

Our Shelves Runneth Over—and Yours Soon Will Too

This holiday season, what better gift than a lifesaving shelfful of books to hunker down with during the coming cold and COVID, nuggets of comfort to store up for the long winter ahead? Of fiction, for instance, some new this year, some from the past. Or half a shelf of history. Or politics. Or some mix thereof. Or a stockpile of fantasy and speculative fiction. Or mysteries and thrillers by the bagful.

And what easier way to give during this locked-down season than to shop from the lists below, either online or by phone? Even simpler, just tell us how much of someone's shelf you'd like to fill—in feet or inches, by number of titles or by cost—and we'll do the shopping for you, matching books from the lists below to your recipient's interests. We've culled from what's best on our shelves at TKE, stockpiling favorite titles in anticipation of publisher shortages predicted as the holidays near. Add one or two of the wonderful books new this month (listed on pages 10-20—among them Obama's eagerly awaited, *A Promised Land*) to some of the below-listed books, et voilà, you (or we) have created the gift of a lifetime for each person on your list.

Finally, thank you again for your unstinting patience and your over-the-top generosity. It's because of your support that our season is looking as bright as it is. We hope, despite all, that yours is too. Happy Holidays to one and all!

First, from Fiction

For those who like their novels complex, literary and biographical and/or historical in nature:

From 2020

The Mirror and the Light, Hilary Mantel
Hamnet, Maggie O'Farrell
Homeland Elegies, Ayad Akhtar
A Long Petal of the Sea, Isabel Allende
Apeirogon, Colum McCann
Utopia Avenue, David Mitchell ↓



Enduring Favorites

Life after Life, Kate Atkinson
All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr
Sing, Unburied, Sing, Jesmyn Ward
The Overstory, Richard Powers
The Robber Bride, Margaret Atwood
Wind-up Bird Chronicle, Haruki Murakami

Timeless Classics

Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
A Fine Balance, Rohinton Mistry

Novels that Delight the Spirit and Tickle the Funny Bone From 2020

Deacon King Kong, James McBride
Just Like You, Nick Hornby
Olive, Again, Elizabeth Strout
Love, Roddy Doyle
Redhead by the Side of the Road, Anne Tyler
Grown Ups, Emma Jane Unsworth

Enduring Favorites

Hag-seed, Margaret Atwood
News of the World, Paulette Giles
Virgil Wander, Leif Enger
A Gentleman in Moscow, Amor Towles
Dear Committee Members, Julie Schumacher
The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint/The Lonely Polygamist, Brady Udall
A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian, Marina Lewycka

Timeless Classics

Nobody's Fool, Richard Russo
Cold Comfort Farm, Stella Gibbons ↓



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Unforgettable Evocations of a Time and a Place

From 2020

The Mirror & the Light, Hilary Mantel
The Mountains Sing, Nguyen Phan Que Mai
How Beautiful We Were, Imbolo Mbue
The Lying Life of Adults, Elena Ferrante
The Night Watchman, Louise Erdrich

Enduring Favorites

Plainsong, Kent Haruf
The Parisian, Isabella Hamad
Beloved, Toni Morrison
Out of Darkness: Shining Light, Petina Gupta
The Time of Our Singing, Richard Powers
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese

Timeless Classics

Angle of Repose, Wallace Stegner
The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende
A Suitable Boy, Vikram Seth

A (Superb) Pile of Paperbacks Based on Greek Classics

Ransom, David Malouf
Circe, Madeline Miller
House of Names, Colm Tóibín
The Golden Mean, Annabel Lyon
The Silence of the Girls, Pat Barker
Country, Michael Hughes

Much More Than Mere Mysteries

From 2020

Snow, John Banville
The Searcher, Tana French
The Boy in the Field, Margot Livesey
Death in Her Hands, Ottessa Moshfegh
Remain Silent, Susie Steiner
Troubled Blood, Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling)

Enduring Favorites

Original Sin, P.D. James
The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco

The Thief of Time, Tony Hillerman
Presumed Innocent, Scott Turow
Down the River unto the Sea, Walter Mosley
The Various Haunts of Men, Susan Hill



Timeless Classics

The Daughter of Time, Josephine Tey
Farewell, My Lovely, Raymond Chandler

Transcendent Thrillers

From 2020

The End of October, Lawrence Wright
Amnesty, Aravind Adiga
Hammer to Fall, John Lawton
Scrublands, Chris Hammer
Long Bright River, Liz Moore
The Secret Guests, Benjamin Black

Enduring Favorites

Norwegian by Night, Derek Miller
Restless, William Boyd
Transcription, Kate Atkinson
The Sympathizer, Viet Thanh Nguyen
Gorky Park/Polar Star, Martin Cruz Smith
The Painter of Battles, Arturo Perez-Reverte
Slow Horses, Mick Herron

Timeless Classics

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, John le Carré (or anything else by the master of the genre)
Eye of the Needle, Ken Follett
The Day of the Jackal, Frederick Forsyth

Mysteries or Thrillers by the Yard:

Great Series for Insomniacs

Fill a shelf with Donna Leon or Louise Penny, John le Carré or Martin Cruz Smith, Sue Grafton or Robert Goddard (*Into the Blue* or any of a dozen), Sara Paretsky or Peter Robinson, Alan Furst, Carol O'Connell or Ian Rankin

Or, for those who like a faster pace, a quarter-shelf of John Grisham or Michael Connelly, Harland Coban, or Lee Child ↓



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We also recommend a short stack of mysteries by Susie Steiner or Derek Miller (they're newer writers but *very* good!).

For Our Time and Beyond: Dystopian & Speculative Fiction From 2020

The Silence, Don DeLillo
Earthlings, Sayaka Murata, Ginny Tapley Takemori, translator
Soot, Dan Vyleta
The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue, V.E. Schwab
The Arrest, Jonathan Lethem
A Deadly Education, Naomi Novik

Enduring Favorites

Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
Station Eleven, Emily St. John Mandel
A Handmaid's Tale/maddaddam trilogy, Margaret Atwood
Parable of the Sower/Parable of the Talents, Octavio Butler
American Gods, Neil Gaiman
The Dog Stars, Peter Heller

Timeless Classics

Dune, Frank Herbert
Left Hand of Darkness, Ursula Le Guin

Science and Technology From 2020

Knowledge Machine, Michael Stevens
Livewired, David Engleman
Making Sense: Conversations on Consciousness, Morality, and the Future of Humanity, Sam Harris
The Body, Bill Bryson
Breath, James Nestor
If, Then, Jill Lepore

Enduring Favorites

The Elegant Universe, Brian Greene
A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking
On Human Nature, E.O. Wilson
The Sixth Extinction, Elizabeth Kolbert
The Shallows, Nicholas Carr
Lab Girl, Hope Jahren



Timeless Classics

Silent Spring, Rachel Carson
The Selfish Gene, Richard Dawkins

Mother Earth From 2020

Erosion, Terry Tempest Williams (new in paper, with a new chapter)
Desert Notebooks: A Roadmap for the End of Time, Ben Ehrenreich
Vesper Flights, Helen Macdonald
Entangled Life, Merlin Sheldrake
The Language of Butterflies, Wendy Williams
Philosophy for Polar Explorers, Erling Kagge

Enduring Favorites

The Overstory, Richard Powers
Hour of Land, Terry Tempest Williams
Barkskins, Annie Proulx
H Is for Hawk, Helen Macdonald
Wanderlust: A History of Walking, Rebecca Solnit
Silence: In the Age of Noise, Erling Kagge

Timeless Classics

Refuge, Terry Tempest Williams
Desert Solitaire, Edward Abbey



On Politics

(in addition to the new and all-too apt *On Politics: A History of Political Thought: From Herodotus to the Present* by Alan Ryan)

From 2020

A Promised Land, Barack Obama
Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World, Fareed Zakaria
Rage, Bob Woodward
Too Much and Never Enough, Mary L. Trump
The Mueller Report (with *The Washington Post*)
Twilight of Democracy, Anne Applebaum

Enduring Favorites

On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century, Timothy Snyder
Fascism: A Warning, Madeline Albright
We Were Eight Years in Power, Ta-Nehisi Coates
Dark Money, Jane Mayer

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How Democracies Die, Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt
The Unwinding, George Packer

Timeless Classics

Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, 1972, Hunter S. Thompson
All the King's Men, Robert Penn Warren (a novel but all too real)

Works of History That Read Like Thrillers

From 2020

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz, Erik Larson
Agent Sonya: Moscow's Most Daring Wartime Spy, Ben Macintyre
The Art of Resistance: My Four Years in the French Underground, Justus Rosenberg
Atomic Spy: The Dark Lives of Klaus Fuchs, Nancy Thorndike Greenspan
Night of the Assassins: The Untold Story of Hitler's Plot to Kill FDR, Churchill, and Stalin, Howard Blum
Congress at War: How Republican Reformers Fought the Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, and Remade America, Fergus M. Bordewich

Enduring Favorites

Killers of the Flower Moon, David Grann
The Spy and the Traitor, Ben Macintyre
Unbroken, Laura Hillenbrand
Ghost Soldiers, Hampton Sides
Under the Banner of Heaven, Jon Krakauer
The Liberation Trilogy, Rick Atkinson

Timeless Classics

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown
Battle Cry of Freedom, James McPherson
In Cold Blood, Truman Capote (we couldn't leave it off!) ↓



Memoir From 2020

A Promised Land, Barack Obama
Memorial Drive, Natasha Tretheway
Just Us, Claudia Rankine
Recollections of My Nonexistence, Rebecca Solnit
All the Way to the Tigers, Mary Morris
Terroir: Love Out of Place, Natasha Saje

Enduring Favorites

On Becoming, Michelle Obama
Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant? Roz Chast
A Strong West Wind, Gail Caldwell
Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates
The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion
Look Both Ways, Katharine Coles

Timeless Classics

Woman Warrior, Maxine Hong Kingston
This Boy's Life, Tobias Wolff

Biography/Autobiography

From 2020

His Truth Is Marching On, Jon Mecham
Begin Again: James Baldwin's America, Eddie Glaude
Too Much and Never Enough, Mary L. Trump
The Man Who Ate Too Much, John Birdsall
The Man Who Ran Washington, Peter Baker and Susan Glasser
Tecumseh and the Prophet: The Shawnee Brothers Who Defied a Nation, Peter Cozzens

Enduring Favorites

Alexander Hamilton, Ron Chernow
Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay, Nancy Mitford
Will in the World, Stephen Greenspan
Frida: a Biography of Frida Kahlo, Herrera Hayden
The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power, Robert Caro
Notorious RBG, Irin Carmon & Shana Knizhnik

Timeless Classics

Wild Swans, Jung Chang
The Autobiography of Malcolm X, Alex Haley, ed. ↓



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Who We Are ↑ From 2020

Just Us, Claudia Rankine
Caste, Isabel Wilkerson
Conditional Citizens, Laila Lalami
Mormonism and White Supremacy: American Religion and the Problem of Racial Innocence, Joanna Brooks
Had I Known, Barbara Ehrenreich
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You, Jason Reynolds, Ibram X. Kendi

Enduring Favorites

Citizen Papers, Wendell Berry
Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson
White Fragility, Robin Diangelo
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, Yuval Noah Harari
The Broken Ladder, Keith Payne
Give Us the Ballot, Ari Berman

Timeless Classics

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, James Agee
A People's History of the United States, Howard Zinn

Humor (LOL)

From 2020

The Best of Me, David Sedaris
Fleabag: The Scriptures, Phoebe Waller-Bridge
Chickens, Gin, and a Maine Friendship: The Correspondence of E.B. White and Edmund Ware Smith
Solutions and Other Problems, Allie Brosh
People Who Love to Eat Are Always the Best People, Julia Child
Is This Anything? Jerry Seinfeld

Enduring Favorites

Stiff, Mary Roach
Blue Latitudes, Tony Horwitz
Smoke Gets in Your Eyes, Caitlin Doughty
The Wordy Shipmates, Sarah Vowell



The Road to Little Dribbling/Notes from a Small Island, Bill Bryson
The Boys in the Boat, Michael James Brown

Timeless Classics

Letters of E.B. White
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Hunter S. Thompson

The Art of the Short Story From 2020

How to Be a Man: Stories, Nicole Krauss
Collected Stories, Shirley Hazzard, Brigitta Olubas, ed.
Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories, Jhumpa Lahiri, ed.
Fly Already, Etgar Keret
The Catastrophe and Other Stories, Dino Buzzati
One More Thing, B.J. Novack

Enduring Favorites

Complete Stories of William Trevor
Complete Stories of Grace Paley
Barefoot Dogs, Antonio Ruiz-Camacho
Dear Life, Alice Munro
The Tsar of Love and Techno, Anthony Marra
Our Story Begins, Tobias Wolff

Timeless Classics

The Dubliners, James Joyce,
The Complete Short Stories of Flannery O'Connor

Half a Foot of Poetry, Hundreds of Poets: Poetry and Anthologies New This Year From 2020

DMZ Colony, Don Mee Choi
The Best American Poetry 2020, David Lehman, Paisley, eds.
When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry, Joy Harjo, ed.

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African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song, Kevin Young, ed. ↑
A Thousand Mornings/Dog Songs/Blue Horses/Felicity, Mary Oliver

Enduring Favorites

The Essential W.S. Merwin, Michael Wiegers, ed.
Faithful and Virtuous Night, Louise Glück
Nightingale, Paisley Rekdal
My Lookalike at the Krishna Temple, Jacqueline Osherow
Wayward, Katharine Coles

Timeless Classics

W.H. Auden, Collected Poems, Edward Mendelson, ed.
The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson, Thomas H. Johnson, ed.

Native American Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry From 2020

The Night Watchman, Louise Erdrich
Crooked Hallelujah, Kelli Jo Ford
When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Joy Harjo
A History of Kindness, Linda Hogan
Black Sun, Rebecca Roanhorse
The Only Good Indians, Stephen Graham Jones

Enduring Favorites

There, There, Tommy Orange
Braiding Sweetgrass, Robin Kimmerer
Trail of Lightning, Rebecca Roanhorse
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian, Sherman Alexi
Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse, Louise Erdrich
Ceremony, Leslie Silk

Timeless Classics

House Made of Dawn, N. Scott Momaday
The Man Who Killed the Deer, Frank Waters

African American Fiction From 2020

Deacon King Kong, James McBride
The Vanishing Half, Brit Bennett
Memorial, Bryan Washington
The City We Became, N.K. Jemison
Luster, Raven Leilani
Transcendent Kingdom, Yaa Gyasi

Enduring Favorites

Red at the Bone, Jacqueline Woodson
Beloved, Toni Morrison
The Underground Railroad, Colson Whitehead
Sing, Unburied, Sing, Jesmyn Ward
Open City, Teju Cole
Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Timeless Classics

Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison
Their Eyes Were Watching God, Zora Neale Hurston

A Shelfful of Color: Literary Graphic Novels

Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi
Maus: A Survivor's Tale, Art Spiegelman
American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang
Stitches, David Small
March Trilogy, John Lewis
The Invention of Hugo Cabret, Brian Selznick

Books by the Square Foot

The Black Books, C.G. Jung, Sonu Shamdasani, ed. Martin Liebscher, John Peckm translators (1.8 feet x 9.7 inches, 1648 pages)

Food/Cooking From 2020

Modern Comfort Food, Ina Garten
Ottolenghi Flavor, Yotum Ottolenghi
7 Ways: Easy Ideas for Every Day of the Week, Jamie Oliver
A Good Bake: The Art and Science of Making Perfect Pastries, Cakes, Cookies, Pies, and Breads at Home, Melissa Weller, Carolyn Carreno ↓



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The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food, Marcus Samuelsson and Osayi Endolyn with recipes by Yewande Komolafe

Enduring Favorites

With a Measure of Grace/This Immeasurable Place, Blake Spalding, Jen Castle, et.al

The Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten

The Art of Mexican Cooking, Diana Kennedy

How to Cook Everything, Mark Bittman

The Smitten Kitchen, Deb Perelman

Essentials of Italian Cooking, Marcella Hazan

Timeless Classics

Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Julia Child

The Joy of Cooking, Irma Rombauer

Children's Picture Books

From 2020

I'm Sticking With You, Smriti Prasad-Halls

The Haunted Lake, P.J. Lynch

Outside In, Deborah Underwood

One Little Bag, Henry Cole

Prairie Days, Patricia MacLachlan

The Seed of Compassion, His Holiness the Dalai Lama

The Imaginaries: Little Scraps of Larger Stories, Emily Winfield Martin

In a Jar, Deborah Marcero

Enduring Favorites

Pete & Pickles, Berkeley Breathed

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild, Peter Brown

Bear Came Along, Richard T. Morris

Blue, Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Timeless Classic

Officer Buckle and Gloria, Peggy Rathman

Miss Rumphius, Barbara Cooney



Holiday Picture Books



The Polar Express, Chris Van Allburg

Red and Lulu, Matt Tavares

The Night Before Christmas, Clement C. Moore, illustrated by Loren Long

Christmas Day in the Morning, Pearl S. Buck, illustrated by Mark Buehner

The Shortest Day, Susan Cooper, illustrated by Carson Ellis

Stowaway in a Sleigh, C. Roger Mader

A Christmas Memory, Truman Capote, illustrated by Beth Peck

Informational Books

From 2020

Chicken Little, the Real and Totally True Tale, Sam Wedelich

I Talk Like a River, Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read, Rita Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora

How to Solve a Problem: The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion, Ashima Shiraishi, illustrated by Yao Xiao

You Matter, Christian Robinson

One Little Bag, Henry Cole

The Barnabus Project, the Fan Brothers

Science

Mammoth Science, David Macaulay

Your Place in the Universe, Jason Chin



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Being Frog, April Pulley Sayre
Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera, Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann

Biography From 2020

Hello Neighbor: The Kind and Caring World of Mr. Rogers, Matthew Cordell
The Fabled Life of Aesop, Ian Lendler, illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski
Nonsense! The Curious Story of Edward Gorey, Lori Mortense, illustrated by Chloe Bristol
A Thousand Glass Flowers: Marietta Barovier and the Invention of the Rosetta Bead, Evan Turk
On the Wings of the World: the Extraordinary Life of Emily Dickinson, Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander
Ruth Objects: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Doreen Rappaport

Our Country

The Mayflower, Libby Romero
You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks, Evan Turk

Poetry

16 Words: William Carlos Williams and "The Red Wheelbarrow," Lisa Rogers, illustrated by Chuck Groenink
The Undeclared, Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson
Everything Comes Next, Naomi Shihab Nye
The Poem Is a Nest, Irene Latham
The Lost Spells, Robert Macfarlane, illustrated by Jackie Morris
The List of Things That Will Not Change, Rebecca Stead

Middle Readers From 2020

One Time, Sharon Creech
Becoming Muhammad Ali, James Patterson, Kwame Alexander
Race to the Sun, Rebecca Roanhorse
The One and Only Bob, Katherine Applegate
Mañanaland, Pam Muñoz Ryan
Prairie Lotus, Linda Sue Parks
Echo Mountain, Linda Wolk
The Canyon's Edge, Dusti Bowling
The Night Diary, Veera Hiranandani



Enduring Favorites

Scary Stories for Young Foxes, Christian McKay Heidicker
Gabi Break the Universe, Carlos Hernandez
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise, Dan Gemeinhart
The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Kelly Barnhill
The Tale of Despereaux, Kate DiCamillo

Timeless Classics

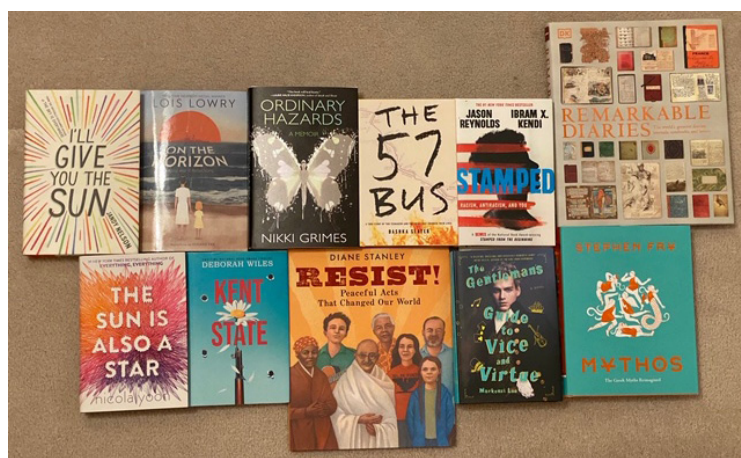
The Giver, Lois Lowry
The Phantom Tollbooth, Norton Juster
The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin

Young Adult From 2020

On the Horizon, Lois Lowry
Ordinary Horizons, Nikki Grimes
Stamped, Ibram X. Kendi
Remarkable Diaries, DK
Kent State, Deborah Wiles
Resist, Diane Stanley

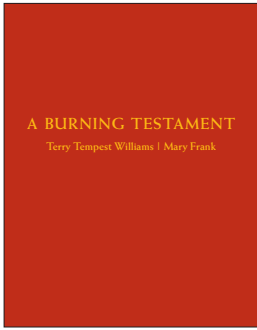
Enduring Favorites

The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue, Mackenzi Lee
Mythos, Stephen Fry
The Sun Is Also a Star, Nicola Yoon
The 57 Bus, Dashka Slater
I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson



Three by Terry Tempest Williams in Late 2020!

A Burning Testament



A Burning Testament is an eloquent and anguished paean to the conflagration of our wilderness—to the firestorms that are burning our forests and simultaneously incinerating

the central conceit of our existence: that we are at the heart of everything. The searing heat of Mary Frank's art, licking flame alongside the fiery text, glowing embers, as the words turn from grief to restoration, mourning to hope, melds art and text into an incandescent and unforgettable volume, slender, hand-sewn, exquisite.

– Betsy Burton, Eakins Press, \$10



"We cannot breathe. This is our mantra in America now. We cannot breathe because of the smoke. We cannot breathe because of a virus that has entered our homes. We cannot breathe because of police brutality and too many black bodies dead on the streets. We cannot breathe because we are holding our breath for the people and places we love."



"Grief is love. How can we hold this grief without holding each other?"



Erosion: Essays of Undoing

New in Paper (with a new chapter)



Once in a great while a book strips you to the marrow. *Erosion* did this to me. Undid me completely. I've been—we've all been—desperate these past few years, forced by unavoidable circumstance to look squarely at

the political and environmental landscapes of our earth and to regard them from new angles. The metaphors for doing so in *Erosion* are as rich and varied as the earth she writes of, chief among them the erosion of all we know. Her new chapter in the paperback edition, the perfect coda for the book, seems to embrace its entirety from a different metaphoric (or perhaps scientific is a better term) perspective, the earth as a living breathing presence. Enough said, except that, as in all of her work, Terry Tempest Williams startles and astonishes, frightening us with truth, yet giving us hope. She certainly did so in this new paperback edition of *Erosion*. – Betsy Burton, Picador \$18

The Moon Is Behind Us



The Moon Is Behind Us, the day-by-day responses of Terry Tempest Williams to the miraculous photographs of Fazal Sheikh, became a dialogue and an exploration in 2020 as COVID overtook both

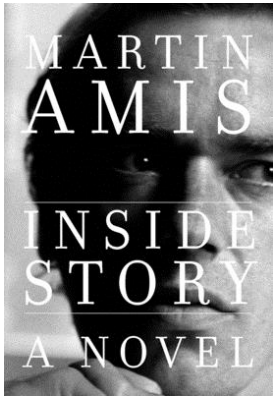
their lives. As each went deeper into art, exchanging visions, broadening perspectives, both artists achieved startling clarity, and also vulnerability, honesty. Worldwide and as deep as the human soul, the photographs of Fazal Sheikh and the often surprising but always extraordinary reactions to them by Terry Tempest Williams are a miracle to behold and an unforgettable collaboration. – Betsy Burton, Steidl Publishing, \$TBA



"Is this what childhood is—a series of moments when the world lights up and invites you in?"



"This man. A landscape. In Pakistan, Afghanistan? Does he feel this way, too? What has he seen, what does he carry, hidden, untold? Do we ever really know another? And here is something I wonder about, does everyone on earth hold a secret?"



***Inside Story*, Martin Amis**

This is a “biographical novel” like none other, one that places its protagonist, Martin Amis, squarely in the lives of his longtime friends and colleagues, his wives and lovers, not to mention the multitude of writers whose names he relishes dropping. Fond, ironic, self-revelatory, wildly erudite on the page, particularly on the fine art of writing, he (be he character and/or author), early on instructs the reader on three things to be avoided by novelists at all costs: 1. dreams (who

doesn’t hate encountering dreams in novels?), 2. sex (too often tiresome rather than titillating), and 3. religion (how can such a fractured subject be universal?). Only to break rule 2, the one regarding sex, almost immediately. And then again. And yet again (in the end he ignores all three). The next thing we know he’s quoting Forester about the difference between story and plot, plunging on to trace the shape of the novel through history, its flight from social realism to experimental to post-modern and back to social realism—a form he, of course, is in the midst of breaking apart with *Inside Story*. He ranges from satiric to hilarious to deadly serious as he recounts his personal and professional past, recreating (or inventing?) endless conversations with Saul Bellow whom he idolizes, Philip Larkin whose poetry he quotes often, Hitch (Christopher Hitchens) whom he adores, and every author who has achieved fame in the past decades (all of whom he seems to have known), not to mention his wives, his family, the reader, himself. Winding his tales back through time and forward to the present, then back again, he details the rules of writing as if by so doing he could decode his own life, his old age, death itself. Immensely enjoyable to read, this is, for anyone interested in the writers of his time, in the art and craft of writing—or of reading—a book to fall madly in love with. I know I did. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$28.95

***Missionaries*, Phil Klay**

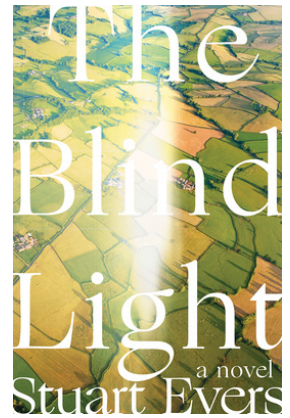
Klay, who was awarded the National Book Award for his short story collection *Deployment*, returns with a gritty modern-day tale of four individuals and their eventual, fatal entanglement in modern warfare. Mason, a U.S. Army Special Forces medic, and Lisette, a foreign correspondent, have emerged from their post 9-11 experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq. Juan Pablo, Mason’s counterpart in the Colombian officer corps and Abel, a lieutenant in a Colombian militia which controls territory in a rural region on the Venezuelan border, complete the foursome. When their lives intertwine, the result is calamitous in ways that will echo across the planet. Klay is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and speaks with personal authority to the events he describes. – Sue Fleming, Penguin, \$28



***The Blind Light*, Stuart Evers**

“Without fear, there is only chaos.” Here in America most of us have never lived in sustained fear of a nuclear attack. But for the British, this fear made them, over generations, ultimately “the most point-

less soldiers in history.” In a fascinating, beautifully structured novel, Evers details the pressures on two families, the Moores and the Carters, from 1959 to the present. Drummond Moore and James Carter—one working class, the other privileged—form a close bond at Doom Town, a training center simulating the aftermath (a melted shoe, a dead baby dummy) of an atomic blast. As years pass, they watch with horror the Cuban Missile Crisis, industrial strikes, a Russian atomic test above ground. With each threat, the need to protect their families grows ever more consuming: “You know it’s coming. Let’s make plans” says Carter. Alas, their secret pact has devastating personal effects and illustrates the nation’s obsession as well: “a million contingencies planned, and none ever arose.” Told through the well-crafted points of view of Drum, his wife Gwen, his son Nate, and daughter Anneka, this brilliant, affecting novel captures both a family and a nation over a span of 60 years. A must-read, one of the best I’ve encountered! – Carol Kranes, Norton, \$27.95



***A Lover’s Discourse*, Xiaolu Guo**



Guo’s new novel grounds itself in Roland Barthes’ own book by the same name. But where Barthes’ speaker, a man, speaks to the lover, perhaps another man, perhaps his mother, perhaps only to himself, Guo’s speaker is a woman in direct conversation with both herself—as a lover of the man who becomes her husband and as the mother (no less a lover) of the child who becomes their daughter—and an entirely new world around her. She has come from China to pursue graduate study

in London. On her own, she moves through London’s streets reading billboards and road signs, eavesdropping on busses, in markets and pubs. With her lover, she moves through conversations ranging from philosophy and history to literature and art. And everywhere the speaker encounters her own misreads, she encounters those of others as well: Londoners’ confusion over Brexit, a professor’s misunderstanding of Chinese culture, her lover’s confusing allegiances to country and family, her own evolving roles, all push her to a more nuanced understanding of herself and “other”—be it gender, language, culture, place, or role. A beautiful and timely read from the critically acclaimed novelist, memoirist, documentarian, filmmaker, and artist. – Michelle Macfarlane, Grove, \$26.99

***The Harpy*, Megan Hunter**

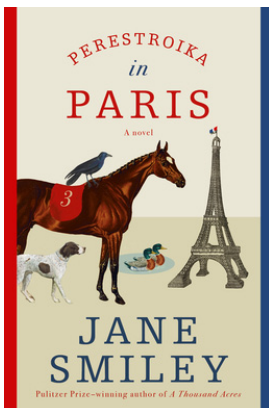
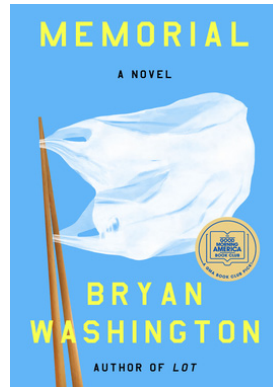
What to do? You are a woman, still beautiful, still young, married to a fellow academic. You have not quite finished your Ph.D. He has. You have no time. Money is tight. You are the mother of two small boys. The home you keep is rented. You cook and clean, chauffeur and socialize. Your husband comes home in time for dinner, occasionally not, but always in time to tuck the boys in bed. There is love, enough. This is *The Harpy*’s opening chapter, almost. We open instead to a sentence that begins: “It was the last time.” The last time



for what? The reader is left to wonder, but not to know conclusively, until the novel's end. Two epigraphs set the scene for what happens in between—the first, from *The Laugh of the Medusa* by Hélène Cixous: “Who...has not accused herself of being a monster?” and the second, Virgil's description of harpies in *The Aeneid*. Though fiction, *The Harpy* is a must-read for anyone who has stood in, or seen someone—a mother, a sister, a daughter, a beloved friend—standing in, these age-old shoes. – Michelle Macfarlane, Grove, \$26

Memorial, Bryan Washington

Washington (*Lot*) begins his narrative with a separation. Benson and Mike have been living together in Houston, trying to make a fraught relationship work. Mike, a chef, is of Japanese heritage while Benson, Black and native to Houston, works with special-needs children. The push-pull of their mutual attraction and their failure to understand one another grow increasingly painful; when Mike, who is expecting a visit from his mother, hears that his father is dying, he flies off to Japan leaving Benson to cope with his aging yet indomitable mother. The surprising affection, increasing over time, between Benson and this steely-eyed woman, along with Mike's growing acceptance of his father, lie at the heart of the novel—sometimes a source of humor, ever eye-opening. As the book seesaws between past and present and between the points of view of the two young men, its graphic sex serves to underline the anguish of their fracturing love. A reviewer, Katie Kitmura, called it “tender like a bruise.” An apt description. – Betsy Burton, Riverhead, \$27



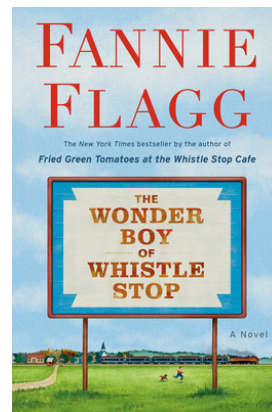
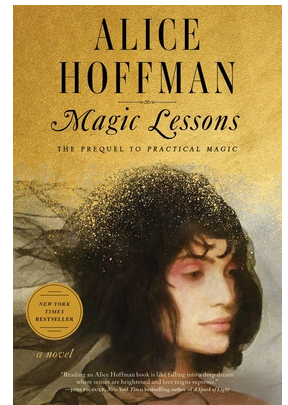
Perestroika in Paris, Jane Smiley

This charming, poignant novel begins when beautiful racehorse Perestroika, called Paras, nudges her way out of the racetrack and, being a very curious filly, begins exploring. She soon meets the street-smart, stray pointer, Frida, who teaches this naive thoroughbred a thing or two about remaining unseen. The clever duo attracts quite the cast of characters, including a pompous raven, the mallards Sid and Nancy, and finally a young boy, Etienne, who still believes in magic. As

the cold weather creeps in and Paras becomes harder and harder to hide, Etienne must count on his creativity and the secluded world he lives in to keep his friends together. Truly one of the sweetest novels I have read in years and a perfect addition to any Christmas package. – Anne Louise Brings, Knopf, \$26.95

Magic Lessons, Alice Hoffman

“What was a witch if not a woman with wisdom and talent?” This cautionary tale begins with an abandoned baby discovered by her adoptive mother in the 1600s in a rural England snowfield. Possessing a “gift,” the adoptee, Maria Owens, carries the Owens bloodline to prominence during the Salem witch trials. Her story forms the heart of *Magic Lessons*. Fascinating, Hoffman's masterful novel is complete with curses and charms, herbal healings, witches' familiars, betrayals and love, hangings and violent deaths. Maria is warned to “Always love someone who will love you back.” But she falls in love with John Hathorne (who declares his love for her then leaves). She bears his child, follows him to Salem, Massachusetts, vows never to fall in love again, and then invokes the curse that will haunt her family and shape her destiny. An intimate and detailed view of the persecutions and sacrifices women, then and now, endure for love! – Carol Kranes, Simon & Schuster, \$27.99



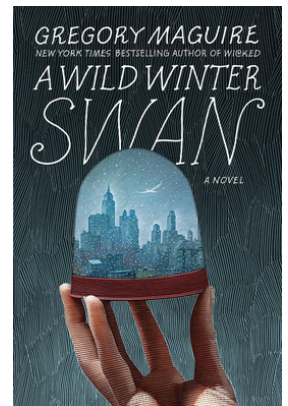
The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop, Fannie Flagg

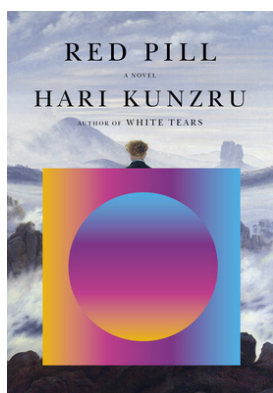
This is a book for those who grew up in small-town America when the railway was a fact of life and the local diner was a meeting place for the ‘ins’ and ‘outs’ of the county. Flagg creates “characters” whose lives intersect from birth to death. The ‘wonder boy’ of the title is raised in Whistle Stop, and although he does eventually leave, the town is always a part of his life. The local gossip sheet reports on the townspeople—even after the town no

longer exists, and their stories gradually turn to myth in the minds of their sons and daughters. Flagg's is a tale of transition and longing for home in which the characters and landscape come alive on the page and the episodes fly by as the reader wonders just how she will tie up the loose ends...which she does beautifully. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Random House, \$28

A Wild Winter Swan, Gregory Maguire

In this retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's “The Wild Swans,” set in 1960's New York, Laura has been sent to live with her paternal grandparents. Her father and older brother are dead and her mother, unable to handle the grief of those deaths, is in and out of mental institutions. The trials and tribulations of life with elderly Italian immigrant grandparents eventually work themselves out as she realizes their love for her, however inadequately expressed, is real. But is her visitation by the one-winged Swan Boy real as well? Or is his appearance in the midst of Christmas Eve preparations the product of an overly active imagination? A wonderful story and the perfect gift for total escape over the holidays. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Morrow, \$27.99





Red Pill, Hari Kunzru

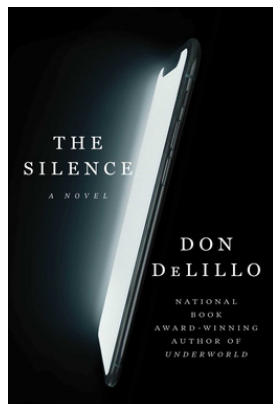
Red pill, noun or verb, refers to a process causing the dramatic transformation of someone's perspective—introducing them to a new and typically disturbing understanding of the true nature of a particular situation. Kunzru's narrator has received a writing fellowship and travelled from Brooklyn to Berlin for a much-needed retreat. Does what he encounters at the writers' residence somehow correspond to the rabbit hole of violence he has taken to

watching obsessively on the TV crime show "Blue Lives"? He thinks so. And so he sets out to prove it. Ending as this novel does, at the end of the night of the 2016 election at a party in New York where friends have gathered to watch returns and celebrate Clinton's victory, Kunzru leaves the reader to wonder if, in following the protagonist on his own wild ride, we haven't also swallowed the red pill.

—Michelle Macfarlane, Knopf, \$27.95

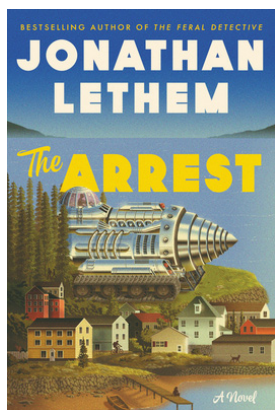
The Silence, Don DeLillo

A couple en route from Paris dine in the same automated airplane environment we all know, chatting and ignoring their screens. Screens that suddenly go blank as their plane begins to waver, dive. Meanwhile three people in a high-rise apartment have gathered to watch the 2022 Super Bowl: Max, a hard-drinking man completely absorbed by the world of the TV; his wife; and her student. Halftime nears and their screen too, wavers, goes blank. The couple they have been awaiting finally arrives, having barely survived their flight, and Max leaves, returning to report merely that the world is dark but otherwise unchanged. Except, that is, for the lack of light—screens blank not just on TVs but on all computers. Even phones. No connections remain that aren't human, face-to-face. What does happen when this world, increasingly hyper-connected, abruptly no longer is? Is our existence suddenly meaningless? Such is the stuff of this witty, slim but potent apocalyptic novel. —Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$22



The Arrest, Jonathan Lethem

Opening with an ominous tone—"You might not see something coming until it is upon you"—*The Arrest* again asks us what might happen when much of what we take for granted, such as cars, guns, computers, cell phones, and airplanes, quits working? Throughout its 79 chapters (read "choppy"), *The Arrest* posits this futuristic situation, experienced though its main character Sandy Duplessis (Journeyman) and his sister Maddy. Once a successful screenwriter in Hollywood, Sandy finds himself—post arrest—in rural Maine delivering home-raised meats to his neighbors. How all survive makes for some serious, often imaginative thinking. Lethem is a skillful writer,



using effective allusions and metaphors, but often his characters are names-only, too often unsympathetic. Nonetheless, enjoyable post-apocalyptic storytelling and food for much thought! —Carol Kranes, Ecco, \$27.99

The Devil and the Dark Water, Stuart Turton

Turton, bestselling author of *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*, brings us his newest novel in fabulous form. As he tells us in his afterword, this is NOT a "boat book," although most of the action takes place on an Indiaman Galleon. NOT historical fiction, this is fictitious and takes place in the mid-17th century. This IS a story of greed and murder, suspicion and superstition, storms and ghost ships, demons, heroes, beautiful clever heroines, a devil named Old Tom, sailors and soldiers with not enough provisions all crammed together for an eight-month voyage while voices whisper in the dark, "What do you yearn for?" There are many twists and turns and more than a few red herrings in this horrific and ghostly tale, a perfect fireside read on a cold winter's night. —Anne Stewart Mark, Sourcebooks Landmark, \$26.99



The Once and Future Witches, Alix E. Harrow

In Harrow's alternative world, post-Civil War Massachusetts, women look to "the Sisters Grimm," "Charlotte Perrault" and "Andrea Lang," hopeful that buried within old fairytales and rhymes they might rediscover the lost magic once wielded by the "Maiden, Mother and Crone." I am seduced by the idea that three sisters, reunited by the words of an innocent chant, might find that "place where magic is still real, where women and their words have



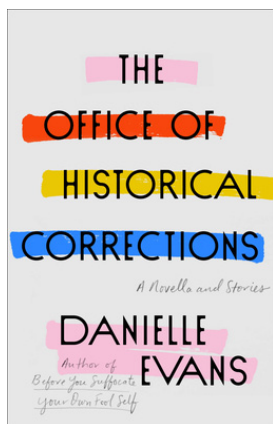
power." An aged crone myself, I revel in thinking such a place might exist, with women willing to battle the hegemony of our age. This novel allows me to abandon reality and, for a moment, celebrate the possibilities of witchcraft. —Becky Thomas, Redhook, \$28

Black Sun, Rebecca Roanhorse

A world-building fantasy set in ancient Meso-America, this story has something for everyone: female empowerment, gender nonconformity, tribal politics. Meet Xiala, who can use her voice to calm or to drive someone crazy. As she captains her ship toward the ancient city of Tova, there are others on approach as well, all timed to arrive for the Winter Solstice. Her single passenger is a mystery to her but fate has its own story, and Xiala will learn soon enough what her precious cargo means. This is the first in a planned trilogy and it's wildly entertaining! —Anne Holman, Gallery/Saga Press, \$27.99



FICTION



The Office of Historical Corrections, Danielle Evans

“Do they know I’m human yet?” is the reverberating question haunting each of these short stories, although it is only explicitly asked in the titular novella. Throughout, the universal experiences of grief and love and lust are silhouetted against our particularly American truths and American history, both ancient and modern. Exploring who gets to tell the truth and why people don’t and what it costs them if they do, Evans has written an incredibly timely and incredibly neces-

sary collection. – Michaela Ridings, Riverhead Books, \$27

To Be a Man, Nicole Krauss

Who these days (including, and especially, men) does not wonder what it is “to be a man”? How does a father, a daughter, a wife, a husband, or especially a mother, answer? For Krauss, there is no clear answer. No ideal. Perhaps only demonstrations of “how,” “what,” “when,” and “where” “to be a man.” On the day the speaker of Krauss’ first story sees “how she [her daughter] looked back at the man in the business suit who stood across the subway car from her, burning a hole through her [daughter] with his eye,” she also sees how “her [daughter’s] stare [back] was a challenge.” This scene reminds her of Soraya, a close friend in adolescence. A mother now, she experiences a rush of old, tangled emotions surrounding her profound fear for and envy of any young woman square in the middle of a man’s sights. The speaker in Krauss’ second story, Brodman, is an old man who stands—“heels dug into tar paper, 23 floors above 110th Street, cradling his newborn grandson”—wondering how he got there. So too does the reader. Through these and each of her other characters, Krauss’ stories give the only answers possible—singular perspectives, beautifully wrought—for what it is to be a man.

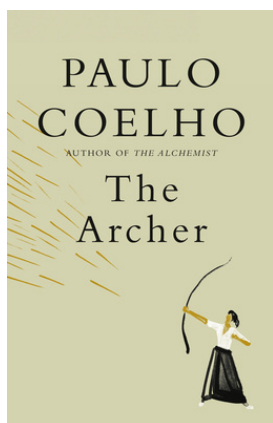
– Michelle Macfarlane, Harper, \$26.99



The Archer, Paulo Coelho

Looking for a relief from prolonged mayhem? Perhaps an adult picture book is due. If so, enter the world of Coelho’s new work interspersed with images by the artist Christoph Niemann. Both are lovely. The spare beauty of each underscores the simplicity of a life worth aiming for—a simplicity Coelho narrates in his story (not poetry per se but poetic, certainly) of a young man who seeks wisdom from the carpenter of his small village who he discovers is also a master archer.

– Michelle Macfarlane, Knopf, \$21

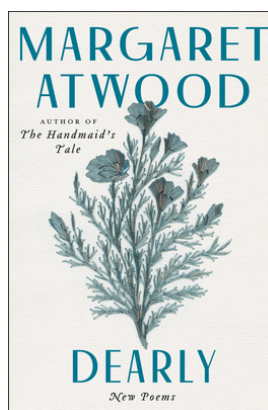
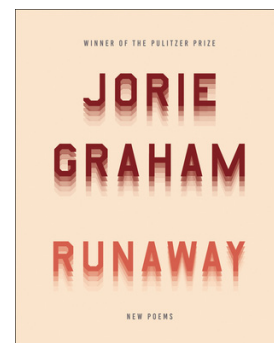


POETRY

Runaway, Jorie Graham

Herein is a world of loss. Hedonism has given way to the slow quickness of years passing. Beauty stares at its unrecognizable face in the same old mirror. Loved ones have gone—parents, children, friends and lovers—all are somewhere else. And where a kind of closure might stand in the stead of youth’s possibility, the speaker explores how our physical world has itself run away. How as earth’s oceans warm and rise, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornados, and fires too arise and rage in quick, unrelenting succession, and people, millions displaced, roam without hope for return to a home, while others—unseeing, unknowing, uncaring, undoing—stand by. Graham’s new poems explore a world “runaway” from all of us.

– Michelle Macfarlane, Ecco, \$33.50



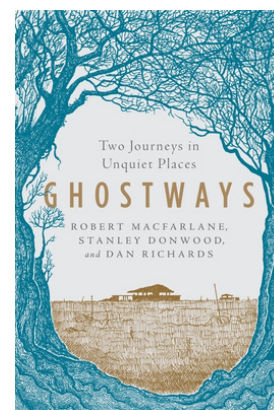
Dearly, Margaret Atwood

“Dear Readers—” Atwood writes on the page that precedes even her book’s title—a direct address wherein she describes for us the places from which these poems have emerged. “I’d let [these] handwritten poems accumulate in a drawer”—“ink, pencil, ballpoint...on various kinds of paper...whatever came to hand.” Indeed, turn the page and on its verso we see the heavy texture of handmade paper, the dotted blue lines a guide to what is handwritten, and finally the black ink

of Atwood’s poem, “Passports.” We apprehend her partially unreadable scrawl with arrows drawn from words added above and below the lines pointing to where they go. Here and there, she has scribbled darkly to obscure what she’s cut. So goes the arduous work of Atwood’s lifetime. She shares this bit of writing by hand with us and, at the book’s end, reminds us of how, as with blackberries, “the best ones grow in the shadow.” In ***Dearly*** we glimpse a portion of this master writer’s travail. – Michelle Macfarlane, Ecco, \$27.99

Ghostways, Robert Macfarlane, Stanley Donwood, Dan Richards

In a brilliant collaboration, two authors and an artist take us to the far reaches of England where seclusion is the norm and haunting landscapes come alive as though they were gods themselves. Two long-form poems, “Holloway” and “Ness,” transport the reader to the very edges of the English isle where green mists dominate and myths come alive. Punctuated throughout by Donwood’s stark and eerie illustrations, these poems personify and glorify two strange landscapes with penetrating insight, beauty and mystery. – Anne Louise Brings, \$15.95





***A Promised Land*, Barack Obama**

Beginning at the West Colonnade of the White House, along which he walked most days for eight years, President Obama loops us back into his childhood, into courtship, into community organizing and his runs for office, tracking as he does so not only Michelle's doubts and questions but also his own. His race against John McCain, which didn't look easy; the insights he gleaned about the direction our country might be moving in from watching the startling enthusi-

asm engendered by Sarah Palin; his ultimate victory, so symbolically world-shaking, world-shaping; and the transition period (far different than Joe Biden's today) followed by the domestic adjustments he and Michelle had to forge are an easy mix of the personal and the political, making the tale of Obama's rise to power both absorbing and entertaining. But once he takes on the mantle of the presidency, aside from continued forays into his personal life, our 44th president winds us through the intricacies involved in maintaining political power: from artful diplomacy to the firing of General Stanley McChrystal; from confronting viral epidemics and cascading financial disaster to the passing of the ACA; from intractable political opposition at home to the animus of, among others, Vladimir Putin and Osama bin Laden. My attention was rapt as I viewed through this visionary, ever curious, hugely intelligent man's eyes America's politics, its economics, its warring cultures, its place in the world (or, lately, lack thereof), its racial history—and the promise it still represents to so many of us. – Betsy Burton, Crown, \$45

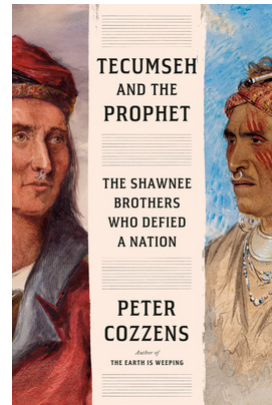
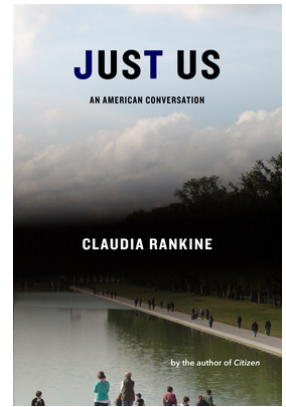
***Long Time Coming*, Michael Eric Dyson**

Framed as letters to Black men and women who have been shot and killed by police, Dyson reveals the rage and sorrow that the African American community has faced since the first slaves were brought to these shores in the 1600s. Emmett Till, a child murdered in Mississippi; Elijah McClain, gunned down in Aurora, Colorado; George Floyd, whose death at the hands of police ignited a summer of protests; Eric Garner, again killed by police as he begged for his life; and Breonna Taylor who was shot down in her own bed—these are only a fraction of the names of African Americans who have lost their lives at the hands of police. Dyson's impassioned cry for justice is eloquent and shattering. To be the mother of a Black child, especially a male Black child, is to be in constant fear that the most innocent of actions can be misconstrued and the consequences might mean death. This is a devastating book, but one vital to the reconciliation of race relations in the U.S. – Barbara Hoagland, St. Martin's, \$25.99

***Just Us*, Claudia Rankine**

In her newest work, Rankine writes: "I ask questions like I know how / in the loneliness of my questioning." This book completes her groundbreaking trilogy. And, like *Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight* and *Citizen*, *Just Us* exceeds categories of genre. I have looked for

and found it shelved (in this bookshop) under literary nonfiction, memoir/biography, history, and of course, poetry. *Just Us* is all of these, and more. It is meticulously, even heavily, documented, and yet I read it with the delight of reading through a true artist's book. Its brilliant design and content work together beautifully, but I could not read it quickly. For, most importantly, Rankine's book speaks to our gravest challenges—as individuals, as a country. It asks, she asks, of white Americans: Can we see who we are? Can we see what we have done? Can we change? Do we want to? – Michelle Macfarlane, Graywolf, \$30

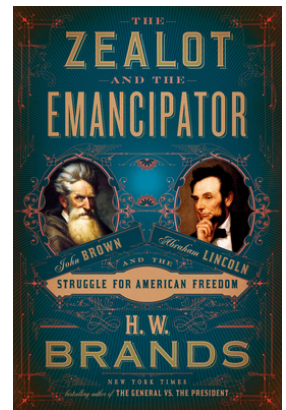


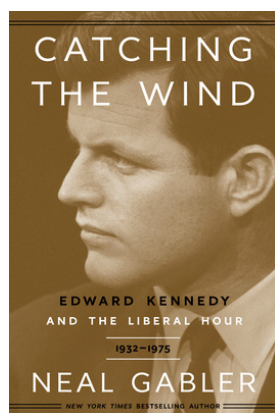
***Tecumseh and the Prophet: The Shawnee Brothers Who Defied a Nation*, Peter Cozzens**

The early 1800s brought friction and warfare to the Old Northwest as American settlers moved onto land that had traditionally been hunting grounds for many tribes. The collision of British and American forces culminated in the War of 1812, and, during this turbulent time, two Shawnee brothers, Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa built a coalition of tribes, a feat not matched in Native American history. The tale of their exploits is central to history, not only due to the depredations inflicted on them, but also because it exemplifies the internal workings of the tribes living during this time. Once again, Cozzens, author of the brilliant *The Earth Is Weeping*, reveals the pivotal part of an important conflict that has often been overlooked by history. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, \$35

***The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom*, H.W. Brands**

Two men, each of whom abhorred slavery, approached its abolition in opposing ways. John Brown felt that God had entrusted him with the right to deliver the Blacks from slavery by whatever means possible. Lincoln, on the other hand, was a moderate in all things, including the desire to end slavery. He looked for a temperate end, one that would inevitably be a long time coming. Brands has done a superb job of explaining the two clashing viewpoints which inevitably led to the War Between the States. Violence overcame moderation when Brown and his men attacked Harper's Ferry, Virginia, providing a glimpse of the horrors that would rip the country apart. – Barbara Hoagland, Doubleday, \$30





Catching the Wind: Edward Kennedy and the Liberal Hour, 1932-1975,
Neal Gabler

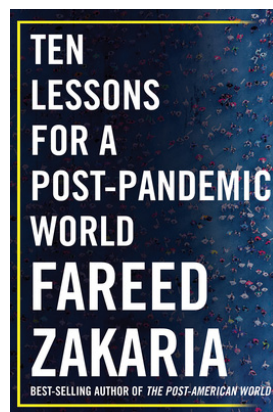
In this, the first of a two-volume set, the life and times of Edward Kennedy are intimately examined. From his birth as the ninth and last child of Joseph and Rose Kennedy, his young years were overshadowed by his older brothers. Within the family Teddy was perceived as not quite as brilliant or as dynamic as Joseph Jr., Jack or Robert. Their fate and the ensuing hardships combined to ultimately form

the man who would become one of the Senate's most influential legislators. His struggle to establish a place not only in his family but also in the world is intensively scrutinized in this in-depth biography.
– Barbara Hoagland, Crown, \$40

Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World,
Fareed Zakaria

Framed through 10 “lessons,” Zakaria delivers a wide-ranging history of pandemics and how they changed society—some for the good and some not. From the Black Plague of the 1300s to COVID-19 today, such pandemics have forced societies to change. He enumerates the tools we must use, worldwide, including nuclear technology, to insure our viability. Society as we know it has the potential to dramatically change in the process. How we absorb such changes will determine the success or failure of our democratic society. His analysis, as usual for Zakaria, is thoughtful and reflective. This is a must-read—a timely one!

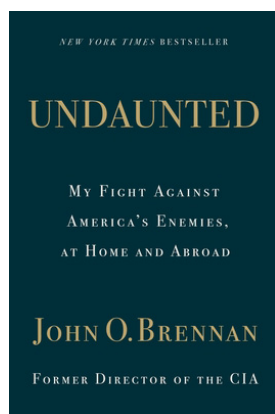
– Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$26.96



Undaunted: My Fight Against America's Enemies, at Home and Abroad,
John O. Brennan

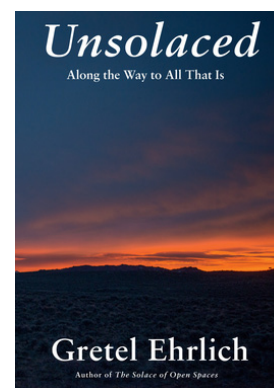
Brennan, former director of the CIA, reveals not only his personal history but also that of the secretive organization he headed. His story ranges from his youth in the suburbs of New Jersey and his travels through the Middle East as a young man to his introduction to the CIA, where he ultimately became one of the most powerful people in American intelligence. Working for numerous presidents, he was

front and center in the nation's national security decisions, and he gives the reader an insider's look at the tensions and crises that faced the nation. Unstinting in his examination of crucial moments in our recent history, he discusses the failures, both personal and within the workings of the U.S. intelligence community. His reflections are a valuable part of history and sure to be examined closely by future intelligence professionals.
– Barbara Hoagland, St. Martin, \$30



Unsolaced, Gretel Ehrlich

This turbulent and raw memoir spans decades of Ehrlich's life from her time “cowboying” in a small Wyoming town to ranching off the coast of California, from observing the last freeze of the Bering Strait to preventing desertification in Africa. Her insights into the destructive forces of climate change are as devastating and graphic as they are moving. Her own life experiences and personal relationships mirror the breakage of our environment and illuminate the strength of this extraordinary writer. For any fans of Rebecca Solnit, Terry Tempest Williams, or Ellen Meloy, this book will be a must-read.
– Anne Louise Brings, Pantheon, \$26.95



World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments,
Aimee Nezhukumatathil

This Chicago-born daughter of a Filipina mother and South Indian father structures her unique memoir around a series of short essays, each detailing her individual connection with plant, animal or insect life. The author recounts her quest to track down Corpse Flowers in bloom and how she used her obsession with the smelly inflorescence to weed out unsuitable boyfriends (and meet her husband).

She describes being the new girl in high school as her “cephalopod year,” and takes as her totem the vampire squid, envious of its ability to disappear into “a luminescent cloud of mucus.” After a year studying the whale shark, the author dons snorkel gear and enters the six-million-gallon tank at the Georgia Aquarium. Her encounter with the creature leaves her weeping. “I was simply unprepared to submit myself so completely to nature.”
– Becky Thomas, Milkweed, \$25

Air Mail: Letters of Politics, Pandemics, and Place, Pam Houston & Amy Irvine

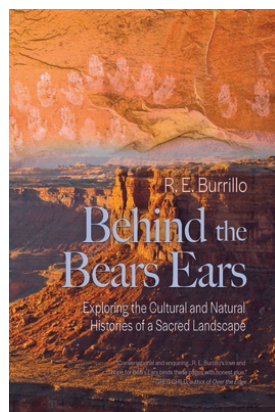
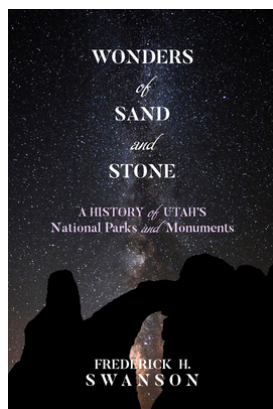
One of the not-so-bad outcomes of our current pandemic is the return to letter writing that had, with the advent of phones and email, become a thing of the past in many circles. In *Air Mail*, Houston & Irvine engage in a back-and-forth friendship via correspondence, and no subject is off limits. It won't come as a surprise to anyone who loves these two women that their discussions feature politics and the environment heavily, but it's also filled with a fair share of humor. Plan to tuck this one into your favorite nature lover's stocking this holiday season.
– Anne Holman, Torrey House Press, \$15.95



NONFICTION IN PAPER

Wonders of Sand and Stone: A History of Utah's National Parks and Monuments, Frederick H. Swanson

Judging from this comprehensive, unflinching chronicle of Utah's national parks and monuments, our state's political, cultural and environmental past is firmly anchored to all 13 of them—although it's a marvel we've created or preserved any, with the diversity of stakeholders involved and their conflicting opinions. What amazing stories Swanson chronicles! Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears comprise Swanson's final chapters. Established by Presidents Clinton and Obama, then reduced and realigned by President Trump, their history may not be set in stone. Knowing the history surrounding these two 21st century parks might just jumpstart our participation in deciding their futures. – Becky Thomas, University of Utah Press, \$59.95/\$34.95 in paper



Behind the Bears Ears: Exploring the Cultural and Natural Histories of a Sacred Landscape, R.E. Burrillo

Burrillo is an archaeologist and a conservation advocate who takes an unusual tack in his study and exploration of the area around Bears Ears, an area of Utah which he hiked long before the rest of the world “discovered” it. In a personal journey of discovery, he shows us Bears Ears through the narratives of the ancient peoples who first came to live in this remote, beautiful area, giving us a different

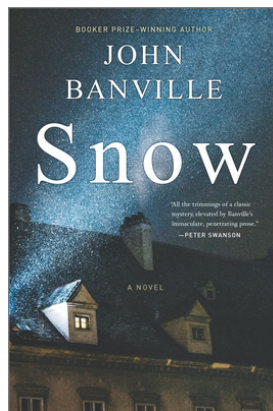
perspective on land that has become a battleground between conservationists and those who seek to “develop” this remote place for the benefit of a few. An important book, especially for this time.

– Jan Sloan Tempest, Torrey House Press, \$19.95

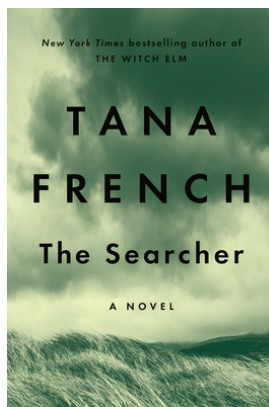
MYSTERY/THRILLER

Snow, John Banville

Inspector St. John (pronounced Sinjun) Strafford wanders the winter landscape surrounding Ballyglass House after a body is discovered in the library. Shades of Agatha Christie—except that Strafford is no Poirot, and 1957 Ireland is far from Dame Agatha's pastoral England. A lonely man who observes life from the sidelines, audience rather than player (as he himself observes), Strafford is from the same upper reaches of Protestant society as are the far grander inhabitants of Ballyglass. He wonders why the victim, a Catholic priest, has long been a familiar of the house and, even more to the point, what he has done to deserve the bizarre post-death injuries he has suffered. So our detective roams the great house, the surrounding countryside, observing, making



mental notes, engaging in awkward conversation, blundering into even more awkward situations, always accruing facts—or perhaps story would be a better word since he gradually builds a narrative of the lives involved in the mystery he's trying to solve. Working more by instinct than process, he pieces together fragments from conversations, from revelatory behavior to create a plausible outline of past and present. As that outline comes into ever sharper focus, it also darkens in a dramatic way as Banville's brilliant language burrows its way into the narrative and the reader's psyche, somehow preparing us for what turns out to be the secret heart of the tale—and ample reason for murder. – Betsy Burton, Hanover Square, \$27.99



The Searcher, Tana French

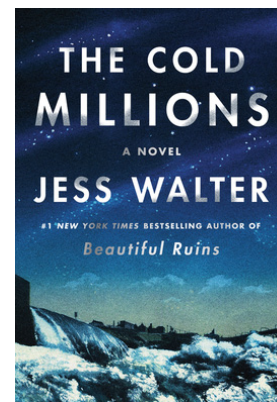
Not long after Cal Hooper moves to a picturesque village in the west of Ireland he gets a visitor. A young kid, obviously local. Though he doesn't know the boy, the kid knows about him; the village telegraph has seen to that. An incomer, especially an American, is going to raise some eyebrows, and Cal's a divorced ex-cop. The kid wants help finding a runaway sibling and Cal agrees to poke around but this new community is tight-knit and tugging on one string could unravel his new

life before it even begins. – Paula Longhurst, Viking, \$27

The Cold Millions, Jess Walter

Spokane, Washington, in the early 1900s teemed with mobs of IWW (Industrial Workers of the World), police orders to “disperse,” vaudeville “spectacles of indecency,” and enough mystery, murder and mayhem to satisfy any blood-hungry reader. At the heart of this story are brothers Gig and Rye Dolan: “They flew and floated...job to job, week to week, farm to farm,” finally ending up in Spokane, the base for 5,000 such migratory workers. Here they meet their women:

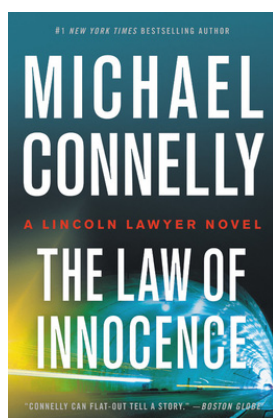
Ursula the Great, who performs with a live cougar, and the “redoubtable, estimable, formidable” Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, a 19-year-old activist who draws them into the union movement. With stunning, imaginative language, Walter depicts both sympathetic and abhorrent characters who tell their stories in authentic first person narratives. The novel's title refers to “All people, except this rich cream, living and scraping and fighting and dying, and for what, nothing, the cold millions with no chance in this world.” Against a back-drop of early 20th century America, *The Cold Millions* presents a sweeping, compelling portrait of intimate brotherhood, love, sacrifice and betrayal that captivates the reader to its very end. – Carol Kranes, HarperCollins, \$28.99



The Law of Innocence, Michael Connelly

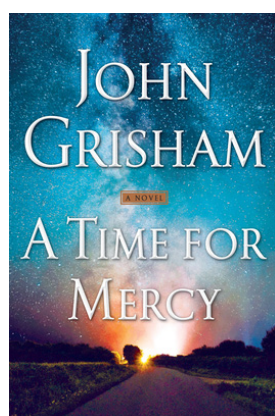
Connelly's new courtroom thriller stars Mickey Haller of Lincoln Lawyer fame and turns on the fact that the law doesn't deal with innocence. Not as a legal matter. Guilt, yes, if proven. But not its obverse. Once accused, if a defendant wishes to do more than “get off,”

he or she must not only disprove guilt but also discover—and prove guilty—the true culprit or be forever plagued by a mud-died reputation in the minds of friends and colleagues. Tricky for our hero since he is not only the defendant (once a corpse is discovered in the trunk of his car) but also his own lawyer—one who knows full well what's at stake in the case, even if he wins it. Unless he can find the guilty party. Legal innocence, looked at in this light, is an interesting issue and Connelly, consummate storyteller that he is, pursues it full throttle in a book that kept me up all night and left me pondering this black hole in our system of "justice." – Betsy Burton, Little, Brown, \$29



***A Time for Mercy*, John Grisham**

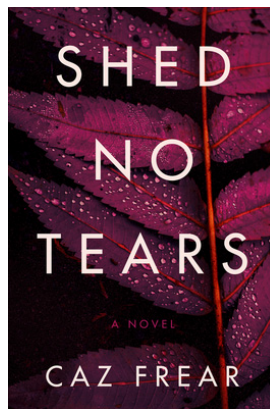
In another excellent legal thriller, Grisham takes his time setting the scene for murder and limning the character of Jake Brigrance, the flawed but decent man who has been ordered to defend a killer. Still leery of high-profile cases five years after the Carl Lee Hailey trial (*A Time to Kill*), and intent on protecting his family, Jake shies away from defending Drew Gamble, a 16-year-old boy who shot a cop beloved by the entire town. The cop was not what (or who) he seemed, however, and neither



was the killing. Jake, already ordered by a judge on whom he's dependent in another (potentially lucrative) case, agrees to defend Drew temporarily. And so begins a tale involving two increasingly convoluted cases, child abuse, corporate skullduggery and the complex and fascinating ins and outs of courtroom drama. The characters involved on each side of the case are nuanced and believable, the plot is clever both in terms of human behavior and of the byways of law and justice (or lack thereof), and the reader becomes invested not just in what happens to Drew, his mother and sister, to Jake himself, but also to the people who oppose him. If the world of the small town Grisham has created is less tribal than we have come to expect in these fraught days, it is a comforting place in which to spend an evening trying to forget what lies outside. – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, \$29.95

***One By One*, Ruth Ware**

Snoop is an app, a very profitable one. Its major shareholders are holding a corporate retreat high in the French Alps. Cue backstabbing of Shakespearean proportions—and that's before the stage 5 natural disaster. Being trapped in a luxurious chalet with plenty of food, just waiting to be rescued doesn't sound so bad; except there's a killer amongst the group, a blizzard raging outside and civility is starting to fray. No one is getting out of this unscathed—not even the staff. I always say that Ware's newest book is her best one yet and this is no exception. – Paula Longhurst, Gallery/Scout, \$27.99



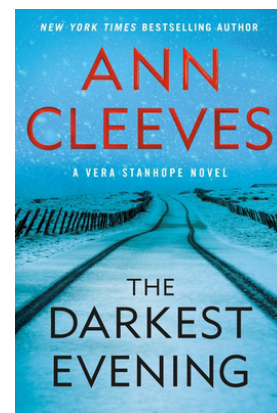
***Shed No Tears*, Caz Frear**

London detective Cat Kinsella loves what she does and is very good at it; has a love/hate relationship with her father, about whom she knows far too much; and lives in daily fear that her superiors, not to mention the man she loves, will discover the truth about her family. When a body is discovered, a young woman assumed to be the final victim of a convicted serial killer, Cat begins to wonder whether this murder had been included too easily with his other crimes. Oddly, the more she and

her partner worry the case, the more resistance she meets—inside as well as outside the police force. Cat's dialogue is as sharp as her wits, and her behavior, alternately anxious and ferocious, creates a character as engaging as the plot—which is masterful. – Betsy Burton, Harper, \$26.99

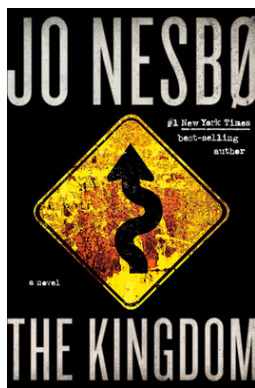
***The Darkest Evening*, Ann Cleeves**

Vera Stanhope may be a fictional character but she has become very real to her fans. This ninth book weaves personal and mystery elements together, revealing things about her family and her early life even as a young woman is found dead behind the stately home of the Stanhope family, and Vera discovers the woman's abandoned baby. Although the novel centers around the first murder, there is one more to come, not to mention the secrets and lies that bind the tightknit community together—although no one is really safe from small-town gossip. A must-read for lovers of traditional, well-written British mysteries. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur Books, 27.99



***Moonflower Murders*, Anthony Horowitz**

If you loved *The Magpie Murders* you're going to love this! Even in death, writer Alan Conway continues to plague former editor Susan Ryeland. His creation, Atticus Pund, seems to be the key to the disappearance of a Dorset woman whose parents own a country hotel. A version of that hotel and its guests and employees turns up in Conway's third book, inspired by a real-life murder. Susan, up to her neck in hotel problems, leaves Crete and her partner Andreas for England to investigate. She finds a cast of suspects who wouldn't look out of place in an Agatha Christie novel, a brace of red herrings and a very clever killer. Again it's two books for the price of one and this time there's no missing last chapter! – Paula Longhurst, Harper, \$28.99



The Kingdom, Jo Nesbo

The Opgard farm and the surrounding land had been in the family for generations. Roy, the oldest surviving son, always loved and protected his younger sibling. When Carl left for Canada, Roy was pretty sure he wouldn't be coming back and was okay with that; he had his farm, his repair business and some deeply buried memories. But now Carl has returned, charismatic as ever, with a new wife in tow, and Carl has plans, plans that he claims will enrich the entire village. Unless they backfire, dividing the community and stoking old resentments, especially with the local sheriff. How far will Roy go to protect his little brother this time? – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$28.95

The Sleeping Nymph, Ilaria Tuti

Superintendent Teresa Battaglia and young Inspector Marini are caught in the confusion and danger of a 70-year-old cold case in the remote mountains of Italy. When a painting from the region is analyzed before going on the market, it is discovered that the “Sleeping Nymph” has been painted with human blood. The painter, still alive, has not spoken since 1945. Superintendent Battaglia must not only meet the challenge of finding a killer, she must also face her own approaching dementia, not to mention her new boss, an old enemy within the force. Complicated in terms of plot and rich not only in details of landscape and history but also of language, Tuti's latest is grounded in the reality of well-crafted characters. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$27.95



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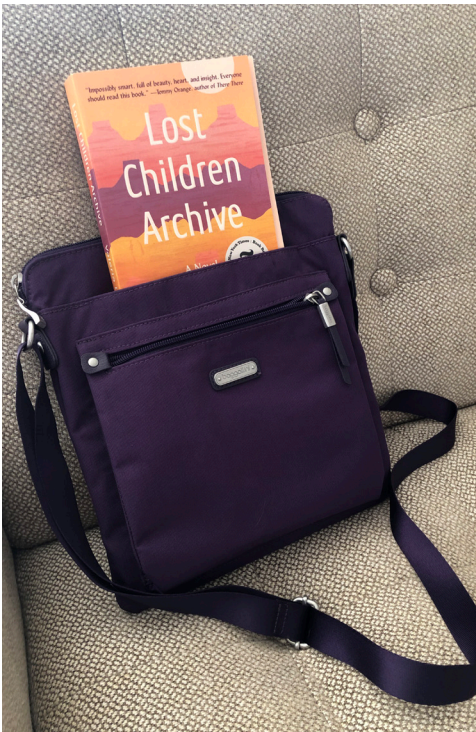


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