

ANCHOR  ReadingGroupCenter.com  VINTAGE

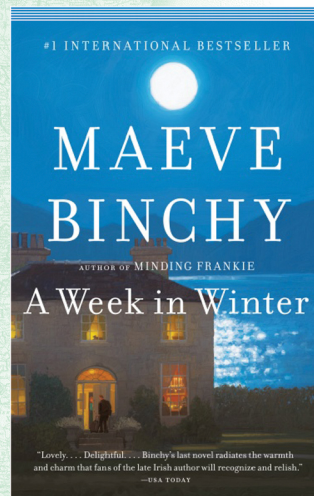
A Week in Winter

Maeve Binchy

“The beloved author has written a novel that will warm the hearts of her fans one last time. Her new book brings together a cast of charming characters in an inn on Ireland’s west coast.”
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

Stoneybridge is a small town on the west coast of Ireland where all the families know one another. That’s where Chicky Starr decides to take an old, decaying mansion set high on the cliffs overlooking the windswept Atlantic Ocean and turn it into a restful place for a holiday by the sea. The unlikely cast of characters who come to spend the week at the inn are transformed by the place and one another, some finding an escape, others solace, and still others a home in the town. Full of Maeve’s trademark warmth and humor, once again, in *A Week in Winter* she embraces us with her grand storytelling.

Paperback 9780307475503 • eBook 9780385350082



Visit Ireland and experience the bed and breakfast hospitality that Maeve Binchy brings so skillfully to life in *A Week in Winter*

Some Top Attractions in Ireland

Newgrange

Stonehenge and the pyramids at Giza are spring chickens compared to Newgrange. Built near Dublin around 5,200 years ago, this passage tomb is steeped in Celtic myth and lore.

Book of Kells

If you visit only one attraction in Dublin, let it be this extraordinary creation housed in Trinity College. Often called “the most beautiful book in the world,” the manuscript was fashioned by monks in the 8th or 9th century.

The Blarney Stone

One of Ireland’s most enduring myths, wherein kissing a stone high upon the battlements of a ruined Cork castle bestows a magical eloquence on the visitor, may also be one of its most ludicrous.

Aran Islands

Famed for their haunting beauty, these three islands—Inishmore, Inishmaan, and Inisheer—set in Galway Bay have lured artists, writers, and multitudes of curious visitors for decades.

Excerpt courtesy of fodors.com • Discover more top attractions and the wonders of Ireland. Visit: fodors.com

Manuscript Found in Accra

Paulo Coelho

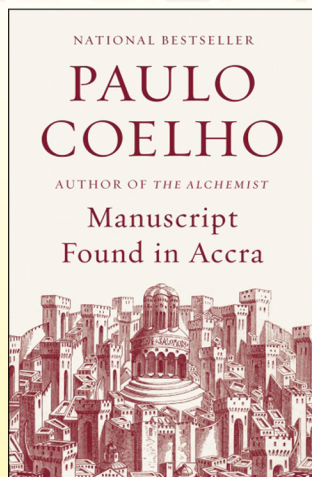
“Paulo Coelho’s books have had a life-enhancing effect on millions of people.”
—*The Times (London)*

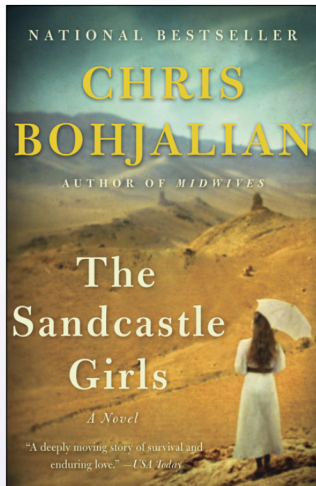
The latest novel from the #1 bestselling author of *The Alchemist*

July 14, 1099. Jerusalem awaits the invasion of the crusaders who have surrounded the city’s gates. There, inside the ancient city’s walls, men and women of every age and every faith have gathered to hear the wise words of a mysterious man known only as the Copt. He has summoned the townspeople to address their fears with truth, his record of the human values that have endured throughout time. And, in Paulo Coelho’s hands, *The Manuscript Found in Accra* reveals that who we are, what we fear, and what we hope for the future come from the knowledge and belief that can be found within us, and not from the adversity that surrounds us.

Paperback 9780345805058 • eBook 9780385349840

“Love
is only a word,
until someone
arrives to give it
meaning.”





The Sandcastle Girls

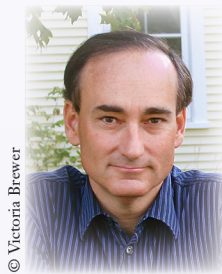
Chris Bohjalian

“Chris Bohjalian is at his very finest in this searing story of love and war.” —Paula McLain, author of *The Paris Wife*

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Aleppo, Syria, she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. It's 1915, and Elizabeth has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide during the First World War. There she meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter.

Years later, their American granddaughter, Laura, embarks on a journey back through her family's history, uncovering a story of love and loss—and a wrenching secret that has been buried for generations.

Paperback 9780307743916 • eBook 9780385534802



Dear Reader,

When I was writing *The Sandcastle Girls* and would tell people what it was about, often they would shake their heads and warn me, “You realize, don't you, that no one is going to buy that book. No one has heard of the Armenian genocide. No one can find Aleppo on a map.” There were also, of course, people who were enthusiastic and supportive, including Jenny Jackson, my editor at Doubleday. But there were times while I was immersed in what I hoped was a remarkable love story—albeit one set amidst the reality that 1.5 million of my countrymen were systematically slaughtered by their own government in the First World War—that I kept the premise of my book to myself. I didn't want to hear that no was interested in a subject so profoundly important to me.

Now, as the Vintage paperback edition is being published, I look back on those exchanges and realize that: 1) The naysayers were right: A lot of North America indeed knew little of the Armenian genocide and can only find Aleppo on a map today because of the cataclysmic civil war in Syria; and 2) The naysayers were wrong: They dramatically underestimated the curiosity and desire to learn of a lot of North American readers. The novel spent two months on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

Reading groups especially embraced the book and I think a reason is precisely that part of the subject matter was so foreign....

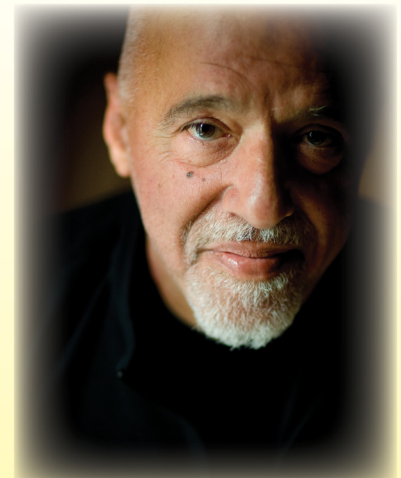
—Chris Bohjalian

Read the complete letter at ReadingGroupCenter.com

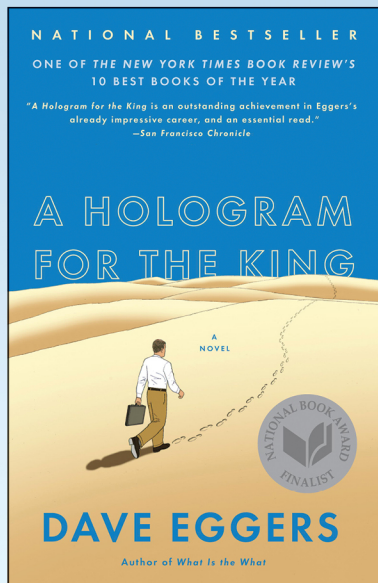
“People who seek only success rarely find it, because success is not an end, but a consequence.”

“The simplest things in life are the most extraordinary. Let them reveal themselves.”

“You might have lost some major battles, but you survived and you're still here.... Show your happiness and celebrate your ability to go forward.”



© David Brabyn



A Hologram for the King

Dave Eggers

“A Hologram for the King is an outstanding achievement in Eggers’s already impressive career, and an essential read.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

One of the *New York Times Book Review*’s 10 Best Books of the Year

A National Book Award Finalist

In a rising Saudi Arabian city, far from weary, recession-scarred America, a struggling businessman named Alan Clay pursues a last-ditch attempt to stave off foreclosure, pay his daughter’s college tuition, and finally do something great. In *A Hologram for the King*, Dave Eggers takes us around the world to show how one man fights to hold himself and his splintering family together.

Paperback 9780307947512 • eBook 9781938073311

“A clear, supremely readable parable of America in the global economy that is haunting, beautifully shaped, and sad.... A story human enough to draw blood.... Groundbreaking.”

—The New York Times Book Review

“Completely engrossing.... Perfect.” *—Fortune*

“A fascinating novel.” *—The New Yorker*

“Eerie, suspenseful and tightly controlled.”

—The Globe and Mail

“A comic but deeply affecting tale about one man’s travails that also provides a bright, digital snapshot of our times.” *—The New York Times*

“Eggers’s most fully-realized character to date.... True genius.” *—Boston Globe*

“A novel poised on the central meridian of our times.... Eggers maintains an exquisite balance of irony, empathy, dark humor, and unexpected tenderness in this taut exploration of the ever-increasing price of ordinary survival. A book as heartbreaking as the global economy it explores with such beauty and ferocity.”

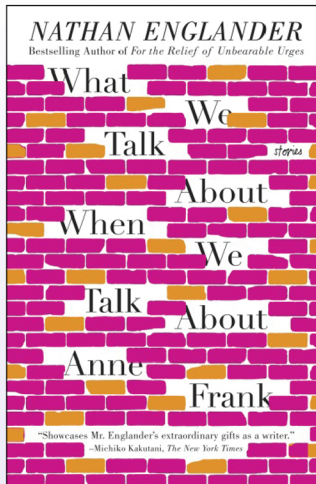
—National Book Awards citation

“Eggers, continuing the worldly outlook that informed his recent books *Zeitoun* and *What Is the What*, spins this spare story—a globalized *Death of a Salesman*—into a tightly controlled parable of America’s international standing and a riff on middle-class decline that approaches Beckett in its absurdist despair.”

—The New York Times citation for Best Books of the Year

Dave Eggers is the author of six previous books, including *Zeitoun*, winner of the American Book Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. *What Is the What* was a finalist for the 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award and won France’s *Prix Medici*. That book, about Valentino Achak Deng, a survivor of the civil war in Sudan, gave birth to the Valentino Achak Deng Foundation, which operates a secondary school in South Sudan run by Mr. Deng. Eggers is the founder and editor of McSweeney’s, an independent publishing house based in San Francisco. In 2002, with Nínive Calegari, he cofounded 826 Valencia, a nonprofit writing and tutoring center for youth in the Mission District of San Francisco. Local communities have since opened sister 826 centers in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Ann Arbor, Seattle, Boston, and Washington, D.C. A native of Chicago, Eggers now lives in Northern California with his wife and two children.





What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank

Nathan Englander

A *New York Times* Notable Book and
NPR Best Book of the Year

“Terrific... Hard-won wisdom spills out on every page.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

These eight powerful stories, dazzling in their display of language and imagination, show a celebrated short-story writer and novelist grappling with the great questions of modern life.

Paperback 9780307949608 • eBook 9780307958730

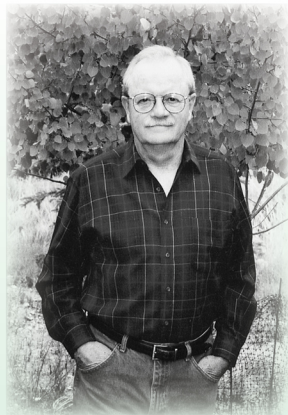


© Juliana Sohn

Q: These eight stories draw on a variety of themes from Jewish history and culture. To what extent does your own religion influence your writing?

A: Oh, I’m always getting in trouble with this question. Because, well, how can you have a book that is so chock full of Jews and say what I’m about to say, which is, I don’t see any religious influence at all. If anything, I’d call it a cultural influence. Basically, every fiction writer—every last one—is influenced by his or her culture, whether it’s the embracing of it, the rejection of it, a running toward or a running from... I’m Jewish, I was raised religious in a very insular community,

I lived in Jerusalem for a bunch of years (after turning secular), and spent nearly my whole life in New York... So to me, the idea of seeing my writing about a Jewish world, or a Jewish character, as being somehow the product of “influence” is basically like asking any other writer across time and space, how has living your life on this earth formed your imagination—which is a very fair and lovely question, but doesn’t need any qualification beyond that. It is not defensively, as a Jewish writer, that I explain this, but as a writer in defense of the universal.



© Cathy Haruf

Benediction

Kent Haruf

“There is a deep, satisfying music to this book... Strangely, wonderfully...Haruf weaves between such a large cast of characters in so small a space.” —*The Boston Globe*

When Dad Lewis is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife, Mary, must work together to make his final days as comfortable as possible. Their daughter, Lorraine, comes from Denver to help look after him; her devotion softens the bitter absence of their estranged son, Frank. Next door, a young girl named Alice contends with the

painful memories that Dad’s condition stirs up. Meanwhile, the town’s preacher attempts to mend his strained relationships with his wife and teenaged son.

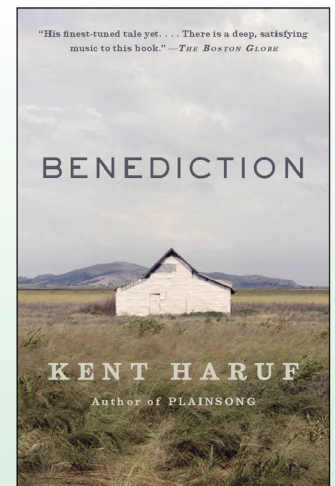
Paperback 9780307950420 • eBook 9780307962157

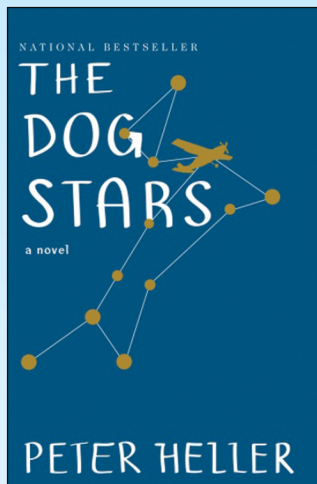
Q: One of the big themes in the book deals with forgiveness. Was the ability to forgive—as communities and as individuals—one of themes you were thinking about?

A: I want to write these stories in a way that seems compelling and seems significant. Only afterwards do I have any idea for sure what this book is about. I don’t want to think about it. I don’t want to shape the book according to themes. I’m trying to do something more organic than that.

This suggestion about forgiveness, once I get away from the book, I think you’re onto something. On a personal

level, it seems to me these characters and maybe all of us are more willing and more able to forgive than we are as a community or as a nation or a state. And that’s true in this book. As a congregation, they are not as willing to be forgiving or understanding as some people individually in that congregation are, like the Johnson women. That’s certainly true of the Lewis family—Dad Lewis and Mary. Mary probably never had any other inclination but Dad certainly has to struggle with it. At the end, that’s one of the things he wishes for most emphatically—he wishes he could have his son’s forgiveness.





The Dog Stars

Peter Heller

“Heartbreaking” —*The Seattle Times*

“A brilliant success.” —*The New Yorker*

A San Francisco Chronicle and Atlantic Monthly Best Book of the Year

Hig somehow survived the flu pandemic that killed everyone he knows. Now his wife is gone, his friends are dead, and he lives in the hangar of a small abandoned airport with his dog, Jasper, and a mercurial, gun-toting misanthrope named Bangley.

But when a random transmission beams through the radio of his 1956 Cessna, the voice ignites a hope deep inside him that a better life exists outside their tightly controlled perimeter. Risking everything, he flies past his point of no return and follows its static-broken trail, only to find something that is both better and worse than anything he could ever hope for.

Paperback 9780307950475 • eBook 9780307960931

A Letter From the Editor

Dear Reader,

I spend my days on the thirteenth floor of a glass high-rise in Manhattan. I answer emails, I make phone calls, and I go to meetings. And yet, one day I did something totally different. I flew a plane and almost crashed, I stalked a deer through the woods, I hid behind a bluff as gunfire raged overhead, and I fell desperately in love with a long-haired woman I had never met.

That day I sat in my office, reading *The Dog Stars*, the story of a pilot named Hig and his dog, and I lived every word of it. Peter Heller has written a novel that is original and funny and scary and moving and just so extraordinary that it reminded me of why I became a reader in the first place: because it is the best chance you will ever have to live another life. In your everyday world you may stare at a computer, you may buy your dinner at the grocery store, and you may fall asleep with a roof over your head, but no matter how different your world is from Hig's, you will find a reason to love this book.

If you love dogs, you will love this book. If you love fishing, you will love this book. If you love poetry or gardening, you will love this book. If you love crazy old men with guns, or the best kind of love story, you will love this book. This is a novel that asks the big questions: What is the point of living if you don't have people to love? How can you justify violence? Can we find true solace in art and literature? This book is great food for thought—and food for discussion.

So, I answer emails, I make phone calls, and I go to meetings, but sometimes I look out the window and I see a little plane chugging up over the Hudson River and I smile, remembering the day I flew a plane and fell in love with a novel called *The Dog Stars*.

Yours,
Jennifer Jackson, Senior Editor

World Without You

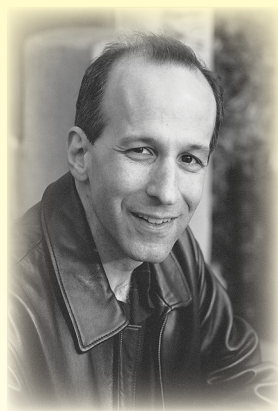
Joshua Henkin

“Insightful. . . Poignant. . . Elegant.”

—*The New York Times Book Review*

It's July 4, 2005, and the Frankel family is descending upon their beloved summer home in the Berkshires. They have gathered to memorialize Leo, the youngest of the four siblings and an intrepid journalist killed while on assignment in Iraq. But Leo's parents are adrift in a grief that's tearing apart their forty-year marriage, his sisters are struggling with their own difficulties, and his widow has arrived from California bearing a secret.

Paperback 9780307277183 • eBook 9780307907561

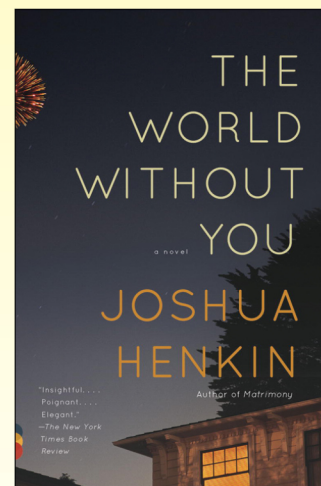


© Ali Price

Q: Was there a particular event or idea that inspired *The World Without You*?

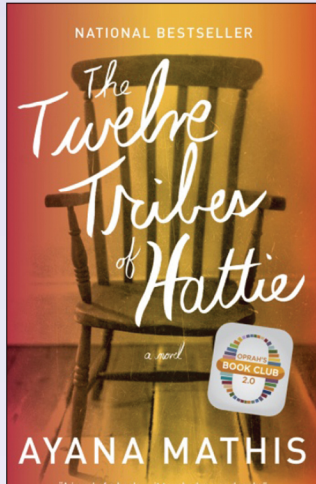
A: I had a first cousin who died of Hodgkin's disease when he was in his late twenties. I was only a toddler at the time, but his death hung over my extended family for years. At a family reunion nearly thirty years later, my aunt, updating everyone on what was happening in her life, began by saying, “I have two sons. . .” Well, she'd once had two sons, but her older son had been dead

for thirty years at that point. It was clear to everyone in that room that the pain was still raw for her and that it would continue to be raw for her for the rest of her life. By contrast, my cousin's widow eventually remarried and had a family. This got me thinking how when someone loses a spouse, as awful as that is, the surviving spouse eventually moves on; but when a parent loses a child they almost never move on.



The Twelve Tribes of Hattie

Ayana Mathis



"Lush yet deliberate... elegant and sure.... A complex and deeply humane story of a mother's ferocious love and failures at loving.... A universal story...profoundly consoling."

—*The Boston Globe*

An Oprah's Book Club 2.0 Selection

In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd flees Georgia and settles

in Philadelphia, hoping for a chance at a better life. Instead, she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins succumb to an illness a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children whom she raises with grit and mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave. She vows to prepare them for the calamitous difficulty they are sure to face in their later lives, to meet a world that will not love them, a world that will not be kind. Captured here in twelve luminous narrative threads, their lives tell the story of a mother's monumental courage and the journey of a nation.

Paperback 9780307949707 • eBook 9780385350303

The opening pages of Ayana Mathis's debut novel took Oprah's breath away. Here, she reveals the lines that moved her from start to finish.

Philadelphia and Jubilee: 1925

...Hattie wanted to give her babies names that weren't already chiseled on a headstone in the family plots in Georgia, so she gave them names of promise and of hope, reaching-forward names, not looking-back ones.

Oprah's note:

The sentence speaks for itself so eloquently. In this one sentence I could feel Hattie's hopefulness and anticipation for a better life, that she was claiming the future for herself and her children, a future that was shared by all who were a part of the Great Migration to the North which began around 1910.



© D'Elena Seibert

Sweet Tooth

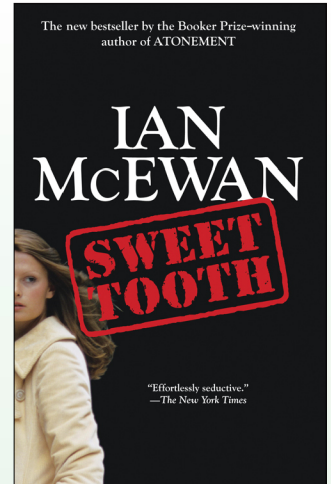
Ian McEwan

"Remarkable suspenseful with an unexpected post modern twist."

—*The Boston Globe*

A New York Times Notable Book

One of the Best Books of the Year: *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Seattle Times*



Cambridge student Serena Frome's beauty and intelligence make her the ideal recruit for MI5. The year is 1972. The Cold War is far from over. England's legendary intelligence agency is determined to manipulate the cultural conversation by funding writers whose politics align with those of the government. The operation is code named "Sweet Tooth." Serena, a compulsive reader of novels, is the perfect candidate to infiltrate the literary circle of a promising young writer named Tom Haley. At first, she loves the stories. Then she begins to love the man. How long can she conceal her undercover life? To answer that question, Serena must abandon the first rule of espionage: trust no one.

Paperback 9780345803450 • eBook 9780385536837

Famous Female Spies Throughout History

Aphra Behn, famous for being the first woman to make a living through writing, was also a spy for the British during the Second Dutch War of 1665. She served the crown by collecting intelligence on British expatriates and possible military threats. After retiring from the life of espionage, she achieved much success writing novels and plays.

Harriet Tubman was not only a champion of freedom, but also a Nurse, a Scout, and a Spy for the Union during the Civil War. She worked with escaped slaves in the south loyal to the Union army, organizing a network of scouts and spies to secure victory over the Confederacy.

Mata Hari was an infamous exotic dancer and courtesan accused of being a spy for Germany during World War I. She was suspected of being a spy in France, reporting key intelligence back to Germany. Mata Hari was arrested in Paris and executed in 1917. She is often considered to be an enduring archetype of the femme fatale.

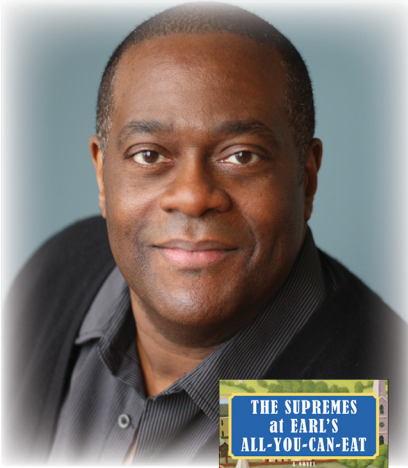
Josephine Baker, a very popular American performer and singer moved to Paris, France in 1925. She quickly became a star in Europe. When War broke out in 1940, Baker was recruited as a spy for France. She served as a key member of the French resistance, relaying information to British and U.S. Agents and smuggling secret documents written in invisible ink on her sheet music.

Stella Rimington was appointed as the first female Director General of MI5. She served from 1992 to 1996, before retiring. Currently she applies her knowledge of the world of espionage to a thriller series, starring a female MI5 intelligence officer.

To read more about Oprah's favorite passages, visit

[http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Oprahs-Favorite-Passages-from-](http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Oprahs-Favorite-Passages-from-The-Twelve-Tribes-of-Hattie)

[The-Twelve-Tribes-of-Hattie](http://www.oprah.com/spirit/Oprahs-Favorite-Passages-from-The-Twelve-Tribes-of-Hattie)



The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat

Edward Kelsey Moore

“The supremely gifted, supremely entertaining, and supremely big-hearted Edward Kelsey Moore has conjured up the story of an entire community and, at its sparkling center, a trio of memorable heroines.”

—Julia Glass, author of *Three Junes* and *The Widower's Tale*

Earl's All-You-Can-Eat Diner is home away from home for this inseparable Plainview, Indiana, trio. Dubbed “the Supremes” by high school pals in the tumultuous 1960s, they weather life's storms together for the next four decades. Now, during their most challenging year yet, dutiful, proud, and talented Clarice must struggle to keep up appearances as she deals with her husband's humiliating infidelities. Beautiful, fragile Barbara Jean is rocked by the tragic reverberations of a youthful love affair. And fearless Odette engages in the most terrifying battle of her life while contending with the idea that she has inherited more than her broad frame from her notorious pot-smoking mother, Dora.

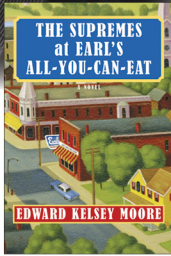
Through marriage, children, happiness, and the blues, these strong, funny women gather each Sunday at the same table at Earl's diner for delicious food, juicy gossip, occasional tears, and uproarious banter.

Paperback 9780307950437 • eBook 9780307959935

A Note from the Author on the Inspiration for the Novel

The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat is a novel about friendship, love, and courage. It began with a conversation about bravery that I had with a close friend. Even though my friend and I are men who had great fathers and strong male role models, both of us held the opinion that the most courageous person we knew was a woman.... I wondered what life might be like for a woman who wasn't just brave, but didn't or couldn't recognize fear. How would her courage be expressed in daily life?... What sort of friends would be drawn to such a woman, and would they be made stronger or weaker by knowing her? My Supremes, Odette, Barbara Jean, and Clarice, were born from the answers I came up with to those questions.... I grew up around women who delighted in one another's company, were fiercely loyal and wildly funny. They were also master storytellers who could mine laughs from life events that were mundane or even tragic.... Because I want the members of my extended family to continue speaking to me, I didn't re-create family stories when I wrote *The Supremes*.... I hope that readers of *The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat* recognize Odette, Barbara Jean, and Clarice as people who could easily come up in a conversation with a close friend or be welcomed at a family gathering, and that readers will connect with the spirit that inspired them.

Read the full text at ReadingGroupCenter.com



Hardcover featured.
Check our website
for the new
paperback cover.

Dear Life

Alice Munro

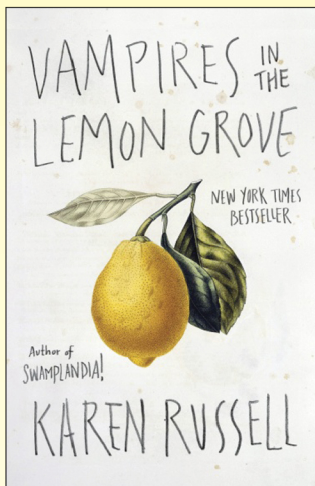
“With her penetrating new collection, Alice Munro demonstrates once again why she deserves her reputation as a master of short fiction.”

—O, *The Oprah Magazine*

A *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Notable Book

A Best Book of the Year: *The Atlantic*, NPR, *Vogue*, *Onion* AV Club, *San Francisco Chronicle*





Vampires in the Lemon Grove

Karen Russell

“One of the most innovative, inspired short-story collections in the past decade.... *Vampires in the Lemon Grove* is flawless and magnificent, and there’s absolutely no living author quite like Karen Russell.” —Michael Schaub, NPR

From the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Swamplandia!*—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize—a magical new collection of stories that showcases Karen Russell’s gifts at their inimitable best.

A dejected teenager discovers that the universe is communicating with him through talismanic objects left behind in a seagull’s nest. A community of girls held captive in a silk factory slowly transmute into human silkworms, spinning delicate threads from their own bellies, and escape by seizing the means of production for

their own revolutionary ends. A massage therapist discovers she has the power to heal by manipulating the tattoos on a war veteran’s lower torso. When a group of boys stumble upon a mutilated scarecrow bearing an uncanny resemblance to the missing classmate they used to torment, an ordinary tale of high school bullying becomes a sinister fantasy of guilt and atonement. In a family’s disastrous quest for land in the American West, the monster is the human hunger for acquisition, and the victim is all we hold dear. And in the collection’s marvelous title story—an unforgettable parable of addiction and appetite, mortal terror and mortal love—two vampires in a sun-drenched lemon grove try helplessly to slake their thirst for blood.



Paperback 9780307947475 • eBook 9780307961082

Q: Many of your narratives are seen through the eyes of children, and rather precocious ones at that. Do you believe there is something unique or meaningful about childhood, particularly the perspective and experience of youth, that makes you continuously return to them as protagonists?

A: For better or for worse, when I sit down to write I feel gravitationally pulled towards characters who are children and adolescents. I was joking with a friend that I can decide to write a story about the rabbits of the apocalypse, and it will undoubtedly begin, “The world was ending. The bunny was fourteen years old (in bunny years).”

I love the double optic that children possess—the way they can develop kid-theodicies and fantastic explanations, but also shift gears and have a nascent adult sense of the world, a more “realistic” vision. Ava, Ossie, and Kiwi in *Swamplandia!* are all poised at different thresholds, about to go through literal and figurative doors to reach new life stages, which is an exciting/terrifying period to get to dramatize in fiction. I heard Antonya Nelson say that all stories can be thought of as “coming of age” stories, since a character is confronted with a new event or new information that compels a change of status. And the child to adult transition—I don’t think that’s a one time affair. I think we’re probably all struggling to suit up and be adults, every day.

Read more at ReadingGroupCenter.com



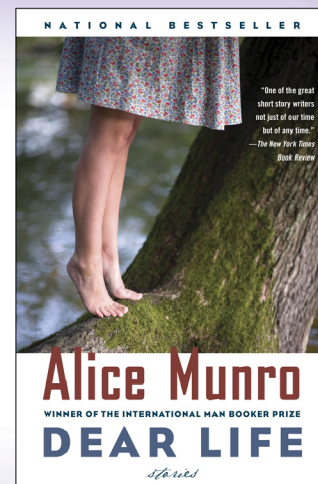
© Michael Lionstar

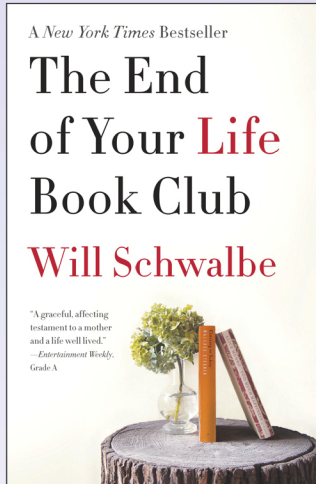
In story after story in this brilliant new collection, Alice Munro pinpoints the moment a person is forever altered by a chance encounter, an action not taken, or a simple twist of fate. Her characters are flawed and fully human: a soldier returning from war and avoiding his fiancée, a wealthy woman deciding whether to confront a blackmailer, an adulterous mother and her neglected children, a guilt-ridden father, a young teacher jilted by her employer. Illuminated by Munro’s unflinching insight, these lives draw us in with their quiet depth and surprise us with unexpected turns. And while most are set in her signature territory around Lake Huron, some strike even closer to home: an astonishing suite of four autobiographical tales offers an unprecedented glimpse into Munro’s own childhood. Exalted by her clarity of vision and her unparalleled gift for storytelling, *Dear Life* shows how strange, perilous, and extraordinary ordinary life can be.

Paperback 9780307743725 • eBook 9780307961044

“Alice Munro is retiring from the writing life.... Asked if ‘you really think this is it for you,’ she responded, ‘Oh yes!’ Told that her fans would be disappointed, she said: ‘Well, tell them to go read the old ones over again. There’s lots of them.’”

Read more at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/21/books/alice-munro-says-she-is-retiring.html?>





The End of Your Life Book Club

Will Schwalbe

“Not only a son’s heartfelt tribute to [his mother’s] courage and grace but vivid testimony to the enduring power of books to create meaning out of chaos, illuminate values, and connect us with each other.”
—*The Boston Globe*

A profoundly moving memoir of caregiving, mourning, and love—and about the joy of reading, and the ways that joy is multiplied when we share it with others.

During his mother’s treatment for cancer, Will Schwalbe and his mother spent many hours talking about the books they were reading. Through their wide-ranging reading we are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us.



© Michael Lionstar

Paperback 9780307739780 • eBook 9780307961112

A short selection of the many books that Will and his mother read and passionately discussed:

Muriel Barbery <i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i>	Mariatu Kamara <i>The Bite of the Mango</i> , with Susan McClelland	W. Somerset Maugham <i>The Painted Veil</i>	Alexander McCall Smith <i>The Miracle at Speedy Motors</i>
Karen Connolly <i>The Lizard Cage</i>	Jhumpa Lahiri <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	Irène Némirovsky <i>Suite Française</i>	Mary Tileston <i>Daily Strength for Daily Needs</i>
	Stieg Larsson <i>The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i>	Marilynne Robinson <i>Gilead</i>	

Find their complete reading and discussion list on our website, ReadingGroupCenter.com



© Michelle Legro

Seating Arrangements

Maggie Shipstead

“Beneath the surface of this summery romp lie animosities, well-paced sexual suspense and a clash between appearances and authenticity.... Waltzlike.”
—*The New York Times Book Review*

Winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes for First Fiction

Winner of the Dylan Thomas Prize

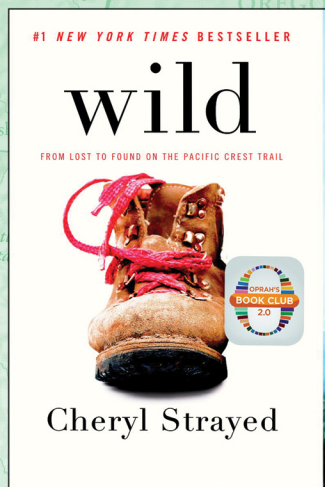
The Van Meters have gathered at their family retreat to celebrate the marriage of daughter Daphne to the impeccably appropriate Greyson Duff—but Winn Van Meter, father of the bride, is not having a good time. Barred from the exclusive social club he’s been eyeing since birth, he’s also tormented by a crush on Daphne’s bridesmaid, Agatha, and the fear that his daughter Livia—recently heartbroken

“It was my life – like all lives, mysterious and irrevocable and sacred. So very close, so very present, so very belonging to me. How wild it was, to let it be.”

—CHERYL STRAYED, *WILD*



© Joni Kabana



Wild Cheryl Strayed

“So vivid, sharp and compelling that you feel the heat of the desert, the frigid ice of the High Sierra, and the breathtaking power of one remarkable woman finding her way—and herself—one brave step at a time.”

—People (4 stars)

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life and challenged herself to hike the Pacific Crest Trail. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State—and she would do it alone. Told with suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and

humor, *Wild* powerfully captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.

Paperback 9780307476074 • eBook 9780307957658

Critical advice for anyone hiking alone:

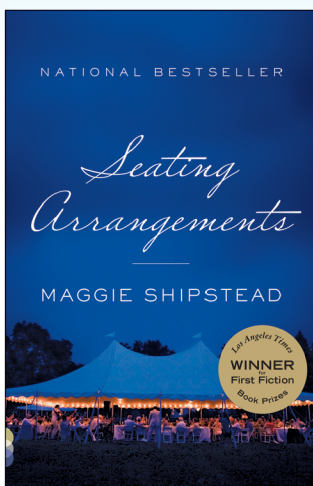
- Learn to use a map and compass to navigate areas without signs.
- Avoid national parks where bears are protected and hang your food to prevent bear encounters.
- Wear lightweight clothing and go when the weather is warm but cool enough that you don't dehydrate.
- Get a water filter that's easiest to use and practice using it.

For more advice on hiking alone visit:

www.pcta.org and www.appalachiantrail.org.

by the son of his greatest rival—is a too-ready target for the wiles of Greyson's best man. When old resentments, a beached whale, and an escaped lobster are added to the mix, the wedding that should have gone off with military precision threatens to become a spectacle of misbehavior.

Paperback 9780307743954 •
eBook 9780307958570



Raise a glass to *Seating Arrangements* with a Champagne Punch

2 cups orange juice

1 cup water

10 oz frozen strawberries, slightly thawed

1 12 oz can frozen lemonade concentrate

1 liter ginger ale

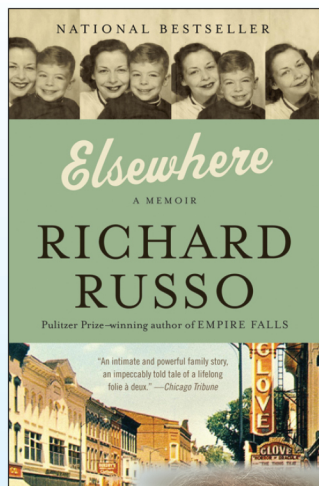
1 bottle champagne or sparkling grape juice

1. Arrange strawberries in ring mold. Fill mold with one cup of the orange juice and the remaining water. Freeze and reserve remaining juice for punch.

2. In a large punch bowl, mix remaining juice, lemonade concentrate, ginger ale, and champagne.

3. Remove fruit ring from mold and float in punch. Enjoy!

FAMILY STORIES



© Elena Selbert



Elsewhere Richard Russo

A *Washington Post* Notable Book and NPR Best Book

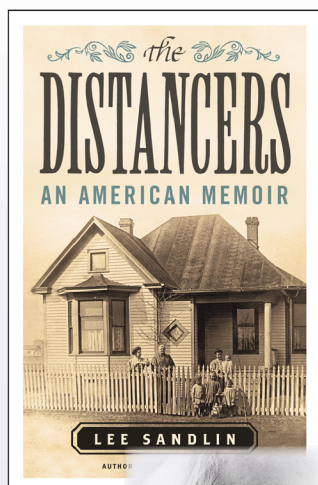
Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo turns to memoir in this hilarious and bittersweet account of his lifelong bond with his high-strung, spirited mother—and the small town she spent her life trying to escape. Anyone familiar with Russo's novels will recognize Gloversville—once famous for producing nine out of ten dress gloves in the United States. Recounted with a clear-eyed mix of regret, nostalgia, and love, *Elsewhere* is a stirring tribute to the tenacious grip of the past.

Paperback 9780307949769 • eBook 9780307959546

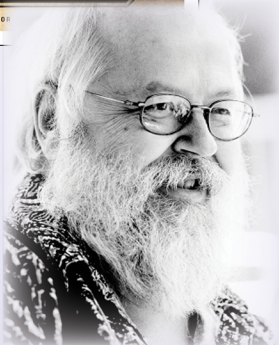
From the Prologue

“Often, when we finished what we called our weekly “errands,” my mother and I would stop in at Pedrick’s. Located next to city hall, it was a dark, cool place, the only establishment of my youth that was air-conditioned, with a long, thin wall whose service window allowed sodas and cocktails to be passed from the often raucous bar into the more respectable restaurant. Back then Pedrick’s was always mobbed, even in the middle of a Saturday afternoon. Mounted on the wall of each booth was a minijukebox whose movable mechanical pages were full of song listings. Selections made here—five for a quarter, if memory serves—were played on the real jukebox on the far wall. We always played a whole quarter’s worth while nursing sodas served so cold they made my teeth hurt. Sometimes, though, the music was drowned out by rowdy male laughter from the bar, where the wall-mounted television was tuned to a Yankees ball game, and if anybody hit a home run everyone in the restaurant knew it immediately. I remember listening intently to all the men’s voices, trying to pick out my father’s. He and my mother had separated when I was little, but he was still around town, and I always imagined him on the other side of that wall in Pedrick’s.

I also suspected that my mother, if she hadn’t been saddled with me, would have preferred to be over there herself. She liked men, liked being among them, and on the restaurant side it was mostly women and kids and older people. Though I couldn’t have put it into words, I had the distinct impression that the wall separating respectability from fun was very thin indeed.”



© Frank Blau Photography



The Distancers Lee Sandlin

In *The Distancers*, seven generations worth of joy and heartache are artfully forged into a family portrait that is at once universally American yet singularly Lee Sandlin’s own. From the nineteenth-century German immigrants who settled on a small Midwestern farm, to the proud and upright aunts and uncles with whom Sandlin spent the summers of his youth, a whole history of quiet ambition and stoic pride—of successes, failures, and above all endurance—leaps off the page in a sweeping American family epic.

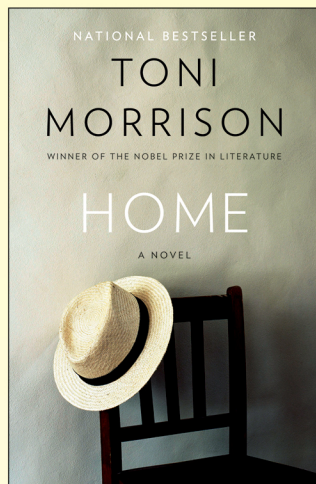
Paperback 9780345806765 • eBook 9780345806772

From the Prologue

“In downstate Illinois near the Mississippi River, there was an old house that belonged to my family. It was a small clapboard house built in the classic heartland style, with a big yard, lush gardens, and the inevitable white picket fence out front. It stood on the outskirts of Edwardsville, right where the last streets gave way to open countryside. It was a beautiful place. When you looked out from the porch on a summer’s day, you had an unbroken view of meadows and fields and remote blue hills shimmering in the golden heat. You’d swear that nothing had ever happened there more dramatic than a passing thunderstorm.

The house played a big role in my family history. My great-grandfather built it at the turn of the last century; my grandfather grew up there, and it’s where my mother spent her summers when she was a kid. By the time of my childhood it had been firmly established as a kind of private sleep-away camp for our family. As soon as school let out for the year, our parents would take us from the Chicago suburbs to Edwardsville, where they’d leave us for weeks or sometimes months at a time. One of my cousins claims there was a year when her parents didn’t come back for her until Christmas.”

DON'T MISS THESE MOVING, INTRIGUING STORIES, PERFECT FOR DISCUSSION!



Home Toni Morrison

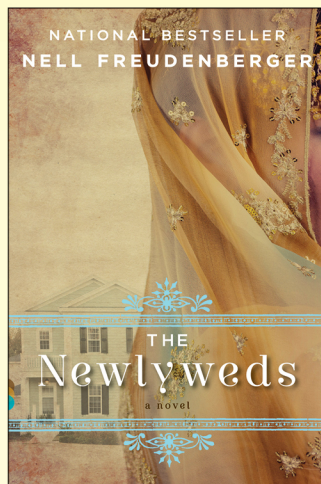
A *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Notable Book

When Frank Money joined the army to escape his too-small world, he left behind his cherished and fragile little sister, Cee. After the war, his shattered life has no purpose until he hears that Cee is in danger.

Frank is a modern Odysseus returning to a 1950s America mined with lethal pitfalls for

an unwary black man. As he journeys to his native Georgia in search of Cee, it becomes clear that their troubles began well before their wartime separation. Together, they return to their rural hometown of Lotus, where buried secrets are unearthed and where Frank learns at last what it means to be a man, what it takes to heal, and—above all—what it means to come home.

Paperback 9780307740915 • eBook 9780307959874



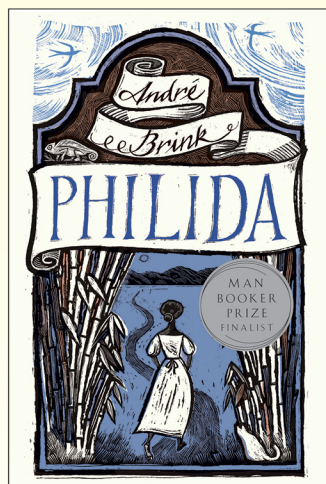
The Newlynweds Nell Freudenberger

Amina Mazid is twenty-four when she moves from Bangladesh to Rochester, New York, for love. A hundred years ago, Amina would have been called a mail-order bride. But this is the twenty-first century: she is wooed by—and woos—George Stillman online.

For Amina, George offers a chance for a new life for her and her parents, as well as a different kind of happiness than she might find back home. For George, Amina is a woman who doesn't

play games. But each of them is hiding something: someone from the past they thought they could leave behind. It is only when Amina returns to Bangladesh that she and George find out if their secrets will tear them apart, or if they can build a future together.

Paperback 9780307388971 • eBook 9780307958440

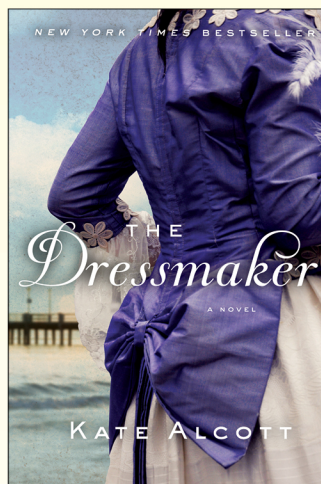


Philida André Brink

It is 1832 in South Africa, the year before slavery is abolished and the slaves are emancipated. Philida is the mother of four children by Francois Brink, the son of her master. When Francois's father orders him to marry a woman from a prominent Cape Town family, Francois reneges on his promise to give Philida her freedom, threatening instead to sell her to new owners in the harsh country up north.

Here is the remarkable story—based on individuals connected to the author's family—of a fiercely independent woman who will settle for nothing and for no one. Unwilling to accept the future that lies ahead of her, Philida continues to test the limits and lodges a complaint against the Brink family. Then she sets off on a journey—from the southernmost reaches of the Cape, across a great wilderness, to the far north of the country—in order to reclaim her soul.

Paperback 9780345805034 • eBook 9780345805041



The Dressmaker Kate Alcott

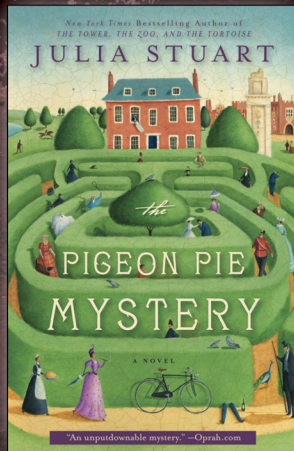
Tess, an aspiring seamstress, thinks she's had an incredibly lucky break when she is hired by famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon to be her personal maid on the *Titanic*. Once on board, Tess catches the eye of two men—a kind sailor and an enigmatic Chicago businessman. But on the fourth night disaster strikes and Tess is one of the last people allowed on a lifeboat.

The survivors are rescued, but when rumors begin to circulate

about the choices they made, Tess is torn between loyalty to Lucile and her growing suspicion that the media's charges might be true.

Paperback 9780307948199 • eBook 9780385535625

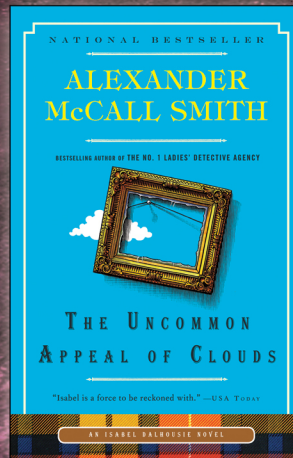
COZY MYSTERIES, FAST-PACED THRILLERS,



The Pigeon Pie Mystery Julia Stuart

"Enchanting.... Julia Stuart does her historical homework, then tarts it up to poke the aristocracy in the eye."
—*The Washington Times*

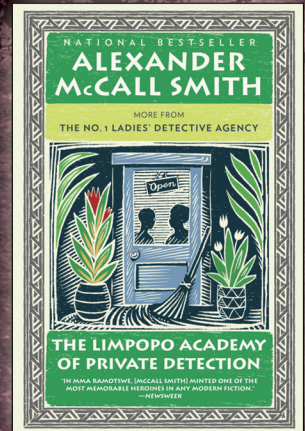
Paperback 9780307947697 • eBook 9780385535571



The Uncommon Appeal of Clouds Alexander McCall Smith

"Endearing.... Offers tantalizing glimpses of Edinburgh's complex character and a nice, long look into the beautiful mind of a thinking woman."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

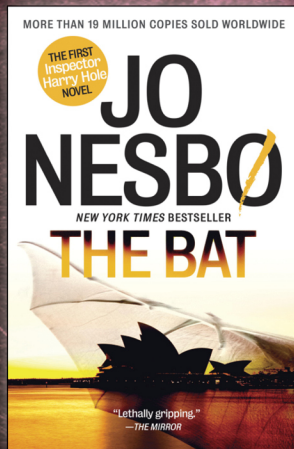
Paperback 9780307949233 • eBook 9780307907349



The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection Alexander McCall Smith

"Enthralling.... Mma Ramotswe is someone readers can't help but love."
—*USA Today*

Paperback 9780307472991 • eBook 9780307907158

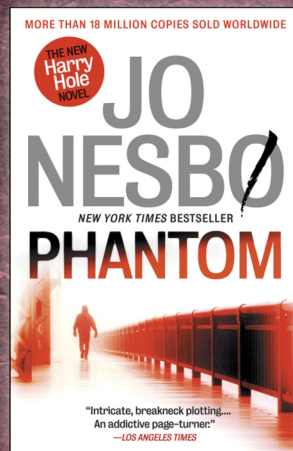


The Bat Jo Nesbø

The first Harry Hole novel, available for the first time in the U.S.

"This debut effort shows Nesbø as an already confident genre craftsman, striking sparks from the familiar genre material of Harry's fish-out-of-water experience in a foreign land and odd-couple pairing with a mismatched partner."
—*Publishers Weekly*

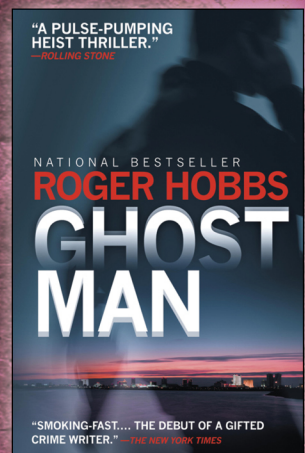
Paperback 9780345807090 • eBook 9780345807106



Phantom Jo Nesbø

"Whether you are already a fan of Harry Hole, or just getting to know him, the gripping suspense and fast-paced action that fills *Phantom* will keep you reading until dawn."
—*Oprah.com*

Paperback 9780307951151 • eBook 9780307960481

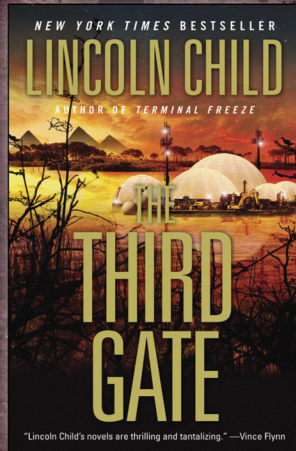


Ghostman Roger Hobbs

"Smoking-fast.... Hobbs seizes our attention and holds it tight through his sheer, masterly use of details, and the authoritative, hard-boiled voice he has fashioned for Jack, a 'ghostman' [with] an encyclopedic knowledge of criminal tradecraft."
—*The New York Times*

Paperback 9780307950499 • eBook 9780307959973

AND CHILLING TALES FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

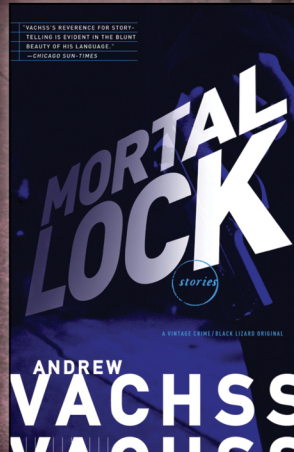


The Third Gate Lincoln Child

"Bestseller Child (*Terminal Freeze*) more than succeeds in making a mummy's curse terrifying in this superb supernatural thriller.... Child evokes fear through understatement.... Readers will hope to see more of [lead character] Logan in a sequel."

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Paperback 9780307473745 • eBook 9780385531399

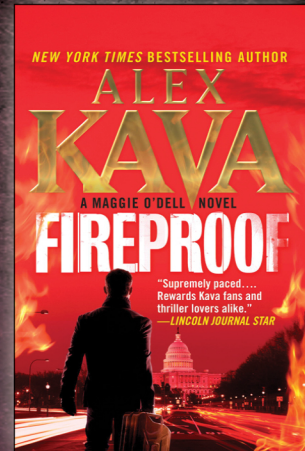


Mortal Lock Andrew Vachss

"A collection of white-hot short stories."

— *Kirkus*

Paperback 9780307950833 • eBook 9780307950840

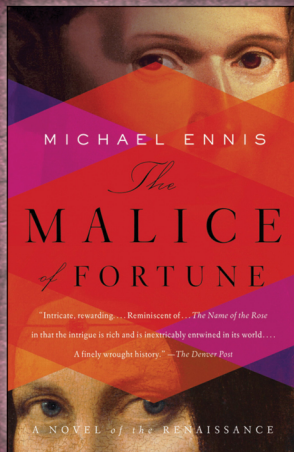


Fireproof Alex Kava

"Maggie O'Dell is a brilliant and complicated heroine—at once witty, smart, and detailed, but always highly entertaining."

— *Steve Berry*

Paperback 9780307947703 • eBook 9780385535526

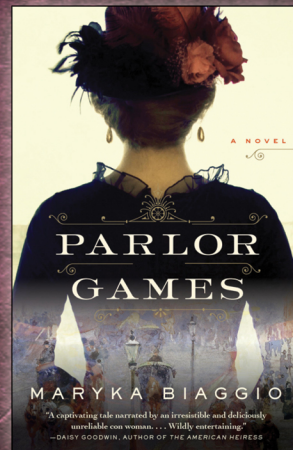


The Malice of Fortune Michael Ennis

"A heady mix of *The Da Vinci Code*, Borgia politics and *The Silence of the Lambs*. Think of it as CSI: Italy circa 1502, with Machiavelli as a detective and psychological profiler and da Vinci as history's first forensic pathologist."

— *Christian DuChateau, CNN.com*

Paperback 9780307951045 • eBook 9780385536325



Parlor games Maryka Biaggio

"Come meet May Dugas, a con artist of the highest order.... This jaunty tale through the life of a woman who keeps one step ahead of a dogged Pinkerton

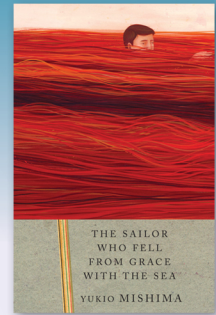
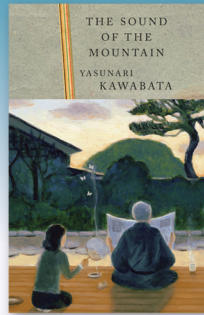
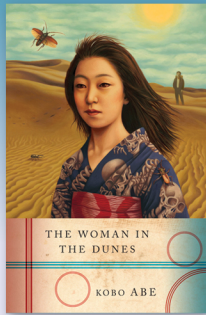
agent of the law is a true pleasure....

Curl up and settle in for a lovely read."

— *Kate Alcott, author of The Dressmaker*

Paperback 9780307950895 • eBook 9780385536233

VINTAGE INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS Modern Japanese Classics

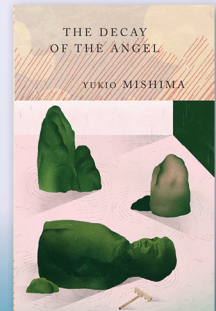
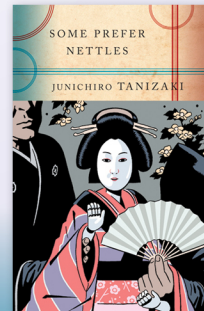
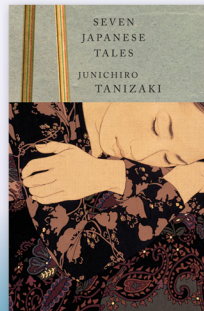
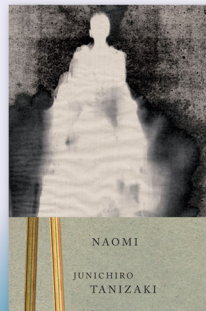
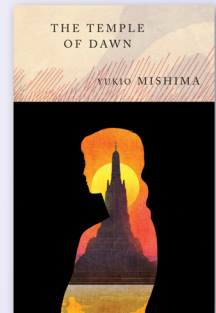


Now in beautifully repackaged trade paperback editions and with select titles in eBook. Evocative, powerful fiction from some of Japan's award-winning and bestselling writers of the twentieth century. Celebrated in Japan and the world over, these are writers whose remarkable books demand to be read—whether for the first time or when delighting in their rediscovery.

Kobo Abe *The Woman in the Dunes*
Yasunari Kawabata *Snow Country*;
The Sound of the Mountain;
Thousand Cranes

Yukio Mishima *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*;
The Sea of Fertility tetralogy:
Spring Snow, *Runaway Horses*,
The Temple of Dawn, *The Decay of the Angel*

Junichiro Tanizaki *Naomi*, *Seven Japanese Tales*, *Some Prefer Nettles*



Discover Wonderful Books • Talk to Interesting Authors • Connect with Other Readers
• Find Extensive Resources for Fun and Creative Meetings

Join the discussion at

ReadingGroupCenter.com



/RGCenter



/ReadingGroupCenter