

## Garden Dispatch *by Michaela Riding*

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Michaela, and I'm your new editor of the *Inkslinger*! I'm honored and grateful to be a part of this community. I've been a bookseller and reviewer here at The King's English Bookshop for five years, and I've loved reading and writing books my whole life. I also play tennis, knit, and collect a rotating assemblage of additional hobbies. Right now I'm trying my hand at gardening. I'm not very good at it yet, but it's got me thinking about *Candide*, as one does...

Pardon the 263-year spoiler or the unnecessary explanation, but after their naive optimism fails and their utopia falls so grotesquely as to give Monty Python a run for its money, *Candide*'s friends argue outside their new digs. Eventually they turn to him and ask what they should do now? Now that all their ideals have turned to mockery and the world has been thoroughly exposed in all its tragic messiness.

*Candide*, who I imagine has been sweatily digging a row to plant while they were catastrophizing, says practically and simply, "We must cultivate our garden."

The book ends there, and we wish him many harvests of itchy tomatoes and many bushels of worm-free apples. I will be lucky if I get more than one handful of spinach, but I already AM incredibly lucky to be in this corner of the world, where so many of you come in and buy these books we recommend to you, help us provide books to school children (see page 3), and laugh with us on our patio (see below). Where your children set up apricot stands on the corner (I'm hopeful to see them again for this year's crop), and where we cultivate friendships new and old. Thank you for being part of our summer, and for letting us be part of yours.

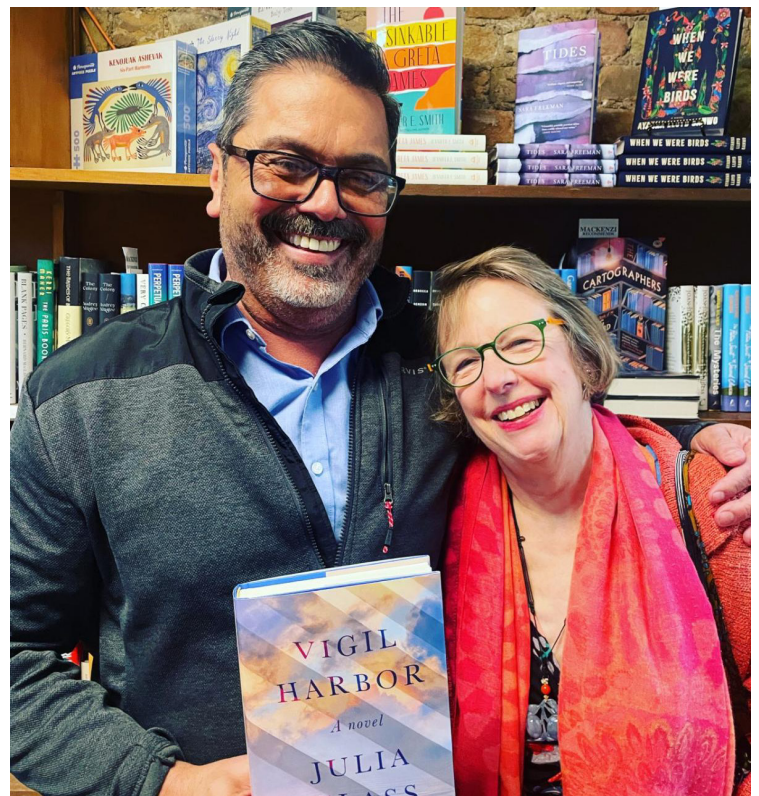
## TKE Events, In-Person and Online!

In April, we began hosting in-person events once again! (We are still hosting many online virtual events as well.) Here are some highlights, and here is how to find out about in-person and virtual events coming up:

- On our website calendar: [www.kingsenglish.com/event](http://www.kingsenglish.com/event)
- Sign up for our email newsletter at the top of our website or come into the store and we can sign you up there!
- Follow us on Instagram (@kingsenglishbookshop) and Facebook (The King's English Bookshop)



Fans dressed up as characters of the new graphic novel, *The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza*, by Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris (plus one errant shoe!)



Julia Glass in-person for her book tour of *Vigil Harbor*, with Calvin Crosby



## TKE Events, In-Person and Online!



**Above: *Heartless: The Musical***, an original musical adaptation by local HS students. *Editor's Note: read the book **Heartless** by Marissa Meyer*

**Left: Alixander Court, The Poem Pro**, crafting bespoke poems for Independent Bookstore Day



## TKE Out and About

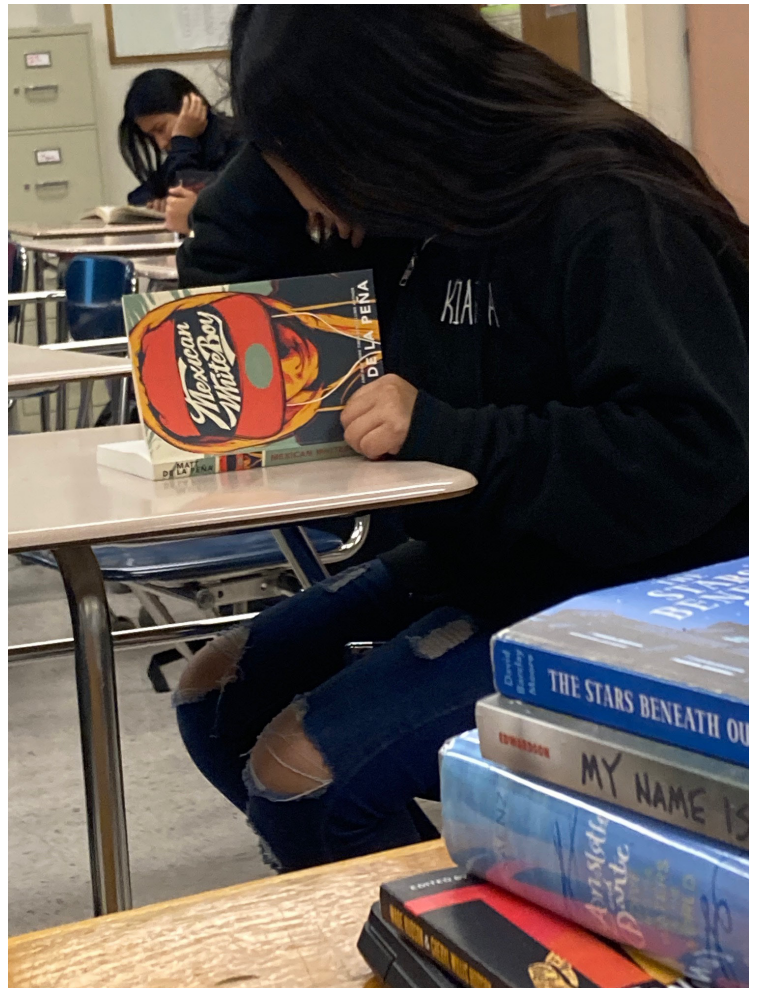
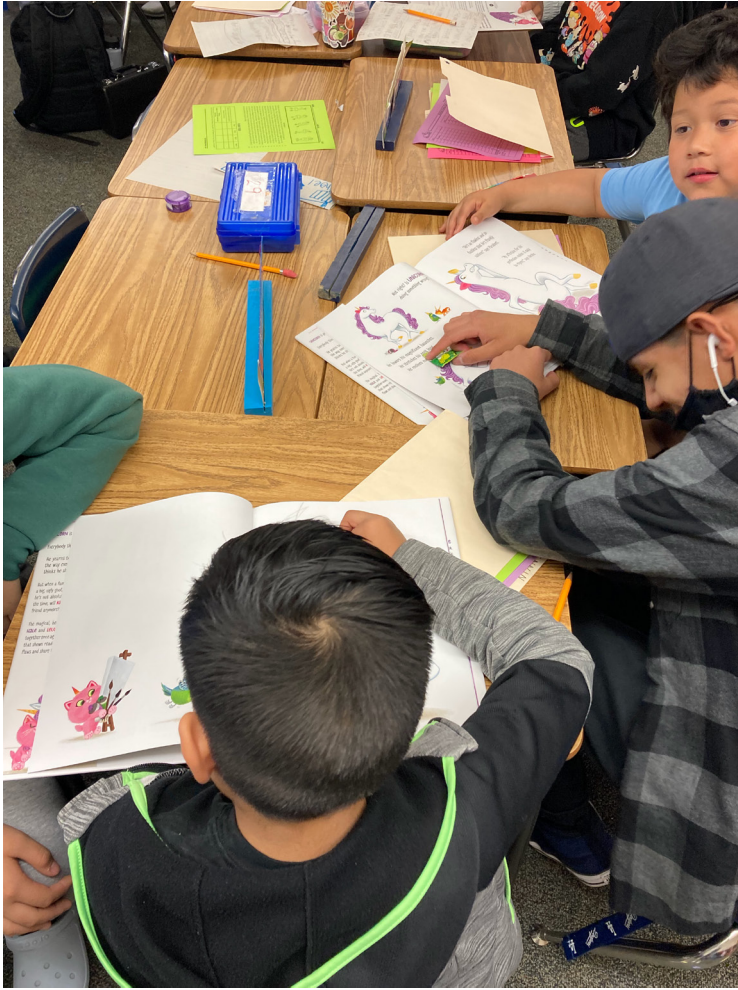
I'm sure you've noticed our Blind Dates Book Cart gleaming red and loud in our parking lot. These pay-what-you-can mystery books are a fun way to discover something new, or serendipitously unwrap that perfect book you've been impatiently holding off buying for one reason or another. Chance and mystery combined in the perfect outing. But what do we do with the money you donate? Build up our Bookmobile! Your incredibly generous donations have enabled us in turn to gift books to kids all over the county. With your help we have provided over 200 books to kids at John C. Fremont Elementary and Eisenhower Middle School, and we are excitedly preparing our next drop-offs for other schools. Thank YOU for making all this possible! And thank you to all who joined us in the SLC Pride Parade!



TKE in the SLC Pride Parade



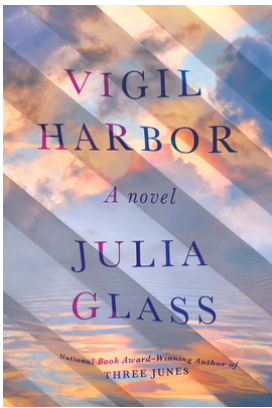
## TKE Out and About



Students at John C. Fremont Elementary and Eisenhower Middle School selecting  
(and diving right into) their books







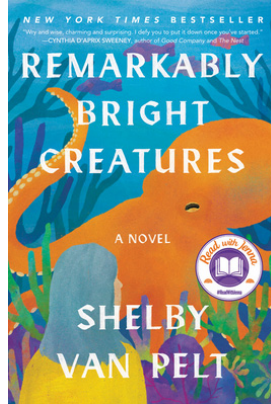
**Vigil Harbor**, Julia Glass

Twenty years ago, I fell in love with Julia Glass's writing. Her first novel, the National Book Award-winning *The Three Junes* is still one of my all-time favorite books. With her seventh novel *Vigil Harbor*, Julia continues to be an artist who paints fully imagined people and places. Her fictional worlds and the inhabitants she creates linger long after you finish her books. Characters you attach yourself to, want to avoid, feel affection and disdain for are once again at the center of her

work. The book's title comes from an imagined village on the eastern seaboard outside Boston. *Vigil Harbor*, the town, has all the charm you would expect given its geography, even in a post-pandemic world navigating dangerous weather patterns, climate instability, and increasing political violence. *Vigil Harbor*, the novel, navigates the connections between an architect who designs structures to withstand the increasing forces of nature, his stepson living with the scars of a brutal act of terrorism, and the townspeople with their own burdens, quirks, and relationships. Two visitors arrive, one stranded and one with a plan that seeks retribution. For anyone that has read *The Widower's Tale*, a much older Celestino returns with a family of his own and is a prominent player in *Vigil Harbor*. They are all woven together with tension, grace, and sheer brilliance. —Calvin Crosby, Pantheon, \$29

**Remarkably Bright Creatures**, Shelby Van Pelt

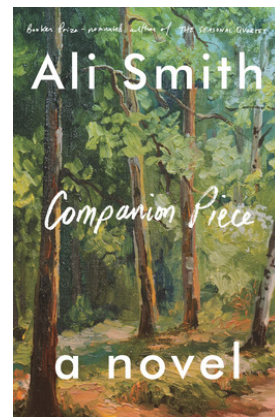
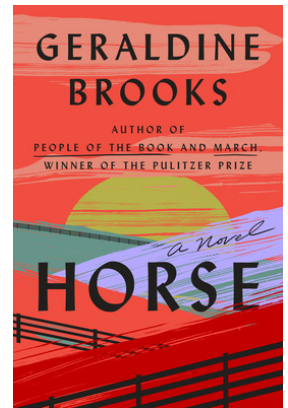
When was the last time you read a book written from an unexpected point of view. For instance, that of a curmudgeonly giant Pacific octopus named Marcellus? This was author Shelby Van Pelt's response to a writing prompt she turned into her debut novel, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. Marcellus uses every one of his eight tentacles and three hearts, to engage us in the human stories of loss and friendship, playing out in front of his tank at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. There's Tova, the older woman still grieving the loss of her son and husband, convinced it's time for her to pack up and leave the small town of Sowell Bay where everyone likes to talk; Ethan, the transplanted Scotsman turned grocery store owner who keeps tabs on everyone, especially Tova; and Cameron, new to town, a young man looking for his father and pay back with interest for going without. As bored and exasperated with humans as Marcellus likes us to believe he is, we are gently nudged into his sensitive octopus observations of what it means for us to save each other. Sometimes it takes an unexpected point of view to leave us feeling hopeful about almost everything. A rare and wonderful read you'll want to pass on to others. —Val Kittel, Harpercollins, \$27.99



**Horse**, Geraldine Brooks

Pulitzer Prize-winning Brooks has gifted to her readers a love story about horses. It begins with a discarded painting in modern day Washington, D. C., but soon returns to antebellum Kentucky where a

young, enslaved man, Jarrett, falls deeply in love with a foal named Lexington and prepares him for life in the competitive and lucrative world of 19th century horse racing. Jarrett becomes the most important and trusted individual to the horse during his life. Lexington became not only the most revered racehorse in history, but his legacy continued through the horses he sired. While Brooks uses historical facts, she also creates memorable characters throughout this mesmerizing novel based on true life. Along the way she fills out the tale with a 1950's art dealer, a modern-day Smithsonian scientist caring for animal bones, and a Nigerian American art historian at George Washington University who is working on a thesis to find authentic antebellum depictions of Black people. Fascinating and informative, tragic and illuminating. A remarkable horse and a remarkable history. We do believe this is our favorite of her books thus far. —Sue Fleming and Barbara Hoagland, Viking, \$28



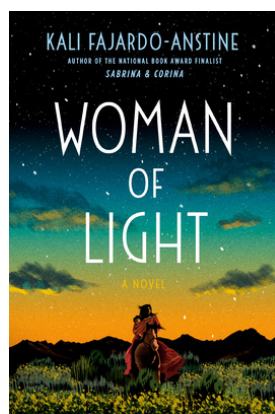
**Companion Piece**, Ali Smith

I first fell in love with the multi-award-winning Ali Smith many years ago while reading *The Accidental* and was recently (and equally) smitten by her quartet of quietly brilliant, seasonally named novels (*Summer* won the George Orwell Prize for fiction). However, I found her latest to be far from the “companion” piece the title of her new novel suggests. Rather, *Companion Piece* is a blitzkrieg journey through the Covid years we are still living and (sandwiched inside but echoing throughout) the plague of yore. An old classmate calls poet Sandy Gray and spins a tale involving airport security, a medieval lock, and a single, enigmatic phrase: Curlew or curfew, you choose. Sandy, who is mourning her own life which currently tastes of ash and virus, and that of her father who is seemingly on the verge of death, feels a sudden tug of interest. Curlew or curfew? A choice between opposites? Between ways of being? As the two women's realities tangle and as opposites collide, we are suddenly carried back to the days in which the mysterious medieval lock was forged and to a young girl and her curlew companion. Taken together, the girl's tale (along with the curlew's), Sandy's story and that of her father (not to mention his dog) manage to be as haunting and wise as history can so often be, while at the same time as starkly, darkly immediate (and as inately insanely unlivable) as the world we inhabit today. I loved every page—but especially the last one which I cannot in good faith reveal but which makes *Companion Piece* live on and on in this reader's heart. —Betsy Burton, Pantheon, \$28

**Woman of Light**, Kali Fajardo-Anstine

Author Kali Fajardo-Anstine first gave us a gorgeous collection of stories, *Sabrina & Corina*, a book that garnered her much-deserved accolades. Fajardo-Anstine's writing is beautiful, and her perspective of the West is long overdue. While *Woman of Light* shares themes



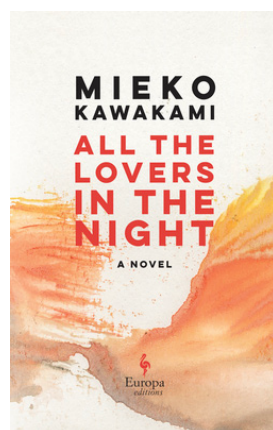


with her previous work, including being multiracial and honoring familial generations, at its core it is a non-colonial perspective in western fiction. Fajardo-Anstine fills her books with strong women of color navigating the landscape of the unsettled and the developed towns of the West. Set in Denver in the '30s, Luz "Little Light" Lopez is the tea leaf reader of her generation. As Luz's "sight" expands, she can clearly see the Indigenous Homelands of her forebears and begins to see her familial origins and bear witness to the dangers, hardships, and loss they

faced in the Lost Territories long before she was born. She is supported by a strong-willed and determined aunt, a cousin that is also her best friend, and her brother, a snake charmer who runs afoul of a white supremacist gang. Luz and her brother Diego are the children of a man with his own mysterious beginnings and a mom who was a sharpshooter of note. All of this together equals a literary and western voice that we need to hear more from. Hers is the voice the West has needed. —Calvin Crosby, *One World*, \$28

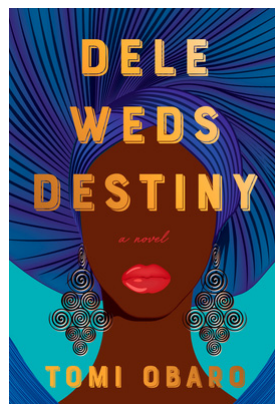
***All the Lovers in the Night***, Mieko Kawakami

Award-winning and internationally best-selling author Mieko Kawakami draws us in yet again. Fuyuko Irie is a woman in her mid-thirties simply going through the motions. She works diligently but dispassionately as a freelance copy editor, and has few, if any friends. Slowly she starts to question her life choices, or lack of choices, and begins to alter them, piece by piece, until she is a wholly new person. Or is she? In vino veritas? This rumination on the ability of women to simply act for themselves, to do anything, to make their own choices in a world intent on rushing and punishing them by equal measure, is full of contradictions of the best kind. Direct, yet slippery, focused, yet tipsy, the writing is smooth and the plot is sincere. I was thoroughly soured with it. —Michaela Riding, *Europa*, \$28



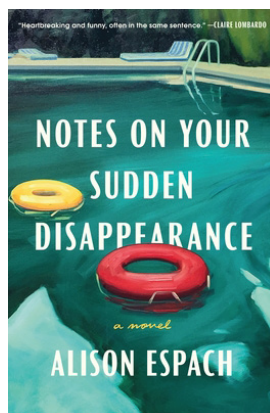
***Dele Weds Destiny***, Tomi Obaro

The three Nigerian women had met, improbably and not altogether auspiciously, within the first few weeks of their first year at university in Zaria, Kaduna. Roommates Enitan and Zainab had family backgrounds as dissimilar as their personalities, but their fascination with each other combined with their primal need for companionship amidst unfamiliar circumstances quickly bonded them. When they held auditions for a student production of *Romeo and*



*Juliet*—a harebrained scheme cooked up by Zainab, to which Enitan had reluctantly offered her assistance—the only person to show up,

fully expecting to be granted the role of Juliet, had been Funmi, whose demeanor and life experience to date, compared with those of her two classmates at the audition table, were yet another spectacular contrast. Thus began, in 1983, what would become a complex, long standing three-way friendship. Now it's December 2015, and the three women are reuniting, in Lagos, for the first time in thirty years. It's a stressful and emotionally charged undertaking for everyone, but the occasion warrants the effort: Funmi's daughter, Destiny, is getting married (though she really, really doesn't want to). This is the story of three women facing the challenges of relationships, sex, marriage, motherhood, friendship, love, loss, political and religious upheaval, Nigerian-American cultural dissonance, and long-held dreams being foiled by the dark inevitabilities of life we all wish we could control but can't. It's also a story of resilience, loyalty, and the power of female friendship. In her portrayal of youth and middle age, thirty-one-year-old Tomi Obaro has the insight of an old soul. She's also a fantastic storyteller with an ability to conjure the sounds, sights, smells, and vivid colors of Nigeria in a way that is both convincing and intoxicating. It's an overused cliché, but seriously, I couldn't put this book down! —Karlyn Bond, *Knopf*, \$27



***Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance***, Alison Espach

A heartbreaking, painful, healing meditation on grief and loss and the ripple effects that pass through your whole life when you lose someone. I loved the sister dynamic. I loved the family. My heart broke as they fractured, and I loved seeing them start to come back together. An absolutely devastating read. I loved it. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, *Henry Holt*, \$26.99

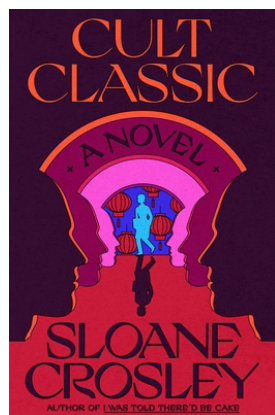
***We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies***, Tsering Yangzom Lama

Tibet and Nepal blend into this tapestry of colors, sounds, and passion. Read the book with all five senses on alert. A family flees Tibet as China invades. They bring the voices of their ancestors into the refugee camp in Nepal. At times it is confusing to realize just who is talking; however, at the core of the action are two sisters, Lhamo and Tenkyi and their dreams for themselves and their family. The two are separated physically; however, their passion for their land never wavers. Lhamo's daughter, Dolma, eventually studies in Canada where she discovers the small statue of an unnamed saint sacred to her Tibetan heritage and her village. She steals it; but that is not the core of the book. That is simply her attempt to honor the past and, in her desire to return it to her land, the reader meets communities sacred to her. The family is a complicated one and includes more than the two sisters. Tibet is at the core of the family and its mores and culture fill this book. It is a Tibetan carpet and should be read slowly allowing for time to reread passages and phrases. It is not a linear read and may be confusing as narrators and





time period jump around; however, by the final chapters the threads of the carpet come together into a rich whole. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Bloomsbury Publishing, \$26



**Cult Classic**, Sloane Crosley

Imagine walking home from a night out with friends when you run into an ex. And then... another. And another. For Lola, this nightmare becomes her reality and soon she's wading through an ocean of ex-boyfriends as she's forced to confront the ghosts of relationships past. In this deeply hilarious comic thriller, we follow Lola as she finds herself in the middle of a cult fueled by pop-psychology and new-age spirituality that's led by her former boss. As she navigates her new

reality, she is tasked with preserving her current relationship with her fiancé all while running into former lovers on every corner. Packed full of Crosley's sharp wit and snarky humor, **Cult Classic** is simultaneously thrilling and hilarious. For me, it was an instantly addicting book, one that I practically inhaled in one sitting. This gem of a novel is not to be missed. —Brian Pham, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, \$27

**Yerba Buena**, Nina LaCour

Nina LaCour has flawlessly transitioned from YA to adult. Her signature quiet compassion infuses **Yerba Buena** like a fresh twist in a familiar cocktail. A story about every kind of love, and the many forms it takes. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Flatiron, \$26.99



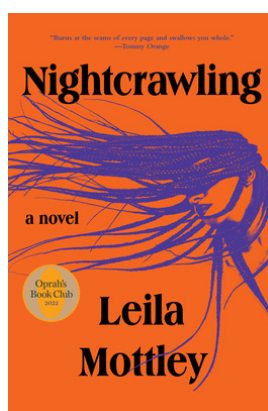
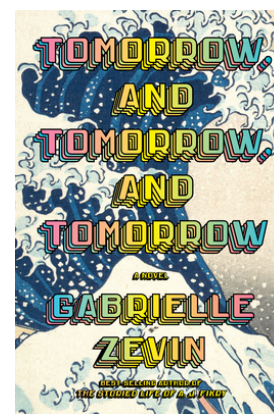
**Just By Looking at Him**, Ryan O'Connell

O'Connell first came to my attention through his Netflix series *Special* which he wrote and starred in as a young, gay man with cerebral palsy in search of some independence from his always attentive mother. His memoir *I'm Special: And Other Lies We Tell Ourselves* inspired the series. In **Just By Looking at Him**, his first novel,

he writes Elliot's story. Elliot is living the dream as a writer for a hit tv series; he has the perfect boyfriend, the perfect apartment. He does not let cerebral palsy get in the way of him getting in his own way - self sabotage and addictive behavior abounds. O'Connell writes with bold and candid humor, fully embracing absurdity and holding on to heartfelt observations as Elliot begins to do everything he can to undo the comfortable parts of his life. —Calvin Crosby, Atria Books, \$27

**Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow**, Gabrielle Zevin

Sadie and Sam are best friends who have a fallout as children only to reconnect as adults to create a video game. Through the years, they mature separately and their friendship takes on many forms. They experience jealousy, loss, heart-break, success, love and have many misunderstandings between them. No matter how painful life gets, they still find their way back to one another by sharing their passion for video games. This was a beautiful, stunning, and heartfelt read that anyone and everyone can enjoy (video game lover or otherwise)! —Alexis Powell, Knopf, \$28



**Nightcrawling: A novel**, Leila Mottley

Based on a true story, Leila Mottley's debut novel is about the challenging conditions and the consequences and reality of struggling to survive in the urban environment of Oakland, California. The characters are complicated and navigate difficult choices: increasing rents, unreachable living costs, slum lords, and being targeted because of their skin color. Kiara, full of grace, wants to help her brother Marcus reach his dreams as a musician as well as to help the often

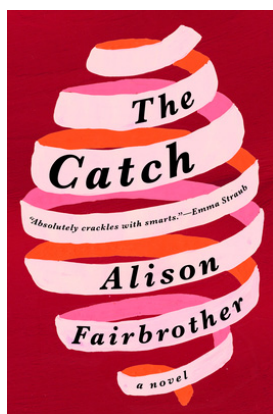
abandoned seven-year-old next door. At a time of desperation and after a misunderstanding, Kiara accidentally falls into working the streets and discovers a world of contradiction and danger. She falls in with corrupt cops guilty of sexually exploiting young women, herself included. The trouble escalates after witnessing the death of an officer. Not only is Kiara in danger, but the lives and well-being of those around her are now at risk. Leila Mottley has created a story that is addictively compelling and still has heart. —Calvin Crosby, Knopf \$27

**Greenland**, David Santos Donaldson

Debut author David Santos Donaldson's book *Greenland* is a story within a story. A current day author, Kip, is trying to meet a deadline while crafting a story based on E. M. Forster's secret love affair with Mohammed el-Adl. The story weaves Kip's struggles while navigating his life as a young, gay man of color in today's world, beautifully contrasted with Mohammed's story navigating the world a century ago with the same identity. —Calvin Crosby, Amistad, \$26.99







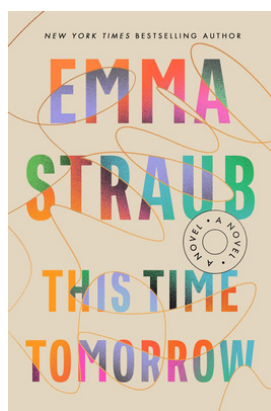
***The Catch*, Alison Fairbrother**

What do we really know about our parents? Ellie Adler loves her father: his witty repartee, his poetry, his evident charisma, and she is also certain that within her blended family of three half-siblings, she is his favorite. When he dies suddenly, this certainty is shattered along with everything she thought she knew about the dad she adored. Stranger still are the bequests in his will; instead of the treasured baseball that should be hers, a goofy gag-gift, and a search to find

out why, is all she has left. Grief leads her on a strange quest to find the person to whom the ball belongs and who her father really was. Touching, witty, and very moving, this debut novel is a great read for Father's Day, not for dads, but for their daughters. —Anne Stewart Mark, Random House, \$27

***This Time Tomorrow*, Emma Straub**

There are many delightful reasons why Emma Straub's new novel, *This Time Tomorrow*, is one of the most "highly anticipated books of 2022," but before mentioning them I'd like to say how much I enjoyed being led through the streets of New York City by Alice Stern, the story's main character. Alice is a native New Yorker 'adulting' her way not only through familiar city streets and train stops, but through the not so familiar pasts, presents, and futures haunting her consciousness of turning forty. Straub street maps the scenes and city Alice grew up in like a better loved and more literary version of Woody Allen. We're in Alice's head as she commutes through time and train stops from her studio apartment in Brooklyn to visit her dying father in the hospital, to her work as the kindergarten admissions director at the same elite school she attended and graduated from, to the midtown restaurant where her boyfriend waits with an unsurprising marriage proposal, and finally, on the eve of her 40th birthday, to Matryoshka, an old haunt and favorite subterranean Russian dive bar where she drinks far too much trying to celebrate a life that feels a bit stuck. When she wakes up the next morning in her childhood home and finds her father in the kitchen, drinking coffee, looking decades younger, she slowly realizes it's her sixteenth birthday once again and she's time traveled to celebrate the start of a life she's already lived. So yes, it's important to mention time travel, father/daughter love, female friendship, missed romance, death and dying, and of course, the truth behind "wherever you go there you are", not to mention what it means to know you might not want to start any of it all over again. But these are only a few more of the reasons why *This Time Tomorrow* is such a delightful, witty, reflective, and deeply familiar story that reminds each and every one of us of ourselves at sixteen or forty; wishing we'd paid more attention to things like our parents when they were young and healthy or our girlfriends before they married and moved to New Jersey, or our lost loves and how utterly not meant for each other we were. Some things are better left undisturbed... though not unexamined. —Val Kittel, Penguin Random House, \$28



***The Lioness*, Chris Bohjalian**

In 1964, Katie Barstow, famous and beautiful Hollywood actress, generously invited her brother, best friend, their spouses, and various people responsible for her movie successes to an African safari following her wedding to David Hill, son of a CIA employee. This entourage of nine people are unknowingly headed to a deadly adventure in which most are shot or eaten. Set during the deadly civil war in the Congo, they are quickly swept up in the political melée. A page-turner, perfect for a summer read on the beach, backyard or in one's own favorite reading room. But not in Africa, no, absolutely not in Africa. My heart was thumping during most of this read and I only reluctantly set the book down when necessary. A fan of Bohjalian, I will admit that this particular novel took my breath away, as it will yours.

—Sue Fleming, Doubleday, \$28



***Let's Not Do That Again*, Grant Ginder**

The author of *The People We Hate at the Wedding*, Grant Ginder, is back with *Let's Not Do That Again*. In this new novel he takes on world events, American politics, and the possibility of a Broadway musical based on Joan Didion's life. Nancy Harrison is running for Senate, and she is intensely dedicated to winning her election. Her adult children Nick (the one working on the musical) and Greta do not share their mother's passion for politics.

Greta joins a protest in France, and upon discovering this, Nick and Nancy try to clean up the mess and make sense of the situation. Ginder is a writer that uses personal insight and humor with a dash of intensity to convey a story. He is never guilty of high jinks or slapstick. Instead, he exudes a sophisticated brilliance that makes his writing relatable and highly addictive.

—Calvin Crosby, Henry Holt, \$27.99

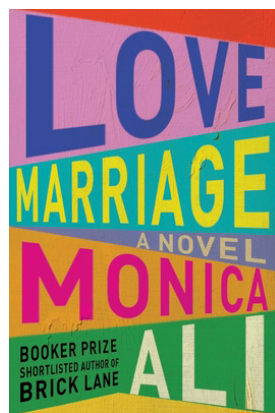
***The Lovers*, Paolo Cognetti**

Translated from the Italian, *The Lovers* is an atmospheric love story set in the Alps that has you feeling lightheaded and almost intoxicated from the start. Fausto and Silvia meet while working at Babette's Feast, a restaurant catering to local mountain men in the summer and visiting skiers in the winter, in a small, remote village high in the Fontana Fredda mountains. Fausto and Silvia are attracted to the isolated, quiet landscape and to lives lived according to the movement of the seasons. A writer transplanted from the city, forty-year-old Fausto is recently divorced and looking for something to write about. Twenty-seven-year-old Silvia is a world traveler with her heart set on becoming an arctic explorer. The two become lovers, sharing their affection for the natural world and its unbounded experiences. Winter moves into spring, spring into summer, and the lovers separate





to explore the movement of their own individual seasons. Cognetti's meditative voice and lush description of the mountain's beauty works on you like weather that you're happy to immerse yourself in. His story of love, friendship, and shared experience is reflective, respectful, and fresh with a sense of anticipation for the journeys that lie ahead. This would be the perfect (short) book to read on a train ride through Europe—maybe heading for the Alps! —Val Kittel, Harpercollins, \$26.99



**Love Marriage**, Monica Ali

Ali's *Brick Lane*, blissfully readable and wonderfully reviewed, was short-listed for the Booker Prize nine years ago; her big, new, thematically fascinating and utterly involving novel is every bit as wonderful. Yasmin, following in the footsteps of her beloved Indian-born father in the study of medicine in London, is newly engaged to a fellow physician from a very different background: he has been raised alone by his well-to-do mother, a fierce and publicly outrageous feminist who

seems a polar-opposite to Yasmin's own traditionally raised Muslim 'Ma'. As the book opens and the two mothers first meet, their instant, enthusiastic admiration for one another nonpluses the newly engaged couple—the first among many eye-opening, sometimes blindsiding moments they (and we) experience in this witty but immersive novel of cultural, familial and sexual differences involving not only Joe and Yasmin but their parents, Yasmin's brother, the personnel at the hospital that is the backdrop for much of the action, and also a therapist of surpassing ability and compassion. At times outrageously funny, at others heart-rending, always consumingly interesting—whether on the topics of sex, health care, feminism, or families—this is a novel that allows the reader to peer into the hearts of its flawed characters and come away empathetic and enlightened as well as wholly and joyously entertained. —Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$27

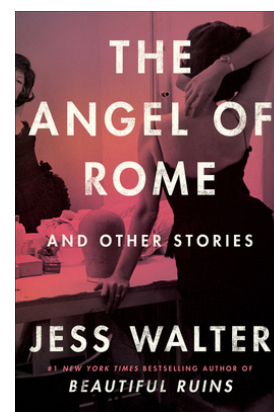
**Calling for a Blanket Dance**, Oscar Hokeah

*Calling for a Blanket Dance* is a story of family, but even more, it puts words to the power of being part of Tribe and the "medicine" it can create. Oscar Hokeah writes from the depths of his peoples' history with a clear voice. He has imagined characters so beautifully formed that you may forget the book is fiction. Ever Geimausaddle is the focus of *Calling for a Blanket Dance*, and through his eyes, we see the consequences of his father dying from an incident with corrupt Mexican Police; we see his mother's hardships and financial struggles. Ever is surrounded by multi-generational kin. Oscar's novel gives voice to people that have lived in institutional poverty and voice to Cherokee life long ignored. He uses the Cherokee language for clarification and explanation. Oscar is himself a mix of indigenous Cherokee and Kiowa tribes and Mexican. He lives and works at the Cherokee Nation (my grandmother was born there) and spends his days working with Indian Child Welfare. —Calvin Crosby, Algonquin, \$26.95



**The Angel of Rome**, Jess Walter

Humor lurks in the most unlikely places. In these smart, often stunning, always surprising stories—bouncing from Italy to Idaho—readers are in for a dazzling quirky ride! A stunning mother advises her teenage daughter that "looks are her bank account." An elderly couple confronts a writing student who eavesdrops on their conversation about a friend with cancer: "It's not like this...getting old... It's so much worse." An ethereal-faced mother warns her son's middle school science teacher that her son (his worst student) has been "having some fun at your expense." A famous actor in recovery has a one-night stand and is out-performed by his very cynical partner in sex. In the titular piece, a 21-year-old seminary student (who wants to be a writer), wanders onto a film set in Rome, and discovers that the film's female star is his adolescent idol and meeting her "becomes the year of my [his] reinvention." And in my favorite, "Town and Country," a gay son faces taking care of his senile father ("like living with a horny alcoholic toddler") and repairing his relationship with his ex. With varied situations, backdrops, and voices, these stories magnificently combine the poignant and humorous. Kudos to Jess Walter [again]! —Carol Kranes, Harpercollins \$27.99

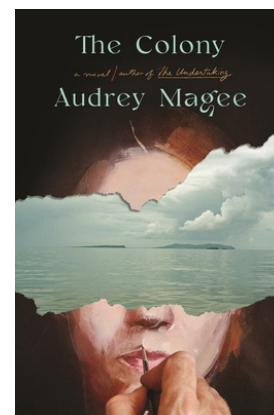


**An Island**, Karen Jennings

A small, quiet bombshell of a book, this tale of a recluse who lives alone tending a lighthouse and of a refugee fleeing an unnamed African country, a man who might or might not be dangerous, is both compelling and unnerving. The tone is almost fable-like in its detached telling. Awakening recollection and nightmarish memories of dashed hopes, terror, and regret paint the fall and resurrection of a dictatorship in savage colors. But it is the fate of the two men who dance around each other on the island, the mix of fear and hope that pull them forward and push them back that provide such a terrifying window into the workings of violence and trauma on the human soul—writ large, an indelible, devastating vision of the aftermath of political power and corruption on humanity. —Betsy Burton, Hogarth, \$25

**The Colony**, Audrey Magee

In the summer of 1979, two outsiders disrupt the lives of Irish villagers. One is Lloyd, an English artist who hopes to revitalize his career by painting the sheer dark limestone cliffs and the village's handful of inhabitants. The other is JP, a French linguist on his fifth summer visit with plans to complete his study of pure Gaelic that he hopes will earn him a PhD. These unlikeable fellows ransack the remote rocky island for their own ends. I was particularly drawn to two other char-

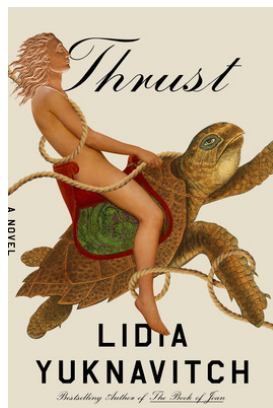




acters—Mairead, a beautiful but grieving young widow who sleeps with JP and poses naked for Lloyd, and James, a young 15-year-old with a good eye who explores painting and is, perhaps, better than his master. Magee offers 29 matter-of-fact news bulletins of Northern Ireland being ransacked by savage murders. The village narrative, in stark contrast, is often lyrical, the cliffs and water “a dance of shade and light.” Her paragraphs are sometimes single words or short lines spilling down the page like poetry. *The Colony* is a rich exploration of personal promises and quiet tragedy set against a background of savage political rivalry and competition. Singular, often haunting and heartbreaking, a must read! —Carol Kranes, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$28

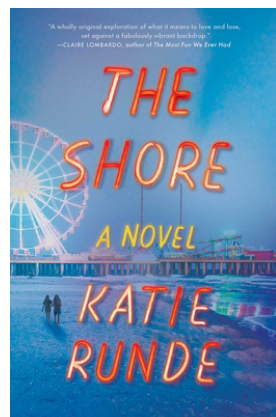
**Thrust**, Lidia Yuknavitch

I’ve been advised that a reader should “give” herself to a book—reserve skepticism, like, or dislike. *Thrust* required that of me. This dystopian novel presents a grim picture of our not-too-distant future. Laisvçe, a motherless girl, is learning her strength as a carrier, a person who can harness meaningful objects to carry her and others through 2 centuries of time. On her many journeys—sometimes in the belly of a mother whale—she meets a French sculptor, a woman who “traffics in stories,” a dictator’s daughter, a violent, accused murderer, and a schoolroom of children with lost limbs who are educating themselves by listening to stories at The Spaces Cohabitation Project. The many plot lines are intricately braided, full of surprises and powerful encounters, facilitated by this girl who reflects, “The water is the only place on the planet where her body instantly calms.” So: mothers, water, pennies, apples, turtles, whales, floating boys are all brought together in this novel, often poetically and sometimes diffusely but creating a narrative that is well worth the read! —Carol Kranes, Riverhead, \$28



**The Shore**, Katie Runde

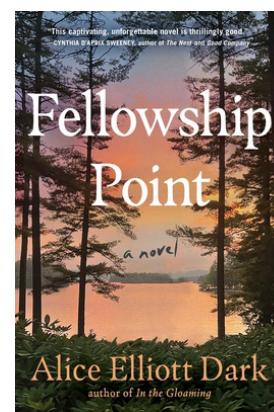
How do we cope with the pain of losing someone who ultimately becomes a stranger before he disappears? In Seaside, a summer tourist town where “on Labor Day everything is stripped down,” the Dunne family spend “a summer of unnameable sadness.” Brian, the father, is diagnosed with a brain tumor and given various personae by Evy, his 16-year-old: Rain Man, Toddler, Jerk, and Zombie – Brian acting each out. Margot, the mother, is drowning in managing their



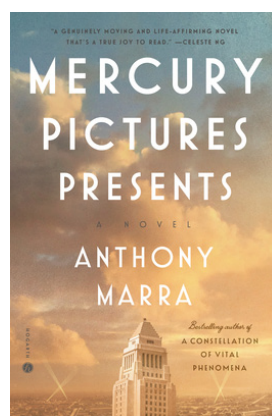
real estate company and secretly plans to sell and move the family to Pennsylvania – “coexisting with a stranger was not possible without imagining escape.” Liz, the 17-year-old, takes her “weird-sick” dad on walks and flirts with her co-worker, a musician named Gabe. Evy drinks vodka-laced lemonade and adopts the persona of a middle-aged mom in an on-line support group, and discovers Olivia, a close friend. Remarkable, honest, painful, and filled with wisdom, *The Shore*—heartbreaking but ultimately uplifting—reminds the reader that amid chaos and new responsibilities a family can reinvent its way to love. —Carol Kranes, Scribner, \$26

**Fellowship Point**, Alice Elliott Dark

Any novel set on the coast of Maine is going to be a yes from me. This story, of Agnes and Polly, historically best friends and shareholders of a peninsula (!) that Agnes wants to sell upon learning of her terminal cancer diagnosis has just about everything that makes a great read—secrets, unrecognized feminism, complicated children; it’s a big, fat book that you won’t want to end. —Anne Holman, Scribner, \$28



**Mercury Pictures Presents**, Anthony Marra



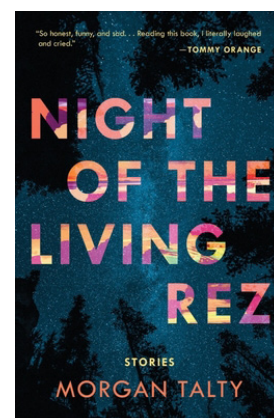
This WWII story is told through the lens of a low-budget Hollywood movie studio and the people affiliated with it both closely and from afar. The main character, Maria Lagana, has come to California after fleeing Mussolini’s Italy. Her mother came with her; her father is another part of this tale. Maria is Artie Feldman’s right-hand person but because it’s the 40’s and she’s a woman, she’s working a lot and

getting little in return. Also, because there is a war raging and she’s Italian, Maria has to carry papers as a registered alien, is restricted to certain parts of Los Angeles and must abide by curfew. Oh, and she’s dating Eddie Lu, a Chinese American who, though trained as a Shakespearean actor, can only get bit roles as Asian “bad guys”. If any of this sounds timely it’s because Anthony Marra is a master at taking history and playing it back to us as story. This book is brilliant and long-awaited. If you were a fan of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, this book was worth the wait! —Anne Holman, Hogarth, \$28.99

FICTION NEW IN PAPER

**Night of the Living Rez**, Morgan Talty

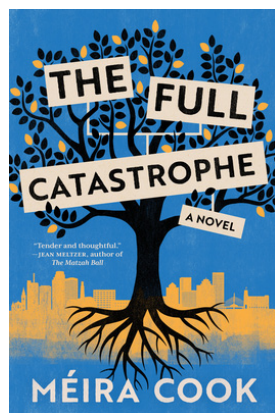
Morgan Talty’s collection of stories, *Night of the Living Rez*, reads more like a novel than short stories. Morgan has created pacing unique to this book with his words, tone, and spacing between chapters. A rhythm that, for me, evokes the rhythm of native people’s languages. He has beautifully crafted, thoughtfully imagined, and he brought unflinching honesty conveying life on the reservation woven into each chapter. Talty writes boldly of the Native people’s contemporary plight and the strength it takes to live now. From a struggling adult through manhood, we follow David. We follow him through life, through addictions, hoping to survive. He is surrounded by family and friends, all believable and beautifully flawed. There will be inevitable comparisons to writers such as Tommy Orange, Brandon Hobson, or even Louise Erdrich, all authors of great importance; Morgan stands





## FICTION NEW IN PAPER

solidly alongside these voices in his own right. Morgan is Penobscot, their reservation in Maine. *Night of the Living Rez* is a book of a generation, and Morgan Talty is a writer to watch. —Calvin Crosby, Algonquin, \$16.95



### *The Full Catastrophe*, Méira Cook

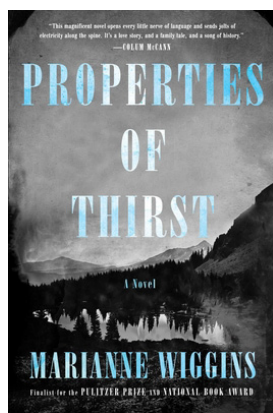
Our protagonist, Charlie Minkoff, is 16 at the time of this novel. His mother, Jules, is an absent-minded and successful artist and his father, Nathan, has deserted them and returned to his Hasidic roots in Crown Heights. A smelly little dachshund named Gellman rounds out this family and if it weren't for Jules' best friend Weezie (lesbian long-haul trucker) their lives would be chaotic and maybe not even survivable. What Charlie wants more than anything is to help his 80-year-

old grandpa, Oscar, make his bar mitzvah since the Nazis effectively kept that from happening when it should have. Delighted, Oscar decides the two men should make their journey to the Torah together but here's the problem: Charlie was born intersex and according to the rabbi, the Bible has clear rules on who can (men) and cannot (women) have a bar mitzvah. I loved this funny, maddening story of who gets to decide what another person gets to do and what happens when that person takes the reins of their life and literally rides off into the sunset. —Anne Holman, House of Anansi, \$18.99

## FORTHCOMING IN AUGUST

### *Properties of Thirst*, Marianne Wiggins

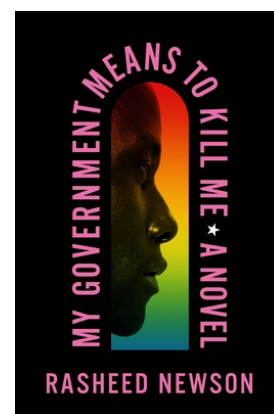
Like so many novels about the West, this is a story about water, the lack of it, the lust for it, the theft of it. Specifically, this is a story of the city of Los Angeles re-routing an entire water system from the ranchers who owned it to the thirsty citizens who needed it. And one rancher whose land was also seized to build an airstrip for the U.S. military. Why? Because of what they were building across the road from him—Manzanar. To set the stage, the rancher, Rocky, has learned that his enlisted son, Stryker, is missing in Hawaii in the days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. A young man, Schiff, appears at Rocky's door, to "ask" about the property across the street. It turns out, Schiff works for the War department, is Jewish, and is about to get way more than he bargained for. Sunny, Rocky's daughter and Stryker's twin sister is a big part of what Schiff isn't expecting. This is a marvelous, gut-wrenching story of the personal toll WWII took on America. I will recommend this to everyone! —Anne Holman, Simon & Schuster, \$28, \*Preorder\*



## FORTHCOMING IN AUGUST

### *My Government Means to Kill Me*, Rasheed Newson

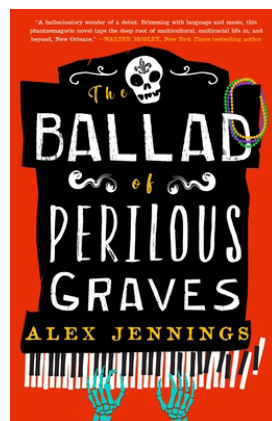
From the writer-producer of shows such as *The Chi*, *Narcos*, and *Bel-Aire*, Rasheed Newson is no stranger to intrigue, and fast-paced, profoundly thought-out storytelling. In *My Government Means to Kill Me*, he does not disappoint. Set in the mid-80s, Earl "Trey" Singleton III heads to NYC to escape a family that has many expectations of him; something he cannot abide by at all. Walking away with almost nothing, Trey faces a world bursting with shifting expectations of the gay civil rights movement, housing issues, the AIDS Crisis, and sweeping change in America, facing his mortality and that of his friends. He must find his place as a black gay man forced to navigate Manhattan and the world at large. Newson brilliantly pulls in Civil Rights leader Bayard Rustin, Fred Trump, a landlord with whom there are heated differences, and has Trey tested by the legendary Larry Kramer. In the storytelling, he has made them believable and authentic. He even has Trey join in with Kramer and Dorothy Cotton to form ACT UP, the organization credited for bringing the AIDS Pandemic to the forefront of World Healthcare and into the American Political consciousness. Newson's genius is finding some humor and softer moments in the imbroglio, all while giving you a book you will not want to put down. —Calvin Crosby, Flatiron Books, \$27.99, \*Preorder\*



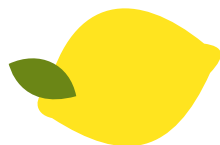
## SPECULATIVE FICTION

### *The Ballad of Perilous Graves*, Alex Jennings

Nola is a city unto itself, both in real life and in this book, where graffiti comes alive and walks down the street, where the living and dead mingle, and where above all, music is magic. The magic shimmers like a hot, humid day: inescapable. But a storm's coming, and nine songs of power that keep the city's rhythm going have gone missing, and it is up to Perilous (Perry), his sister Brendy, and their best friend Peaches to find them before the city collapses. Simultaneously, trans man



Casey Bridgewater searches across alternate realities of the city for his dead? missing? artist cousin and rediscovers his own abandoned art along the way. Each storyline affects the other unwittingly, but powerfully. While at times the sheer number of characters is confusing, it is worth it to push on. Multilayered, vibrant, and full of love and resilience, this homage to a city's culture is rich and evocative. You can almost taste the shrimp étouffée and beignets. You can definitely hear the music. —Michaela Riding, Redhook, \$28





## SPECULATIVE FICTION



### *Juniper & Thorn*, Ava Reid

International bestselling author of *The Wolf and the Woodsman*, Ava Reid's latest novel follows Marlinchen, a witch living under the tyrannical rule of her wizard father. One night, when Marlinchen and her sisters sneak out to have a magical night at the ballet theater, Marlinchen unexpectedly finds herself falling in love with the primo ballerino Sevastyn. She forms a bond with him but is forbidden by her father from ever leaving the house again. What follows is a wild, unnerving

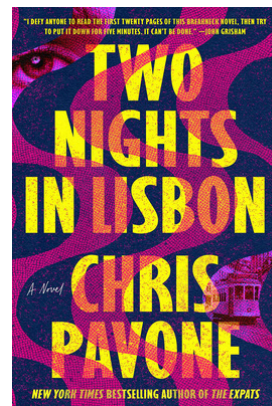
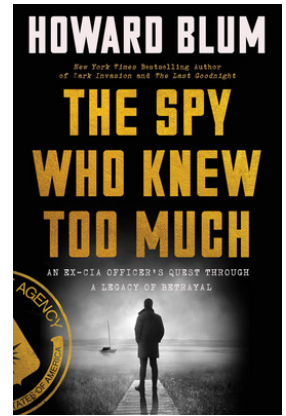
story filled with monsters, magic, and deep-rooted evil. Marlinchen has to wade through a lot of blood to discover who she is and who she wants to be. There are dark secrets surrounding the witch family, so the reader needs to pay close attention because everything is important. Reid skillfully weaves three stories together that come together in a horrifying way. Although *Juniper & Thorn* is gritty, there is a silver lining that things will get better for the characters. Reid uses a Grimm fairy tale style of writing to explore what it means to live with trauma. An interesting read but warning: this is a heavy read with some touchy subjects. It's advised to check the trigger warnings provided by the author before diving in. —Alexis Powell, Harper Voyager, \$27.99

## TRUE CRIME/MYSTERY/THRILLER

wives. *The Colony* illuminates the heinous abuse of so many people, women and children, over the last 150 years. This is a terrible story, and an unforgettable read. —Margaret Brennan Neville and Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$27.95

### *The Spy Who Knew Too Much: An Ex-CIA Officers Quest Through a Legacy of Betrayal*, Howard Blum

This true story has all the makings of the most riveting thriller. The Cold War spies on both the Russian and American sides danced a delicate dance in order to learn each other's secrets and to camouflage the true meaning behind each other's moves. Nothing was more perplexing than determining if a defector was truly escaping or was a double agent intent on misdirecting. Into this murky world, Tennent "Pete" Bagley was an up-and-coming prodigy in the CIA until his hunt for a mole within the organization brought about his downfall. Years later, Bagley once again took up the baton in his quest to unravel the story of subterfuge and betrayal. Blum does an excellent job of revealing the tangled web Bagley uncovered. —Barbara Hoagland, Harper, \$28.99



### *Two Nights in Lisbon*, Chris Pavone

Far and away the best of Pavone's thrillers to date, this tale of a woman whose husband disappears while the couple is in Lisbon is simply impossible to put down once begun. Ariel Pryce hasn't been married all that long and, alone in a strange city trying to explain her husband's disappearance to two disbelieving Portuguese cops, she suddenly discovers how little she really knows about John Wright. On the surface this tale of a kidnapping and a ransom is a tick-tock thriller that

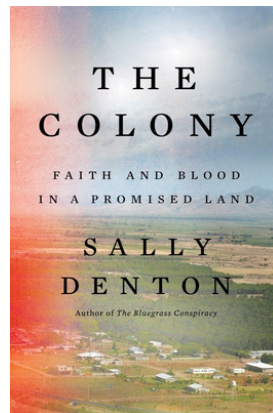
pulses its way through Lisbon, the American Embassy, and Ariel's past as she ferrets around for ransom money she doesn't have and explanations that might make sense of what's happening to him—and to her. As she does so, we see her for the fierce feminist she now is and, through memory, the coddled and controlled wife she had once been. Pavone is so astute at evoking the world of powerful men and pampered women from whence she came and the bewildering, woke, grievance-filled world of the present that it's hard not to stop and mark the passages (see page 215, bottom) that provide multiple minor epiphanies even as one tears through the pages chasing the action. A narrator of surpassing skill whose descriptions are vivid, plots are beyond clever and pacing is heart-stopping, Pavone is also a canny (and witty) observer of society and of human nature. In the words of Stephen King, "There's no such thing as a book you can't put down, but this one was close." —Betsy Burton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$28



## TRUE CRIME/MYSTERY/THRILLER

### *The Colony: Faith and Blood in the Promised Land*, Sally Denton

Sally Denton's new book is a great recommendation for all the people who are reading or re-reading *Under the Banner of Heaven* right now. Like the Krakauer book, Denton is exploring the impact/history of a polygamist cult through the lens of a terrible crime. In 2019, two families were changed forever: nine people were brutally murdered in Northern Mexico by the Sinaloa Drug Cartel. The victims were all part of the Colonia LeBaron polygamist community, a group of fundamentalist Mormons who initially fled to Mexico when polygamy was outlawed in the late 1800's. They settled in Northern Mexico, creating a self-contained community, where men could marry whomever they chose. This community had a relationship with the drug cartels. Their leaders believed they were safe. The LeBaron clan became infamous when their leader Ervil LeBaron began killing his perceived enemies. Denton does an outstanding job of tracing the evolution of the LeBaron and Johnson families as they attempted to create an oasis in the arid land of northern Mexico. Her story has blood feuds, intermarriage, drug cartels and, even, the sex cult NXIVM. Denton's impeccable research through this complicated, horrifying event, opens a window into this cult's deplorable history. Denton's family history includes polygamy, and her personal sensitivity shows very clearly as she explores the plight of the women whose only support comes from their sister





**Upgrade**, Blake Crouch

They know you're changing. You have to leave, NOW! Crouch envisions a near future where Logan Ramsay's last name is forever linked with 'The Great Starvation,' his geneticist mother's hubristic attempt to change the world. Now released from prison and working for the Gene Protection Authority, Logan has a family that he cherishes and a job that his 118 IQ can easily handle. But his mother isn't done with him yet. Logan has been targeted for an 'upgrade.' The Gene War has begun and if Logan loses millions will die. —Paula Longhurst, Ballentine, \$28

**Hide**, Kiersten White

Unsettling and un-put-down-able. As twisty as the Minotaur's maze, endlessly creepy, and completely unexpected. I dare you not to read this in one sitting. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Del Rey, \$27

**What Moves the Dead**, T. Kingfisher

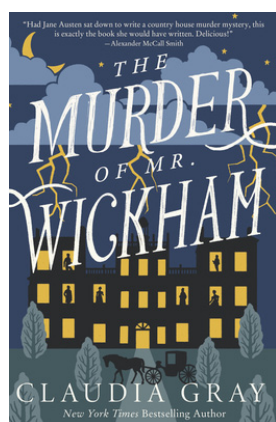
In this Edgar Allen Poe re-



telling of *The Fall of the House of Usher*, we follow Easton, a nonbinary soldier who rushes to a dilapidated manor in response to his friend Madeline Usher's letter announcing she's dying. What greets Easton at the Usher house is a pulsating lake, unsettling wildlife, and strange siblings. Despite the bleak feeling of impending death, Easton remains witty, sarcastic, and empathetic as they uncover the truth of the Usher house of horrors. As someone with mycophobia I surprisingly couldn't get enough of the fast-paced, mushroom filled read. *What Moves the Dead* was a perfectly eerie read that I think Poe himself would be proud of. —Alexis Powell, Tor Nightfire, \$19.99

**The Murder of Mr. Wickham**, Claudia Gray

Readers familiar with Jane Austen's six completed novels will begin this book having encountered all but two of its central characters. George and Emma Knightley are hosting a month-long house party at Donwell Abbey, to which they have invited Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth Darcy and their eldest son, Jonathan; Colonel Brandon and his wife, Marianne; Edmund and Fanny Bertram; Captain Wentworth and his wife, Anne; and Juliet Tilney, seventeen-year-old daughter of



Henry and Catherine Tilney. Rarely has a gathering been more ill-fated than this. The Knightleys know their guests, but the guests don't know each other, and several have arrived in a state of distress—one consumed by a terrible secret. Three marriages are already strained, and the remaining two are soon to be. The weather is dreadful. And all hell breaks loose when George Wickham appears—demanding payment from two men who have fallen prey to his financial scheme, threatening two women with blackmail and assault, and generally flinging unpleasantness in every direction. Even more drama ensues when, on her way to the privy in the middle of the night, Juliet Tilney discovers the despised interloper dead on the floor in the long gallery—having been whacked in the head by a curiously destructive blunt object. The local magistrate, Frank Churchill (laughter appropriate), is called to the scene and proceeds to investigate the crime in bumbling fashion while newly acquainted Jonathan Darcy and Juliet—the former with an ironclad alibi, the latter without a motive—together undertake the same challenge on the sly with more competence. Fun read! From beginning to end, and with regard to everyone except Juliet and Jonathan (both delightful), Austen devotees will question whether or not the dramatis personae are behaving in character—an inevitability in a work of fan fiction, but also part of the fun. No doubt there would be consensus on Wickham's eligibility as a murder victim, but he's not the only Austen character so qualified. If Claudia Gray decides to provide us with another mystery in this vein, I, for one, suggest the demise of Mrs. Norris. —Karlyn Bond, Vintage Books, \$17

**Hidden Pictures**, Jason Rekulak

Teddy Maxwell is a sweet natured kid. For 21-year-old Mallory Quinn it's love at first sight. The tiny town of Spring Brook is too good to be true and her job as the Maxwell's nanny enables her to resurrect the running career that was derailed by an OxyContin addiction. Teddy bonds with Mallory and the child is never without his sketchbook. His artwork however is concerning – where he used to draw stick figures now he's drawing dead bodies. —Paula Longhurst, Flatiron Books, \$27.99

**The Gatekeeper**, James Byrne

He's blockier than Jack Reacher but not nearly as tall, he's as capable and bears even more scars, his knowledge of war and of weaponry is every bit as extensive and so is his technological knowhow but, unlike Reacher, he plays a mean guitar, has a quirky sense of humor and charm that's surprising given his stature and his occupation. Past occupation that is. Dez (Desmond Aloysius Limerick) has retired from his career as "gatekeeper" (expert at getting in and keeping people out) and moved to the U.S., to L.A., where he witnesses an attempted would-be assassination and decides to stop it. And so begins a tale involving the proposed target of said assassination attempt, her role in a vast





corporation that finances weaponry worldwide, and an equally vast conspiracy involving a part of the national media close in nature to FOX news, generals whose ideas of patriotism are as askew as many of our Senators today, and an attempt to.... well, that would be telling. Suffice it to say that if the worst should happen in reality in our country one can only hope Dez will be around to put things right. Meanwhile *The Gatekeeper* is sure to cheer you up, keep you that way throughout the twists and turns of an exceedingly timely plot and keep you up all night in the process. —Betsy Burton, Minotaur, \$27.99

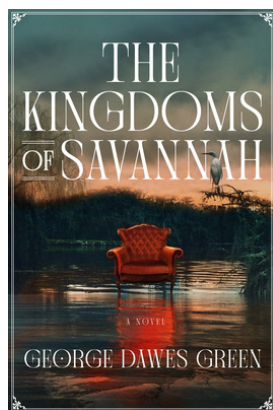


## *Dark Objects*, Simon Toyne

In a multi-million-pound house in Highgate the cleaner makes a gruesome discovery. Laid out around the body are four objects including a book written by Laughton Rees on processing a murder scene. Having Laughton, estranged daughter of now Metropolitan Police Commissioner John Rees, be drawn into the investigation is part of the killer's plan. —Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$27.99

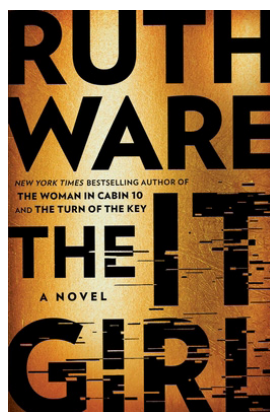
## *The Kingdoms of Savannah*, George Dawes Green

There are two kingdoms in Savannah, one comprised of the long-reigning white aristocracy, its history and ongoing power, the other hidden or ignored in the present and in the past a shadow-shrouded mystery. The Musgrave mansion, beloved by the bus tours that pass its crenelated tower and ivy bedecked gargoyles, is inhabited by Morgana, the family matriarch who has long bedazzled Savannah society while ruling her own brood with inflexible cruelty. Why then does said brood, led, in the end, by the hated Morgana, risk all to uncover secrets long buried and truths heretofore unacknowledged? That brood: Jaq, a young black woman who tends bar, makes documentaries when she can and is linked to the family through one of her two mothers; Jaq's sort-of uncle Ransom, the now homeless younger son of the family; his sisters, one a hard-working nurse, stepmother to Jaq, the other a respected but hardfisted judge; along with the habitués of the bar where Jaq works, the homeless citizens among whom Ransom lives and assorted aristocrats, crooks and misfits (my favorite is the Whistler). They make up the cast of a book that changes page-by-page from the southern gothic mystery it purports to be to a fascinating look at the underbelly—past and present—of a superficially lovely town in the deep South. Undergirded by an unimaginably hideous past and played out in the present with page-turning verve by plausible, surprisingly likeable characters, this is a great read and a fascinating look at a history everyone should know and too few do. —Betsy Burton, Celadon, \$27.99



## *The Last to Vanish*, Megan Miranda

Abby Lovett came to Cutter's Pass in the wake of her mother's death and is slowly making it her home. The town has a reputation, a frisson of danger; the trails swallow people whole and journalist Landon West came seeking a story. Almost a year since he vanished his brother Trey comes to investigate and the town closes ranks against him, with Abby still on the outside. What are they hiding? Who are they protecting and is Abby willing to pay the price for finding out? —Paula Longhurst, Scribner, \$27.99

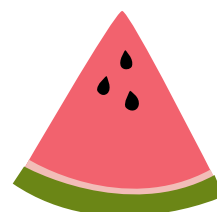
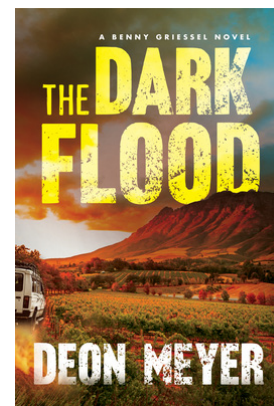


## *The It Girl*, Ruth Ware

Pelham College Oxford was where Hannah Jones met April, beautiful, moneyed, smart and now many years dead. The murder trial publicity caused Hannah to bury herself in a bookshop in Edinburgh. When the murderer dies in prison a heavily pregnant Hannah and her fellow-student-now-husband Will are free, but did Hannah's evidence convict the wrong person? Did someone at Pelham get away with murder? —Paula Longhurst, Gallery/Scout, \$28.99

## *The Dark Flood*, Deon Meyer

Elite Cape Town detectives Griessel and Cupido, exiled to a small South African town and assigned to investigate the disappearance of a university student whose tech skills are legendary, at the same time receive a dire anonymous warning from someone in the police unit they're leaving. Simultaneously, a lovely but cash-strapped young real estate agent is fast becoming snagged in the corporate skeins of a local billionaire (does anyone remember when millionaires were legendary?) developer whose attentions she spurns but whose money offers a way out of a financial nightmare. As one plot line crosses another, the all-too-believable characters, led by Griessel and Cupido; the complex culture that is the new South Africa; and the short and crisp chapters keep the pages turning and the reader engaged through all 400 pages of this often funny but in the end deadly serious police procedural. Maverick cops in a corrupt state, a not uncommon theme in crime fiction, is seldom done so well as in Meyer's latest—some say best—procedural. —Betsy Burton, Atlantic, \$27

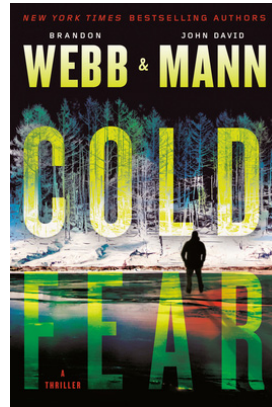




**Razzmatazz**, Christopher Moore

Continuing the misadventures of sometime bartender Sammy 'Two Toes' Tiffin, Stilton (aka the cheese) and the rest of the Cookie's Coffee Irregulars in post WWII San Francisco. If you like your romps madcap and full of murder, mayhem, ETs, Drag Kings and, ahem, Dragons, then this perfect follow up to *Noir* is for you.

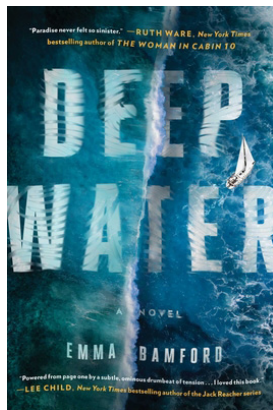
—Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$28.99

**Cold Fear**, John David

Mann & Brandon Webb

Mann and Webb tackled a 'locked ship' mystery in *Steel Fear* and now they've turned to Scandinavian noir with Finn's second outing. Rogue Navy Seal Finn arrives in Iceland with a target on his back. He's posing as a crime writer; having tracked three of his former teammates here. However, his intention to question them and learn the truth about the Mukalla mission is sidetracked by a 'mermaid in ice,' an Icelandic billionaire and a tenacious cop. Finn cannot afford to get himself locked up; for an assassin from his past just hit Iceland and the city's peace is about to be shattered.

—Paula Longhurst, Bantam, \$28

**Deep Water**, Emma Bamford

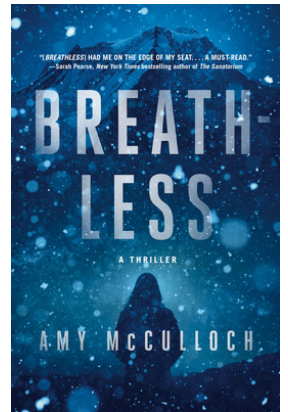
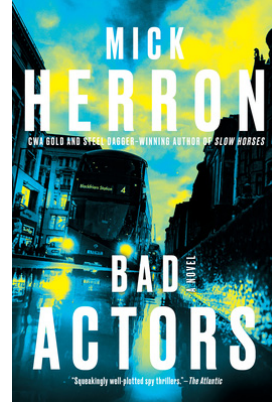
If your dream vacation includes a magical island—"soft white sand with only your footprints in it, palm trees, clearest water you've ever seen," Amarante is it! This raw, remote Malaysian paradise is the setting of *Deep Water*, where artist Virginie and husband/carpenter, Jake, pluckily sail their new yacht to spend their honeymoon. And the island is a paradise, inhabited by only two other boats, *Swallow* and *Ariel*, soon joined by a third, luxurious *Santa Maria*, with convivial

owners and sensible Club Rules, all contributing to a grand, harmonious, relaxing life. UNTIL—the adventure turns into a nightmare: no medical help, no mechanical help, no way to resolve jealousies, arguments—all in the middle of nowhere. "Paradise ends when guilt begins." Choices are made which test real moral issues—guilt, trust, mercy. This novel opens with a compelling at-sea rescue, then settles into Virginie's and Jake's wander-lust adventure, slowly building tensions and resolving with unexpected twists and turns. A good read!

—Carol Kranes, Scout Press, \$28.00

**Breathless**, Amy McCulloch

Ceci Wong, freelance journalist and inexperienced climber finds herself on the team of the final climb of mountaineering legend Charles McVeigh's 'Clean Fourteen' expedition. Manaslu has a deadly enough reputation, without a killer stalking their expedition. Ceci becomes convinced that not everyone is getting off the mountain alive... —Paula Longhurst, Anchor, \$28

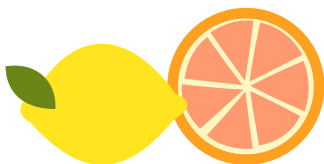
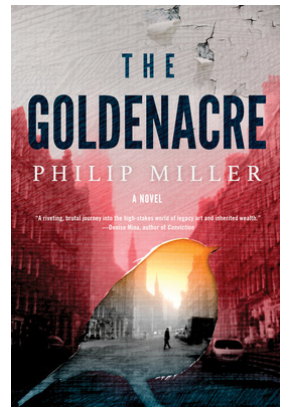
**Bad Actors**, Mick Herron

Off with her head? Are Diana Taverner's days as First Desk of MI5 numbered? It certainly seems so. A little bird is telling Oliver Nash that Diana has 'disappeared' a vital advisor to the PM's team. Are the intelligence services getting too independent for the PM's liking or is this a threat to make MI5 fall in line? Lady Di has other, more pressing problems, her opposite number in Russia is in town, unnoticed by five's 'crack' surveillance team and therefore able to operate under the radar. Jackson Lamb's slow horses have been involved in an incident in Wimbledon that leaves one 'horse' with tyre marks and another sent to a sanatorium. It doesn't take Lamb long to realize that he and his team have unwittingly gathered intel that could be very useful to Diana. Question is can he be arsed to save her? —Paula Longhurst, Soho, \$27.99

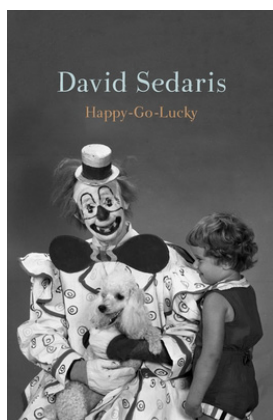
**The Goldenacre**, Philip Miller

Art, murder, and mystery combine in this novel set in Edinburgh and involving one art investigator, one reporter, and a painting called 'The Goldenacre'. Thomas Tallis is sent from London to authenticate the painting by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a famous Scottish painter. But, as he arrives, a painter and a councilman are murdered and Tallis receives a box containing a human tongue. The three events seem to be connected. A disabled and cynical reporter, Shona Sandison, begins piecing together the disparate parts of the incidents. The murders may be a way of saving her career and the life of the newspaper itself. Miller's picture of the art world is filled with bizarre characters including a strange performance artist, evil twins, and a reference to MI6. Events unfold like the sea fog around Edinburgh, but it is solid enough to lead the reader on through mysterious events filled with mysterious people leading up to a dramatic ending. *The Goldenacre* is a literary mystery written by a man who loves his words and his plot.

—Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, \$27.95



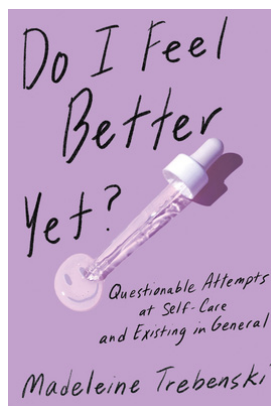




### Happy-Go-Lucky, David Sedaris

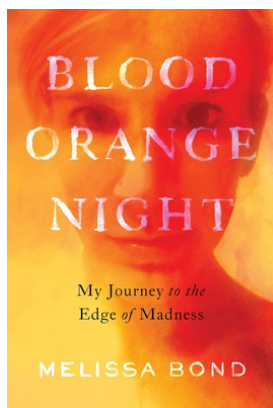
Master storyteller David Sedaris is back with his first collection of personal essays since his bestselling *Calypso*. In this collection, we follow Sedaris as he buys gummy worms to feed ants, takes care of his octogenarian father, and learns how to shoot guns with his sister. Sedaris remains in a league of his own, spinning the wonders of the everyday into pure gold. —Brian Pham, Little Brown, \$31

### Do I Feel Better Yet?,



### Madeleine Trebenski

If you've ever expressed the slightest dissatisfaction with your life, you've most likely been on the receiving end of well-meaning suggestions such as "have you tried meditation?" In this darkly funny debut collection of essays, Madeleine Trebenski explores all the so-called solutions she's been offered in the name of self-care. For me, I was hooked instantly just reading through the table of contents. How could I not read a book with chapters titled: "Are You Hungry or Are You Just Horny?", "Maslow's Hierarchy of Wants", or "Jobs I'm Actively Googling During Work Hours"? If you've ever bought an oil diffuser or taken up gratitude journaling as an attempt to fix complex mental health and lifestyle issues at least once in your life, this book is for you. —Brian Pham, Chronicle, \$16.95



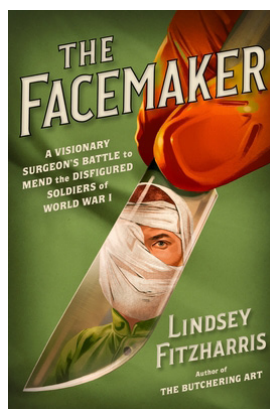
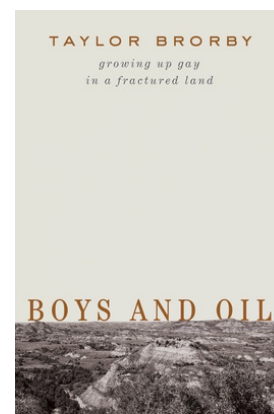
### Blood Orange Night, Melissa Bond

A lot of us in the Salt Lake Valley are familiar with Melissa Bond whether as a poet, a journalist, or as an activist, she is one of us. Melissa details her life here as a mother of two, with one being a special needs son. She writes of losing her job at The Wasatch Journal because of the 2008 recession. She writes of her marriage with candor even as the relationship disintegrates. Most striking is how Melissa, with bold honesty and the pen of a poet, takes us inside her

addiction to benzodiazepines (a family of drugs that includes Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, Ativan) and the struggle to overcome the dependency. She shares the sleepless nights and the postpartum depression among the stressors that lead to her need for "Mother's Little Helper". As a new mother, following her doctor's orders, Melissa takes the pills night after night with increased dosing as her body develops a need for more and her day-to-day existence becomes clouded with memory gaps that anyone suffering from sleep deprivation and being overwhelmed knows only too well. The intimacy of her journey to break the addiction and her drive to educate others by sharing her story and fight means Melissa Bond's story is not to be missed. —Calvin Crosby, Gallery Books \$27.99

### Boys and Oil, Taylor Brorby

I had the privilege of growing up here in Utah in the late '70s and early '80s. It was a time before the state was as strip-malled from Logan to Nephi as it has become (with no pause button to slow continuing over-development). It was a time when natural resources still felt abundant. A time when much of the state felt like it was a wilderness, from lush mountain forests to the colorful deserts. The West now has a much-needed voice in naturalist and activist Taylor Brorby's memoir, *Boys and Oil: Growing Up Gay in a Fractured Land*. At its core, his words are a love letter to the beauty of the American West. His book is profoundly personal with a beautiful, poetic tone—his respect and call to action to protect the environment, stop oil and mineral exploitation, and accept climate change. Taylor tethers the space between land exploitation and queer marginalization and how the two things intertwine and relate to one another. His book acknowledges the land taken from the original inhabitants and the continued dwindling resources and a stern warning on how we as a people are destroying it. Taylor illuminates the contrast of interpersonal violence with the exploited land. He shares the harsh reality of his coming of age, being an out gay man, and the environmental activist he is today. —Calvin Crosby, Liveright, \$27.95



### The Facemaker: A Visionary Surgeon's Battle to Mend the Disfigured Soldiers of World War I, Lindsey Fitzharris

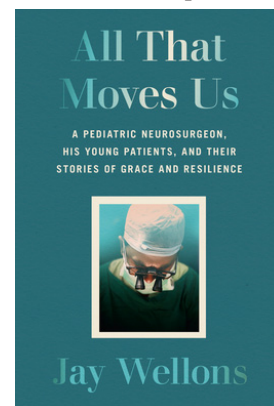
The war to end all wars was devastating as it killed an entire generation of men on both sides of the battle. Almost worse than death were the horrible disfigurements suffered by some of the participants. Particularly awful were the facial injuries which were challenging from a medical standpoint, but more so for the psychological injury done to a man who may have lost part, or all of his face. En-

tering this maelstrom was Dr. Harold Gillies whose groundbreaking work in facial reconstruction became the foundation from which all plastic surgery is done today. His techniques were innovative as were his theories of recovery for the men who had been so tragically damaged. His story is vividly conveyed by Fitzharris and is an important addition to the story of the War.

—Barbara Hoagland, FSG, \$30

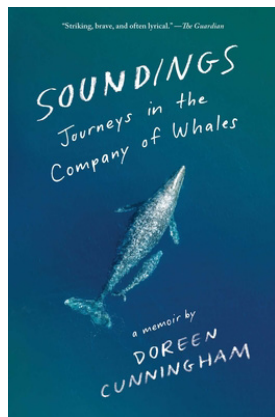
### All That Moves Us, Jay Wellons

I cannot even imagine being the parent of a child that needs Dr. Wellon's surgical skills. Without flinching he shares some of the deeply moving stories of his 25 year career as a pediatric neurosurgeon. Neurosurgeons are magicians, engineers, artists all rolled up in 15 years of grueling training. Wellon includes tales from the emergency and waiting rooms to the





“suture box” and operating rooms. He makes it clear that no one helps a patient alone; it takes a medical “village” that is as hardworking and dedicated as Dr. Wellon. He wields his skill and passion, with a finely honed commitment to being the best he can for every patient. Personal, smart, easy to read, this is a memoir worth picking up!  
—Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, \$28



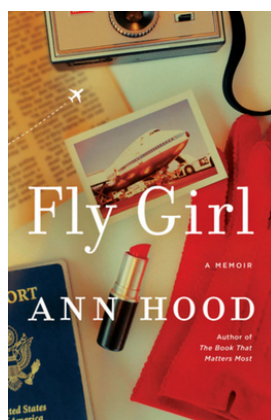
### **Soundings**, Doreen Cunningham

Cunningham shares her search for a missing part of her life which parallels the plight and migration of gray whales up and down the western coast of North America. The author has had a tumultuous relationship with her mother and has spent many formative years in an unsettled family life in the UK. She has been in and out of several adult relationships and has an infant son to care for. She finds an affinity with gray whales and their lives as they try to survive the human domination of their world. Interest-

ing series of adventures ensue as she and her young son track a pod of gray whales from Baja California up to the Arctic. Poor as a church mouse, she has to prevail on the kindness of the Inuit people of the North Slope but in them finds a deeper meaning for the purpose of life and is able to experience personal resolution. —Patrick Fleming, Scribner, \$27.99

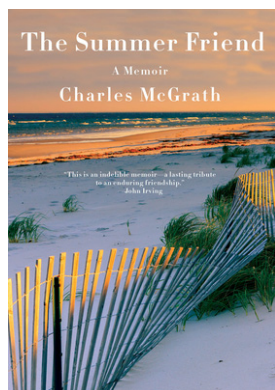
### **Fly Girl**, Ann Hood

Hood began her career as a flight attendant during the glory days of airline travel. During her years with TWA, she met and interacted with the famous and not so famous people who flew with her. This lively memoir is filled with antidotes of her adventures, both good and bad. Throughout she maintained a love of travel and a breathless love for the sights and experiences she had. Hood also depicts a time and place when air travel meant people dressed in their best and expected first class service. She was also present during the deregulation of the airlines which meant cheaper tickets and also meant crowded planes and little of the glamour she experienced in her early days as a flight attendant. This is a personal memoir as well as an extensive look at the world of commercial flight throughout the years. —Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$26.95



### **The Summer Friend**, Charles McGrath

At once an elegiac farewell and a clutch of idyllic summer memories, McGrath's touching new memoir brings to life the seemingly infinite pleasures of summer, whether spent in a charming cottage, a camp, or a rundown cabin. Children swim, ride bikes, or race through woods and sand dunes; teenagers fall in love, neck in drive-in movies, snooze; adults

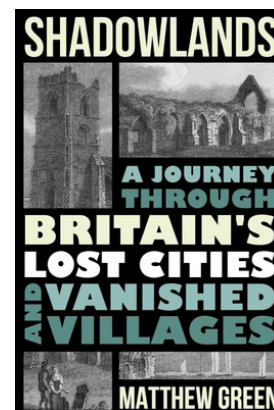


sail or play golf, set lobster traps or read books or beetle off to the dump; families organize road trips or parades, play lawn games or charades, set off fireworks.... Such pastimes hold endless allure and, engaged in together, whether with sibling, spouse, or best friend, each takes on an indelible edge of joy. Joy that was at the heart of the friendship of Chip McGrath and Chip Gillespie as they descended into unfettered silliness, competitive heat leavened by humor, puerile grumpiness turned to banter...camaraderie in other words. Camaraderie that was truly theirs, albeit turned bittersweet once cancer came to call. A lovely, tender (and as often playful) tale of summer, family, and a timeless friendship. —Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$25

## NONFICTION/HISTORY/NATURE

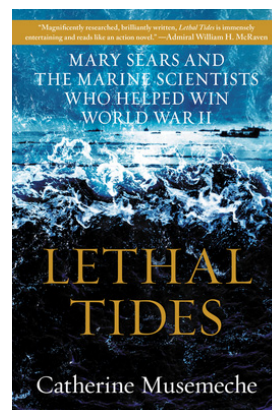
### **Shadowlands: A Journey through Britain's Lost Cities and Vanished Villages**, Matthew Green

Matthew Green's obsession with the hidden bits and pieces of British history has resulted in a rich portrait of a landscape unknown to modern tourists. Imagine the wind revealing a hidden village in the Orkneys or a military base filled with imaginary Nazi towns. The book covers reasons for these lost cities ranging from climate change to pestilence and may serve as a cautionary tale to modern readers. Stories come from the worlds of archeology, historical documents, and folklore. Read the book with a curious mind and in small bits enjoying the author's travels. It will make you wonder just what is under the ground you walk on each day and will be a perfect gift for that aunt who loves a good British mystery. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Norton, \$27.95



### **Lethal Tides**, Catherine Musemeche

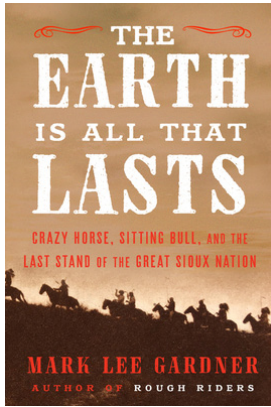
Much has been written about World War II, mainly about battles and their outcomes. None of these victories would have been possible without good intelligence. Lethal Tides chronicles the unheralded and vital contributions made by the Naval Oceanographic Office, a subsidiary department of ONI, the Office of Naval Intelligence, and specifically its leader, Lt. Mary Spears. Spears was one of the most respected Oceanographers in the country, a leading scientist at the Woods



Hole Oceanographic Institute before the war. Ultimately, because of a lack of men, she was recruited into ONI, a job she had coveted. But because she was a woman, her many accomplishments were initially dismissed by the Navy. She worked diligently to overcome this unfounded stigma and ultimately was charged with running the organization. She turned the office into a well-run font of information for the Navy, producing everything from the Bathythermograph, a device which helped submarines evade detection by destroyers, to every type of chart imaginable, tides, harbors, composition of beaches, water temperature and depth, to name a few, for the planning of



amphibious landings and naval operations round the globe. Lt. Spears headed an organization of over eight hundred people, mostly women who, without their research and productivity the war could not have been waged and won. A well-researched and vividly written account, even those without a scientific background will find this a telling and incredibly interesting story. —John Mark, Harpercollins, \$29.99, **\*Preorder\***



***The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation***, Mark Lee Gardner

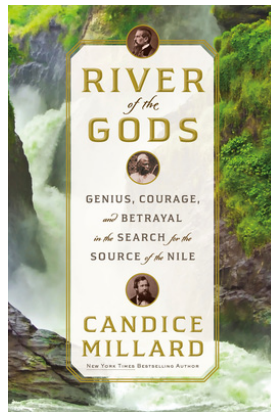
Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull are often considered two of the most influential men in the glorious history of the Sioux. They lived large in the pivotal years that saw the end of the nomadic lives of their people who traditionally hunted the vast herds of buffalo but came into increasing conflict with the white American's lust for Manifest Destiny. This clash culminated in the Battle of the Little Big Horn when

they destroyed the Seventh Cavalry and its leader George Armstrong Custer. What was essentially an inspiring victory for the Native American tribes of the plains turned into eventual tragedy as the encroachment of the whites decimated their traditional way of life. Gardner's depiction of the lives of these two brilliant men is vivid and a valuable addition to the story of the American West.

—Barbara Hoagland, Mariner, \$28.99

***River of the Gods***, Candice Millard

Candace Millard does it again! Following the success of *River of Doubt*, she now focuses on the search for the source of the Nile River. Her chief character is Sir Richard Burton, the mid-19th century British adventurer, soldier, and explorer (with an unusual Utah tie). In typical British fashion of the “stiff upper lip,” the British are on top of the world economic and political heap and are smug—too smug as it turns out. Burton, as an agent of the Royal Geographic Society takes on the challenge along with a favorite of the British aristocracy in the personage of J.H. Speke. This duo, the cream of white European culture, are so sure of themselves that they are doomed from the start—only to be rescued by an African man of humble origins. Written in Millard's easy-to-read style and wonderfully researched, this is a great read. Recommended for that person who still has a bit of an explorer in themselves. —Patrick Fleming, Doubleday, \$32.50



***Rebels at Sea***, Eric Jay Dolin

Dolin is one of our most prolific authors specializing in maritime history. His latest work tells the little understood role which American privateers played in the American Revolutionary War. A privateer is a private maritime ship which is given license by a government to raid and capture ships of other nations as a mechanism to impact a war in the host country's favor. In 1775, the American revolution was beginning to heat up and facing the mighty army and navy of Great

Britain, the most powerful nation on earth at the time. There was no American Colonial Navy comparable to the colonists' Army. The Continental Congress had no resources with which to fight the English and very little ability to manufacture implements of war like cannon, muskets, gunpowder or even supply foodstuffs to the soldiers and population. The British had a robust merchant marine system for trade and transport with which it could supply its island nation and its armed services. So, Congress decided to let the free market work in the form of maritime privateers to keep the revolution alive and they proved to be remarkably effective. The names which appear as privateers are still some of the wealthiest family names in the modern U.S. —Patrick Fleming, Liveright, \$32.50



**THE FLAG,**  
A Graying American Looks Back  
**THE CROSS, and the**  
at His Suburban Boyhood and  
**STATION WAGON**  
Wonders What the Hell Happened  
**BILL MCKIBBEN**

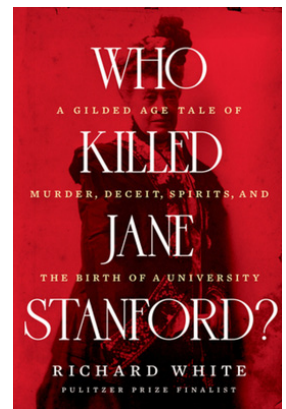
***The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened***, Bill McKibben

McKibben spent most of his childhood in Lexington, Massachusetts in the 1970's. His parents bought their modest house for \$30,000 and he is amazed that it is now worth more than \$1 million. When he was a youth, the church played a major role in the community. McKibben watched traditional Christianity evolve from a community dedicated to civic

responsibility to a place where the individual ruled and communities were ripped apart by political divisions. McKibben links post World War II prosperity and growth to the growing environmental crisis. The reflections McKibben describes are an outgrowth of a clear-eyed view of the country McKibben loves, but is heartbroken with the disunity which he fears will bring a calamity. —Barbara Hoagland, Holt, \$27.99

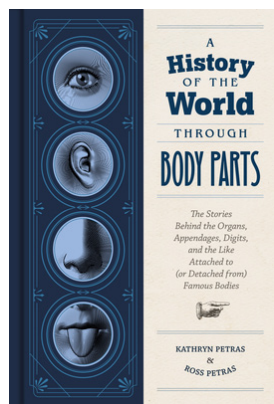
***Who Killed Jane Stanford?***, Richard White

If you've never heard of Jane Stanford, David Starr Jordan, Bertha Berner, Ah Wing and Won Toy Won, or Albert Beverly—you wouldn't be the first. If you didn't know that Jane Stanford, cofounder of Stanford University, was murdered by strychnine poisoning after a previous attempt on her life—you're not alone. Finally, if you're interested in reading about San Francisco's gilded age where wealth, corruption, science, and spirits (dead ones, that is), are chillingly reconstructed in an attempt to solve a murder that's been covered up for over a century—then Richard White's *Who Killed Jane Stanford?* will be your best summer read. When Leland and Jane Stanford's only son died at 19, they decided the best way to honor him would be the establishment of what was





to become a great university. Once Leland himself died, Jane took on the task of managing all aspects of the college, often to the chagrin of the professors and board of directors. While vacationing in Hawaii in 1905 she died of what was later discovered to be strychnine poisoning, but at the time was reported to be of natural causes. White, an acclaimed historian and retired Stanford professor, cites long conversations with his brother Stephen, who writes crime fiction, for “teaching me how to think about a mystery, how to unravel it, and how to recognize clues worth pursuing.” And pursuing is exactly what White does with every piece of nonfiction evidence, research and summary he lays out to solve the whodunit. White’s account of the investigation (or lack thereof) delivers a cracking good tale of greed and corruption. FYI: read more about David Starr Jordan’s questionable ethics and behavior in Lulu Miller’s highly recommended *Why Fish Don’t Exist*. —Val Kittel and Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$35



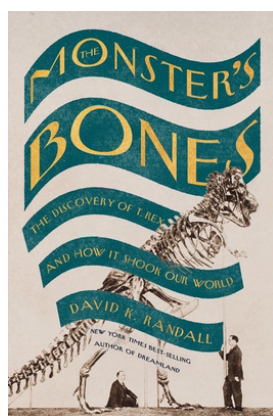
***A History of the World Through Body Parts: The Story Behind the Organs, Appendages, Digits, and the Like Attached to (or Detached from) Famous Bodies***  
Kathryn Petras, Ross Petras

This rollicking trip through history is told from the unique perspective of various body parts. We ramble from Greek sculpture and very small penises to Martin Luther’s battle with the devil and severe constipation. We spend some time with heads either attached or not and mull over Habsburg noses. From cave dwellers’

art to space exploration, the Petras give their all, and, in the process, give the readers one of the best explanations of how body parts have played a vital role in the world’s history. —Barbara Hoagland, Chronicle, \$22.95

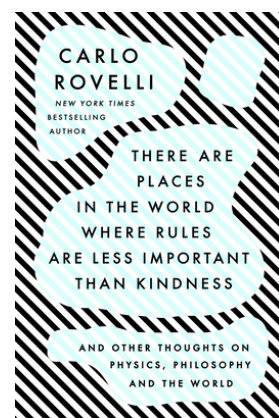
***The Monster’s Bone: The Discovery of T-Rex and How It Shook Our World***, David K. Randall

The Gilded Age of America not only created enormous wealth, it also provided the funds which enabled a lucky few to follow their dreams of exploration. Randall’s examination of the finding of the first prehistoric bones is lively and engrossing. The characters who formed the center of the explorations were charismatic without exception, but two stand out: Henry Fairfield Osborn, born to great wealth, devoted his life to the building of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. And Barnum Brown, who hailed from a far less lofty pedigree, was the first to discover *Tyrannosaurus Rex* fossils in Eastern Montana. This discovery would radically change the history of the world and paleontology would never be the same. —Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$27.95

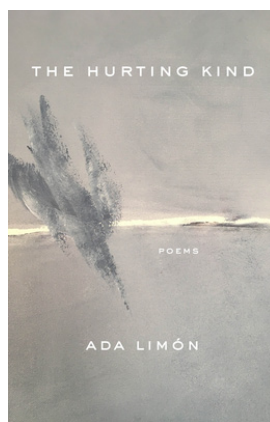


***There Are Places in the World Where Rules Are Less Important Than Kindness: And Other Thoughts on Physics, Philosophy and the World***, Carlo Rovelli

If you’ve never read any Rovelli before, this is the one to start with. If you have then you know what a treat you are in for. Rovelli always does his best to explain fairly baffling concepts from theoretical physics to the non-scientist layperson. This is already incredibly helpful when talking to the quark-obsessed 10-year-olds in your life. But where his true gift lies is in his poetic voice and a sort of transcendent optimism that comes with the perspective of a few billion light years. In these baffling earth times, black holes are strangely comforting, and gravity feels like a warm hug, or maybe that is just Rovelli with his unique and obvious love of life. —Michaela Riding, Penguin, \$26



## POETRY



***The Hurting Kind***, Ada Limón

Reading these poems sent me into shivers of delight and gratitude. Thank you, world, for Ada Limón. The precision of poetry in the right poet’s pen can be like the clarity of your best friend: unflinching to your faults (yours, mine, humanity’s,) yet still lovingly drawing attention to the good. And Limón so leans – unflinching, attentive, loving. This book of poetry is intimate, full of observations close to home as you would expect after the past two years. It is also expansive, full of grace and a satiating (never cloying) hope. I

hope you read it. —Michaela Riding, Milkweed, \$22

## INKSLINGER’S INKSLINGERS

### Editor:

Michaela Riding

### Designer:

Hilary Dudley

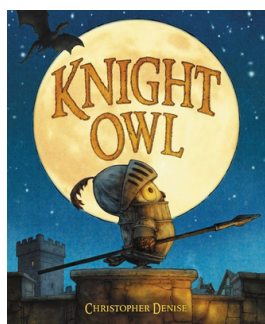
### Copy Editors:

Anne Holman Alexis Powell

### Inkslingers:

Karlyn Bond	Wendy Foster Leigh
Betsy Burton	Paula Longhurst
Calvin Crosby	Anne Stewart Mark
Patrick Fleming	Jack Mark
Sue Fleming	Margaret Brennan Neville
Becky Hall	Brian Pham
Barbara Hoagland	Alexis Powell
Anne Holman	Michaela Riding
Val Kittel	Mackenzie Van
Carol Kranes	Engelenhoven





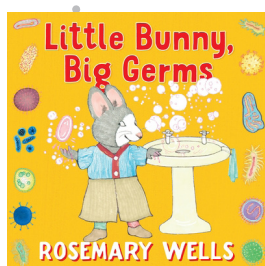
***Knight Owl,***  
Christopher Denise

Owl wants to be a knight, has wanted to be a knight his entire life. When he is accepted into Knight School (check out the look on his owl mom's face!) it turns out that his skills might

be useful! The story is so nice! And the illustrations are stellar, rich with details that make the tale shine. This is a picture book that kids and adults will go back to over and over again. The second time they read it, hopefully there will be pizza too! —MBN, Hachette, \$17.99 (all ages!)

***Big Truck, Little Island,***  
Chris Van Dusen

This is a stellar combination of text and pictures, and it is all based on a true story. When the big rig arrives on the island and starts the trek to deliver its cargo, it is no surprise that it has a hard time navigating the roads. What is a surprise is how the very smart kiddos figure out what to do! This is a great addition to Van Dusen's impressive resume. —MBN, Candlewick, \$17.99 (3 and up)



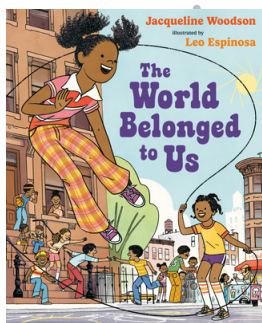
***Little Bunny, Big Germs,***  
Rosemary Wells

Even the little ones have questions about germs these days, and Wells in her usual darling straightforward style, gives readers a guide. P.J. gets sick at school and it turns out, it is all the bugs that he can't see on

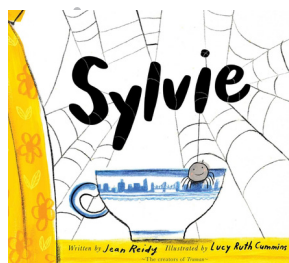
his hands that are the problem. P.J. gets better and takes the lessons back to his friends. Great intro for washing hands! And the illustrations are perfect. —MBN, Henry Holt, \$18.99 (4 and up)

***The World Belonged to Us,***  
Jacqueline Woodson &  
Leo Espinosa

This is an energy filled celebration of summertime! The kids are outside playing and enjoy-



ing their vacation. Woodson's text has that same vibe! Let's go out and play! Leo Espinosa, local illustrator adds another layer of that same "let's stay out and play till the sun goes down." Both author and illustrator show a diverse and welcoming block where people come together to celebrate. —MBN, Nancy Paulsen Books, \$18.99 (all ages)



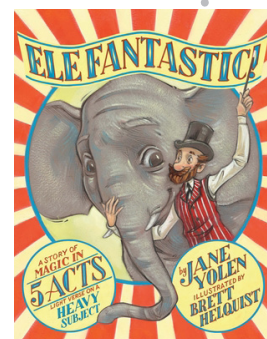
***Sylvie,*** Jean Reidy

Fans of Reidy's book Truman will delight in his cameo appearances in her new book, Sylvie. Sylvie the spider lives in a precarious space in the apartment building. She sees all the struggles of her human roommates, including a

little girl and her pet turtle, and she wants to do something about it. There is a lot at risk when Sylvie decides she has to do something. This is an endearing story about trying your best to make a difference. —MBN, Atheneum, \$18.99 (4 and up)

***Elefantastic,*** Jane Yolen &  
Brett Helquist

Two giants in the picture book world collaborate, and the results are amazing. Yolen takes a real story about an elephant and her friend and tells the story in words that only start with "ele." So clever, a trick pulled off with the help of illustrator Brett Helquist, who fills in the story with his expressive view of Flora and her friend, David. It is an "ele-inspiring" friendship brought to life by these two giants in picture book world. —MBN, Chronicle, \$17.99 (3 and up)

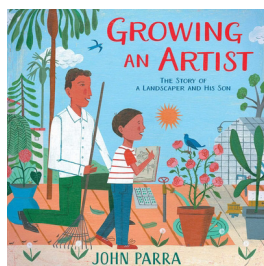


***The Great Zappino,*** Mac Barnett  
& Marla Frazee

Another terrific collaboration, Barnett and Frazee pool their talents and share the story of Zappino, who might or might not be afraid of heights. Funny, smart, and charming, this mostly wordless book is an invitation to exercise your imagination. —MBN, Beach Lane, \$17.99 (all ages)



## Children's Picture Books



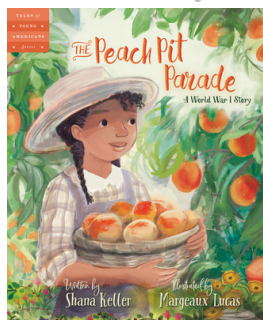
### ***Growing an Artist*, John Parra**

This charming picture book is affirmation for all of the hard-working people who have helped me in my yard! Jaunito is helping his dad work on their client's various landscapes. He

discovers all sorts of hidden joys. And even though some people look down on him and his dad, he can always see the positive. Dedication, imagination and sheer perseverance pays off in this bright story. —MBN, Beach Lane, \$18.99 (4 and up)

### ***The Peach Pit Parade: A World War I Story*, Shana Keller**

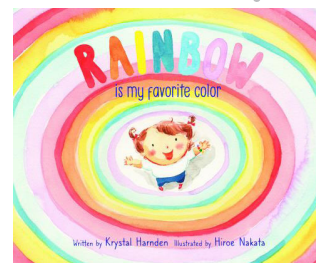
Rare picture book about WWI, shares some pretty interesting (and a little bit scary) info about the war through the eyes of a young African American girl. Polly's dad has gone to Europe to fight. When she figures out how hard it is for her dad,



she really wants to do something. Collecting peach pits to make the charcoal for their gas masks is something she can do. —MBN, Sleeping Bear Press, \$17.99 (7 and up)

### ***Rainbow is My Favorite Color*, Krystal Harnden & Hiroe Nikata**

Welcome Krystal to the growing club of Utah picture book writers! Her debut book is narrated by a wee one who can find a rainbow anywhere and because she cannot pick a single favorite color, she tells us why "rainbow is my favorite color." This book is packed with all things cute; the illustrations are darling. *Editor's Note: Krystal will be reading her book on June 22; check the website for details. You can order a signed copy.* —MBN, Rainbow Cloud, \$21.95 (rainbow lovers of all ages)



## Chapter Books for Children and Young Adults

### MIDDLE FICTION



### ***Solimar*, Pam Muñoz Ryan**

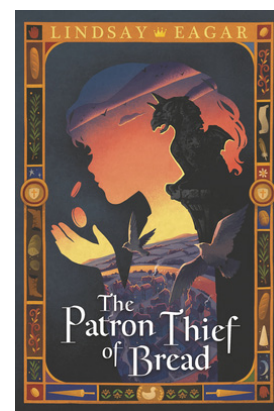
Always excited to see a Pam Muñoz Ryan book in the queue! Muñoz Ryan returns to her roots, showing readers the magic of the monarch butterflies, literally and figuratively. Solimar, a very smart capable young girl who happens to be a princess, has an extraordinary encounter with the returning butterflies. This moment gives her the power and the inspiration to do whatever it takes to save her family and the kingdom. With the help of river-boy Berto, she will have to navigate many

perils in this page turning adventure. Muñoz Ryan shares her beloved Mexican culture, her great storytelling skills, and Solimar is a delight. —MBN, Disney, \$17.99 (8 and up)

### ***The Patron Thief of Bread*, Lindsay Eagar**

Loved this novel! Readers follow the life of a young orphan, Duck, in medieval France. Duck is part of a gang: the Crowns are all young, and basically commit petty thievery to keep themselves alive. When they settle in Odierne, in the dilapidated ruins of an unfinished

cathedral, there is a sense that this could be home for a while. Duck gets talked into becoming the apprentice of one of the bakers, that way she can give them bread and steal coins for the gang. But quickly conflicts arise for Duck. She likes the baker, her bed, her full stomach, clean clothes, and most importantly she likes belonging. The other voice in the novel is that of one of the gargoyles; his history and his view adds a different kind of heroic magic. Perfect for fans of books like *Beatryce Prophecy*, full of courage and



wonder, well worth reading. Local author Lindsay Eagar does it again! —MBN, Candlewick, \$19.99 (9 and up)

### ***The Ogress and the Orphans*, Kelly Barnhill**

We couldn't wait to see Barnhill's next book because we love *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. The new book is set in the idyllic Stone-in-the-Glen, but the village is quickly decaying with no apparent reason. And, it seems like the people are changing too. Their mayor swears up and



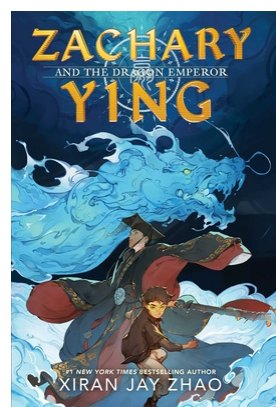
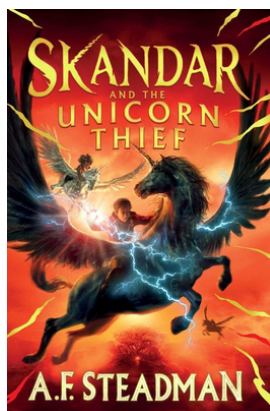


## MIDDLE FICTION

down that things are going to change but really nothing happens. The orphans and a kind ogress are the only ones that understand that something is truly toxic. When one of the orphans disappears, the reaction is dismal. And when the mayor wants to blame the ogress, the kids know that they have to do something. Populated with all sorts of quirky characters, and engaging animals (especially the crows), this book starts in the dark and ends in the light, a book that feels scary but is ultimately about kindness and community. —MBN, Algonquin Young Readers, \$19.95 (9 and up)

***Skandar and the Unicorn Thief*,**  
A. F. Steadman

Like every other 13-year-old, Skandar wants nothing more than to make it to the Island, to bond with a unicorn and become a unicorn rider. When it happens, but in a very surreptitious way, he is still willing to go through with it! Turns out Skandar is part of the banned fifth element, the Spirit (sometimes called the Death Element). Skandar and his new friends are going to have to work hard to keep Skandar and his unicorn safe, so that they can save their world from the runaway evil that is trying to destroy it. Fast paced, different view of unicorns, very visual novel that is highly entertaining. Fans will be clamoring for the sequel! —MBN, S&S Books for Young Readers, \$18.99 (9 and up)



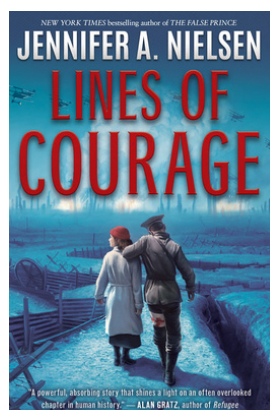
***Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor*,**  
Xiran Jay Zhao

Zachary's world is completely turned around when he finds out he is the human host for the first emperor of China. He soon meets a couple of other kids who are also channeling Chinese deities. Turns out that the spirit world might be opening up, and if all the beings from centuries past are set free, humankind will be obliterated. They are going to have to figure out how to close the rift. This novel feels like a computer game, readers will

love the action that ramps up and up, and the historical and cultural tidbits that add an authenticity to the novel. There is a lot of humor too, on this trip through China, to break up that saving the world vibe! —MBN, Margaret K. McElderry, \$17.99 (9 and up)

***Lines of Courage*,** Jennifer A. Nielsen

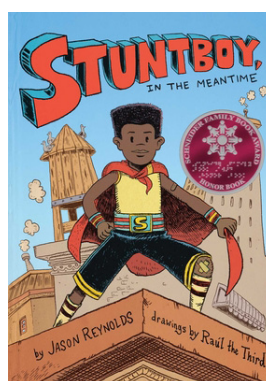
WWI books are rare. One of our favorite local authors dives in and gives readers an intimate look into the lives of five young people who are desperate to find families, safety, and the truth, all during the deadliest war in history. Everything from a Jewish kid to a weaponless Russian soldier, the stories encompass the breadth of this terrible conflict. All these characters are in dark, sad, places and will need smarts, courage, and compassion to survive. This



is well crafted plotting, with multiple story lines, and a pleasure to read. —MBN, Scholastic, \$17.99 (9 and up)

***Drifters*,** Kevin Emerson

Jovie's best friend Micah is gone. Search parties, news flashes, the police, no one can find him. As time goes by Jovie notices that not only has Micah disappeared, but he is disappearing from their memories. Jovie and new friend Sylvan discover that this is not the first time this has happened. Their struggle to figure what is going on leads them to a larger even more deadly threat. Weird, a bit creepy and very imaginative, scary is in! —MBN, Walden Pond, \$16.99 (9 and up)



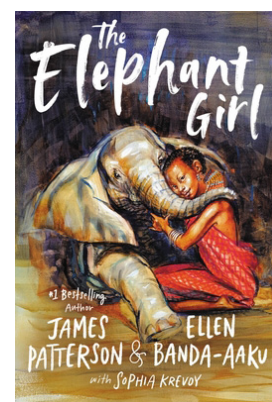
***Stuntboy in the Meantime*,**  
Jason Reynolds & Raul the Third

Surprise superheros are the best! When readers meet Portico they might think they are meeting a kid who lives in a big city, dealing with all the usual "stuff," friends, bullies, neighbors (it is a big apartment building). Portico though, knows when he has to step up to save the day, and he might need all of his super-powers to save his parents. Raul's illustrations make this book feel like a graphic

novel; the format will remind readers of Wimpy Kid! —MBN, Atheneum, \$13.99 (7 and up)

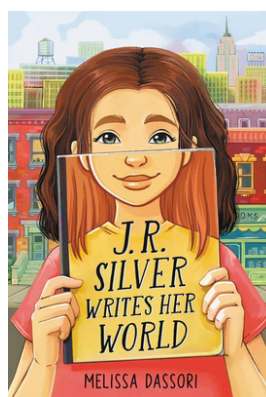
***The Elephant Girl*,** James Patterson & Ellen Banda-Aaku with Sophia Kreyov

Jama, a 12-year-old Masai girl, would rather spend time with elephants than gossip about the new boy, Leku, but when she and a baby elephant she has befriended are blamed for the death of a human and another elephant, she must seek out help from Leku whose father is head ranger at the Conservancy. The story is inspired by real events. —Becky Hall, Little Brown, \$16.99 (10 to 14)



***J.R. Silver Writes her World*,**  
Melissa Dassori

This is a friendship story with a mystery twist. Over the summer J.R.'s best friend has moved on, but they are in the same 6th grade class with a new teacher who assigns stories from the Gothamite magazine covers (AKA New Yorker). When J.R.'s stories come to life, she tries to figure out why. Kids who like to write will enjoy following the teacher's lessons. —Becky Hall, Little Brown, \$16.99, (8 to 12)

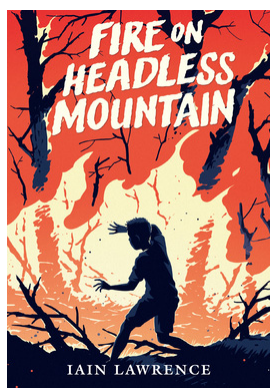




## MIDDLE READER

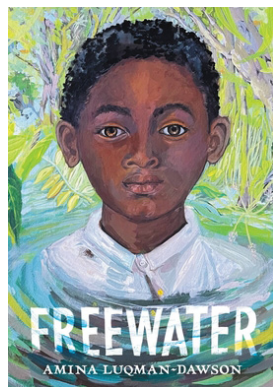
***Fire on Headless Mountain*,**  
Iain Lawrence

Eleven-year-old Virgil travels with his older sister and brother to spread their mother's ashes in Little Lost Lake, but when a forest fire starts, the car breaks down and they get separated, Virgil must remember all the lessons his earth science teacher mother taught him. High adventure! —Becky Hall, Holiday House, \$17.99 (9 to 12)



***Freewater*,**  
Amina Luqman-Dawson

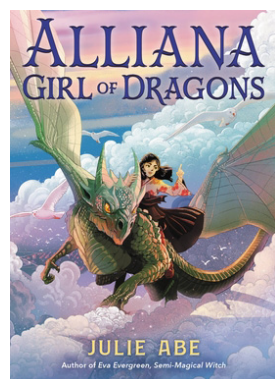
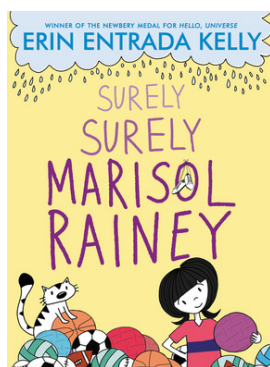
Twelve-year-old Homer and his little sister Ada escape Southerland Plantation. Their mother should be coming along, but with every turn and twist it becomes clear they are alone in the swamp. They discover a hidden community called Free-water. When threats come to their new friends, Homer must devise a plan to help out. Unknown history-based fiction at its best! —Becky Hall, Little Brown, \$16.99



(10 to 12)

***Surely Surely Marisol Rainey*,**  
Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol Rainey returns with another fun and funny friendship story after *Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey*. This time Marisol has to conquer kickball in gym class and learn how to talk to animals. —Becky Hall, Greenwillow Books, \$16.99, (8 to 12)



***Alliana Girl of Dragons*,**  
Julie Abe

Orphan Alliana is being raised and cruelly overworked by her stepmother in this Cinderella-like tale. She longs to follow her dreams, yet even when she meets a friendly witch and a loving dragon, she still struggles with her stepfamily. Nevertheless, Alliana holds on to hope. —Becky Hall, Little Brown, \$16.99, (8 to 12)

***Black Bird*,**

***Blue Road*,** Sofiya Pasternack

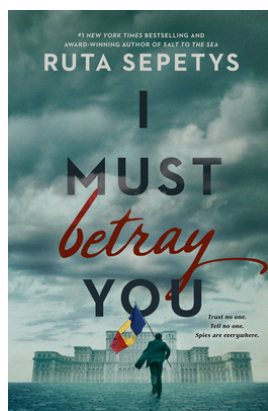
Ziva runs away with her twin brother Pesah to find a cure for his leprosy and avert his death. Their destination, Luz, is the fabled city where no one dies, but on the way, they encounter a half demon, various spirits, and the Angel of Death. The story will appeal to all who enjoy an adventure told like a folktale. —Becky Hall, Versify, \$16.99 (8 to 12) \*Preorder\*



## YOUNG ADULT

***I Must Betray You*,** Ruta Sepetys

For almost 25 years, living in Ceausescu's Romania was like living in a very scary dystopia. Readers meet Cristian, a teenager with poetic ambitions, who over the course of this story comes to realize that nothing and no one in Romania is what he thinks it is. His family is quietly falling apart, his beloved grandfather is dying, his own lifelong friend has betrayed him. When the other "communist countries" in Eastern Europe start to open up, their own versions of horrifying regimes falling



apart, it gives the oppressed Romanians hope. Cristian and so many of the young people join the protests at a terrible cost. As in her other books Sepetys gives us a wee bit of hope, maybe not for the larger picture but for the individuals who persist in making choices that are humane, that still try to be the best person they can be. I am a huge fan of Ruta Sepetys; she shines an intimate light onto the dark corners of our history through a young person's experience. Her books are must-reads! —MBN, Philomel, \$18.99 (12 and up)

***Hollow Fires*,** Samira Ahmed

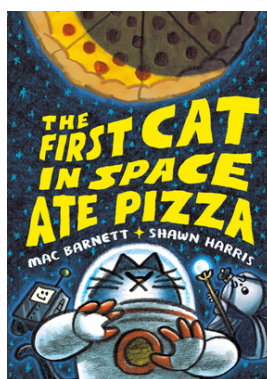
Ahmed (who wrote Internment) takes on racism again with her new book Hollow Fires. Set in Chicago at a high-end elite school, the disappearance of Muslim student Jawad Ali sets his classmate Safiya Mirza on a difficult and dangerous path. Safiya is at risk herself because her journalistic work at the school has uncovered an active White supremacist group. This riveting mystery looks at so many of the racist issues kids are dealing with today. It is a condemnation of the "privileged" and all the platforms used to shore racism up. —MBN, Little Brown, \$18.99 (12 and up)



## GRAPHIC NOVELS

***The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza*,** Mac Barnett & Shawn Harris

Readers expect quirky, funny, smart, sometimes a little weird when they see Mac Barnett's name on a book. His graphic novel collaboration delivers! Rats are eating the moon (YIKES!) and the only thing that can save our tides is a bio-engineered cat (WOW!). Of course the story has some very entertaining twists and turns. And, we have some signed copies! Fans will be looking for the sequel the minute they finish. —MBN, Harper, \$15.99 (8 and up)

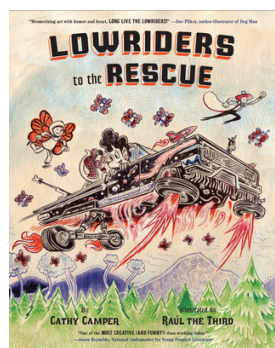




## GRAPHIC NOVELS

### *The Aquanaut*, Dan Santat

Sophie's dad died, lost at sea. When the Aquanaut shows up to see her dad's life work at Aqualand, all the humans are in for a surprise. Sophie's uncle and the investors are at odds. Sophie has to come to terms with her dad being gone and honoring all his work. Santat's illustrations tell a story on every page; rich with detail, his art reveals even more about what is really going on. This is a quirky fun to read adventure. Santat's craft as storyteller shines in this graphic novel. —MBN, Scholastic, \$12.99 (8 and up)



### *Lowriders to the Rescue*, Cathy Camper & Raul the Third

The first thing readers of all ages will notice are the illustrations; they are an invitation to pick up the book. Lupe is an impala, who, along with her friends Elirio and Flapjack, hang out and work on cars. When the terrific trio find out that the monarchs are not migrating this year and a corporation wants to demolish more of the local stores, they know they have to

act! Leaning into all things Hispanic, Camper and Raul take readers on an exhilarating adventure that is funny and kind at the same time. This is the first in a trilogy. —MBN, Chronicle, \$12.99 (8 and up)

## NONFICTION

### *Mushroom Rain*, Laura K. Zimmerman and Jamie Green

Mushrooms are a hot topic, and well worth learning more about. Find out about how prolific, mysterious, and sometimes really weird mushrooms are. This beautifully illustrated book will intrigue young and old readers looking to explore the fungi world. —MBN, Sleeping Bear Press, \$17.99 (4 and up)



### *Grow*, Riz Reyes and Sara Boccaccini Meadows

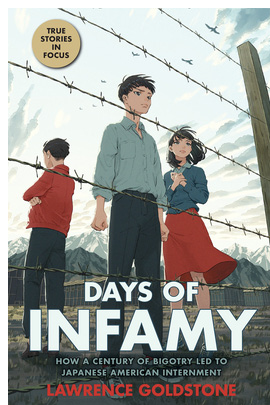
Pretty enough to sit on a coffee table, this oversized picture explains the history and superhero powers of 15 common plants. It is also an easy tutorial on growing the plants. The book has a lovely balance of text and art, and it is beautiful. A lovely addition to your library at home! —MBN, Abrams, \$22.99 (8 and up)



## NONFICTION

### *Days of Infamy*, Lawrence Goldstone

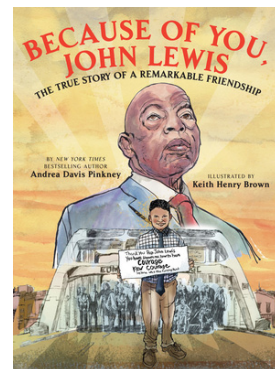
Goldstone lays out the history that led up to our government choosing to send thousands American citizens of Japanese descent to internment camps. That terrible decision was not just a reaction to the attack on Pearl Harbor; it was a culmination of decades of racism. Dating back to the Gold Rush, rampant racism was institutionalized against Japanese Americans, against all Asian Americans. Utah is the site of one of the camps. This is history that we all need to know. Well



worth reading! —MBN, Scholastic, \$19.99 (12 and up)

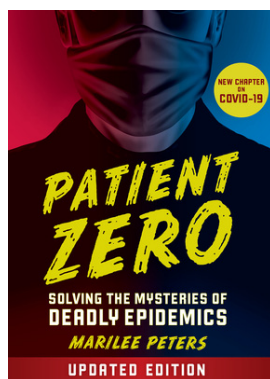
### *Because of You John Lewis*, Andrea Davis Pinkney

Tyber Faw has studied the Civil Rights Movement and he is desperate to meet his hero, John Lewis. Tyber's determination pays off when he convinces his grandparents to take him to Selma where Lewis makes the walk across the bridge every year. It is the start of a lifelong friendship. Outlining the arc of Lewis's amazing career within the story of his friendship with Tyber, readers see the personal and the big picture. Aimed at younger kids this book would work for all ages as an introduction to Lewis and his important place in our history. —MBN, Scholastic, \$18.99 (7 and up)



### *Patient Zero: Solving the Mysteries of Deadly Pandemics*, Marilee Peters

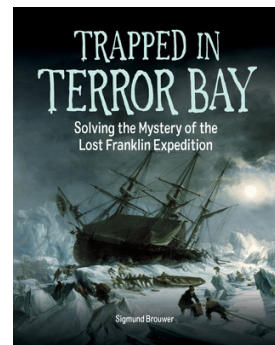
Covid has sparked a lot of interest in plagues and pandemics. Peters book is still a great way to go, and she has updated the earlier edition with a chapter about Covid. Starting with the plague outbreak in 1655 and working through 7 more deadly pandemics, this book offers the history and science of these world-wide traumas. The chapters are not long, very readable and fascinating. Great way



to answer questions and maybe provoke interest! —MBN, Annick, \$14.95 (9 and up)

### *Trapped in Terror Bay Solving the Mystery of the Lost Franklin Expedition*, Sigmund Brouwer

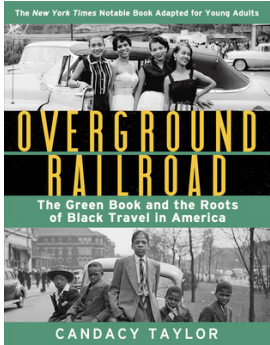
The recent discovery of the Endurance in Antarctica has renewed interest in the history of explorations and expeditions, especially the ones that went badly. Sixty plus years before Shackleton set out, Captain Crozier and company are getting ready to try and find a way through the Northwest passage. Outfitted with two ships, the best equipment, maps, and fellow explorers, he set out





## NONFICTION

from Disko Bay in Greenland in July of 1845. A little over a year later, September 1846, historians know that they made it to King William Island. And then they disappeared. It took historians, archeologists, and forensic scientists decades to figure out what happened. Fascinating book, with plenty of pictures, maps and personal details that make this story as fascinating as Shackleton's. —MBN, Kids Can Press, \$18.99 (9 and up)



**Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America**, Candacy Taylor

This is a young adult adaptation of an adult book of the same name. This edition cuts right to the chase and gives readers a bleak look into another horrific part of our racist history. Taylor has been on a personal mission to identify as many of the sites in the Green Book as possible.

The Green Book was a travel guide for the safe places for our American citizens of color on the road. To avoid violence, find a safe place to eat and sleep, African Americans used this book to navigate their country. It is also a celebration of courage and determination. The book is full of photos and details that bring these stories to life. Fans of Phillip Hoose (*Claudette*, *Attucks!*) will add another piece to their view of our history. —MBN, Amulet, \$22.99 (11 and up)

## EDGY YOUNG ADULT

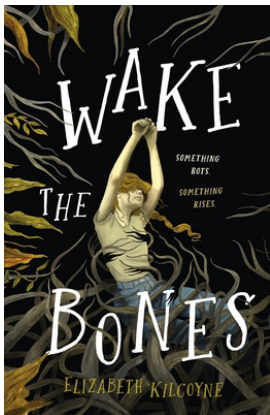
**The Days of Bluegrass Love**, Edward van de Vendel/Translator, Emma Rault

**The Days of Bluegrass Love** is the story of Tycho, who lives in Amsterdam and decides the way to counteract his aimlessness is to become a camp counselor. He chooses the International Camp in Tennessee, a United Nations-inspired camp aimed at a sharing of cultures. There are campers his age who care for and teach campers younger than themselves. Most importantly, he meets Oscar, an aspiring professional soccer player from Norway. From the moment they share a flight to the US, they are inseparable despite their different backgrounds. After violating the camp code of conduct, they must leave and return to their respective homes. They head together to Norway instead. Set in the '90s, the two boys must navigate the cultural norms of the time as they try to find their places in the world. Edward van de Vendel is a noted poet in Europe, and it shows in his storytelling. —Calvin Crosby, Levine Querido, \$18.99



**Wake the Bones: A Novel**, Elizabeth Kilcoyne

WOW. This is the kind of book that doesn't come along often. Lush, complex, and eerie, both rooted in timeless stories



## EDGY YOUNG ADULT

and completely new, with characters that are easy to root for, good grief, I love this book. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Wednesday, \$18.99, Age 14+

**Valiant Ladies**, Melissa Grey

Two incredible women from history brought to fictional life in anachronistic, bloody, gleeful glory. The real Valiant Ladies of Potosi would be so thrilled to know they helm this brilliant book. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Feiwel & Friends, \$18.99, Age 14+



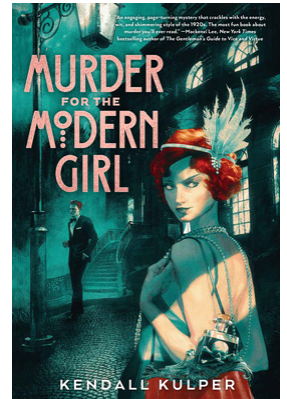
**Belladonna**, Adalyn Grace

A gothic, moody ghost story about a girl determined to solve her aunt's murder, even if it means an alliance with Death himself. With shades of *Wuthering Heights*, Hades and Persephone, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*—for fans of dark, gothic romances! —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Little Brown, \$18.99, Age 14+



**Murder for the Modern Girl**, Kendall Kulper

The most fun book about murder you'll ever read! *The Great Gatsby* and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, by way of *Pushing Daisies*. The setting is electric. The voice is fresh and sharp. The mystery will keep you guessing, and the romance will make you swoon. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Holiday House, \$19.99, Age 14+



**I Kissed Shara Wheeler**, Casey McQuiston

Another winner from CMQ! Think queer *Paper Towns*—a dissection of the manic pixie dream girl trope, with a smidge of Rachel Berry x Quinn Fabray fanfiction vibes thrown in for good measure. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Wednesday, \$19.99, Age 14+

