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* Books of special interest to young adults
Ruth Padel, an acclaimed British poet and critic, is the great-great-granddaughter of Charles Darwin. Here, in readable, vivid verse, she brings us his life: how Darwin lost his mother at the age of eight, repressed all memory of her, and poured his passion into solitary walks, newt collecting, and shooting; how his five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle changed everything. In 1838, he began publishing his findings and working privately on groundbreaking theories about the development of animal species, including human beings. Each moment is piercing and distinct as Padel summons up crucial breakthroughs, both intellectual and personal. We witness Darwin’s nervous proposal of marriage to his cousin Emma and the steadfast, complex union that ensued; during the raising of their ten children, three of whom died, Darwin was painfully aware of the gulf between Emma’s devout Christian faith and his own growing religious doubt.

Enriched by marginal notes and by a fascinating introduction about the family’s attitudes toward Darwin’s thought in successive generations, Padel’s poetry not only follows the great drama of his discovery of evolution but also imagines the fluctuating emotions of the private man and tender father. A moving and powerful tribute, with an unquantifiable depth of family intimacy and warmth.

Ruth Padel is a prizewinning poet, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. She is the author of seven poetry collections, including Voodoo Shop and The Soho Leopard, both short-listed for the T. S. Eliot Prize, as well as a travel book, Tigers in Red Weather, and two popular works of poetry criticism, 52 Ways of Looking at a Poem, and The Poem and the Journey. Padel lives in London.
Ron Darling has been beloved by Mets fans since he helped his team win the 1986 World Series, and today he is considered one of the most articulate and insightful broadcasters in baseball. Now he gives us an engaging, sophisticated, practical, and philosophical exploration of the art, strategy, and psychology of pitching.

Darling takes us inside the pitcher’s mind, illuminating the subtler aspects of the game and providing a deeper appreciation of what happens on the field. He explains why the position of pitcher is uniquely strategic and complex and explores the various tactics a pitcher uses in different scenarios, including the countless factors in deciding what to throw, and how he bounces back from a tough inning. Throughout, we get a glimpse of what it feels like to stand alone on the mound, the center of attention for tens of thousands of fans.

While there are technical books on pitching, there is no other book that examines the position in such compelling depth as The Complete Game. It will do for pitching what Ted Williams’s The Science of Hitting did for batting—and it will be an essential book for every fan and aspiring player.

Ron Darling was a starting pitcher for the New York Mets from 1983–1991, and was the first Mets pitcher to be awarded the Gold Glove Award. After a short stint with the Montreal Expos, the All-Star pitcher finished his career spending five seasons with the Oakland Athletics. Since 2006 he has been SportNet New York’s game and studio analyst, and he won an Emmy Award for best sports analyst in 2006. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended Yale University, where he was a two-time All-American. He currently lives with his family in Manhattan.
A true American original is brought effortlessly to life in this wonderful appreciation of Pete Seeger, who, with his melodic tenor voice and his inextinguishable passion for social justice, helped elevate folk singing to a high form of peaceful protest in the second half of the twentieth century. Drawing on extensive interviews he conducted with Seeger and others, New Yorker writer Alec Wilkinson gives us a man made of a unique blend of independence, charm, commitment, courage, energy, and belief in American democracy.

In this intimate and inspiring portrait, we see Seeger instilled with a love of music by his parents, both classically trained musicians; hearing real folk music for the first time; singing with Woody Guthrie and with the Weavers. We learn of his harassment by the government for his leftist leanings, and his appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1949. We hear his thoughts on his own music, the music of others, and the power of music to connect people and bind them to a cause. We meet Toshi, his wife of nearly sixty years, and his children, and see the house he built on a mountainside in upstate New York.

The Protest Singer is as spirited and captivating as its subject—an American icon who will turn ninety in May 2009.

Alec Wilkinson has been a writer at The New Yorker since 1980. He has also worked as a police officer in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, and a rock and roll musician. He is the author of eight previous books, and the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, and the Lyndhurst Prize, among other awards. He lives in New York City.

With 30 photos in text
Biography • 5 x 7½ • 160 pages
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When it happened, Nancy Bachrach was enjoying a feeling of well-being, living and working in Paris, “where the principal exercises are digestion and strolling.” Meanwhile, a jolt of bad karma delivered a knockout punch to her family in their hometown—ironically enough—of Providence. Her father, Mort, has been found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning aboard his cabin cruiser, the aptly named Mr. Fix It. Her charismatic but unhinged mother, Lola, the self-proclaimed “center of the universe,” is at a seaside hospital, lingering, her chart says, in “a comma.” Nancy’s brother, Ben (formerly Mr. Junior Rhode Island, a nine-and-a-half-fingered piano prodigy and eventual surgeon), and their sister, Helen (the wild child, a professor of abnormal psychology), sit by their mother’s ventilator, waiting for signs of life while eyeing the plug. Thus begins a family reunion, with preparations under way for a double funeral over the Memorial Day weekend.

Nancy Bachrach’s stunning debut is a darkly comic tale of genius, madness, ineptitude, and collateral damage; a hilarious, mordant memoir about her mother, whose medical history reads like the chapter headings of a psychiatric manual and ends so improbably that it could only be the truth. It is a brilliant, beautiful story of the haphazard tyranny of an accident and the serendipity of love.

Nancy Bachrach worked for twenty-nine years at a global advertising agency and before that for five years in academe. She lives in New York City. This is her first book.
From Arthur Laurents, playwright, screenwriter, director—a mesmerizing book about theater, the art, the artist, the insider, the outsider—and the making of two of the greatest musicals of the American stage. It is a book profoundly enriched by the author’s two loves: love for the theater and love for his partner of fifty-two years, Tom Hatcher, who shared and inspired every aspect of Laurents’s life and work.

Laurents writes about the musicals he directed, *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*, its producer David Merrick (the Abominable Showman), and its (very young) stars Barbra Streisand and Elliott Gould... He writes about Stephen Sondheim’s *Anyone Can Whistle*, which starred Angela Lansbury and Lee Remick, marking the debut for each in musical theater. He summons up the challenges and surprises that came with the making of *La Cage aux Folles*, the first big Broadway musical that was gay and glad to be.

Laurents writes in rich detail about his most recent production of *Gypsy*, how it began as an act of love, a love that spread through the entire company, and resulted in a *Gypsy* unlike any other. And about his forthcoming spring 2009 production of *West Side Story*.

Moving, exhilarating, provocative—a portrait of an artist working with other artists; a unique close-up look at today’s American musical theater by a man who’s been at its red-hot center for more than five decades.

Arthur Laurents was born in Brooklyn and graduated from Cornell University. His first play, *Home of the Brave*, was made into a movie. His screenplays include *The Snake Pit*, Alfred Hitchcock’s *Rope*, *Summertime*, and *The Way We Were*. He has directed many Broadway musicals, including *La Cage aux Folles*, for which he received a Tony Award for best direction. Laurents lives in New York City and Quogue, Long Island.
In this important, groundbreaking book, Andrew Cherlin explores the profound changes that have taken place in American family life during the past half century—how we have evolved from a culture that supported marriage with children at a young age and boasted low rates of divorce into one with a bewildering range of alternatives.

Cherlin—one of the foremost authorities on American family life—makes clear that Americans today marry more repeatedly and have more live-in partners than people in any other Western country; that these patterns of recurrent divorce, remarriage, and short-term cohabitation have resulted in a core upheaval in the American family; and that American children, more than any others, must cope with the frequent and disruptive comings and goings of parents. The author describes how Americans have come to uphold two contradictory models of family life: the sanctified commitment to a shared life in marriage, and the embrace of an individualist emphasis on personal growth and development. And he delineates the ways in which each of these models has been culturally reinforced by both religion and law.

A fascinating book that illuminates the shifting nature of America’s oldest and most cherished social institution, the subject of intense and ever-increasing national debate.

Andrew J. Cherlin is the Benjamin H. Griswold III Professor of Public Policy in the Department of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University and is the author of Public and Private Families. His articles have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, the Op-Ed pages of The New York Times, The Washington Post, and other publications. He has been a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and of the Distinguished Career Award from the Family Section of the American Sociological Association. He lives in Baltimore.
THE JULIA

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Julia Child was born in Pasadena, California. She graduated from Smith College and worked for the OSS during World War II; afterward, living in Paris, she studied at the Cordon Bleu and taught cooking with Simone Beck and Louissette Bertholle, with whom she wrote the first volume of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* (1961). In 1963 Boston’s WGBH launched *The French Chef* television series, which made Julia Child a national celebrity, earning her a Peabody Award in 1965 and an Emmy in 1966; several public television shows followed, as did eight cookbooks. The fortieth-anniversary edition of *Mastering* was published in 2001. She died in 2004.

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Shahriar Mandanipour
Censoring an Iranian Love Story
A novel

From one of Iran’s most accomplished and controversial contemporary writers, his first novel to appear in English—a dazzlingly inventive work of fiction: two powerful narratives, seamlessly entwined, that open a revelatory window into what it’s like to live, to love, and to be an artist in today’s Iran.

The author’s fictional alter ego, who bears his name, has spent years struggling to publish in Iran, reluctantly bending his work to the will of the all-powerful censor at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. But now Shahriar faces his greatest challenge yet: to write a bewitching love story, set in the present, in Iran.

He writes about beautiful Sara and fiercely proud Dara, who, forbidden by the state from being alone together, pass encoded messages in the pages of their favorite books, and meet in secret amid the bustling streets, Internet cafés, and private gardens of Tehran. But writing of their encounters, their desires, puts Shahriar in as much danger as his Iranian Romeo and Juliet. Can Sara and Dara’s love survive? Will the Ministry issue Shahriar a publishing permit? The answers are as shocking as they are unexpected.

Laced with humor and irony, at once provocative and deeply moving, *Censoring an Iranian Love Story* is a triumph of art and spirit.

Shahriar Mandanipour has won numerous awards for his novels, short stories, and nonfiction in Iran, despite his being unable to publish his fiction from 1992 until 1997 as a result of censorship. A noted film critic in Iran, he was editor in chief of *Asr-e Panjshanbeh* (*Thursday Evening*), a monthly literary journal, from 1999 until early 2008. He came to the United States in 2006 as the third International Writers Project Fellow at Brown University and is currently a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University. His work has appeared in *PEN America, The Literary Review*, and is forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*. He is currently living in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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- Reading Group Guide (available at www.aaknopf.com at the time of publication)
- Online Promotion, including Reading Group Guides.com
Part adventure, part inspiration, *Born to Run* is a riveting story about one journalist’s quest to discover the secrets of the world’s greatest distance runners—a reclusive Indian tribe living deep in the Copper Canyon of northern Mexico.

Isolated by near-impenetrable terrain, the Tarahumara Indians are one of the most healthy and serene people on the planet and perhaps the greatest runners—able to cover hundreds of miles without rest. With the help of a man called Caballo Blanco—an almost mythical Westerner who lives among the tribe—Christopher McDougall was able not only to uncover the secrets of the Tarahumara but to join them on a fifty-mile trail race through this rugged landscape with an international gathering of ultramarathoners.

In a razor-sharp narrative McDougall describes the growing worldwide popularity of this grueling new sport, takes us through the dizzying preparations for the climactic race with the Tarahumara, and chronicles the truly awesome event itself. It’s a story filled with surprise, near-death experiences, crazy prerace drinking sessions, obsessed—some would say mad—runners, and, of course, the Tarahumara themselves, who make it all look easy.

Galvanizing from start to finish, *Born to Run* will leave you breathless.

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Christopher McDougall is currently a contributing editor for *Men’s Health* and a writer-at-large for *Runner’s World*. He has written for *Esquire, The New York Times Magazine, GQ, Outside, Men’s Journal, and New York*. He lives in Pennsylvania and is an obsessed ultramarathoner.

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**Sports** • 6¼ x 9¼ • 272 pages

$24.95 (Can. $28.95) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-26630-9
Janusz Szuber was born in 1947 and has published eighteen collections of poetry in Poland. His work has been translated into numerous languages, and he has received a number of awards, including the Kazimiera Iłłakowiczówna Prize for Best Poetic Debut and the highest award from the Polish Foundation of Culture. He lives in the old city of Sanok.

Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough’s translations of Polish poetry have appeared in The New Yorker, Poetry, TriQuarterly, The Paris Review, and Image, among other publications. She divides her time between Kraków and Fresno, California.

The first appearance in English of the Polish poet Janusz Szuber, hailed as the greatest discovery in Polish poetry of the late twentieth century when, in his late forties, he began publishing his work. Nobel Laureate Wislawa Szymborska has called him a “superb poet,” and Zbigniew Herbert said that “his poetry speaks to the hard part of the soul.”

An intensely elegant poet whose poems are short and accessible, Szuber’s work is poised between life itself in all its messy glory and the rigors of making poetry—between the devastations of history and the quiet act of observing our place in it all. “Grammar is my / adopted country,” Szuber explains in one poem, yearning at the same time toward the physical, the breathing world: “I’d prefer something less ambiguous: / the bony parachutes of leaves, the flame of goosefoot, from a frosty page / A star bent over me.”

With lovely, astute translations by Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough, They Carry a Promise is an exciting introduction to the work of a contemporary Polish master.

About a Boy Stirring Jam
A wooden spoon for stirring jam,
Dripping sweet tar, while in the pan
Plum magma’s bubbles blather.
For someone who can’t grasp the whole
There’s salvation in the remembered detail.
What, back then, did I know about that?
The real, hard as a diamond,
Was to happen in the indefinable
Future, and everything seemed
Only a sign of what was to come. How naive.
Now I know inattention is an unforgivable sin
And each particle of time has an ultimate dimension.

Translated from the Polish by Ewa Hryniewicz-Yarbrough
Poetry • 5⅛ x 8¾ • 112 pages
$25.00 (Can. $28.95) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-26753-5
The first full and authorized biography of the 1982 Nobel Laureate in Literature—the most popular international novelist of the last fifty years.

While telling the story of the young man who rose from obscure provincial journalist to progenitor of a new literature, Gerald Martin also considers the tensions in García Márquez’s life between celebrity and the quest for literary quality, between politics and writing, and between the seductions of power, solitude, and love. He explores the contrast in the writer’s homeland, Colombia, between the exuberance of his Caribbean background and the authoritarianism of highland Bogotá; and his turning away from the magical realism of One Hundred Years of Solitude toward the greater simplicity that would mark his work beginning with Love in the Time of Cholera.

Over the course of fifteen years, Gerald Martin interviewed not only “Gabo” himself, but also more than 300 others: including Fidel Castro, Spain’s former prime minister Felipe González, and several former presidents of Colombia; Carlos Fuentes and Mario Vargas Llosa, among other writers; García Márquez’s family, his literary agent, translators, and his closest friends as well as his consistent detractors. The result is a revelation of a life as gripping as any of the writer’s journalism and as enthralling as any of his fiction.

Gerald Martin is Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages at the University of Pittsburgh and Senior Research Professor in Caribbean Studies at London Metropolitan University. For twenty-five years he has been the only English-speaking member of the “Archives” Association of Twentieth-Century Latin American Literature in Paris, and he is a recent president of the International Institute of Ibero-American Literature in the United States. Among his publications are Journeys Through the Labyrinth: Latin American Fiction in the Twentieth Century and several contributions to the Cambridge History of Latin America. He lives in England.

With 16 pages of photographs and 3 maps
Biography • 6¼ x 9¼ • 688 pages
$37.50 (NCR) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-27177-8
What if Mary Shelley had not invented Frankenstein’s monster at all but had met him when she was a girl of eight sitting by her mother’s grave, and he came to her unbidden? What if their secret bond left her forever changed, obsessed with the strange being she’d discovered at a time of need? What if he were still alive in the twenty-first century?

This bold, genre-defying book brings us the “monster” in his own words. He recalls how he was “made” and how Victor Frankenstein abandoned him. He ponders the tragic tale of the Shelleys and the intertwining of his life with Mary’s (whose fictionalized letters salt the narrative, along with those of her nineteenth-century intimates) in this riveting mix of fact and poetic license. He takes notes on all aspects of human striving—from Gertrude Stein to robotics to the Northern explorers whose lonely quest mirrors his own—as he tries to understand the strange race that made yet shuns him, and to find his own freedom of mind.

*A Monster’s Notes* is Sheck’s most thrilling work to date, a luminous meditation on creativity and technology, on alienation and otherness, on ugliness and beauty, and on our need to be understood.

Laurie Sheck is the author of five books of poetry, including *Captivity* and *The Willow Grove*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. A recent Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard and at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, she has published her work widely in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *Boston Review*. She teaches in the MFA Program at the New School and lives in New York City.
From the author of the acclaimed best seller *Carter Beats the Devil* comes a grand entertainment with the brilliantly realized figure of Charlie Chaplin at its center: a novel at once cinematic and intimate, thrilling and darkly comic, that dramatizes the moment when American capitalism, a world at war, and the emerging mecca of Hollywood intersect to spawn an enduring culture of celebrity.

*Sunnyside* opens on a winter day in 1916 during which Chaplin is spotted in more than eight hundred places simultaneously, an extraordinary mass delusion. From there, the novel follows the overlapping fortunes of three men: Leland Wheeler, son of the world’s last (and worst) Wild West star, as he heads to the battlefields of France; snobbish Hugo Black, drafted to fight under the towering General Edmund Ironside in America’s doomed engagement with Russia; and Chaplin himself, as he faces a tightening vice of complications—studio moguls, questions about his patriotism, his unchecked heart, and, most menacing of all, his mother—to finally make a movie “as good as he was.”

With a cast of entralling characters, both historical and fictional—Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, a thieving Girl Scout, a lovestruck film theorist, Russian princesses, even Rin Tin Tin—*Sunnyside* is a heartrending, spellbinding novel about American promises both kept and betrayed.
The only firsthand account of the failed German military plot to kill Hitler—told by one of the key conspirators.

When World War II erupted, Philipp von Boeselager, son of an aristocratic Catholic family, fought enthusiastically for his country as a cavalry lieutenant. But in the summer of 1942, when he witnessed the regime’s criminal brutality toward Jews and Gypsies, his patriotism quickly turned to disgust, and he joined a group of officers intent on killing Hitler.

After one aborted attempt—in which Boeselager was assigned to shoot both Hitler and Heinrich Himmler—it was decided that a bomb would be used to assassinate the Führer. Boeselager delivered the explosives and then led his unwitting men toward Berlin in order to carry out the coup d’état. When the bomb failed to kill Hitler, the SS launched a terrifying purge of senior army officers. Boeselager managed to return his units to the front before, one by one, the other conspirators were rounded up, tortured, and executed. None of them betrayed Boeselager.

In his unvarnished, harrowing testimony, Philipp von Boeselager—who died on May 1, 2008—gives eloquent voice to the courageous spirit of these men whose profound sense of honor could not be dimmed by the diabolical propaganda of the Third Reich.

Philipp Freiherr von Boeselager was born in Bonn, Germany, in 1917, the fifth of nine children. In 2003, France awarded him the Legion of Honor.

Florence Fehrenbach is the granddaughter of Karl von Wendt, a co-conspirator and close friend of Philipp von Boeselager. She and her husband, Jérôme Fehrenbach, convinced Boeselager to recount his experience at the age of eighty-nine.
Patrick and Gina Neely
with Paula Disbrowe

Down Home with the Neelys
A Southern Family Cookbook
Introduction by Paula Deen

The long-awaited debut cookbook from the celebrated husband-and-wife team, hosts of their own number one-rated Food Network show.

Pat and Gina Neely both hail from families with bedrock traditions of sharing meals, a boundless love of cooking and great food, and no fear of good, hard work to make it all happen. That’s what has earned their Memphis restaurant the reputation as one of the best darn rib joints in the world.

Now they’ve given us a cookbook brimming with tried and truly delicious southern recipes that have been passed down from one generation to the next. The Neelys share all their secrets, not the least important of which is their liberal application of barbecue sauce to almost anything: spaghetti, nachos, salad—you name it. Here are more than one hundred mouth-watering recipes, including many of their signature dishes, such as Barbeque Deviled Eggs, Florida Coast Pickled Shrimp, Spicy Corn Chowder, Nana’s Southern Gumbo, Sweet and Spicy Slaw, Get Yo’ Man Chicken, Sock-It-to-Me Cake, and a few knock-your-socks-off libations to boot.

The Neelys’ love for good food is infectious, and here, in their first book, they bring their heavenly inspired cooking down to earth for all to share.

Patrick and Gina Neely are owners of Neely’s Bar-B-Que in Memphis and hosts of several Food Network shows, including the series Down Home with the Neelys, one of the highest-rated programs to debut on the popular Food Network. High school sweethearts who reconciled at their ten-year reunion, they have been married since 1994. They live in Memphis with their two daughters.

Paula Disbrowe collaborated with Susan Spicer on Crescent City Cooking and is the author of Cowgirl Cuisine.

With 75 full-color photographs by Shelly Strazis
Cooking • 7⅞ x 9⅞ • 288 pages
$27.95 (Can. $33.00) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-26994-2
Marge Piercy

The Crooked Inheritance

A n “exquisite . . . spot on” (The Hudson Review) collection of poems from one of our best-loved and best-selling poets that is both personal, with poetry about love, nature and reflections on the stages of life, and political, ranging from the war in Iraq and Katrina to concerns such as women’s rights and the poet’s childhood in Detroit.

“Piercy’s honesty is always welcome.” —Publishers Weekly

“There is always some secret gem hidden inside these poems . . . Piercy is not shy about using stark language, and her tone is unusual and refreshing. Rather than sounding preachy, her use of repetition adds to the sense of rhythm and makes her writing sing even as it informs.” —Lilith

Marge Piercy is the author of seventeen novels and seventeen volumes of poetry, most recently Colors Passing Through Us and The Art of Blessing the Day. She lives on Cape Cod with her husband, novelist Ira Wood.

Laurie Sheck

Captivity

The “exquisite and haunting” (Booklist) collection of poems built around the language and mystique of American captivity narratives in which Sheck enters the vivid life we live inside our own minds and selves, and takes us into the mysterious underside of consciousness and selfhood.

“Sheck [is] one of the most accomplished lyric poets writing in America today.” —Boston Review

“These lyrics bring fresh insight out of numbness and joy out of sorrow.” —The New Leader

Laurie Sheck is the author of five books of poetry, including Black Series and The Willow Grove, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She lives in New York City.

See page 194 for Laurie Sheck’s new book, A Monster’s Notes.
Commencement

A sparkling debut novel: a tender story of friendship, a witty take on liberal arts colleges, and a fascinating portrait of the first generation of women who have all the choices in the world, but no clear idea about which choices to make.

Classmates their first year at Smith College, Celia, Bree, Sally, and April couldn’t be more different. Alone and together, they soon learn that Smith is a hothouse: of sexual discovery, political activism, female bonding, and carbohydrates eaten with abandon. And although several years after graduation they live in far-flung places, their Smith years have left them fiercely devoted to one another. Schooled in the ideals of feminism, they must decide how it all applies to their own real world in matters of love, work, family, and sex. For Celia, Bree, and Sally, it will mean grappling with one-night stands, loneliness and heartbreak, parental disapproval, and changing maiden names. But for April, whose college activism becomes her life’s work, it will mean something else entirely.

Written with radiant style and a wicked sense of humor, Commencement not only captures the intensity of college friendships and first loves, but also explores with great candor the complicated and contradictory landscape facing young women today.

J. Courtney Sullivan is a Brooklyn-based writer whose work has appeared in The New York Times, New York, Elle, Cosmopolitan, Allure, Women’s Health, Men’s Vogue, the New York Observer, and Tango. She was born and raised outside Boston, attended Smith College, and works in the editorial department of The New York Times.
In his first ever work of nonfiction, the Booker Prize–winning author gives us a highly personal book: a singular and open-spirited account of a writer’s life.

As generous in its scope as it is acute in its observations, Making an Elephant brings together a richly varied selection of essays, portraits, poetry, and interviews, full of insights into Graham Swift’s passions and motivations, and wise about the friends, family, and other writers who have mattered to him over the years. Kazuo Ishiguro advises on how to choose a guitar; Salman Rushdie arrives for Christmas under guard; Caryl Phillips shares a beer with the author at a nightclub in Toronto. There are private moments with his father and with his own younger self, as well as musings on history, memory, and imagination that illuminate the work of a writer who, in his fiction, regards it as “a mark of achievement” when his own voice and presence vanish into his characters.

A journey through place and time, conversations and encounters, Making an Elephant brims with charm and candor, an alertness to experience, and a true engagement with words—in short, with what it means to believe that writing and reading are an essential part of living.

Graham Swift is the author of eight novels, including the Booker Prize–winning Last Orders, and a collection of short stories. His work has been translated into more than thirty languages. He lives in London.

With 35 photographs in text
Fiction • 5 ⅞ x 8⅞ • 240 pages
$25.00 • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-27099-3
Random House Canada: $32.95 • 978-0-307-35720-5
By the acclaimed author of *The Highest Tide*, a story of contrary destinies that are further complicated by the border that separates them.

Brandon Vanderkool’s extreme dyslexia and height give him a peculiar perspective, which proves handy once his father pushes him off their Washington dairy farm into the Border Patrol. Though he used to just jump over the ditch into British Columbia, he’s uncomfortable in this uniformed role and instead indulges his obsession with birds and art while incidentally spotting smugglers and illegal immigrants who are provoking an already paranoid society. Drug mansions in the Canadian highlands peer down into berry farms that might offer convenient routes into the American market, where politicians clamor for increased security. Closer to home, Brandon’s father battles disease in his herd and his mother something far worse. Madeline Rousseau, who grew up right across the ditch, has seen her gardening skills turn lucrative, while her father replicates great past inventions and rails against imperialism. And overseeing everything is a mysterious masseuse who knows everybody’s secrets.

Rich in characters contending with a swiftly changing world and their own elusive hopes and dreams, *Border Songs* is at once comic, tender, and momentous—a riveting portrait of a distinctive community, an inventive love story, and fiction of the highest order.

Jim Lynch lives with his wife and their daughter in Olympia, Washington. As a journalist, he has received the H. L. Mencken Award, among others. His first novel, *The Highest Tide*, won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, appeared on several bestseller lists, was adapted for the stage, and has been published in eleven foreign markets.
Richard Bernstein

The East, the West, and Sex

A History of Erotic Encounters

In this rich and seductive narrative, Richard Bernstein elucidates the powerful erotic hold that the East has always had for Western men—a pervasive yet often ignored aspect of their long historical relationship.

Bernstein defines the East widely—northern Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific Islands—and frames it as a place where sexual pleasure was not commonly associated with sin, as in the West, and where a different sexual culture offered Western men fantasies and opportunities that were mostly unavailable at home. Bernstein maps this erotic history through a chronology of notable personalities. Here are some of Europe’s greatest literary figures and explorers: Marco Polo, writing on the harem of Kublai Khan; Gustave Flaubert, describing his dalliances with Egyptian prostitutes; Richard Francis Burton, with his translation of The Arabian Nights. Here are Europeans whose “temporary marriages” to Japanese women might have inspired Puccini’s Madama Butterfly; American G.I.s in Vietnam who settled with local women; men attracted to the sex bazaars of yesterday’s North Africa and the Thailand of today. And here also are the stories of the women who suffered for or profited by the fantasies of Western men.

A remarkable work of history: as unexpected as it is lucid, and as provocative as it is brilliantly illuminating.

Richard Bernstein is a columnist for the International Herald Tribune and a contributor to The New York Times. He has served as a foreign correspondent in Asia and Europe for Time and the Times, and is the author of six previous books, including Fragile Glory: A Portrait of France and the French, a New York Times Best Book of the Year, and Out of the Blue: From Jihad to Ground Zero, named by The Boston Globe as one of the seven best books of 2002. He lives in New York City.

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With 13 illustrations in text
History • 6¼ x 9¼ • 336 pages
$26.95 (Can. $32.00) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-375-41409-1
John Updike's first collection of new short fiction since 2000 finds the author in a valedictory mood as he mingles narratives of his native Pennsylvania with stories of New England suburbia and of foreign travel.

“Personal Archaeology” considers life as a sequence of half-buried layers, and “The Full Glass” distills a lifetime’s happiness into one brimming moment of an old man’s bedtime routine. High-school class reunions, in “Fiftieth” and “The Road Home,” restore their hero to youth’s commonwealth where, as the narrator of the title story confides, “the self I value is stored, however infrequently I check on its condition.” Exotic locales encountered in the journeys of adulthood include Morocco, Florida, Spain, Italy, and India. The territory of childhood, with its fundamental, formative mysteries, is explored in “The Guardians,” “The Laughter of the Gods,” and “Kinderszenen.” Love’s fumblings among the bourgeoisie yield the tart comedy of “Free,” “Delicate Wives,” “The Apparition,” and “Outage.”

In sum, American experience from the Depression to the aftermath of 9/11 finds reflection in these glittering pieces of observation, remembrance, and imagination.

John Updike was born in 1932, in Shillington, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Harvard College in 1954, and spent a year in Oxford, England, at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art. From 1955 to 1957 he was a member of the staff of The New Yorker and since 1957 has lived in Massachusetts. His previous story collections include The Same Door, Pigeon Feathers, The Music School, Museums and Women, Problems and Other Stories, Trust Me, The Afterlife, and Licks of Love. His novels have won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. In 2006 Updike was given the Rea Award for the Short Story, and his Early Stories 1953–1975 received the 2003 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.
From the highly praised author of All I Could Get ("Utterly engrossing, harrowing, and, yes, fun. Scott Lasser’s All I Could Get is all you could want."—Richard Russo) a powerful, absorbing new novel about bloodlines and inheritance and what holds families together.

On September 10, 2001, Kyle tells his sister, Cat, that he believes he has fathered a son. The next day both Kyle and the boy’s mother head off to work and are never heard from again. Cat—a single mother of a young son—sets out to find her brother’s orphaned child. Nearly a year later, that search is still under way when her father, Sam, asks Cat to come to California for the anniversary of her brother’s death. But he has another motive as well: to reveal a secret he’s kept from her all her life.

Cat’s journey toward her father and her brother’s infant son, and Sam’s journey toward his daughter, his lost son, and a new relationship to both his future and his past drive this superbly realized novel about families and about how we live with the mysteries and ambiguities that inhere in our most primal relations. With marvelous economy and restraint, Scott Lasser captures the complexities of home and heritage, the bonds of blood, and the bonds of life and love. A richly resonant, exceptionally graceful, deeply affirming new novel from an abundantly gifted writer.

Scott Lasser received an M.F.A. from the University of Michigan and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School. He was formerly a government bond trader at Lehman Brothers. He lives in Aspen, Colorado.
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Thing Around Your Neck

From the prizewinning author of Half of a Yellow Sun (“A gorgeous, pitiless account of love, violence, and betrayal”—Time; “Instantly enthralling”—The New York Times) twelve dazzling stories—her most intimate work to date—in which she turns her penetrating eye on the ties that bind men and women, parents and children, Nigeria and the United States.

In “A Private Experience,” a medical student hides from a violent riot with a poor Muslim woman whose dignity and faith force her to confront the realities and fears she’s been pushing away. In “Tomorrow Is Too Far,” a woman unlocks the devastating secret that surrounds her brother’s death. The young mother at the center of “Imitation” finds her comfortable life in Philadelphia threatened when she learns that her husband has moved his mistress into their Lagos home. And the title story depicts the choking loneliness of a Nigerian girl who moves to an America that turns out to be nothing like the country she expected; though falling in love brings her desires nearly within reach, a death in her homeland forces her to reexamine them.

Searing and profound, suffused with beauty, sorrow, and longing, this collection is a resounding confirmation of Adichie’s prodigious literary powers.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie grew up in Nigeria. Her work has been translated into thirty languages and has appeared in various publications, including The O. Henry Prize Stories, 2003; The New Yorker; Granta; the Financial Times; and Zoetrope. Her most recent novel, Half of a Yellow Sun, won the Orange Broadband Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; it was a New York Times Notable Book and a People and Black Issues Book Review Best Book of the Year. Her first novel, Purple Hibiscus, won the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. A recipient of a 2008 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, she divides her time between the United States and Nigeria.

Available in Anchor paperback:
Half of a Yellow Sun
$14.95 (NCR) • 978-1-4000-9520-9
Purple Hibiscus
$14.95 (Can. $17.50) • 978-1-4000-7694-9

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S-city Author Tour: Boston, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.
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Published in England to unanimous acclaim ("Frances Osborne has brilliantly captured not only one woman’s life but an entire lost society"—Amanda Foreman): the life of the beautiful, fearless Idina Sackville—descendant of one of England’s oldest families—who was the cause of one of the great scandals of Edwardian England.

She was irresistible: slight, girlish, well dressed, and though not conventionally beautiful (she had a “shot-away chin”), she dazzled men and women alike. She made a habit of marrying (five times) whenever she fell in love and taking lovers whenever she wanted. But her notoriety was sealed when she left her husband and two young children in search of a new adventurous life and bolted to Kenya, where in the 1920s she became known as the “high priestess of the Happy Valley set.”

Osborne deftly pieces together the tale of her great-grandmother using Idina’s never-before-seen letters; the diaries of Idina’s first husband, Euan Wallace; and stories from family members. Osborne follows Idina from the champagne breakfasts and thés dansants of lost generation England to the “endless rounds of parties” and foothills of Kenya’s Aberdare mountains, to the wild abandon of her role in Kenya’s disintegrating postwar upperclass life—her parade of lovers, a murdered husband, chaos everywhere—as her own madcap world of excess darkened and crumbled around her.

Frances Osborne was born in London and studied philosophy and modern languages at Oxford University. She is the author of Lilla’s Feast. Her articles have appeared in the Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Independent, The Daily Mail, and Vogue. She lives in London with her husband, a Member of Parliament, and their two children.

With 66 illustrations in text
History • 6¼ x 9¼ • 320 pages
$30.00 (Can. $35.00) • ISBN/EAN: 978-0-307-27014-6
Manny and Jake, the irrepressible crime-fighting team last seen in *Remains Silent* ("Wonderfully done . . . *Remains Silent* sparkles"—Patricia Cornwell) are back on the case in another hair-raising thriller that mines the worlds of forensics and law.

Dr. Jake Rosen, world-famous pathologist, deputy chief medical examiner, and seasoned New Yorker, teams up again with his unlikely partner, the crusading civil rights attorney and world-class shopaholic Manny Manfreda, to solve a string of gruesome attacks plaguing the city. The villain—a thief who stalks his victims, sedates them, then absconds with vials of their blood—goes by the moniker the Vampire. Analyzing blood samples, Manny and Jake work frantically to crack the case. But the mystery only deepens: disturbing similarities emerge among the DNA of the victims that suggest the Vampire’s actions are actually linked to the crimes—and tragedies—of another time, and to the dark history of another nation.

A fast-paced, boldly imagined new work from an exuberant new team in suspense.

Michael Baden, M.D., is one of America’s leading forensic experts. He is the host of *Autopsy*, the HBO hit documentary series. He has overseen cases ranging from the death of John Belushi to the examination of the remains of Tsar Nicholas II and has served as an expert witness in countless criminal cases, including the trials of Claus von Bülow and O. J. Simpson. He has been a consulting forensic pathologist to the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the FBI, and the Russian government, as well as a visiting professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and Albany Medical College.

Linda Kenney Baden is a trial attorney who has won dozens of civil rights lawsuits, participated in many high-profile criminal cases, and has appeared as a guest legal commentator on numerous television networks. They are married and live in New York City with their dog, Mycroft.
Vanilla Ride
A Hap and Leonard Novel

Joe R. Lansdale

In this Texas-sized thriller, Hap Collins and Leonard Pine—best friends, freelance troublemakers, and tough guys with good intentions—find themselves in the crosshairs of the Dixie Mafia.

Hap is an East Texas smart mouth with a weakness for southern women. Leonard is a gay, black Vietnam vet. They’re not the makings for your typical dynamic duo, but never underestimate the power of a shared affinity for stirring up trouble and general mayhem. So when an old friend asks Leonard to rescue his daughter from an abusive no-good drug dealer, he gladly agrees and, of course, invites Hap along for the fun. Well, the dealer may be lowly, but he is on the bottom rung of the Dixie Mafia, and when Hap and Leonard come calling, the Mafia feels a little payback is in order. Cars crash, shotguns blast, and people die, but Hap and Leonard come out on top. Unfortunately for them, now they’re facing not only jail time but also the legendary—and lethal—Vanilla Ride, who is still out to claim the price on their heads.

Full of twists and turns, gunfire and gaffes, this hilarious, rip-roaring novel will have readers turning the pages faster than a Texas tornado.

Joe R. Lansdale is the author of more than a dozen novels, including Sunset and Sawdust and Lost Echoes. He has received the British Fantasy Award, the American Mystery Award, the Edgar Award, the Grinzane Cavour Prize for Literature, and seven Bram Stoker Awards. He lives with his family in Nacogdoches, Texas.

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Sunset and Sawdust
$13.00 (Can. $18.00) • 978-0-375-71922-6
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$13.95 (Can. $15.95) • 978-0-307-45549-9
*Hap and Leonard novels

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Carmela Ciuraru is the editor of the Everyman’s Library Pocket Poets anthologies *Fatherhood, Motherhood, Solitude, Beat Poets*, and *Doggerel: Poems About Dogs*. She lives in Brooklyn.

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Peter Washington is the editor of many Everyman’s Library Pocket Poet anthologies, including Love Poems, Erotic Poems, Friendship Poems, and Poems of Mourning.
ALEXANDRE DUMAS

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
Introduction by Umberto Eco

Alexandre Dumas’s epic novel of justice, retribution, and self-discovery—one of the most endur-ingly popular adventure tales ever written—in a newly revised translation.

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Alexandre Dumas was born in 1802 in France and died in 1870.

Umberto Eco is the author of The Name of the Rose and Foucault’s Pendulum.

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The Best of Frank O’Connor is a literary monument to a truly great writer.

Frank O’Connor (1903–1966) was born in Cork, Ireland. The author of plays, stories, criticism, and poetry, he was also a director of the legendary Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

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What do you do if you’re a failed music journalist in your early thirties with a dead-end job, and the best moment of your life happened in high school when you first saw the band Thieving Magpies play, and the worst moment happened six years later when you saw their lead singer, Lance Webster, self-destruct on stage, and just today you’ve discovered that Lance is your neighbor?

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With the narrative shifting between Clive’s life-changing Magpie years and his life-upended present, we get a breakneck romp and a hilarious picture of friendship, hero worship, and the full-blast power of music to help us become, at the very least, who we like to think we are.

Tim Thornton plays the drums for the alt/blues artist Fink. The Alternative Hero is his first novel.

Tim Thornton
The Alternative Hero
A novel

July
A spectacular debut novel from a ferociously gifted new writer.

World-class swimming isn’t all breathing and technique: for Philomena—reluctantly known to the world as Pip—it is a necessity. Haunted by a litany of childhood tragedy—an agoraphobic mother, a lost father, a drug-addled sister, and a Catholic education dominated by nuns—Pip escapes into the racing lane, where her suffering and rage are transmuted into beauty, grace, and purity of will. Swimming is the story of Pip’s rise from the star of her small Midwestern swim team to her first state meets, her brutal professional training, and her eventual gold medals as an Olympic champion. It is a story about competition, obsession, the hunger for victory—and about a young girl struggling to stay afloat, and to find salvation in the only way she can; a girl who discovers, in the agony and loneliness of adolescence and the family tragedies that threaten to engulf her, the supreme force of her spirit and the spectacular glory of her own body.

Graceful, raw, hilarious, breathtaking in its physical and emotional precision and depth, Swimming is already an international sensation—foreign rights have been sold in twelve countries—and promises to be one of the season’s most electrifying debuts.

Nicola Keegan lives in Paris with her husband and three children.

“Nicola Keegan has pulled off a coup with her first novel. Swimming is as entertaining as it is deeply moving, a story of loss that is—against all odds—also a jubilation.”

—Lauren Groff, author of The Monsters of Templeton
W. S. Di Piero
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Now in paperback: the “lovely and evocative book” (San Francisco Chronicle) of poems both new and old that celebrates a quarter century of passionate engagement with real life and its transformation into poetic form: the pull of faith and the poet’s suspicion of transcendence, urban worlds and the mysterious jazz of street language, desire and sexual need, love and loss.

“[A] fine book . . . It’s clear that what Di Piero believes in is poetry, not redemptively but descriptively. Poetry allows him to see the world, which enables him to bear living in it.” — Poetry

“Di Piero’s verses resound with tiny correspondences and internal echoes, and the density of his later poems, despite their reader-friendliness and beautiful images, weighs hard on the reader’s heart, leaving an impress that is slow to fade.” — The Philadelphia Inquirer

W. S. Di Piero was born in South Philadelphia in 1945. He is the author of eight previous books of poetry, as well as three volumes of translation from the Italian. The recipient of numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts grant, he lives in San Francisco.

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Franz Wright
Earlier Poems

The haunting collection of poems that gathers the first four books of Pulitzer winner Franz Wright under one cover, where “fans old and new will find a feast amid famine” (Publishers Weekly), and discover how large this poet’s gift was from the start.

“[Wright’s] hard-won revelations seem subtle but are potently rousing. He achieves a level of balance between the unseen and seen, the lost and found, that, like Rilke’s simultaneous sense of ‘stone in you and star,’ is masterful to say the least.” — Booklist

“Wright propels his work forward with clear details, brutally forthright self-knowledge, and a sense of being lost in America familiar even to the most found of us.” — Chicago Tribune

Franz Wright is the author of ten books of poetry. The recipient of numerous awards, including two National Endowment for the Arts grants and a Guggenheim Fellowship, he lives in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Poetry • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 272 pages • paperback
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From the author of *The Abortionist’s Daughter*, a gripping new novel about a rafting trip through the Grand Canyon that changes the lives of everyone on board.

Peter, twenty-seven and unemployed, embarks on this journey to avoid his family, while Evelyn, a fifty-year-old biology professor, comes in search of a more visceral life. Ruth and Lloyd, veteran white-water rafters in their seventies, know they will never make this trip again. Jill, a stay-at-home mother with her husband and two boys in tow, craves the luxury of relinquishing control and following someone else’s rules. Mitchell and his wife, Lena, are re-creating a historic river journey undertaken years before. Seventeen-year-old Amy Van Doren and her mother set off on this journey expecting little, especially from each other; together they will face the most daunting journey of all, one that has nothing to do with white-water rapids.

And guiding them all is JT Maroney, who, in his 124 previous trips down the Colorado, thinks he has seen everything. Until now.

In the Heart of the Canyon brings Elisabeth Hyde’s gifts for character and drama to a strikingly beautiful but persistently hostile landscape, where stifling heat and the volatility of the river combine to create treacherous physical and emotional challenges for all. Stunningly set and expertly paced, it is a literary adventure novel from a master of suspense.

Elisabeth Hyde is the author of four previous novels. Born and raised in New Hampshire, she has since lived in Vermont, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Seattle. In 1979 she received her law degree and practiced with the U.S. Department of Justice. She currently lives in Colorado with her husband and three children.
In 1892, two sisters, identical twins, made one of the most important scriptural discoveries of modern times. Combing the library of St. Catherine’s monastery at Mount Sinai, they found a palimpsest: beneath a life of female saints, they detected what remains to this day among the earliest known copies of the Gospels, written in ancient Syriac, the language of Jesus.

In this enthralling book, Janet Soskice takes us, via the lives of Agnes and Margaret Smith, on a quintessentially Victorian adventure. It is in part a physical journey: devoted to languages, travel, and their faith, the sisters traverse a Middle East that few Westerners visited, sleeping in tents, enduring temperamental camels and unscrupulous dragomen. But it is also a journey of the mind in an era when science put faith in question, new findings reshaped the understanding of the Bible’s creation, and Europeans were rediscovering the East. Finally, and most movingly, it is a journey of the human spirit: unwilling to let their sex or lack of formal training stand in the way, Agnes and Margaret became world-renowned scriptural authorities, living fully through their lifelong passions for adventure and learning. Here, vividly recounted, is the story of two unlikely and unsung heroines of the effort to discover the Bible as originally written.

Born in Canada, Janet Soskice is a Fellow of Jesus College, a past president of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain, a member of the English Anglican–Roman Catholic Commission, and currently president-elect of the Society for the Study of Theology. She lives in Cambridge, England.
The electrifying follow-up to the phenomenal best seller *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (“An intelligent, ingeniously plotted, utterly engrossing thriller” — *The Washington Post*), and this time it is Lisbeth Salander, the troubled, wise-beyond-her-years genius hacker, who is the focus and fierce heart of the story.

Mikael Blomkvist—crusading journalist and publisher of the magazine *Millennium*—has decided to publish a story exposing an extensive sex trafficking operation between eastern Europe and Sweden, implicating well-known and highly placed members of Swedish society, business, and government.

On the eve of publication, the two reporters responsible for the story are brutally murdered. But perhaps more shocking for Blomkvist: the fingerprints found on the murder weapon belong to Salander.

Now, as Blomkvist—alone in his belief in her innocence—plunges into his own investigation of the slayings, Salander is drawn into a murderous hunt in which she is the prey, and which compels her to revisit her dark past in an effort to settle with it once and for all.

Stieg Larsson, who lived in Sweden, was the editor in chief of the magazine *Expo* and a leading expert on antidemocratic right-wing extremist and Nazi organizations. He died in 2004, shortly after delivering the manuscripts for *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, and a third novel in the series.
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Here is the ancient story reinvented—as a woman’s story, an erotic allegory, a haunting meditation on the power of storytelling.

Nélida Piñon is a native of Rio de Janeiro, where she still lives. A former professor at the University of Miami, she has also been a visiting writer at Harvard, Columbia, Georgetown, and Johns Hopkins. The recipient of numerous literary awards, in 1996 she became the first woman elected president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters.

Translated from the Portuguese by Clifford E. Landers

Fiction • 5½ x 8¾ • 272 pages

Nat Turnbull, a history professor who specializes in the German resistance, is only mildly surprised when his estranged mentor, Gordon Wolfe, is arrested for possession of stolen World War II archives. But what’s in the archives is staggering: a spymaster’s trove missing since the end of the war, one that Gordon has always claimed is full of “secrets you can’t find anywhere else . . . live ammunition.”

Key documents are still missing, however, and Nat believes Gordon has hidden them. The FBI agrees, and when Gordon is then found dead in jail, the Bureau dispatches Nat to track down the material, which has also caught the interest of several dangerous competitors. Following a trail of cryptic clues left behind by Gordon, and assisted by an attractive German academic with questionable motives, Nat’s quest takes him to Bern and Berlin, where his path soon crosses that of Kurt Bauer, an aging German arms merchant still hoarding his own wartime secrets. As their tales—and Gordon’s—intersect across half a century, long-buried exploits of deceit, devotion, and doomed resistance begin working their way to the surface. As the stakes rise, so do the risks.

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Dan Fesperman’s travels as a writer have taken him to thirty countries and three war zones. He has won the Crime Writers’ Association of Britain’s John Creasey Memorial Dagger Award for best first crime novel and their Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award for best thriller. He lives in Baltimore.
Anecdote of the Jar
I placed a jar in Tennessee,
And round it was, upon a hill.
It made the slovenly wilderness
Surround that hill.

The wilderness rose up to it,
And sprawled around, no longer wild.
The jar was round upon the ground
And tall and of a port in air.

It took dominion everywhere.
The jar was gray and bare,
It did not give of bird or bush,
Like nothing else in Tennessee.
A gripping and lyrical story—at once expansive and lush with detail—this debut novel is a deeply intimate exploration of the search for love and authenticity, power and redemption, in the lives of three women, and a penetrating portrait of a small, tenacious nation, Uruguay, shaken in the gales of the twentieth century.

On the first day of the millennium, a small town gathers to witness a miracle and unravel its portents for the century: the mysterious reappearance of a lost infant, Pajarita. Later, as a young woman in the capital city—Montevideo, brimming with growth and promise—Pajarita begins a lineage of fiercely independent women. Her daughter, Eva, survives a brutal childhood to pursue her dreams as a rebellious poet and along the hazardous precipices of erotic love. Eva’s daughter, Salomé, driven by an unrelenting idealism, commits clandestine acts that will end in tragedy as unrest sweeps Uruguay. But what saves them all is the fierce fortifying connection between mother and daughter that will bring them together to face the future.

From Perón’s glittering Buenos Aires to the rustic hills of Rio de Janeiro, from the haven of a corner butchershop in Montevideo to U.S. embassy halls, the Firielli family traverses a changing South America and the uncharted terrain of their relationships with one another.

Carolina De Robertis was raised in England, Switzerland, and California by Uruguayan parents. Her fiction, nonfiction, and literary translations have appeared in ColorLines, The Virginia Quarterly Review, and the Indiana Review, among others. She is the recipient of a 2008 Hedgebrook Residency for Women Authoring Change, and the translator of the Chilean novella Bonsai by Alejandro Zambra. She lives in Oakland, California, where she is at work on her second novel.

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Fiction • 6⅛ x 9 ⅝ • 368 pages
Doubleday Canada
Dai Sijie

Once on a Moonless Night
A novel

From the author of the beloved best seller Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, a haunting tale of love and of the beguiling power of a lost language.

When Pu Yi, the last emperor, was exiled to Manchuria in the early 1930s, it is said that he carried an ancient silk scroll inscribed with a lost Buddhist sutra. Eventually, the scroll would be sold illicitly to an eccentric French linguist named Paul d’Ampere, a transaction that would land him in prison, where he would devote his life to studying the ineffably beautiful ancient language of the scroll.

Our unnamed narrator, a Western student in China in the 1970s, hears this story from the greengrocer Tumchooq—his name the same as that of the language in which the scroll is written—who has recently returned from three years of re-education. She will come again and again to Tumchooq’s stall near the gates of the Forbidden City, drawn by the young man and his stories of an estranged father. But when d’Ampere is killed in prison, Tumchooq disappears, abandoning the narrator, now pregnant with his child. And it is she, going in search of her lost love, who will at last find the missing scroll and discover the truth of the Buddha’s lesson that begins “Once on a moonless night . . .”

Dai Sijie is a Chinese-born filmmaker and novelist who has lived and worked in France since 1984. His first novel, Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress, was an overnight sensation; it spent twenty-three weeks on the New York Times best-seller list.

Also available in Anchor paperback:
Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress
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Translated from the French by Adriana Hunter
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