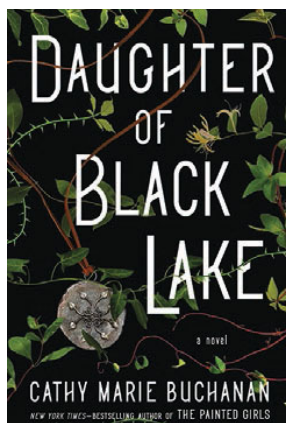
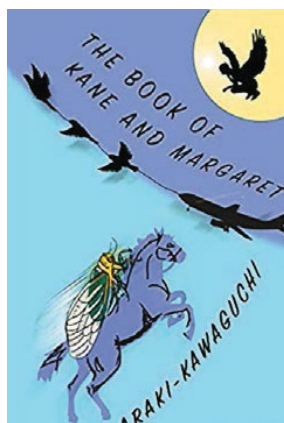
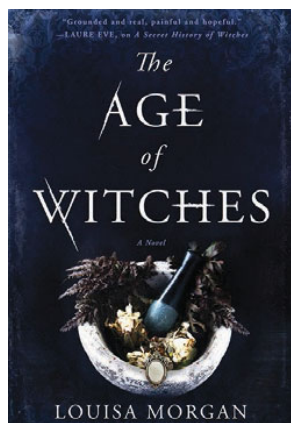
A woman and her family, stationed on the Andaman Islands off the east coast of India at the start of WWII, are set to evacuate when their son disappears with their servant in a novel that explores many cultures and the many dimensions of war.

Hamnet. By Maggie O'Farrell. Knopf, \$26.95 (9780525657606).

O'Farrell's striking, painfully lovely novel about grief is a freely imagined tale inspired by the death of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet, and focused most on Hamnet's mystical mother, Agnes, as she mourns.

Here We Are. By Graham Swift. Knopf, \$22.95 (9780525658054).

In crisp, eloquently understated prose, Swift follows the lives of three show people in post-war Britain, brought together in a variety show on Brighton Pier in 1959.



Jack. By Marilynne Robinson. Farrar, \$27 (9780374279301).

Robinson's latest addition to her profound Gilead saga reveals the story of reprobate Jack and the upstanding woman he loves in a glorious and dramatic inquiry into race, love, and spirit.

The Jane Austen Society. By Natalie Jenner. St. Martin's, \$26.99 (9781250248732).

Residents of the English village of Chawton just after WWII find purpose in preserving Jane Austen's last-known residence in this delightful country tale and clever tribute.

The Last Great Road Bum. By Héctor Tobar. MCD, \$28 (9780374183424).

Joe Sanderson, the quintessential road bum, spent years accumulating adventures and hoping to write a great novel. His death prevented that, but Tobar has done it for him.

A Long Petal of the Sea. By Isabel Allende. Ballantine, \$28 (9781984820150).

Allende encapsulates the complicated horrors of the Spanish Civil War within the epic struggles of doctor Victor Dalmau and musician Roser Bruguera who flee Spain for Chile.

The Lost Diary of M. By Paul Wolfe. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062910660).

Wolfe's deeply probing and haunting first novel takes the form of a diary kept by one of JFK's lovers, Mary Meyer, whose murder is as theorized about as the president's.

The Mermaid from Jeju. By Sumi Hahn. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (9781643854403).

Hahn tells the story of a Korean haenyeo, a freediving woman who gathers sea life, in a transporting mix of family saga, legend, ghostly hauntings, and a love story.

The Mirror & the Light. By Hilary Mantel. Holt, \$30 (9780805096606).

Mantel's virtuoso conclusion to her magnificent Cromwell trilogy takes Henry VIII's fixer through his calamitous final years with vivid detail, shrewd insights, and exhilarating dialogue.

Miss Benson's Beetle. By Rachel Joyce. Dial, \$25 (9780593230954).

Two women journey from England to the South Pacific in search of the beautiful golden beetle in this delightful novel of self-discovery and the power of friendship.

The Moonshiner's Daughter. By Donna Everhart. Kensington, paper, \$15.95 (9781496717023).

A young woman blames her family's moonshining business on her mother's death in this 1960s North Carolina-set coming-of-age story.

The Night Watchman. By Louise Erdrich. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062671189).

A valiant young woman and a night watch-

man on a North Dakota Chippewa reservation confront the threats against their 1950s community and discover its profound strengths.

Old Lovegood Girls. By Gail Godwin. Bloomsbury, \$27 (9781632868220).

Godwin's intricately structured, psychologically refined tale of a long, tested friendship between two women who meet in college, become writers, and suffer profound loss is beautifully sorrowful and charming.

The Other Bennet Sister. By Janice Hadlow. Holt, \$28 (9781250129413).

A moving, immersive *Pride and Prejudice* fan fiction that allows Mary Bennet to bloom from priggish outsider to an intelligent, emotional woman who understands her own worth.

The Paris Secret. By Natasha Lester. Forever, paper, \$16.99 (9781538717288).

Lester's tale of Kat Jourdan's discovery of her grandmother Margaux's hidden life as a Dior-clad WWII spy opens out into a beautifully wrought tale of love, courage, and compassion.

Plain Bad Heroines. By Emily M. Danforth. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062942852).

A sexy, funny, spooky tale that weaves the story of a filmmaker exploring the haunted Brookhants School for Girls together with the spooky story of the girls who came of age there.

The Pull of the Stars. By Emma Donoghue. Little, Brown, \$28 (9780316499019).

In this WWI-era novel about a dedicated nurse in a Dublin hospital, Donoghue offers vivid characters and a gripping portrait of a world beset by a pandemic and political uncertainty.

Remember Me. By Mario Escobar. Thomas Nelson, \$26.99 (9780785236580).

Marco and his younger sisters are sent from war-torn Spain to Mexico in 1937, where they encounter betrayal and danger but hold on to their humanity.

Simon the Fiddler. By Paulette Jiles. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062966742).

Imbued with the dust, grit, and grime of

Galveston at the close of the Civil War, Jiles' masterpiece immerses readers in the challenges of Reconstruction.

Star of Persia: Esther's Story. By Jill Eileen Smith. Revell, paper, \$15.99 (9780800734718).

Smith's fresh and richly contextualized historical novel offers a new look at the biblical hero Esther and other women in her sphere.

Things We Didn't Say. By Amy Lynn Green. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764237164).

Linguist Johanna serves as translator for a German POW camp in Minnesota and finds herself questioning propaganda and patriotism, forgiveness and justice in Green's nuanced and powerful debut novel-in-letters.

Tyll. By Daniel Kehlmann. Tr. by Ross Benjamin. Pantheon, \$26.95 (9781524747466).

Kehlmann brings Tyll Ulenspiegel, the classic itinerant trickster of German folklore, to the seventeenth century in this darkly humorous, dystopian tale.

V2. By Robert Harris. Knopf, \$28.95 (9780525656715).

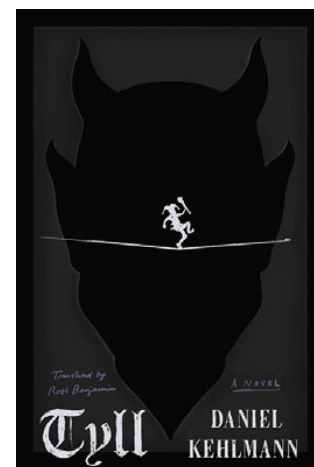
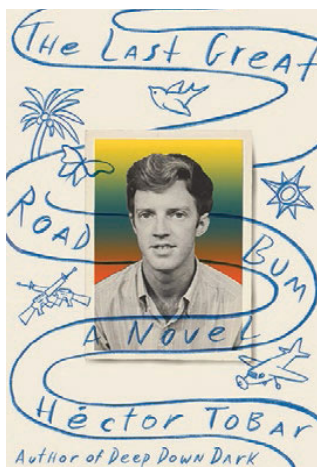
Historical-fiction master Harris returns to WWII to tell the story of the German V2 rocket, combining fascinating technical detail with a moving human drama.

The Voyage of the Morning Light. By Marina Endicott. Norton, paper, \$15.95 (9781324007067).

Endicott combines a bracing seafaring adventure with the equally dramatic journey of a young Canadian woman discovering and honoring her genuine nature as she voyages around the world.

Where the Lost Wander. By Amy Harmon. Amazon/Lake Union, paper, \$14.95 (9781542017961).

A sumptuous historical novel about romance on the Oregon Trail, told with rich realism and from multiple perspectives, including the responses of the Native peoples to the incursion on their lands.



Romance

All Scot and Bothered. By Kerrigan Byrne. St. Martin's, paper, \$7.99 (9781250318862).

Mathematician Cecelia Teague continues to run her gambling establishment after she inherits a girls' school and acquires the suspicions of the sexy lord chief justice in Byrne's soul-searing historical.

Bears Behaving Badly. By MaryJanice Davidson. Sourcebooks/Casablanca, paper, \$7.99 (9781492697015).

Davidson is in peak form in this hilarious, sexy, and heartfelt paranormal romance launching a new series and featuring two shifters, an interspecies caseworker, and a hunky investigator.

Before I Called You Mine. By Nicole Deese. Bethany, paper, \$14.99 (9780764234958).

In an inspirational novel rich in genuine feelings, Deese portrays first-grade teacher Lauren who hopes to adopt a child on her own, but who then falls for substitute teacher Joshua.

The Book of Second Chances. By Katherine Slee. Forever, paper, \$15.99 (9781538701652).

Slee's bewitching debut about an illustrator setting out on a treasure hunt orchestrated by her children's author grandmother is a beautiful tribute to books and the imagination.

Boyfriend Material. By Alexis Hall. Sourcebooks/Casablanca, paper, \$14.99 (9781728206141).

Somewhat famous Luc needs to clean up his image, so he launches "Operation Fake Respectable Boyfriend," only to find that his pretend relationship with Oliver just might be the real thing.

Breathe the Sky. By Michelle Hazen. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9781984803313).

Wildlife biologist Mari and construction foreman Jack, both abuse survivors, overcome adversity and fear in a romance as hot as the Mojave Desert setting.

The Care and Feeding of Waspish Widows. By Olivia Waite. Avon, paper, \$6.99 (9780062931825).

When Agatha Griffin seeks help from bee expert Penelope Flood, she is astonished at her feelings in Waite's latest poetic and marvelously inventive F/F Regency romance.

Close Up. By Amanda Quick. Berkley, \$27 (9781984806840).

In Quick's latest 1930s Burning Cove tale, photographer Vivian documents crime scenes until one shot puts her in danger and in deliciously close proximity to private investigator Nick Sundridge.

A Cowboy to Remember. By Rebekah Weatherspoon. Dafina, paper, \$7.99 (9781496725400).

A fall and memory loss sends celebrity chef Evie back home, where cowboy Zach rejected her in the charming start to Weatherspoon's multicultural Cowboys of California series.

Dance Away with Me. By Susan Elizabeth Phillips. Morrow, \$28.99 (9780062973054).

Phillips delivers grieving midwife Tess to a small Tennessee town, where she meets celebrated and cranky artist Ian, resulting in an emotionally enriching, breathtakingly brilliant tale of heartbreak and hope.

Engaged to the Earl. By Lisa Berne. Avon, paper, \$7.99 (9780062852359).

Berne's entrancing Regency romance features exquisitely realized characters and a delightfully done friends-to-lovers plot fueled by sweet charm, sharp wit, and heart-melting sexual chemistry.

Forever My Duke. By Olivia Drake. St. Martin's, paper, \$7.99 (9781250174390).

In a clever plot, Drake delivers an outspoken American frontierswoman to England, where she crosses paths with a duke, and an unlikely and steamy romance ensues.

The Gentleman and the Thief. By Sarah M. Eden. Shadow Mountain, paper, \$15.99 (9781629727905).

Ana, a music teacher and a thief, sort of, meets secret penny-dreadful author Hollis, who helps Victorian London's street children, and, as romance blossoms, they investigate a true criminal enterprise.

Grown-Up Pose. By Sonya Lalli. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9780451490964).

A heartwarming, second-chance romance about Anusha Desai, who wants to be more than a perfect Indian wife and mother.

The Happy Ever after Playlist. By Abby Jimenez. Forever, paper, \$15.99 (9781538715642).

A lost-and-found mutt, depressed Sloan's dream of keeping him, and the objections of his owner, Jason, make for an exceptionally sensitive, funny, and affirming romance.

The Haunting at Bonaventure Circus. By Jaime Jo Wright. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764233890).

Chandler's restoration of an historic train depot on the former grounds of the Bonaventure Circus resurrects a spooky, serial-killer cold case in Wright's captivating, unexpectedly sensitive tale.

An Heiress to Remember. By Maya Rodale. HarperCollins, \$7.99 (9780062838841).

In Rodale's latest Gilded Age Girls Club title, Beatrice's family business is threatened by that of a spurned suitor's, making for a sexy tale of rivalry and romance.

Her Night with the Duke. By Diana Quincey. Avon, paper, \$7.99 (9780062986795).

Stranded without a room at the inn, Lady Delilah "Leela" Chambers spends the night with a stranger, Elliot Townsend, Duke of Huntington, who turns out to be her stepdaughter's beau.

How to Catch a Queen. By Alyssa Cole. Avon, paper, \$7.99 (9780062933966).

The scintillating and original start to Cole's Runaway Royals series features newly crowned King Sanyu II and brilliant commoner Shanti, who has every intention of becoming the true queen.

A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Mayhem. By Manda Collins. Forever, paper, \$14.99 (9781538736135).

Newspaper columnist Lady Katherine Bascomb ends up working on a serial murder case with Inspector Andrew Eversham in Collins' superb and witty Victorian tale of romantic suspense.

The Librarian of Boone's Hollow. By Kim Vogel Sawyer. WaterBrook, paper, \$17 (9780525653721).

In this grace-based tale, Addie Cowherd arrives in Boone's Hollow, Kentucky, to work as a WPA pack-horse librarian, posing complex challenges for library manager Emmett Tharp.

Love Is a Rogue. By Lenora Bell. Avon, paper, \$7.99 (9780062993458).

Driven by the magnetism between an intellectual and a carpenter, Bell's start to her circa-1830s Wallflowers vs. Rogues series is brilliant and intoxicating.

A Mosaic of Wings. By Kimberly Duffy. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764235634).

Duffy's elegantly told tale of late-nineteenth-century entomology postgrads Nora Shipley and Owen Epps, Nora's academic rival, and a field expedition in India dramatizes with delicate precision complex personal transformations.

Mr. Malcolm's List. By Suzanne Allain. Berkley, paper, \$16 (9780593197400).

Allain offers a cheeky look at the gender biases of the Regency era in this smart and emotionally engaging romance featuring wonderfully evolving characters and entertaining social critiques.

Nothing Short of Wondrous. By Regina Scott. Revell, \$15.99 (9780800736408).

Young widow Kate Tremaine takes charge of an inn within Yellowstone National Park in 1886 and joins forces with Lieutenant Will Prescott to preserve the wild and seek love.

Notorious. By Minerva Spencer. Kensington, paper, \$15.95 (9781496732835).

Spencer kicks off a new Regency-set series, *Rebels of the Ton*, with a smart, sensual, and

witty spin on the popular bluestocking-and-rake trope.

On the Corner of Hope and Main. By Beverly Jenkins. HarperCollins, paper, \$15.99 (9780062699282).

A mayoral election in Henry Adams, Kansas, pitches the town into a frenzy and reignites romance as Jenkins continues her superb and beloved Blessings series.

Party of Two. By Jasmine Guillory. Penguin, paper, \$16 (9780593100820).

Best-selling Guillory's new addition to her multicultural Wedding Date romance series features lawyer Olivia, freshly returned to L.A., and a very hot young U.S. senator.

A Reckless Love. By Beth White. Revell, \$29.99 (9780800738587).

U.S. Deputy Marshal Zane Sager and Aurora Daughtry must contend with dangers associated with Klansmen's trials in 1870 Mississippi, as White presents the gripping conclusion to her Daughtry House trilogy.

Rescue You. By Elysia Whisler. MIRA, paper, \$16.99 (9780778310082).

Two sisters, rescued dogs, an injured war veteran and gym owner, and therapeutic massage are the unusual elements in Whisler's wonderfully complex first romance.

The Runaway Bride. By Jody Hedlund. Bethany, paper, \$15.99 (9780764232961).

Hedlund brings together a woman determined to marry a gentleman on 1862 Vancouver Island and a baker with a rebellious past in this gently sensual inspirational romance.

Say Yes to the Duke. By Eloisa James. Avon, paper, \$7.99 (9780062878069).

James expertly mixes exuberant wit with elegant sensuality as terribly shy Viola Astley is drawn to a quietly charming vicar, but intrigued by devilishly desirable Devin.

Second Chance on Cypress Lane. By Reese Ryan. Forever, \$7.99 (9781538734452).

When Dakota Jones returns to Holly Grove Island, she ends up working with her first love in Ryan's dynamic and gratifying second-chance romance starring African American characters.

Snowball's Christmas. By Kristen McCanagh. Kensington, paper, \$15.95 (9781496729903).

Emily, who works and lives at a Victorian B&B, is skeptical about the owner's visiting photographer nephew, but super-adorable kitten Snowball is a sneaky matchmaker in this sweet Christmas romance.

Something to Talk About. By Meryl Wilsner. Jove, paper, \$16 (9780593102527).

Debut romance author Wilsner delivers a fresh, socially astute, and captivating Hollywood romance about two talented women,



actress-turned-showrunner Jo and her assistant, Emma.

Spoiler Alert. By Olivia Dade. Avon, paper, \$15.99 (9780063005549).

Dade's clever and sexy debut romance about a fan fiction author and the star of her beloved television show addresses body image issues and dyslexia.

Starbreaker. By Amanda Bouchet. Sourcebooks/Casablanca, paper, \$7.99 (9781492667162).

Bouchet continues her Nightchaser series with spaceship Captain Tess Bailey on a risky rescue mission, while her romance with Shade Ganavan intensifies.

Sweet Talkin' Lover. By Tracey Livesay. Avon, \$26.99 (9780062979544).

Caila goes to Bradleton to evaluate an old manufacturing plant and ends up taking measure of "Mayor McHottie" in Livesay's funny and sexy launching of the Girls Trip series.

The Switch. By Beth O'Leary. Flatiron, paper, \$16.99 (9781250769862).

Each dealing with their own grief, Leena and her grandmother, Eileen, decide to swap homes, so Eileen moves to London and Leena to rural Yorkshire, and joyful, wittily told high jinks ensue.

Take a Hint, Dani Brown. By Talia Hibbert. Avon, paper, \$15.99 (9780062941237).

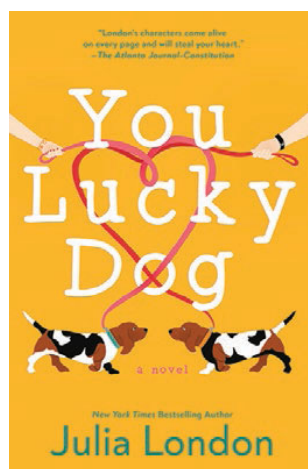
Hibbert's magical friends-to-lovers romance about a PHD student and a security guard who gain unplanned internet fame is smart, authentic, and devilishly funny.

To Have and to Hoax. By Martha Waters. Atria, paper, \$17 (9781982136116).

In her cheeky and charming debut about a faltering marriage, Waters delivers the Regency-set equivalent of a classic 1930s–40s screwball romantic comedy.

The Vanishing. By Jayne Ann Krentz. Berkley, \$27 (9781984806437).

Krentz begins the paranormal-spiked, romantic suspense Fogg Lake series with the



disappearance of Catalina's best friend, and the arrival of Slater, whom Catalina doesn't want to tangle with again.

When a Rogue Meets His Match. By Elizabeth Hoyt. Forever, paper, \$7.99 (9781538763568).

Gideon makes a deal with the viperous duke so that he can marry Messalina, but what if she finds out? Hoyt combines heartbreak and hope in this witty and passionate tale.

The Worst Best Man. By Mia Sosa. Avon, paper, \$15.99 (9780062909879).

In Sosa's zesty, funny, and sexy tale, Lina worries that Max Hartley, who ruined her wedding, is now going to interfere with her dream job.

You Lucky Dog. By Julia London. Berkley/Jove, paper, \$15.99 (9780593100387).

A basset hound mix-up brings together hectic Carly and geeky-cute neuroscience professor Max in London's witty, sexy love story, which celebrates dogs and explores life with a neurodiverse family member.

SF/Fantasy & Horror

88 Names. By Matt Ruff. Harper, \$26.99 (9780062854674).

The virtual and real worlds collide when a gamer and his team are hired by a wealthy celebrity in an sf adventure that explores identity, human relationships, and the frightening potential of the next-generation internet.

The Angel of the Crows. By Katherine Addison. Tor, \$27.99 (9780765387394).

In an alternate historical London, angel Crow and Dr. J. H. Doyle consult on investigations from their offices at 221B Baker Street, including the Jack the Ripper murders.

Annihilation Aria. By Michael R. Underwood. Parvus, paper, \$15.99 (9781733811958).

A fun, action-packed space opera that follows a human archaeologist, his soldier wife, and their cybernetically enhanced pilot as they run from powerful forces interested in the artifact they just found.



Anthropocene Rag. By Alex Irvine. Tor.com, paper, \$14.99 (9781250269270).

A hallucinatory post-apocalyptic America is traversed by six travelers who encounter talking animals, smart storms, and living graffiti on the way to confronting the rich megalomaniac responsible for the world's destruction.

The Archive of the Forgotten. By A. J. Hackwith. Ace, paper, \$16 (9781984806390).

A pool of hungry ink threatens the fragile equilibrium of the fantasy library from *The Library of the Unwritten* (2019) in a tale that gets at the heart of what it means to tell a story.

Ashes of the Sun. By Django Wexler. Orbit, paper, \$16.99 (9780316519540).

Estranged siblings fight on opposite sides of a developing civil war in a post-apocalyptic world that combines magic, alchemy, and technology.

Asperfell. By Jamie Thomas. Uproar, paper, \$18.50 (9781949671063).

A fantasy debut follows young Briony Tenebrae, who crosses into an inescapable prison to dethrone a tyrant, only to find the prison both mundane and inaccessible without magic powers.

Attack Surface. By Cory Doctorow. Tor, \$26.99 (9781250757531).

Masha Maximow assuages her guilt about her government surveillance work by helping those who need to hide, until she is fired and must reckon with the harm she has done.

Battle Ground. By Jim Butcher. Ace, \$28 (9780593199305).

A bigger and darker Dresden Files emerges as an apocalyptic confrontation descends on Chicago, and even Harry's allies can't be trusted.

A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor. By Hank Green. Dutton, \$27 (9781524743475).

The raucous, inventive sequel to *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* (2018) follows three of April May's friends as they deal with the disappearance of the extracurricular Carls.

The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy, 2020. Ed. by Diana Gabaldon and John Joseph Adams. HMH, paper, \$16.99 (9781328613103).

The latest in the long-running anthology series features struggles on a generation ship, multi-generational lesbian romance, a Lovecraft retelling, and more.

The Big Book of Modern Fantasy. Ed. by Ann VanderMeer and Jeff VanderMeer. Vintage, paper, \$25 (9780525563860).

A wide-ranging anthology of fantasy published after 1945, including a surrealist tale of menacing wall-fish and an Oz-like wonderland threatened by a mysterious black glacier.

The Blade Between. By Sam J. Miller. Ecco, \$26.99 (9780062969828).

A sprawling, insightful exploration of the

gentrification of Hudson, New York, through the eyes of three current and former residents whose efforts to save the town are met with supernatural resistance.

The Boatman's Daughter. By Andy Davidson. Farrar/MCD, paper, \$16 (9780374538552).

A haunting, lyrical Southern Gothic horror tale about a bayou smuggler and the generations that surround her.

A Bond Undone. By Jin Yong. Tr. by Gigi Chang. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250220684).

Guo Ji and Lotus travel through *jianghu* as Guo Ji pursues vengeance for his father in the second installment of this newly translated, highly influential classic of the *wuxia* genre.

Bone Chase. By Weston Ochse. Saga, \$26 (9781534450097).

Ochse tells the gripping story of Ethan McCloud, who is plunged into a mystery involving a six-fingered man, giants, and a global conspiracy that reaches back into ancient history.

The Book of Dragons. Ed. by Jonathan Strahan. Harper Voyager, \$35 (9780062877161).

A wide variety of stories and poems set on Earth, in fantasy worlds, and in space that focus on one of the most enduring creatures in speculative fiction.

The Burning God. By R. F. Kuang. Harper Voyager, \$26.99 (9780062662620).

In the conclusion to the Poppy War trilogy, Rin must decide between trusting others who share her powers and training new warriors, not considering how she will live when war is over.

The City We Became. By N. K. Jemisin. Orbit, \$28 (9780316509848).

Five people experience new powers as they each become an avatar for one of the City's five boroughs in award-winning Jemisin's foray into contemporary fantasy.

Cry of Metal & Bone. By L. Penelope. St. Martin's, paper, \$18.99 (9781250148117).

Penelope's third Earthsinger Chronicles tale is an epic, sprawling, inclusive, and romantic fan-

tasy adventure with exciting characters battling everything from xenophobia and terrorism to airship sabotage and corrupt academia.

A Deadly Education. By Naomi Novik. Del Rey, \$27 (9780593128480).

In this fresh and fast-paced series starter, El, a loner student at the magic school Scholomance, must prevent the school champion from causing apocalyptic destruction.

Deal with the Devil. By Kit Rocha. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250256294).

Two mercenary teams—biometrically enhanced supersoldiers and genetically enhanced librarians—road trip to save the legendary Rogue Library of Congress, facing secrets, landmines, and dangerous romance.

A Declaration of the Rights of Magicians. By H. G. Parry. Redhook, \$28 (9780316459082).

This impeccably researched alternate history follows eighteenth-century figures around the world as they fight revolutions, enslavement, and a growing, dark magical presence.

Devolution. By Max Brooks. Del Rey, \$28 (9781984826787).

A terrifying first-person account of an invasion of folkloric creatures into an unsuspecting neighborhood cut off from technology and the outside world.

Devoted. By Dean Koontz. Amazon/Thomas & Mercer, \$28.99 (9781542019507).

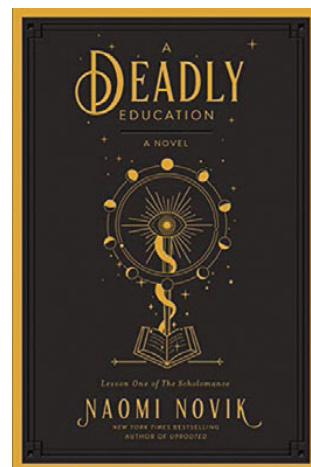
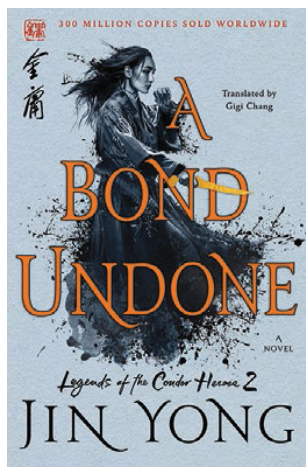
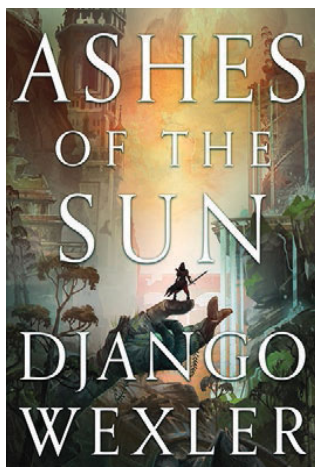
Adroitly mixing elements of SF and horror, Koontz taps into one of literature's oldest themes, the monster versus the innocents. Scary, sickening (in that good way), and touching.

Driftwood. By Marie Brennan. Tachyon, paper, \$15.95 (9781616963460).

In a world made up of scraps of other, dying worlds, a seemingly immortal guide disappears, and in a series of vignettes, residents try to piece together his purpose.

Drowned Country. By Emily Tesh. paper, \$14.99 (9781250756602).

The complex, dreamy follow-up to *Silver in*



the Wood (2019) uses evocative descriptions of nature to tell a story of quiet courage, magic, and queer love.

Elsewhere. By Dean Koontz. Amazon/Thomas & Mercer, \$22.99 (9781542019859).

In a gutsy blend of SF and family drama, Koontz sends a father and daughter on a journey to reunite with their vanished mother.

The Empire of Gold. By S. A. Chakraborty. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062678164).

Chakraborty continues the stories of Nahri, Ali, and Dara with musical prose, majestic settings, and a compassionate and epic story concluding an enthralling fantasy trilogy.

The Empress of Salt and Fortune.

By Nghi Vo. Tor.com, paper, \$11.99 (9781250750303).

A young novice and their companion seek to recover artifacts from an abandoned abbey, but they find an old woman who weaves the epic tale of the exiled empress.

Fires of Vengeance. By Evan Winter. Orbit, \$28 (9780316489805).

The sequel to *A Rage of Dragons* (2019) finds Champion Tau desperately training commoners like him to defeat those who would usurp the throne of Queen Tsiora.

Forced Perspectives. By Tim Powers. Baen, \$25 (9781982124403).

The occult, Egyptian mythology, and old Hollywood are just a few of the things Sebastian Vickery and Ingrid Castine have to deal with as they flee unknown assailants in the spirit world of modern Los Angeles.

Harrow the Ninth. By Tamsyn Muir. Tor, \$26.99 (9781250313225).

The sequel to *Gideon the Ninth* (2019) finds new Lyctor Harrow learning to manage her new necromantic abilities while dealing with unhelpful mentors, frenemies, and ghosts of her past.

Hella. By David Gerrold. DAW, \$26 (9780756416577).

The delicate survival systems of a colony of humans on a distant, ecologically hostile planet is upset when more people arrive, and neuroatypical teen Kyle has the chance to save the day.

Highfire. By Eoin Colfer. HarperPerennial, \$19.99 (9780062938558).

Colfer, author of the Artemis Fowl children's books, offers adults this delightfully funny, quite obscene tale of vodka-swilling Vern, who hides away in the Louisiana swamp because he's, well, a dragon.

A House at the Bottom of a Lake. By Josh Malerman. Del Rey, paper, \$16 (9780593237779).

A young couple on their first date discover a hidden lake with a secret: a submerged house,

generating the obsessive curiosity and danger that propel this enchanting dark fantasy.

House of Earth and Blood. By Sarah J. Maas. Bloomsbury, \$28 (9781635574043).

A moving urban fantasy series starter finds half-fae Bryce Quinlan trying to solve her best friend's murder with the help of a feared demon hunter, and sparks fly as the plot thickens.

If It Bleeds. By Stephen King. Scribner, \$30 (9781982137977).

King presents four welcoming, terrifying, and charming novellas about a boy and a reclusive millionaire, a struggling writer, a serial killer, and our multitude of selves.

Ink. By Jonathan Maberry. St. Martin's/Griffin, paper, \$17.99 (9781250765888).

Maberry returns to Pine Deep, Pennsylvania, in this stand-alone horror story about people losing pieces of their identities and how they respond to the loss.

Ink & Sigil: From the World of the Iron Druid Chronicles. By Kevin Hearne. Del Rey, \$28 (9781984821256).

This offshoot of the Iron Druid series introduces Al, a simple printer who is actually an agent tasked with keeping the worlds of the human and the Fae separate.

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue. By V. E. Schwab. Tor, \$26.99 (9780765387561).

In 1714, Addie sells her soul to live forever, but for 300 years, everyone who sees her forgets her in this lush, raw, romantic tale.

The Light Years. By R. W. W. Greene. Angry Robot, paper, \$12.99 (9780857668363).

The story of a planet-bound orphan betrothed to a space traveler is a thriller that asks big questions about family, anger, and resistance versus acceptance.

Looking Glass. By Christina Henry. Ace, paper, \$16 (9781984805638).

Four interconnected stories fill in details and provide a satisfying resolution for the beloved characters of the Chronicles of Alice series.

Love after the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction. Ed. by Joshua Whitehead. Arsenal Pulp, paper, \$18.95 (9781551528113).

A fresh anthology by Two-Spirit/queer Indigenous authors explores surviving an apocalypse by rejecting colonial or individualistic methods.

Malorie. By Josh Malerman. Del Rey, \$28 (9780593156858).

In the sequel to *Bird Box* (2014), Malorie and her now teenage companions must flee again into a world terrorized by blindness-inducing horrors, where ramped-up twists and tension await.

The Memory of Souls. By Jenn Lyons. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250175571).

In the third book of the Chorus of Dragons series, Kihrin and her allies rely on newly remembered past lives to regain the throne from the King of Demons.

The Ministry for the Future. By Kim Stanley Robinson. Orbit, \$28 (9780316300131).

The leader of an international environmental organization and a doctor work to save humanity and the planet from the ravages of climate change in a story that is both epic and intimate.

My Favorites. By Ben Bova. Blackstone, \$24.99 (9781094000923).

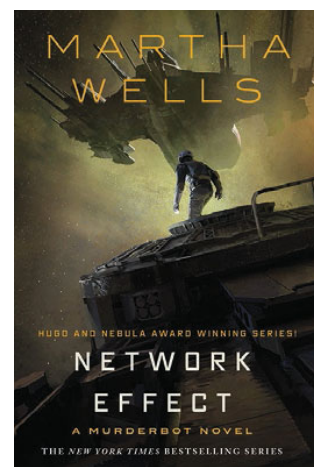
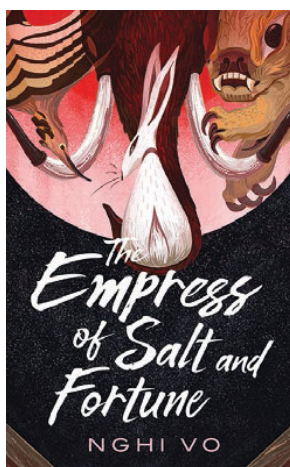
A collection of Bova's favorite stories that reveals his versatility and storytelling genius, ranging from a time-traveling alternate history to a sequel to *Casablanca*.

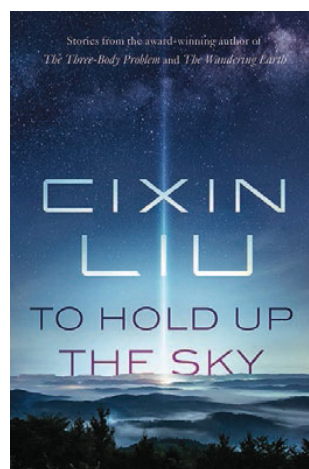
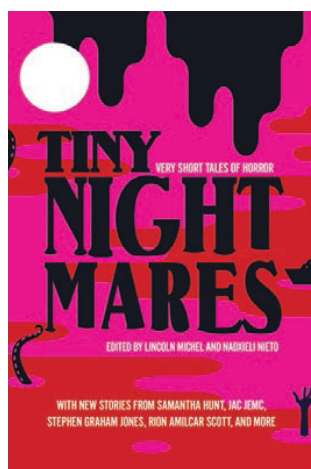
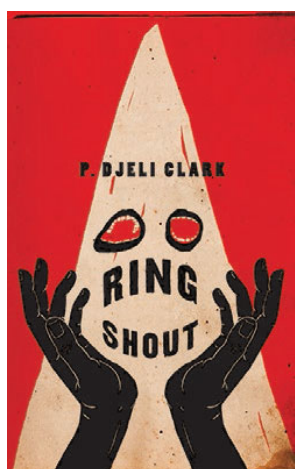
Network Effect. By Martha Wells. Tor, \$26.99 (9781250229861).

In a story as action-packed as ever but with the welcome addition of richer details, everyone's favorite Murderbot finds themselves kidnapped while providing security on a research outing, by what appears to be an old friend.

The New Improved Sorceress. By Sara Hanover. DAW, paper, \$16 (9780756414375).

College student Tessa Andrews adjusts to college life, complete with supernatural friends who help her on her quest to locate a treasure, and possibly some powers of her own.





Otaku. By Chris Kluwe. Tor, \$26.99 (9781250203939).

A resilient gamer takes on a dangerous, only-sort-of-legal side job to help her mother, discovering that cutting edge gaming equipment might be more than what it seems.

Peace Talks. By Jim Butcher. Ace, \$28 (9780451464415).

The long-awaited return of Chicago magician Harry Dresden finds his seemingly settled life upended by a vampire queen, his misbehaving brother, and an unprecedented meeting of supernatural leaders.

Red Hands. By Christopher Golden. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9781250246301).

The latest Ben Walker horror-thriller invokes maximum terror as he and his team track down a woman with a sickness that kills anyone she touches.

Ring Shout. By P. Djeli Clark. Tor, \$19.99 (9781250767028).

In 1920s Georgia, a young Black bootlegger and her friends are summoned to fight extradimensional monsters that possess the willing bodies of Klan members, and then an even greater threat arrives.

Rule. By Rowenna Miller. Orbit, paper, \$16.99 (9780316478694).

Charm caster Sophie uses her skills to protect the Reformist army, led by her brother and her fiancé, during her country's civil war which becomes even more dangerous as they approach the capital in a trilogy conclusion that will have series fans cheering.

Shorefall. By Robert Jackson Bennett. Del Rey, \$28 (9781524760380).

The Founders series reaches new depths of world building with fascinating new characters as Sancia and Gregor try to save the city of Tevanne using magically imbued technology.

Situation Normal. By Leonard Richardson. Candlemark & Gleam, paper, \$24.45 (9781936460991).

An irreverent romp about intergalactic civilizations whose cultures are modeled on brands

and video serials, which looks at prejudice and slavery from multiple viewpoints.

Sixteenth Watch. By Myke Cole. Angry Robot, paper, \$14.99 (9780857668059).

U.S. Coast Guard commander Jane Oliver, while dealing with a personal tragedy, must train a crew to prevent a war with China in space.

A Snake Lies Waiting. By Jin Yong. St. Martin's/Griffin, paper, \$17.99 (9781250250124).

The third Condor Heroes follows Guo Jing and Lotus Huang as they survive a shipwreck, infiltrate a palace, and fight both their enemies and their burgeoning feelings for each other.

The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires. By Grady Hendrix. Quirk, \$21.99 (9781683691433).

A pitch-perfect mashup of domestic satire and tense horror follows suburban housewives in a true crime book club who must save their children from a daylight-averse neighbor.

Starborn & Godsons. By Larry Niven and others. Baen, \$25 (9781982124489).

A space colony is beginning to collapse under technological and physical strain, until the Godsons arrive and promise to set things right in this gritty, exciting story from three masters of the genre.

Survivor Song. By Paul Tremblay. Morrow, \$27.99 (9780062679161).

The terrifyingly realistic tale of two women—one, a pediatrician, the other, her pregnant best friend—on the run from a virulent strain of rabies, framed as a folk song and written with lyricism and horror.

The Taxidermist's Lover. By Polly Hall. CamCat, \$24.99 (9780744300376).

A modern gothic told in alternating time lines in Scarlett's life, one in her troubled childhood, the other with her lover, who turns taxidermy into high art to increasingly menacing degrees.

That We May Live: Speculative Chinese Fiction. Two Lines, paper, \$16.95 (9781949641004).

A compelling and provocative collection

exploring the thin line between reality and absurdity.

Tiny Nightmares: Very Short Tales of Horror. Ed. by Lincoln Michel and Nadxieli Nieto. Black Balloon, paper, \$16.95 (9781948226622).

In 1500 words or less, 42 authors of both horror and literary fiction surprise, scare, and confound in this outstanding anthology.

To Hold Up the Sky. By Cixin Liu. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250306081).

This collection illuminates the strength and variety of Liu's writing, focusing on high-concept, large-scale sf stories featuring ideas like a digital, crime-free duplicate of the universe or a disruption of space-time.

To Sleep in a Sea of Stars. By Christopher Paolini. Tor, \$29.99 (9781250762849).

The wildly popular YA fantasy author transitions to adult sf in this tale of a xenobiologist who stumbles on some alien tech that leads her on a quest across the galaxy with a ragtag crew.

Tomb of Gods. By Brian Moreland. Flame Tree, \$24.95 (9781787584143).

A dark, claustrophobic Egyptian tomb promises archaeological greatness for Imogen Riley and her ex, but the treasure is not a mummy or gold, but something else entirely.

Twilight of the Gods. By Scott Oden. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (9780312372958).

Two hundred years after the events of *A Gathering of Ravens* (2017), Grimnir must choose between protecting his home against armies driven by prophecy and avenging the death of his mother.

The Tyrant Baru Cormorant. By Seth Dickinson. Tor, \$29.99 (9781466875142).

A magnificent antihero is the center of this continuing epic featuring plagues and sorcerers, as Baru tries to destroy an evil empire from the inside.

Unconquerable Sun. By Kate Elliott. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250197245).

A stirring, fast-paced series starter features the ambitious daughter of a queen and her team of loyal friends facing off against political rivals, sea monsters, and antagonistic empires.

Unreconciled. By W. Michael Gear. DAW, \$27 (9780756415662).

The fourth Donovan novel (after *Pariah*, 2019) is grittier and more thrilling, with the arrival of a beleaguered starship transport whose passengers were forced to turn to cannibalism, and who now believe themselves possessors of the souls they have eaten.

The Unwilling. By Kelly Braffet. MIRA, \$26.99 (9780778309406).

An adoptive brother and sister are on opposite sides of their father's favor, but their

bond—they can feel each other's pain—may just be magical.

Upright Women Wanted. By Sarah Gailey. Tor, \$20.99 (9781250213587).

A post-apocalyptic Western in which a young woman stows away with the Librarians delivering Approved Materials across a barren southwest and discovers surprising truths.

Uranus. By Ben Bova. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250296542).

A fast-paced series starter about a habitat around Uranus and the forces of good and evil that operate there, and the discovery of an ancient civilization destroyed by alien invaders that may be coming back.

Vagabonds. By Hao Jingfang. Tr. by Ken Liu. Saga, \$27.99 (9781534422087).

In the 22nd century, collectivist Mars and capitalist Earth are on the brink of war, and the granddaughter of a politician, a non-conformist doctor, and a documentarian are caught up in a web of political intrigue.

The Vanished Birds. By Simon Jimenez. Del Rey, \$26 (9780593128985).

This lyrical and moving debut set in a corporate-controlled, space-bound future follows a ship captain, her adopted boy who fell from the sky, and an ancient corporate scientist looking for answers.

Weird Women: Classic Supernatural Fiction by Groundbreaking Female Writers: 1852–1923. Ed. by Lisa Morton and Leslie S. Klinger. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643134161).

A riveting collection of the forgotten women writers who built the horror genre, featuring spooky stories that explore motherhood, queerness, and societal expectations.

The Wise Friend. By Ramsey Campbell. Flame Tree, \$24.95 (9781787584044).

A man must save his teenage son from sinister forces found in arcane family paintings in a take on folk horror with a masterfully rendered sense of dread.

The Witch Hunter. By Max Seeck. Berkley, paper, \$17 (9780593199664).

A vivid, intense thriller that follows investigators trying to solve the murder of Maria Koponen, whose husband's books about the occult mirror some of the clues.

Wonderland. By Zoje Stage. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$28 (9780316458498).

Stage delivers a chilling twist to the haunted-house novel in this astonishing tale about a family of transplanted Manhattanites who find evil lurking in their rural farmhouse.

The Year of the Witching. By Alexis Henderson. Ace, \$26 (9780593099605).

In a strict theocratic society, a woman relies on the help of the son of its ruler to stop impending darkness and disease.

Graphic Novels

Adult

The Adventure Zone: Petals to the Metal. By Clint McElroy and others. Illus. by Carey Pietsch. First Second, paper, \$19.99 (9781250232632).

The third installment in this comic series inspired by the Adventure Zone podcast features a high-octane battle-wagon chase and quest for treasure.

Apsara Engine. By Bishakh Som. Illus. by the author. Feminist, paper, \$24.95 (9781936932818).

Som's debut graphic collection presents a brave new world of diverse women, balancing the expectantly mundane with the utterly fantastical.

Bix. By Scott Chantler. Illus. by the author. Gallery, \$29.99 (9781501190780).

This formally experimental portrait of Bix Beiderbecke “visualizes musical rhythms” as it explores the jazz legend's travels, success, and eventual ruin.

Come Home, Indio. By Jim Terry. Illus. by the author. Street Noise, paper, \$16.99 (9781951491048).

Deeply expressive artwork communicates the emotional current in Terry's graphic memoir about dealing with alcoholism and connecting with his Native roots.

The Complete Penultimate Quest. By Lars Brown. Illus. by Lars Brown and Bex Glendining. Iron Circus, paper, \$25 (9781945820502).

Harald, trapped in an endless dungeon crawler reminiscent of video game RPGs, fights to free himself and atone for his past.

Doomsday Clock, Part 2. By Geoff Johns. Illus. by Gary Frank. DC, \$24.99 (9781779501189).

This concluding volume sees classic DC heroes colliding with their *Watchmen* counterparts, culminating in an emblematic confrontation between Superman and Dr. Manhattan.

Guantánamo Voices: True Accounts from the World's Most Infamous Prison. Ed. by Sarah Mirk. Abrams ComicArts, \$24.99 (9781419746901).

Graphic narratives from a collective of journalists and comic artists confront controversies around the prison known as Guantánamo in this anthology.

Happiness Will Follow. By Mike Hawthorne. Illus. by the author. Boom!/Archaia, \$24.99 (9781684155453).

This profoundly moving and conflicted memoir of the artist's life with his abusive mother is rendered in piercing, masterful artwork.

The Loneliness of the Long-Distance

Cartoonist. By Adrian Tomine. Illus. by the author. Drawn & Quarterly, \$29.95 (9781770463950).

Tomine's wryly funny memoir of a life in comics is expertly drawn, deeply affecting, and full of humble, self-deprecating humor.

The Low, Low Woods. By Carmen Maria Machado. Illus. by Dani and Tamra Bonvillain. DC Comics, \$24.99 (9781779504524).

After waking up in a theater without their memories, two teenage girls investigate the horrifying occurrences in their small town.

Menopause: A Comic Treatment. Ed. by MK Czerwicz. Pennsylvania State Univ., \$29.95 (9780271087122).

This valuable addition to the growing field of graphic medicine gathers 26 varied and echoing perspectives.

Moms. By Yeong-shin Ma. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Janet Hong. Drawn & Quarterly, paper, \$29.95 (9781770464001).

Ma's mother's own journal is the inspiration for this graphic novel about raucous, vivid, and dynamically rendered middle-aged moms.

Nineteen. By Ancco. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Janet Hong. Drawn & Quarterly, paper, \$21.95 (9781770464100).

This collection of rebellious, irreverent, and deeply observational autobiographical comics provides a poignant, raw glimpse into the life of the artist.

Papaya Salad. By Elisa Macellari. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Carla Roncalli Di Montorio. Dark Horse, \$24.99 (9781506719139).

An inviting account from Macellari of her Thai great-uncle's experiences during WWII, traveling the world as a soldier and experiencing danger and deprivation.

Slaughterhouse-Five: The Graphic Novel. By Kurt Vonnegut and Ryan North. Illus. by Albert Monteys. Boom!/Archaia, \$24.99 (9781684156252).

This graphic adaptation of Vonnegut's iconic novel powerfully transforms the source material with poignant, clever visual storytelling and artwork.

The Times I Knew I Was Gay. By Eleanor Crewes. Illus. by the author. Scribner, \$25 (9781982147105).

With neat pencil cartoons, Crewes draws her gloriously not-near journey to understand her sexuality, beginning in childhood.

Umma's Table. By Yeon-sik Hong. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Janet Hong. Drawn & Quarterly, paper, \$29.95 (9781770463868).

Anthropomorphized cat figures soften the intensity of this graphic novel about Madang,

who's caring for his dying mother and wrestling with his abusive childhood.

Venus in the Blind Spot. By Junji Ito. Illus. by the author. VIZ Media, \$22.99 (9781974715473).

This horror manga collection of 10 shorts includes adapted works in addition to stories by the popular Ito.

Welcome to the New World. By Jake Halpern. Illus. by Michael Sloan. Holt/Metropolitan, paper, \$21.99 (9781250305596).

This compilation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* series tells the true experience of two Syrian immigrants and their families.

Year of the Rabbit. By Tian Veasna. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Helge Dascher. Drawn & Quarterly, paper, \$29.95 (9781770463769).

Veasna's graphic debut recounts his and his family's experience under the murderous Khmer Rouge regime in post-Vietnam War Cambodia.

YA

Almost American Girl. By Robin Ha. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$22.99 (9780062685100). Gr. 9–12.

Ha's raw, honest graphic memoir about moving to the U.S. from Korea as a teen is movingly vulnerable and artfully told.

Banned Book Club. By Hyun Sook Kim and Ryan Estrada. Illus. by Ko Hyung-Ju. Iron Circus, paper, \$15 (9781945820427). Gr. 9–12.

Hyun Sook joins an underground, activist book club in defiance of Korea's totalitarian government in this semi-autobiographical graphic novel.

Beetle and the Hollowbones. By Aliza Layne. Illus. by the author. Atheneum, \$21.99 (9781534441538). Gr. 3–7.

When her friends' safety is threatened, preteen goblin Beetle must learn to trust her magical abilities.

A Cat Story. By Ursula Murray Husted. Illus. by the author. Harper/Quill Tree, paper, \$12.99 (9780062932044). Gr. 4–7.

As two cats, Cilla and Betto, quest for a mythical garden, they journey through art and story.

Catherine's War. By Julia Billet. Illus. by Claire Fauvel. Tr. by Ivanka Hahnenberger. Harper, \$21.99 (9780062915603). Gr. 4–7.

Based on the life of the author's mother, this graphic adaptation of a French novel tells the story of one of the hidden children of WWII.

Class Act. By Jerry Craft. Illus. by the author. Harper/Quill Tree, \$22.99 (9780062885517). Gr. 4–7.

This follow-up to *New Kid* turns the focus to Jordan's friend Drew and his struggles as a Black kid at their predominantly white school.



Dancing at the Pity Party. By Tyler Feder. Illus. by the author. Dial, \$18.99 (9780525553021). Gr. 9–12.

Feder celebrates and mourns her beloved mother in this pitch-perfect graphic memoir of love, grief, and healing.

The Daughters of Ys. By M. T. Anderson. Illus. by Jo Rioux. First Second, \$24.99 (9781626728783). Gr. 9–12.

An old Breton folk tale gets a lush graphic treatment in this tale of feuding sisters in a dangerously magical city.

Dragon Hoops. By Gene Luen Yang. Illus. by Gene Luen Yang and Lark Pien. First Second, \$24.99 (9781626720794). Gr. 8–12.

Yang traces basketball history as he follows the Bishop O'Down Dragons in their high-stakes pursuit of a men's state championship.

Dungeon Critters. By Natalie Riess and Sara Goetter. Illus. by the authors. First Second, \$22.99 (9781250195463). Gr. 3–8.

The eponymous adventurers stumble into a grand conspiracy in this cheekily clever graphic novel, which makes thrilling use of the visual format.

The Fire Never Goes Out: A Memoir in Pictures. By Noelle Stevenson. Illus. by the author. HarperTeen, \$19.99 (9780062278272). Gr. 8–12.

Young comics superstar Stevenson recounts the success and mental-health struggles of her twenties in yearly recaps collected from her Tumblr.

Flamer. By Mike Curato. Illus. by the author. Holt, \$25.99 (9781627796415). Gr. 9–12.

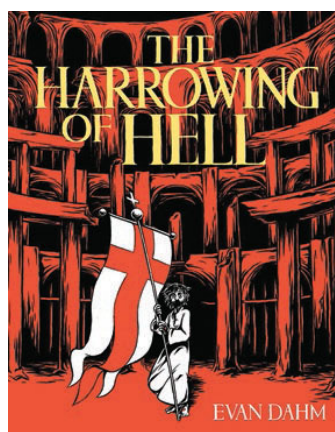
Stunning visual storytelling characterizes this graphic novel about Aiden, who struggles to recognize his sexuality over one week at Boy Scout camp.

The Harrowing of Hell. By Evan Dahm. Illus. by the author. Iron Circus, \$15 (9781945820441). Gr. 10–12.

Following his crucifixion, Christ journeys through Hell in this poignant and thoughtful examination of Christianity's roots.

The Last Halloween: The Children. By Abby Howard. Illus. by the author. Iron Circus, paper, \$25 (9781945820663). Gr. 9–12.

Mona reluctantly goes on a quest in this



sprawling, twisty horror comedy full of grotesque, finely drawn monsters.

Long Way Down. By Jason Reynolds. Illus. by Danica Novgorodoff. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy, \$19.99 (9781534444959). Gr. 7–10.

This graphic adaptation of Reynolds' *Long Way Down* powerfully evokes the novel's themes with aqueous watercolors and a poignant use of negative space.

The Magic Fish. By Trung Le Nguyen. Illus. by the author. Random/RH Graphic, \$23.99 (9780593125298). Gr. 8–12.

With a stunning use of art and color, Nguyen weaves three potent, inter-generational stories together into a deeply illuminating and powerful whole.

Mister Invincible: Local Hero. By Pascal Jouselin. Illus. by the author. Magnetic, paper, \$15.99 (9781942367611). Gr. 4–7.

Bold, surprising, and clever, this ostensibly simple superhero tale playfully experiments with the comic-book format, with delightful results.

The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand. By Nathan Page. Illus. by Drew Shannon. Knopf, \$25.99 (9780525646761). Gr. 8–11.

Mystery, magic, and a long-buried secret combine in this charming and thought-provoking series starter.

Nos llamaron enemigo. By George Takei and others. Illus. by Harmony Becker. Top Shelf, paper, \$19.99 (9781603094832). Gr. 7–10.

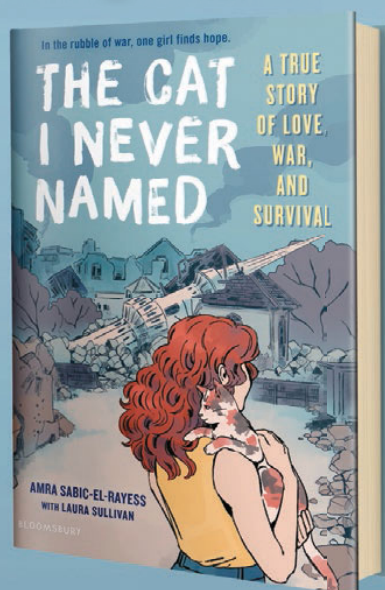
This Spanish-language version of Takei's memoir of Japanese internment camps is particularly pointed, as largely Spanish-speaking migrants are currently being held in detention camps in the U.S.

The Phantom Twin. By Lisa Brown. Illus. by the author. First Second, \$17.99 (9781626729247). Gr. 6–9.

After undergoing risky surgery, Isabel is haunted by the ghost of her once-conjoined twin and the prospect of life outside of the sideshow.



★ THE ★ REVIEWS ARE IN . . .



**A Kirkus Reviews
Best Book**

★ "Unforgettable."
—Kirkus Reviews

★ "Exceptional."
—Booklist

★ "A must-read."
—School Library Journal

★ "Gripping."
—Foreword Reviews

★ "Excellent."
—School Library
Connection

★ "Timely."
—Publishers Weekly

BLOOMSBURY



Shadow of the Batgirl. By Sarah Kuhn. Illus. by Nicole Goux and Cris Peter. DC comics, paper, \$16.99 (9781401289782). Gr. 8–11.

Cassandra Caine dons the bat mantle in this top-tier, character-driven take on the Batgirl origin story.

Snapdragon. By Kat Leyh. Illus. by the author. First Second, \$12.99 (9781250171115). Gr. 4–7.

Snap and Jacks, a rumored witch, strike up an unlikely friendship in this densely plotted, beautifully illustrated graphic novel.

Superman Smashes the Klan. By Gene Luen Yang. Illus. by Gurihiru. DC Comics, \$16.99 (9781779504210). Gr. 7–12.

Inspired by a 74-year-old radio serial, this old-fashioned tale offers contemporary social commentary through Superman's battle with the Klan.

When Stars Are Scattered. By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed. Illus. by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy. Dial, \$20.99 (978052553915). Gr. 6–8.

Somali refugee Mohamed tells of escaping to a crowded refugee camp with his disabled young brother in his care.

Children's

Black Heroes of the Wild West. By James Otis Smith. Illus. by James Otis Smith and Frank Reynoso. TOON, \$16.95 (9781943145515). Gr. 3–6.

Smith shines a spotlight on three overlooked Black people pivotal to the history of the American West.

Bug Boys. By Laura Knetzger. Illus. by the author. Random/RH Graphic, \$13.99 (9781984896766). Gr. 2–4.

In a series of humorous, episodic adventures, two young beetle besties explore their quirky world of quasi-anthropomorphic critters.

Donut Feed the Squirrels. By Mika Song. Illus. by the author. Random/RH Graphic, \$12.99 (9781984895837). Gr. 1–4.

A pair of hungry squirrels devise a plan to steal donuts from a nearby food truck.

Twins. By Varian Johnson. Illus. by Shannon Wright. Scholastic/Graphix, paper, \$12.99 (9781338236170). Gr. 3–6.

After Maureen's twin sister, Francine, begins pulling away socially, they end up as opposing candidates for student council president.

The Weirn Books, v.1: Be Wary of the Silent Woods. By Svetlana Chmakova. Illus. by the author. Yen/JY, \$24 (9781975311216). Gr. 3–6.

Ailis and her cousins, along with their magical familiars, stumble upon perilous, decades-old secrets in this charming, just-scary-enough middle-grade graphic novel.

Youth Nonfiction

Older Readers

Apple: Skin to the Core. By Eric Gansworth. Illus. by the author. Levine Querido, \$18.99 (9781646140138). Gr. 10–12.

Gansworth, a tribally enrolled Onandaga, offers an illuminating memoir in verse and lyric prose that confronts racism facing Native peoples.

The Big Questions Book of Sex and Consent. By Donna Freitas. Levine Querido, \$18.99 (9781646140183). Gr. 7–12.

Freitas straightforwardly gives teens the information and critical questions they need as they consider embarking on sexual relationships.

The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person. By Frederick Joseph. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536217018). Gr. 7–12.

Through personal stories and interviews, Joseph helps readers understand white privilege and racism, fostering a desire to fight for racial justice.

Call Me American: The Extraordinary True Story of a Young Somali Immigrant. By Abdi Nor Iftin. Delacorte, \$17.99 (9781984897114). Gr. 7–12.

A vividly written young adult adaptation of Abdi's memoir about growing up in Somalia and immigrating to America.

The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival. By Amra Sabic-El-Rayess and Laura L. Sullivan. Bloomsbury, \$19.99 (9781547604531). Gr. 9–12.

In this exceptional memoir, Amra recalls growing up during the Bosnian War, detailing the beauty and the brutality of her life.

Channel Kindness: Stories of Kindness and Community. By Lady Gaga and Born This Way Foundation Reporters. Feiwel and Friends, \$24.99 (9781250245588). Gr. 8–12.

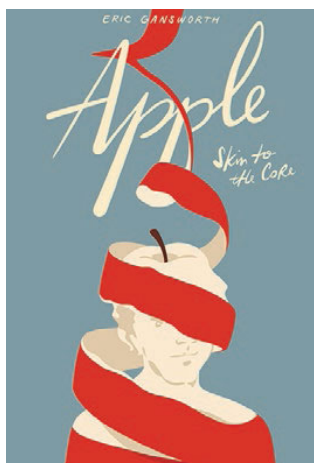
This book on Lady Gaga's Channel Kindness project compiles 51 first-person accounts of homegrown initiatives that make differences in communities.

Concrete Kids. By Amyra León. Illus. by Ashley Lukashevsky. Penguin Workshop, paper, \$8.99 (9780593095195). Gr. 7–12.

Rooting her work in Black womanhood, León utilizes poetry to tell personal stories of injustice without losing sight of life's beauty.

Darwin's Rival: Alfred Russel Wallace and the Search for Evolution. By Christiane Dorion. Illus. by Harry Tennant. Candlewick Studio, \$24.99 (9781536209327). Gr. 6–9.

An absorbing introduction to Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, whose ideas predated Darwin's then-unpublished theory of evolution.



Finding a Way Home: Mildred and Richard Loving and the Fight for Marriage Equality. By Larry Dane Brimner. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek, \$18.99 (9781629797519). Gr. 7–10.

Brimner tells the story behind the *Loving v. Virginia* case and the landmark Supreme Court decision overturning race-based marriage restrictions.

Freedom Summer for Young People: The Violent Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy. By Bruce Watson. Ed. by Rebecca Steffoff. Seven Stories/Triangle Square, \$40 (9781644210093). Gr. 6–10.

During the Freedom Summer project in 1964, civil rights leaders sent college students into Mississippi to work for voting rights.

Hope in the Mail: Reflections on Writing and Life. By Wendelin Van Draanen. Knopf, \$17.99 (9781984894663). Gr. 6–9.

Sammy Keyes series author here offers a highly readable (and enjoyable!) book that is part memoir, part writing manual.

Jane against the World: *Roe v. Wade* and the Fight for Reproductive Rights. By Karen Blumenthal. Roaring Brook, \$19.99 (9781626721654). Gr. 8–12.

Acclaimed author Blumenthal speaks on behalf of *Roe v. Wade* and tackles the history of reproductive rights in America.

Now That We're Men: A Play and True Life Accounts of Boys, Sex & Power. Ed. by Katie Cappiello. Dottir, \$19.95 (9781948340182). Gr. 10–12.

Part play, part essay collection, this provocative book puts modern masculinity and its toxicity at center stage.

One Real American: The Life of Ely S. Parker, Seneca Sachem and Civil War General. By Joseph Bruchac. Abrams, \$18.99 (9781419746574). Gr. 6–10.

This biography of Ely Samuel Parker doubles as a history book that challenges existing narratives of that era of Native and colonial contact.



Pocket Change Collective: The New Queer Conscience. By Adam Eli. Illus. by Ashley Lukashevsky. Penguin Workshop, paper, \$8.99 (9780593093689). Gr. 7–12.

Eli, who identifies as queer and Jewish, posits 10 rules rooted in conscience and kindness to uplift the queer community.

Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan, Fought for Their Lives and Warned the Nation. By Candy Cooper and Marc Aronson. Bloomsbury, \$18.99 (9781547602322). Gr. 8–12.

This detailed book, the first on the topic specifically for young audiences, fills in Flint's history and offers poignant personal stories.

Rainbow Revolutions: Power, Pride, and Protest in the Fight for Queer Rights. By Jamie Lawson. Illus. by Eve Lloyd Knight. Interlink/Crocodile, \$19.95 (9781623719524). Gr. 6–10.

A stunning full-color celebration of LGBTQ+ history that humanizes the queer community and explains many of its joys and challenges.

The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh. By Candace Fleming. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$18.99 (9780525646549). Gr. 9–12.

Acclaimed nonfiction author Fleming maps the complicated, contradictory life of American hero and villain Charles Lindbergh.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You. By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Little, Brown, \$18.99 (9780316453691). Gr. 7–12.

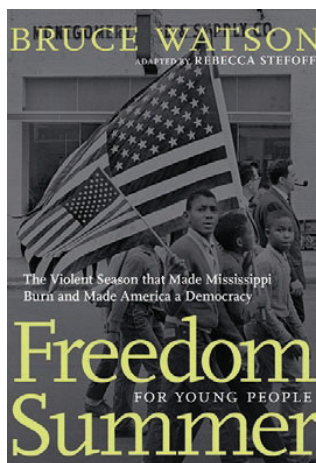
This absorbing, engagingly written young reader's adaptation of *Stamped from the Beginning* should be required reading for everyone.

Taking on the Plastics Crisis. By Hannah Testa. Illus. by Ashley Lukashevsky. Penguin Workshop, paper, \$8.99 (9780593223338). Gr. 7–12.

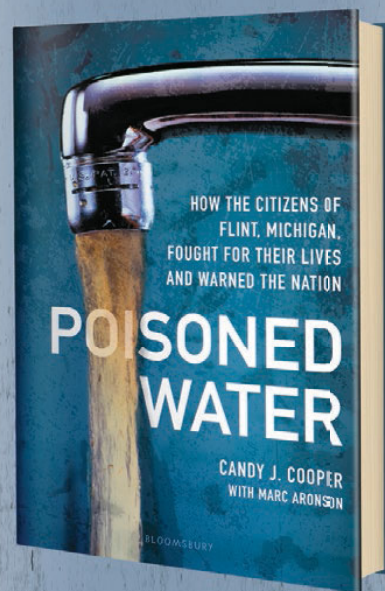
Seventeen-year-old environmental activist Hannah Testa shares personal experiences and advice with teens looking to join the fight against single-use plastics.

Votes of Confidence, 2nd Edition: A Young Person's Guide to American Elections. By Jeff Fleischer. Lerner/Zest, paper, \$14.99 (9781541578975). Gr. 9–12.

This conversational guide to politics updates



FROM AUTHORS
CANDY J. COOPER
AND
MARC ARONSON



A SCHOOL LIBRARY
JOURNAL BEST BOOK

★ "[A] stomach-churning,
blood-boiling,
tear-jerking account."

—SCHOOL LIBRARY
JOURNAL

★ "Poignant."
—BOOKLIST

★ "[A] hard-hitting
journalistic account."
—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

BLOOMSBURY



Women's Lives in Focus

During a year marking the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, it only seems fitting to see so many quality biographies about women.

Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier. By Jim Ottaviani. Illus. by Maris Wicks. First Second, \$12.99 (9781250760036). Gr. 7–10.

Gobs of humor, lively artwork, and tidy explanations of the science make this graphic novel about women in the space program a standout.

Breaking Through: How Female Athletes Shattered Stereotypes in the Roaring Twenties. By Sue Macy. National Geographic, \$18.99 (9781426336768). Gr. 5–8.

The 1920s became a decade of change for women as athletes, with greater numbers participating in competitive sports and excelling.

Building Zaha: The Story of Architect Zaha Hadid. By Victoria Tentler-Krylov. Illus. by the author. Scholastic/Orchard, \$18.99 (9781338282832). Gr. 2–5.

This vivid, biographical picture book introduces Zaha Hadid as a curious, imaginative child who became a visionary, determined architect.

Cubs in the Tub: The True Story of the Bronx Zoo's First Woman Zookeeper. By Candace Fleming. Illus. by Julie Downing. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823443185). PreS–Gr. 2.

A quirky and upbeat picture-book biography of Helen Martini, the first female zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo.

Girl on a Motorcycle. By Amy Novesky. Illus. by Julie Morstad. Viking, \$17.99 (9780593116296). Gr. 1–4.

This picture-book biography offers an arresting look at Anne-France Dautheville, the first woman to travel the world by motorcycle.

I Am Anne Frank. By Brad Meltzer. Illus. by Christopher Eliopoulos. Dial, \$15.99 (9780525555940). Gr. 1–3.

Using disarming cartoons, this moving account of Anne Frank's life highlights the resilience and hope with which she lived.

In One Ear and Out the Other: Antonia Brico and Her Amazingly Musical Life. By Diane Worthey. Illus. by Morgana Wallace. Penny Candy, \$16.95 (9781734225914). Gr. 3–6.

This inviting, well-researched biography about a pioneering woman conductor emphasizes that being the first is never easy.

Joni: The Lyrical Life of Joni Mitchell. By Selina Alko. Illus. by the author. Harper, \$17.99 (9780062671295). K–Gr. 3.

Intense collage-work illustrates the story of folk singer Joni Mitchell, highlighting her most recognizable songs and commitment to honest expression.

Lizzie Demands a Seat! Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights. By Beth Anderson. Illus. by E. B. Lewis. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek, \$17.99 (9781629799391). Gr. 2–4.

When a conductor forces a young Black woman off a New York streetcar in 1854, she decides to fight for equality and dignity.

Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker. By Patricia Hruby Powell. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry, \$17.99 (9781534406230). Gr. 3–6.

Ella Baker, who spoke up for the poor and for women, became a respected figure within the civil rights movement.

Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children. By Jonah Winter. Illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9780449812914). K–Gr. 2.

With dramatic art and told in Mother Jones' insistent voice, this details the children's march that brought attention to the plight of working children.

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read. By Rita Lorraine Hubbard. Illus. by Oge Mora. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9781524768287). Gr. 1–3.

The story of Mary Walker, who at age 116—after surviving enslavement and witnessing the civil rights movement—learned to read.

The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & Her New Deal for America. By Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Alexandra Bye. Atheneum, \$18.99 (9781481491518). Gr. 1–4.

This picture-book biography details the life of Frances Perkins, a boundary-breaking woman who created the U.S. Social Security system.

Rachel Carson and Ecology for Kids: Her Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities and Experiments. By Rowena Rae. Chicago Review, \$16.99 (9780897339339). Gr. 5–12.

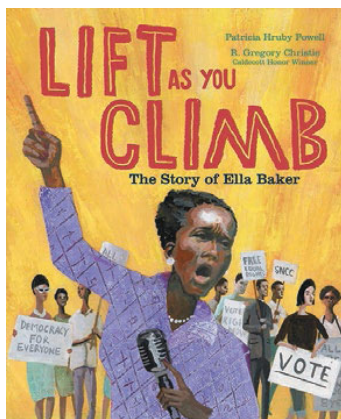
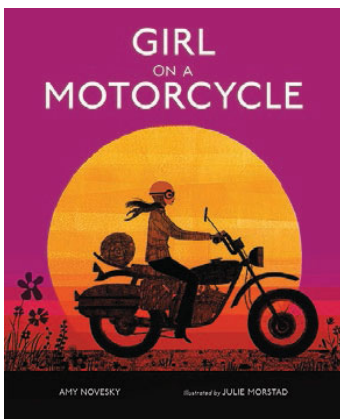
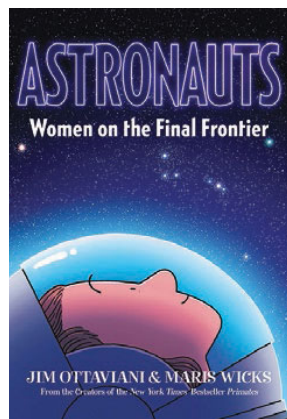
This masterful work intertwines entertaining and poignant stories about Carson with significant detail on her scientific work.

RESPECT: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Frank Morrison. Atheneum, \$18.99 (9781534452282). K–Gr. 2.

The life story of Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin is told through lyrical rhyming couplets and soulful oil paintings.

To Fly among the Stars: The Hidden Story of the Fight for Women Astronauts. By Rebecca Siegel. Scholastic/Focus, \$18.99 (9781338290158). Gr. 6–9.

When the seven original American astronauts were flying in space, few people wondered why they were all men. Still, a number of qualified women were eager to go.



its first edition to cover changes in the last few years of our political landscape.

Where Have All the Bees Gone? Pollinators in Crisis. By Rebecca E. Hirsch. Lerner/ Twenty-First Century, lib. ed., \$37.32 (9781541534636). Gr. 7–11.

This balanced, well-researched examination of the threats facing bee populations is essential reading.

Middle Readers

Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball. By Jen Bryant. Illus. by Frank Morrison. Abrams, \$18.99 (9781419741081). Gr. 2–5.

In 1959, NBA rookie Elgin Baylor refuses to suit up for a basketball game in a town practicing widespread racial discrimination.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team. By Christina Soontornvat. Candlewick, \$24.99 (9781536209457). Gr. 5–8.

A detailed, thrilling account of the international effort to rescue the Thai boys' soccer team trapped in a flooding cave.

Amphibian Acrobats. By Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Robert Meganck. Peachtree, \$15.99 (9781682630983). Gr. 3–6.

Bulion pairs jaunty poems with science notes, with each poem personifying a specific amphibian and exploring its special trait.

Bee Fearless: Dream like a Kid. By Mikaila Ulmer. Putnam, \$17.99 (9781984815088). Gr. 6–8.

Fifteen-year-old entrepreneur Mikaila Ulmer looks back on how her relationship with bees led to the development of her foundation.

Born in 1919: Fred Korematsu and Jackie Robinson. By Julie Knutson. Cherry Lake, lib. ed., \$29.93 (9781534159198). Gr. 4–7.

Fred Korematsu and Jackie Robinson, born in the same year, both faced racial injustice and fought it with intelligence and courage.

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story. By Caren Stelson. Illus. by Akira Kusaka. Carolrhoda, \$17.99 (9781541521483). Gr. 2–5.

A nonfiction picture book about a Japanese girl and her family's resilience before and after the Nagasaki bombing.

By and By: Charles Albert Tindley, the Father of Gospel Music. By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Bryan Collier. Atheneum, \$17.99 (9781534426368). Gr. 2–4.

This beautifully illustrated picture-book biography showcases Reverend Charles Tindley, who left a lasting legacy of faith expressed through gospel music.

Cast Away: Poems for Our Time. By Naomi Shihab Nye. Greenwillow, \$16.99 (9780062907691). Gr. 3–6.

Poignant poems about trash and our re-

lationship to it pull issues of community, poverty, and environmentalism into focus.

Chance: Escape from the Holocaust. By Uri Shulevitz. Illus. by the author. Farrar, \$19.99 (9780374313715). Gr. 3–6.

Using spare text and expressive drawings, Shulevitz arrestingly tells of his boyhood experiences fleeing the horrors of the Holocaust.

Condor Comeback. By Sy Montgomery. Illus. by Tianne Strombeck. HMH, \$18.99 (9780544816534). Gr. 5–8.

This handsome book introduces the California condor and tells how scientists brought it back from the brink of extinction.

Consent (for Kids!): Boundaries, Respect, and Being in Charge of YOU. By Rachel Brian. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown, \$15.99 (9780316457736). Gr. 2–5.

Readers will come to understand consent and navigate uncomfortable or confusing social situations involving their bodies in this lighthearted, illustrated guidebook.

Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring. By Matthew Burgess. Illus. by Josh Cochran. Enchanted Lion, \$18.95 (9781592702671). Gr. 1–5.

Burgess' poignant and joyful biography of Keith Haring features bold artwork emulating the artist's distinctive style.

Exploring the Elements: A Complete Guide to the Periodic Table. By Isabel Thomas. Illus. by Sara Gillingham. Phaidon, \$24.95 (9781838662318). Gr. 4–7.

Smart and stylish, this guide breaks down the periodic table into bite-size bits that give each element its due.

Feathered Serpent and the Five Suns: A Mesoamerican Creation Myth. By Duncan Tonatiuh. Illus. by the author. Abrams, \$16.99 (9781419746772). Gr. 2–4.

Tonatiuh recreates the Mesoamerican creation myth in which Quetzalcoatl, god of knowledge, ventures into the underworld to create humanity.

Finish the Fight! The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote. By Veronica Chambers. HMH/Versify, \$18.99 (9780358408307). Gr. 5–8.

This inviting book takes a refreshingly inclusive approach to the historical struggle for women's voting rights in the U.S.

Fly High, John Glenn: The Story of an American Hero. By Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Maurizio A. C. Quarello. Harper, \$18.99 (9780062747143). Gr. 1–4.

This beautiful picture-book biography follows John Glenn's path from small-town boy dreaming of flight to WWII fighter pilot to astronaut circling the Earth.

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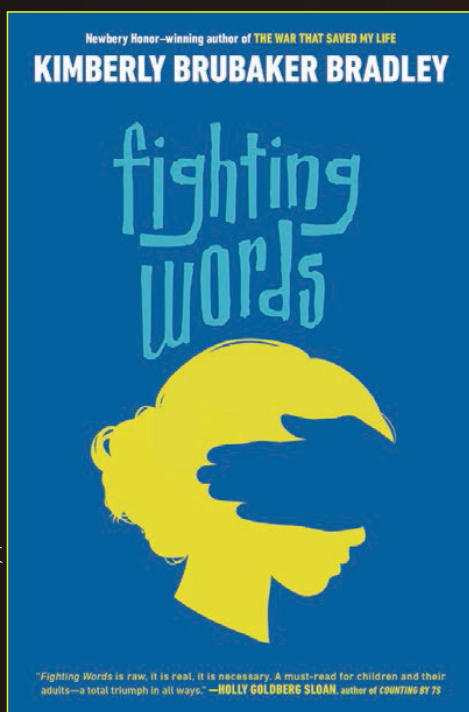


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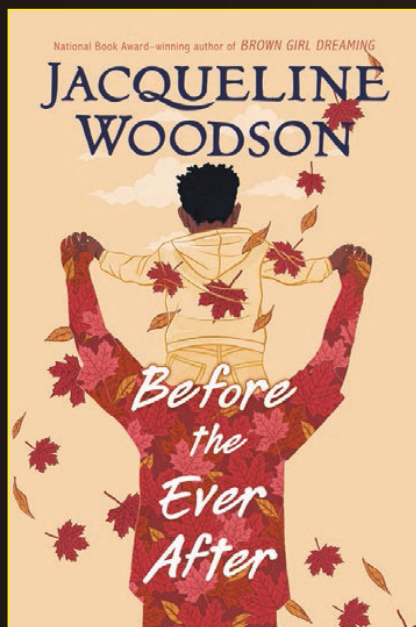
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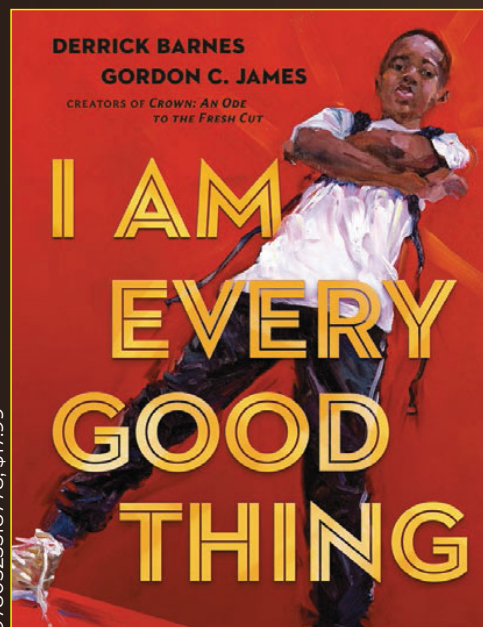
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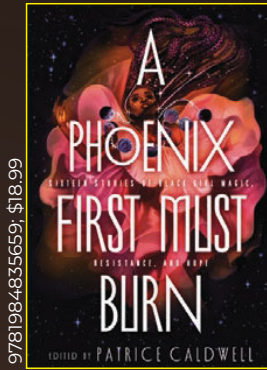


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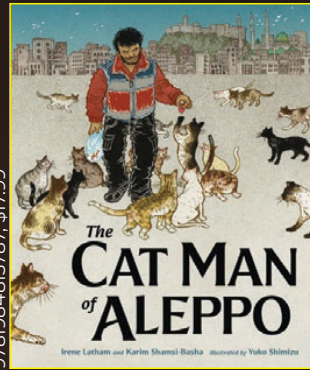
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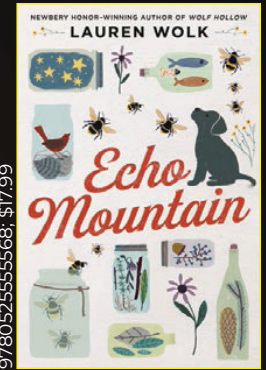
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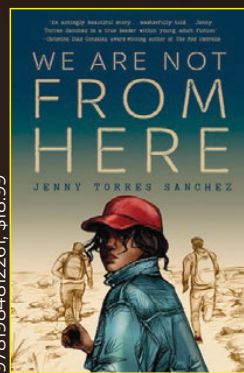
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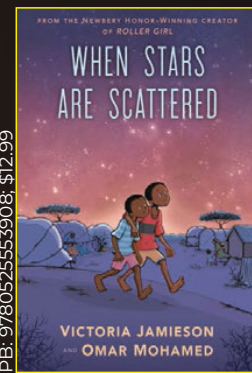
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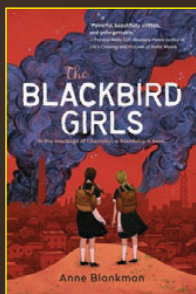
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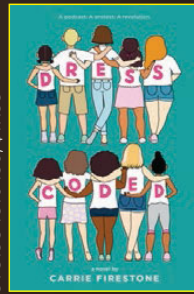
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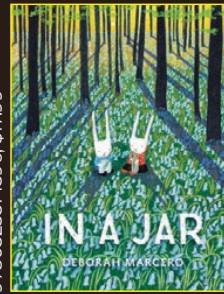
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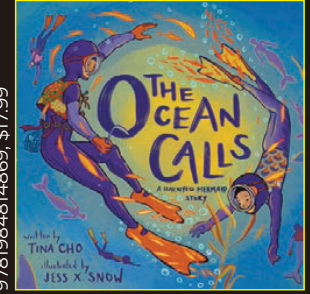
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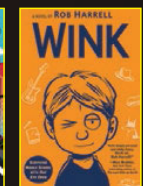
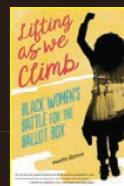
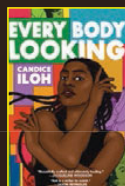
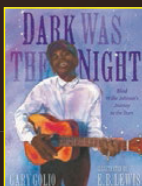
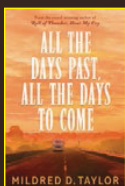
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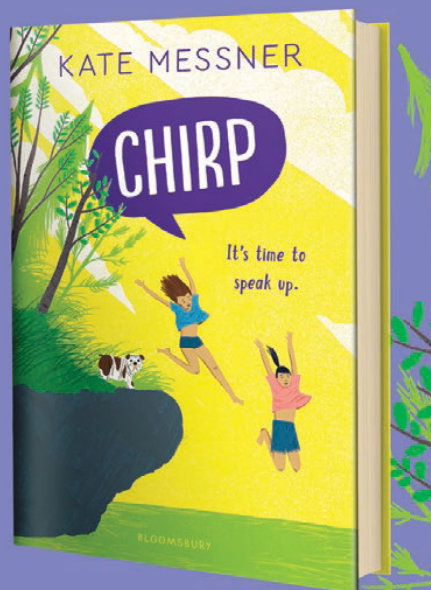
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Green Nation Revolution: Use Your Future to Change the World. By Valentina Giannella and Lucia Esther Maruzzelli. Illus. by Manuela Marazzi. Laurence King, \$12.99 (9781786277657). Gr. 5–8.

Social actions prompted by climate activist Greta Thunberg’s exhortations to save the planet come to the fore in this accessible resource.

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera. By Candace Fleming. Illus. by Eric Rohmann. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823442850). Gr. 1–4.

Stunningly rendered, this picture book captures a honeybee’s brief life down to the smallest of details.

How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity’s Greatest Adventure. By John Rocco. Illus. by the author. Crown, \$32.99 (9780525647423). Gr. 5–8.

A gorgeously illustrated telling of the history, science, and human contributors that put Apollo 11 on the moon.

How Women Won the Vote: Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Their Big Idea. By Susan Campbell Bartoletti. Illus. by Ziyue Chen. Harper, \$18.99 (9780062841308). Gr. 3–6.

A thoroughly sourced and contextualized account of the history surrounding women’s suffrage and the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream. By Berta de Miguel and others. Illus. by Virginia Lorente. Tilbury, \$19.95 (9780884488125). Gr. 3–6.

An exceptional STEAM title about the work of father and son architects in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America.

The International Day of the Girl: Celebrating Girls around the World. By Jessica Dee Humphreys and Rona Ambrose. Illus. by Simone Shin. Kids Can, \$18.99 (9781525300585). Gr. 3–5.

The stories of nine fictional girls (based on real interviews and research) serve to highlight gender inequality around the world.

Lifting As We Climb: Black Women’s Battle for the Ballot Box. By Evette Dionne. Viking, \$19.99 (9780451481542). Gr. 5–8.

Culture writer Dionne explores the racial and social challenges Black women faced as they fought for suffrage and other rights.

Love Your Body. By Jessica Sanders. Illus. by Carol Rossetti. Quarto/Frances Lincoln, \$17.99 (9780711252424). Gr. 4–8.

This inclusive picture book encourages readers, especially girls, to celebrate bodies of all shape and ability.

Mummies and Murder: Bodies in the Swamp. By N. B. Grace. Scholastic/Children’s Press, paper, \$6.95 (9780531243800). Gr. 3–6.

Centering on the discovery of Tollund Man,

this lively examination of bog bodies and mummies will fascinate readers.

The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America’s Presidents. By Kate Messner. Illus. by Adam Rex. Chronicle, \$18.99 (9781452174884). Gr. 2–5.

This cleverly overlapping history of U.S. presidents educates while encouraging kids to see becoming president as a realistic dream.

On the Horizon. By Lois Lowry. Illus. by Kenard Pak. HMH, \$16.99 (9780358129400). Gr. 5–8.

In simple, evocative poetry, Lowry explores her childhood experiences of Pearl Harbor and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Our Solar System: The Sun and the Solar System. By Shawn Brennan. World Book, \$269 set (9780716680598). Gr. 5–8.

A well-rounded, photo-rich overview of the sun’s formation, composition, and role in forming the solar system.

Peter’s War: A Boy’s True Story of Survival in World War II Europe. By Deborah Durland DeSaix and Karen Gray Ruelle. Illus. by Deborah Durland DeSaix. Holiday, \$18.99 (9780823424160). Gr. 3–7.

This picture-book memoir illustrates Peter Feigl’s flight from the Nazis and is an important addition to children’s Holocaust literature.

The Pig War: How a Porcine Tragedy Taught England and America to Share. By Emma Bland Smith. Illus. by Alison Jay. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek, \$18.99 (9781684371716). Gr. 2–4.

In 1859, on the disputed territory of San Juan, an American soldier shoots a British pig and almost starts a war.

Pro Athlete Pay Equity. By Martha London. Focus/Voyager, lib. ed., \$31.35 (9781644933923). Gr. 5–8.

An effective review of the history of women’s sports and the ongoing pay disparity between male and female athletes.

The Racers: How an Outcast Driver, an American Heiress, and a Legendary Car Challenged Hitler’s Best. By Neal Bascomb. Scholastic/Focus, \$18.99 (9781338277418). Gr. 5–8.

A high-speed history of European auto racing during Hitler’s rise to power.

The Radium Girls. By Kate Moore. Sourcebooks/eXplore, \$17.99 (9781728210346). Gr. 4–8.

A luminous history of the dial-painters whose dangerous work with glowing radium paint revamped workplace safety standards.

Saving Lady Liberty: Joseph Pulitzer’s Fight for the Statue of Liberty. By Claudia Friddell and Stacy Innerst. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek, \$18.99 (9781684371303). Gr. 2–4.

This detailed account follows newspaper mogul Joseph Pulitzer through his campaign to raise money for the Statue of Liberty’s pedestal.

The Screaming Hairy Armadillo and 76 Other Animals with Weird, Wild Names.

By Matthew Murrie and Steve Murrie. Illus. by Julie Benbassat. Workman, paper, \$14.95 (9781523508112). Gr. 2–6.

The bizarrely named creatures in this fun romp will delight animal-lovers and liven up STEM collections.

Sharuko: El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello / Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello. By Monica Brown. Illus. by Elisa Chavarri. Tr. by Adriana Domínguez. Lee & Low/Children's Book, \$19.95 (9780892394234). Gr. 2–5.

This picture-book biography of Peruvian archaeologist Julio C. Tello tells of his fight to preserve Indigenous history in the Americas.

Strong Voices: Fifteen American Speeches Worth Knowing. By Tonya Bolden. Illus. by Eric Velasquez. Harper, \$21.99 (9780062572042). Gr. 5–8.

Through large-scale illustrations and insightful commentary, this handsome anthology places 15 American speeches in the context of their times.

The Talk: Conversations about Race, Love & Truth. Ed. by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson. Crown, \$18.99 (9780593121610). Gr. 5–8.

A powerful, multifaceted, and illuminating collection of stories, essays, and letters shines a light on racial identity and inequity in the U.S.

The Teachers March! How Selma's Teachers Changed History. By Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace. Illus. by Charly Palmer. Boyds Mills & Kane/Calkins Creek, \$18.99 (9781629794525). Gr. 3–5.

This powerful picture book tells the true story of Reverend F. D. Reese, who organized the 1965 Selma teachers' march.

This Is Your Time. By Ruby Bridges. Delacorte, \$15.99 (9780593378526). Gr. 4–7.

Bridges writes a moving letter to young readers, describing her pivotal role in civil rights history.

Trending: How and Why Stuff Gets Popular. By Kira Vermond. Illus. by Clayton Hanmer. Owlkids, \$17.95 (9781771473255). Gr. 3–6.

This lively book explores fads and trends—their beginnings, their effects, and how readers can evaluate whether they're worthwhile.

We Are Power: How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World. By Todd Hasak-Lowy. Abrams, \$18.99 (9781419741111). Gr. 5–8.

A thoughtful and inspiring look at nonviolence movements that have shaped recent history and the men and women who led the charge.

Who Got Game? Baseball. By Derrick Barnes. Illus. by John John Bajet. Workman, \$12.95 (9781523505531). Gr. 4–7.

This beautifully designed collection of fasci-

nating, often-overlooked baseball stories makes a point of including marginalized athletes.

Women in the Old West. By Marti Dumas. Scholastic/Children's Press, paper, \$7.99 (9780531133392). Gr. 3–6.

A glimpse of the opportunities seized by some women in the American West that doesn't overlook Indigenous or Black individuals.

Women's Art Work: More Than 30 Female Artists Who Changed the World. By Sophia Bennett. Illus. by Manjit Thapp. Abrams, \$19.99 (9781419741180). Gr. 3–6.

Attention-grabbing, attractive entries offer pithy descriptions of 32 women artists' works, inspirations, and lives.

World of Glass: The Art of Dale Chihuly. By Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan. Abrams, \$22.99 (9781419736810). Gr. 3–5.

This tightly written book chronicles, in crisp color photographs, glass artist Dale Chihuly and his team's creations from workshop to exhibition.

You're Invited to a Moth Ball: A Nighttime Insect Celebration. By Loree Griffin Burns. Illus. by Ellen Harasimowicz. Charlesbridge, \$16.99 (9781580896863). Gr. 2–4.

In a creative approach to nature study, this handsome book shows how to attract moths to an outdoor viewing party.

Young

111 Trees: How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl. By Rina Singh. Illus. by Marianne Ferrer. Kids Can, \$18.99 (9781525301209). Gr. 1–3.

Sundar Paliwal's radical idea of planting a tree for each newborn girl comes to fruition through collaboration, persistence, and gradual change.

All the Birds in the World. By David Opie. Illus. by the author. Peter Pauper, \$16.99 (9781441333292). PreS–Gr. 3.

This beautifully illustrated picture book considers what all birds have in common and what sets them apart from one another.

The Boy Who Dreamed of Infinity: A Tale of the Genius Ramanujan. By Amy Alznauer. Illus. by Daniel Miyares. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9780763690489). K–Gr. 3.

In this illuminating picture-book biography of Ramanujan, a boy's fascination with numbers later leads to significant insights in mathematics.

The Cat Man of Aleppo. By Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha. Illus. by Yuko Shimizu. Putnam, \$17.99 (9781984813787). Gr. 1–3.

The remarkable true story of Syrian Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, who opened an animal shelter in the wake of his country's civil war.

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and touching."
—Kirkus Reviews

★ "Joyful."
—Publishers Weekly



Feel the Fog. By April Pulley Sayre. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, \$17.99 (9781534437609). PreS–Gr. 3.

Combining a poetic text with subtle, beautiful photos, this science book guides readers toward a clearer understanding of fog.

Flash and Gleam: Light in Our World. By Sue Fliess. Illus. by Khoa Le. Lerner/Millbrook, lib. ed., \$19.99 (9781541557703). PreS–Gr. 1.

This lovely picture book introduces young readers to the many manifestations of light in our daily lives.

Flight for Freedom: The Wetzel Family's Daring Escape from East Germany. By Kristen Fulton. Illus. by Torben Kuhlmann. Chronicle, \$17.99 (9781452149608). Gr. 1–3.

The dramatic, true story of a family's escape from East Germany via hot-air balloon is compellingly relayed here.

Flying Paintings: The Zhou Brothers; A Story of Revolution and Art. By Amy Alznauer. Illus. by ShanZuo Zhou and DaHuang Zhou. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536204285). Gr. 1–3.

This picture-book biography of the Zhou Brothers, contemporary Chinese artists, explores their collaborative art style, inspiration, and the effect of censorship on their art.

The Forest Man: The True Story of Jadav Payeng. By Anne Matheson. Illus. by Kay Widdowson. Flowerpot, \$16.99 (9781486718160). K–Gr. 2.

This must-have book about Jadav Payeng's battle against deforestation on the Indian island of Majuli incorporates varied ideas about ecosystems.

Hello, Neighbor! The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers. By Matthew Cordell. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823446186). Gr. 1–3.

The "only authorized picture-book biography" on the revolutionary creator of children's TV programming, Mister Fred Rogers.

I Voted: Making a Choice Makes a Difference. By Mark Shulman. Illus. by Serge Bloch. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823445615). K–Gr. 2.

An incisive, short text and clever cartoons make voting understandable to even young ones. Great for discussion, especially in an election year.

If You Want a Friend in Washington: Wacky, Wild & Wonderful Presidential Pets. By Erin McGill. Illus. by the author. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9780593122693). K–Gr. 3.

This journey through American history introduces the U.S. presidents by the pets—usual and otherwise—that they've had in the White House.

In the Woods. By David Elliott. Illus. by Rob Dunlavy. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9780763697839). K–Gr. 3.

Poetry and watercolors combine to glori-

ously depict life in the woods through the eyes of the creatures that inhabit it.

Into the Forest. By Christiane Dorion. Illus. by Jane McGuinness. Bloomsbury, \$23.99 (9781547604579). K–Gr. 3.

This appealing overview of world forests is packed with information in a variety of formats, including the inviting illustrations.

Jonny Lambert's Construction Site. By Jonny Lambert. Illus. by the author. DK, \$12.99 (9781465490940). PreS.

This handsome board book shows nine trucks doing their jobs and making their distinctive sounds at a house construction site.

Jumbo: The Making of the Boeing 747. By Chris Gall. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook, \$19.99 (9781250155801). K–Gr. 3.

Striking jacket art will draw readers to this fascinating book on building the Boeing 747, the world's first jumbo jet.

Let's Explore Strawberries! By Jill Colella. Lerner, lib. ed., \$26.65 (9781541563025). PreS–Gr. 1.

Young readers are encouraged to interact with the text in this visually delightful trip to a strawberry patch.

Oil. By Jonah Winter. Illus. by Jeanette Winter. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, \$17.99 (9781534430778). K–Gr. 3.

An impactful but accessible account of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill for the very young.

The Old Man and the Penguin: A True Story of True Friendship. By Julie Abery. Illus. by Pierre Pratt. Kids Can, \$18.99 (9781525302084). PreS–Gr. 2.

When an old man living in Brazil saves an oil-covered penguin, the two become friends for life.

Pretty Tricky: The Sneaky Ways Plants Survive. By Etta Kaner. Illus. by Ashley Barron. Owlkids, \$18.95 (9781771473699). Gr. 1–3.

A series of spreads highlighting various types of flora show how plants can, in fact, use trickery to survive and thrive.

The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver. By Gene Barretta. Illus. by Frank Morrison. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$17.99 (9780062430151). PreS–Gr. 3.

As a child, Carver tended a woodland garden, beginning his life's path of learning from nature and using his knowledge to help others.

Sports Heroes. By Clare Lloyd. DK, \$8.99 (9781465490933). PreS–Gr. 2.

A diverse assortment of star athletes is profiled in this inviting board book.

Tiny Bird: A Hummingbird's Amazing Journey. By Robert Burleigh. Illus. by Wendell Minor. Holt, \$18.99 (9781627793698). K–Gr. 3.

The dramatic, lightly fictionalized, account of a ruby-throated hummingbird's 1,500-mile fall migration to Mexico.

Youth Fiction

Older Readers

19 Love Songs. By David Levithan. Knopf, \$17.99 (9781984848635). Gr. 9–12.

Nineteen varied stories of love settle around characters both new and familiar, guaranteed to warm readers' hearts.

28 Days: A Novel of Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto. By David Safier. Feiwel and Friends, \$18.99 (9781250237149). Gr. 9–12.

Although Mira is fictional, her story is real, evoking those who suffered, fought, and died in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Again Again. By E. Lockhart. Delacorte, \$18.99 (9780385744799). Gr. 9–12.

Lockhart's moving, high-concept novel follows Adelaide Buchwald through variations of her summer to tell the story of a messy, normal life.

All Eyes on Her. By L. E. Flynn. Macmillan/Imprint, \$17.99 (9781250158178). Gr. 10–12.

When Tabitha survives an accident that kills her all-star boyfriend, the people in her town form their own conclusions.

All the Days Past, All the Days to Come.

By Mildred D. Taylor. Viking, \$18.99 (9780399257308). Gr. 9–12.

This stunning sequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* candidly depicts Black life in America during the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

Bent Heavens. By Daniel Kraus. Holt, \$17.99 (9781250151674). Gr. 10–12.

A brutal, unflinching story of a girl pushed from grief to violent revenge after she captures an alien.

The Black Kids. By Christina Hammonds Reed. Simon & Schuster, \$18.99 (9781534462724). Gr. 9–12.

Ashley, a privileged Black teen, experiences a personal awakening in the tumultuous wake of L.A.'s Rodney King Riots.

The Bridge. By Bill Konigsberg. Scholastic, \$18.99 (9781338325034). Gr. 8–12.

Konigsberg's candid exploration of mental health focuses upon two unacquainted teens preparing to jump from the same bridge.

Burn. By Patrick Ness. HarperCollins/Quill Tree, \$18.99 (9780062869494). Gr. 9–12.

In an alternate Cold War–era America where dragons live alongside humans, teenage Sarah Dewhurst uncovers an earth-shattering prophecy.

Burn Our Bodies Down. By Rory Power. Delacorte, \$18.99 (9780525645627). Gr. 9–12.

Margot travels to her mother's hometown

for the first time and uncovers the strange, dark truth about her family history.

By the Book: A Novel of Prose and Cons. By Amanda Sellet. HMH, \$17.99 (9780358156611). Gr. 7–10.

Mary tries to apply the knowledge she's gained from reading nineteenth-century novels to the local dating scene with disastrous results. A witty, engaging romance.

Camp. By L. C. Rosen. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9780316537759). Gr. 10–12.

Randy changes himself to land his dream guy; an essential story for teens figuring out who and how to love.

Cemetery Boys. By Aiden Thomas. Feiwel and Friends/Swoon Reads, \$17.99 (9781250250469). Gr. 8–12.

Navigating terrifyingly real obstacles, trans brujo Yadiel, his friend Maritza, and the alluring spirit Julian chase leads to learn how Julian died.

Cinderella Is Dead. By Kalynn Bayron. Bloomsbury, \$18.99 (9781547603879). Gr. 8–12.

This thrilling take on Cinderella centers a smart, brave Black girl determined to dismantle a powerful misogynistic system.

A Cloud of Outrageous Blue. By Vesper Stamper. Illus. by the author. Knopf, \$19.99 (9781524700416). Gr. 9–12.

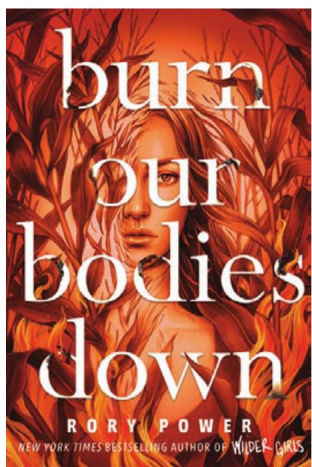
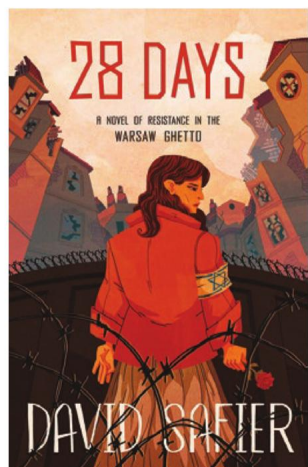
At 16, Edyth is a laborer at a priory, where she has a dream that may, in fact, be prophetic.

Clown in a Cornfield. By Adam Cesare. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (9780062854599). Gr. 9–12.

Quinn moves to a small town and finds herself in the middle of a murder spree led by a clown.

Come On In: 15 Stories about Immigration and Finding Home. Ed. by Adi Alsaid. Harlequin/Inkyard, \$18.99 (9781335146496). Gr. 8–12.

This anthology showcases fresh perspectives of young writers from various international backgrounds, collecting poignant stories about immigration in the U.S.



Coming Up for Air. By Nicole B. Tyndall. Delacorte, \$17.99 (9780593127087). Gr. 9–12.

A powerful debut novel that explores young love as it collides with addiction.

Darius the Great Deserves Better. By Adib Khorram. Dial, \$17.99 (9780593108239). Gr. 9–12.

Khorram beautifully continues Darius' story in Portland, where he juggles romance, a strenuous homelife, depression, and high-school drama.

Dark and Deepest Red. By Anna-Marie McLemore. Feiwel and Friends, \$17.99 (9781250162748). Gr. 9–12.

McLemore uses the fairy tale "The Red Shoes" to give voice to marginalized groups, poetically illustrating their rights to love and life.

Dear Justyce. By Nic Stone. Crown, \$21.99 (9781984829672). Gr. 9–12.

This *Dear Martin* sequel follows Quan in a youth detention center as he tries to escape an oppressive cycle driven by systemic racism.

Deathless Divide. By Justina Ireland. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$17.99 (9780062570635). Gr. 9–12.

Jane and Katherine head west to find Jane's mother and safety in this riveting, sometimes scathing sequel to *Dread Nation*.

Dogchild. By Kevin Brooks. Candlewick, \$19.99 (9781536209747). Gr. 10–12.

In a postapocalyptic world, a boy raised by dogs is caught in a war between the two remaining human settlements.

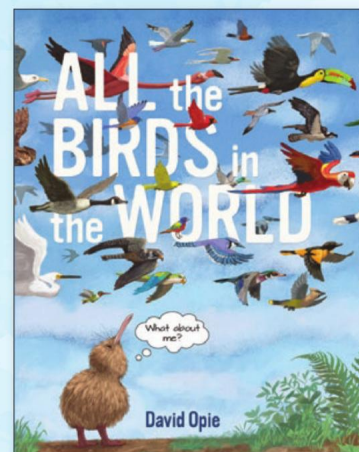
Early Departures. By Justin A. Reynolds. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$17.99 (9780062748409). Gr. 8–12.

When Q dies after a fight with his best friend, he's brought back to life—but only for a short time.

Elatsoe. By Darcie Little Badger. Illus. by Rovina Cai. Levine Querido, \$18.99 (9781646140053). Gr. 9–12.

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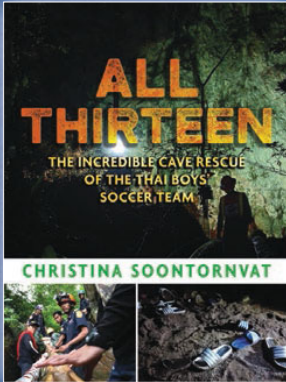
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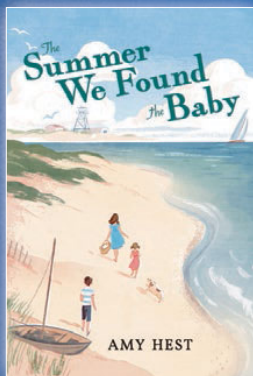
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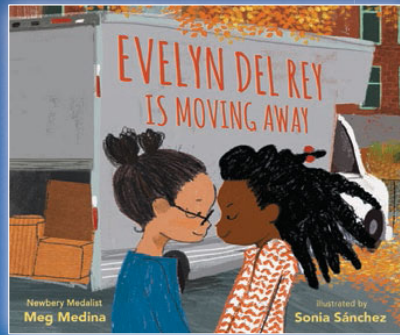
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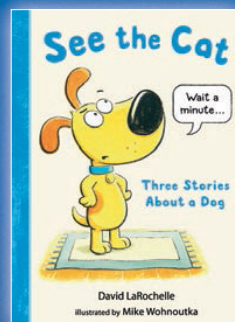
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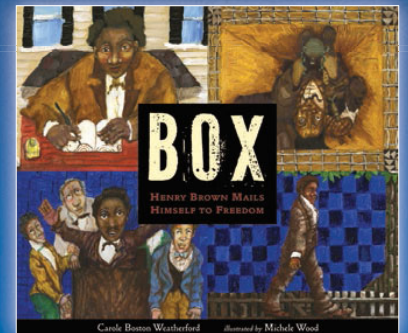
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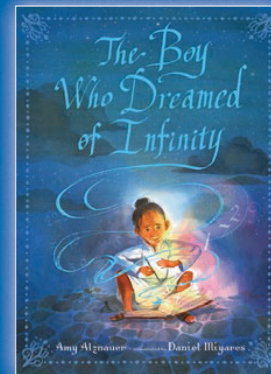
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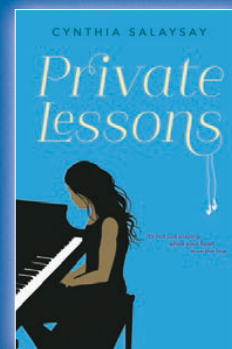
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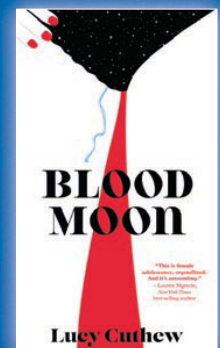
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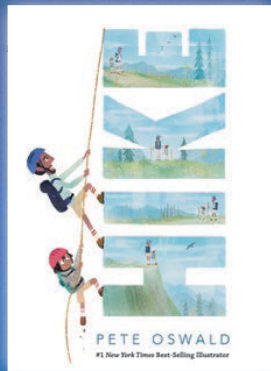
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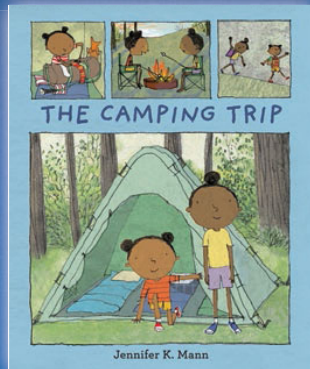
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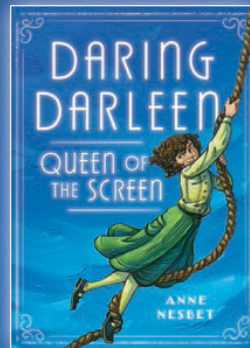
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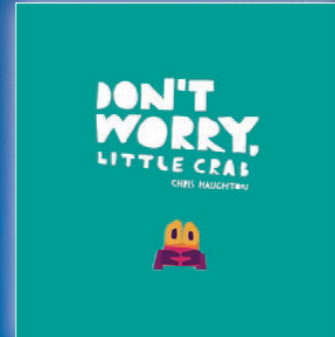
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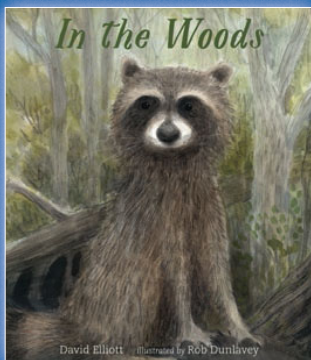
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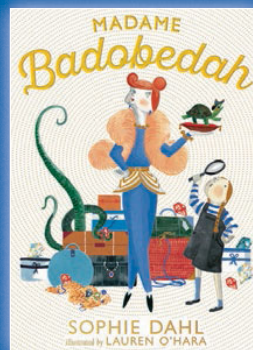
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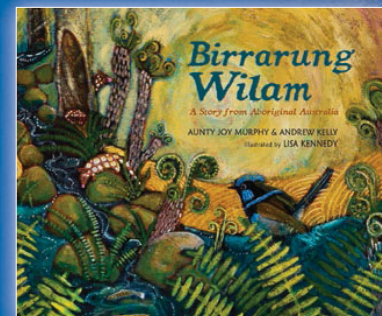
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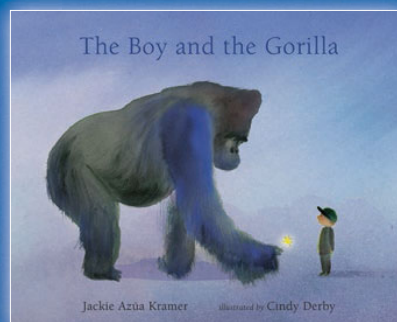
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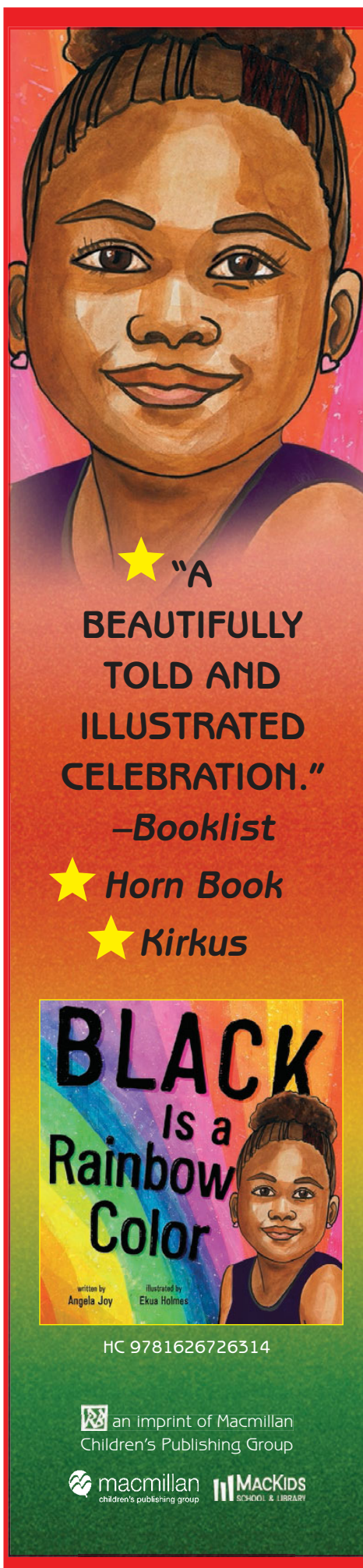
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investigator, as she battles vampires, spirits, curses, and grief to overcome evil.

Everything Sad Is Untrue: (A True Story). By Daniel Nayeri. Levine Querido, \$17.99 (9781646140008). Gr. 7–12.

In a winding series of personal vignettes and Persian history, Nayeri relates his life as a youth in Iran and refugee in Oklahoma.

Felix Ever After. By Kacen Callender. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (9780062820259). Gr. 8–12.

Seventeen-year-old Felix is Black, queer, and trans, and his exploration of his gender identity is nuanced and unforgettable.

The Fell of Dark. By Caleb Roehrig. Feiwel and Friends, \$17.99 (9781250155849). Gr. 9–12.

Teenager August finds out he's at the center of a supernatural plot involving vampires, a great evil, and the apocalypse.

The Feminist Agenda of Jemima Kincaid. By Kate Hattemer. Knopf, \$17.99 (9781984849120). Gr. 9–12.

Jemima sets out to change the gender double standards at her private school, unaware of how she may participate in them.

Finding Balance. By Kati Gardner. Flux, paper, \$11.99 (9781635830521). Gr. 9–12.

Eager to keep his cancer history a secret, popular Jase denies knowing new transfer student Mari—his friend from Camp Chemo.

Foul Is Fair. By Hannah Capin. St. Martin's/ Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250239549). Gr. 10–12.

After she's raped by a group of boys, Jade plans to murder her attackers in this fierce retelling of *Macbeth*.

Garden of Thorns and Light. By Shylah Addante. Month9, \$17.99 (9781951710361). Gr. 9–12.

Amethyst learns powerful secrets about her mother, her aunt, and the fairy realm in this gripping, introspective fantasy.

Girl, Serpent, Thorn. By Melissa Bashardoust. Flatiron, \$18.99 (9781250196149). Gr. 9–12.

Soraya, poisonous to the touch, faces her own dark impulses when a demon offers her a choice.

Girl, Unframed. By Deb Caletti. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, \$18.99 (9781534426979). Gr. 9–12.

In this thoughtfully feminist mystery, Sydney tells of her sixteenth summer in a San Francisco mansion with her struggling movie-star mother.

Given. By Nandi Taylor. Wattpad, \$17.99 (9781989365045). Gr. 7–11.

In this fresh take on princess and dragon tropes, Taylor eloquently marries Caribbean folklore, magical boarding-school tales, and whimsical interspecies romance.

The Glare. By Margot Harrison. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9781368005654). Gr. 9–12.

A dark-web game and long-buried secrets are at the core of this propulsive horror novel, featuring spine-tingling descriptions and a twisty plot.

Golden Arm. By Carl Deuker. HMH, \$17.99 (9780358012429). Gr. 7–11.

Laz lands a dream spot on an affluent high-school baseball team, but accepting it means leaving the family who needs him.

The Gravity of Us. By Phil Stamper. Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (9781547600144). Gr. 9–12.

Cal causes a stir with his social media coverage of NASA's new project, as Leon triggers massive flutterings of his heart.

Grown. By Tiffany D. Jackson. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$17.99 (9780062840356). Gr. 8–11.

R&B star Korey Fields lures in Enchanted with the promise of fame and fortune, but she finds nothing but abuse instead.

How to Pack for the End of the World. By Michelle Falkoff. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (9780062680266). Gr. 9–12.

A group of friends at a posh high school form a club that becomes the target of someone's cruel pranks.

I Kissed Alice. By Anna Birch. Illus. by Victoria Ying. Macmillan/Imprint, \$18.99 (9781250219855). Gr. 8–12.

Rhodes and Iliana can't stand each other, but little does either girl know, they've been falling in love anonymously online.

Illegal. By Francisco X. Stork. Scholastic, \$18.99 (9781338310559). Gr. 10–12.

This thrilling sequel to *Disappeared* spotlights Emiliano's struggles as an illegal immigrant in the U.S. following his sister's detainment.

It Only Happens in the Movies. By Holly Bourne. HMH, \$17.99 (9780358172062). Gr. 10–12.

Audrey's so done with love that not even Harry, her roguish coworker at the movie theater, can melt her heart—right?

Just Breathe. By Cammie McGovern. HarperTeen, \$18.99 (9780062463357). Gr. 9–12.

Depressed Jamie and popular David meet by chance at the hospital, and emotions fly in this dynamic, voice-driven novel.

Kent State. By Deborah Wiles. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338356281). Gr. 7–10.

Wiles evocatively tells the story of the Kent State shooting through the unattributed voices of those involved in the tragedy.

The Key to Fear. By Kristin Cast. Blackstone, \$18.99 (9781982548032). Gr. 9–12.

After a deadly virus wipes out most of the human race, Elodie and Aiden must survive a corporate-controlled dystopia.

Layoverland. By Gabby Noone. Razorbill, \$17.99 (9781984836120). Gr. 9–12.

This playful examination of purgatory has plenty of laughs, mixed deftly with meditations on what it means to be alive.

Legendborn. By Tracy Deonn. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, \$18.99 (9781534441606). Gr. 9–12.

To learn the truth about her mother's death, Black teen Bree infiltrates a racist secret society at war with demons.

Like Spilled Water. By Jennie Liu. Carolrhoda/Lab, \$18.99 (9781541572904).

After her brother's suicide, Na feels compelled to give up her dreams and support her family—until she unearths a damning secret.

Little Universes. By Heather Demetrios. Holt, \$17.99 (9781250222794). Gr. 10–12.

Two sisters lean on each another after the tragic loss of their parents upends their lives.

Lobizona. By Romina Garber. St. Martin's/Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250239129). Gr. 8–12.

In an adventure rooted in Argentine folklore, Manu discovers her identity as the first lobizona, or female werewolf.

My Calamity Jane. By Cynthia Hand and others. HarperTeen, \$18.99 (9780062652812). Gr. 7–11.

Calamity Jane, Frank Butler, and Annie Oakley perform in a traveling show and hunt werewolves in this farcical historical fantasy.

The Night Country. By Melissa Albert. Flatiron, \$18.99 (9781250246073). Gr. 9–12.

After escaping the Hinterland, Alice's attempt at a normal life is interrupted when she's framed for a string of ex-Story murders.

Not So Pure and Simple. By Lamar Giles. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (9780062349194). Gr. 8–12.

Del and Qwan find themselves tackling their own participation in toxic masculinity in this well-wrought novel with a fully fleshed-out cast.

Oasis. By Katya de Berra. Macmillan/Imprint, \$17.99 (9781250124265). Gr. 9–12.

Alif and her friends are stranded in the desert at a mysterious oasis in this haunting supernatural thriller.

Parachutes. By Kelly Yang. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$18.99 (9780062941084). Gr. 10–12.

Wealthy Chinese teen Claire is sent to the

U.S. for school; her host sister Dani and sexual abuse on campus bring new perspective.

A Peculiar Peril. By Jeff VanderMeer. Illus. by Jeremy Zerfoss. Farrar, \$19.99 (9780374308865). Gr. 9–12.

Teenager Jonathan Lambshead inherits a strange old house and a stranger legacy of magic in this wild, wonderfully absurd fantasy.

A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope. Ed. by Patrice Caldwell. Viking, \$18.99 (9781984835659). Gr. 7–12.

This excellent collection of 16 sf and speculative fiction short stories centers Black women and their resistance, hope, and liberation.

Private Lessons. By Cynthia Salaysay. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536209600). Gr. 8–12.

A powerful look at a classical musician's commitment to her art in the context of race, class, and a complicated student-teacher relationship.

The Puppetmaster's Apprentice. By Lisa DeSelm. Page Street, \$17.99 (9781645670803). Gr. 8–11.

A stunning, dark fairy tale revolving around Pirouette, a marionette turned real girl who makes a dangerous pact to save her father.

Raybearer. By Jordan Ifueko. Abrams/Amulet, \$18.99 (9781419739828). Gr. 9–12.

Raised to slay a prince in an elaborate revenge plot, Tarisai yearns to choose her own destiny.

Red Hood. By Elana K. Arnold. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$17.99 (9780062742353). Gr. 9–12.

A teen girl tracks and kills men preying on women in this riveting rendition of "Little Red Riding Hood."

Running. By Natalia Sylvester. Clarion, \$17.99 (9780358124351). Gr. 9–12.

Sylvester expertly puts readers inside the pressured lives of a family in politics and reaffirms the adage that knowledge is power.

Shadowshaper Legacy. By Daniel José Older. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, \$18.99 (9780545953009). Gr. 8–11.

The thrilling conclusion to the Shadowshaper Cypher trilogy brings the inevitability of war and possible loss of magic.

Shuri. By Nic Stone. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338585476). Gr. 7–10.

Stone's take on fan-favorite Shuri is full of witty writing, science genius, superhero action, and Black girl magic.



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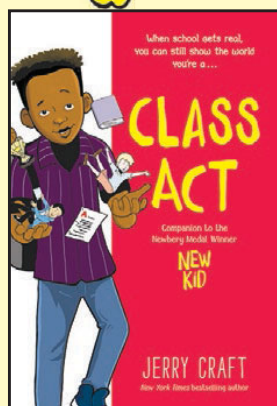
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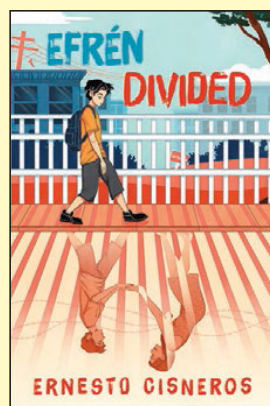
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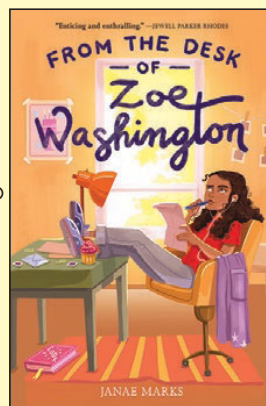
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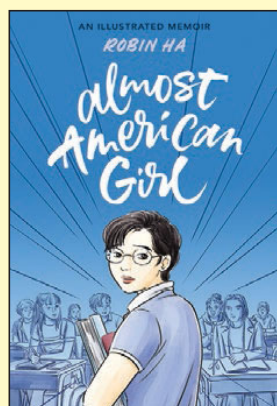
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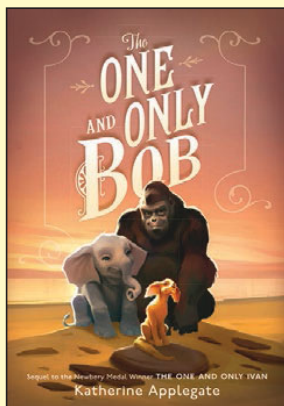
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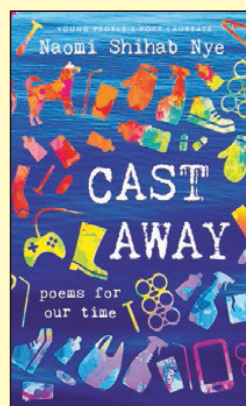
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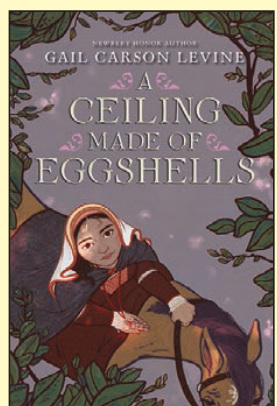
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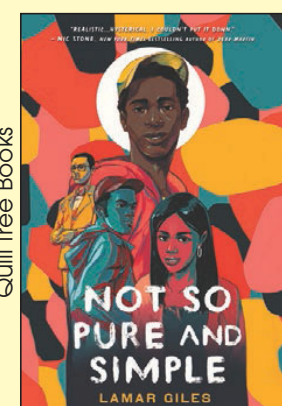
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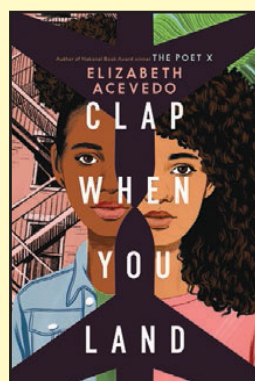
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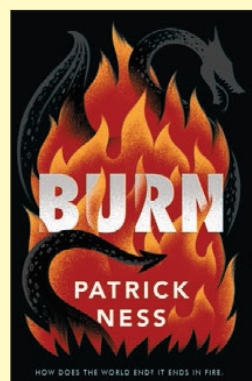
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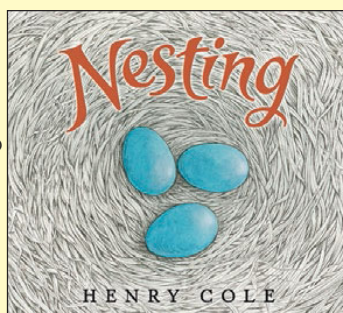
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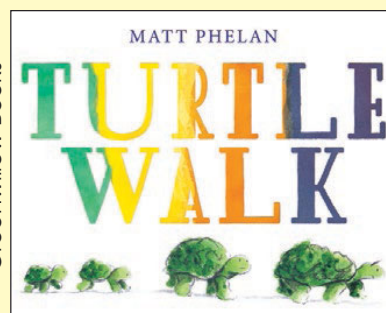
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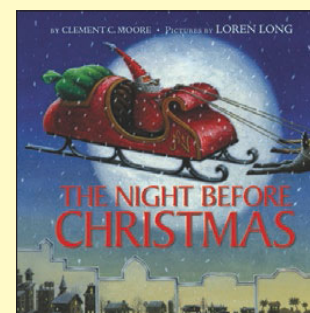


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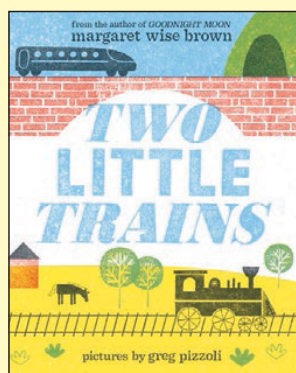
Greenwillow Books



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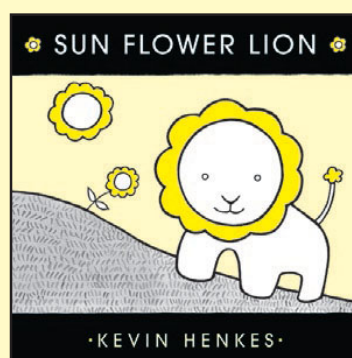


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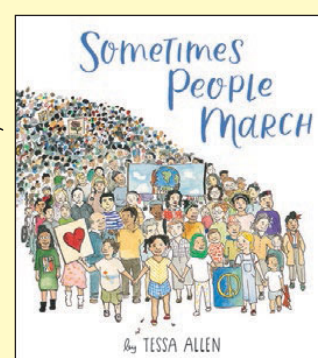
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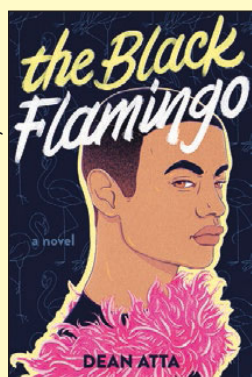
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Balzer + Bray



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Balzer + Bray



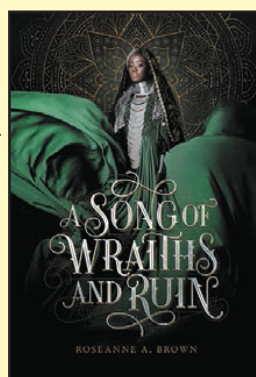
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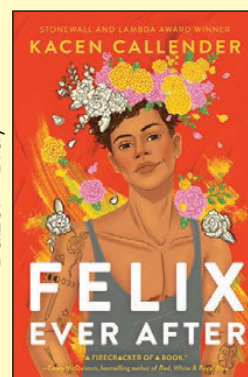
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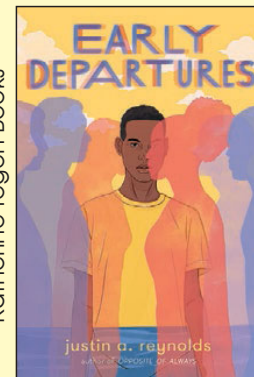
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Katherine Tegen Books



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★SLJ



HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks



The Silvered Serpents. By Roshani Chokshi. St. Martin's/Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250144577). Gr. 9–12.

Séverin leads his criminal crew on a dangerous hunt for an ancient but powerful relic.

A Song below Water. By Bethany C. Morrow. Tor Teen, \$17.99 (9781250315328). Gr. 8–12.

Readers get a double dose of Black girl magic in this story of two teens struggling against societal injustices.

A Song of Wraiths and Ruin. By Roseanne A. Brown. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (9780062891495). Gr. 9–12.

A princess' and a refugee's fates become entwined as each goes to extreme measures to save a loved one.

The State of Us. By Shaun David Hutchinson. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (9780062950314). Gr. 8–12.

Dre and Dean, the queer and questioning sons of two opposing presidential candidates, fall in love on the campaign trail.

Strange Exit. By Parker Peevyhouse. Tor Teen, \$17.99 (9780765399427).

A mind-bending sf thriller with an ontological puzzle at its heart, this postapocalyptic tale of space-dwelling humans is compulsively readable.

The Summer of Everything. By Julian Winters. Interlude/Duet, paper, \$17.99 (9781945053917). Gr. 9–12.

Unrequited love, a new crush, and a bookstore that needs saving are all on Wes' plate in this delightful rom-com.

Surrender Your Sons. By Adam Sass. Flux, \$17.99 (9781635830613). Gr. 8–12.

After Connor comes out to his family, his mother forcibly sends him to a conversion camp, where nefarious deeds are underway.

These Violent Delights. By Chloe Gong. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, \$19.99 (9781534457690). Gr. 9–12.

In 1920s Shanghai, a reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet* sees rival factions battling for financial and political control of their city.

They Went Left. By Monica Hesse. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9780316490573). Gr. 9–12.

Hesse brings concentration camp survivor Zofia's post-WWII existence to visceral life, as she finds healing in familial and romantic love.

Thoughts & Prayers. By Bryan Bliss. Greenwillow, \$17.99 (9780062962249). Gr. 9–12.

Three survivors of a school shooting separately narrate their experiences in the tragedy's wake.

Tigers, Not Daughters. By Samantha Mabry. Algonquin, \$17.95 (9781616208967). Gr. 9–12.

After Ana Torres dies, her three sisters react

differently; contains elements of magical realism, Latinx folklore, and a ghostly visitor.

Tornado Brain. By Cat Patrick. Putnam, \$17.99 (9781984815316). Gr. 6–9.

When 13-year-old Frankie's former best friend disappears, she's determined to follow what she perceives as clues to find her.

The Voting Booth. By Brandy Colbert. Disney/Hyperion, \$18.99 (9781368053297). Gr. 10–12.

Over the course of a single day, Marva and Duke connect in the attempt to cast their first votes.

Watch Over Me. By Nina LaCour. Dutton, \$17.99 (9780593108970). Gr. 9–12.

Mila accepts an internship on a Northern California farm that's haunted by the ghosts of its inhabitants' past traumas.

The Way Back. By Gavriel Savit. Knopf, \$18.99 (9781984894625). Gr. 9–12.

In a quixotic tale rooted in Jewish folklore, two teens embark on a quest to defeat Death.

We Are Not Free. By Traci Chee. HMH, \$17.99 (9780358131434). Gr. 8–12.

A remarkable portrayal of the disintegration of family life in the WWII Japanese American internment camps, told through the interconnected stories of 14 teens.

We Are Not from Here. By Jenny Torres Sanchez. Philomel, \$17.99 (9781984812261). Gr. 9–12.

A trio of young Guatemalans escape the violence in their country, undertaking an arduous journey in pursuit of the American dream.

We Unleash the Merciless Storm. By Tehlor Kay Mejia. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$17.99 (9780062691347). Gr. 9–12.

Revealed as a spy for a resistance group against an oppressive regime, Carmen considers following her heart in another direction.

What I Want You to See. By Catherine Linka. Little, Brown, \$18.99 (9781368044035). Gr. 10–12.

Attending art school on scholarship, Sabine struggles in a cutthroat world and is inadvertently involved in an art theft.

What Unbreakable Looks Like. By Kate McLaughlin. St. Martin's/Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250173805). Gr. 9–12.

At 17, Poppy—a former victim of sex trafficking—gets the chance to rebuild her life and take steps toward healing.

Where We Go from Here. By Lucas Rocha. Illus. by Marina Esmeraldo. Tr. by Larissa Helena. Scholastic/Push, \$18.99 (9781338556247). Gr. 9–12.

After testing positive for HIV, Ian finds comfort in new friends, one of whom also has HIV.

Yes No Maybe So. By Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (9780062937049). Gr. 9–12.

Sparks don't exactly fly between Maya and Jamie while they're canvassing for the summer—at least, not at first.

You Say It First. By Katie Cotugno. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (9780062674128). Gr. 9–12.

Meg, picture-perfect from the outside, and Colby, falling apart after a family tragedy, connect through a voter-registration phone bank.

Middle Readers

Alice's Farm: A Rabbit's Tale. By Maryrose Wood. Feiwel and Friends, \$16.99 (9781250224552). Gr. 4–6.

Rabbit Alice rustles up a crew of predator and prey animals alike to protect a clueless new family's vegetable patch.

All the Dear Little Animals. By Ulf Nilsson. Illus. by Eva Ericksson. Tr. by Julia Marshall. Gecko, \$17.99 (9781776572892). Gr. 2–4.

In this pitch-perfect story from Sweden, three children perform a series of animal funerals over the course of a single day.

The Best of Iggy. By Annie Barrows. Illus. by Sam Ricks. Putnam, \$13.99 (9781984813305). Gr. 2–5.

In this amusing chapter book, Iggy's antics frequently land him in trouble, though he rarely sees it coming and he occasionally has regrets.

Black Brother, Black Brother. By Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316493802). Gr. 5–8.

In the wake of mistreatment by his school administration, Donte finds an outlet in fencing in this sharply written novel.

The Boys in the Back Row. By Mike Jung. Levine Querido, \$17.99 (9781646140114). Gr. 4–7.

After Matt's best friend reveals that he's moving away, they plan one final, epic adventure together—sneaking out to DefenderCon.

The Brave. By James Bird. Feiwel and Friends, \$16.99 (9781250247759). Gr. 5–8.

After an incident at school, Colin is sent to live with his mother on her Ojibwe reservation.

Braver: A Wombat's Tale. By Suzanne Selfors and Walker Ranson. Macmillan/Imprint, \$16.99 (9781250219916). Gr. 3–6.

After her entire wombat community is abducted, Lola sets out on a quest to find the queen and save her family.

Brother's Keeper. By Julie Lee. Holiday, \$17.99 (9780823444946). Gr. 3–7.

An important book that explores how 12-year-old Sora and her brother, Youngsoo, escape from North to South Korea in 1950.

The Candy Mafia. By Lavie Tidhar. Illus. by Daniel Duncan. Peachtree, \$16.99 (9781682631973). Gr. 3–5.

Candy is outlawed, and an underground trade is thriving; preteen private detective Nelle has a missing sugar smuggler to find.

Catalyst. By Sarah Beth Durst. Clarion, \$16.99 (9780358065029). Gr. 4–7.

When Zoe's tiny kitten grows to a gigantic size, she and her best friend journey to find it a safe home.

The Circus of Stolen Dreams. By Lorelei Savaryn. Philomel, \$16.99 (9780593202067). Gr. 5–8.

After her little brother's disappearance, Andrea enters Reverie, a magical—and secretly sinister—fairground that promises to help you forget your troubles.

Clean Getaway. By Nic Stone. Illus. by Dawud Anyabwile. Crown, \$16.99 (9781984892973).

Scoob's white grandmother takes him on a whirlwind journey retracing her own path during the civil rights movement in this fire-cracker of a novel.

Cloud Hopper. By Beth Kephart. Penny Candy/Penelope, \$17.99 (9781734225907). Gr. 5–8.

Three young teens try to unravel the mystery surrounding a girl who literally falls into their midst—from the sky.

The Colossus of Roads. By Christina Uss. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson, \$17.99 (9780823444502). Gr. 4–6.

As his family's business goes under, a friend's art project inspires Rick to take matters into his own hands.

Danny Constantino's First (and Maybe Last?) Date. By Paul Acampora. Dial, \$16.99 (9781984816610). Gr. 5–7.

Ordinary middle-schooler Danny is startled when his old friend Natalie—now a Hollywood star—turns up as his date for a dance.

Daring Darleen, Queen of the Screen.

By Anne Nesbet. Candlewick, \$18.99 (9781536206197). Gr. 4–7.

When a staged kidnapping goes wrong, silent-film star Darleen has to rely on her wits to get out of trouble.

The Dog Who Saved the World. By Ross Welford. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$16.99 (9780525707486). Gr. 5–7.

When a disease jumps from dogs to humans and becomes a pandemic, Georgie searches for a cure—in the future.

A Dog-Friendly Town. By Josephine Cameron. Farrar, \$16.99 (9780374306441). Gr. 4–6.

The disappearance of a celebrity St. Bernard's diamond-studded collar sets a kid not yet ready for middle school on the case.

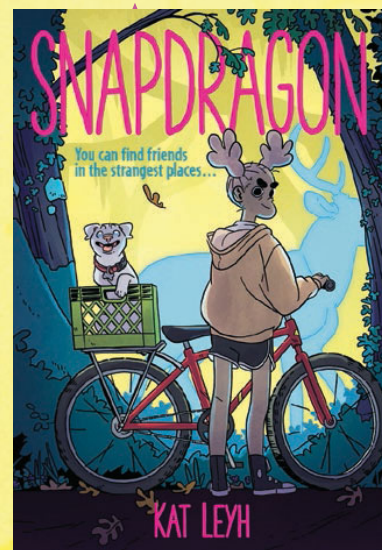


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Sports in Fiction

Competition and athleticism characterize these novels (and one graphic novel!) about love, friendship, family, perseverance—and dragons.

All the Things We Never Knew. By Liara Tamani. Greenwillow, \$18.99 (9780062656919). Gr. 9–12.

Rex and Carli fall instantly in love on the basketball court, but can their relationship withstand their turbulent home lives?

Ana on the Edge. By A. J. Sass. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316458610). Gr. 4–7.

As figure skater Ana competes in a princess-themed program and befriends transgender boy Hayden, she begins to question her gender identity.

Blazewrath Games. By Amparo Ortiz. Page Street, \$18.99 (9781645670797). Gr. 7–10.

In an alternate America, Lana Torres dreams of becoming the Puerto Rican representative in the Blazewrath Games, a bloody dragon sport.

Check, Please! Book 2: Sticks and Scones. By Ngozi Ukazu. Illus. by the author. First Second, \$23.99 (9781250179494). Gr. 9–12.

Through junior and senior years at college, Bitty bakes more pies, plays more hockey, and embarks on a new relationship.

The Derby Daredevils: Kenzie Kickstarts a Team. By Kit Rosewater. Illus. by Sophie Escabasse. Abrams/Amulet, \$14.99 (9781419740794). Gr. 3–6.

Kenzie and Shelly are thrilled when their town gets a Roller Derby league, but their new team puts their friendship to the test.

Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen! By Sarah Kapit. Dial, \$17.99 (9780525554189). Gr. 4–6.

Through a series of letters to her baseball hero, Vivy relates her struggle being an autistic girl on a boys' baseball team.

Gimme Everything You Got. By Iva-Marie Palmer. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (9780062937254). Gr. 9–12.

In 1979, Susan joins a soccer team because she's hot for the coach but falls in love with the sport.

A High Five for Glenn Burke. By Phil Bildner. Farrar, \$16.99 (9780374312732). Gr. 5–8.

Inspired by his baseball hero Glenn Burke, sixth-grader Silas tests the waters of coming out as gay.

Jayla Jumps In. By Joy Jones. Albert Whitman, \$16.99 (9780807560761). Gr. 3–6.

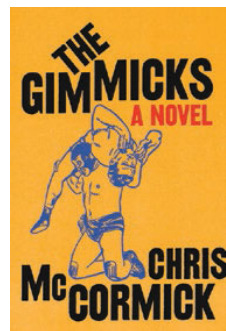
Jayla turns to double Dutch as a way to make friends and stand out among her big extended family.

Lupe Wong Won't Dance. By Donna Barba Higuera. Levine Querido/Arthur A. Levine, \$17.99 (9781646140039). Gr. 4–7.

The only thing standing between Lupe and meeting her baseball hero, Fu Li Hernandez, is an A in square dancing.

One Last Shot. By John David Anderson. HarperCollins/Walden Pond, \$16.99 (9780062643926). Gr. 4–7.

Miniature golf turns into an unexpected lifeline for Malcolm, who struggles to please his father while becoming his own person.



Dress Coded. By Carrie Firestone. Putnam, \$17.99 (9781984816436). Gr. 5–8.

After witnessing a friend's humiliation over the school dress code, Molly leads the eighth grade in a peaceful protest movement.

Echo Mountain. By Lauren Wolk. Dutton, \$17.99 (9780525555568). Gr. 4–8.

In this moving Depression-era tale, a 12-year-old girl discovers her gift for healing after her father suffers a serious accident.

Efrén Divided. By Ernesto Cisneros. Harper, \$16.99 (9780062881687). Gr. 3–6.

Efrén struggles to manage life in the wake of his mother's deportation in this powerful, timely debut novel.

Fart Quest. By Aaron Reynolds. Illus. by Cam Kendell. Roaring Brook, \$13.99 (9781250206367). Gr. 2–4.

Three young students at Krakentop Academy for Heroes set out to have adventures and level up in this game-inflected kickoff.

Fighting Words. By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Dial, \$17.99 (9781984815682). Gr. 5–8.

The trauma of sexual abuse looms over this challenging but fierce account of two sisters reclaiming their future.

Fly on the Wall. By Remy Lai. Illus. by the author. Holt, \$16.99 (9781250314116). Gr. 4–7.

With many comic missteps, 12-year-old Henry Khoo asserts his independence by taking a secret trip from Australia to Singapore.

From the Desk of Zoe Washington. By Janae Marks. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$16.99 (9780062875853). Gr. 4–7.

Zoe secretly corresponds with her incarcerated father—and digs into whether he's innocent—in this deftly written middle-grade novel.

Girl Giant and the Monkey King. By Van Hoang. Roaring Brook, \$17.99 (9781250240415). Gr. 4–7.

Thom agrees to help the legendary trickster god the Monkey King recover his staff if he helps take away her superstrength.

The Girl Who Speaks Bear. By Sophie Anderson. Scholastic, \$16.99 (9781338580839). Gr. 3–6.

After Yanka wakes up with bear legs on her body, she goes on a journey in search of her origins.

Gold Rush Girl. By Avi. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536206791). Gr. 5–8.

Craving adventure, 13-year-old Tory stows away on a ship to follow her father west during the gold rush.

The Great Upending. By Beth Kephart. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy, \$17.99 (9781481491563). Gr. 4–7.

As Sara and Hawk journey to New York from

their farm to defend an author, readers will find this book as refreshing as rain on a dry field.

How to Build an Orchestra. By Mary Auld. Illus. by Elisa Paganelli. Interlink/Crocodile, \$18.95 (9781623718718). Gr. 1–4.

This thorough, detailed introduction to orchestras is bolstered by links to audio tracks of the pieces mentioned in the text.

How to Disappear Completely. By Ali Standish. Harper, \$16.99 (9780062893284). Gr. 5–7.

As Emma struggles to deal with her beloved grandmother's death and a troubling skin disease, she finds strength in unexpected places.

I Go Quiet. By David Ouimet. Illus. by the author. Norton/Young Readers, \$18.95 (9781324004431). Gr. 3–6.

Atmospheric steampunk art sets the scene for a tale of an introverted girl who escapes her hostile surroundings through books.

Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero. By Kelly J. Baptist. Crown, \$16.99 (9780593121368). Gr. 4–7.

With some creativity and community support, 10-year-old Isaiah endeavors to keep his family afloat after the loss of his father.

King and the Dragonflies. By Kacen Callender. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338129335). Gr. 4–7.

King struggles with grief and coming to terms with an identity he's afraid his family won't accept in this deftly written novel.

The Last Mirror on the Left. By Lamar Giles. Illus. by Dapo Adeola. HMH/Versify, \$16.99 (9780358130437). Gr. 4–7.

The Legendary Alston Boys return for another adventure, this time tracking a fugitive through a series of mirror dimensions.

The List of Things That Will Not Change. By Rebecca Stead. Random/Wendy Lamb, \$16.99 (9781101938096). Gr. 4–7.

As 10-year-old Bea prepares for her father's wedding to another man, she comes to terms with a troubling secret.

Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It. By Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9780316536776). Gr. 5–8.

An inspired series of dramatic monologues spotlights the experiences of African Americans living in the American South from the 1920s to the late 1960s.

The Magic in Changing Your Stars. By Leah Henderson. Sterling, \$16.95 (9781454934066). Gr. 3–7.

Henderson weaves together fantasy and historical fiction, offering lessons about trying and grit, alongside laughs, love of family, and a "smidgen of magic."

Mañanaland. By Pam Muñoz Ryan. Scholastic, \$18.99 (9781338157864). Gr. 4–7.

As Max searches for his long-lost mother,

he helps a refugee escape a dictatorship in this lyrical, fablelike tale.

Me vs. the Multiverse: Pleased to Meet Me. By S. G. Wilson. Illus. by Aleksei Bitskoff. Random, \$16.99 (9781984895752). Gr. 5–7.

Mostly average Meade encounters versions of himself from parallel dimensions, plus an evil genius out to destroy the world.

The Monster Who Wasn't. By T. C. Shelley. Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (9781547604562). Gr. 5–7.

A boy hatched in the sewer and raised by

monsters searches for answers about who he is.

Mr. Tiger, Betsy, and the Blue Moon. By Sally Gardner. Illus. by Nick Maland. Penguin Workshop, \$16.99 (9780593095164). Gr. 3–5.

Betsy and Mr. Tiger set out on a quest to make a special ice cream that can reverse a friend's curse.

The Next Great Jane. By K. L. Going. Penguin/Kathy Dawson, \$16.99 (9780803734753). Gr. 4–7.

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descend upon Jane's town on the same day, her life is thrown into turmoil.

Of Salt and Shore. By Annet Schaap. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Laura Watkinson. Charlesbridge, \$16.99 (9781623542306). Gr. 4–7.

Wondrous things are in store for Lampie when she's sent to work at a mansion rumored to house a monster.

Once upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices. Ed. by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed. Illus. by Sara Alfageeh. Abrams/Amulet, \$17.99 (9781419740831). Gr. 4–7.

Fifteen #OwnVoices Muslim authors highlight the diversity within Islam and explore the meaning of and otherworldly feelings associated with Eid.

The Only Black Girls in Town. By Brandy Colbert. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316456388). Gr. 3–6.

An illuminating window into the hearts and minds of two of the few Black students in a small-town school.

Otto Tattercoat and the Forest of Lost Things. By Matilda Woods. Philomel, \$16.99 (9780525515272). Gr. 3–6.

In frigid Hodeldorf, Otto finds refuge with the Tattercoats—a group of homeless children—who help him search for his missing mother.

Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us. By Lauren Castillo. Illus. by the author. Knopf, \$16.99 (9781524766719). Gr. 1–4.

When Hedgehog's best friend gets lost in a storm, she bravely journeys to find him, making friends along the way.

Paola Santiago and the River of Tears. By Tehlor Kay Mejia. Disney/Rick Riordan Presents, \$16.99 (9781368049177). Gr. 5–8.

After ignoring warnings about La Llorona, the wailing ghost woman, Pao sets off in search of her missing friend.

Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet. By Zaniab Mian. Illus. by Nasaya Mafaridik. Putnam, \$13.99 (9780593109212). Gr. 3–5.

Omar takes on a school bully and fasting for Ramadan in this doodle-tastic series starter.

Prairie Lotus. By Linda Sue Park. Clarion, \$16.99 (9781328781505). Gr. 5–7.

Half-Chinese, half-white Hanna and her white father contend with racism as they open a business in nineteenth-century Dakota Territory.

Premeditated Myrtle. By Elizabeth C. Bunce. Algonquin, \$17.95 (9781616209186). Gr. 5–8.

Irrepressible Myrtle Hardcastle is sure her neighbor's death is really a murder, and she intends to prove it.

The Prettiest. By Brigit Young. Roaring Brook, \$16.99 (9781626729230). Gr. 5–8.

Three eighth-grade girls band together to

figure out who's behind a list ranking the prettiest girls in their class.

The Queen Bee and Me. By Gillian McDunn. Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (9781681197517). Gr. 4–7.

Torn between her longtime best friend and a newcomer who shares her interest in science, Meg makes mistakes before realizing where her greatest loyalty lies.

Rebel in the Library of Ever. By Zeno Alexander. Macmillan/Imprint, \$16.99 (9781250169198). Gr. 3–6.

After the Forces of Darkness infiltrate the Board and fire any resisting librarians, it's up to Lenora to bring back the light.

Rick. By Alex Gino. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338048100). Gr. 3–6.

Sixth-grader Rick explores his identity and must confront a toxic friendship in this heart-felt companion to *George*.

Rosie: Stronger than Steel. By Lindsay Ward. Illus. by the author. Amazon/Two Lions, \$17.99 (9781542017947). Gr. 2–4.

Rosie, a little green tractor, works hard alongside crews of American and British women during WWII.

Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe. By Carlos Hernandez. Disney/Rick Riordan Presents, \$16.99 (9781368022835). Gr. 4–7.

As Papi plugs the holes that Sal made between universes, an "Evil Gabi" tries to stop him.

Santiago's Road Home. By Alexandra Diaz. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, \$17.99 (9781534446236). Gr. 4–7.

After being kicked out of his abusive aunt's home, Santiago decides to risk the harrowing journey from Mexico into the U.S.

Second Dad Summer. By Benjamin Klas. Illus. by Fian Arroyo. Red Chair/One Elm, \$16.99 (9781947159242). Gr. 4–7.

Jeremiah is excited to spend the summer with his dad, but he's not thrilled about his dad's over-the-top boyfriend.

Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math. By Rajani LaRocca. Illus. by Archana Sreenivasan. Lee & Low, \$19.95 (9781885008978). Gr. 1–4.

Through a folktale about a boy who enters a rajah's contest, this picture book offers a sneaky introduction to binary reasoning.

The Ship We Built. By Lexie Bean. Dial, \$16.99 (9780525554837). Gr. 5–8.

This emotionally raw narrative delicately and respectfully covers incredibly complex issues, compounded by Rowan's status as a trans boy.

The Silver Arrow. By Lev Grossman. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316539531). Gr. 4–7.

Aboard the magical train *The Silver Arrow*,

Kate transports various animals from endangered habitats to new homes around the world.

Skunk and Badger. By Amy Timberlake. Illus. by Jon Klassen. Algonquin, \$18.95 (9781643750057). Gr. 2–4.

Tidy Badger gets an unexpected roommate in the gregarious form of Skunk, who helps push Badger out of his stale routines.

The Smartest Kid in the Universe. By Chris Grabenstein. Random, \$16.99 (9780525647782). Gr. 5–7.

Jake accidentally eats a bowlful of intellect-enhancing pills and must save his school from an evil principal.

Spindlefish and Stars. By Christiane M. Andrews. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316496018). Gr. 5–8.

After Clo's father fails to make their rendezvous, she sets out on a mind-bending journey of mystery and magic.

Stand Up, Yumi Chung! By Jessica Kim. Penguin/Kokila, \$16.99 (9780525554974). Gr. 4–7.

Eleven-year-old Yumi wants to lead her life with laughs as a stand-up comic, but her old-school Korean parents have other ideas.

The Thief Knot: A Greenglass House Story. By Kate Milford. Illus. by Jaime Zollars. Clarion, \$17.99 (9781328466891). Gr. 5–8.

Marzana, Nialla, and a cadre of new friends team up and use their considerable smarts to investigate a tricky kidnapping case.

Thieves of Weirdwood. By William Shivering and Christian McKay Heidicker. Illus. by Anna Earley. Holt, \$16.99 (9781250302885). Gr. 6–8.

Tween thieves find themselves contending with a monster outbreak in this high-energy adventure from a Newbery Honor Book author.

Three Keys (A Front Desk Novel). By Kelly Yang. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338591385). Gr. 4–7.

This sequel to *Front Desk* (2019) sees sixth-grader Mia standing up for justice against a tide of anti-immigrant politics.

The Time of Green Magic. By Hilary McKay. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry, \$17.99 (9781534462762). Gr. 4–7.

When a recently blended family moves to a new house, the kids experience magic that puzzles, delights, terrifies, and unites them.

The Truth according to Blue. By Eve Yohalem. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316424370). Gr. 4–7.

Thirteen-year-old Blue manages her type 1 diabetes as she spends the summer searching for a long-lost family treasure.

Turtle Boy. By M. Evan Wolkenstein. Delacorte, \$16.99 (9780593121573). Gr. 5–8.

While completing the community service

required for his bar mitzvah, Will meets RJ, a dying boy with a bucket list.

The Unready Queen. By William Ritter. Algonquin, \$16.95 (9781616208400). Gr. 4–7.

A threat to the Wild Wood leads its magical creatures to war with humans, unless Cole, Tinn, and Fable can stop it.

The Wanderer. By Peter Van den Ende. Illus. by the author. Levine Querido/Em Querido, \$17 (9781646140176). Gr. 3–7.

A small paper boat embarks on a phantasmagorical voyage in this awe-inducing wordless adventure, illustrated in pen and ink.

War Stories. By Gordon Korman. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338290202). Gr. 4–7.

Page-turning suspense builds on Trevor's trip with great-grandfather G. G. to honor G. G.'s WWII tour of duty.

The Way Past Winter. By Kiran Millwood Hargrave. Illus. by Lauren O'Hara. Chronicle, \$17.99 (9781452181554). Gr. 3–6.

Three sisters set out to rescue their brother, braving a frozen landscape and a mythical bear in the process.

The Way to Rio Luna. By Zoraida Córdova. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338239546). Gr. 4–7.

A magic book helps Danny find the fairy-tale land of Rio Luna, where he hopes his lost sister is waiting.

Ways to Make Sunshine. By Renée Watson. Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (9781547600564). Gr. 3–5.

A beautifully rendered series of vignettes featuring a Black girl developing into her own personhood.

We Dream of Space. By Erin Entrada Kelly. Greenwillow, \$16.99 (9780062747303). Gr. 4–7.

Three siblings deal with a troubling home life while anticipating the *Challenger* launch in this poignant, well-wrought novel boasting lots of emotional depth.

A Whale of the Wild. By Rosanne Parry. Illus. by Lindsay Moore. Greenwillow, \$17.99 (9780062995926). Gr. 3–5.

When a powerful earthquake separates two young orcas from their pod, they undertake a dangerous journey to find their family.

What We Found in the Corn Maze and How It Saved a Dragon. By Henry Clark. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316492317). Gr. 4–6.

When Modesty and her friends find spells that really work, they end up in a magical world that needs saving.

When You Trap a Tiger. By Tae Keller. Random, \$16.99 (9781524715700). Gr. 3–6.

After moving in with her sick grandmother,

★ "MASTERFULLY
NUANCED AND
STUNNINGLY
TOLD." –Kirkus

★ Horn Book

★ Kirkus ★ SLJ

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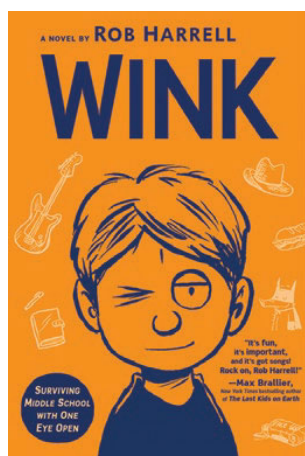
"THIS BOOK WILL SAVE LIVES."
—Zoraida J. Córdova, author of National Book Award Finalist *Hey, Kiddo*

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MIKE CURATO

HC 9781627796415
PB 9781250756145

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Lily strikes a deal with a magical tiger straight out of Korean folktales.

Whispering Pines. By Heidi Lang and Kati Bartkowski. Aladdin, \$17.99 (9781534460478). Gr. 5–8.

After her father's disappearance, Rae moves to Whispering Pines, where the creepy and bizarre lead to a dark mystery.

Wink. By Rob Harrell. Illus. by the author. Dial, \$16.99 (9781984815149). Gr. 5–7.

Wink navigates the seventh grade after the diagnosis of a rare cancer in a heartfelt story packed with comic art.

A Wish in the Dark. By Christina Soontornvat. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536204940). Gr. 4–7.

In this Thai-inspired twist on *Les Misérables*, Pong helps his oppressed city execute a peaceful revolt against their fascist Governor.

Young

All along the River. By Magnus Weightman. Illus. by the author. Clavis, \$18.95 (9781605375182). PreS–Gr. 2.

With 12 sets of animals traveling downriver, this engaging picture book challenges children to find various characters in each scene.

The Barnabus Project. By Terry Fan and others. Illus. by Terry Fan and others. Tundra, \$18.99 (9780735263260). K–Gr. 3.

A small elephant-mouse leads his fellow “failed projects” in an escape from a lab that engineers perfect pets.

Bedtime for Sweet Creatures. By Nikki Grimes. Illus. by Elizabeth Zunon. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky, \$17.99 (9781492638322). PreS–K.

A home is transformed into an animal-filled wilderness to reflect a mother's efforts to put her wild child to bed.

Bigger than a Dream. By Jef Aerts. Illus. by Marit Törnqvist. Tr. by David Colmer. Levine Querido, \$17.99 (9781646140206). K–Gr. 3.

A boy is taken by his dead sister's ghost on a bike ride, exploring death in terms both concrete and emotional.

Black Is a Rainbow Color.

By Angela Joy. Illus. by Ekua Holmes. Roaring Brook, \$17.99 (9781626726314). K–Gr. 3.

This beautifully told and illustrated celebration of African American people and ethnology thoughtfully explores what the Black experience means to a child.

The Blue House. By Phoebe Wahl. Illus. by the author. Knopf, \$17.99 (9781984893369). PreS–Gr. 3.

When the landlord sells their house, Leo and his dad are angry, but together they make a new home elsewhere.

Brick by Brick. By Heidi Woodward Sheffield. Illus. by the author. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen, \$17.99 (9780525517306). PreS–Gr. 2.

Exquisite details and clever mirroring show the close relationship between father and son as they—literally!—build their dreams.

Bunheads. By Misty Copeland. Illus.

by Setor Fiadzigbey. Putnam, \$17.99 (9780399547645). K–Gr. 3.

Inspired by her own experiences, Copeland tells the story of a young ballerina hoping to dance in the ballet *Coppélia*.

Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies. By Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. by Meilo So. Chronicle, \$18.99 (9781452176802). K–Gr. 3.

After immigrating from Mexico to America, a girl finds a way to help monarch butterflies complete their amazing migration.

The Camping Trip. By Jennifer K. Mann. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536207361). PreS–Gr. 2.

A sweet and entertaining story of a young girl's first time camping, as she learns to be open to nature and new experiences.

The Christmas Feast. By Nathalie Dargent. Illus. by Magali Le Huche. Eerdmans, \$17.99 (9780802855374). PreS–Gr. 3.

Wolf snatches Turkey and carries her home, intending to eat her for Christmas dinner, but the wily bird has other plans.

Cityscape. By April Pulley Sayre. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow, \$17.99 (9780062893314). PreS–Gr. 3.

Brief verses and exceptional photos encourage children to discover the beauty, ingenuity, and energy that define a city.

Comet the Unstoppable Reindeer. By Jim Benton. Illus. by the author. Amazon/Two Lions, \$17.99 (9781542043472). K–Gr. 3.

Santa's gone AWOL on Christmas Eve, so it's up to beleaguered reindeer Comet to deliver presents.

Don't Worry, Little Crab. By Chris Haughton. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536211191). PreS–Gr. 1.

Initially excited to travel the ocean with Very Big Crab, Little Crab is overwhelmed by life beyond the tide pool.

The Egg. By Geraldo Valério. Illus. by the author. Owlkids, \$18.95 (9781771473743). PreS–K.

A mother bird mistakenly raises a baby human as her lost chick in this sweet and silly wordless tale.

Finding François: A Story about the Healing Power of Friendship. By Gus Gordon. Illus. by the author. Dial, \$17.99 (9780525554004). PreS–Gr. 3.

A message in a bottle leads to a friendship that brings young Alice happiness and helps her in sad times.

Golden Threads. By Suzanne Del Rizzo. Illus. by Miki Sato. Owlkids, \$17.95 (9781771473606). PreS–Gr. 2.

After Emi's stuffed fox is lost and damaged in a storm, he is found and repaired by Kiko.

Gram's Hug. By Amy Nielander. Illus. by the author. Page Street, \$18.99 (9781624149269). K–Gr. 2.

As May grows up, her enthusiasm for aerobatics distracts from her love for Grama, until she becomes the world's youngest astronaut.

Green on Green. By Dianne White. Illus. by Felicita Sala. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, \$17.99 (9781481462785). K–Gr. 2.

As the seasons pass, hypnotic tercets describe how colors blend and layer in the scenic landscape inhabited by a boy and his parents.

Hello, Little One: A Monarch Butterfly Story. By Zeena M. Pliska. Illus. by Fiona Halliday. Page Street, \$17.99 (9781624149313). K–Gr. 2.

An accessible and thoroughly engaging introduction to monarch butterflies, told through a parable of friendship.

Hike. By Pete Oswald. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536201574). PreS–Gr. 2.

In this handsome, near-wordless picture book, a father and his child spend a day hiking in the mountains.

Houndsley and Catina at the Library. By James Howe. Illus. by Marie-Louise Gay. Candlewick, \$15.99 (9780763696627). K–Gr. 2.

Dismayed to learn that their library must close after the librarian retires, Houndsley and Catina's friend Bert finds a solution.

I Am Every Good Thing. By Derrick Barnes. Illus. by Gordon C. James. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen, \$17.99 (9780525518778). PreS–Gr. 3.

A poetic, powerful celebration of Black boy

joy, showing kids being adventurous, inquisitive, playful, creative, loving, brave, vulnerable, and worthy.

I Talk like a River. By Jordan Scott and Sydney Smith. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823445592). K–Gr. 3.

Scott draws upon his own experience in this emotionally attuned, reassuring story of a boy struggling with stuttering.

If You Come to Earth. By Sophie Blackall. Illus. by the author. Chronicle, \$18.99 (9781452137797). PreS–Gr. 2.

A boy describes the vast diversity of Earth's geography, people, and cultures in a written invitation to visitors from outer space.

I'm Not a Girl: A Transgender Story. By Maddox Lyons and Jessica Verdi. Illus. by Dana Simpson. Roaring Brook, \$18.99 (9780374310684). PreS–Gr. 1.

An important book that can serve as a conversation starter for gender-expansive children and also help cis children build empathy.

In a Jar. By Deborah Marcero. Illus. by the author. Putnam, \$17.99 (9780525514596). PreS–Gr. 2.

A pair of young rabbits become friends and collect wondrous mementos of their time together in glass jars.

In My Garden. By Charlotte Zolotow. Illus. by Philip Stead. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823443208). PreS–Gr. 2.

This is the best kind of picture book, offering a satisfying reading experience while leaving plenty of space for wondering.

Jacob's Fantastic Flight. By Philip Waechter. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Elisabeth Lauffer. Blue Dot, \$17.95 (9781733121262). PreS–Gr. 2.

Jacob, who can fly, joins a flock of birds as he travels to meet his parents and finds an adventure.

Joy. By Yasmeen Ismail. Illus. by Jenni Desmond. Candlewick/Walker, \$16.99 (9781536209341). PreS–Gr. 1.

The antics of a delightful, energetic kitten will charm readers of any age.

Letters from Bear. By Gauthier David. Illus. by Marie Caudry. Eerdmans, \$17.99 (9780802855367). K–Gr. 2.

As Bear traverses a wondrous, whimsical landscape, she describes the journey in heart-felt letters to her dear friend, Bird.

Lift. By Minh Lê. Illus. by Dan Santat. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9781368036924). PreS–Gr. 2.

This poignant family drama steeped in cinematic imagination is an immersive experience that children will reach for like their own magic button.

Lights on Wonder Rock. By David Litchfield. Illus. by the author. Clarion, \$17.99 (9780358359531). K–Gr. 3.

Using sweeping, luminous artwork, Litchfield tells the story of a girl who longs to live with aliens among the stars.

Lion Needs a Haircut. By Hyewon Yum. Illus. by the author. Abrams, \$16.99 (9781419742248). PreS–Gr. 2.

In a hilarious psychological tug-of-war, a lion tells his son he has to get a haircut, while the shaggy cub resists.

The Little Mermaid. By Jerry Pinkney. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown, \$18.99 (9780316440318). PreS–Gr. 3.

Through joyous artwork, acclaimed illustrator Pinkney offers a transformative alternative version of Hans Christian Andersen's classic mermaid tale.

Madame Badobedah. By Sophie Dahl. Illus. by Lauren O'Hara. Candlewick/Walker, \$18.99 (9781536210224). K–Gr. 3.

Mabel, resident child and spy of the Mermaid Hotel, tells the story of the hotel's mysterious new guest.

The Year's Brightest Stars

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★ "A deep and moving reflection." —Kirkus

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★ Kirkus
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★ "[A] must-read." —Kirkus

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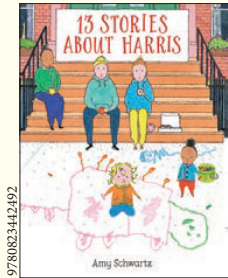
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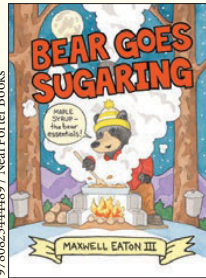
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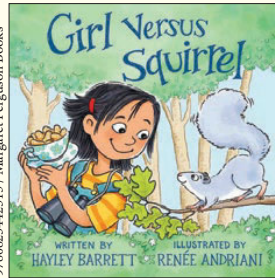
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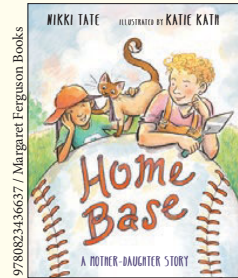
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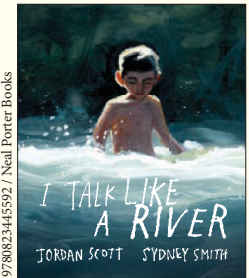
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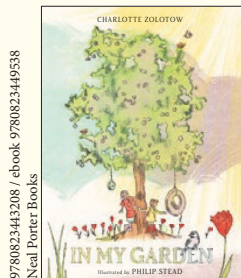
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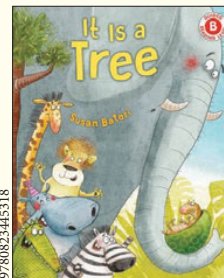
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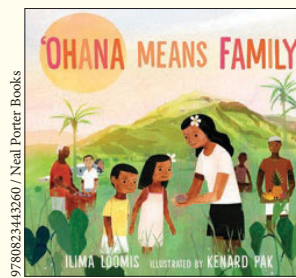
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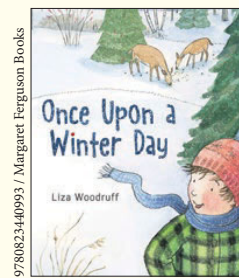
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★ School Library Journal



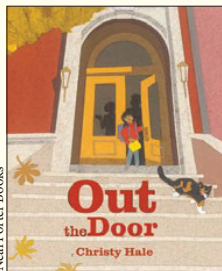
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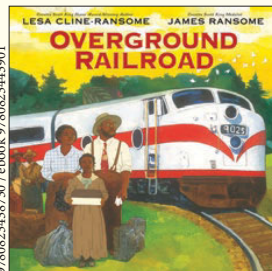
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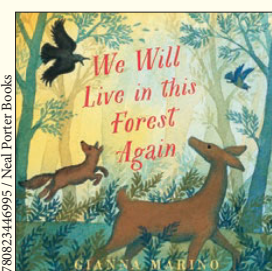
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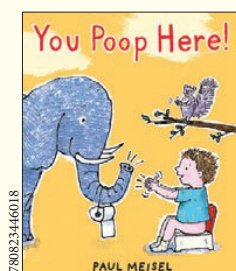
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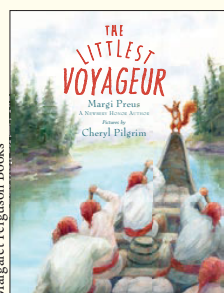
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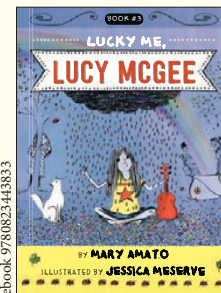


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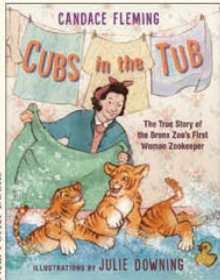
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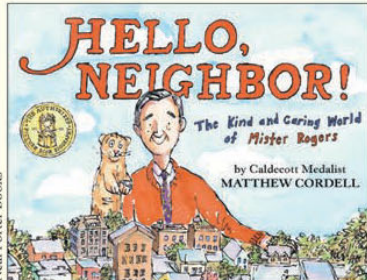
From Brother's Keeper

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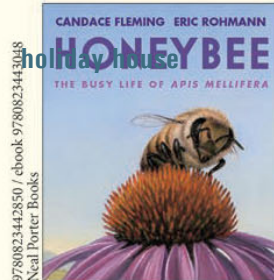
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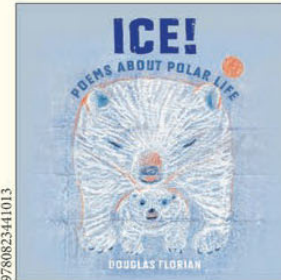
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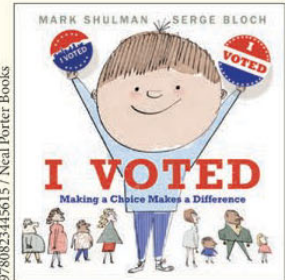
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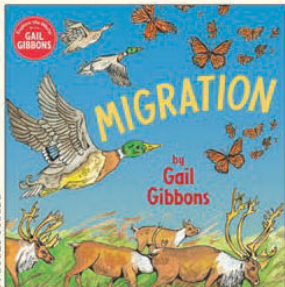
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- ★ Kirkus Reviews



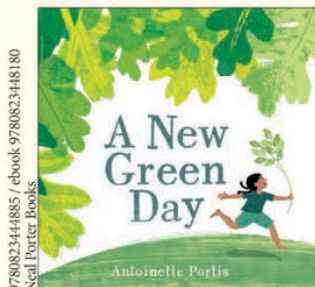
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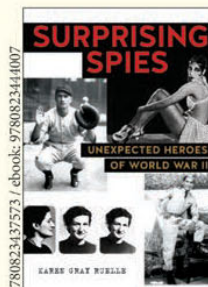
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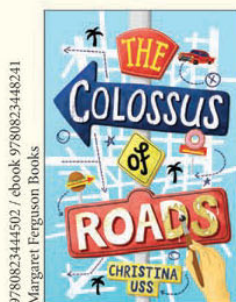
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Middle Grade



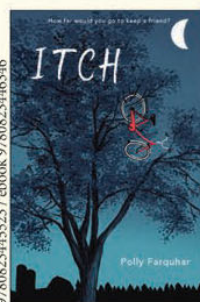
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- ★ Booklist
- ★ Kirkus Reviews
- ★ Publishers Weekly
- ★ School Library Journal



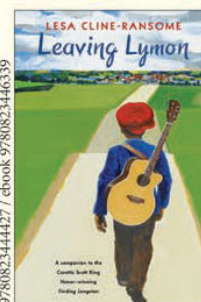
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Margaret Ferguson Books

- ★ Booklist
- ★ School Library Journal
- ★ Shelf Awareness



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- ★ Kirkus Reviews
- ★ School Library Journal



9780823444427 / ebook 9780823446339

- ★ The Horn Book
- ★ Kirkus Reviews
- ★ School Library Journal



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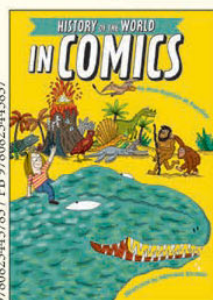
- ★ Kirkus Reviews
- ★ Quill & Quire



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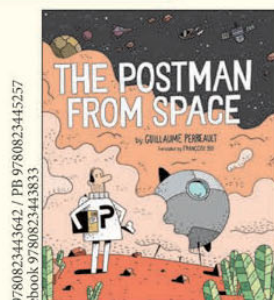
- ★ School Library Journal

Graphic Novels



9780823445837 / PB 9780823445837

- ★ School Library Journal



9780823443642 / PB 9780823445257
ebook 9780823443833

- ★ Foreword Reviews
- ★ Shelf Awareness



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- ★ Kirkus Reviews

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Novels in Verse

Novels in verse are difficult to do right, but these exceptionally well-written examples from the past year demonstrate how powerful the format can be.

Becoming Muhammad Ali. By James Patterson and Kwame Alexander. Illus. by Dawud Anyabwile. Little, Brown/JIMMY Patterson, \$16.99 (9780316498166). Gr. 3–7.

In this fictionalized biography, powerhouse authors Patterson and Alexander chronicle teenage Clay's rise to fame in 10 chapter "rounds."

Before the Ever After. By Jacqueline Woodson. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen, \$17.99 (9780399545436). Gr. 5–8.

Woodson's poignant verse novel looks beyond sports stardom to explore the devastating impact of head trauma in football.

Beyond Me. By Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy, \$17.99 (9781481437899). Gr. 4–7.

An 11-year-old girl in Japan, unnerved by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, gradually finds equilibrium and conquers her anxiety by helping others.

The Bird in Me Flies. By Sara Lundberg. Tr. by B. J. Epstein. Greenwood, \$18.95 (9781773062600). Gr. 3–6.

This illustrated novel in verse tells the remarkable story of Berta Hansson's road to becoming a beloved Swedish artist.

Blood Moon. By Lucy Cuthew. Candlewick, \$18.99 (9781536215038). Gr. 9–12.

Frankie must learn to regain control of her life after becoming a victim of slut-shaming via humiliating memes.

The Canyon's Edge. By Dusti Bowling. Little, Brown, \$16.99 (9780316494694). Gr. 4–7.

Nora channels her inner strength to survive being lost in a canyon and the lingering grief of losing her mother.

Every Body Looking. By Candice Iloh. Dutton, \$17.99 (9780525556206). Gr. 10–12.

This artful novel in verse weaves together details of Ada's childhood and young adult experiences and how they shaped the woman she becomes.

Punching the Air. By Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$19.99 (9780062996480). Gr. 9–12.

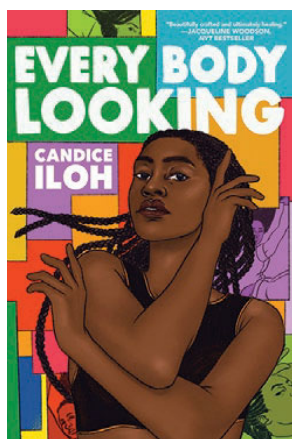
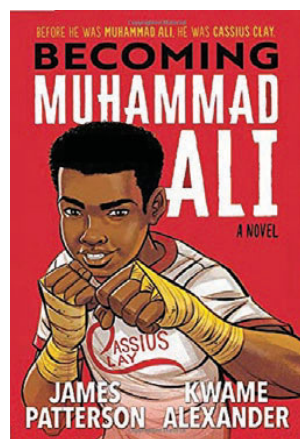
A searing, prescient story of an unjustly sentenced Black teen's time in prison and the abuses he suffers there.

The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party. By Allan Wolf. Candlewick, \$21.99 (9780763663247). Gr. 8–12.

Wolf resurrects the settlers traveling in the Donner Party to narrate their grueling experiences during that fateful journey.

With a Star in My Hand: Rubén Darío, Poetry Hero. By Margarita Engle. Atheneum, \$17.99 (9781534424937). Gr. 7–10.

Engle's novel in verse tells the life story of Rubén Darío, the famed Niño Poeta (Boy Poet) of Nicaragua.



Maud and Grand-Maud. By Sara O'Leary. Illus. by Kenard Pak. Random, \$17.99 (9780399554582). PreS–Gr. 2.

From watching black-and-white movies to wearing flannel nightgowns to opening the treasure chest, Maud loves sleepover weekends with her grandmother.

Monster and Boy. By Hannah Barnaby. Illus. by Anoosha Syed. Holt, \$13.99 (9781250217837). Gr. 1–3.

When the monster under his bed accidentally swallows him, a boy has the nighttime adventure of his life.

My Best Friend. By Julie Fogliano. Illus. by Jillian Tamaki. Atheneum, \$17.99 (9781534427228). PreS–Gr. 1.

Two girls meet on a playground and play riotous games, and in a particular little-kid way, that means they're best friends.

My Favorite Color. By Aaron Becker. Illus. by the author. Candlewick Studio, \$15.99 (9781536214741). PreS–K.

This innovative approach to color primers guides readers through ranges of colors, depicted in color-shifting grids of abstract square art.

My Favorite Memories. By Sepideh Sarihi. Illus. by Julie Völk. Tr. by Elisabeth Lauffer. Blue Dot, \$17.95 (9781733121248). Gr. 1–3.

Before her family leaves for a new country, a girl wonders how to fit all her favorite things in a small suitcase.

My Maddy. By Gayle E. Pitman. Illus. by Violet Tobacco. Magination, \$14.99 (9781433830440). K–Gr. 3.

A charming and sensitive picture book about a parent who is neither male nor female, neither father nor mother.

Nana Akua Goes to School. By Tricia Elam Walker. Illus. by April Harrison. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9780525581130). PreS–Gr. 3.

This beautiful picture book offers a helpful perspective on Ghanaian tradition and cultural differences within a heartening family story.

Nesting. By Henry Cole. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, \$17.99 (9780062885920). PreS–Gr. 1.

A simple but realistic story of a pair of robins as they build a nest and raise their babies.

The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story. By Tina Cho. Illus. by Jess X. Snow. Penguin/Kokila, \$17.99 (9781984814869). K–Gr. 3.

On South Korea's Jeju Island, Grandma teaches Dayeon to become one of the *haenyeo*, women divers who hunt for deep-sea delicacies.

'Ohana Means Family. By Ilima Loomis. Illus. by Kenard Pak. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823443260). PreS–Gr. 2.

Poetic text gradually reveals the meaning and significance of poi, kalo, and 'ohana to Hawaiian culture.

The Old Truck. By Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey. Illus. by the authors. Norton/Young Readers, \$17.95 (9781324005193). PreS–K.

A quiet, winsomely illustrated book about intergenerational farm life, centered around a cheery red truck.

On Account of the Gum. By Adam Rex. Illus. by the author. Chronicle, \$17.99 (9781452181547). K–Gr. 3.

After waking with gum in her hair, a child suffers mounting indignities as her family tries to get it out.

An Ordinary Day. By Elana K. Arnold. Illus. by Elizabet Vuković. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, \$17.99 (9781481472623). PreS–Gr. 2.

In two neighboring houses, one family puts their beloved dog to sleep while the other family prepares to give birth.

Our Little Kitchen. By Jillian Tamaki. Illus. by the author. Abrams, \$17.99 (9781419746550). K–Gr. 3.

This busy ode to a community kitchen em-

phasizes the warmth and fellowship found in cooking and sharing food with a crowd.

Overground Railroad. By Lesa Cline-Ransome. Illus. by James Ransome. Holiday, \$18.99 (9780823438730). PreS–Gr. 3.

In this historical picture book, a Black family boards a northbound train, leaving North Carolina to find better jobs, more education, and a brighter future.

Papa Brings Me the World. By Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw. Illus. by the author. Holt, \$18.99 (9781250159250). PreS–Gr. 2.

Inspired by her father, who travels the world and brings home treasures from faraway places, Lulu decides to follow in his footsteps.

Papa, Daddy, and Riley. By Seamus Kirst. Illus. by Devon Holzwarth. Magination, \$14.99 (9781433832390). PreS–Gr. 2.

A must-have for children's picture-book collections, this is a delightful celebration of what makes a family.

The Paper Boat: A Refugee Story. By Thao Lam. Illus. by the author. Owlkids, \$17.95 (9781771473637). Gr. 1–3.

Recalling her mother's escape from the Vietnam, author-illustrator Lam utilizes sequential panels of exquisite cut-paper collage to tell parallel tales of survival.

The Paper Kingdom. By Helena Ku Rhee. Illus. by Pascal Campion. Random, \$17.99 (9780525644613). K–Gr. 2.

When Daniel joins his parents on their janitorial night shift, he discovers the magical "paper kingdom" (office building) they care for.

A Polar Bear in the Snow. By Mac Barnett. Illus. by Shawn Harris. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536203967). PreS–Gr. 2.

Crafted with simplicity and subtle humor comes the story of a polar bear awakening and embarking on a playful mission.

Ray. By Marianna Coppo. Illus. by the author. Tundra, \$17.99 (9780735265776). PreS–Gr. 2.

A small light bulb shines brightly on a big adventure when placed in a camping lantern.

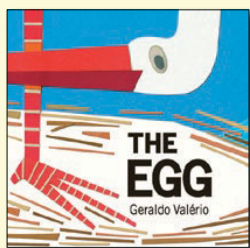
Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day. By Carmen Agra Deedy. Illus. by Pete Oswald. Scholastic, \$17.99 (9781338216387). K–Gr. 3.

An accident triggers a fight between best friends Rita and Ralph, who learn the value of meeting in the middle.

Robobaby. By David Wiesner. Illus. by the author. Clarion, \$17.99 (9780544987319). PreS–Gr. 2.

A robot family receives a special delivery, a new baby brother for Cathy, but he's not so easy to assemble.

Celebrating our **Booklist Stars** of 2020



★ **Booklist** ★
Kirkus

"Reaffirm[s] that loving families come in all shapes and sizes."

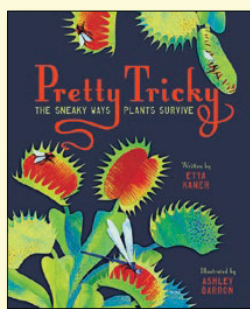
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★ **Booklist** ★
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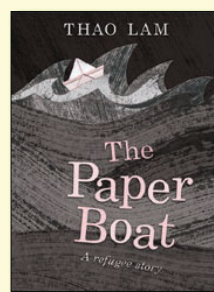
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★ **Booklist** ★
Kirkus

"Readers won't look at plants the same way again."

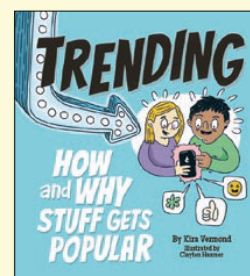
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★ **Booklist** ★
Kirkus
BCCB
SLJ

"A tender tribute... to all refugees."

— Booklist



★ **Booklist** ★
Kirkus

"An entertaining, enlightening book on an unusual topic."

— Booklist

OwlkidsBooks.com



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Salma the Syrian Chef. By Danny Ramadan. Illus. by Anna Bron. Annick, \$18.95 (9781773213750). K–Gr. 2.

Salma cooks her Mama's favorite dish to help her smile again after separating from Papa at a Syrian refugee camp.

Sandcastle. By Einat Tsarfati. Illus. by the author. Candlewick, \$17.99 (9781536211436). PreS–Gr. 2.

Meticulously detailed and whimsical artwork carries the wordless tale of a girl who builds an extraordinary sandcastle.

The Secret Rhino Society. By Jonathan E. Jacobs. Illus. by Samantha Cotterill. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, \$17.99 (9781534430006). PreS–Gr. 2.

This engaging, funny, and offbeat romp will be a great way to initiate conversations about diversity, tolerance, and acceptance.

See the Cat: Three Stories about a Dog. By David LaRochelle. Illus. by Mike Wahnoutka. Candlewick, \$8.99 (9781536204278). PreS–Gr. 2.

From the misleading title to the often perturbed, occasionally exasperated main character, this book delivers laugh-out-loud moments for beginning readers.

Sloth Went. By Adam Lehrhaupt. Illus. by Benson Shum. Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (9781547602452). PreS–Gr. 1.

Little Sloth embarks on a mission of utmost seriousness: venturing to the ground so he can poop.

Sometimes People March. By Tessa Allen. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, \$17.99 (9780062991188). PreS–Gr. 2.

A succinct, inviting look at protest movements, past and present, ideal for starting conversations about collective action.

Spacebot. By Mike Twohy. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, \$17.99 (9781534444362). PreS–Gr. 2.

When a UFO brings a robo-dog to a real dog's backyard, he's disappointed that it's there for the kitchen appliances.

Starcrossed. By Julia Denos. Illus. by the author. HMH, \$18.99 (9780358153955). Gr. 1–3.

This mythic tale of celestial friendship sees a girl trading places with her best friend, a boy who lives among the stars.

Such a Good Boy. By Marianna Coppo. Illus. by the author. Chronicle, \$17.99 (9781452177748). PreS–Gr. 2.

Buzz has the perfect life of a show dog, but all he wants is a taste of the wild life.

Summer Song. By Kevin Henkes. Illus. by Laura Dronzek. Greenwillow, \$18.99 (9780062866134). PreS–Gr. 2.

The sounds of summer permeate this pic-

ture book from a popular duo, the concluding volume in a quartet that celebrates the seasons.

Sun Flower Lion. By Kevin Henkes. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow, \$18.99 (9780062866103). PreS–K.

This story for the youngest readers employs the same design for a sun, flower, and lion that interact in six brief chapters.

Swashby and the Sea. By Beth Ferry. Illus. by Juana Martinez-Neal. HMH, \$17.99 (9780544707375). PreS–Gr. 2.

This humorously satisfying picture book tells the tale of a cantankerous retired sea captain, his new neighbors, and the mischievous sea.

Ten Ways to Hear Snow. By Cathy Camper. Illus. by Kenard Pak. Penguin/Kokila, \$17.99 (9780399186332). PreS–Gr. 3.

Lina visits her grandmother, who is losing her eyesight. Still, she's quite capable of hearing the sound of snow.

This Old Dog. By Martha Brockenbrough. Illus. by Gabriel Alborozo. Levine Querido/Arthur A. Levine, \$17.99 (9781646140107). PreS–Gr. 2.

In this celebration of toddler–dog love, a scraggly old dog feels left out when a baby comes into the household.

A Thousand Glass Flowers: Marietta Barovier and the Invention of the Rosetta Bead. By Evan Turk. Illus. by the author. Atheneum, \$17.99 (9781534410343). K–Gr. 3.

This fictionalized biography of Italian glassmaker Barovier captures the beauty of "thousand flower" glass beads.

The Tiny Baker. By Hayley Barrett. Illus. by Alison Jay. Barefoot, \$17.99 (9781646860708). PreS–Gr. 2.

When a tiny bee baker's café meets with a small disaster, her insect friends work together to save the day.

Together We Grow. By Susan Vaught. Illus. by Kelly Murphy. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, \$17.99 (9781534405868). PreS–Gr. 2.

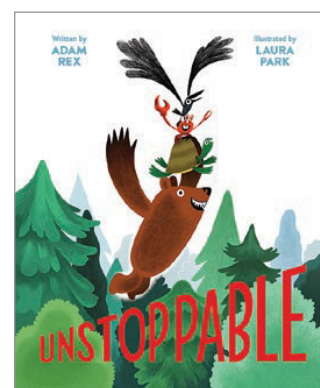
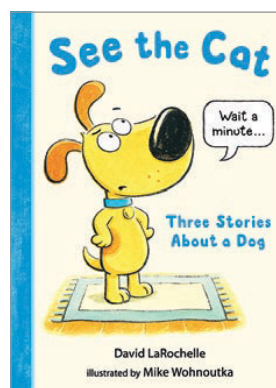
Here is a gentle tale of inclusion and fairness, set among animals in a barn, that children will clearly understand.

Unstoppable. By Adam Rex. Illus. by Laura Park. Chronicle, \$16.99 (9781452165042). K–Gr. 3.

In a series of exponential escalations, animals literally band together to form one unstoppable unit, teaching a lesson on cooperation.

Up on Bob. By Mary Sullivan. Illus. by the author. HMH, \$17.99 (9781328994714). PreS–Gr. 2.

Bob is a simple dog who just wants to



enjoy his nap. Unfortunately, Someone—a mischievous cat—has her own plans.

The Walrus and the Caribou. By Maika Harper. Illus. by Marcus Cutler. Inhabit, \$16.95 (9781772272567). PreS–Gr. 2.

A humorous introduction to an Inuit creation story about a woman who breathes life into animals—and fixes their mixed-up parts.

We Are Water Protectors. By Carole Lindstrom. Illus. by Michaela Goade. Roaring Brook, \$17.99 (9781250203557). K–Gr. 2.

An Indigenous girl explains why water is sacred and calls readers to action in protecting the planet from polluting pipelines.

We Will Live in This Forest Again.

By Gianna Marino. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter, \$18.99 (9780823446995). PreS–Gr. 2.

When a wildfire sweeps through the forest, birds and beasts flee, but new green shoots emerge and the animals return.

Welcome to Bobville: City of Bobs. By Jonah Winter. Illus. by Bob Staake. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9780593122723). PreS–Gr. 2.

In the town of Bobville, every resident is the same—until a renegade Bruce sees a different way.

Who Will You Be? By Andrea Pippins. Illus. by the author. Random/Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99 (9781984849489). PreS–Gr. 1.

An arrestingly illustrated, simply written reflection on what kind of person a mother's young son will grow up to be.

Why Do We Cry? By Fran Pintadera. Illus. by Ana Sender. Kids Can, \$16.99 (9781525304774). PreS–Gr. 2.

Gorgeous illustrations and words combine as a mother explains the many reasons for crying to her young son.

World So Wide. By Alison McGhee. Illus. by Kate Alizadeh. Amazon/Two Lions, \$17.99 (9781542006330). PreS–K.

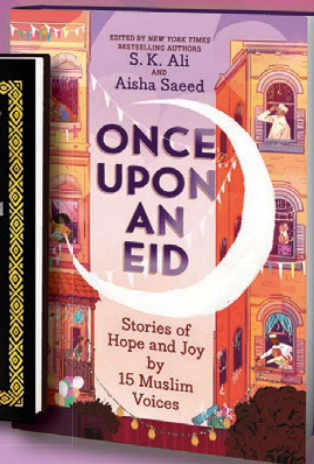
New parents introduce their child to the world and celebrate his first sensory experiences.

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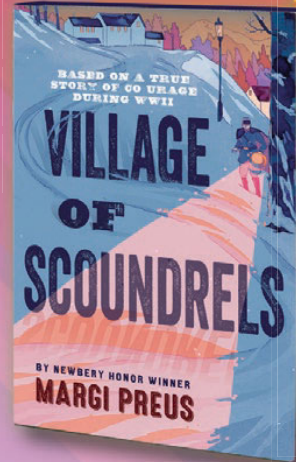


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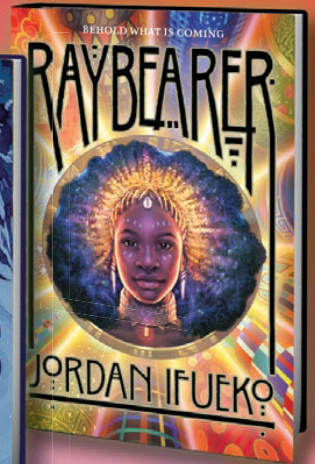


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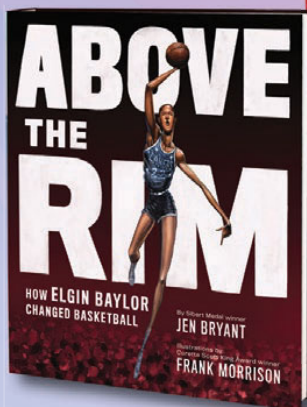


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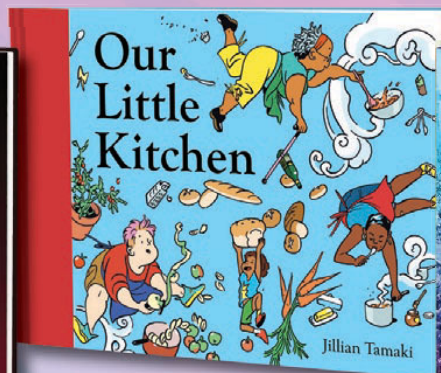


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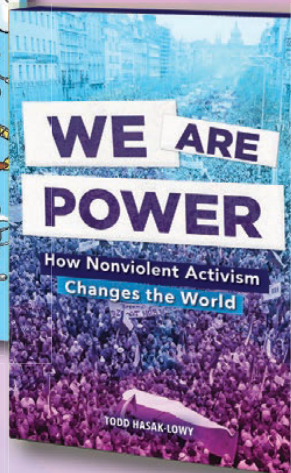
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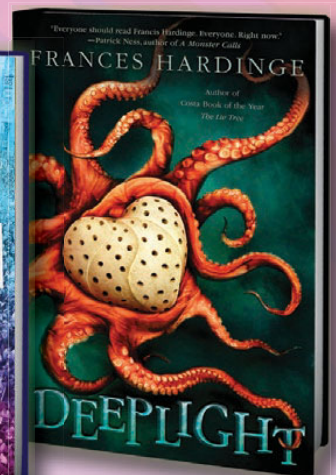
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Fiction

All the Devils Are Here. By Louise Penny. Read by Robert Bathurst. 14hr. Macmillan, DD, \$26.99 (9781250760616).

Lingering descriptions of Paris, a heightened emotional tenor, and a broad cast of internationally accented characters makes this series entry one not to miss!

Apeiogon. By Colum McCann. Read by the author. 15hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780307878045).

In his soft Irish lilt and without *ever* eliding the magnitude of loss and mourning, McCann creates a can't-turn-away, elegiac homage to resilience and hope.

A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor. By Hank Green. Read by a full cast. 16hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593146330).

A full cast enriches this can't-miss sequel that is appended with a fun interview between the author and buddy Cory Doctorow.

The Book of Longings. By Sue Monk Kidd. Read by Mozhan Marnò and the author. 13.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780593212820).

Nuanced Marnò navigates Ana's tumultuous life as "a woman with her own quest" in this imagining of the story of Jesus' wife.

Cartier's Hope. By M. J. Rose. Read by Tavia Gilbert. 11hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, DD, \$23.99 (9781508280224).

Gilbert gives Vera Garland the authentic, determined voice of an ambitious woman shattering norms and seeking justice at a straight-laced time of silk and satin.

The Case of the Reincarnated Client. By Tarquin Hall. Read by Sam Dastor. 9hr. Blackstone, CD, \$76 (9781094081540).

With pitch-perfect aplomb, Dastor expertly commands the colorful cast of this mystery, navigating comedic twists and sol-emn tragedies.

Code Name Hélène. By Ariel Lawhon. Read by Barrie Kreinik and Peter Ganim. 17.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593169247).

A stellar dual-narration performance of an

incredible book filled with heroism, romance, and camaraderie that will captivate listeners.

A Conspiracy of Bones. By Kathy Reichs. Read by Linda Emond. 12hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, CD, \$39.99 (9781797103242).

Emond brings a full complement of accents to highlight both the tension and touches of irony that make this series so entertaining.

Deacon King Kong. By James McBride. Read by Dominic Hoffman. 14hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780593166970).

A consummate chameleon, Hoffman adroitly assumes the personalities of the vast cast, smoothly adjusting mood, tone, and accents in the unmissable performance.

A Deadly Education. By Naomi Novik. Read by Anisha Dadia. 11hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593287422).

Dadia's narration superbly pairs to Novik's dark fantasy exploration with a social conscience, and emphasises vocally expressed character traits.

The Death of Vivek Oji. By Akwaeke Emezi. Read by Yetide Badaki and Chukwudi Iwuji. 8hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$66.50 (9780593211489).

An already unforgettable title begets an enthralling aural enhancement with alternating narration from two talented actors.

Devolution: A Firsthand Account of the Rainier Sasquatch Massacre. By Max Brooks. Read by a full cast. 10hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593168080).

A star-studded full cast headlines this exemplary production of the latest horror novel from *World War Z* author Max Brooks.

The Evening and the Morning. By Ken Follett. Read by John Lee. 24.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$70 (9780593289631).

As a consummate professional, Lee gives listeners an enjoyable and satisfying experience with this lengthy historical epic.

The Gimmicks. By Chris McCormick. Read by a full cast. 11.5hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$26.99 (9780062989444).

An evocative and memorable performance ideal for those who relish deeply human stories framed by political circumstances.

The Girl with the Louding Voice. By Abi Daré. Read by Adjoa Andoh. 12hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593168738).

Andoh's genius is in empathizing with each character and bringing their truth to the fore. "Honest, honest, her voice is doing music inside my ears."

The Glass Hotel. By Emily St. John Mandel. Read by Dylan Moore. 10.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$40 (9780525596677).

Interspersed with main-character Vincent's incarnations, Moore superbly, seamlessly switches genders, ages, and backgrounds for the wide cast.

The Gringa. By Andrew Altschul. Read by Curt Bonnem. 18.5hr. HighBridge, CD, \$44.99 (9781696600521).

Shifting accents among an international cast of characters, Bonnem's voice gives insight into each character's perspective.

Hamnet. By Maggie O'Farrell. Read by Ell Potter. 12.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593212158).

O'Farrell and Potter alchemize aural magic in this imagining of Shakespeare's family life.

Hi Five. By Joe Ide. Read by Zeno Robinson. 12hr. Hachette, CD, \$35 (9781549150197).

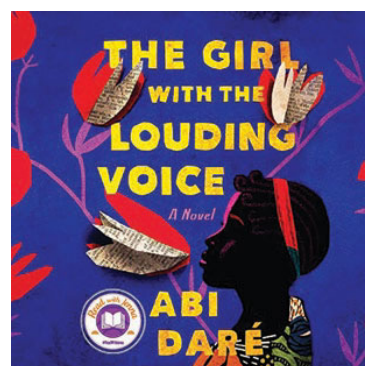
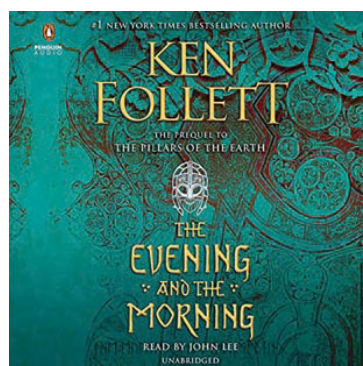
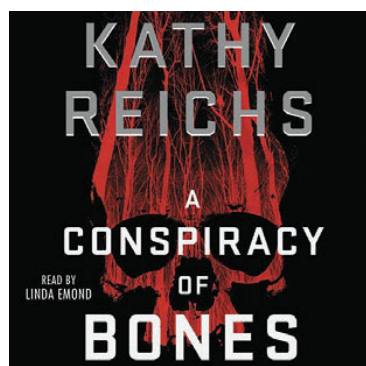
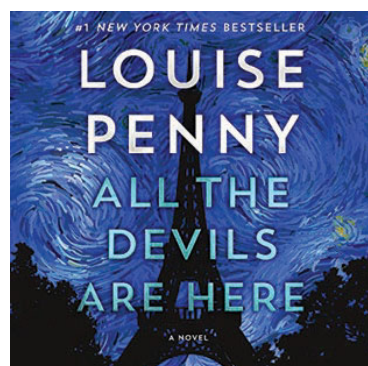
Multiple personalities challenge both detective and narrator in this lively and wryly humorous mystery.

Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: Stories from the Harlem Renaissance. By Zora Neale Hurston. Ed. by Genevieve West. Read by Aunjanue Ellis. HarperAudio, DD, \$23.99 (9780062915832).

Navigating Hurston's varied language and wide-ranging use of dialects, Ellis is an effortlessly fluent cipher, comfortable and confident throughout.

How Much of These Hills Is Gold. By C. Pam Zhang. Read by Catherine Ho and Joel de la Fuente. 9.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593166956).

Emphasizing Zhang's sensuous language, Ho plays with words and tone, and leans into the menace of discrimination in this multifaceted western.



The Janes. By Louisa Luna. Read by Tavia Gilbert. 15.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593152720).

Perfectly matching every nuance of tone and pace, Gilbert leads listeners through this intense and harrowing ripped-from-the-headlines thriller.

The Jetsetters. By Amanda Eyre Ward. Read by Thérèse Plummer. 8hr. Recorded Books, CD, \$77.75 (9781980057598).

By varying tone, pitch, and even singing ability, Plummer distinguishes the four narrators and their journey in this fun and moving work.

Laetitia Rodd and the Case of the

Wandering Scholar. By Kate Saunders. Read by Anna Bentinck. 11hr. Dreamscape, CD, \$59.99 (9781974988969).

Saunders' clever text matched with Bentinck's stellar reading makes this a treat for fans of historical mysteries.

The Lehman Trilogy. By Stefano Massini. Read by Edoardo Ballerini. 13.5hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$29.99 (9780062940483).

The veteran superstar narrator portrays four generations over a century and a half, embodying dozens of characters in just-under 14 magical hours.

Long Bright River. By Liz Moore. Read by Allyson Ryan. 13.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780593146880).

Ryan distinguishes characters sharply by their varying regional accents, ages, and backgrounds. Even minor speakers are believable in this tense tale.

A Long Petal of the Sea. By Isabelle Allende. Read by Edoardo Ballerini. 9.75hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593167984).

Author and reader remain ideally paired, with Ballerini displaying his signature rhythm and animation of minor characters.

Luster. By Raven Leilani. Read by Ariel Blake. 7hr. Macmillan, DD, \$19.99 (9781250752864).

First-time narrator Blake readily embodies an odd couple with an odder family, voicing each as a character with a vibrant emotional core.

The Lying Life of Adults. By Elena Ferrante. Read by Marisa Tomei. 10.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$40 (9780593340882).

Oscar-winner Tomei pulls out all the stops in a narration that matches the accolades for Ferrante's lauded and incisive coming-of-age novel.

Migrations. By Charlotte McConaghy. Read by Barrie Kreinik. 9hr. Macmillan/AudioGO, DD, \$19.99 (9781250751508).

Kreinik narrates with deft agility while showcasing an impressive, empathetic skill for accents and vocal quirks.

Miss Austen. By Gill Hornby. Read by Juliet Stevenson. 11hr. Macmillan, CD, \$45.99 (9781250260598).

The veteran narrator of Austen's novels uses variations in tone to indicate the societal perception of women of the era, in contrast to the "important" men in their lives.

Monogamy. By Sue Miller. Read by the author. 11hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$26.99 (9780062969712).

A contemplative, resonating reading by the author is an aural gift to listeners and longtime fans.

My Mother's House. By Francesca Momplaisir. Read by a full cast. 10.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$85.50 (9780593169605).

Debut novelist Momplaisir's already unnerving nightmare-on-the-page morphs into aural terror in three voices.

The Neil Gaiman Reader. By Neil Gaiman. Read by the author and a full cast. 27hr. Harper, DD, \$48.99 (9780063031883).

As always, Gaiman is an excellent narrator of his own work. Adding narration from George Guidall and Lenny Henry makes the collection one not to miss.

The Night Watchman. By Louise Erdrich. Read by the author. 13.5hr. Harper, DD, \$29.99 (9780062983893).

Narrating her own work, Erdrich shines with a cast that is delightfully vast, displaying her inviting fluency and consistently magnificent storytelling.

One By One. By Ruth Ware. Read by Imogene Church. 13h. Simon & Schuster Audio, CD, \$39.99 (9781797111360).

Church, the narrator for all of Ware's other novels, is once again the quintessential voice of Ware's brand of female protagonist in this Christie-esque mystery.

Pew. By Catherine Lacey. Read by Bahni Turpin. 6.5hr. Brilliance, DD, \$24.99 (9781799767640).

A provocative meditation on the duplicity of appearances, with wide-ranging characterizations strongly voiced by Turpin.

Postscript. By Cecelia Ahern. Read by Amy Huberman. 10hr. Hachette, CD, \$30 (9781549102080).

Irish-accented Huberman brings meaning to the more emotional parts of this long-awaited sequel to 2004's *PS, I Love You*.

Pretty Things. By Janelle Brown. Read by a full cast. 16hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780593209998).

From a high-end thief to her Irish partner, ailing mother, and all manner of other characters, a trio of narrators creates and sustains believable voices for all.

The Resisters. By Gish Jen. Read by William DeMeritt. 9hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593169926).

Matching Jen's rhythmic sentence structure, DeMeritt narrates to convey both human and AI personas in this thought-provoking audio.

Saving Ruby King. By Catherine Adel West. Read by a full cast. 10.5hr. Harper, DD, \$26.99 (9781488208751).

A full cast made up of veteran- and newcomer-narrators packs a punch in this powerhouse debut imbued with deeply emotional resonance.

The Search Party. By Simon Lelic. Read by a full cast. 10hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$76 (9780593214909).

Well-drawn characters suffer believable teen angst in this mystery narrated by talented actors who enrich the suspense.

The Searcher. By Tana French. Read by Roger Clark. 14.5hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9781984838025).

Clark switches deftly between a gruff, Midwestern accent and lively Irish brogues. A haunting tale read exquisitely by a fine performer.

She Gets That from Me. By Robin Wells. Read by a full cast. 14hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593290835).

Four narrators alternate perspectives in this romantic story that hits on difficult issues, making each character's viewpoint relatable.

Sisters. By Daisy Johnson. Read by Daisy Edgar-Jones and Anna Koval. 4.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$38 (9780593211601).

A dual-narrated aural enhancement, these *Sisters* will continue to taunt and haunt long after the shocking, satisfying ending.

The Switch. By Beth O'Leary. Read by Alison Steadman and Daisy Edgar-Jones. 10hr. Macmillan/AudioGO, DD, \$26.99 (9781250751850).

Delightful and romantic, O'Leary's sophomore effort boasts stellar dual narration and thoughtful production to distinguish it as an audio.

Tokyo Ueno Station. By Miri Yu. Read by Johnny Heller. 4hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$47.50 (9780593211267).

Heller is in top form for this new recording of Yu's 2015 beautifully bleak title, making it one to remember.

The Vanished Birds. By Simon Jimenez. Read by Shayna Small. 13.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780593167854).

For Jimenez's diverse cast, Small adroitly bestows accents, personalities, even unique tics to create an adventure out of this world.

The Vanishing Half. By Brit Bennett. Read by Shayna Small. 12hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$95 (9780525637165).

As characters transform, Small never falters, carrying the many generations toward revelation and reunion with resonance and depth.

The Vineyards of Champagne. By Juliet Blackwell. Read by Xe Sands. 11hr. Tantor, CD, \$44.99 (9781977310729).

With a voice that begins hesitant and whispered and grows to become firmer and infused with humor, Sands' performance mirrors the main character's growth.

The Wrong Girl. By Donis Casey. Read by Romy Nordlinger. 8hr. Dreamscape, CD, \$59.99 (9781690556961).

From lecherous cads to an inexperienced 17-year-old starlet, Nordlinger ably depicts a range of characters, subtly aging them over time.

Nonfiction

American Manifesto: Saving Democracy from Villains, Vandals, and Ourselves. By Bob Garfield. Read by the author. 6.5hr. Oasis, CD, \$29.99 (9781684578191).

The longtime host of NPR's *On the Media* lays out the factors that are tearing American society apart, and their correctives.

Bright Precious Thing. By Gail Caldwell. Read by the author. 5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$57 (9780593209875).

In this time of #MeToo, Caldwell's memoir, written so beautifully and read so personally by the author, is both timely and moving.

Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America. By Laila Lalami. Read by the author. 6hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$47.50 (9780593170342).

Remarkably composed and extraordinarily controlled, Lalami's revealing narration adds

illuminating, indelible resonance to her non-fiction debut.

Broken Faith. By Mitch Weiss and Holbrook Mohr. Read by Vivienne Leheny. 12hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$26.99 (9781488207839).

This audiobook about a powerful cult engages like a compelling podcast, narrated in a way that strikes fear in the listener.

Ex Libris: 100+ Books to Read and Reread. By Michiko Kakutani. Read by Tavia Gilbert. 8hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$66.50 (9780593394977).

This is a perfectly understated narration, magically melding words and voice for a seamless experience.

Food Rules: A User's Manual. By Michael Pollan. Read by the author. 1.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$22.90 (9780593293874).

With the audio clocking in at just 80 minutes, Pollan makes these *Rules* easy to savor again and again.

Homie. By Danez Smith. Read by the author. 1.5hr. HighBridge, DD, \$8.99 (9781684577392).

As a poet and a performer, Smith is a force to be reckoned with. For those yet to delve into poetry on audio, this collection is a reason to start.

Memorial Drive: A Daughter's Memoir. By Natasha Trethewey. Read by the author. 5.5hr. Harper, DD, \$20.99 (9780063005860).

With aching precision, Trethewey reads as if relentlessly bearing witness, reliving the legacy of being left behind after her mother's murder.

Mill Town: Reckoning with What Remains. By Kerri Arsenault. Read by the author. 12.5. Macmillan/AudioGO, CD, \$50.99 (9781250772183).

A lovingly rendered but heartbreaking portrait of a paper-mill community laid low by the corporate and global forces afflicting so many other small towns nationwide.

Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America. By Maria Hinojosa. Read by the author. 12.5hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, DD, \$23.99 (9781797115689).

Hinojosa's brand of reporting is elevated by her perfect intonations and a languid cadence, making this a highly recommended listen.

Pressure. By David Haig. Performed by a full cast. 2hr. LA Theatre Works, CD, \$29.95 (9781682661048).

An edge-of-your-seat production about the weather, yes, but so much more as well. A must-listen for D-Day history buffs and theater aficionados.

A Promised Land. By Barack Obama. Read by the author. 2020. 29hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$65 (9780525633716).

In his familiar voice and cadence, Obama reads with emotion, engaging even when the story of his early presidency veers into the sausage-making of politics.

Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In. By Phuc Tran. Read by the author. 11hr. Macmillan, DD, \$26.99 (9781250261236).

Debuting as both an author and narrator, Tran strikes a connective and humanizing resonance in this coming-of-age memoir.

Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon through North America's Stolen Land. By Noé Álvarez. Read by Ramón de Ocampo. 5.5hr. HighBridge, CD, \$29.99 (9781696600460).

This intimate memoir of running, spiritual connection, and coming-of-age gets a compassionate narration in de Ocampo's youthful voice.

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz. By Erik Larson. Read by John Lee and the author. 18hr. Books on Tape, CD, \$45 (9780593167168).

This splendid combination of Larson's expert storytelling and Lee's expressive reading makes for an unforgettable listening experience.

Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World. By Fareed Zakaria. Read by the author. 7.5hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, DD, \$23.99 (9781797118093).

Zakariah offers equal measures of reality and hope in this far-ranging look at the global impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

This Is Major: Notes on Diana Ross, Dark Girls, and Being Dope. By Shayla Lawson. Read by the author. 9hr. Harper, DD, \$26.99 (9780062988492).

Lawson's narration is perfectly paced and draws listeners in like an old friend, rewarding them with her candor and humor.

To Be Honest. By Michael Leviton. Read by the author. 7.5hr. Dreamscape, CD, \$49.99 (9781690595755).

The author voicing his quirky memoir raises the production's authenticity and provides just enough emotion in all the right places.

The Toni Morrison Book Club. By Winnifred Brown-Glaude and others. Read by a full cast. 7hr. Dreamscape, DD, \$64.99 (9781690598312).

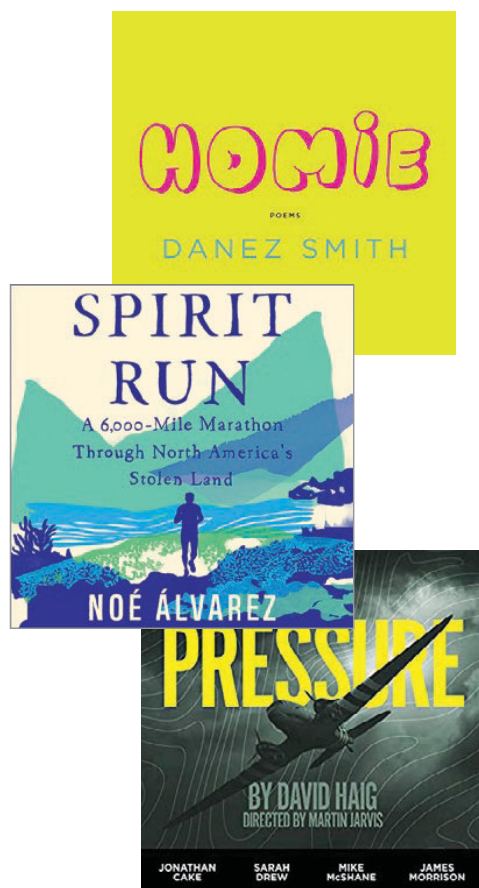
Raw, resonating revelations get enhanced by a roster of empathic aural ciphers, connecting and sharing lessons from Morrison's work.

Uncanny Valley. By Anna Wiener. Read by Suehyla El-Attar. 8.5. Macmillan/AudioGO, DD, \$19.99 (9781250261656).

Clearly enjoying Wiener's razor-sharp observations, El-Attar is an ideal conspirator to this insider-on-the-periphery expose of tech-bro culture.

The Undocumented Americans. By Karla Cornejo Villavicencio. Read by the author. 5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$38 (9781984885821).

Augmenting her personal, political, and universal story with empathic resonance—Cornejo Villavicencio shares her own experiences as an undocumented American.



Youth Audio

Fiction

Aurora Burning. By Amie Kauffman and Jay Kristoff. Read by a full cast. 5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$69 (9781524780838). Gr. 9–12.

The full cast of narrators intensify their emotions and pacing throughout to masterfully capture both non-stop action and increasing interpersonal drama.

Before the Ever After. By Jacqueline Woodson. Read by Guy Lockard. 2hr. Listening Library, DD, \$34 (9780593341223). Gr. 5–8.

With relatable authenticity, Lockard amplifies the emotion and sensory experience of a family navigating the traumatic effects of brain injury.

The Best of Iggy. By Annie Barrows. Read by Kate Reinders. 1hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593162804). Gr. 3–6.

With glee, Reinders' voice exudes purity and trustworthiness as she regales listeners with great detail of Iggy's adventures.

Clap When You Land. By Elizabeth Acevedo. Read by the author and Melania-Luisa Marte. 5.5hr. Harper, DD, \$29.99 (9780063011816). Gr. 8–12.

Multi-voiced casts rarely achieve the authentic accuracy listeners are gifted here. Acevedo and Marte create a remarkable, affecting connection.

Echo Mountain. By Lauren Wolk. Read by Holly Linneman. 9hr. Listening Library, CD, \$50 (9780593155813). Gr. 4–8.

In a perfect balance between graceful descriptions of the natural world and an urgent tension underlying the plot, Linneman's narration is emotionally rich.

Fighting Words. By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Read by Bahni Turpin. 6.5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$50 (9780593214992). Gr. 5–8.

This audio emphasizes the power of finding one's fighting words to tell one's own truth. Turpin lifts young Della as she shares her story.

Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen! By Sarah Kapit. Read by Cassandra Campbell and JD Jackson. 6.5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$50 (9780593341858). Gr. 4–6.

Campbell's voice is pitch perfect as she voices a preteen girl with autism, and Jackson's deep sonorous tones match Vivy's pen pal, a biracial, big-league pitcher.

Grown. By Tiffany D. Jackson. Read by Joniece Abbott-Pratt. 8.5hr. Harper, DD, \$23.99 (9780063033665). Gr. 8–11.

Shifting between *then* and *now*, Abbott-Pratt shifts her voice from the freedom of youthful naivete to tense and pained in depicting Enchanted's fraught situation.

I Killed Zoe Spanos. By Kit Frick. Read by a full cast. 10hr. Simon & Schuster Audio, DD, \$23.99 (9781797114620). Gr. 9–12.

A dual narration anchors this psychological crime drama punctuated by fully produced episodes of a fictional podcast about the case.

The King of Crows. By Libba Bray. Read by January LaVoy. 22.5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$77 (9780385361033).

More than *just* the satisfying fourth in an epic quartet, LaVoy's emotional narration and vivid character voices are virtuosic.

The One and Only Bob. By Katherine Applegate. Read by Danny DeVito. 4hr. Harper, DD, \$17.99 (9780063012639). Gr. 3–6.

DeVito's voice *is* Bob's, with his wry tenor and sarcastic lilt a perfect match for the scrappy, streetwise dog.

The Underground Railroad. By Lesa Cline-Ransome. Read by Shayna Small and Dion Graham. .5hr. Live Oak, CD, \$31.95 (9781430144250). PreS–Gr. 3.

The audio ably stands on its own, but when paired with the book, it makes an exceptional package, bringing to life the story of the Great Migration.

Sal & Gabi Fix the Universe. By Carlos Hernandez. Read by Anthony Rey Perez. 11hr. Listening Library, DD, \$69 (9781984845849). Gr. 4–7.

Perez is more than up to the challenges of this sequel, building on the characterizations of the first and adding even more voices to the array.

The Smartest Kid in the Universe. By Chris Grabenstein. Read by Kirby Heyborne. 2020. 6ht. Listening Library, DD, \$45 (9780593286197). Gr. 5–7.

Kids will love this fast-paced tale performed flawlessly by the talented Heybourne, who incorporates accents from Swahili to pirate-speak with ease.

Starting from Seneca Falls. By Karen Schwabach. Read by Bernadette Dunne. 4.5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$38 (9780593208274). Gr. 3–6.

With a subtle Irish brogue and a wee bit of magic, Dunne voices the most entertaining introduction to the importance of Seneca Falls in 1848 there has ever been.

Tristan Strong Destroys the World. By Kwame Mbalia. Read by Amir Abdullah. 9.5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$69 (9780593149614). Gr. 5–8.

Abdullah brings together a wild cast with vividly different vocal presentations to recreate another entertaining adventure in this sequel.

Turtle Boy. By M. Evan Wolkenstein. Read by the author. 8hr. Listening Library, DD, \$56 (9780593208038). Gr. 5–8.

An author-narrated debut enlivened by humor, Hebrew, drumbeats, and friendship captures an amazing range of sounds along the way.



The Way Back. By Gavriel Savit. Read by Allan Corduner. 11hr. Listening Library, DD, \$69 (9780593286135). Gr. 9–12.

With a deeply dark and lyrical cadence, Corduner deftly whisks listeners into the rich characters, unknown places, and Jewish folklore in Savit's tale.

Where We Go from Here. By Lucas Rocha. Read by a full cast. 9hr. Scholastic, DD, \$74.99 (9781338637762). Gr. 9–12.

Three narrators bring emotional resonance and authentic accents to their portrayals of three young gay men navigating life in a climate of HIV.

Nonfiction

Bunheads. By Misty Copeland. Read by the author. .5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593294604). K–Gr. 3.

Narrating her own memoir, Copeland is mesmerizing, shifting from suspenseful anticipation to breathless excitement and finally joy and confidence.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You. By Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. Read by the authors. 4hr. Hachette, DD, \$24.98 (9781549184253). Gr. 7–12.

Transforming his illuminating words into something akin to a riveting open-mic, poetry-slam performance, Reynolds commands attention.

This Is Your Time. By Ruby Bridges. Read by the author. .5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593401941). Gr. 4–7.

Hearing Bridges speak her truth brings a contemporary realism to a life that, to many young people, might otherwise seem something of another time.

When Stars Are Scattered. By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed. Read by a full cast. 4hr. Listening Library, DD, \$38 (9780593162590). Gr. 6–8.

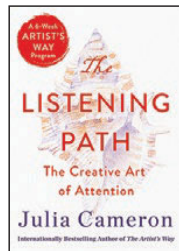
The audio adaptation of Omar Mohamed's graphic autobiography offers perfection in storytelling, format shifting, and performance, and a truly #OwnVoices production.

Philosophy & Psychology

★ **The Listening Path: The Creative Art of Attention.**By **Julia Cameron.**

Jan. 2021. 208p. St. Martin's, \$17.99 (9781250768582); e-book, \$9.99 (9781250768599). 153.6.

Longtime creativity expert Cameron (*It's Never Too Late to Begin Again*, 2016) turns to the essential art of listening. She reminds



readers of the importance of "Morning Pages" (emptying the mind by writing three stream-of-consciousness pages each morning), daily walks (preferably solo), and a weekly "Artist Date" (a journey to somewhere that is mentally refreshing). She

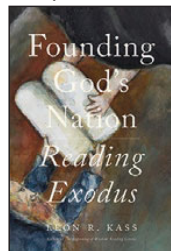
then sets out a six-week course that begins with listening to our environment (particularly the sounds of nature), listening to others (without interruptions), and listening to our higher selves (with compassion). She shares her conversations with artists, writers, actors, and other creative professionals about the importance of careful listening to their work and adds her own testimonies. In the remaining three weeks, Cameron challenges readers to stretch their perceptions. She encourages listening "beyond the veil" (by contacting spirit guides), listening to heroes (two of her favorites are Carl Jung and Bill Wilson, cofounder of AA), and listening to silence (particularly with meditation). Sprinkled throughout are thoughtful quotes and "Try This" prompts. Cameron writes beautifully and sincerely. Although some readers may need to expand their belief systems, this is nevertheless a much-needed primer on opening ourselves to listening to others at a time when that is so badly needed. —*Candace Smith*

Religion

★ **Founding God's Nation: Reading Exodus.**By **Leon R. Kass.**

Jan. 2021. 752p. illus. Yale, \$40 (9780300253030). 222.

As a young man absorbed in biological science, Kass saw only primitive superstition in the Hebrew Bible. But as readers have already learned from his earlier commentary on Genesis (*The Beginning of Wisdom*, 2003), later life engendered in him a deep appreciation for Judaism's sacred texts. In this sequel, readers see how much Exodus, the second book of the Torah, has taught him both about large-scale questions of political philosophy and about the intensely personal cravings of the individual



spirit. Approaching the text in the spirit of pensive philosophy, Kass explicates scripture verse by verse, illuminating the way the factious tribal family of Jacob (Israel) acquires a new collective identity as a people, a nation forged by a shared narrative of miraculous deliverance from slavery, a shared moral code revealed at Sinai, and, finally, a shared holy place for worship. Parsing the instructions for constructing that holy place—the Tabernacle, or Tent of the Congregation—Kass teases out of what he once dismissed as tedious priestly minutiae stirring intimations of what the human spirit experiences in approaching the divine. In his epilogue, Kass draws from Exodus' record of the founding of Judaism timely—even urgent—universal lessons about twenty-first-century preconditions for human flourishing in any community. Compelling modern reflections on ancient wisdom. —*Bryce Christensen*

Social Sciences

★ **Believing in South Central: Everyday Islam in the City of Angels.**By **Pamela J. Prickett.**

Feb. 2021. 192p. Univ. of Chicago, paper, \$20 (9780226747286). 305.896.

Sociology professor Prickett spent many years attending services and events at the Masjid al-Quran (MAQ) temple in South Central Los Angeles, embedding herself deeply in the lives of the predominantly African American Muslim community that worshipped there. The result is this compassionate and generous ethnography, which explores the religious, economic, and gendered lives of the small Black community of Muslim worshippers at MAQ. Located in an area of Los Angeles with a long history of governmental neglect, this former Nation of Islam temple is a key source of support and meaning for its members. Prickett draws on in-depth interviews with MAQ members to explore the ways their Muslim faith situates them within their complex social contexts, whether drawing on their meager resources to offer charity to their neighbors during Ramadan, distinguishing their practice of Islam from the tradition's perceived gender rigidity, or participating in the mosque market to make ends meet. *Believing in South Central* marries affectionate respect for the author's subjects with a deep cultural and historical understanding of the African American Muslim community. —*Jenny Hamilton*

★ **Black Magic: What Black Leaders Learned from Trauma and Triumph.**By **Chad Sanders.**
Feb. 2021. 288p. Simon & Schuster, \$27 (9781982104221). 306.

Once Sanders stopped downplaying his true

self and his Blackness and started embracing the skills he'd learned navigating the U.S. as



a Black man, his tech career in Silicon Valley grew wings. Drawing on his own experiences at Google and those of the Black leaders, scientists, artists, businesspeople, parents, innovators, and champions he interviewed, he investigates how being a

Black person in predominantly white spaces creates what he calls Black Magic: resilience, creativity, and perseverance. This mix of memoir, interviews, and motivation is for readers who have faced trauma and kept going and for individuals who have been underestimated because of their race, family, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality, or any other target for mindless prejudice. Sanders argues that facing adversity can generate a type of magic that has the power to lift those who have been cast low to the highest of positions. Readers will be moved most by how Sanders and his interviewees don't shy away from the pain of the discrimination they've endured, instead transforming suffering into a source of assurance and hope. The overarching vision here is one of making room for Blackness in every sphere and ensuring that being Black is not a detraction but rather a strength. —*Enobong Tommelleo*

★ **Every Body: An Honest and Open Look at Sex from Every Angle.**By **Julia Rothman and Shaina Feinberg.**

Jan. 2021. 272p. Little, Brown/Voracious, \$28 (9780316426589). 306.7.

With a boisterous and beautiful combination of oral history, essays, comics, and art, career illustrator Rothman and indie filmmaker Feinberg share this inclusive and empowering guide to sexual life. It reads equal parts like a scientific documentary and a sit-down with old friends. The authors interviewed strangers on the street and questioned scholars, scientists, and artists, pursuing a wide variety of experiences as well as perspectives on sex and what it means to have it. There

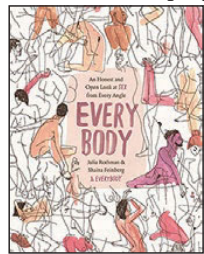
◆ **Women in Focus: The 19th in 2020**

Booklist will mark the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote by calling out books about all aspects of women's lives past and present. Watch for the Women in Focus treatment throughout the magazine.

YA Recommendations

- Adult titles recommended for teens are marked with the following symbols: **YA**, for books of general YA interest; **YA/C**, for books with particular curriculum value; **YA/S**, for books that will appeal most to teens with a special interest in a specific subject; and **YA/M**, for books best suited to mature teens.

are stories of pleasure, pain, autonomy, first times, assault, pregnancy, aging, confidence, and desire. There's a day in the life of a bouncer at a sex club, and a gallows-humor comic about miscarriage. There's love, herpes, and dildos. The naked form appears in drawings, paintings, and collages. Sex happens in



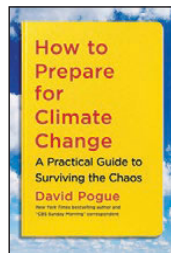
dorm rooms and in cars, church bathrooms, and public parks; alone, and with a group. There are furies, professional dominatrices, and people old and young, and confessions of both joy and of regret. The book's main take-away is universality: sex is what unites us, as natural as having a body in the first place. Visually stunning, and running the entire gamut of human emotion, this will make readers laugh, cry, and cheer. —Courtney Eathorne

★ **How to Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos.**

By David Pogue.

Jan. 2021. 624p. Simon & Schuster, \$24 (9781982134518). 363.738.

After a depressing introduction on just how bad current conditions are, CBS Sunday Morning correspondent Pogue (*Pogue's Basics: Money*, 2016) devotes almost 600 pages to reasonable actions that individuals and businesses can take to mitigate the effects of climate change. Beginning with exhortations about becoming politically



and socially active, topics include where to live, what to insure, and how to prepare for a variety of calamities ranging from droughts and forest fires to societal breakdown. Pogue cites an array of resources: national and international demographic analyses, topological studies, economic statistics, case studies, agricultural reports and medical data. He includes all sorts of maps, charts, and graphs, but he's not trying to prove anything; it's sort of assumed that anyone who picks up this book accepts that things are not going well. Pogue's tone is reasoned and nonsensationalized, and at times he's even reassuring as he offers best-practice survival tips. His final chapter is all about hope: successful interventions, large-scale cooperative movements, and promising innovations in everything from fuel sources to future foods. His final message? Prepare. That's one thing readers can control, and this extensive guide offers lots to think about and plenty of practical advice. —Kathleen McBroom

Murder in Canaryville: The True Story Behind a Cold Case and a Chicago Cover-Up.

By Jeff Coen.

Jan. 2021. 256p. Chicago Review, \$28.99 (9781641602815). 364.

In 1976, teenager John Hughes' murder

on the streets of Canaryville, a working-class Chicago neighborhood, sparked little concern outside the community's narrow confines. Positively identifying the shooter proved problematic, and the case languished for years until FBI investigator Jim Sherlock took it up just prior to his own retirement. The more he dug, the more Sherlock realized that the pursuit of Hughes' murderer was inextricably connected with the violent intersection of Chicago crime, corruption, and politics. Police detectives had been pulled off the case by the district commander, who apparently had a direct pipeline to the mayor. Sherlock went back and interviewed the principals in the case, unearthing ever-deeper layers of corruption. Chicago journalist Coen (*Golden*, 2012) links this particular murder to the larger issue of police accountability, and he brings the story up to present-day Chicago police abuse and corruption cases. Fans of true crime and of police procedurals will find much to relish here, but familiarity with Chicago history and geography is vital to appreciating this whole complex story. —Mark Knoblauch

Of Thee I Sing: The Contested History of American Patriotism.

By Ben Railton.

Jan. 2021. 256p. Rowman & Littlefield, \$36 (9781538143421). 323.6.

In America, individual and group expressions of patriotism reflect the social, cultural, historical, and economic contexts of their time. Railton sheds light on current debates regarding patriotism in the public sphere and how they speak to our present and future as a democracy. Railton defines four distinct forms of patriotism. The reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the national anthem are "celebratory patriotism." "Mythic patriotism" involves the creation of national myths that exclude certain populations. "Active patriotism" is manifest in acts of service and sacrifice for the nation, while "critical patriotism" is found in arguments about how the nation has failed to uphold its ideals. In an enlightening parallel, he interprets the four verses of "America the Beautiful" as reflecting these four expressions of patriotism, deftly applying each as an analytical lens delivering new understandings of our history, from the Revolutionary era to the populist nationalism of the Trump years. As expressions of patriotism continue to reflect both our bitter differences and our shared ideals, the value of this perceptive work will continue to grow. —Genevieve Innes

Revolt: The Worldwide Uprising against Globalization.

By Nadav Eyal.

Jan. 2021. 512p. Ecco, \$28.99 (9780062973351). 303.48.

A prominent Israeli journalist traverses the globe, documenting the failures of

twenty-first-century globalization. Having reported on refugees in Europe, environmental destruction in Sri Lanka, Islamic fundamentalism, Greek anarchism, the Great Recession, and the election of Donald Trump, Eyal declares that these disruptions (and more) are caused by global capitalism. As the postwar "age of responsibility" has melted away, he suggests, people everywhere are increasingly rejecting Enlightenment notions of progress. The author's interest in listening to the displaced and the discontented is laudable, and his anecdotes, including one about elephant herds being pushed out of their habitat by indigent farmers who are themselves being squeezed by economic pressures, are often poignant. He is particularly troubled by recent changes in the U.S. and its seeming inability to live up to its foreign and domestic promises. But Eyal puts little effort into demonstrating that the similarities of the "revolts" he describes outweigh their differences and prefers impressionistic assertions over nuanced analysis. The result, although timely, is less a coherent argument than a slide show of extremism and catastrophe. —Brendan Driscoll

★ **Saving America's Amazon.**

By Ben Raines and E. O. Wilson.

Dec. 2020. 128p. illus. NewSouth, \$35 (9781588383389). 333.95.

It is perhaps the ultimate irony that the state with the most diverse ecosystem in the nation also boasts the worst record of environmental protection. Alabama lies at the crossroads of this existential conundrum. It claims the greatest number of aquatic species but also the



largest number of aquatic extinctions, just as it hosts the most biologically complex river system in the world—and also one of the most overdeveloped. In the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, a tract of land spanning more than a quarter-million acres, breathtaking old-growth forests tenaciously endure as nearby petrochemical plants spew life-threatening pollutants. Streambeds teem with prehistoric fossils, wetlands nourish such apex predators as bull sharks and alligators, and meadows flourish with poetically named native plants like the bashful wakerobin. From coastal dunes to sawgrass fens to jungle wilds, this unexplored and underappreciated gem is under threat from years of gratuitous destruction and wanton neglect. Through his motivational activism and abiding reverence for the area, journalist, photographer, and environmental advocate Raines reveals the overwhelming significance of this severely threatened essential habitat. Alabama is running out of time to reverse course and preserve its resources. Raines' eloquent, impassioned, and meticulous study of this

threatened ecosystem will inspire much-needed activism. —Carol Haggas

★ **A Shot in the Moonlight: How a Freed Slave and a Confederate Soldier Fought for Justice in the Jim Crow South.**

By Ben Montgomery.

Jan. 2021. 304p. Little, Brown/Spark, \$28 (9780316535540). 340.

The author of *The Man Who Walked Backward* (2018) brings to light another historical story: a harrowing crime and the subsequent trials that resulted from it in the Jim Crow South at the end of the nineteenth century. One January night in 1897 in Kentucky, George Dinning and his family are awakened by a mob of over two dozen white men, who accuse Dinning of theft and demand that he and his family leave their home. When the men start shooting, hitting Dinning twice, he fires a single shot, striking and killing one of them. Dinning immediately surrenders himself to the authorities, but the threat of his being lynched looms large as his trial approaches. After an unsatisfactory outcome for Dinning, former Confederate soldier and bank robber Bennett Young steps in to file civil charges against the men who attacked Dinning's home and burned it down the next day, forcing his family to flee. A nuanced exploration of the horrors Southern racism inflicted on Black citizens, as well as the role complicated figures like Young, who fought for the Confederacy, then became a champion for the rights of Black people, played. Blending primary source material with compelling prose, Montgomery brings to light an important turning point in a grim chapter in American history. —Kristine Huntley

YA/M: An accessible read for teens interested in the history behind today's civil rights movements, including BLM. KH.

This Is the Voice.
By John Colapinto.

Jan. 2021. 320p. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (9781982128746). 302.2.

New Yorker staffer Colapinto lost his chance at a career in rock 'n' roll when he could barely squeak a note. A large nodule on his vocal cords sent him into the weeds, studying all things related to voice, speech, and language. This heavily researched book discusses vocal origins and details how voice involves the physicality of lungs, diaphragm, intercostal muscles, larynx, teeth, tongue, and facial bones. Our brains also shape and color how we sound. Colapinto follows scientific language studies from Charles Darwin, Noam Chomsky, and B. F. Skinner and considers the effects of AI on speech. Other chapters discuss the dimorphism of gendered voices and how age diminishes that divide;

class distinctions both affect the way people react to dialects and contribute to prejudices. In the public sphere, the voice can persuade and dissuade (think FDR and Hitler). Especially interesting is his theory of how Abraham Lincoln's high voice helped win a presidential debate. Insights on why babies vocalize before they speak words further fascinate. Lots of data, evidence, thoughtfulness, and heart here. —Joan Curbow

Child Care

Parenting while Working from Home: A Monthly Guide to Help Parents Balance Their Careers, Connect with Their Kids, and Establish Their Inner Strength.

By Shari Medini and Karissa Tunis.

Jan. 2021. 200p. Skyhorse, \$19.99 (9781510764828). 649.

Medini and Tunis, cocreators of Adore-ThemParenting.com, have been working from home while raising families for the past decade. With six kids between them, the authors have discovered that, with a positive mindset, it's possible to enjoy this hectic phase of life—to not only survive but also thrive. With many caregivers working from home while parenting and supervising their children's schooling, the authors' advice is timely and valuable. Serving as a journal as well as a guide, the book is organized by the month, making it easy for readers to find their starting place and work their way through the year. Each chapter provides authentic ways for caregivers to focus on themselves, connect with their kids, and improve working from home. Each month begins and ends with space to write goals and reflections, making this transformative process both thoughtful and intentional. Whether working from home while parenting as a temporary solution or a more long-term plan, readers will get advice for finding a rhythm, maintaining positivity, and balancing everything, while still having fun. —Melissa Norstedt

Health & Medicine

★ **Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted.**

By Suleika Jaouad.

Feb. 2021. 368p. Random, \$28 (9780399588587). 616.99.

In her searing memoir, Emmy Award-winning speaker, writer, and activist Jaouad describes how, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia at age 22, she found herself, as Susan Sontag described coping with cancer, as living in a world divided into two kingdoms: the healthy and the sick. Having to be a resident of the latter initially comes as a shock to this ambitious, energetic, and talented recent college graduate, who never expected her life to turn out the way it did, and who once looked at a future filled with infinite possi-

bilities, only to see it "shrouded in doom." But Jaouad dug deep over the ensuing four years to write a column for the *New York Times*, "Life, Interrupted," about her cancer experiences, and here she painstakingly chronicles her treatment. Certain words stand out, including one she coined, "incanceration," which captures her feelings about her lengthy and difficult hospital stays. Readers will feel her anxiety, fear, and despair, but also moments of

hope as she pursues life through chemotherapy and a bone-marrow transplant. Jaouad addresses the psychological toll of the illness, from depression to grief to PTSD, and, in the end, confides that she is haunted and humbled by the thought that "it can all be lost in a moment." Boldly candid and truly memorable. —June Sawyers

Breath Taking: The Power, Fragility, and Future of Our Extraordinary Lungs.

By Michael J. Stephen.

Jan. 2021. 336p. Atlantic Monthly, \$26 (9780802149312). 612.2.

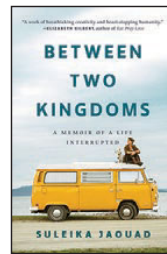
"Life and breath are synonymous," writes pulmonary physician Stephen, who contends that breathing is too often taken for granted. His educational and passionate book successfully unites the true importance of our lungs and advances in medical science. The numbers are impressive: an average adult takes 20,000 breaths per day. We inhale/exhale approximately 10,000 liters of air daily. Five hundred million alveoli (air sacs in the lungs) handle that gas exchange. Stephen highlights the healing ability of focused breathing to enhance mental health and reduce chronic pain, the threat of climate change and air pollution to our lungs, and how the "connectivity of our air" allows infections like COVID-19 and tuberculosis to spread. Types of lung diseases, voice and speech, and tobacco addiction are well-covered, with Stephen explaining that cigarette smoke contains not just nicotine but roughly 7,000 additional ingredients including arsenic, DDT, and cadmium. The physics of soap bubbles, Buddhism, and fish gills also receive attention. Best of all are Stephen's stories of courageous patients, including a girl with cystic fibrosis who receives a successful lung transplant, which just might take your breath away. —Tony Miksaneek

★ **The Plague Cycle: The Unending War between Humanity and Infectious Disease.**

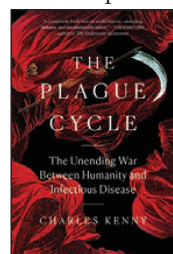
By Charles Kenny.

Jan. 2021. 320p. Scribner, \$28 (9781982165338). 616.9.

Our earliest historical reaction to a surge of a new, severe infection was to try fleeing from it. From ancient times to now, outbreaks of contagious diseases promoted xenophobia and not infrequently a rise in authoritarianism. In his fact-filled and alarming overview



of major infectious diseases past and present, economist Kenny discusses sources and vectors of epidemics, the toll of suffering and death, progress in controlling communicable diseases, and persistent problems. The rise of infections accompanied the expansion of agriculture and increased population density. Famine, war, travel, and trade have nurtured epidemics. Improved sanitation, better living conditions and nutrition, antibiotics, rehydration therapy, and vaccines have played major roles in combating infectious diseases. Yet a lack of preparation and an often-sluggish response by governments across the globe to novel viruses, an overuse of antibiotics resulting in resistance, anti-vaccination movements, and poverty remain major impediments to conquering or at least limiting contagious diseases. Smallpox, malaria, bubonic plague, polio, measles, AIDS, yellow fever, Ebola, and COVID-19 are featured. Centuries ago, the poet Petrarch described the landscape of the Black Death as “empty houses, derelict cities, ruined estates, fields strewn with cadavers, a horrible and vast solitude encompassing the whole world.” Much hard work lies ahead to avoid such a nightmarish scenario from ever returning. —*Tony Miksaneck*



Cookery

Vegetarian Chinese Soul Food: Deliciously Doable Ways to Cook Greens, Tofu, and Other Plant-Based Ingredients. By Hsiao-Ching Chou.

Jan. 2021. 272p. illus. Sasquatch, \$27 (9781632173331); e-book, \$13.99 (9781632173348). 641.5.

Vegetarian cooking has deep roots in Chinese cuisine, not only because of Buddhist influences. Generally much more affordable than meats and seafood for consumers both here and in China, vegetables of every sort overflow in Chinese marketplaces. Chou (*Chinese Soul Food*, 2018) follows on her earlier cookbook, re-creating many of those same popular recipes without their animal-based components and without sacrificing satisfying flavors and textures. For snackers, she offers vegetarian riffs on dumplings and dim-sum favorites, even currently faddish soup dumplings. For cooks who must satisfy both vegans and carnivores, Chou explains how to successfully add meats to stir-fries. She resurrects the Chinese American invention of egg foo yong, giving it a fresh look and taste. For a truly fusion preparation, Chou invents ma la succotash with fragrant Sichuan peppercorns for that unique tongue-numbing sensation. Most ingredients may be readily sourced for American home cooks. Color photographs make every dish look artfully attractive. A glossary helps

the uninitiated become familiar with Chinese products. —*Mark Knoblauch*

The Arts

Music around the World: A Global Encyclopedia. Ed. by Andrew R. Martin and Matthew Mihalka.

3v. 2020. 1,017p. illus. ABC-CLIO, \$319 (9781610694988). 780.3.

Music is a universal language and this work speaks volumes—three volumes to be exact. The editors take a holistic approach, arranging articles alphabetically rather than geographically in order to “demonstrate the interconnectedness of many musical cultures from disparate locations.” An introductory essay explores the concept of “world music” and discusses several methods of musical analysis. Following that are signed articles ranging in length from several paragraphs to several pages, each accompanied by suggestions for further reading. The range of topics covered is wide and varied and includes musical genres like Fado, Raga, Soca, and J-pop, K-pop, and Cantopop; vocal styles like shape-note singing, Tuvan throat singing, and yodeling; and musical instruments like the banjo, didgeridoo, gimbri, oud, and pipa. Notable individuals like Celia Cruz, Thomas A. Dorsey, Bob Marley, and Esma Redzepova are also included. East and West are equitably represented, although there is a dearth of information about Balkan music other than one article on polyphonic ganga singing. Libraries serving students and anyone interested in expanding their musical horizons will be well-served by this rich and thoughtful reference work. —*Carolyn Mulac*

Unfinished. By Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Jan. 2021. 256p. Random, \$28 (9781984819215); e-book, \$13.99 (9781984819222). 791.

Actor and producer Chopra Jonas’ memoir captures the excitement of an Indian teenager launched into fame and moving rapidly from a national to an international stage. She writes of growing up in a fairly typical Indian middle-class home with professional aspirations common in her milieu. Her winning a beauty pageant, which her mom and brother signed her up for, changed the course of her life, leading to unusual opportunities and challenges. In tracing her career milestones as a Bollywood actor and then as the first Indian-born lead in an American TV series, *Quantico*, Chopra Jonas weaves in her personal struggles and family tragedies, thus revealing the depth behind her self-assurance and resilience. Her fans will be thrilled to learn the details of her success and her romance with singer and actor Nick Jonas, culminating in a glamorous wedding in Rajasthan in 2018. At 38, she sees this moment as a time of reflection, and, true

to her commitment as a global ambassador for UNICEF, Chopra Jonas spotlights such issues such as girls’ education and the conditions of children in refugee camps around the world. —*Shoba Viswanathan*

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

Vibrate Higher: A Rap Story. By Talib Kweli.

Feb. 2021. 320p. Farrar, \$27 (9780374283407). 782.421649092.

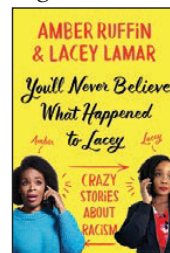
With a direct and detailed style, rapper Kweli takes readers from his Brooklyn beginnings through the heights of his professional life. He writes with much respect for his family, especially his educator parents, and his collaborators over two decades in hip-hop. Fans will appreciate the thorough approach as Kweli recounts life-changing connections with Yasiin Bey (aka Mos Def), DJ Hi-Tek, a then up-and-coming producer named Kanye West, and many others, and details the recording process from beats to album pressings. He recreates scenes in Greenwich Village and other NYC spots that formed the fabric of 1990s underground hip-hop, and shares how working at (and eventually owning) Brooklyn’s Nkiru Books influenced his development as an artist and activist. This book was originally scheduled for publication in 2019 and reads as such, addressing the Trump presidency and the author’s involvement with Black Lives Matter but not covering any events of 2020 (including Kweli’s recent public suspension from Twitter). As a time capsule of autobiography and hip-hop history, this will more than speak to Kweli’s many fans. —*Annie Bostrom*

You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories about Racism.

By Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar.

Jan. 2021. 240p. Grand Central, \$28 (9781538719367). 791.4502.

Before becoming a comedy writer for *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, before starring in her own sketch series, Amber Ruffin was Lacey Lamar’s little sister growing up in Omaha, Nebraska. In this book, the charming and hilarious sister duo outlines some of the strangest instances of racism they’ve experienced as Black women in America. Ruffin acknowledges that she lives and works in a relative bubble, in progressive New York City, and on the set of a television show that aims to call out racist behavior whenever possible. Meanwhile, in her office jobs and in various public settings around Omaha, Lamar has seen it all: she’s been mistaken for countless Black celebrities and for her few Black coworkers. She’s had to explain the problematic nature of too many Halloween costumes. She’s been targeted by JC Penney security, even had someone get their whole hand stuck in her hair when



they touched it without her permission. Ruffin and Lamar offer a dual commentary on each story, their perspectives an endearing portrait of sibling psychology and friendship. They present the content of the stories as is: pervasive and horrifying. Featuring the authors' razor-sharp wit and limitless brilliance, these true tales of injustice are a gift to readers. —*Courtney Eathorne*

YA: *There are many teen readers for this book: Ruffin's fans, late-night comedy fans, those who endure racism daily, and those who live unaware of racism's reach. CE.*

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

Literature

American Daughter.

By **Stephanie Plymale and Elissa Wald.**

Jan. 2021. 288p. HarperOne, \$27.99 (9780063054332). 818.

Plymale's memoir is a gut-wrenching and absorbing portrait of one family's legacy of mental illness and childhood trauma. Growing up, Plymale and her siblings mostly lived in their car, often had to forage for food, and spent time in and out of abusive foster homes. Their mother suffered from mental illness and was, at best, indifferent to their suffering and often accusatory. With the help of her husband, whom she met at 15, Plymale overcame her circumstances, starting a successful design school and raising three children in a loving household. After her mother is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Plymale becomes determined to find out more about her past including who her father is. Scenes of her childhood are interspersed with the present day as she tries to get information, which is near impossible because of her mother's alternate personalities and confabulation. While the time line can get confusing because of this structure, it won't matter much to folks who enjoy stories of overcoming the odds, especially in the vein of *Educated* and *The Glass Castle*. —*Kathy Sexton*

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

The Empathy Diaries.

By **Sherry Turkle.**

Mar. 2021. 384p. Penguin, \$28 (9780525560098). 818.

Turkle has devoted her sustained and distinguished career to studying how technology impacts self-development. Her groundbreaking research conducted as an MIT professor laid the foundation for analyzing the inroads AI, digital devices, and reliance upon computers have made into contemporary communications and social mores, topics she has brought to popular consciousness through such best-selling books such as *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age* (2015). In this revelatory and forthright memoir, Turkle traces her fascination with identity to her earliest experiences as a child of divorce forced to relinquish her

biological father and reluctantly accept her adoptive one. Academically ambitious yet constrained by economics and thwarted by the sexism directed toward women scholars in the 1960s, Turkle nonetheless charted her own course, but always with an eye toward how her objectives would be interpreted by her family, received by colleagues, and supported by mentors. Turkle's candor and transparency are totally in keeping with her personal and professional commitment to understanding human emotional motivation and our capacity for empathy, not only towards others but also toward ourselves. —*Carol Haggas*



Just as I Am.

By **Cicely Tyson.**

Jan. 2021. 423p. Harper, \$28.99 (9780062931061). 818.

Cicely Tyson is a living treasure; at 96, she remains passionately outspoken about national affairs, politics, and the entertainment world. Her enthusiasm, intelligence, and wit sparkle across the pages of this engaging and lively memoir. Born in 1924 to Caribbean immigrants, Tyson rose above an imprudent early marriage to become a hardworking single mother. Spotted in a crowd and encouraged to try modeling, she poured her trademark energy and work ethic into this new career, eventually becoming an actor. Along the way, she befriended a who's who of Black talent: Sidney Poitier, Diahann Carroll, Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Maya Angelou, and, most notably, Miles Davis, with whom she had a tempestuous and ultimately tragic on-again, off-again marriage. With steely determination and confidence, she pioneered in notable television roles, defied beauty standards by wearing her natural hair, and fought for meaty parts she was deemed "too sexy" to play. Undaunted by racism and sexism, Tyson triumphed in such iconic roles as Rebecca in *Sounder*, and the lead in *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, confounding Hollywood stereotypes about the abilities and appeal of Black women. Whether discussing the politics of natural hair or the racial violence that led to the Black Lives Matter movement, Tyson speaks with incisive clarity, humor, and moral authority. —*Lesley Williams*



HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: After six decades of exceptional accomplishments, Tyson's first book will garner ardent attention.

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

Pedro's Theory: Reimagining the Promised Land.

By **Marcos Gonzalez.**

Jan. 2021. 304p. Melville, \$26.99 (9781612198620). 810.

Essayist and literature professor Gonzalez's first book is a sui generis memoir that challenges readers to follow him along

far-reaching paths to explore antiracist concepts associated with minoritized bodies, decolonial aesthetics, and queer critique. Gonzalez entwines his story with the experiences of Pedro, a Mexican Everyman in the U.S. Pedro takes on multiple identities; he's a cousin, a neighbor, an unknown fatality at the border, the Pedro in the movie *Napoleon Dynamite*. With Pedro kicking off each of the book's three sections, Gonzalez wanders and wonders far and wide, turning his nuanced and critical gaze on everything from the reason his surname is spelled the way it is to the history and significance of burlap to James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, D. H. Lawrence's *Mornings in Mexico*, and more. The book advances more or less chronologically, beginning with chubby, part-Mexican, part-Puerto Rican Marcos growing up in New Jersey to his angst-filled years as an undergrad in New York to, finally, his postgraduate journey through therapy and dissertation woes to a place where he can create body positivity and find love. —*Sara Martinez*

Pushcart Prize XLV, 2021: Best of the Small Presses.

Ed. by **Bill Henderson.**

Dec. 2020. 576p. Pushcart, \$35 (9780960097715). 810.

Just as biodiversity is essential to life thriving on Earth, literary diversity is necessary for a vital and representative republic of letters and democracy itself. Dedicated editors from hundreds of small presses across the continent ensure that the annual Pushcart Prize anthology supports a resplendent multiplicity of voices, styles, genres, subjects, and perspectives by selecting works by writers both established and emerging. The result is a captivating and affirming polyphonic assemblage. "The Red One Who Rocks," a story by Aamina Ahmad, plunges the reader into the anguish and anger of a young widower on a pilgrimage with his grieving mother-in-law. Another man self-destructs in a completely different world as Karl Taro Greenfeld portrays an opioid-afflicted screenwriter in "The Golden Age of Television." Siqi Liu's "Chastity" is catalyzed by the discovery of a mummy in China. A provocative essay about rural life by Janisse Ray and Lydia Davis' essay on how reading inspired her genre-defying writings are highlights among the nonfiction selections, while poetry holds its own with standouts by Stanley Plumly, Esther Ra, and Natasha Sajé. *Pushcart* is a perennial must-have. —*Donna Seaman*



A Swim in a Pond in the Rain: In Which Four Russians Give a Master Class on Writing, Reading, and Life.

By **George Saunders.**

Jan. 2021. 432p. Random, \$28 (9781984856029). 891.708.

How did Saunders, who first trained as an engineer and labored in oil fields, become a writer recognized with a Man Booker Prize and MacArthur and Guggenheim fellow-

ships? In great part by reading the masters, especially the giants of nineteenth-century Russia's "resistance literature." So important to Saunders are the stories of Chekhov, Gogol, Tolstoy, and Turgenev, he's been teaching them to MFA students at Syracuse University, his alma mater, for more than two decades.

Admirers of *Lincoln in the Bardo* (2017) and Saunders' equally imaginative short story collections will discover the full scope of his passion for and knowledge of literature in his deeply inquisitive, candid, funny, and philosophical analysis of seven stories, each included here, by his Russian mentors. Saunders discusses each story's structure, energy flow, the questions it raises, and how "meaning is made," embracing both technical finesse and the mysteries at creation's core, writing, "That's what craft is: A way to open ourselves up to the suprapersonal wisdom within us." He also shares his own experiences as a novice writer and explicates his view of fiction as a "vital moral-ethical tool." An invaluable and uniquely pleasurable master course and a generous celebration of reading, writing, and all the ways literature enriches our lives. —*Donna Seaman*

Poetry

Three Simple Lines: A Writer's Pilgrimage into the Heart and Homeland of Haiku.

By Natalie Goldberg.

Jan. 2021. 176p. New World, \$22.95 (9781608686971). 811.

Venerated writing teacher, writer, and artist Goldberg dispenses personal stories and literary and Zen Buddhist wisdom in books notable for their warmth, candor, and lucidity. Here she shares her immersion in haiku, a form Allen Ginsberg introduced her to when she was a student. Goldberg states, "Haiku is a refuge when the world seems chaotic," as it does now, and, indeed, the way she showcases haiku, both classic and new, while recounting her adventures in Japan as she followed the footsteps of the haiku masters—Basho, Buson, Issa, Shiki—proves to be stress-reducing, stimulating, and replenishing. The essence of haiku, Goldberg notes, is "pure awareness," while its three lines should "make the mind leap." Goldberg deepens appreciation for the evolution of the form by telling tales of the master's lives and reclaiming the key contributions of an overlooked woman practitioner, Chiyo-ni. Goldberg's participation in a haiku writing group at her Santa Fe library, her fish-out-of-water moments in Japan, and her sense of humor and humility converge in a uniquely intimate celebration of haiku and its distillation of life's beauty and transience. —*Donna Seaman*

Geography & Travel

Incredible Archaeology: Inspiring Places from Our Human Past.

By Paul Bahn.

2020. 320p. illus. Smithsonian, \$40 (9781588346926). 913.

Armchair globetrotters and archaeology buffs alike will discover new destinations in this photographic tour of 100 of the world's most famous archaeological sites, selected based on archaeological importance but also accessibility to travelers, interest to a general audience, and visual appeal. Each site's two- or four-page spread begins with basic information (type of site, location, dates, architectural style) followed by an explanation of the site's history and archaeological significance, details about its discovery and excavation, and travel information such as transportation access, visitors centers, and other nearby destinations. Because of its longer history of archaeological exploration, roughly a third of the sites are in Europe and Northern Asia. While places such as Machu Picchu, Pompeii, and Little Big Horn will be familiar to many readers, the full-color photos and descriptions of destinations like Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in Alberta, Canada, or the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani in an archipelago off the coast of Tanzania may inspire future itineraries. —*Lindsay Harmon*

YA: Concise, accessible text and enticing images will inspire teen travel buffs and history enthusiasts to add new destinations to their bucket lists. *LH.*

History

The Eagles of Heart Mountain: A True Story of Football, Incarceration, and Resistance in World War II America.

By Bradford Pearson.

Jan. 2021. 304p. Atria, \$27 (9781982107031); e-book (9781982107055). 940.54.

Located in north-central Wyoming, Heart Mountain was one of 10 inland "relocation camps" where West Coast-based Japanese Americans were interned following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. And, yes, while the football teams of high-school-age incarcerated from Heart Mountain would dominate their local public-school rivals—and the author profiles the games and the stars of those teams—their story pales beside that of how they and their fellow Japanese Americans would end up there, which Pearson meticulously details, from their pre-Pearl Harbor lives to the evolution of U.S. policy that created the camps, uprooted these wholly Americanized families, and shamelessly drafted young men from the camps to fight the war—and to the resistance to the draft that many of them mounted (arguing that they should be granted their civil rights first), for which they were jailed. It might not have the sports appeal of most "local team makes good" stories, but Pearson's

account will fill gaps in readers' understanding of this unsavory chapter in American history. —*Alan Moores*

Queens of the Crusades: England's Medieval Queens.

By Alison Weir.

Feb. 2021. 560p. Ballantine, \$30 (9781101966693). 942.03092.

The queens of England fascinate historian Weir; she has written numerous historical novels about them and now brews her special blend of scholarship and storytelling in the second volume in a biographical series on the country's medieval queens. It covers the early Plantagenet period (1154–1291) with its quintet of women monarchs: Eleanor of Aquitaine, queen of Henry II; Berengaria of Navarre, queen of Richard I; Isabella of Angoulême, queen of King John; Eleanor of Provence, queen of Henry III; and Eleanor of Castile, queen of Edward I. Their stories are told in a single continuous narrative, and the result is like a magnificent tapestry, skillfully woven, ingeniously embroidered down to the smallest detail, and gloriously shot through with the glittering intrigues of the royal court. As Weir describes it, she tells "the story of the history of England through the perspective of its queens." Aimed at the general reader, this rich and robust account will appeal to readers interested in medieval England and some of its most fascinating royal women, whose stories are often left out of the history books. —*Carolyn Mulac*

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

The Spymaster of Baghdad: A True Story of Bravery, Family, and Patriotism in the Battle against ISIS.

By Margaret Coker.

Feb. 2021. 336p. Harper/Dey Street, \$28.99 (9780062947420). 956.7044.

Building a top-notch intelligence service of capable, patriotic agents is a strong marker of statesmanship and sovereignty in a new nation, especially when the previous regime's spies and secret police were focused on protecting the ruling party over the good of the nation. The titular player, Abu Ali al-Basri, spent much of his life avoiding the latter, then, after Saddam Hussein's fall, realizing the former by establishing a government espionage unit called the Falcons. To confront Iraq's enemies, Abu Ali relied on traditional methods, using networks of spies and informants who could do the intricate and dangerous work that high-tech surveillance could not. Coker delves deeply into the spymaster's life, along with that of two of his heroic agents, brothers Harith and Munaf al-Sudani, and tracks their daring, secret fight against Al Qaeda and ISIS. She also paints a detailed picture of life in Iraq, from family traditions and culture to politics and intrigue, providing an informative and invaluable perspective for Western readers within an intensely suspenseful, superbly well-reported, and significant tale of brave and essential covert counterintelligence operations. —*James Pekoll*

General Fiction

A Bright Ray of Darkness.

By Ethan Hawke.

Feb. 2021. 256p. Knopf, \$27.95 (9780385352383).

Hollywood actor Hawke follows his fable-like novel, *Rules for a Knight* (2015), with this intriguing character study of faith, masculinity, and celebrity. With similarities to Hawke's own life story, film actor William Harding seemingly self-destructs by cheating on his beautiful wife, a rock icon. Kicked out of the family home, he now lives in the Mercury Hotel in New York. He drinks and smokes to distract himself from both his personal troubles and his anxiety about playing Hotspur in an ambitious Broadway production of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. He is also consumed by worry about his two young children, his voice, and whether he can succeed on the stage as he has on the screen. William has a tragicomic lack of self-awareness. He is a 32-year-old with the mentality of Holden Caulfield and is not helped by the contradictory advice he receives from other self-obsessed actors in the production. While hampered by some clunky analogies, Hawke's novel is nonetheless an enthralling portrayal of a beleaguered actor's struggles to balance his life and the physical and mental toll of a Broadway production. —Alexander Moran

Cowboy Graves.

By Roberto Bolaño. Tr. by Natasha Wimmer.

Feb. 2021. 208p. Penguin, \$24 (9780735222885).

Bolaño's brilliant oeuvre expands with another bright starburst, this one comprising three separate yet thematically connected novellas. "Cowboy Graves" follows Arturo Belano, a protagonist familiar to Bolaño fans, as he migrates from Chile to Mexico City and back again to Chile after the military coup in 1973, all of which tracks with the author's own life. "French Comedy of Horrors" features an unsuspecting teenager who gets drawn into a shady literary group calling themselves the Clandestine Surrealist Group, an entity reminiscent of the "visceral realists" from *The Savage Detectives* (2007), and modeled after the InfraREALISTS, founded by Bolaño and other poets in the 1970s. "Fatherland," the third and most experimental section, returns to the Chilean coup through disjointed fragments of lectures, letters, and other documentary entries, centered this time around Rigoberto Belano, a character similar to, but not exactly like, Arturo. Like much of Bolaño's more recent posthumous work, this title's been assembled from a seemingly endless archive of handwritten notes and floppy disks. Even in unfinished works, Bolaño's inimitable style and searing vision will appeal to fans and new readers alike. —Diego Báez

Girls of a Certain Age.

By Maria Adelmann.

Feb. 2021. 240p. Little, Brown, \$26 (9780316450812).

In this dark and tender debut, Adelmann explores various struggles that twenty-first-century women face in their daily realities. The unnamed narrator of "Only the Good" has a complicated relationship with men who take advantage of her seemingly easy-going approach to life. When a one-night stand threatens to turn into a permanent responsibility, she reflects on human existence and the powerful effects people can have on one another. In "Elegy," short snippets from each age of a woman's life reflect her journey, showcasing the cycle of the inevitable changes she faces to form an understanding and acceptance of her body. In "Middlemen," the narrator and her wealthier roommate seem to be attracted to each other, but she is quickly disappointed when she realizes her roommate just wants her body for the purpose of pleasing men. Pregnancy, the female body, abuse, sexuality—these deep and often terrifying aspects of women's lives are beautifully portrayed in this collection of stories as Adelmann's characters grapple with making sense of their world. —Emily Park

**The Hare.**

By Melanie Finn.

Jan. 2021. 320p. Two Dollar Radio, paper, \$16.99 (9781937512972).



Rosie Monroe is an art student in New York in the 1980s, pursuing her dreams away from her small Massachusetts hometown. Bennett, an older man, sweeps her off her feet with his charm and cultured mannerisms. His affluent lifestyle dazzles Rosie, who feels awed that such a wealthy man is showing interest in her, and she quickly learns to adjust to his dominant old-world manners. However, as she falls in love and has a child with him, she soon sees past the facades that hide his nefarious cons. In the middle of the night, he takes her and their child from their glamorous estate to a rundown cabin in northern Vermont, abandoning her for long periods of time and forcing Rosie to fend for herself in the forest while raising their daughter on her own. When she finally takes matters into her own hands to break free from him, the consequences she faces become long-lasting. This thought-provoking literary thriller from Finn (*The Underneath*, 2018) brilliantly depicts the effects of patriarchy on women and their sense of duty to please men. This resilient heroine embodies the evolution of feminism in a male-dominant society, making this a poignant story for our time. —Emily Park

How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House.

By Cherie Jones.

Jan. 2021. 288p. Little, Brown, \$27 (9780316536981); e-book, \$13.99 (9780316537001).

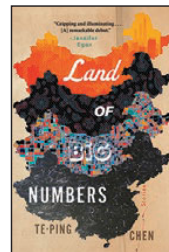
After a robbery gone wrong in Baxter Beach, Barbados, locals Lala and her husband Adan are caught in a dangerous web of deceit and danger. The victims of the thievery are Peter and Mira, who reside in the Baxter Beach Mansions. Shortly following the incident, Lala and Adan's newborn daughter's lifeless body is found in the sand nearby. For both couples, the turn of events unravels a complicated weave of trauma, steeped in lust and legacy. Jones's debut is a microscopic look into the lives of local Barbadians and the rich people who colonize their spaces. The pages are filled with the juxtapositions of wealth versus poverty, choice versus survival, and love versus abuse. Told from multiple perspectives, Jones' debut novel provides readers with an arsenal of stories, which ultimately validates the reasoning behind the characters' senseless choices. There is a rhythm to the writing and the words are often a poetic stream of movement. Jones is meticulous, giving a strong pulse to each perspective. The cinematic ending is sure to leave readers wanting more. —LaParis Hawkins

**The Land of Big Numbers.**

By Te-Ping Chen.

Feb. 2021. 256p. HMH, paper, \$15.99 (9780358272557).

Wall Street Journal correspondent Chen emerges as a fiction powerhouse, each of her 10 stories an immersive literary event. "Lulu," which first appeared in the *New Yorker*, is a tale about the diverging life paths of twins, the over-achieving daughter and the slacker son, at least in their youth. *Granta* initially published "Field Notes on a Marriage," about the brief union between an American woman and an enigmatic Chinese mathematics professor. Seemingly small yet affecting moments define "Hotline Girl," in which a woman chooses independence over an abusive relationship. "On the Street Where You Live" is about a man confronted by a runaway friend's ex-lover, "Shanghai Murmur" features a flower shop employee who finds a regular customer's valuable pen, "Beautiful Country" is about a Chinese immigrant on vacation with her longtime white lover, and the collection's titular tale portrays a young man who chooses wealth over wanting. Chen plays with the slyly surreal in "New Fruit," inventing a peculiar fruit that can uplift or depress its consumer. "Flying Machine" tells of an elderly but tenacious inventor, and "Gubeikou Spirit" focuses on train passengers inexplicably trapped in a station for months. Traversing continents and cultures, moving effortlessly between China and the U.S., Chen deftly presents



everyday lives that entertain, educate, and universally resonate. —*Terry Hong*

The Narrowboat Summer.

By Anne Youngson.

Jan. 2021. 336p. Flatiron, \$26.99 (9781250764614).

If high-powered executive Eve, housewife Sally, and elderly canal dweller Anastasia had met in any other way, they likely wouldn't have given each other a passing thought. But when Eve and Sally decide to rescue a dog making a terrible racket inside Anastasia's canal boat, their lives are forever changed. Eve has just quit her job, Sally has just asked her husband for a divorce, and Anastasia desperately needs two people to pilot her boat up to Chester while she stays in Uxbridge for medical treatment. Eve and Sally get a crash course in driving a narrowboat, and all three women have a chance to step outside their normal lives for a few months. English novelist Youngson (*Meet Me at the Museum*, 2018) offers a window onto UK canal boaters, a tight-knit community with a shared understanding of the challenges and triumphs of life on the water. Fans of Jane Smiley and Hannah Mary McKinnon will enjoy Youngson's immersive, lyrical account of the women's narrowboat summer, especially the colorful characters they meet along their journey. —*Stephanie Turza*

★ We Run the Tides.

By Vendela Vida.

Feb. 2021. 272p. Ecco, \$26.99 (9780062936233).

"I am a daring enigma," states precocious, 13-year-old Eulabee as she gives us a tour of mid-1980s Sea Cliff, a tony San Francisco neighborhood with views of the Golden Gate Bridge, celebrities, houses with dark histories, fog, and a steep, rocky promontory separating two beaches that Eulabee and her best friend, Maria Fabiola, know how to scurry across between high tides. Eulabee's family is not wealthy. Her city native father owns a gallery,

her Swedish mother is a nurse, but Eulabee attends the nearby all-girls' private school, biding her time with teachers lacking her level of mordant and mischievous intelligence. She relies on her friends, but tectonic forces shift when Maria suddenly turns alarmingly beautiful, and Eulabee, possessed of audacious integrity, refuses to go along with Maria's increasingly dangerous fabrications. Eulabee is ostracized; Maria disappears. Intently observant, acidly funny, stoic, and smart, Eulabee is an incandescent creation, and Vida (*The Diver's Clothes Lie Empty*, 2015), whose polished and incisive prose is in the Didion mode, inflects this droll and sensitive coming-of-age tale, a cool match for Claire Messud's *The Burning Girl* (2017), with eviscerating social commentary. A nimble and arresting drama about the spell cast by beauty, the compulsion to lie, the valor

of forthrightness, and the inevitability of the inexplicable. —*Donna Seaman*

YA/M: Eulabee and her school, family, and sexual predicaments will intrigue YA literary fiction readers. DS.

★ What's Worth Keeping.

By Kaya McLaren.

Jan. 2021. 304p. St. Martin's/Griffin, paper, \$16.99 (9781250145093).

Amy receives a devastating cancer diagnosis, and while searching for her life insurance policy, she discovers filled-out divorce papers, dated in the near future. She doesn't understand why her loving husband Paul would want to leave her, especially since she has always been there for him, especially after the Oklahoma City bombing, to which Paul was a first responder. Through alternating points of view, McLaren (*The Road to Enchantment*, 2017) takes readers on a journey through each family member's feelings about Amy's illness. While Paul helps Amy through her treatment, their daughter Carly starts drinking and failing classes. On the day Paul was going to file for a divorce, he instead takes Carly to stay with Amy's Aunt Rae for the summer. While Paul drives in one direction, Amy, now in remission, decides to take a healing journey all on her own. Though there are deeply hurt feelings and distrust in this family, *What's Worth Keeping* shows a full picture of how, while cancer can shatter both a body and a family, sometimes love can bring people back together. Readers who enjoy Emily Giffin and Caroline Leavitt will be drawn into the emotional journey of these characters in this heartwarming novel. —*Crystal Vela*

YA: Carly is a senior in high school, and teen readers will relate to her (sometime self-destructive) struggle to deal. CV.

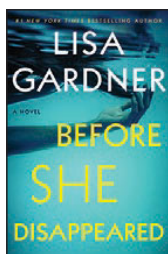
Crime Fiction

★ Before She Disappeared.

By Lisa Gardner.

Jan. 2021. 400p. Dutton, \$27 (9781524745042); e-book, \$14.99 (9781524745059).

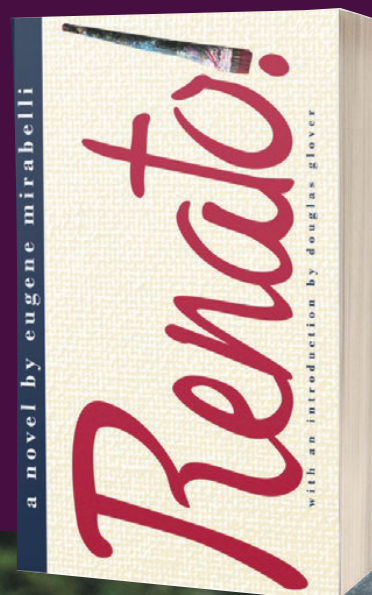
Vagabond investigator Frankie Elkin (think Reacher with the gift of gab over guns) lands in Boston's rough-edged Mattapan neighborhood on a mission to find Angelique Badeau, a teenager who disappeared 11 months earlier. In a blink, Frankie has secured a bartending job at the neighborhood drinking hole, found an AA meeting, and pissed off the cops investigating Angelique's disappearance. (They're not buying her investigation as public service, and she's not enlightening them about her need for redemption.) Frankie is sure that Angelique isn't a runaway: she's too close



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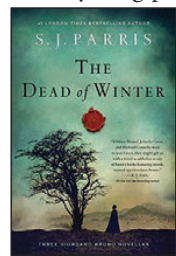
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to her Aunt Guerline and her brother, Emmanuel. So Frankie pokes the soft spots in Angelique's inner circle and finds that Angelique grew secretive after participating in a rec-center program where she befriended Livia Samdi, another missing Mattapan teen, whose gangland connections up the stakes. When Emmanuel reports that Angelique has left him a coded plea for help online, Frankie's baggage-laden obsession pushes her straight into Mattapan's underworld. It's hard to tag just one stand-out element here, between the multidimensional portrayal of Mattapan's Haitian expat community, Frankie's humanizing demons and straightforward investigative technique, and a page-turning plot with all its ends tucked in unpredictably tight. Tense and immersive, Gardner's latest (hopefully a series starter) is a sure bet both for readers drawn to gritty gumshoe fiction and for the growing legion of true-crime podcast fans. —Christine Tran

★ **The Dead of Winter.**
By S. J. Parris.

Dec. 2020. 352p. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643136547); e-book, \$16.99 (9781643136554).

This collection of three absorbing novellas follows the five novels of Parris' brilliant Giordano Bruno series, and details the earlier life of the young priest in sixteenth-century Italy,



before he fled his homeland and the Inquisition and found himself working as a master spy for Elizabeth I. During the sweltering Naples summer of 1566 (a "simmering human soup"), Bruno assists his mentor, Fra Gennaro, in an illicit autopsy performed on the body of a young woman whose murder leads him to seek justice for her family. Bruno is revealed to be the most promising student his monastery has ever had, although already questioning the authority of the Catholic Church and the excesses of the Inquisition. Subsequently, he is embraced by a secret society of philosophers and scholars and finds that keeping their heretical secrets places him in grave danger. And, in the final tale, Bruno is summoned by the pope himself to display his unusual talents for memorization and recitation and barely escapes Rome alive. In two days, he faces accusations of rape by a cardinal's sister and of witchcraft by the pontiff and kills a man in a duel. The cracks in his faith widen into chasms. This is historical mystery at its absolute strongest, and quite possibly the best prequel ever in crime fiction. —Jane Murphy

★ **A Hanging at Dawn.**
By Charles Todd.

Dec. 2020. 176p. Harper/Witness Impulse, paper, \$11.99 (9780063048577).

This short novel continues the origin story of Todd's series hero, Bess Crawford, begun in *The Maharani's Pearls* (2014). This time the focus is on the period before Bess became

a battlefield nurse in WWI. The tale begins in 1899. An underage young man has enlisted in the British Army, in the regiment formerly commanded by Melinda Crawford's late husband. Asked to evaluate the young man, Melinda winds up sending him to India, where her cousin Richard commands a regiment. The young man, Simon Brandon, becomes a close friend to Richard's daughter, Bess. Readers of the Crawford series know that Simon is a recurring character and that he and Bess have a close bond that goes beyond friendship. Here we learn how they came together and how each of them began the journey to adulthood. Unlike many origin stories, which exist because the authors have run out of fresh ideas, this one adds new and important history to the Crawford saga, fleshing out the existing novels and adding new depth to our reading of them. For series fans, it's a must-read. —David Pitt

★ **House of the Patriarch.**
By Barbara Hambly.

Jan. 2021. 256p. Severn, \$28.99 (9780727889904); e-book (9781448304530).

The year: 1840. Benjamin January, a free man of color, doesn't think he has another major investigation in him, not so soon after the harrowing events described in *Lady of Perdition* (2020), but he's not one to refuse a friend's request. It seems a one-year-old girl has gone missing, apparently while on a steamboat crossing Long Island Sound. To find her, Benjamin must leave the (relatively) safe environment of New Orleans and travel to New York, where some people do not take kindly to free men of color walking about the place as if they belong there. While the eighteenth January novel has a solid story line, it's the setting that dominates the book. In Hambly's expert hands, New York is a dark, threatening place, in many ways a foreign land to January. Racism has always existed in the background of the January novels, but here this issue takes center stage as Hambly lays bare the dark underbelly of American society in the mid-nineteenth century. A fine entry in an impressive series. —David Pitt

★ **The Mitford Trial.**
By Jessica Fellowes.

Jan. 2021. 368p. Minotaur, \$27.99 (9781250316837); e-book, \$14.99 (9781250316851).

This is the fourth Golden Age-style mystery (after *The Mitford Scandal*, 2020) to feature the six singular Mitford sisters and their ever-resourceful lady's maid, Louisa. The year is now 1933, and newlywed Louisa, studying stenography and settling into life as Mrs. Guy Sullivan, is recruited by MI-5 to keep an eye on the two fascist-leaning Mitford sisters who have fallen under the spell of Adolf Hitler. Louisa escorts Diana and Unity, along with their mother, Lady Redesdale, on an elegant Mediterranean cruise. Louisa's police-detective husband shows up to surprise her, but instead of enjoying a romantic tryst, they find themselves investigating a murder onboard

while Louisa struggles to keep a sulking Unity, unhappy to be thwarted in a budding romance with a Nazi SS officer, in line. Inspired by the larger-than-life Mitford family and a real-life murder, Fellowes delivers a ripping-good read. Rich in detail, it moves steadily to its sad ending, leaving Louisa in possession of dark secrets that she will carry for the rest of her life. —Jane Murphy

★ **Smoke.**
By Joe Ide.

Feb. 2021. 336p. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$28 (9780316531061).

Throughout the previous four novels in his Isaiah "IQ" Quintabe series, Ide has displayed a rare ability to mix dark comedy and gut-churning drama (think Thomas Perry),



sometimes leaning toward the former (*IQ*, 2016), other times the latter (*Hi Five*, 2020). Here he strikes the balance straight down the middle, juggling between Isaiah's fraught attempt to break away from his peril-plagued career as a quixotic investigator and his best friend Dodson's parallel effort to save his marriage by transforming himself from a hustler on the streets of East Long Beach to, of all things, a marketing trainee in the straight world. Ide sets us up to expect Dodson's foray into button-down business culture to deliver the comedy, leaving all the gut-churning for Isaiah's journey, which takes him to a small town in the woods near Lake Tahoe, where he finds not peace but more hapless souls in need of help (serial killers lurk). On the surface, our expectations are met in both cases, but mixmaster Ide's compulsion to blend light and dark (Isaiah's confrontation with the serial killers, while gruesome, takes the form of "a slapstick movie shot in a burning insane asylum") affects the two plots in surprising ways, again producing an emotion-rich form of character-driven tragicomedy, but one in which peril forever loiters in the shallows. —Bill Ott

★ **Twenty.**
By James Grippando.

Jan. 2021. 384p. Harper, \$27.99 (9780062915085).

A shooting at a Florida school counts 20 wounded or dead. Among the students, but thankfully not among the victims, is Jack Swytek's daughter. When a fellow student (the son of a Muslim man) confesses to the shootings, Jack, a defense attorney, initially refuses to take his case. But then he's persuaded to change his mind by an unlikely person: the parent of a child who died in the shootings. The Swytek novels have always incorporated complex, sometimes controversial subjects, and this one tackles a tragically hot topic. School shootings have been in and out of the news for the past few years, and, to his credit, Grippando doesn't sensationalize the issue. He presents an evenhanded, intelligent discussion structured, of course,

around a smartly plotted mystery. It should be noted, too, that the novel's characters are fully realized and abundantly human, not the stick figures spouting talking points one finds in much hot-topic fiction. Even with nearly 30 books under his belt, Gripando shows no signs of falling into a rut. —David Pitt

The Woman outside My Door.

By Rachel Ryan.

Jan. 2021. 288p. Gallery, \$27 (9781982151614); e-book, \$12.99 (9781982151638).

Georgina tells herself that the fact that her seven-year-old son, Cody, has an imaginary friend is no big deal. Having just lost his grandmother, Georgina's mother, it's understandable that he would search for comfort in different ways. It's only when Cody's imaginary friend, New Granny, starts leaving signs behind—candy wrappers, mysterious phone calls—does Georgina suspect that there could be something more sinister going on. Trying desperately to convince her husband, Georgina searches for tangible proof beyond her maternal instinct. What if New Granny isn't imaginary at all? Or worse, what if Georgina is losing her mind (she has had mental problems before)? Heralded by Georgina's delve into Cody's imaginary world, first-time-author Ryan draws the reader into not only Georgina's terrifying journey to save her son, but also her marriage and her sanity. Georgina is a fierce, loyal narrator, and the reader won't be able to resist rooting for her success. Seasoned mystery lovers will recognize similarities to B. A. Paris' *The Breakdown* (2017), Mary Kubica's *The Other Mrs.* (2020), and A. J. Finn's *The Woman in the Window* (2018). —Carmen Clark

Historical Fiction

Eternal.

By Lisa Scottoline.

Mar. 2021. 480p. Putnam, \$28 (9780525539766).

Fascists are often portrayed as one monolithic, Nazi block, but Scottoline, famous for her legal thrillers, focuses on a trio of young Romans to explore how Italian fascism pre-dated, inspired, and differed from what eventually subsumed it. Elisabetta has a difficult home life, but she takes solace in being the object of affection for two young men, Marco, an up-and-coming member of Mussolini's bureaucracy, and Sandro, a Jewish mathematics student whose father is also an ardent Fascist. When the Nazis' influence leads to abhorrent, anti-Semitic race laws in Italy, Jewish Fascists, fervent party members for 15 years, are astounded as everything is taken from them. When Italy attempts to leave the Axis and make a separate peace, its former German allies quickly turn into cruel occupiers, and lives are lost with astonishing speed. Scottoline conjures atmosphere and culture in lush landscapes and city scenes and delectable culinary descriptions. This

nuanced take on WWII Italy offers a variety of perspectives, but at its heart, this is a love story, with heroes lost being warmly remembered and love conquering all. —Bethany Latham



HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: The hook is how best-selling crime writer Scottoline successfully changes course in a coming-of-age WWII love story that will entrance fans and newcomers alike.

YA: *YAs will be struck by the struggles of teenage friends as their lives are overwhelmed by world events. BL.*

The Gates of Athens.

By Conn Iggulden.

Jan. 2021. 464p. Pegasus, \$25.95 (9781643136660); e-book, \$16.99 (9781643136677).

This rousing series opener brings 10 pivotal years in ancient Greek history to energetic life. Spanning from the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE to the Spartans' valiant stand at the Battle of Thermopylae, the story moves nimbly among the perspectives of Athenian leaders, primarily the politician and general Xanthippus, plus allies and Persian foes. A celebrated historical adventure writer, Iggulden (*The Falcon of Sparta*, 2019) illustrates both large-scale military maneuvers and minute details, from close-up views of bronze-armored Greek soldiers in formation to fearsome scenes of the immense Persian fleet, bent on destroying Athens. The intervening decade between major battles in the ongoing Greco-Persian Wars holds equal fascination as Athens is shaken by infighting that divides its statesmen. These inner political workings are vividly personified via courageous, intelligent, well-rounded characters. Iggulden has impressive command of period terminology and largely follows the historical record, filling in gaps with well-thought-out reasoning. This is also an inspiring read about the value of democracy, whose birthplace was classical Athens, and how people fought hard and long to preserve it for posterity. —Sarah Johnson

The Girl from the Channel Islands.

By Jenny Lecoat.

Feb. 2021. 320p. Graydon, paper, \$17.99 (9781525806414); e-book, \$16.99 (9780369700896).

Hedy Bercu is scraping by, like the other residents of the Channel Island of Jersey in 1940, but her life has extra strain because she is Austrian and Jewish. Despite her attempts to lie low, she catches the eye of Lieutenant Kurt Newmann, part of the Nazi occupying forces. When Hedy is nearly caught stealing gas rations, Kurt takes the fall and the attraction becomes reluctantly mutual. As supplies are cut off from Jersey and the occupation intensifies, Kurt learns the truth about the deportation of Jews across Europe, and persuades Dorothea, the wife of Hedy's friend Anton, who has been drafted into the German army, to keep Hedy safe. Lecoat's debut is based on true events, which will make readers even more curious about the back-

story and motivations of Hedy, Kurt, and the somewhat enigmatic Dorothea. The unique Channel Island setting may intrigue readers of WWII-set women's fiction, especially those who prefer a relatively gentle take on a harsh, salacious story line, as in Susan Meissner's *The Last Year of the War* (2019). —Susan Maguire



HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: With a 250K print run and the attendant marketing plan, count on curiosity about this debut.

A Splendid Ruin.

By Megan Chance.

Jan. 2021. 342p. Amazon/Lake Union, paper, \$14.95 (9781542022392).

In 1904, May Kimble's mother dies suddenly, leaving her penniless until she is invited to San Francisco to live with her mother's estranged sister. May knows nothing of the family, but she finds a warm welcome from her uncle and her cousin Goldie, though she is told that her Aunt Florence is too ill to see people. The size of the Nob Hill mansion overwhelms May, but it also puzzles her because half of the house is empty. Then she finds Florence, drugged with laudanum and begging May to flee the house. Meanwhile, Goldie introduces May to San Francisco society, and though she is enthralled with this new life, she suspects she is being manipulated. She becomes further apprehensive when Shin, the Chinese maid, warns her to be wary of her newfound family. May must use her wits to survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and to avenge herself and find her true identity. With a fascinating look at 1900s San Francisco, this historical gothic features a feisty woman-in-peril and a fast-paced story that will keep the reader turning pages. —Merle Jacob

Yellow Wife.

By Sadeqa Johnson.

Jan. 2021. 288p. Atria/371NK, \$26 (9781982149109).

Johnson (*And Then There Was Me*, 2017) follows the life of an enslaved woman, Pheby Delores Brown, born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia. She is afforded the privileges of learning to read and write and playing the piano, and the promise of freedom on her eighteenth birthday. After a sequence of unfortunate events, however Pheby is sold up north to Richmond. Her master, who owns a jail known as Devil's Half-Acre, where the enslaved are kept in inhuman living conditions and severely beaten, takes her in as his wife. Pheby has given up hope of freedom and decides to barter her companionship for a better life for her children. She also battles her conscience as she aids in the preparation of the enslaved to be sold. Johnson writes with imagery so vivid that it's impossible to look away, even during gut-wrenching moments. Readers will be engulfed in captivating suspense, rooting for the protagonist and her mischief, in hopes that it will deliver her from the evils of slavery. —LaParis Hawkins

Romance

A Dance in Donegal.

By Jennifer Deibel.

Feb. 2021. 352p. Revell, paper, \$15.99 (9780800738419).

Moira Doherty may have made the biggest mistake of her life. Moira thought she was doing the right thing by honoring her late mother's wish that she travel to Ireland to become the new teacher in Ballymann, the place where her mother was born and grew up. Unfortunately, from the moment Moira arrives, she finds life in the small seaside village a challenge, especially given the less than friendly welcome she receives from many of the locals. However, with the help of some new friends, including handsome thatcher Sean McFadden, she gradually finds herself adapting. But will an old family secret destroy the new life Moira is carefully building for herself in Ballymann? Deibel's exemplarily executed debut is a touching tale of love and forgiveness that also beautifully captures the warmth and magic of 1920s Ireland. The author's flair for vivid characterization is especially striking in Moira, whose realistic struggles with her faith give her memorable depth and relatability.

—John Charles

YA/S: *Teen fans of faith-based romances will be enchanted with this Irish-flavored, sweetly romantic historical. JC.*

First Comes Like.

By Alisha Rai.

Feb. 2021. 432p. Avon, paper, \$15.99 (9780062878151).

Beauty expert Jia Ahmed wants to build a cosmetics company for people of color, so she decides it's time to meet the Bollywood star she's been texting with for over a year. But when she finally comes face-to-face with Dev Dixit, he doesn't know her at all. Filming a new show in Hollywood in the hope of expanding his base, Dev is intrigued by the woman who is so upset with him. When he finds out that she was catfished by someone in his family, he's determined to make it up to her. With twists and turns right out of a Bollywood drama, Rai's delightful romance introduces another Ahmed sister in her Modern Love series (*The Right Swipe*, 2019; *Girl Gone Viral*, 2020) to a family struggling with fame and loss. Jia and Dev are appealingly dimensional, as is the varied cast of minor characters. Dev is raising his orphaned niece, while sorting his mixed feelings about his deceased brother. Jia wants her family's approval, but is not afraid to follow her instincts and heart. Another win from this rising romance star. —Amy Alessio

★ Georgana's Secret.

By Arlem Hawks.

Jan. 2021. 320p. Shadow Mountain, paper, \$15.99 (9781629727929).

Lieutenant Dominic Peyton doesn't need a wife because he is already married to the sea. At least that is what Dominic tells his mother every time she tries to find him a suitable spouse. One thing Dominic can do for his mother is to discreetly inquire about Georga-

na Woodall, the currently absent-from-society daughter of a dear, recently deceased friend of



his mother's, since Dominic's new captain is none other than Georgana's father, Alfred Woodall. Once on board the *HMS Deborah*, however, Dominic finds the taciturn captain reluctant to engage in conversation about anything, including his cabin boy, George Taylor. As Dominic attempts to help the harassed, seemingly fish-out-of-water George adapt to life at sea, he slowly realizes that the answer to his question about Georgana's whereabouts is right before his eyes. Now Dominic must figure out how to help keep "George" and her secret safe in an environment inhospitable to women. Fans of sweet love stories as well as readers who fondly remember those marvelous old traditional Signet Regencies will quickly succumb to the siren song of Hawks' expertly crafted novel, which delivers the perfect blend of Jane Austen-smart romance and Patrick O'Brian-flavored seafaring adventure. —John Charles

YA: *Teen romance readers will cheer on the plucky heroine as she finds the courage to forge her own path in life and love. JC.*

Obsession.

By Patricia Bradley.

Feb. 2021. 368p. Revell, paper, \$15.99 (9780800735746); e-book, \$15.99 (9781493428557).

Natchez Trace Park Ranger Emma is stunned when shots are fired at her as she returns to her office one night to grab a file. She is further upset when her ex-fiancé Sam, the law enforcement district ranger, will be working with her on the ensuing investigation. Emma was preparing to inventory a historical slave burial site when one of the graves was robbed. To make things worse, the DNA on a remaining bone fragment links to Emma. Her twin brother has been missing for years, and Sam was one of the last people to talk to him. The records for her brother's case have disappeared, and Emma, Sam, and her parents are determined to finally find out what happened, an effort complicated by the fact that Emma is in danger from a threatening stalker. Emma and Sam must work through both these cases and their lingering feelings. Deepened by Bradley's fascinating illumination of the park system, this smart, well-written tale of romantic suspense follows *Standoff* (2020) in a unique series that will appeal to fans of Nevada Barr. —Amy Alessio

SF/Fantasy & Horror

Burn, Beautiful Soul.

By William J. Donahue.

Jan. 2021. 360p. Cosmic Egg, paper, \$19.95 (9781789045260).

Even Hell, with its collections of tortures and assortments of flame, can get dull after a while. So demon Basil leaves his realm

and heads to fresher climes, the Cornhusker State of Nebraska. There, this gigantic helion with horns and hooves lands a job in advertising and starts to build relationships with the locals. But not all want to give their new neighbor a friendly welcome: a band of bikers and the town's resident religious fundamentalist stand ready to make Basil's new life on Earth a living hell. The novel is strongest when playing on the absurdity of its central premise: a demon ginning up slogans for ag-state clients yields some funny moments (although there are repeated examples of rape and bathroom humor that might put off some readers). The transitions to serious scenes of violence are a little strained by comparison, but the creative plotting and plentiful humor make for an enjoyable work of satire. —Craig Lefteroff

★ The Dead Hours of Night.

By Lisa Tuttle.

Feb. 2021. 234p. Valancourt, \$24.99 (9781948405829).

After the success of their collection of biographies of female horror writers (*Monster, She Wrote*, 2019), Lisa Kröger and Melanie R. Anderson began releasing a series of new books by these forgotten creators. This collection of



twelve stories that were originally published in magazines and anthologies between 1980 and 2017 includes an introduction by Kröger, and each story is prefaced by new notes from Tuttle herself. The tales are intense and character-driven, exploring women's lives and realities, and the inherent terror therein. Filled with complicated, fully realized women—not just “final girls”—Tuttle's captivating protagonists narrate dark, unsettling stories with a direct tone, immediately drawing readers into their weird worlds, immersing them in the dread until the inevitable, emphatic last line that leaves readers gasping, yet eager to dive back into the next story and experience it all over again. These dark emotions gloriously build throughout the collection, never disappointing. Tuttle was obviously impacted by the groundbreaking work of Shirley Jackson, but it is her influence, ringing loud and clear, on the award-winning work of authors like Carmen Maria Machado, Elizabeth McCracken, and Karen Russell that will finally lead grateful readers back to her. —Becky Spratford

Dealbreaker.

By L. X. Beckett.

Jan. 2021. 512p. Tor, \$27.99 (9781250165299); e-book, \$14.99 (9781250165275).

Set in the twenty-second century, the second book of Beckett's post-cyberpunk space opera (after *Gamechanger*, 2019) finds pilot Frankie Barnes and her pack family neck-deep in conspiracy, sabotage, and political intrigue as they work to open interstellar space travel based on advanced alien technology. The Exemplar races originally wanted to take

over Earth, but a deal was struck called the Bootstrap Project, which allowed humanity to reverse engineer their technology in order to participate in interstellar trade. Beckett crafts an intricate world in which there is no privacy, social media is capital, and human or AI consciousness can be transferred into new “printed” bodies. The narrative is quite unique; the story is strewn with hashtags and trademarks that emphasize a world driven by greed, power, and the importance of trending. Amid the harrowing adventure is a good bit of humor, as well as speculation on the future of gender identity, family, and the evolution of AI. This story will appeal to readers who want to explore the next iteration of cyberpunk or crave an intricate and modern space opera. —*Craig Clark*

Doors of Sleep. **By Tim Pratt.**

Jan. 2021. 272p. Angry Robot, paper, \$14.99 (9780857668745); e-book, \$4.99 (9780857668752).

Whenever he falls asleep, Zax’s body hurtles through the multiverse and jumps to a new world. He’s adapted to his lonely condition, carrying stimulants and sedatives in order to control his travel to often-dangerous places such as a mining platform being attacked by a sea monster, a burning city, and a vast desert hiding a mushroom-filled cavern. Sometimes, hoping to help the people he meets, Zax brings companions along, and Minna is one such friend, an organic being with extensive knowledge of plants and other biomatter. But their lives are threatened when a mad scientist, the Lector, decides to use Zax’s ability to try to take over as much of the multiverse as he can. *Doors of Sleep* is a compelling tale reminiscent of the episodic explorations of *Doctor Who*; the book is rooted in the details of the new environments and people Zax encounters with his companions. Pratt uses his rich imagination to craft a vast variety of possibilities, and the friendship between the pixie-like Minna and idealist Zax ties these worlds together into one core story. —*Leah von Essen*

A History of What Comes Next. **By Sylvain Neuvel.**

Feb. 2021. 304p. Tor.com, \$24.99 (9781250262066).

The V-2 rocket. Operation Paperclip. The Space Race. Global Warming. One of these is not like the others, except in Neuvel’s latest (after *The Test*, 2019), the first in his *Take Them to the Stars* series. Real historical figures and events combine over millennia as a hundred generations of mother-daughter research teams work to master manned space flight in order to escape an ancient prophesied doom. The women use espionage, coercion, and even violence to achieve their goal, and are constantly on the run from rival groups of homicidal male siblings. The brothers, always just behind but creeping ever closer, will do anything to keep each generation of ladies from success. The short sentences and chapters and frantic action sequences complement the mothers’ growing concern over carbon di-

oxide accumulation. The research of the 99th mother and her daughter, Mia, indicates life on the planet could end before the human race reaches outer space. This commentary on survival instincts, violence, reprehensible deals, and the toll that progress can take on people’s lives and souls will appeal to fans of provocative science fiction thrillers with well-developed characters. —*Lucy Lockley*

YA: *Teens will identify with the 99th daughter’s struggle to accept her role and cheer for her loving bond with her girlfriend. LL.*

Knight’s Ransom. **By Jeff Wheeler.**

Jan. 2021. 428p. Amazon/47North, paper, \$14.95 (9781542025294); e-book, \$5.99 (9781542025300).

When he was nine, Marshall Barton was kidnapped and set upon a barrel in front of his father’s castle with a noose around his neck. When his father refused to spare him, King Gervaise took back Ransom—a nickname given by Claire, also a royal hostage. When Gervaise dies, Ransom is sent off to Lord Kinghorn to learn to be a knight. As he trains, Ransom hears the sound of the water of Kingfountain’s falls; it gives him the strength and endurance to win every battle. His success leads him to become a knight to the eldest son of Devon Argentine, who deposed Gervaise, and his mysterious power is as much a curse as it is a boon. Each chapter begins with excerpts of Claire’s diary, which tracks the romance-from-a-distance that grows between them. Wheeler (*The Buried World*, 2020) adds elements of Arthurian legend to the start of the First Argentine Series and, much like David Drake did with *The Spark* (2017), serves up an irresistible, great-hearted hero and a woman with the patience he deserves, along with splendid palace intrigues and battles. —*Don Vicha*

Red Gear 9. **By Matt Betts.**

Jan. 2021. 232p. Raw Dog Screaming/Dog Star, paper, \$15.95 (9781947879102).

The United Nations of America has continued to fight the chewers, dead humans that walk, instead of carrying on with the Civil War. The reality of the chewer threat has been made clear to everyone in the country. Reeves, a captured and imprisoned spy, only knew the rumors of dead men walking, but he finds the truth when he and a few others break out of Alcatraz. But he is less concerned about dead men than he is about raiding the secret supply of Confederate money in San Francisco and getting back to the South. Reeves is willing to do whatever is required to accomplish his goal, and the body count racks up quickly. Readers who miss Cyrus and his airship crew from *Odd Men Out* (2013) will be pleased that they appear in this follow-up, as Cyrus and company notice the escaped prisoners

of war and go after them. Betts’ mash-up is almost a new genre: horror, steampunk, alternate history. The world is so unique that it is a joy to read and watch the characters navigate it. —*Emily Whitmore*

The Ruthless Lady’s Guide to Wizardry. **By C. M. Waggoner.**

Jan. 2021. 384p. Ace, paper, \$17 (9781984805867).

Waggoner brings new characters to the historical fantasy world introduced in *Unnatural Magic* (2019). Dellaria Wells, Delly for short, is a streetwise, charmingly garrulous con artist and fire witch. Her verbosity tends to get her into trouble, but all she really wants is enough coin to pay her rent and get her wayward mother into a sanatorium in the country. A permanent and fiscally sound lover would also be nice. To alleviate her financial woes, Delly signs up for a lucrative position with a group of martially and magically talented women to guard a Lady of Some Importance. While escorting their charge across the country for her forthcoming nuptials, Delly becomes attracted to one of the guardians and is delighted to find her equally interested in return. Things are looking up for the charming swindler until she begins to suspect someone in their party is out to commit murder. Clever romantic banter, an inventive, Cockneyish dialect, monstrous mechanical spiders, and an undead wizardly rat named Buttons will have readers clamoring for more of this enchanting world. —*Lucy Lockley*

The Witch’s Heart. **By Genevieve Gornichec.**

Feb. 2021. 368p. Ace, \$26 (9780593099940); e-book, \$13.99 (9780593099957).

“Long ago, when the gods were young and Asgard was new, there came a witch from the edge of the worlds.” Thus begins Gornichec’s debut, a feminist reimagining of the Norse myths surrounding Ragnarök. Angrboda, a sorceress with the gift of foresight, is incredibly old and hard to kill, but barely survives Odin’s wrath at her refusal to share any knowledge of the future. She is befriended by Loki who returns her speared heart, left behind on a smoking pyre during her getaway. She is further aided by the giantess Skadi, a hunter who makes a deal to trade Angrboda’s magical potions for the provisions she will need to survive alone in the wilderness during the long winters. The love that develops between Angrboda and trickster-god Loki results in the birth of three unusual children whom the gods will see only as beasts and a threat, yet Loki and Skadi accept them for what they are. Melding together the wide range of Nordic legends, this is a story of tenderness and betrayal, friendship and loyalty, family and monsters, beginnings and endings. Offer this beautiful reimagining to fans of Neil Gaiman’s *Norse Mythology* (2017) and Joanne M. Harris’ *Loki* novels. —*Lucy Lockley*



Older Readers

★ **Can't Stop Won't Stop (Young Adult Edition): A Hip-Hop History.**

By Jeff Chang and Dave Cook.

Mar. 2021. 352p. St. Martin's/Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250790514). Gr. 9–12. 780.

This engrossing, engaging account bills itself as a history of hip-hop, but it's so much more. Divided into four roughly even, chronological sections beginning in 1969 and spanning into 2020, the book reviews social and political history in light of the myriad individuals and influences that created this vibrant culture. East Coast, West Coast, Black lives, gang wars, civil unrest—all are framed within the context of how they influenced, and were influenced by, the evolving hip-hop scene. Companies blacklisted artists and cancelled contracts, album releases were delayed, and songs were censored, all in testimony to the growing power of this gloriously defiant art form that gave voice to marginalized populations. This young adult version is an update to the 2005 adult edition, and terms that are generally considered to be offensive have been removed. There are also exhortations for young people to work together for positive change, beginning with DJ Kool Herc's introduction and carrying through to the final chapter, "Black Lives Matter." There's new material about the current generation of women rappers and their body-positivity messaging, the #MeToo movement, and the impact of COVID-19 on the hip-hop community. The book ends with age-appropriate discussion questions that will help young readers grasp the tremendous influence hip-hop has had on current society. —*Kathleen McBroom*

Welcome to Your Period!

By Yumi Stynes and Melissa Kang. Illus. by Jenny Latham.

Jan. 2021. 176p. Candlewick/Walker, \$17.99 (9781536214765). Gr. 6–10. 612.

Female-health podcaster Stynes and adolescent-health specialist Kang team up in this comprehensive guide to menstruation. For tweens or teens still waiting to get their period, they begin with basics, from what it will feel like to using sanitary products to preparing period packs. Once readers have some experience with menstruation, they'll be more interested in such topics as regularity, endometriosis, and whether it's possible to get pregnant while on your period. No matter the subject, the authors' conversational tone offers reassurance to fearful, shy, or questioning readers. Upbeat images of people with varying skin colors and shapes,

in hijabs, and in wheelchairs reaffirm the commonality of menstruation, while images of pads, tampons, and menstrual cups offer disarming representations of what to expect. A chapter entitled "Period Challenges," such as how to handle swimming or living with just a dad, offers even more tips. Although the book targets cisgender girls, the authors also address menstruation in transgender boys. A helpful list of period resources rounds out the text. Empowering young people with knowledge, this guide is welcome indeed. —*Angela Leeper*

Middle Readers

50 Space Missions That Changed the World.

By John A. Read.

Jan. 2021. 80p. illus. Formac, \$26.65 (9781459506268). Gr. 2–5. 629.4.

This Canadian publication takes an international approach to presenting 50 endeavors that have advanced space exploration. The front matter briefly introduces basic principles of rocket science and career paths before seven roughly chronological chapters describe various missions, each getting its own two-page spread. Arresting, often full-page photos are set off by detailed caption bubbles, and brief paragraphs provide additional details. While the U.S. is certainly well represented, it's refreshing to see other programs given due recognition (including Mir cosmonauts representing Syria, Bulgaria, Afghanistan, France, Japan, Costa Rica, Australia, and Peru, among other countries). The missions are presented in logical order, often building on each other, and show how early competition has evolved into international cooperation. The first SpaceX reusable-booster landing in 2015 is the last event, and the book ends with a consideration of future possibilities, a glossary, and a list of websites. This will be a solid pick for STEM collections, and there's a good chance that even authoritative young astronauts will learn something new. —*Kathleen McBroom*

Art Is Life: The Life of Artist Keith Haring.

By Tami Lewis Brown. Illus. by Keith Negley.

Dec. 2020. 48p. Farrar, \$19.99 (9780374304249). Gr. 2–5. 709.

Patterned collage illustrations with an emphasis on geometric shapes create the backdrop for this picture-book biography of pop and street artist Keith Haring. Beginning with a young Haring, who knew he wanted to be an artist when he grew up, the descriptive text traces his early influences and the emergence of his own style through

New York City's subway graffiti, professional paintings and sculptures around the world, and his Pop Shop store. Negley depicts Haring's distinctive iconography in images of the artist's imagination flowing across the page, as well as through representations of his actual artwork. Brown complements the energetic artwork with active verbs in bold text and the refrain, "Art is life. Life is art," which sums up Haring's personal philosophy for making art accessible. She does not mention the artist's sexual orientation and simply states that he died in 1990, when he was just 31 years old. An author's note, however, provides further details, including more of Haring's influences and friendships, his work with children, and his AIDS diagnosis. A joyful tribute to an enduring artist. —*Angela Leeper*

Claudette Colvin.

By Lesa Cline-Ransome. Illus. by Gillian Flint.

Feb. 2021. 80p. Philomel, \$14.99 (9780593115831). Gr. 2–4. 323.1196.

Meet Claudette Colvin, whose refusal to give up her seat on a segregated city bus was an early sign that Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, would use civil disobedience in the face of injustice. Born in 1939, Colvin was raised by her aunt and uncle in a loving, religious household. In her segregated high school, she learned about African countries, Black history, and civil rights. And in 1955, police dragged 15-year-old Claudette from her bus seat and threw her in jail. She was charged and found guilty. Her testimony in the appeals court helped bring about the Montgomery bus boycott, sparked by Rosa Parks' similar act of nonviolent resistance later that year. An appended section suggests five ways that readers can learn more about their rights. Cline-Ransome offers a well-balanced and very readable account of Colvin's family life, her values, and her reasons for resisting unjust laws. Illustrations, not seen in final form, appear on about half the pages. From the *She Persisted* biography series, here's an engaging introduction to a young civil rights hero. —*Carolyn Phelan*

◆ **Women in Focus: The 19th in 2020**

Exploring the White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home.

By Kate Andersen Brower.

Dec. 2020. 240p. illus. Harper/Quill Tree, \$16.99 (9780062906410). Gr. 4–7. 975.3.

In preparing this very readable introduction to the White House, Brower drew on her experiences as a former White House correspondent and her interviews and research for *The Residence* (2015) and *First Women* (2016), both written for adults. Arranged thematically rather than chronologically, the book includes chapters on topics such as the house itself, the permanent staff members, the presidents' children, and the Secret Service. The book offers some surprising information and many anecdotes

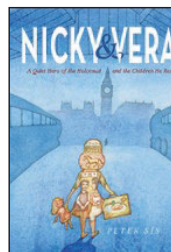
about the house and its residents, particularly during the last 60 years. Even the lists of the presidents' favorite foods and the presidents' and First Ladies' Secret Service code names are enjoyable. But while Brower acknowledges some difficult events, such as Kennedy's assassination and Nixon's resignation, she avoids controversy, preferring to create a bland, pleasant portrayal of White House residents and staff. The occasional black-and-white illustrations include photos of residents and staff, maps of the building and grounds, and a small vignette in each chapter heading. A limited but informative behind-the-scenes view of what happens at the White House. —*Carolyn Phelan*

★ **Nicky and Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued.**

By Peter Sís. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 64p. Norton/Young Readers, \$19.95 (9781324015741). Gr. 2–5. 940.53.

In 1938, British banker Nicky Winton cancelled a ski trip to meet a friend in Prague. Aware that WWII was looming and that England was accepting child refugees, he set to work arranging for the transport of as many threatened children as possible. Between March and September 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland, eight trains rescued 669 children, including 10-year-old Vera Diamantova. Afterward, Winton told no one of his work until 1988, when



his wife discovered records of the transports. Once again Sís highlights a story from his native Czechoslovakia, profiling a man who saw a need and quietly did what he could to right a wrong. The inclusion of Vera's story, based on her memoir and interviews, helps to personalize this account for younger readers, and details from her diaries are incorporated into the narrative. As always, Sís' intricate artwork delights. Unique perspectives (including aerial), fanciful figures (Vera's parents flying), country outlines that become personified, and characters whose silhouettes depict their essences are all used to great effect, as are the sequential panels that depict important events in a character's life. Text is carefully sized and placed, in effect producing primary and secondary narratives. Appended with extensive author notes and sources, Sís' latest reminds readers that real heroes are often quiet and unassuming. —*Kay Weisman*

Send a Girl! The True Story of How Women Joined the FDNY.

By Jessica M. Rinker. Illus. by Meg Hunt.

Mar. 2021. 48p. Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (9781547601745). Gr. 2–5. 363.37092.

In the 1970s, firefighting was firmly closed to women, and in this expressively illustrated picture book, Rinker (*Gloria Takes a Stand*, 2019) tells the story of Brenda Berkman, a former law student who fought to change that. When Berkman found that the New

York Fire Department's (FDNY) physical test was unrelated to the job, and when women were given men's equipment that was too big and got in the way, she had the test changed and powered through the equipment issue. Once in the job, she formed United Women Firefighters and became an FDNY chief. This gratifying story is told in cheerful, accessible, inclusive language—firefighting is not described as “men's work,” for example, but as a job “men usually did.” Engaging, realistic illustrations of Berkman and her colleagues, created in India ink and black-and-gray acrylics with digital coloring, complement the positive tone of the text.

Back matter includes details about Berkman and her perseverance and lists several sources for readers who want to investigate further. Recommended for both school and public library shelves. —*Henrietta Verma*

◆ **Women in Focus:** The 19th in 2020

★ **Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre.**

By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Floyd Cooper.

Feb. 2021. 32p. Carolrhoda, \$17.99 (9781541581203). Gr. 3–6. 976.6.

“Once upon a time in Tulsa, there was a community called Greenwood.” This Black

12 PEOPLE WALKED ON THE MOON.

400,000 PEOPLE GOT THEM THERE.

THIS IS HOW THEY DID IT.

★ “Rocco delivers a **STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL AND HIGHLY INFORMATIVE** account of the United States’ audacious effort to send human beings to the moon.”
—*The Horn Book*, Starred Review

★ “A **SOARING TRIBUTE.**”
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

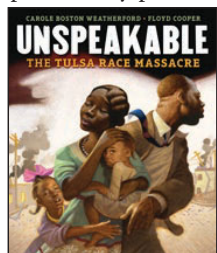
★ “This paean to **INGENUITY** and **COLLABORATION**, which also functions as a rocket science primer, **IS NOTHING SHORT OF STELLAR.**”
—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

★ “A **TRIUMPHANT UNDERTAKING** that places readers in the historic moment.”
—*Booklist*, Starred Review

**Selected for the
2020 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S
LITERATURE LONG LIST**

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community was rich in money, love, and culture. So much so that white people searched for any reason possible to tear that community down. This tragic, painful event in American history calls into question notions of freedom, equality, and opportunity ostensibly promised to Black Americans following the Emancipation Proclamation, and it's particularly pertinent in the current sociopolitical landscape, which is throwing a spotlight on the persistence of systemic racism in America. Weatherford draws on the folktale flourish "once upon a time" to set a scene that feels far away and removed from our present reality, while Cooper's soft strokes of muted greens and sepia browns capture the event in a haze of both joy and mourning for the beauty of what Black Tulsa was. Unlike many historical picture books, Weatherford's doesn't shy away from naming white people as the perpetrator. This will cause obvious discomfort for some but will be the catalyst for conversation and change if read with eyes toward justice. Included are author's and illustrator's notes that explore their personal connections to the Tulsa Race Massacre in addition to photographs of Greenwood at the time of the massacre and today. Ideal for classroom libraries and a deeper study of American history, this title is a must-have for those seeking the painful and complete truth.



—Melanie Marshall

Wild Vet Adventures: Saving Animals around the World with Dr. Gabby Wild. By Gabby Wild.

Mar. 2021. 192p. illus. National Geographic, \$19.99 (9781426338601). Gr. 4–7. 639.9.

Dr. Gabby Wild is a wild animal veterinarian who travels all over the world to treat a multitude of different animals, from dolphins, turtles, snakes, and bears to wolves, monkeys, spiders, and elephants. In fact, she says getting to know one particular baby elephant was what got her interested in becoming a vet in the first place. The book tracks her travels on six of the seven continents, beginning with South America and ending with North America. For each continent, she showcases over 80 of its wild-life species, most of which are endangered. Besides basic facts about habitat, diet, and dangers, she describes why she has been asked to treat the animal. Each two-page spread is similarly laid out, with a large heading, color photographs, and brightly colored text or photo insets on a solid background. Pages are busy, and font sizes and colors vary, though the instances where white text is printed on bright yellow or orange backgrounds can prove challenging to read. Charts, graphs, and maps further enhance this offering. —J. B. Petty

Young

Animals! Here We Grow.

By Shelley Rotner.

Mar. 2021. 40p. illus. Holiday, \$18.99 (9780823448289). PreS–K. 571.8.

Large, colorful photographs and simple text show the various changes that animals go through from birth to adulthood. Readers will be able to compare similarities and differences between animals at various stages of growth, especially those that share similar stages, such as egg and hatchling, but develop into completely different beings in their adult stages. The vast majority of spreads are dedicated to the vibrant photography, often laying out multiple images in parallel, showing each step within a stage of physical development. Included here are mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects, with the final spread depicting a human's growth from infant to child. Information on life cycles and breeds accompanies the text, along with a glossary of terms. A strong choice for beginners reading independently or aloud with a parent, for storytimes, and for introducing the youngest readers to life cycles and animal growth. —Selenia Paz

The Highest Tribute: Thurgood Marshall's Life, Leadership, and Legacy. By Kekla Magoon. Illus. by Laura Freeman.

Jan. 2021. 40p. Harper/Quill Tree, \$17.99 (9780062912510). K–Gr. 3. 347.73.

This informative picture-book biography of Thurgood Marshall begins with his youth in Baltimore, where his family discussed issues such as segregation at the dinner table. Enjoying the challenge and camaraderie of the high-school debate team, he became a persuasive speaker, and he later began a successful career as an attorney working with others to break down barriers affecting minority citizens of all ages. After winning many notable civil rights cases, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, he became the first Black American to be appointed U.S. Solicitor General and Supreme Court Justice. While concisely telling the story of Marshall's life and his professional milestones, Magoon emphasizes one of his greatest strengths: his ability to collaborate with others working toward a common goal. This approach would serve him well throughout his career. Freeman's well-structured digital artwork uses color effectively and sometimes approaches subjects unconventionally. In one scene, she uses seven images of Marshall (at different ages, wearing different suits) standing to argue significant Supreme Court cases. A handsome, well-organized account of Marshall's life and work. —Carolyn Phelan

The Three Water Drop Brothers. By Lee Eun-Hee. Illus. by Yoon Mi-sook. Tr. by Asuka Minamoto.

Mar. 2021. 40p. Enchanted Lion, \$16.95 (9781592703234). K–Gr. 3. 551.

This creative reinterpretation of the water

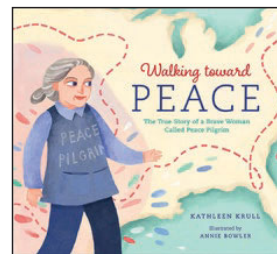
cycle takes the perspective of three droplets of water. The personified droplets have various adventures. Their ocean adventures begin long ago in the prehistoric period, when "trilobites crept across the sea floor, clad in fancy armor. . . . Then, a fish called the coelacanth appeared." At this time, the three droplets go their separate ways. The first droplet, or oldest brother, heads for the ocean's surface, where he evaporates, encounters dinosaurs and volcanoes, and eventually becomes part of a glacier. The second droplet, or middle brother, burrows deep into the earth, eventually helping to form a cave. The third and final droplet, or youngest brother, waters the grass that is eaten by a cow. He becomes part of the cow's milk, is drunk by a young child, and exits the child's body as urine. Stylized illustrations help give the brothers personality and bring their adventures to life. By the end, the three brothers are reunited in the ocean and ready to continue their water-cycle adventures. —Miriam Aronin

★ Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim.

By Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Annie Bowler.

Mar. 2021. 40p. Flyaway, \$18 (9781947888265). Gr. 1–3. 303.6.

Imagine walking for 28 years. Crisscrossing the U.S. on foot, carrying only the bare essentials, talking to people about peace. This is how a remarkable woman who went by the name of Peace Pilgrim—convinced that if we all believed in peace as a way of life, there would be no more war—devoted her life to changing the world in the only way she knew how. Krull (*The Only Woman in the Photo*, 2020), the acclaimed and prolific biographer, does not disappoint with her latest. The narrative is sufficiently detailed to capture the motivation and spirit of Peace Pilgrim and the people she met along her walks, leaving the reader wanting to know more. The even, steady pacing is perfectly complemented by Bowler's crisp illustrations, which capture the serenity, gravity, and joy of Peace Pilgrim's mission. Astute readers will notice that Peace Pilgrim is always surrounded by ethereal, feathery shapes and will wonder at their symbolism. There is much to admire about Peace Pilgrim's life, particularly her quiet determination and resilience—and her faith in humankind, which bears out. Strangers give her shelter, food, supplies, and company, and they are as much a part of this book as she is—which is precisely the point. Pair with Jennifer Thermes' *Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail* (2018). —Amina Chaudhri



Older Readers

Admission.

By Julie Buxbaum.

Dec. 2020. 352p. Delacorte, \$18.99 (9781984893628). Gr. 10–12.

Inspired by the college admissions bribery scandal that hit headlines early in 2019, Buxbaum (*Hope and Other Punchlines*, 2019) crafts the story of Chloe Berringer, eldest daughter of a beloved sitcom actress. A senior in high school, Chloe struggled through her college applications, never Harvard-bound like her best friend and boyfriend. Still, an acceptance letter to Southern California College, one of her reach schools, means that the only worry Chloe has now is what to wear to prom. But that's before the FBI knocks on her door with an arrest warrant for her mom and a scandal that will change Chloe's life forever. Buxbaum walks a fine line as she borrows details from true events in order to develop Chloe's fictional experiences. And while Chloe is not an unsympathetic figure, Buxbaum takes care to depict how, consciously or not, she was complicit in her parents' crimes, telling the story in alternating then-and-now chapters that show Chloe acknowledging the privileges she has in a rigged system. An absorbing and topical novel, tailor-made for discussion groups. —Maggie Reagan

★ Bones of a Saint. By Grant Farley.

Mar. 2021. 304p. Soho Teen, \$18.99 (9781641291170). Gr. 9–12.

Fifteen-year-old RJ's summer is going to be fully evil, predicts his best friend Manny's abuelita. It turns out she's prescient, for events that have more hell than heaven about them



begin to accrue, starting when an outsider to the valley purchases the old Millner place. An elderly man, Monsieur Leguin, moves in, to the consternation of the local gang, the Blackjacks, who have been using the place as a den. They demand that RJ

deface the house to drive the new resident away, and when that doesn't work, RJ is instructed to steal valuable antiques from Monsieur Leguin. Instead, RJ begins an uneasy relationship with the eccentric man, who insists the boy tell him stories. When RJ complies, it becomes obvious that he's a gifted storyteller; indeed, the book is a celebration of the power of story. It appears RJ may not have a happy ending, however, as the lawless Blackjacks become more demanding and threaten his family. Farley's capacity for compelling storytelling rivals that of RJ. Set in 1970s California, this ambitious debut invites serious contemplation as it examines the role of religion, a connection to *The Canterbury Tales*, and more. Always intense, the somber novel is told in RJ's slightly unlettered

voice, conjuring a compelling, unforgettable reading experience that is brilliantly executed. —Michael Cart

Game Changer.

By Neal Shusterman.

Feb. 2021. 400p. Harper/Quill Tree, \$17.99 (9780061998676). Gr. 9–12.

At first, Ash attributes the buzzing in his head to a concussion sustained during a football game. Slowly, he notices more things askew, such as blue stop signs that everyone considers normal. After another rough tackle on the field, Ash discovers that he is hopping from dimension to dimension each time he gets hit. At first, he marvels at how different his life is in these alternate realities. But when he travels to a reality where the civil rights movement never happened, the significance of his power comes into focus. He must learn to harness it to both right wrongs in other worlds and return to his own before he messes things up. The conceit behind Shusterman's latest is truly unique. While it exhibits the author's usual storytelling aplomb, it also manages to delve into more serious and timely subject matter, such as racism, sexism, and homophobia. Despite these heavy topics, the story still moves at a lively pace and, thanks to a zany sci-fi twist, manages to pack in a few laughs as well. —Reinhardt Suarez



HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: He's won the National Book Award, and he's at home on the *New York Times* best-seller list. The publisher's robust marketing campaign should catch the attention of any reader not already itching to get their hands on this.

Get a Clue.

By Tiffany Schmidt.

Jan. 2021. 336p. Abrams/Amulet, paper, \$9.99 (9781419739682). Gr. 7–10.

WWSD becomes queer high-school freshman Huck's guiding acronym when his favorite teacher, Ms. Gregoire, gives him a copy of *The Complete Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Wouldn't you know it, soon thereafter Huck is presented with a puzzling mystery of his own and wonders, What *Would* Sherlock Do? The mystery involves his crush, Win, who has applied for admission to Hero High, Huck's exclusive private school. The plot thickens when it appears that Win has sent a letter withdrawing his application, and then Win's iLive page starts containing cruel, snarky remarks about friends. Win denies any involvement, maintaining that the letter and posts are forgeries. Only stalwart Huck believes him and vows to solve the puzzle of this whodunit. The latest in Schmidt's popular Bookish Boyfriends series is a generally lighthearted romance with appealing characters and a rather mild mystery that takes a backseat to the boys' burgeoning relationship. Do they ultimately get together? WWSS (What Would Sherlock Say)? Elementary, my dear Watson. —Michael Cart

The Iron Raven.

By Julie Kagawa.

Feb. 2021. 416p. Harlequin/Inkyard, \$19.99 (9781335091765). Gr. 9–12.

Robin Goodfellow, better known to Shakespeare fans as the mischief-making sprite Puck, gets to tell his own story in this series starter, a companion to Kagawa's Iron Fey books. Though he's always been a troublemaker, Puck is more of a benign prankster than a vicious fool. Now, though, he has to become a hero if he's to save Faery from the strange shadow creatures that have begun to appear in the Nevernever. These seemingly unbeatable creatures spread hatred, and Puck will have to join forces with the Forgotten Faery assassin Nyx to try to figure out where they've come from and how to get rid of them. Fans eager to see more of the familiar fey from the previous seven books will be pleased with this spin-off. Puck is good fun, and seeing him as a lead, written with great attention to detail, is a Faery dream come true. Make sure to have the whole set on hand. —Stacey Comfort

Just Our Luck.

By Julia Walton.

Dec. 2020. 272p. Random, \$17.99 (9780399550928). Gr. 8–11.

When Greek American Leo is sent by his aloof father to self-defense class, his anxiety and gentle demeanor divert him instead into the neighboring hot-yoga class. There, he chronicles his junior year in a journal, through which he shares his struggles with anxiety and isolation—due in part to his mother's and grandmother's deaths. As Leo improves through yoga, he connects with also-Greek Evey, whose great-great-grandmother cursed his great-great-grandfather. Initially cold and calculating, she blackmails artistic Leo into helping her exact revenge on the ex-boyfriend who humiliated her, but as the stakes rise, the two teens are drawn into a love of their own. Despite the trappings of a teen romance and high-school drama, Walton's (*Words on Bathroom Walls*, 2017) personal story focuses on the internal life of Leo, whose voice and character prove to be completely endearing. The epistolary form demands some suspension of disbelief, but readers won't mind, as it offers a quick pace and easy access into this character-driven exploration of mental health through friendship, family, and art. —Ronny Khuri



The Project.

By Courtney Summers.

Feb. 2021. 352p. St. Martin's/Wednesday, \$18.99 (9781250105738). Gr. 10–12.

When a semitruck slammed into her parents' car and killed them instantly, Lo Denham survived only by the grace of God. Her older sister, Bea, believed that Lo lived because of Lev Warren, a man who claims to be divine. Now, Lo hasn't seen or heard from her sister in almost six years; Bea's been folded into The Unity Project, Lev Warren's charitable organization that, despite cult rumors, remains steadfastly aboveboard. Lo is left with only a scar across

her face, a fear of driving, and a thirst for uncovering—and writing—the truth. When *The Unity Project* intrudes upon her life in a shockingly violent way, Lo seizes the chance to look into the darkest of her suspicions and discover what's happened to her sister during the years when she was missing. But to get close to the Project, she'll have to get close to Lev Warren, and once she enters his orbit, she won't leave unchanged. Summers follows up her smash hit *Sadie* (2018) with a deeply disconcerting investigative thriller that seems unassuming but worms under the skin and into the mind. Bit by bit, she unspools the threads of her story—Lo narrating in the present, flashes of Bea's history revealed in the past—until, eventually, the brutally tense beginning gives way to the frenzied end. Winding questions of faith and sacrifice into an already fibrous plot, Summers presents a rich offering that lingers even as it shocks. —Maggie Reagan



HD HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: If *All the Rage* (2015) put Summers on the map, *Sadie* shot her into the stratosphere. This latest, her tightest yet, delivers on every promise.

★ **A Sky beyond the Storm.**
By Sabaa Tahir.

Dec. 2020. 528p. Razorbill, \$19.99 (9780448494531). Gr. 9–12.

At last, the fourth and final volume (alas!) of Tahir's epic *An Ember in the Ashes* cycle has arrived. Happily, it finds the gang all here: Laia of Serra, of course; Elias, who is now known as the Soul Catcher, his emotions and much



of his memory taken away by Mauth, aka Death; and the Blood Shrike. Oh, yes, there, lurking in the darkness, are the monstrosity evil Commandant and the Nightbringer, King of the Jinn. As for the story, suffice it to say, the Commandant is in league with the Nightbringer to conquer the Empire. The Blood Shrike is their sworn enemy, her infant nephew being the Emperor and her sister, the Queen Regent. Laia—seeking to destroy the Nightbringer, who is busy with world-ending plans—is also trying desperately to bring Elias back to his old self. But can she succeed? Arguably the most ambitious of the four novels in the cycle, Tahir's latest offers exciting action, mounting suspense, and beautifully realized characters to love or despise. But more seriously, it also invites long thoughts about such large issues as death and love. Despite a pesky *deus ex machina* near the end, the result remains a deeply satisfying exercise in plotting and remarkably skillful storytelling. Readers will be reluctant to bid it adieu. —Michael Cart

HD HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: *An Ember in the Ashes* is a best-selling series, and this book would have its loyal fans lining up even without the buzz being conjured by the publisher.

This Golden Flame.

By Emily Victoria.

Feb. 2021. 416p. Harlequin/Inkyard, \$18.99 (9781335080271). Gr. 8–11.

Since being forced to be an acolyte for the rune scholars on Eratia seven years ago, all Karis has wanted to do is escape to find her brother, Matthias. She gets the chance when she awakens Alix, an automaton unlike any other on the island; he is human-sized instead of giant, he's gentle, and—most stunning of all—he is alive and sentient. Asleep for two centuries, Alix doesn't remember why he was created, but the Scriptmasters want to harness his magic. With Karis' friend Dane, Alix and Karis flee Eratia to find Matthias and uncover Alix's purpose. Victoria's dual point-of-view fantasy debut is rich with empathy and self-discovery, leading readers from Karis' quiet thoughts to Alix's actions, which, despite his being an automaton, are irrefutably human. It's rare to find a YA novel without some kind of romance component, but asexual Karis' journey is engrossing enough to drive the story forward. Though with automatons, rune magic, and even pirates at its helm, this standalone suffers from a lack of concentration, its redemption lies in the observations about the human condition and independence underscoring the plot. —Mahjabeen Syed



★ **We Free the Stars.**
By Hafsa Faizal.

Jan. 2021. 592p. Farrar, \$19.99 (9780374311575). Gr. 9–12.

Following their treacherous journey in 2019's *We Hunt the Flame*, Zafira and Nasir must finally return the hearts of the ancient Sisters to the kingdom's minarets in order to restore magic to Arawiya—but their time is cut short by the return of the Lion of the Night, striking fear across the land. In this phenomenal conclusion to the *Sands of Arawiya* duology, the once-tentative allies of the *zumra*—led by Zafira and Nasir after being thrown together in pursuit of a common goal—have their new bond put to the test by shocking betrayals and difficult sacrifices. Faizal explores the relationships within the group by pushing each member to the brink with guilt and grief, and before finally facing the Lion, Zafira and Nasir must face the inner turmoil within themselves. In the end, each achingly raw character arc is fully realized, delivering a satisfying close to the *zumra*'s story. Faizal's craft continues to evolve as she demonstrates a facility with language and literary technique, drawing readers into a fantasy world and into the lives of characters that feel impressively real. Moments of humor and edge-of-your-seat action easily balance the book's dark, tragic depths, creating a memorable story at the height of the fantasy genre. —Amna Haque

What She Found in the Woods.

By Josephine Angelini.

Dec. 2020. 384p. Sourcebooks/Fire, paper, \$10.99 (9781728216270). Gr. 8–12.

Diagnosed with schizophrenia and surrounded by shallow and disloyal friends, Magdalena ends up the center of controversy at her New York private school after she is linked to the death of a young girl. After spending time in a mental health facility, she is sent to Washington to spend time with her grandparents among new surroundings. Unable to escape her traumatic past, Magdalena tries to find comfort and solace in new friends and in Bo, the boy she met in the woods. When a body is found mutilated near the river, Magdalena begins to question the people around her—Bo, her new friends, volunteers at the rehab facility where she now works—and even herself. The unreliable narration will keep readers wondering if Magdalena knows more than she's letting on. Angelini (*Trial by Fire*, 2014) weaves an entertaining narrative that explores mental health, trust, betrayal, friendship, and the ways in which whiteness and privilege shape the narrative of substance abuse. A fascinating, mind-bending thrill ride. —Rob Bittner

Wider than the Sky.

By Katherine Rothschild.

Jan. 2021. 288p. Soho Teen, \$18.99 (9781641291132). Gr. 9–12.

Change comes suddenly to the lives of 16-year-old Sabine and her identical twin sister, Blythe, when their father dies unexpectedly, prompting their mother and a strange man named Charlie to move the girls to the small town of Thornewood. There they will live in a dilapidated mansion, half of which had been owned by their dad and half by Charlie, who, it is revealed (spoiler alert), was the lover of their father, who was bisexual and polyamorous. Meanwhile, Sabine has met and quickly fallen in love with Kai, a Hawaiian boy in her class. But there's a complication: Sabine's new friend, Emma, is in love with Kai, too, and feels she has a previous claim on his heart. Rothschild's first novel is accomplished and nicely plot-rich with some interesting quirks, chief among them being Sabine's deep-rooted love for Emily Dickinson's poetry and her compulsive need to recite it. Hopefully readers will be inspired to investigate Dickinson's timeless work on their own. —Michael Cart

Middle Readers

365 Days to Alaska.

By Cathy Carr.

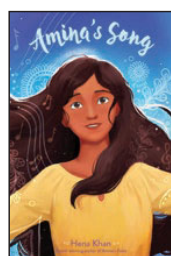
Jan. 2021. Abrams/Amulet, \$16.99 (9781419743801). Gr. 4–7.

Rigel's world is turned upside down when her parents decide to split up and she learns that she, her mother, and sisters will be trading their life in the Alaska Bush for a softer existence in Connecticut. Before leaving, her father promises she'll be able to return to him after a year, but as time passes by, that

promise seems less and less likely. But she gradually makes friends and starts to learn to enjoy herself in a place she was determined to hate—for better or for worse, life goes on. Carr's heartfelt debut features classic middle-school problems, like dodging mean kids, as well as Rigel's vivid feelings of displacement and deep love for nature. Though the tween spends a lot of time comparing her new home with her beloved Alaska, she eventually gets enough perspective to find true appreciation for her new surroundings. The ending is hopeful at all angles, satisfyingly wrapping up each little plot point. Hand this thoughtful novel to nature-loving readers who like character-driven stories about family. —*Kristina Pino*

★ **Amina's Song.**
By Hena Khan.

Mar. 2021. 288p. Simon & Schuster/Salaam Reads, \$17.99 (9781534459885). Gr. 4–7.



After Amina's monthlong trip to Pakistan with her family, she finds it difficult to leave her ancestral country behind, feeling that she is somehow losing an important part of herself and suddenly less certain about who she is. Back home, Amina tries to make sense of these feelings, and when she attempts to share them with her friends, she begins to wonder if they, too, are growing away from her. As Amina comes to better understand her friends, she finds a way to share the beauty of Pakistan with her classmates and to work together with those around her to help others in the community. Along with a new friend, Amina uses her beautiful voice to share her love of both Pakistan and America with others, helping those just like her who may feel part of two beautiful worlds. Revisiting Amina's world (*Amina's Voice*, 2017) is, in a way, similar to Amina's own experience visiting Pakistan—readers will experience the joy of family, along with the sadness of knowing the visit will end soon. Khan excellently weaves together complex issues of feeling torn between two parts of one's identity, illness in the family, helping others, and finding out that growing up does not have to mean growing apart. Highly recommended for all collections. —*Selenia Paz*

The Hatmakers.

By Tamzin Merchant. Illus. by Paola Escobar.

Feb. 2021. 384p. Norton/Young Readers, \$18.95 (9781324016038). Gr. 4–7.

Cordelia whiles away her days in the handsome Hatmaker house, a building that hosts both her close-knit family and their magical millinery creations. Hers is a London that, while mostly familiar, contains a bit of magic here and there, woven into the handiwork of guild craftsmen: gloves, hats, boots. Their mostly peaceful and pleasant coexistence is upended when Cordelia's father mysteriously goes missing, and a series of sinister

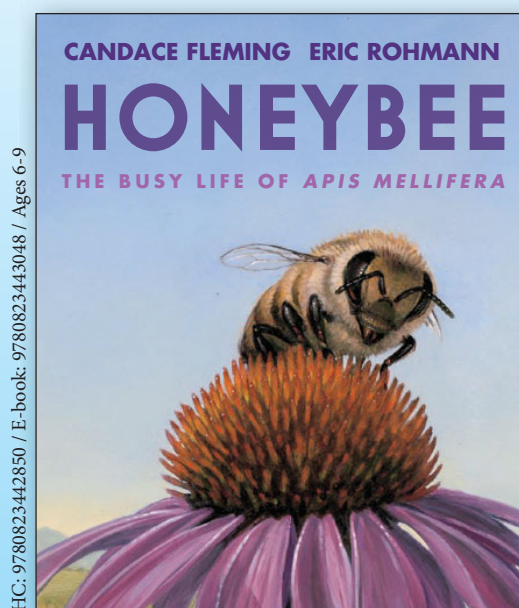
events tips the magical world into chaos while bringing England to the brink of war. Only Cordelia and some unexpected friends can restore peace, and the determined trio find themselves in a race to save their families—and the kingdom. Merchant's inventive world is beautifully built through vivid imagery and detailed descriptions, whether of a cozily curated workshop or a derelict guild hall, and though much of the story feels pleasingly predictable, occasional twists will keep readers on their toes. An engaging ode to the bonds of family and friendship, the power of teamwork, and the magic that we all have inside ourselves. —*Emily Graham*

Mr. Tiger, Betsy, and the Sea Dragon.
By Sally Gardner. Illus. by Nick Maland.

Feb. 2021. 208p. Penguin Workshop, \$16.99 (9780593095850). Gr. 3–6.

Purple-haired Betsy K. Glory, daughter of a sea-dwelling mermaid and a land-bound ice cream maker, adores her life on “an island that's been left off of the map of the world,” but she also misses the adventures she had with a now-absent Mr. Tiger, circus ringleader extraordinaire. Be careful what you wish for: Mr. Tiger returns in time for the famous Festival of the Sea Dragon, but so does a band of treasure-seeking pirates, and when a precious sea-dragon egg is poached—er, stolen—by the waggish

What's the buzz?



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crew, Betsy must help her beloved island and its quirky inhabitants. This sequel is a more straightforward adventure than the preceding *Mr. Tiger, Betsy, and the Blue Moon* (2020), but it's still chock-full of delicious descriptions and fantastical wonders. The text, once again, is rendered in a dyslexia-friendly font, and the utterly charming blue-toned illustrations are a perfect complement. Frequent perspective shifts and the sheer number of characters may be slightly daunting for younger readers, but it's nonetheless a pleasure to slip back into Betsy's whimsical world. —*Emily Graham*

Reckless, Glorious, Girl.

By Ellen Hagan.

Feb. 2021. 226p. Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (9781547604609). Gr. 4–7.

It's the summer before seventh grade, and 12-year-old Beatrice Miller lives with her mom and mamaw in Bardstown, Kentucky. She's conflicted about entering her teen years—anxious for them to begin yet fearful of leaving childhood behind. She's also often caught in the middle between her mother (a responsible nurse who is ambitious for her daughter) and Mamaw (her free-spirited, eccentric grandmother who wants Bea to enjoy the present). With the narrative told in free verse, Hagan's strength is developing characters and their motivations. Bea is particularly well fleshed out, with many poems dedicated to her inner musings about her feelings and place in the world. While the episodic plot meanders a bit (Mom considers a serious boyfriend; Mamaw thinks about getting her own place; Bea contemplates her relationship with her deceased father, learns that slumber party dares can be dangerous, and discovers that joining the in-crowd comes with drawbacks), Hagan's keen understanding of adolescent preoccupations will be enough to hook many. —*Kay Weisman*

The Rembrandt Conspiracy.

By Deron Hicks.

Dec. 2020. 272p. HMH, \$16.99 (9780358256212). Gr. 4–6.

Hanging out at his father's workplace, the National Portrait Gallery, 12-year-old Art notices a suspicious anomaly: every afternoon at exactly the same time, a woman takes exactly the same number of steps along the same path through the Great Hall. After Camille, his friend and sleuthing partner, joins him and observes the woman, he convinces her that the thieves who masterminded the notorious art heist at Boston's Gardner Museum 30 years earlier are about to strike again, probably during the upcoming gala. When Art and Camille's initial investigation leads to embarrassment and reprimands, they back off, but a revelation at the gala sends them into action once more. Readers intrigued by the famous paintings mentioned can access them online by scanning QR codes within the book. Set in Washington, D.C., this fast-paced narrative features two likable, capable protagonists, a twisting plotline, and plenty of suspense. Kids who enjoyed *The Van Gogh Deception* (2017) will want to follow Art and Camille's

latest adventure, and this sequel works equally well as a stand-alone. An appealing choice for mystery fans. —*Carolyn Phelan*

The Sea in Winter.

By Christine Day.

Jan. 2021. 256p. HarperCollins/Heartdrum, \$16.99 (9780062872043). Gr. 4–7.

Maisie has devoted herself to ballet since she was four, but a torn ACL puts the seventh-grader's dream of dancing professionally on hold, perhaps permanently. Maisie is months into her physical therapy as the story opens, keeping the focus of the narrative on the process of healing, physically and emotionally, as well as learning to move forward, even if that means letting go of certain plans. Such a loss hurts, and Maisie finds herself lashing out at her parents and pushing away her dancer friends in response. It takes a setback during a family outing to connect with the Makah and Klallam sides of her heritage for Maisie to truly face the facts of her situation and find hope in this unexpected detour. Day's contemplative #OwnVoices novel adeptly explores Maisie's grief and identity, both as a dancer and as a Native American, with the latter organically highlighting variations within Native cultures. The inaugural title of the Native-centered imprint Heartdrum, this finds strength and beauty in life's quiet moments and opportunity in the unexpected. —*Julia Smith*

The Tunnels Below.

By Nadine Wild-Palmer. Illus. by Ellen Shi.

Feb. 2021. 224p. Pushkin, paper, \$12.95 (9781782692232). Gr. 4–7.

This inventive, whimsical tale brings to life many metropolitan readers' worst nightmare—being separated from their family on the subway or, in particular, the London Tube—when Cecilia is stranded on her twelfth birthday in the strange world of the tunnels. She finds a subterranean universe filled with vivid and pleasantly creepy anthropomorphic animals, of which Cecilia must determine who is friend and who is foe. As she draws unwanted and even dangerous attention from the Corvus Community that rules the roost, Cecilia must work to find a way home. Wild-Palmer's brilliant story—undoubtedly for fans of quirky portal fantasies like *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, or the works of Roald Dahl—melds clever wordplay with fantastically drawn creatures of the deep and dark (quaintly illustrated by Shi) in a wholly new world that readers will be eager to explore. As Cecilia unearths unexpected secrets and attempts to thwart the twisted plans of the nefarious Corvus, her journey reminds her of the strength of friendship and family, as well as everyday magic. —*Stephanie Cohen*

A Wolf for a Spell.

By Karah Sutton. Illus. by Pauliina Hannuniemi.

Dec. 2020. 320p. Knopf, \$17.99 (9780593121658). Gr. 4–7.

Though Zima, a wolf, has been told all her

life that humans are to be feared and hated, when she sees a young girl in the woods one day, she doesn't attack. Likewise, Nadya, the young orphan girl, is intrigued by the woods—and by the wolf she spots—even though she's been taught that both are dangerous. Their small encounter is witnessed by Baba Yaga, the legendary witch, who has a plan a-brewing, but she needs something first: a wolf that's willing to temporarily swap bodies with her. That wolf turns out to be Zima, and though Baba Yaga gives Zima, while she's in her body, strict orders to quietly wait for her return, Zima becomes entangled in a plot that involves not only Baba Yaga and her magic but Nadya, a tsar and his bride, and the future of the whole forest. Sutton weaves together the three protagonists' story lines with skill, building toward an exciting denouement. Hannuniemi's intermittent black-and-white spot illustrations add an extra boost of liveliness to this warmhearted take on a Russian fairytale. —*Maggie Reagan*

Young

Bear against Time.

By Jean-Luc Fromental. Illus. by Joëlle Jolivet.

Feb. 2021. 48p. Norton/Young Readers, \$18.95 (9781324011354). K–Gr. 2.

Unable to tell time, Bear is always running late. He misses breakfast and classes at school, then is late for the bus and has to walk home. Finally, Bear's human family decides to help him with time management, and his father makes the lesson accessible by drawing a clock face as 12 slices of pizza. Set on mostly white backgrounds and using detailed spot art, thickly colored illustrations with the look of pastels humorously depict Bear's exploits as well as his eventual mastery of the concept. Eventually, Bear goes to the other extreme by filling his calendar with a diverse collection of activities, from tap dancing to playing the harp to swimming, along with many more. Overcommitting can be a problem for many children, and the story addresses this with a somewhat adult turn, as a burned-out Bear collapses and must go to a convalescent facility to recover. Originally published in France, this book's humorous images keep the tone from becoming too serious, and the happy ending is reassuring. —*Lucinda Whitehurst*

Bear Island.

By Matthew Cordell. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 48p. Feiwel and Friends, \$18.99 (9781250317162). PreS–Gr. 2.

Louise and her parents, who live beside a lake, are grieving the loss of their dog, Charlie. Mom and Dad go about their chores inside, but Louise takes their boat to a nearby island, a place Charlie loved. There she senses changes: a flock of butterflies, tame deer, and a very large (and seemingly sad) bear. Bear and girl exchange roars but support each other over the coming weeks as life gradually improves for everyone. When Bear hibernates for the winter, Louise is

bereft again, but a new puppy helps to ease the loss. Cordell's heartfelt story includes pen-and-ink illustrations, enlivened with watercolor and gouache. Brown tones predominate in the beginning illustrations (where sadness pervades); brighter hues appear once Louise and the bear (as well as Mom and Dad) begin to heal. Grief can be particularly difficult to address with young children, and Cordell wisely eschews the platitudes often associated with this emotion, choosing instead to demonstrate the healing powers of nature and time. —*Kay Weisman*

Bedtime Ballet.

By Kallie George. Illus. by Shanda McCloskey.

Jan. 2021. 32p. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9780759554702). PreS–Gr. 2.

It's sunset, which is the cue to begin the bedtime ballet. A young girl and her stuffed bunny dance along to the orchestra of hooting owls and chirping crickets and are applauded by the thump of a puppy tail. The ballet begins outside, as the dancers chassé with the leaves and jeté with frogs, before moving inside to glissé down the hall to brush their teeth, relevé to the sink for a drink of water, plié to kiss mom good night, and be finally lifted gracefully by dad, before bowing into bed with a final "Brava." The rich inundation of ballet terms (from pirouette to pas de deux to battement, all clarified in a helpful glossary) guarantee that this book will have a very specific and strong appeal to tiny dancers and dreamers. But dancing aside, this sweet bedtime story is told in hushed and swooping rhyming couplets and illustrated in mixed-media with gentle watercolor washes in dreamy and subdued hues that will bring drooping eyelids with the closing rose-covered curtain. —*Becca Worthington*

The Electric Slide and Kai.

By Kelly J. Baptist. Illus. by Darnell Johnson.

Mar. 2021. 40p. Lee & Low, \$19.95 (9781643790527). K–Gr. 2.

In the Donovan family, everyone has a dance nickname for their special moves except Kai, who can't do the Electric Slide without knocking someone over. No matter how much his parents try to comfort him by saying that he has his own special rhythm, Kai is worried he'll mess things up on the dance floor at an upcoming family wedding. But, determined, he takes lessons from his siblings and dad, practices for weeks, and watches video after video. Will he finally impress his grandpa and get the dance nickname he so desperately wants? This is a simple, sweet story about a small boy's journey to feeling accepted and special in a large family with even larger personalities. In this Lee & Low New Voices Award Honor book, both the story and the digitally rendered illustrations celebrate the Black experience and feature a family of color as they blissfully tear up the dance floor, and the ending—while satisfyingly predictable—has an unexpected moment where Kai is encouraged by his kind new uncle to achieve his goal. —*Becca Worthington*

Ferry Boat.

By Michael Garland. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 32p. Holiday, \$15.99 (9780823447701). K–Gr. 2.

Children are invited to join a family on a trip to and from Manhattan on the Staten Island Ferry. The boarding process is traced step-by-step: first, they enter the gate, then go up the escalator, watch the walkway come down, and go aboard. The text is minimal, and the vibrant illustrations, done in digital woodcut, are meticulously accurate in their portrayals of the sights en route and the size of the ferry and its seemingly endless windows, capable of accommodating a multitude of passengers. The understated artwork depicts people from all sorts of different backgrounds, highlighting the diversity of the New Yorkers and tourists aboard the ferry. Small illustrations in the back matter identify the key sights. Readers will enjoy the photograph of the author aboard the ferry at age five. This entry in the I Like to Read series will give children a helpful introduction to a vibrant city—and, for New York-based kids, a fun idea for an iconic outing. —*Lolly Gepson*

Imagine a Wolf.

By Lucky Platt. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 40p. Page Street, \$18.99 (9781624149320). K–Gr. 2.

"Close your eyes and imagine a wolf," begins the story, narrated by a wolf who feels hurt because she's regarded with terror. She's certainly not the "big, bad" sort that impersonates grannies and preys on little pigs. She bursts into tears when townsfolk see her and yell "Wolf!" because she's different. Yes, she has sharp claws (for holding wool while spinning). Yes, she has big eyes (for enjoying colors). But when her big ears hear the cries of cold sheep in the distance, this wolf hops into her car, drives to their field, and delivers hand-knit sweaters for them all. She suggests again that viewers imagine a wolf and then asks, "Am I what you imagined?" Created with pen-and-ink, oil paint, and colored pencil, the illustrations are distinctive and expressive. While delivering a timely lesson about regarding everyone as an individual rather than making judgments based on preconceptions, this picture book also entertains with familiar nursery tale references, the wolf's aggrieved point of view, and questions that call for imaginative responses. A thought-provoking choice for reading aloud. —*Carolyn Phelan*

Meet Me by the Sea.

By Taltal Levi. Illus. by the author.

Feb. 2021. 32p. North-South, \$17.95 (9780735844322). PreS–Gr. 1.

In spare, somewhat philosophical text comes a story of a girl who feels invisible to her parents, who are absorbed in their phone and computer. They don't even notice their daughter—pale, white skin, angrily angled eyebrows—bundled up with a backpack and bedroll. So off she goes into the wooded hills behind her house. It's unclear whether she's running away to a favorite spot or simply venturing there on her own, but the fact that she camps there overnight implies the former. The

girl is befriended by a fox, which keeps her company the following day as her path opens to the seaside. She is just about to share a family photo with her furry companion when, happily, the girl's parents appear over a nearby hill. Levi's muted watercolors have a folk-art quality that suits this simple, down-to-earth story. While it's hard to swallow that the girl's parents arrive without worry or reprimand, the story offers a nice reminder to appreciate the people and the world around you. —*Julia Smith*

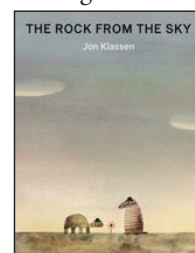


The Rock from the Sky.

By Jon Klassen. Illus. by the author.

Apr. 2021. 96p. Candlewick, \$18.99 (9781536215625). K–Gr. 3.

Turtle has a favorite spot to stand in, but his friend Armadillo has a bad feeling about it and isn't sure why. It may have something to do with the huge rock hurtling through the sky toward



that exact spot. In this latest book from Caldecott medalist Klassen, the reader follows three hat-wearing creatures through five related stories as they narrowly escape death (but are really quite zen about it), navigate friendship

and jealousy, and imagine the future together (which may or may not include aliens). A savant of deadpan storytelling, Klassen offers a long-form picture book that is high in suspense and humor. Using the wonderful technique of color-coding the sparse and cheeky dialogue so readers know instinctively who is speaking, this book feels every bit as theatrical as the Hat trilogy. Klassen's recognizable art style, featuring muted hues and speckled watercolors, utilizes sparse landscapes and open skies to keep the reader's full attention on the story's quirky characters, while carefully placed, wordless spreads heighten both tension and humor or bring resolution. His ability to create so much dark humor with so few words and to infuse his critters with such a depth of personality is part of why Klassen's work is so beloved, as this new addition promises to be. —*Becca Worthington*



HIGH-DEMAND BACKLIST: Klassen has developed a cult following among critics and picture-book readers, plus a hefty marketing campaign will build plenty of buzz.

Sam's First Word.

By Bea Birdsong. Illus. by Holly Hatam.

Feb. 2021. 32p. Little, Brown, \$17.99 (9780316452441). PreS–K.

Everyone laughs and cheers when little Sam ("a newish baby") learns to do a new thing, from waving her arms and clapping her hands to taking off her diaper. But she hasn't said her first word yet. What will it be? Mama wants it to be "Mama" and so sings the word 63 times. Papa's lengthy monologue likewise has but one word: "Papa." Maybe it will be "Nana" or (for the next-door neighbor) "Mr. Theotopolous." In fact, the grown-ups are so intent on their own notions that they don't hear her say "Poop." Even when she waves her arms, even

when she claps her hands, they don't hear—not, in fact, until she does her other trick. Everyone says it then, oh yes, which makes *her* laugh and cheer. Fine-lined cartoon illustrations featuring an expressive redhead sporting a stylish elastic headband and, often, not much else reflect the joyful tone of this nifty, high-spirited bit of toddler turnabout. —*John Peters*

★ **Seeking an Aurora.**
By Elizabeth Pulford. Illus. by Anne Bannock.

Jan. 2021. 32p. Blue Dot, \$17.95 (9781733121279). PreS–Gr. 2.

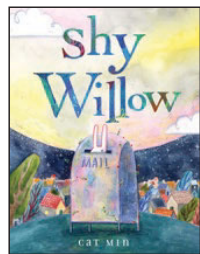
A father awakens his child at night. They dress in warm clothing, quietly leave the house, and trudge through the frozen countryside together. “What’s an aurora?” asks the child, who follows up with more questions along the way. “Is it scary?” Dad shakes his head. “Are stars in the aurora?” “No.” The enigmatic father leads the way to the top of a steep hill. They sit down, surrounded by the starry sky, which suddenly amazes them with “dancing light, glowing and . . . / glimmering, shimmering, and shining. / Colored ribbons swirling and twirling / Lighting up the sky on the still, dark night.” Awestruck, the two stand and watch in silence. On the walk home, Dad tells everything he knows about the aurora. An appended note shares that information with readers. First published in Australia and New Zealand, this picture book captures the beauty of the aurora phenomenon as well as the wonder it inspires in viewers. Written in free verse, the narrative raises questions that are resolved when the aurora appears. The hand-drawn, soft-pastel artwork uses rich colors, varied textures, and subtle lighting effects throughout the book, while the climactic scenes are vibrant and luminous. A memorable picture book that captures an unforgettable experience.

—*Carolyn Phelan*

★ **Shy Willow.**
By Cat Min. Illus. by the author.

Feb. 2021. 48p. Levine Querido, \$17.99 (9781646140350). PreS–Gr. 1.

Willow is a timid white rabbit who prefers staying home—an abandoned mailbox—where it’s cozy and quiet. There she sketches and dreams, but her comfortable routine is interrupted when a letter flutters through the mail slot one day. It turns out to be a letter from a boy to the moon, asking it to shine brightly for his mother’s birthday. Touched, Willow decides to deliver the letter to the moon, despite the scary prospect of being so far from home. A charming sequence of illustrations shows Willow’s varied attempts to reach the moon, with success finally found in a balloon constructed of pages from the rab-



bit’s sketchbook. Min layers colored pencil and watercolor to create whimsical, rainbow-slicked scenes where the story’s more fantastical elements feel right at home. Young readers will be fully absorbed in Willow’s dreamlike adventure and appreciate her bravery as she ventures outside of her comfort zone. Not only does Willow succeed in her birthday mission, she becomes braver in her daily life, too, signified by a friendship with the boy she helped and by her sketches changing from graphite to color drawings by story’s end. A warm and wondrous adventure for armchair, or high chair, travelers. —*Julia Smith*

★ **A Small Kindness.**
By Stacy McAnulty. Illus. by Wendy Leach.

Feb. 2021. 32p. Running Press Kids, (9780762495221). PreS–Gr. 1.

A clever visual conceit helps demonstrate the simple power of paying kindness forward in this gentle, encouraging picture book. It’s the first day of school, and one class is full of nervous kindergarteners. Leach’s sepia-toned scenes reveal an inclusive group of kids lined up to go inside, all of whom have apprehensive faces, except for Alice, who appears in full color. Alice smiles at Lucas, Lucas greets Jasmine, Jasmine passes the class guinea pig to Xavier, and so on. With each friendly gesture, a soft ribbon of color passes between the characters, who then appear in bold, vibrant hues for the rest of the story. By the end of the day, everyone, including the teacher and school janitor, moves from a muted, monochromatic palette to bright, cheerful color, a tidy visual signal of how small gestures of kindness can turn a day around. Though there are plenty of books on similar themes, McAnulty and Leach’s benefits from the strong imagery, which could be particularly useful for pre-readers nervous about starting school for the first time. —*Sarah Hunter*

★ **What about X? An Alphabet Adventure.**
By Anne Marie Houppert. Illus. by Daniel Wiseman.

Feb. 2021. 40p. Abrams/Applesseed, \$16.99 (9781419740787). PreS–K.

At the Alphabet Academy, where the students are personified letters dressed as children, the announcement of a camping trip leaves the class wildly excited, especially X, who has never gone camping. Wondering what to take on their excursion, the students begin searching for useful things beginning with their letters. B brings binoculars (for bird-watching) and C chooses canteens, while E packs “ear plugs, because *someone* snores” (yes, he’s looking at you, Z). X runs to his treehouse to retrieve his xylophone, but it’s broken. Feeling dejected, X hears his friends calling him from below. They need X himself to mark the camping spot on the map. Now he’s sure that it will be “an exceptionally excellent trip.” Bright, lively, and colorful, the digital illustrations capture the breezy tone of the text. While the basic plot is simple, Houppert creates plenty of fun along the way. As the high-energy characters make their decisions, even pre-readers may want to

suggest their own additions to the trip. Fun for reading aloud. —*Carolyn Phelan*

★ **The Whole Hole Story.**
By Vivian McInerney. Illus. by Ken Lamug.

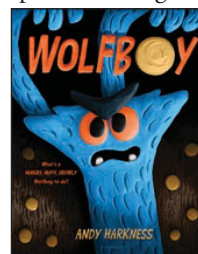
Jan. 2021. 40p. HMH/Versify, \$17.99 (9780358128816). K–Gr. 3.

This charmer of a picture book takes an *Alice in Wonderland* approach to a young girl’s discovery of a hole. Zia, a spunky Black girl brimming with imagination, finds a hole in her pocket, which grows bigger and bigger until, one day, she falls through it. Confident that this is “an imaginary hole,” Zia knows she doesn’t need to be afraid, as she can transform the hole into anything her imagination can muster. She begins by conjuring a fishing hole, where she quickly catches (and returns) an enormous fish. In the next spread, she is outfitted in a bathing suit and prepares to do a cannonball into what is now a swimming hole. From there, Zia imagines a lion that joins other African animals at the newly created watering hole. Several more clever scenarios play out until, in a slightly meta twist, Zia returns home to put the hole back in her pocket. Saturated artwork includes realistic and whimsical images that match Zia’s rapidly changing imaginings. A vivacious tribute to creative thinking and play. —*Tiffany Flowers*

★ **Wolfboy.**
By Andy Harkness. Illus. by the author.

Feb. 2021. 40p. Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (9781547604425). PreS–Gr. 2.

Wolfboy is hungry. And he’s looking for rabbits. He stomps through shadowy trees, splashes through the murky creek, climbs trees,



slogs through soggy bogs, and leaps over steep ravines but can’t find rabbits anywhere. By the time he marches into Moonberry Meadow, he is not only hungry, he’s huffy, drooly, growly, fussy, and howly as well. When the rabbits

finally arrive with their delicate ears and fluffy tails, Wolfboy crouches down and opens his mouth—to eat the special moonberry pie that they made for him. Harkness’ impressive career in animation (25 years of experience at Disney) is evident on every page in the remarkable attention to detail, the cinematic and thoughtful framing of each individual image within the context of the story, the use of dramatic close-ups to heighten tension, and the satisfying message of friendship in the story’s unexpectedly funny resolution. The text is delightful and simple, using repetitive variations that naturally encourage participation in read-aloud settings, but it’s the exceptional artwork that truly makes this a masterpiece. Each spread—from expansive landscapes to deliberately cropped features—is painstakingly created with hand-formed clay and then photographed to yield textural and three-dimensional images with striking use of shadow and light that make for an imaginative and completely immersive reading adventure. —*Becca Worthington*

Adult Audio

Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey.
By Kathleen Rooney. Read by Juliana Canfield and Noah Michael Levine.

2020. 11.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$66.50
 (9780593291504).

Against the bleak backdrop of WWI, Cher Ami, a messenger pigeon, and Major Charles Whittlesey, her commanding officer lost in the dark Argonne Forest of France, share an unlikely and elegiac story. The pair is based on a true story, but the inner life and anthropomorphic musings of Cher Ami tell the narrative in a completely refreshed fashion. One could easily find a story half told by a racing pigeon to clash with the harshness of war, but Rooney's elegantly crafted sentences carefully honor the perspectives of both animal and human. Solemnly narrated, this is a listening experience to cherish. Canfield's narration is carefully unmodulated, reflective, and dignified as the voice of Cher Ami. Levine's performance as Whittlesey is also worthy of note; his reflections from New York after the war's end are appropriately war-weary and fully exhausted. Overall, Canfield's calmly contemplative narration outshines Levine's, but both are performances with aplomb and earnest reflection. A beautiful listen for those who enjoy Emma Donoghue's and Amor Towles' historical fiction. —*Joy Matteson*

★ **Conditional Citizens: On Belonging in America.**

By Laila Lalami. Read by the author.

2020. 6hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$47.50 (9780593170342).

Lalami dovetails her own journey as a Morocco-born, UK- and US-educated, naturalized Muslim American, expanding into a socio-historical examination of what it means to be a "conditional citizen" in the



United States. Conditional citizens, she explains, "are Americans who cannot enjoy the full rights, liberties, and protections of citizenship because of arbitrary markers of identity [including] their race, ethnicity, gender, and natal origin . . . features over which they have no control." Her own "conditional citizen" stories are many: border agents asked her husband about trading cows for her; her terrified US-born daughter fearing deportation; facing as many (more?) questions about terrorism as about her actual writing. Beyond the individual, her examples seem never-ending—reminders include California-born Wong Kim Ark, who sought the Supreme Court to recognize his birthright citizenship; the irony that indigenous people as

members of sovereign nations remained ineligible for US citizenship until 1924; that even Obama—as the most powerful man in the world—couldn't escape the birther conspiracy theory. That Lalami herself narrates her nuanced, intimate nonfiction debut adds illuminating, indelible resonance. Remarkably composed and extraordinarily controlled, Lalami reveals, challenges, asserts, and ultimately claims her well-earned place: "Yet I am still here." —*Terry Hong*

Dune: The Duke of Caladan.
By Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson. Read by Scott Brick.

2020. 13.5hr. Macmillan, DD, \$26.99 (9781250771919).

In the hotly anticipated first in a new Caladan Trilogy, *The Duke of Caladan* begins the story of Leto Atreides, Lady Jessica, and their son, the young Paul. The story is set before Leto becomes Duke on Arrakis, when he is the benevolent ruler of a small planet—and life is good. But a terror attack leads to an upheaval in the power structure of the Imperium and the happy Atreides family is thrown into chaos. A fascinating look into Paul's training and an even closer look at the complicated relationship between Leto and Lady Jessica. The audio version is an easy listen. The quick, action-packed chapters are well performed, and as the disparate story lines begin to come together it's hard to press pause. Narrator Scott Brick's deep and interesting voice adds more pull to the quieter parts of the story. His care

in performing Lady Jessica's often clipped—but heavy with meaning—dialogue is well done, as are his readings of the characters' inner thoughts. All in all, a fun book and a great performance. —*Jennifer Kinnavy*

The Eighth Detective.
By Alex Pavesi. Read by Emilia Fox.

2020. 11.5hr. Macmillan, DD, \$26.99 (9781250764140).

Pavesi's debut novel is a story within a story—a collection of mystery shorts tied together by an overarching narrative. Editor Julia Hart has tracked down retired author Grant McAllister in hopes of publishing a collection of mysteries he wrote years ago. Each of the seven stories illustrates one critical facet of a murder mystery, as Grant outlined in a paper mathematically defining the genre. As Julia reads each aloud to Grant, she notices that they are connected by a running discussion of Grant's theory. These culminate in the revelation of a larger mystery involving the book itself. Fox's warm, calm British accent is reminiscent of an Agatha Christie production, which fits perfectly with the mid-century setting, especially in one story that recalls *And Then There Were None*. It's a cozy recording of an entertaining, if mild, mystery that leans heavily on nostalgia for the genre's golden age. —*Jane Philbrick*

Elsewhere.
By Dean Koontz. Read by Edoardo Ballerini and Imani Parks.

2020. 11hr. Brilliance, DD, \$22.04 (9781713558705).

This tightly plotted sf thriller with a dash of fantasy and solid family drama mixed in—

Podcast Connection



The 99% Invisible City: A Field Guide to the Hidden World of Everyday Design.
By Roman Mars and Kurt Kohlstedt. Read by Roman Mars.

2020. 11hr. Blackstone, CD, \$25.99 (9781664783294).

Thoughtfully envisioned, proficiently executed design is all around us, not just in showpieces like couture clothing or architectural wonders. Most forms of design inform our lives in ways we don't even realize. Think of the utilitarian efficiency of a check-cashing store, or the safety built into breakaway-bolts steadying streetlights. These "invisible" but highly designed elements comprise the fascinating fodder for Mars' collection of vignettes that will thrill the "beautiful nerds" who listen to his podcast, *99% Invisible*. Though the print boasts charming hand-drawn illustrations, Mars' cool, NPR-ready voice and an impeccable pacing rooted in his deep understanding of the topic at hand is reason enough to listen.

Musical interludes separate chapters, and a conversation between Mars and coauthor/podcast producer Kohlstedt in a sample podcast episode append the book. This is an audio that lends itself well to being listened to piecemeal, which recommends it for short commutes, walks around the block, and brief but engaging breaks throughout the day. For more microtourism listening, pair with Carlsen's *A Walk around the Block*, also reviewed in this issue. —*Heather Booth*

classic, fast-paced, good-versus-evil stuff, with a truly compelling character drama and an interesting take on the parallel time line story—has plenty to keep both Koontz fans and casual listeners engaged. Notable here is the choice to have dual narrators. The challenge with this technique is that a narrator must build a relationship with listeners throughout the narrative. Changes in tone, character voices, pacing, etc. can be jarring enough to offset the benefits of highlighting changing points of view, but here it pays off. Ballerini (a Koontz veteran) is tremendous, and Parks makes strong choices in diction, pronunciation, and pacing to bring Amity Coltrane to life. The collaborative effect of Ballerini and Parks' narration works as a deliberate "all-in" to the production, making the audio version even more of a standout. —Adam Schulmerich

Hench.

By Natalie Zina Walschots. Read by Alex McKenna.

2020. 14.5hr. Harper, DD, \$29.99 (9780062978608).

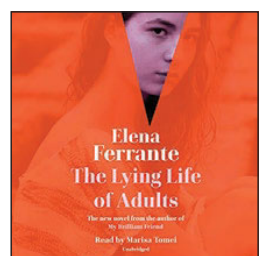
Where do supervillains get their employees? A temp agency for henchmen, of course! Anna Tromedlov, a remote data-entry hench, takes an on-site job and gets more action than she ever bargained as she dives head-first into the action-packed world of villains and superheroes. McKenna is the perfect fit to narrate this darkly humored, sarcastic, and witty henchwoman. Intense action music begins the audio to set the tone for a work that could easily make the transition to comic book or Marvel movie. Characters run the gamut from supervillains to a terribly "normal" guy from Tinder, and McKenna voices them all uniquely and memorably. Humor is contagious in scenes featuring Anna and her best friend, Julie, as McKenna deftly conveys the mood—and then just as easily transitions to high-energy action as the story flows. Fans of comic books and stories told from the antagonist's perspective will flock to this fiction debut. —Lesley Crier

The Lying Life of Adults.

By Elena Ferrante. Read by Marisa Tomei.

2020. 10.5hr. Books on Tape, DD, \$40 (9780593340882).

Academy Award-winner Tomei pulls out all the stops in her clever and impassioned narration that matches the accolades for Ferrante's lauded and incisive coming-of-age novel.



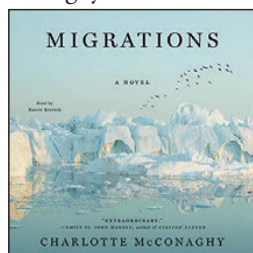
The book is set in late-1970s and early-1980s Naples, Italy, as Giovanna, on the precipice of adolescence, forges a relationship with her difficult, estranged aunt; watches her parents' marriage crumble; and takes her own steps into adulthood. Tomei's intensity matches Giovanna's punch for punch in a way that recognizes and respects teen-

age anger, disdain, bitterness, and, yes, love. Ferrante's books have been championed for their English translations, and Tomei brings the listener closer to the Italian original as she slides into Italian pronunciations of proper nouns and frequently uses Italian accents and cadences to differentiate characters who speak in dialect over those who speak a more refined Italian. Though her energy does fade a bit in the last quarter, this minor flaw is understandable given the force of this full-bodied narration. This celebrity performance is superbly cast and will remind listeners of the highs and lows of adolescence, the hurt of family slights, and the breathless, stomach-clenching, myopic obsession of infatuation. —Heather Booth

Migrations.

By Charlotte McConaghy. Read by Barrie Kreinik.

2020. 9hr. Macmillan/AudioGO, DD, \$19.99 (9781250751508).



Seasoned narrator Kreinik showcases her prowess as a dialect coach as she embodies McConaghy's vast cast the world from Australia to Ireland to Greenland, traversing quickly emptying terrains and oceans. Making her adult fiction debut, McConaghy introduces Franny Stone, an untethered wanderer who arrives in Greenland hoping to track the last flock of migratory Arctic terns. She talks herself onto the well-traveled *Saghani*, joining a less-than-welcoming misfit crew led by a captain in whom Franny recognizes another desperate lost soul. While tracking both fish and fowl, Franny writes desperate letters to her estranged husband, a renowned Irish professor of ornithology and her peripatetic backstory is slowly revealed. While Kreinik empathically, consistently ciphers rootless Franny, she's even more impressive in maintaining distinctively recognizable personalities, quirks, and accents for the *Saghani* inhabitants, deftly differentiating even in the midst of all-crew impassioned discussions and bewildering arguments the just-controlled captain Ennis, frustrated Léa, contemptible Basil, struggling Anik, and the many others. Back on land, Kreinik is achingly affecting as bewildered Niall and his fragmenting mother, Penny. With deft agility, Kreinik guides McConaghy's spectacular *Moby-Dick*-esque journey toward an all-too-imminent dystopia in which humanity faces a future alone. —Terry Hong

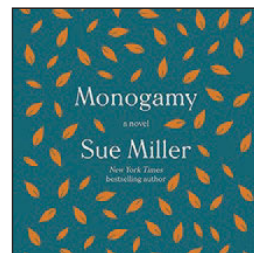
Monogamy.

By Sue Miller. Read by the author.

2020. 11hr. HarperAudio, DD, \$26.99 (9780062969712).

Narrating the fourth of her own books, Miller doesn't so much perform as empathically embody her 13th title—the result is an aural gift to her avid readers. Three decades

into Graham and Annie's marriage, Graham unexpectedly dies in his sleep. He is a gregarious Cambridge bookseller with scores of devoted friends, and his sudden death leaves Annie—a published photographer—turning further inward. Her intimate circle of supporters quickly shrinks to her San Francisco-based daughter, Sarah; her NYC-based stepson, Lucas, by Graham's first wife, Frieda; and Frieda herself, who is one of Annie's closest confidantes. Despite an initially mutually-agreed-upon open relationship, repeated infidelity eventually destroyed Frieda and Graham's marriage, although, surprisingly, not their deeply supportive friendship, which expanded through the decades to include Annie. On the evening of Graham's life celebration,

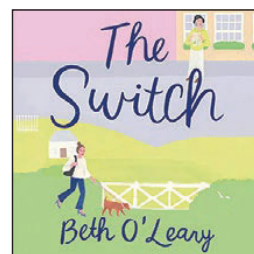


Frieda confirms Annie's shocking realization that Graham has also been unfaithful to Annie, irreparably damaging so much of what Annie had always believed to be true. Negotiating betrayal and anger amidst overwhelming mourning, Annie—and the rest of Graham's survivors—must learn to live on. Miller's contemplative, resonating reading enhances her already affecting, haunting meditation on betrayal, familial bonds, and—most of all—enduring love. —Terry Hong

The Switch.

By Beth O'Leary. Read by Alison Steadman and Daisy Edgar-Jones.

2020. 10hr. Macmillan/AudioGO, DD, \$26.99 (9781250751850).



Twentysomething Leena and her seventysomething grandmother Eileen both find themselves stuck in settings that prevent them from living their best lives. The demands of Leena's corporate job in London are too much to handle as she (barely) manages her unprocessed grief over the death of her sister. In a quaint countryside village, lonely Eileen weighs the neighborhood's dismal love prospects now that her husband has run off with the rec-center's dance instructor. Both decide to temporarily switch homes for better opportunities: R&R for Leena, and online dating for Eileen. This intergenerational country mouse-city mouse swap has all of the satisfying trappings that make such a story delightful, but the performances by veteran narrator Steadman and newcomer Edgar-Jones elevate it to tug at the heartstrings, boil the blood, and fully engage the listener. Steadman's years of experience are on full display as she creates distinct vocalizations for Eileen's companions; Edgar-Jones

shines in her emotional, self-aware depiction of Leena. Audio filters are used to great effect for phone calls in which the two narrators appear. A delightful, romantic respite that is full of heart, with stellar narration and thoughtful production to distinguish it as an audio. —*Heather Booth*

Trailerpark.

By Russell Banks. Read by Kevin Kenerly.

2020. 8.5hr. Harper, DD, \$23.99 (9780062955203).

Kennerly narrates Russell Banks' 1981 collection about small town Catamount, New Hampshire's trailer park using the conversational delivery of a neighbor sipping beer on the patio. He gives tender performances for poignant vignettes of tenants like "The Guinea Pig Lady," and in others, like "Principles," uses harder-edged tones of self-destruction. Residents in the tiny, somewhat shabby community vary throughout, with Kennerly offering tour-de-force presentations of consistently believable characters, whether depicting park manager Marcelle's high-pitched complaints about her tenants, or in "Comfort," a father's gruff orders to his errant grown son. "The Guinea Pig Lady" sets the tone as Flora lives with her ever-multiplying "babies," worrying neighbors. Singing loudly—though poorly—she cheerfully keeps bales of hay and buckets of pig feces by her entry, disobeying "no pets" rules, though facing eviction, and shrieking in fear and anger when discovered ill, surrounded by cages. Kaleidoscopic portraits enthrall in this microscopic view of humanity. —*Whitney Scott*

A Walk around the Block: Stoplight Secrets, Mischievous Squirrels, Manhole Mysteries & Other Stuff You See Every Day (and Know Nothing About).
By Spike Carlsen. Read by Daniel Henning.

2020. 9.5hr. Harper, DD, \$26.99 (9780062954787).

Using a walk around the block as a jumping off point, Carlsen digs deeply into those everyday objects we see all around us: water pipes, fire hydrants, mail delivery, recycling bins, squirrels, concrete, alleys, signs, etc. His curiosity leads him to interviews with city workers and scholars, as well as poring over passages from history books. Climbing beneath streets and prowling through sewage plants the author explores the mechanics and origins of a range of systems. His findings are fascinating and often surprising (who knew that one untreatable item could spoil an entire recycling batch? Or that "free" parking costs more than Medicare?). Carlsen also celebrates grassroots movements and the determined advocates that work behind the scenes (often volunteering) to make the streets safer, alleys cleaner, and parks more available. Henning has just the right touch of humor and enthusiasm as he reads the text. Filled with anecdotes, fun facts, and genuinely interesting stuff, this lively recording is as entertaining as it is informative. —*Candace Smith*

Classics Corner

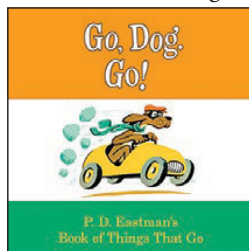
Classics Corner highlights new recordings of classic titles.

Go, Dog. Go!

By P. D. Eastman. Read by Sean Patrick Hopkins.

2020. .5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593396247).

Eastman's 1961 Beginner Books classic has been a staple in early reader collections for decades. A cadre of dogs—big and small, black and white, in and out of trees, zipping around in cars, modeling questionable hats—finally comes together in a great big treetop dog party: the stuff childhood giggles are made of. This new and theatrically energetic performance by Hopkins will undoubtedly engage young listeners and humor their grownups, too. Though the text is brief and has precious few words to work with, Hopkins manages to give various dogs personality; create tension, suspense, and disdain ("And *now* do you like my hat? . . . Goodbye!"); and ultimately create a joyful celebration of words and dogs. The production is free of page-turn tones, and because of the full-on performance, works best as a companion to the book, not as a read-along for beginning readers. A dog party doesn't get much more fun than this. —*Heather Booth*



Youth Audio

The Alien Adventures of Finn Caspian #1: The Fuzzy Apocalypse.

By Jonathan Messinger. Read by the author.

2020. 2hr. Harper, DD, \$13.99 (9780063026889). Gr. 1–5.

Finn Caspian is the first child born in space and he, along with a robot named Foggy and three other children of astronauts, are in search of a new planet that humans can inhabit. They find themselves on a planet that's about to explode and the planet's inhabitants tell competing stories about what is happening. The young crew must work together to figure out the real story and how they will save the planet! The book is based on Messinger's serialized sf podcast of the same name, making this an audio adaptation of a print book based on an original audio medium. Though Messinger's pacing is somewhat slow, his voice reflects the action and excitement of the story. Music backs the opening and closing credits, but the performance is otherwise free of music or sound effects. This silly, fun sci-fi tale is perfect for listeners who are not quite ready for Stuart Gibbs' Moon Base Alpha books. —*Ashley Young*

At the Mountain's Base.

By Traci Sorell. Read by Kimberly Guerrero.

Dec. 2020. .5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593342077). K–Gr. 2.

A soft heartbeat-like drum, soon accompanied by a contemplative Native American wood flute, introduces this brief poem by Sorell, the author of much-awarded *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* (2018). The music bed continues through the brief entirety of this cumulative tale that describes a family waiting and praying for the safe return of a female family member piloting a plane in wartime. Guerrero, a Coville-enrolled actress with Cherokee roots like author Sorell, narrates just plainly enough that when the tranquil

landscape shifts and the listener learns of the faraway battle, small inflections of fear, worry, and hope come across as plaintive and impassioned. An illuminating author's note—without musical accompaniment—follows the poem and fills in the details of real-life female Native soldiers across time. A respectful and engaging performance, best enjoyed as a read-along with the print. —*Heather Booth*

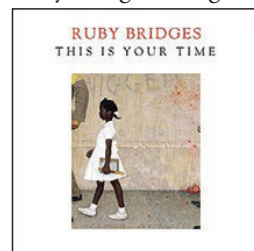


This Is Your Time.

By Ruby Bridges. Read by the author.

2020. .5hr. Listening Library, DD, \$22 (9780593401941). Gr. 4–7.

The most important thing about the audiobook of this letter to young listeners—and it is very important—is that it is read by the author, Ruby Bridges. Bridges, who became a cultural



icon at age six when she was selected to integrate New Orleans' public schools, reads her own words in a way that feels incredibly personal, as if she truly is speaking to each listener.

She tells of her first-grade year, walking to school escorted by the National Guard, sitting in an empty school room because all of the white children had been pulled from school, and learning from a Boston teacher brought to town just for Ruby. In clear, simple, inspiring words—and with tones to match—she walks listeners through her perspectives on racism as a learned disease, and on grace as the key to our collective salvation. Without the print, readers will miss archival photos. But hearing Bridges speak her truth will have a deep and lasting impact, bringing a contemporary realism to a life that, to many young people, might otherwise seem unimaginably distant. "This is your time in history," she tells us, but it is hers as well. —*Heather Booth*

◆ **Women in Focus: The 19th in 2020**

Booklist Backlist

Truly Expansive Fantasy

by Sarah Hunter

As we stare down the looming shorter, darker, colder days ahead, I find myself, probably much like many of you, on the hunt for books to sink into. What could be better than a well-wrought fantasy world to while away the winter hours? How about a fantasy world so immersive and wide-ranging that a single book or series can't contain it? If you're looking for something a little fresher than the old standbys, these contemporary fantasy novels could satisfy that itch, with well-wrought stories featuring characters and places that intersect among series titles, stand-alones, and spin-offs.

Greenglass House, by Kate Milford. 2014. Clarion.

It's difficult to pin down an order to the novels set in the expansive, richly described world of Nagspeake, but this is a good starting point. From here, Milford travels backward and forward in time, exploring the history of Nagspeake, a protected way station for smugglers and thieves, as well as its many secrets, including connections to the world of her earlier novels *The Boneshaker* (2010) and *The Broken Lands* (2012).

The Kiss of Deception, by Mary E. Pearson. 2014. Holt.

Pearson's Remnant Chronicles start with this volume, which follows princess Lia, who's on the run from an arranged marriage, and the assassin sent to return her to her obligations. An intricate plot involving the chase, magic, and romance fills out the rest of the trilogy. While a second series, beginning with *Dance of Thieves* (2018), features some familiar characters from the Remnant Chronicles, this new story's protagonists are captivating enough on their own.

The Lightning Thief, by Rick Riordan. 2005. Hyperion.

This series opener is just the beginning of an ever-expanding universe of interconnected adventures and world mythologies. Spin-off series include *The Heroes of Olympus* (beginning with *The Lost Hero*, 2010) and *The Trials of Apollo* (beginning with *The Hidden Oracle*, 2016). The Kane Chronicles series exists in the world of Egyptian mythology, and a series of short, digital-only stories links this series to Percy Jackson's world, and Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard series, about the Norse pantheon, eventually loops into the world of the original series as well.

Shadow and Bone, by Leigh Bardugo. 2012. Holt.

Bardugo's Grishaverse starts with this trilogy opener, which follows



a new magician in the land of Ravka and her growing (dangerously so) powers. Two subsequent series, starting with *Six of Crows* (2015) and *King of Scars* (2019), respectively, further explore the world, its politics, and the mechanisms of its magic. *The Language of Thorns* (2017), a collection of fairy tales and fables from the fictional Ravka, adds a compelling layer to the world building.

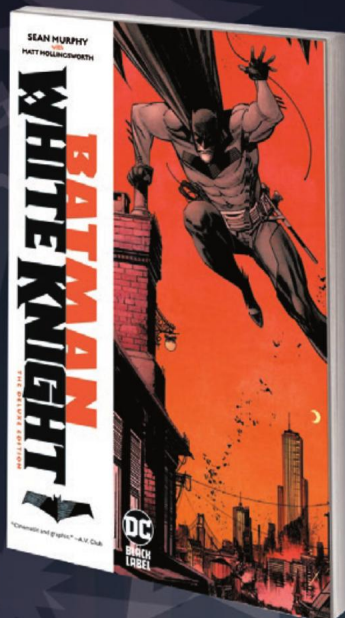
Shadowshaper, by Daniel José Older. 2015. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine.

The first book in Older's critically acclaimed Shadowshaper Cypher series introduces Sierra, who discovers she can communicate with the spirits through art, particularly the street art in her Bed-Stuy neighborhood. Sierra's adventures occasionally cross paths with characters from Older's Bone Street Rumba series, an adult urban fantasy featuring Carlos Delacruz, who also bridges the gap between the living and the dead in Brooklyn. Several interstitial novellas expand the universe even more.

Tithe, by Holly Black. 2002. Simon & Schuster.

The world of Faerie is a frequent setting for Black's novels, from this urban fantasy series opener to her more recent trilogy, beginning with *The Cruel Prince* (2018), which explores the twists and turns of the high court of Faerie. A graphic novel series (*The Good Neighbors*, illustrated by Ted Naifeh) and a stand-alone horror-tinged fairytale, *The Darkest Part of the Forest* (2015), explore the permeable borders of the magical world.





BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT DELUXE EDITION

The Joker becomes a hero. Will that make the Dark Knight a villain?

Sean Murphy | 9781779500649

Booklist ★

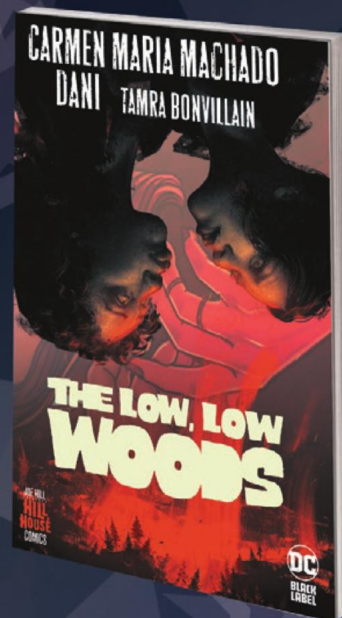


HARLEEN

Harley Quinn's road to madness begins!

Stjepan Šejić | 9781779501110

Booklist ★



THE LOW, LOW WOODS

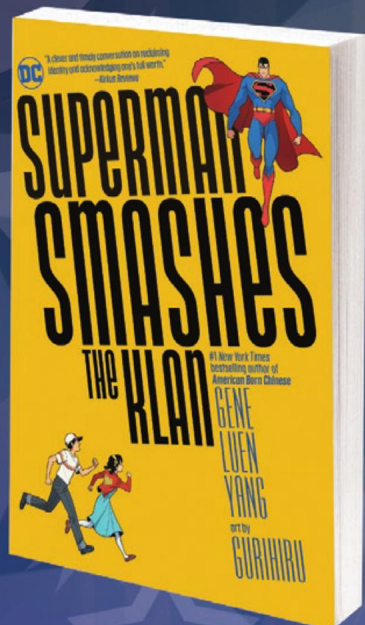
If growing up won't kill them, their town will. A horrifying tale from *New York Times* bestselling author Carmen Maria Machado.

Carmen Maria Machado | Dani | 9781779504524

Booklist ★ Publisher Weekly ★



DON'T MISS DC'S STARRED GRAPHIC NOVELS!

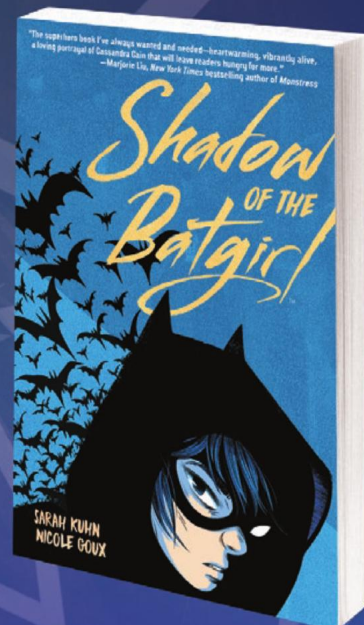


SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN

Gene Luen Yang's award-winning tale of an immigrant family teaming up with the Man of Steel to fight racism!

Gene Luen Yang | Gurihiru | 9781779504210

Booklist ★ School Library Journal ★



SHADOW OF THE BATGIRL

Cassandra Cain—teenage assassin or future hero?

Sarah Kuhn | Nicole Goux | 9781401289782

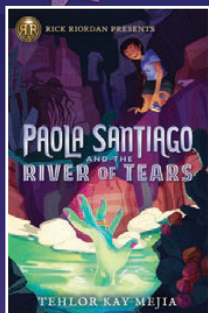
Booklist ★

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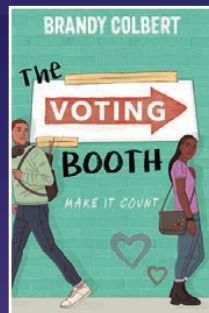
STAR GAZING!



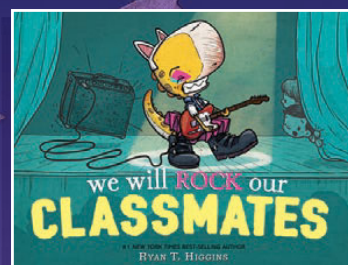
- ★ Kirkus 6.1.20
- ★ PW 6.22.20
- ★ Booklist 8.1.20
- ★ SLJ 8.1.20



- ★ Booklist 4.15.20
- ★ Kirkus 5.1.20
- ★ PW 5.18.20



- ★ Kirkus 5.15.20
- ★ Booklist 6.1.20
- ★ PW 6.15.20



- ★ SLJ 5.1.20
- ★ Kirkus 5.15.20

I have **never** seen so many stars before!



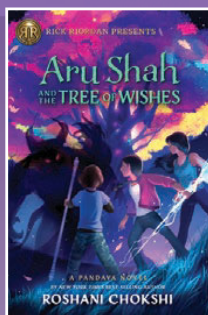
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- ★ BCCB 10.1.20



- ★ Kirkus 11.15.19



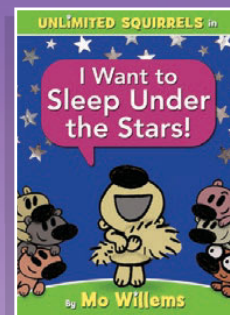
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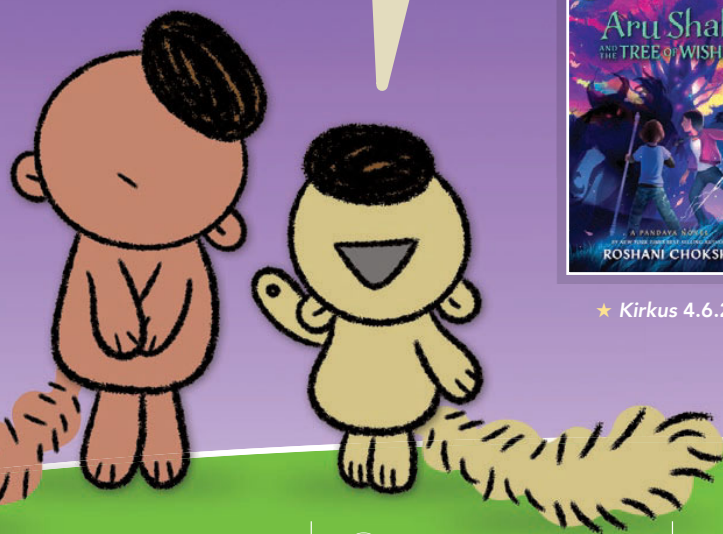
- ★ Kirkus 4.6.20



- ★ SLJ 5.1.20



- ★ SLJ 10.1.20



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