Charlotte Brontë
A Fiery Heart
CLAIRE HARMAN
NEW

On the two-hundredth anniversary of her birth, a landmark biography transforms Charlotte Brontë from a tragic figure into a modern heroine.

Charlotte Brontë famously lived her entire life in an isolated parsonage on a remote English moor with a demanding father and siblings whose astonishing creativity was a closely held secret. The genius of Claire Harman’s biography is that it transcends these melancholy facts to reveal a woman for whom duty and piety gave way to quiet rebellion and fierce ambition.

Drawing on letters unavailable to previous biographers, Harman depicts Charlotte’s inner life with absorbing, almost novelist intensity.

“[A]n excellent new bicentennial biography. . . . Ms. Harman writes with warmth and a fine understanding of Ms. Brontë’s literary significance. Above all, she is a storyteller, with a sense of pace and timing, relish for a good scene and a wry sense of humor.” —The Economist

“Harman’s narration of [the] devastating events [of Charlotte’s life] is elegant, sensitive, beautifully paced and moving. She has . . . produced a work that is affirmative, edifying, inspiring and humane.” —Sunday Express (London)
About Women

Conversations Between a Writer and a Painter

LISA ALThER AND FRANÇOISE GILOT

NEW

A provocative and wide-ranging conversation between two distinctive women—one American and one French—on the dilemmas, rewards, and demands of womanhood.

About Women is an extended conversation in which Lisa Alther and Françoise Gilot talk about everything important to them: their childhoods, the impact of war on their lives and their work, and their views on love, style, self-invention, feminism, and child rearing. They also discuss the creative impulse and the importance of art as they ponder what it means to be a woman.

“About Women is full of poignant microhistories and insightful observations about art, culture, and ideology. . . . History and individual experience are never wholly disentangled, and in these pages their intersection has a pulse. . . . Gilot and Alther are highly intelligent, thoughtful and perceptive.” —New Republic

“A writer and an artist hold a conversation and ask the big question: how can women live meaningful and creative lives? Everything is discussed: philosophy, love, art, literature, childhood, and fashion are examined from different perspectives. The result is an intimate, edifying, and fascinating book.”

—Madeleine Kunin, author of The New Feminist Agenda

Women of Will

The Remarkable Evolution of Shakespeare’s Female Characters

TINA PACKER

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Women of Will is a fierce and witty exploration of Shakespeare’s understanding of the feminine. Tina Packer, one of our foremost Shakespeare experts, shows that Shakespeare began, in his early comedies, by writing women as shrews to be tamed or as sweet little things with no independence of thought. Then, with the extraordinary Juliet, there is a dramatic shift: suddenly Shakespeare’s women have depth, motivation, and understanding of life more than equal to that of the men. Wondering if Shakespeare had fallen in love, the author observes that from Juliet on, Shakespeare’s characters demonstrate that when women and men are equal in status and passion, they can—and do—change the world.

“[Packer’s] experience in the theater gives her book a hands-on dimension. . . . Her knowledgeable tracing of connections among the plays and parallels among characters is never less than compelling.” —The New York Times

“Packer recognizes in Shakespeare’s full dramatic trajectory a great artist gaining an ever fuller understanding of both genders’ human identity. . . . Important and fascinating.” —Booklist

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Illuminations
Essays and Reflections
WALTER BENJAMIN
Translated by Harry Zohn
Edited by Hannah Arendt
Illuminations includes Benjamin’s views on Kafka, with whom he felt the closest personal affinity, his studies on Baudelaire and Proust (both of whom he translated), his essays on Leskov and on Brecht’s Epic Theater. Also included are his penetrating study on “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,” an illuminating discussion of translation as a literary mode, and his thesis on the philosophy of history. Hannah Arendt selected the essays for this volume and prefaces them with a substantial, admirably informed introduction that presents Benjamin’s personality and intellectual development, as well as his work and his life in dark times.

“There are certainly very few critics who can match [Benjamin’s] power of suggestiveness: his ideas and intuitions have a way of lingering productively, even when you quarrel with them. In the application of philosophical concepts to cultural and social actualities, his decidedly unmystical friend Adorno was his only peer. Philosophical thinking retained its old role, for Benjamin: it was his best defense against despair. There still is no better one.” — Leon Wieseltier, from the preface

Reflections
Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings
WALTER BENJAMIN
Translated by Edmund Jephcott
Edited by Peter Demetz
Reflections presents a new sampling of Walter Benjamin’s wide-ranging work. In addition to literary criticism, it contains autobiographical narration and travel pieces, aphorisms, and philosophical-theological speculations. Most of Benjamin’s writings on Brecht and his celebrated essay on Karl Kraus are included.

“There has been no more original, no more serious critic and reader in our time.” — George Steiner

“Benjamin is a legitimate ancestor of much that for the moment is most alive in criticism.” — The Nation

“This book is just that: reflections of a highly polished mind that uncannily approximate the century’s fragments of shattered traditions.” — Time

Gay Berlin
Birthplace of a Modern Identity
ROBERT BEACHY
NOW IN PAPERBACK
In the half century before the Nazis rose to power, Berlin became the undisputed gay capital of the world. Activists and medical professionals made it a city of firsts—the first gay journal, the first homosexual rights organization, the first Institute for Sexual Science, the first sex reassignment surgeries—exploring and educating themselves and the rest of the world about new ways of understanding the human condition. In this fascinating examination of how the uninhibited urban culture of Berlin helped create our categories of sexual orientation and gender identity, Robert Beachy guides readers through the past events and developments that continue to shape and influence our thinking about sex and gender to this day.


“Beachy enlarges our understanding of how the international gay-rights movement eventually prospered, despite the setbacks that it experienced not only in Nazi Germany but also in mid-century America.” — The New Yorker
Ostend
Stefan Zweig, Joseph Roth, and the Summer Before the Dark
Volker Weidermann
Translated by Carol Brown Janeway
NEW

Ostend is the true story of two of the twentieth century’s great writers, written with a novelist’s eye for pacing, chronology, and language—a dazzling work of historical nonfiction. Volker Weidermann lyrically recounts “the summer before the dark,” when a coterie of artists, intellectuals, drunks, revolutionaries, and madmen found themselves in limbo while Europe teetered on the edge of fascism and total war.

“A short but vital calm-before-the-storm history, one that shines a valuable light on two of the twentieth century’s finest writers. . . . Rich in insight and empathy.” —Minneapolis Star Tribune

“At once haunting and ornamental: an antique music-box of melancholic atmosphere. . . . A meditation on the act of creation, one that explores how we make refuges out of our own pasts.” —The New Republic

“Somewhat reminiscent of that other gem, Florian Illies’s 1913: The Year Before the Storm, in the effortless combination of grand epoch-defining moments with seemingly mundane observations of the everyday, it’s also steeped in that particular melancholy that permeates the works of both its subjects. Think the loneliness of Roth’s The Hotel Years, or the nostalgia-filled pages of Zweig’s memoir of Vienna’s lost golden age, The World of Yesterday.” —The Independent (London)

Pantheon | Cloth | 978-1-101-87026-6
176 pages | $24.95 | Exam Price $12.50

The Partnership
Brecht, Weill, Three Women, and Germany on the Brink
Pamela Katz
NOW IN PAPERBACK

This fascinating portrait of two of the most brilliant theater artists of the twentieth century—and the women who made their work possible—is set against the explosive years of the Weimar Republic. Theirs is a thrilling story of artistic daring entwined with sexual freedom during the Weimar Republic’s most fevered years, a time when art and politics and society were inextricably mixed.

“Readable, engaging and fair-minded. . . . Vividly re-creates not just these remarkable men but also the women who contributed so mightily to their reputations.” —Los Angeles Times

“Katz restores the women to their proper place in the story, with levity, strong characterization, and beguiling descriptions of an interwar German milieu crackling with politics, art, and a sense of possibility.” —The New Yorker

 “[Katz’s] work as a novelist and screenwriter helps her keep the pacing swift and the prose dynamic—the chapters on the creation of The Threepenny Opera are almost unbearably suspenseful. . . . She offers a real and empathetic sense of how Brecht and Weill walked and spoke and dressed.” —The New York Times

Anchor | Paper | 978-0-307-74416-6
496 pages | $17.95 | Exam Price $3.00
Vietnam, 1972: under a full moon, on the banks of the Song Ma River, a baby girl is pulled out of her dead mother’s grave. This is Rabbit, who is born with the ability to speak with the dead. She will flee from her destroyed village with a makeshift family thrown together by war. Radiant, lyrical, and deeply moving, this is the unforgettable story of one woman’s struggle to unearth the true history of Vietnam while also carving out a place for herself within it.

“She Weeps Each Time You’re Born
QUAN BARRY
NOW IN PAPERBACK

—The New York Times Book Review

—Los Angeles Times

—The Boston Globe

—Jesmyn Ward, National Book Award–winning author of Salvage the Bones

Early Warning
JANE SMILEY
NOW IN PAPERBACK

From the Pulitzer Prize–winner: the second installment, following Some Luck, of her widely acclaimed, best-selling American trilogy, which brings the journey of a remarkable family with roots in the Iowa heartland into mid-century America.

Early Warning opens in 1953 with the Langdon family at a crossroads. Their stalwart patriarch, Walter, who with his wife, Rosanna, sustained their farm for three decades, has suddenly died, leaving their five children, now adults, looking to the future. Only one will remain in Iowa to work the land, while the others scatter to Washington, D.C., California, and everywhere in between.

“A king-size American quilt of a novel, with fifty-plus characters and thirty-four years of plot about an ambitious Midwestern clan [whose] family members range across the midcentury political spectrum. . . . Smiley has a superb ear for downhome understatement.” —The New Yorker

“Phenomenally powerful. . . . What Smiley feels most like here, for her faultless skill in bringing a wide cast so vividly into being that we would know them anywhere, for the remarkable intensity of her feeling for territory and landscape and her combination of impatient intellect, emotional perspicacity and unfailing humanity, is America’s Tolstoy.” —The Guardian (London)
**A Little Life**

**HANYA YANAGIHARA**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

**FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD**

**FINALIST FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE**

**WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE**

“A Little Life follows four college classmates as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships—tinged by addiction, success, and pride—deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara’s stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves.

“An epic study of trauma and friendship written with such intelligence and depth of perception that it will be one of the benchmarks against which all other novels that broach these subjects (and they are legion) will be measured. . . . A Little Life announces [Yanagihara] as a major American novelist.” — The Wall Street Journal

“Exquisite. . . . The book shifts from a generational portrait to something darker and more tender: an examination of the depths of human cruelty, counterbalanced by the restorative powers of friendship.” — The New Yorker

**Anchor | Paper | 978-0-8041-7270-7**

832 pages | $17.00 | Exam Price $3.00

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**God Help the Child**

**TONI MORRISON**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

At the center: a young woman who calls herself Bride, whose stunning blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, her boldness and confidence, her success in life, but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love. There is Booker, the man Bride loves and loses to anger. Rain, the mysterious white child with whom she crosses paths. And finally, Bride’s mother herself, Sweetness, who takes a lifetime to come to understand that “what you do to children matters. And they might never forget.”

“A book to be read twice at a minimum — the first time for the story, and the second time to savor the language, the gems of phrasing and the uncomfortable revelations about the human capacity both to love and destroy.” — Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“There is a new urgency to Morrison’s work, a desire to tell the story itself, without embellishment or ornamentation. . . . Morrison [is] the undisputed interpreter of the American black experience.” — The Boston Globe

**Vintage | Paper | 978-0-307-74092-2**

192 pages | $14.95 | Exam Price $3.00
Bats of the Republic
An Illuminated Novel
ZACHARY THOMAS DODSON
NEW

Bats of the Republic is an illuminated novel of adventure, featuring hand-drawn maps and natural history illustrations, subversive pamphlets and science-fictional diagrams, and even a nineteenth-century novel-within-a-novel—an intrigue wrapped in innovative design.

“Archetypes of the cowboy story, tropes drawn from sci-fi, love letters, diaries, confessions all abound in this relentlessly engaging tale. Dodson has quite brilliantly exposed the gears and cogs whirring in the novelist’s imagination. It is a mad and beautiful thing.” —The Washington Post

“Bats of the Republic is a waking dream of America gone sideways: it’s familiar, enchanting, and just pretty damned weird in the most beguiling possible ways. Zachary Thomas Dodson has made a magnificent book.” —Audrey Niffenegger, author of The Time Traveler’s Wife

“Zachary Thomas Dodson has created a new form to tell his story, and in so doing, he has found a way to fuse adventure to love, weld science fiction to sorrow, and encircle everything in a winsome, mystifying experience of art, illustration, and design. Like the living secrets its hero finds in the deep, forgotten caves of Texas, Bats of the Republic is itself a hidden, undiscovered beauty.” —Patrick Somerville, author of This Bright River

Doubleday | Cloth | 978-0-385-53983-8
448 pages | $27.95 | Exam Price $14.00

The Tusk That Did The Damage
TANIA JAMES
NOW IN PAPERBACK

Orphaned by poachers as a calf and sold into a life of labor, Gravedigger is an elephant that has broken free of his chains and is terrorizing the South Indian countryside. Caught up in the violence are the studious younger son of a rice farmer drawn into the sordid world of poaching and a young American documentary filmmaker engaged in a risky affair with the veterinarian who is her subject. In three intertwined storylines—one of them narrated by the elephant himself—Tania James crafts a heartbreaking tale of the ivory trade, exploring the porous boundary between conservation and corruption.

“Impressive. . . . [James] brings a sharp and unnerving sensibility to bear on dismal and necessary events.” —The New York Times Book Review

“Enchanting. . . . Bighearted, morally complex. . . . James skillfully blends the suspense of a thriller and the erotic tensions of two romantic triangles with mythical, mournful flashbacks.” —San Francisco Chronicle

“Although the focus is primarily on poaching, the story’s true subject is larger and more profound: How do humans and animals—whose lives at times seem at cross purposes—co-exist? . . . [James’s] elephants loom larger than life.” —The Washington Post

Vintage | Paper | 978-0-8041-7343-8
240 pages | $16.00 | Exam Price $3.00
Lucky Alan
And Other Stories

JONATHAN LETHEM
NOW IN PAPERBACK

A father tries to stave off a nervous breakdown when a family trip to SeaWorld shades into the sinister; a porn critic discovers that, despite his best intentions, his reputation—not to mention the stacks of smut lining his apartment—precedes him; an out-of-work avant-garde stage director begins to test his limits in the theater of life; desperate forgotten comic book characters find themselves suddenly stranded on a desert island.

With his celebrated wit and invention, Lethem brilliantly transforms the real into the surreal, uncovering the absurdity always lurking in the mundane, the twin forces of humor and tragedy that bracket experience, and the lasting desire—even in the face of all that goes awry—for human connection.

"Rich and darkly comic. . . . Astutely cunning social and political satires sit alongside experimental flights of absurdist fantasy and parable, with traces of Lethem’s unique slant on magical realism sprinkled in as well. . . . All of Lethem’s stories are enlivened by his wit and provocative wordplay.” —Chicago Tribune

"Lethem works in an interesting literary space between realism and absurdism, modernism and postmodernism, satire and a particular brand of [Don] DeLillo-inspired darkness. . . . His talent is large.” —The New York Times Book Review

The Water Knife

PAOLO BACIGALUPI
NOW IN PAPERBACK

Paolo Bacigalupi, New York Times best-selling author of The Windup Girl and National Book Award finalist, delivers a scorching thriller born out of today’s front-page headlines that prey on our worst fears about potential catastrophic failures awaiting us in our resource-starved future.

“[A] fresh, genre-bending thriller. . . . Reading Paolo Bacigalupi’s richly imagined novel brings to mind the movie Chinatown. Although one is set in the past and the other in a dystopian future, both are neo-noir tales with jaded antiheroes and ruthless kingpins who wield water as lethal weapons to control life—and mete out death. . . . Bacigalupi weaves page-turning action with zeitgeisty themes. . . . His use of water as sacred currency evokes Frank Herbert’s Dune. The casual violence and slang may bring to mind A Clockwork Orange. The book’s nervous energy recalls William Gibson at his cyberpunk best. . . . The Water Knife cuts to the quick.” —Los Angeles Times

“(A) water-wars thriller set in the Southwest only a few decades from now. . . . While Bacigalupi’s environmental message could not be more powerful, it’s neatly embedded in a nonstop action plot.” —Chicago Tribune

“Bacigalupi is a grim, efficient and polished narrator. . . . Our waterless future looks hot—and filled with conflict.” —The Washington Post

Vintage | Paper | 978-1-01-87366-3
176 pages | $15.00 | Exam Price $3.00
Crow Fair
Stories

**ThOMAS McGUANE**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

Set in his beloved Big Sky country, these stories attest to the generous compass of Thomas McGuane’s fellow feeling, as well as to his unique way with words and a comic genius in the vein of Twain and Gogol. In this triumphant collection, the ties of family make for uncomfortable binds: A devoted son is horrified to discover his mother’s antics before she slipped into dementia, and a father’s outdoor skills are no match for a change in the weather. But complications arise equally in the absence of blood, as when lifelong friends on a fishing trip finally confront their deep dislike for each other. Or when a gifted traveling cattle breeder succumbs to the lure of a stranger’s offer of easy money. McGuane is as witty and large-hearted as we have ever known him, and Crow Fair is a jubilant, thunderous confirmation of his status as a modern master.


“McGuane’s masterful storytelling and straightforward prose delivers an authenticity and a knowingness, making these tales hard to forget.” — San Francisco Chronicle

“A rich and fascinating portrait of Montana. . . . McGuane has both honed the edge of his already sharp tone and, paradoxically, become more sympathetic to the human condition.” — NPR

There’s Something I Want You To Do
Stories

**Charles Baxter**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

“There’s something I want you to do.” This request—sometimes simple, sometimes not—forms the basis for the ten interrelated stories that comprise this latest penetrating and prophetic collection from an author who has been repeatedly praised as a master of the form. As we follow a diverse group of Minnesota citizens, each grappling with their own fears, responsibilities, and obsessions, Baxter unveils the remarkable in what might otherwise be the seemingly inconsequential moments of everyday life.


“There’s Something I Want You To Do is in many ways Baxter’s Winesburg, Ohio, an intimate look at the emotional lives of everyday folks sharing the same geography.” — The Boston Globe

“Few writers, if any, are as capable of pursuing such an inevitable truth as this—and in so graceful, subdued, and artful a manner— as Charles Baxter.” — Philadelphia Inquirer

“Charles Baxter’s stories proceed with steady grace, nimble humor, quiet authority, and thrilling ingeniousness. . . . He is a great writer.” — Lorrie Moore, author of Bark

Vintage | Paper | 978-0-345-80591-1
288 pages | $16.00 | Exam Price $3.00

There’s Something I Want You To Do
Stories

**Charles Baxter**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

Vinage | Paper | 978-0-8041-7273-8
240 pages | $16.00 | Exam Price $3.00
The Book of Aron
JIM SHEPARD
NOW IN PAPERBACK
WINNER OF THE SOPHIE BRODY AWARD
FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD
SHORTLISTED FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL

The acclaimed National Book Award finalist—"one of the United States' finest writers . . . full of wit, humanity, and fearless curiosity" (Joshua Ferris)—now gives us a novel that will join the short list of classics about children caught in the Holocaust.

"A masterpiece. . . . A remarkable novel destined to join the shelf of essential Holocaust literature. . . . A story of such startling candor about the complexity of heroism that it challenges each of us to greater courage. . . . Shepard has created something transcendent and timeless." —The Washington Post

"Surrounded by filth, fear, disease, and danger, Aron — an unpromising child—finds his vocation and his voice. In straightforward and unspiring words, he tells his story, drawing the reader into the war as an inexplicable event that sweeps Aron and his gang of fellow smugglers into a daring mix of childhood bravado, ingenuity, and courage. . . . Shepard tells a heartbreaking and horrific story." —The Jewish Book Council

"Shepard has created a stark masterpiece. His brilliant, iconic book ranks with the best literature that explores the dark side of the human soul." —The Toronto Star

Everybody’s Fool
RICHARD RUSSO
NEW

Richard Russo now returns to North Bath, in upstate New York, and the characters who made Nobody's Fool, his third novel, his first great success.

The irresistible Sully, who in the intervening years has come by some unexpected good fortune, is now staring down a VA cardiologist's estimate that he only has a year or two left, and he's busy as hell keeping the news from the most important people in his life: Ruth, the married woman he carried on with for years . . . the ultra-hapless Rub Squeers, who worries that he and Sully aren't still best friends . . . Sully's son and grandson, for whom he was mostly an absentee figure . . . Doug Raymer, now chief of police and still obsessing over the identity of the man his wife might have been having an affair with before she died in a freak accident . . . North Bath's mayor, the former academic Gus Moynihan, who also has a pressing wife problem . . . and then there's Carl Roebuck, whose lifelong run of failing upwards might now come to ruin.

Everybody’s Fool is filled with humor, heart, hard times, and characters whom you can’t help but love for all their faults. It is classic Russo—and a crowning achievement from one of the greatest storytellers of our time.
The Complete Persepolis
Marjane Satrapi

Here, in one volume: Marjane Satrapi’s best-selling, internationally acclaimed memoir-in-comic-strips.

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi’s unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming—both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

“A memoir of growing up as a girl in revolutionary Iran, Persepolis provides a unique glimpse into a nearly unknown and unreach-able way of life. . . . That Satrapi chose to tell her remarkable story as a gorgeous comic book makes it totally unique and indispensable.” —Time

“You’ve never seen anything like Persepolis—the intimacy of a memoir, the irresistibility of a comic book, and the political depth of the conflict between fundamentalism and democracy. Marjane Satrapi may have given us a new genre.” —Gloria Steinem

Everything Is Teeth
Evie Wyld
Illustrated by Joe Sumner

NEW

When she was a little girl, passing her summers in the heat of coastal Australia, Evie Wyld was captivated by sharks—by their innate ruthlessness, stealth, and immeasurable power—and they have never released their hold on her imagination. From the award–winning author of All the Birds, Singing, here is a deeply moving graphic memoir about family, love, loss, and the irresistible forces that, like sharks, course through life unseen, ready to emerge at any moment.

“A heartfelt and haunting memoir, written with beauty and verve. . . . A stunningly rendered juxtaposition of past and present, life and death.” —The Irish Times (Dublin)

“Sharks cruise menacingly across the pages of this subtle and evocative autobiography. . . . Wyld uses her signature oblique style to excellent effect in conjuring up a child’s world of every-day nightmares. . . . It is genuinely terrifying.” —The Guardian

“In Everything Is Teeth, a crazily evocative graphic memoir about Wyld’s shark-infested childhood, words and pictures are in perfect harmony, the joins between them so seamless you could almost be watching an old black-and-white film.” —The Observer (London)
The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan

BRYAN DOERRIES

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Jack Brennan is a Marine Corps sergeant whose infantry squad has been cleared to return home from a grueling deployment to Afghanistan. A few years prior, Sergeant Brennan lost one of his closest friends—a young combat veteran—to suicide and has vowed to do everything in his power to keep his Marines from a similar fate. On their last night in-country, Brennan, who has long kept a tattered copy of the Odyssey with him on deployment, shares his version of Homer’s classic with his fellow soldiers to help prepare them for the transition back home.

Tragic, poignant, and at times funny and hopeful, The Odyssey of Sergeant Jack Brennan brilliantly conveys the profound challenges that many of today’s veterans face upon returning to civilian life, even as it tells “the oldest war story of all time.”

“This graphic novel uses an ancient story of conflict, displacement, and longing for home to draw attention to the plight of the modern soldier. . . . Doerries is the founder of Theater of War, a project that uses ancient texts as therapy for real-life veterans, and he carries out the same mission here. The five-person team of illustrators does an excellent job of differentiating between the two worlds in the story, but a number of panels are cleverly drawn to momentarily make the distinction less clear.”

—Publishers Weekly

The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye

SONNY LIEW

NEW

Meet Charlie Chan Hock Chye. Now in his early 70s, Chan has been making comics in his native Singapore since 1954, when he was a boy of 16. As he looks back on his career over five decades, we see his stories unfold before us in a dazzling array of art styles and forms, their development mirroring the evolution of the political and social landscape of his homeland and of the comic book medium itself.

With The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye, Sonny Liew has drawn together a myriad of genres to create a thoroughly ingenious and engaging work, where the line between truth and construct may sometimes be blurred, but where the story told is always enthralling, bringing us on a uniquely moving, funny, and thought-provoking journey through the life of an artist and the history of a nation.

“Riveting. As Chye’s life is revealed, so is the history of Singapore, a tumultuous sweep that is mirrored in the history of cartooning. Make no mistake: this multilayered book is a masterpiece.”

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“The combination of a powerful message, artistic virtuosity, and a fascinating framing device make for an un-put-downable read. This relentlessly engaging work stretches the boundaries of the graphic novel medium and is highly recommended for fans of political satire, Chris Ware, or Art Spiegelman.”

—Library Journal (starred review)
When the Doves Disappeared
Sofi Oksanen
Translated by Lola Rogers
NOW IN PAPERBACK

Communist Estonia, 1941. As the Allies and the Axis clash in battle, two Estonian cousins are fleeing from the Red Army: Roland, a loyal freedom fighter, and Edgar, an opportunistic mercenary. When the Nazis take control of the country, Roland goes into hiding. Edgar abandons his wife, Juudit, and transforms himself into a loyal supporter of Hitler’s regime.

1963: Estonia is back under communist control behind the Iron Curtain. Edgar has taken on yet another identity as a Soviet apparatchik, desperate to hide the secrets of his past. But his fate remains entangled with Roland and Juudit, who may hold the key to uncovering the truth. Switching between these two time periods, Sofi Oksanen brings to life an unforgettable story of deception, surveillance, passion, and betrayal.

“A brave and important voice. . . . Betrayal, secrecy, and memory are the haunting themes of Sofi Oksanen’s accomplished new novel.” — The Economist

“In this wildly comedic romp around Europe, a fakir — and professional con artist — from rural India arrives in Paris with one goal: to visit IKEA. But his plan goes horribly awry when he climbs inside a wardrobe at the iconic Swedish retailer — the first in a series of missteps that will send him on a whirlwind tour across the continent.” — The Washington Times

“Who would have thought that a comedy that mixes flat-pack furniture with magic could tackle some of the biggest subjects of our time? With a big heart, a brilliant sense of humour and an excellent translator, that’s what French writer Romain Puértolas achieves.” — The Independent (London)

Three Strong Women
MARIE NDIAYE
Translated by John Fletcher
WINNER OF THE PRIX GONCOURT

The story of three women who say no: Norah, a French-born lawyer who finds herself in Senegal, summoned by her estranged father to save another victim of his paternity; Fanta, who leaves a contented life as a teacher in Dakar to follow her boyfriend back to France, where his depression and dislocation poison everything; and Khady, a penniless widow put out by her husband's family with nothing but the name of a distant cousin in France. As these three lives intertwine, each woman manages an astonishing feat of self-preservation against those who have made themselves the fastest-growing and most-reviled people in Europe. In Marie NDiaye's stunning narration we see the progress by which ordinary women discover unimagined reserves of strength.

“Rich, sensuous. . . . A rare novel, capturing the grand scope of migration, from Africa to Europe and back, and the inner lives of very different people caught between pride and despair.” —NPR

“A writer of the highest caliber. . . . NDiaye is a hypnotic storyteller with an unflinching understanding of the rock-bottom reality of most people’s lives. . . . Cearsightedness — combined with her subtle narrative sleights of hand and her willingness to broach essential subjects — gives her fiction a rare integrity that shines through the sinuous prose. . . . Through the distorting lenses of madness and deprivation, NDiaye manages nonetheless to convey a redemptive realism about how the world works, and what makes people tick.” —The New York Times Book Review

Ladivine
MARIE NDIAYE
Translated by Jordan Stump
NEW

From the acclaimed author of Three Strong Women: a harrowing and subtly crafted novel of a woman captive to a secret shame.

The first Tuesday of every month, Clarisse Rivière leaves her husband and young daughter to take the train to Bordeaux and visit her mother, Ladivine. Clarisse has concealed nearly every aspect of her adult life from this woman whom she dreads and despises but also pities, and who knows her as Malinka. But after twenty-five years, the idyllic life she has built from scratch cannot survive the walls she’s put up to protect it. Her anguish leaves her cold and guarded, her loved ones forever trapped outside, looking in, and then everything comes crashing down. When she is brutally murdered, her daughter will try to work out what happened, and through a mystical logic NDiaye makes utterly persuasive, Clarisse’s spirit will be perceived to have lodged itself in a brown dog that watches over her daughter and mother.

“Elegant. . . . Bizarrely lovely. . . . NDiaye’s gift with language . . . [is] exquisite. She reveals only as much reality as she wants to at any given moment—and therein lies her magic.”
—Kirkus Reviews
Wind/Pinball

**Hear the Wind Sing** and **Pinball, 1973** (Two Novels)

*Haruki Murakami*
Translated by Ted Goossen

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

In the spring of 1978, a young Haruki Murakami sat down at his kitchen table and began to write. The result: two remarkable short novels—*Hear the Wind Sing* and *Pinball, 1973*—that launched the career of one of the most acclaimed authors of our time.

“On some subliminal level the tension and power of Murakami’s stories reside in the reader’s hope, sometimes fulfilled and sometimes dashed, for reconciliation between the storyteller and his story.” — *The New York Times Book Review*

“What establishes these two novellas as quintessential Murakami are not just the themes of isolation and loneliness that will characterise many of his later works, nor their colloquial style that positions them firmly in the familiar territory of classic American coming-of-age novels. It’s that both stories hint at the unique, postmodern blend of the real and the surreal, the quotidian and the allegorical for which Murakami would later become famous. . . . Murakami fans will no doubt delight in this new publication. For newcomers, these early works are an excellent introduction to a writer who has since become one of the most influential novelists of his generation.” — *The Guardian*

*In the Country*

Stories

*Mia Alvar*

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

LONGLISTED FOR THE PEN/ROBERT W. BINGHAM PRIZE FOR DEBUT FICTION

These nine globe-trotting, unforgettable stories from Mia Alvar, a remarkable new literary talent, vividly give voice to the women and men of the Filipino diaspora. Here are exiles, emigrants, and wanderers uprooting their families from the Philippines to begin new lives in the Middle East, the United States, and elsewhere—and, sometimes, turning back again.


“Compulsively readable . . . thanks to Alvar’s expansiveness and her gift for grounded, human-scale metaphors. . . . Each of *In the Country’s* nine stories about the Filipino diaspora has the satisfying heft of a little novel. In precise and patient prose, Alvar reveals the complex patterns of labor migration that structure and define her characters’ most intimate relationships.” — *Chicago Tribune*
The Seventh Day
Yu Hua
Translated by Allan H. Barr
NOW IN PAPERBACK
Yang Fei was born on a train as it raced across the Chinese countryside. Lost by his mother, adopted by a young switchman, raised with simplicity and love, he is utterly unprepared for the changes that await him and his country. As a young man, he searches for a place to belong in a nation ceaselessly reinventing itself, but he remains on the edges of society.

At forty-one, he meets an unceremonious death, and lacking the money for a burial plot, must roam the afterworld aimlessly. There, over the course of seven days, he encounters the souls of people he’s lost. As he retraces the path of his life, we meet an extraordinary cast of characters: his adoptive father, his beautiful ex-wife, his neighbors who perished in the demolition of their homes. Vivid, urgent, and panoramic, Yang Fei’s passage movingly traces the contours of his vast nation—its absurdities, its sorrows, and its soul. This searing novel affirms Yu Hua’s place as the standard-bearer of Chinese fiction.

“Elegant and sharp. . . . By turns inventive and playful and dark and disturbing, with much to say about modern China.” —NPR


“A ghostly walk through contemporary China evokes the human cost of some of the big issues that nation is facing.” —The Toronto Star

Half a Lifelong Romance
Eileen Chang
Translated by Karen S. Kingsbury
NEW IN PAPERBACK
Shanghai, 1930s. Shen Shijun, a young engineer, has fallen in love with his colleague, the beautiful Gu Manzhen. He is determined to resist his family’s efforts to match him with his wealthy cousin so that he can marry Manzhen. But dark circumstances—a lustful brother-in-law, a treacherous sister, a family secret—force the two young lovers apart.

As Manzhen and Shijun go on their separate paths, they lose track of one another and their lives become filled with feints and schemes, missed connections, and tragic misunderstandings. At every turn, societal expectations seem to thwart their prospects for happiness. Still, Manzhen and Shijun dare to hold out hope—however slim—that they might one day meet again.

A glamorous, wrenching tale set against the glittering backdrop of an extraordinary city, Half a Lifelong Romance is a beloved classic from one of the essential writers of twentieth-century China.

“An enveloping, haunting and insightful read, rich in Chang’s trademark passionate prose.” —The Wall Street Journal

“Chang’s sensual writing has elements of both China and the United States; the smoky, formal world of respect for tradition and the irresistible, harshly lighted future.” —Los Angeles Times
Our narrator is “twenty and untouched” when her mother dies. Sent by her absentee father to live with a relative in a modest New Delhi apartment, she is ill-equipped to resist the allure of the rich and rebellious young man who approaches her one day at a café. He is a few years older, and from a different social class, but they both yearn to break free of tradition. As they drive around Delhi, he introduces her to an India that she never knew existed, and will never be able to forget.

Told in a voice at once gritty and lyrical, A Bad Character is an astounding book, an intimate and raw exploration of female transformation in contemporary India, and an unforgettable hymn to a dangerous, exhilarating city.

“Searing, intoxicating. . . . The story of a young woman’s hunger to be free.” — The New York Times Book Review


“A poignant and impressionistic portrait of the end of adolescence and a changing world.” — The Telegraph (London)
Beatlebone
Kevin Barry

WINNER OF THE GOLDSMITHS PRIZE

It is 1978, and John Lennon has escaped New York City to try to find the island off the west coast of Ireland he bought eleven years prior. Leaving behind domesticity, his approaching forties, his inability to create, and his memories of his parents, he sets off to calm his unquiet soul in the comfortable silence of isolation. But when he puts himself in the hands of a shape-shifting driver full of Irish charm and dark whimsy, what ensues can only be termed a magical mystery tour.

“The story is intriguing, not least because it’s rare to come upon a lesser-known narrative about The Beatles. . . . [Barry] is a genius of the language, teasing out impressionistic riffs that channel emotion into words.” — Los Angeles Times

“As the novel’s attention alternates between Mr. Barry’s real trip to the island and John [Lennon’s] made-up one, the identities of the two men — both artists, both marked by the loss of their mothers — mingle, until their stories begin to overlap more and more exactly, and finally the two become indivisible, ghosts of each other across the decades. The effect is beautiful, reminiscent at different moments of Virginia Woolf and Geoff Dyer. . . . Even as the journeys of the author and his protagonist merge, Mr. Barry and Lennon remain stubbornly distinct. But perhaps what ultimately makes this a great novel is its author’s exploration of the ways that sometimes, in art, we do get to become each other — kind of.” — The New York Times

Satin Island
Tom McCarthy

NOW IN PAPERBACK

SHORTLISTED FOR THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE

A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: NEW YORK

In Satin Island, Tom McCarthy — the acclaimed, Man Booker Prize—nominated author of Remainder and C — captures the way we experience our world and our efforts to find meaning in the narratives we think of as our lives. U., a “corporate anthropologist,” is tasked with preparing the Great Report, an all-encompassing ethnographic document that sums up our era. Yet at every turn, he feels himself overwhelmed by the ubiquity of data. But just as U. begins to wonder if his project will ever take shape, his senses are startled awake by a dream of an apocalyptic cityscape. Unlike anything you’ve read before, Satin Island is a mind-bending adventure from one of the most original voices in literature today.


“Cerebral complexity with a sense of humor. . . . To read Satin Island is to feel as if you’re observing its story through a pane of glass. . . . It’s the same remove from which we experience so many things in our multiscreened lives, our senses averted from the messiness of human life.” — The Boston Globe

“A magisterial ethnographic portrait of our overstimulated, interconnected, simulacra-addicted times.” — The Atlantic

Kevin Barry

author of
City of Bohane

Beatlebone

a novel

Doubleday | Cloth | 978-0-385-54029-2
320 pages | $24.95 | Exam Price $12.50

Vintage | Paper | 978-0-307-73962-9
208 pages | $15.00 | Exam Price $3.00
When Lucy Brennan, a Miami Beach personal-fitness trainer, disarms an apparently crazed gunman, the police and breaking-news cameras are not far behind. Within hours, Lucy becomes a hero. The solitary eyewitness, the depressed and overweight Lena Sorenson, becomes obsessed with Lucy and enrolls as a client at her Bodysculpt gym. Before long, it is clear that Lena is more interested in Lucy’s body than her own, and a budding fatal attraction takes hold. *The Sex Lives of Siamese Twins* taps into two great obsessions of our time—how we look and where we live—and tells a story so subversive and dark it blacks out the Florida sun.

“A manic endorphin rush of a read . . . right up there with the best of Irvine Welsh’s work.” — The Independent on Sunday (London)

“Welsh, who now lives in the US, never fails to shock. . . . Welsh’s depiction of the south Florida landscape evokes a sense of sun-soaked desperation as bleak as any Edinburgh heroin den. The excitement of Welsh’s writing derives from the perverse glee he takes in our lowest obsessions. His best effects are comic, and rely on sharp turns and a profane finish. An unruly sprawl it may be, but *The Sex Lives of Siamese Twins* is, nevertheless, a compulsive read.” — Financial Times

“No one can write about a sociopath in love with so much heart. . . . Not only cleverly conceived but genuinely, hauntingly, transgressive.” — The Guardian

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Irvine Welsh returns to Edinburgh, the home of *Trainspotting* and so many of his novels since, with a new novel featuring one of his most iconic and beloved characters—‘Juice’ Terry Lawson—that’s thick on the Scottish brogue, heavy on the filth, and masterful in its comedic timing.

“A thrilling blast of full-strength Irvine Welsh.” — The Spectator (London)

“(Welsh’s) novels are cleverly crafted; his characters . . . are fleshed out, distinct in their foibles, habits and morals. And yes, despite the constant shagging, snorting, and profanities, many of Welsh’s characters do have a conscience. . . . Deep themes are explored—parenthood, guilt, regret, retribution, tolerance, atonement, friendship, casual racism. Welsh’s ingenuity, flair, sharp observation, and satirical talent make this not just a decent ride for the reader but an exhilarating one.” — The Independent (London)

“There’s a solidity and even a charm to [Welsh’s] cast of characters that grounds this novel in an unexpectedly persuasive emotional reality. These people never feel like mere mouthpieces for Welsh’s own worldview; they are fully and sympathetically realised, and their stories make indirect but potent points.” — The Scotsman (Edinburgh)
Amnesia
Peter Carey

NOW IN PAPERBACK

When Gaby Baillieux, Australia’s most formidable hacker, releases the Angel Worm virus into her country’s prison system, cell doors open and inmates walk free. Since those prisons use American software, the doors in thousands of jails in the US are opened as well. Is this an accident—or a declaration of cyber war? Does it have anything to do with the largely forgotten Battle of Brisbane between American and Australian forces in 1942? Or with the CIA-influenced coup in Australia in 1975?

Disgraced writer Felix Moore—known to himself as “our sole remaining left-wing journalist”—is determined to write Gaby’s biography in order to find the answers that could save her, his career, and perhaps his country.

“Compelling, written with the vivid precision that marks Mr. Carey’s best work. It appears at first as though he might, like Thomas Pynchon in Bleeding Edge or Dave Eggers in The Circle, be attempting to recreate the constantly shifting virtual world in the fixed text of a novel. But humanity, not machinery, lies at the book’s heart.” —The Economist

“Nestled inside this brisk cyber caper is an aesthetically daring character study. . . . Carey immues [the hacker’s] immersion in the world of coding and the Internet with a palpable, engrossing sense of joy and discovery.” —The New Yorker

The Buried Giant
Kazuo Ishiguro

NOW IN PAPERBACK

In post-Arthurian Britain, the wars that once raged between the Saxons and the Britons have finally ceased. Axl and Beatrice, an elderly British couple, set off to visit their son, whom they haven’t seen in years. And, because a strange mist has caused mass amnesia throughout the land, they can scarcely remember anything about him.

As they are joined on their journey by a Saxon warrior, his orphan charge, and an illustrious knight, Axl and Beatrice begin to remember the dark and troubled past they all share. By turns savage, suspenseful, and intensely moving, The Buried Giant is a luminous meditation on the act of forgetting and the power of memory, an extraordinary tale of love, vengeance, and war.

“The Buried Giant does what important books do: It remains in the mind long after it has been read, refusing to leave, forcing one to turn it over and over. . . . Ishiguro is not afraid to tackle huge, personal themes, nor to use myths, history and the fantastic as the tools to do it. The Buried Giant is an exceptional novel.” —Neil Gaiman, The New York Times Book Review

“The Buried Giant has the clear ring of legend, as graceful, original and humane as anything Ishiguro has written.” —The Washington Post
Horace
Poems
Edited by Paul Quarrie

This wide-ranging selection showcases the work of one of ancient Rome’s master poets—and originator of the phrase “carpe diem”—whose influence on poetry can be traced through the centuries into our own time.

Quintus Horatius Flaccus, who lived from 65 to 8 BCE, saw the death of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the Roman Empire and was personally acquainted with the emperor Augustus and the poet Virgil. He was famous during his lifetime and has been since for his odes and epodes, for his satires and epistles, and for Ars Poetica. His lyric poems, brief and allusive, have been translated into English by a range of famous poets, including John Milton, Ben Jonson, John Dryden, William Cowper, A. E. Housman, Ezra Pound, Louis MacNeice, Robert Lowell—and even Queen Elizabeth I and the Victorian prime minister William Gladstone.

Horace’s masterly verses have inspired poets from antiquity to modernity, and his injunction to “seize the day” has echoed through the ages. This anthology of superb English translations shows how Horace has permeated English literature for five centuries.

Plundered Hearts
New and Selected Poems
J. D. McClatchy

With his first several books, J. D. McClatchy established himself as a poet of urbanity, intellect, and prismatic emotion, in the tradition of James Merrill, W. H. Auden, and Elizabeth Bishop—one who balances an exploration of the underworld of desire with a mastery of poetic form, and whose artistry reveals the riches and ruins of our “plundered hearts.” Now, opening with exquisite new poems—including the stunning “My Hand Collection,” a catalogue of art objects that steals up on the complexity of human touch, and a witty and profound poem entitled “My Robotic Prostatectomy”—this selection is a glorious full tour of McClatchy’s career. It includes excerpts from the powerful book-length sequence Ten Commandments (1998) and his more recent works Hazmat (2002) and Mercury Dressing (2009)—books that explored the body’s melodrama, as well as the heart’s treacheries, grievances, and boundless capacities. All of his poems present a sumptuous weave of impassioned thought and clear-sighted feeling.

“Here again is the temporal brutality of love eternizing loss. J. D. McClatchy’s muscularly graceful poems of passion, sex and death haunt the heart, linger in the mind.” —New York Journal of Books

“It’s hard to imagine another poet capable of being wry and tender, unpredictable and measured, original and traditional—within the body of a single poem.” —Los Angeles Times Book Review
Voyage of the Sable Venus
And Other Poems
Robin Coste Lewis
NEW
WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

A stunning poetry debut: this meditation on the black female figure throughout time introduces us to a brave and penetrating new voice.

Robin Coste Lewis’s electrifying collection is a triptych that begins and ends with lyric poems considering the roles desire and race play in the construction of the self. The central panel is the title poem, “Voyage of the Sable Venus,” a riveting narrative made up entirely of titles of artworks from ancient times to the present—titles that feature or in some way comment on the black female figure in Western art. Bracketed by Lewis’s autobiographical poems, “Voyage” is a tender and shocking study of the fragmentary mysteries of stereotype, as it juxtaposes our names for things with what we actually see and know.

“Robin Coste Lewis’s Voyage of the Sable Venus is an experimental tribute to a human history that embraces truth and adventure. She shows how cultures traverse terrains and comingle. These poignant poems, through a poetic excavation, unearth figures that make us question racial constructs. The body is at the center of this imagistic inquiry, and each line is a blind stitch in the psychological metrics of the whole. Lewis’s first collection, a detailed tapestry of ancient and modern behavior—names, dates, and emotional marginia—is one of a kind.” —Yusef Komunyakaa

Blue Laws
Selected and Uncollected Poems, 1995–2015
Kevin Young
NEW

A rich and lively gathering of highlights from the first twenty years of an extraordinary career, interspersed with “B sides” and “bonus tracks” from this prolific and widely acclaimed poet.

Blue Laws gathers poems written over the past two decades, drawing from all nine of Kevin Young’s previously published books of poetry and including a number of uncollected, often unpublished, poems. From his stunning lyric debut (Most Way Home, 1995) and the amazing “double album” life of Jean-Michel Basquiat (2001, “remixed” for Knopf in 2005), through his brokenhearted Jelly Roll: A Blues (2003) and his recent forays into adult grief and the joys of birth in Dear Darkness (2008) and Book of Hours (2014), this collection provides a grand tour of a poet whose personal poems and political poems are equally riveting. Together with wonderful outtakes and previously unseen blues, the profoundly felt poems here of family, Southern food, and loss are of a piece with the depth of personal sensibility and humanity found in his Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels or bold sequences such as “The Ballad of Jim Crow” and a new “Homage to Phillis Wheatley.”
Poems
FRANZ WRIGHT
NOW IN PAPERBACK
In these riveting poems, Wright declares, “I’ve said all that / I had to say. / In writing. / I signed my name. / It’s death’s move.” As he considers his mortality, the poet finds a new elation and clarity on the page, handing over for our examination the flawed yet kneeling-in-gratitude self he has become. "F" stands both for Franz, the poet-speaker who represents all of us on our baffling lifelong journeys, and for the alphabet, the utility and sometimes brutality of our symbols. (It may be, he jokes grimly, his "grade in life.") From “Entries of the Cell,” the long central poem that details the loneliness of the single soul, to short narrative prose poems and traditional lyrics, Wright revels in the compensatory power of language, observing the daytime headlights following a hearse or the wind “blessing one by one the unlighted buds of the backbent peach tree’s unnoted return.” He is at his best in this beautiful and startling collection.

“Wright’s scale of experience, like [poet John] Berryman’s, runs from the homicidal to the ecstatic. . . . [His] best forms of originality: deftness in patterning, startling metaphors, starkness of speech, compression of both pain and joy, and a stoic self-possession within the agonies and penalties of existence.” —Helen Vendler, The New York Review of Books

Gabriel
A Poem
EDWARD HIRSCH
NOW IN PAPERBACK
Never has there been a book of poems quite like Gabriel, in which a short life, a bewildering death, and the unanswerable sorrow of a father come together in such a sustained elegy. This unabashed sequence speaks directly from Hirsch’s heart to our own, without sentimentality. From its opening lines, Hirsch’s account is poignantly direct and open to the strange vicissitudes and tricks of grief. In propulsive three-line stanzas, he tells the story of how a once unstoppable child, who suffered from various developmental disorders, turned into an irreverent young adult, funny, rebellious, impulsive. Hirsch mixes his tale of Gabriel with the stories of other poets through the centuries who have also lost children, and expresses his feelings through theirs. His landmark poem enters the broad stream of human grief and raises in us the strange hope, even consolation, that we find in the writer’s act of witnessing and transformation.

“Part tribute; part existential howl; part intellectual investigation of our most primal emotions; part picaresque novella, buoyant, unsentimental romp through the life of Hirsch’s ‘wild spirit, beloved son.’” —The New York Times Book Review

“Embedded within Gabriel is a picaresque novella about a tempestuous boy and young man, a part Hirsch calls ‘the adventures of Gabriel.’ [The poet] Eavan Boland described Gabriel as ‘a masterpiece of sorrow . . . the creation of the loved and lost boy is one of the poem’s most important effects.’” —The New Yorker
Plays for Two
Edited by Eric Lane and Nina Shengold

It takes two to tango—or to perform a duet, fight a duel, or play ping-pong. The two-character play is dramatic confrontation stripped to its essence. These four full-length and twenty-four short plays feature pairs of every sort—strangers, rivals, parents and children, siblings, coworkers, friends, and lovers—swooning or sparring, meeting cute or parting ways. In a dizzying range of moods and styles, these two-handers offer the kind of meaty, challenging roles actors love, while providing readers and audiences with the pleasures of watching the complex give-and-take dynamics of two keenly matched characters.

With plays by Billy Aronson, David Auburn, Pete Barry, Naveen Bahar Choudhury, Anthony Clarvoe, Steven Dietz, Halley Feiffer, Simon Fill, Frank Higgins, David Ives, Jacob Juntunen, Ean Miles Kessler, Neil LaBute, Eric Lane, Kitt Lavoie, Jacqueline E. Lawton, Mark Harvey Levine, Elizabeth Meriwether, Michael Mitnick, Daria Polatin, Marco Ramirez, Kelly Rhodes, José Rivero, Paul Rudnick, Edwin Sánchez, Nina Shengold, Cori Thomas, and Doug Wright.

Plays for Three
Edited by Eric Lane and Nina Shengold

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Everyone’s heard that “Two’s company, three’s a crowd.” That may be true on a date, but on stage, three is a magic number. Add a third character to any interaction and the dramatic possibilities increase exponentially: suddenly there’s competition, intrigue, shifting allegiances, comic misunderstandings, secrets and lies. Triangles make excellent drama, and three-handers offer the kind of substantial and challenging roles that actors love. Plays for Three is a unique anthology of twenty-three plays for three actors by an exciting mix of established and emerging playwrights.

With plays by Rob Ackerman, Pete Barry, Stephen Belber, Cesi Davidson, Adrienne Dawes, Philip Dawkins, Catherine Filloux, Madeleine George, Amlin Gray, Frank Higgins, Cory Hinkle, Wendy Kesselman, Eric Lane, Kitt Lavoie, Mark Harvey Levine, Matthew Lopez, Donald Margulies, Anna Moench, A. Rey Pamatmat, David Riedy, Nina Shengold, Stephen Webb, and Craig Wright.
Gratitude

Oliver Sacks

NEW

No writer has succeeded in capturing the medical and human drama of illness as honestly and as eloquently as Oliver Sacks. During the last few months of his life, he wrote a set of essays in which he movingly explored his feelings about completing a life and coming to terms with his own death.

“It is the fate of every human being,” Sacks writes, “to be a unique individual, to find his own path, to live his own life, to die his own death.”

Together, these four essays form an ode to the uniqueness of each human being and to gratitude for the gift of life.

“A series of heart-rending yet ultimately uplifting essays. . . . A lasting gift to readers. . . . Unlike other writers who have reported from the front lines of mortality, Sacks did not focus on his illness, his medical ordeal or spirituality, but on what is meant by living a good and worthwhile life—achieving a sense of peace within oneself. Sacks not only achieved that peace but managed to convey it beautifully in these essays.”

— The Washington Post

“The neurologist’s final work after learning he had terminal cancer is a remarkable meditation on life and death. . . . Incredible last words.” — The Guardian

On the Move

A Life

Oliver Sacks

NOW IN PAPERBACK

When Oliver Sacks was twelve years old, a perceptive schoolmaster wrote: “Sacks will go far, if he does not go too far.” It is now abundantly clear that Sacks has never stopped going. With unbridled honesty and humor, Sacks writes about the passions that have driven his life—from motorcycles and weight lifting to neurology and poetry. He writes about his love affairs, both romantic and intellectual; his guilt over leaving his family to come to America; his bond with his schizophrenic brother; and the writers and scientists—W. H. Auden, Gerald M. Edelman, Francis Crick—who have influenced his work. On the Move is the story of a brilliantly unconventional physician and writer, a man who has illuminated the many ways that the brain makes us human.

“Intimate. . . . Brim[s] with life and affection.”
— The New York Times

“(A) wonderful memoir, which richly demonstrates what an extraordinary life it has been. . . . A fascinating account—a sort of extended case study, really—of Sacks’s remarkably active, iconoclastic adulthood.” — Los Angeles Times

“A glorious memoir. . . . In this volume Sacks opens himself to recognition, much as he has opened the lives of others to being recognized in their fullness.” — The Atlantic

Knopf | Cloth | 978-0-451-49293-7
64 pages | $17.00 | Exam Price $8.50

Knopf | Cloth | 978-0-451-49293-7
64 pages | $17.00 | Exam Price $8.50

416 pages | $16.95 | Exam Price $3.00
A House of My Own
Stories from My Life
SANDRA CISNEROS
NEW
From the author of *The House on Mango Street*, an illustrated compilation of true stories and nonfiction pieces that, taken together, form an intimate album of a beloved literary legend.

From the Chicago neighborhoods where she grew up and set her groundbreaking *The House on Mango Street* to her abode in Mexico in a region where “my ancestors lived for centuries,” the places Sandra Cisneros has lived have provided inspiration for her now-classic works of fiction and poetry. But a house of her own, where she could truly take root, has eluded her. With this collection—spanning three decades and including never-before-published work—Cisneros has come home at last.

“Tantalizing. In no way is this a traditional memoir with tidy numbered chapters and a smooth arc. Instead, Cisneros collects writing, lectures, newspaper articles, keynote speeches, stories repeated out loud but only now finding their way onto the page—and assembles them into one beating heart.” —*Houston Chronicle*

“These essays provide a multiplicity of perspectives on Cisneros, a place where each of these writings can talk with the others, where a conversation can take place while the reader eavesdrops. A complex, nuanced picture of the writer emerges.” —*Chicago Tribune*

**Ordinary Light**
A Memoir
TRACY K. SMITH
NOW IN PAPERBACK
FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD
A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: THE NEW YORK TIMES; THE WASHINGTON POST; SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE; THE DENVER POST

In *Ordinary Light*, Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Tracy K. Smith tells her remarkable story, giving us a quietly potent memoir that explores her coming-of-age and the meaning of home against a complex backdrop of race, faith, and the unbreakable bond between a mother and daughter. Here is the story of a young artist struggling to fashion her own understanding of belief, loss, history, and what it means to be black in America.

“A subtle, elegant meditation that reveals the profound in the quotidian... Exquisitely beautiful.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Smith writes as a daughter who has lost her mother and is thinking of her own daughter... She offers her painstaking reflections on what went into the making of her.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“*Ordinary Light* shines bright not because of extraordinary events that occurred in Smith’s life but because of the warm glow the memoir casts on the simple everyday life of a young girl yearning to do great things... Smith’s spare yet beautiful prose transforms her story into a shining example of how one person’s shared memories can brighten everyone’s world.” —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*
I Am Sorry to Think I Have Raised a Timid Son
Kent Russell

NOW IN PAPERBACK

With a chirp, a smirk, and a nod, Kent Russell crisscrosses the country, seeking immersive experiences and revelations on society’s ragged edge. He pitches a tent among the Insane Clown Posse’s fans, known as Juggalos, treks to the end of the continent to find out how a legendary hockey enforcer is preparing for his own death, and explores the Amish obsession with baseball as well as his own obsession with horror, blood, and guts. Between these reports from the world at large, Russell introduces us to his raging and inimitable forebears—above all, his large-living, volatile, hard-as-nails dad.

I Am Sorry to Think I Have Raised a Timid Son is a haunting and howling portrait of America—and American manhood—and the introduction of a ferociously brilliant new voice navigating the junctures between savagery and civilization within himself.

“Outrageously entertaining. . . . A warm, funny, and charming book that questions not only what it means to live for art, but what it means to live.” — The Boston Globe

I Think You’re Totally Wrong
A Quarrel
Dave Shields and Caleb Powell

NOW IN PAPERBACK

An impassioned, funny, probing, fiercely inconclusive, nearly-to-the-death debate about life and art—beers included.

The relationship—the balance of power—between Shields and Powell is in constant flux, as two egos try to undermine each other, as two personalities overlap and collapse. This book seeks to deconstruct the Q&A format, which has roots as deep as Plato and Socrates and as wide as Laurel and Hardy, Beckett’s Didi and Gogo, and Car Talk’s Magliozzi brothers. I Think You’re Totally Wrong also seeks to confound, as much as possible, the divisions between “reality” and “fiction,” between “life” and “art.” There are no teachers or students here, no interviewers or interviewees, no masters in the universe—only a chasm of uncertainty, in a dialogue that remains dazzlingly provocative and entertaining from start to finish.

“Outrageously entertaining. . . . A surprising, beautiful book, at once tough and tender, hilarious and dark, and above all, deeply original.” — NPR

White Sands
Experiences from the Outside World
Geoff Dyer

NEW

From “one of our most original writers” (Kathryn Schulz) comes an expansive and exacting book—firmly grounded, but elegant, witty, and always inquisitive—about travel, unexpected awareness, and the questions we ask when we step outside ourselves.

“Where do we come from, where are we going, and when we get there, what, specifically, defines a particular place? These are the questions Dyer asks in a series of essays ostensibly about travel but actually much deeper. From touring Beijing’s Forbidden City with a suspect guide to picking up a hitchhiker near a prison at White Sands, NM, to visiting Norway to see the Northern Lights, which never materialize, but finding a whole new view of things after a medical incident at home in Venice, CA (he’s always wanted to live there), English author Dyer will surely be taking readers on a smart and meditative journey.” — Library Journal

“There is an undeniable joy throughout Dyer’s writing, an affirmation that travel and the experience of place—not merely being somewhere, but being present in it—is a gateway to the humanity of past, present, and future. A mesmerizing compendium that reflects on time, place, and just what, exactly, we are doing here.” — Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

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The Road to Little Dribbling
Adventures of an American in Britain
Bill Bryson
NEW
The hilarious and loving sequel to a classic of travel writing, Notes from a Small Island, Bill Bryson’s valentine to his adopted country of England.

“At its best as the history of a love affair, the very special relationship between Bryson and Britain. We remain lucky to have him.” — Financial Times

“You could hardly ask for a better guide to Great Britain than Bill Bryson. . . . Like its predecessor, The Road to Little Dribbling is a travel memoir, combining adventures and observations from his travels around the island nation with recounting of his life there. . . . Bryson is such a good writer that even if you don’t especially go in for travel books, he makes reading this book worthwhile.” — Miami Herald

“Such a pleasure to once again travel the lanes and walking paths of Britain in the company of Bill Bryson! . . . He’s as delightful and inscrutable a guide as anyone could ever wish to have, as he rediscovers this somewhat careworn land and finds it as endearing (mostly) as ever.” — Erik Larson, author of The Devil in the White City

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Stories I Tell Myself
Growing Up with Hunter S. Thompson
Juan F. Thompson
NEW
Hunter S. Thompson, born and bred in Louisville, Kentucky, son of an insurance salesman and a stay-at-home mom, public school–educated, jailed at seventeen on a bogus petty robbery charge, member of the U.S. Air Force, copy boy for Time, writer for The National Observer, et cetera. From the outset he was the Wild Man of American journalism with a journalistic appetite that touched on subjects that drove his sense of justice and intrigue, from biker gangs and 1960s counterculture to presidential campaigns and psychedelic drugs.

Now Juan F. Thompson tells the story of his father and of their forty-one fraught years together. He writes of the many dark times, of how far they ricocheted away from each other, and of how they found their way back before it was too late.


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Missoula
Rape and the Justice System in a College Town
Jon Krakauer
NOW IN PAPERBACK
In Missoula, acclaimed journalist Jon Krakauer investigates a spate of campus rapes that occurred in Missoula over a four-year period. Taking the town as a case study for a crime that is sadly prevalent throughout the nation, Krakauer documents the experiences of five victims: their fear and self-doubt in the aftermath; the skepticism directed at them by police, prosecutors, and the public; their bravery in pushing forward and what it cost them. These stories cut through abstract ideological debate about acquaintance rape to demonstrate that it does not happen because women are sending mixed signals or seeking attention. Rigorously researched, rendered in incisive prose, Missoula stands as an essential call to action.

“Missoula will be a touchstone of any future correction to the rape culture we live in.” — Minneapolis Star Tribune

“Compelling. . . . Krakauer is a writer committed above all else to asking difficult questions.” — Los Angeles Times

“Meticulously reported, fascinating and deeply disturbing. . . . By probing the specific, Krakauer illuminates upsetting generalities. . . . Krakauer artfully keeps the book from becoming a compendium of facts. . . . An important, difficult and timely subject.” — USA Today

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288 pages | $26.95 | Exam Price $13.50
A Is for American
Letters and Other Characters in the Newly United States
Jill Lepore

In A Is for American, award-winning historian Jill Lepore portrays seven men who turned to language to help shape a new nation’s character and boundaries. From Noah Webster’s attempts to standardize American spelling, to Alexander Graham Bell’s use of “Visible Speech” to help teach the deaf to talk, to Sequoyah’s development of a Cherokee syllabary as a means of preserving his people’s independence, these stories form a compelling portrait of a developing nation’s struggles. Lepore brilliantly explores the personalities, work, and influence of these figures, seven men driven by radically different aims and temperaments. Through these superbly told stories, she chronicles the challenges faced by a young country trying to unify its diverse people.

“Lepore is a terrific storyteller, alert to trenchant details but also able to convey the connections between events, the sweep of an epoch.” —The New York Times Book Review

“In Other Words is at heart a love story — of a long and sometimes difficult courtship and of a passion that verges on obsession: that of a writer for another language. For Jhumpa Lahiri, that love was for Italian, which first captivated and capsized her during a trip to Florence after college. Although Lahiri studied Italian for many years afterward, true mastery always eluded her.

Seeking full immersion, she decides to move to Rome with her family for “a trial by fire, a sort of baptism” into a new language and world. There, she begins to read and write solely in Italian. Presented in a dual-language format, In Other Words investigates the process of learning to express oneself in another language and describes the journey of a writer seeking a new voice.

“Lovely and profound. . . . The most evocative, unpretentious, astute account of a writing life I have read. . . . Words like ‘enduring’ and ‘indispensable’ should be saved for only the rarest literary achievements, and the memoir In Other Words is one of those.” —Howard Norman, The Washington Post

“A linguistic memoir that actually tells the story of a transformation of identity: in Lahiri’s hands, an invaluable insight into the craft of writing, not as storytelling but as speaking the self into existence.” —San Francisco Chronicle

The Genius of Language
Fifteen Writers Reflect on Their Mother Tongue
Edited by Wendy Lesser

Fifteen outstanding writers answered editor Wendy Lesser’s call for original essays on the subject of language — the one they grew up with and the English in which they write.

As intimate as one’s dreams, as private as a secret identity, these essays examine and reveal the writers’ pride, pain, and pleasure in learning a new tongue, revisiting an old one, and reconciling the joys and frustrations of each.

“Intimate, entertaining and thoughtful . . . this volume provides fascinating insight into the way that grappling with language is a way people also grapple with life.” —San Francisco Chronicle

“Eloquently explores the links between childhood and language.” —Chicago Tribune

“When we talk about a mother tongue we are talking about more than language, we are talking about our sense of ourselves at the deepest layers of our being. . . . [A] fine collection. . . . The essays are informative, well written and several are moving.” —The Times Literary Supplement (London)
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