RECOMMENDED TITLES FOR COURSE ADOPTION FALL 2021

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The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story
Edited by John Freeman

This rich anthology begins in 1970 and brings together a half century of powerful American short stories from all genres, including—for the first time in a collection of this scale—science fiction, horror, and fantasy, placing writers such as Ursula K. Le Guin, Ken Liu, and Stephen King next to some beloved greats of the literary form: Raymond Carver, Grace Paley, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Denis Johnson. Culling widely, John Freeman, the former editor of Granta and now editor of his own literary annual, brings forward some astonishing work to be regarded in a new light. Often overlooked tales by Dorothy Allison, Percival Everett, and Charles Johnson will recast the shape and texture of today’s enlarging atmosphere of literary dialogue. Stories by Lauren Groff and Ted Chiang raise the specter of engagement in ecocidal times. Short tales by Tobias Wolff, George Saunders, and Lydia Davis rub shoulders with near novellas by Susan Sontag and Andrew Holleran. This book will be a treasure trove for students and teachers alike.

Sword Stone Table
Old Legends, New Voices
Edited by Swapna Krishna and Jenn Northington

NEW IN PAPERBACK

From the vast lore surrounding King Arthur, Camelot, and the Knights of the Round Table, comes an anthology of gender-bent, race-bent, LGBTQIA+ inclusive retellings in sixteen original stories.

“Each tale is a piece of sorcery. … In place of rich and beautiful straight white people we have an Islamic law judge; women of all ages, sizes, and shapes; an albino Ugandan sorceress (and her nonbinary cat); the working poor; queer folk; BIPOC drummers.”—Nicola Griffith, author of Hild

The Man Who Lived Underground
Richard Wright

Fred Daniels, a Black man, is picked up by the police after a brutal double murder and tortured until he confesses to a crime he did not commit. After signing a confession, he escapes from custody and flees into the city’s sewer system.

This is the devastating premise of this scorching novel, a masterpiece that Richard Wright was unable to publish in his lifetime. Written between his landmark books Native Son (1940) and Black Boy (1945), at the height of his creative powers, this is the work that meant more to Wright than any other.
The Ones Who Don’t Say They Love You
Stories
Maurice Carlos Ruffin

Maurice Carlos Ruffin has an uncanny ability to reveal the hidden corners of a place we thought we knew. These perspectival, character-driven stories center on the margins and are deeply rooted in New Orleanian culture.

In “Before I Let Go,” a woman who’s been in NOLA for generations fights to keep her home; in “Mercury Forges,” a group of men hurriedly make their way to an elderly gentleman’s home, trying to reach him before the water from Hurricane Katrina does; and in the title story, a young man works the street corners of the French Quarter, trying to achieve a freedom not meant for him.

These stories are intimate invitations to hear, witness, and imagine lives at once regional but largely universal, and undeniably New Orleanian, written by a lifelong resident of New Orleans and one of our finest new writers.

Harlem Shuffle
Colson Whitehead

Harlem Shuffle’s ingenious story plays out in a beautifully recreated New York City of the early 1960s. It’s a family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem.

“Two-time Pulitzer winner Whitehead returns with a sizzling heist novel set in civil rights–era Harlem. . . . It’s a superlative story, but the most impressive achievement is Whitehead’s loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone . . . which lands as detailed and vivid as Joyce’s Dublin.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Whitehead adds another genre to an ever-diversifying portfolio with his first crime novel, and it’s a corker . . . brushed with lovingly etched detail and features a wonderful panoply of characters who spring to full-bodied life, blending joy, humor, and tragedy. A triumph on every level.”—Booklist (starred review)
**Palmares**
Gayl Jones

First discovered and edited by Toni Morrison, Gayl Jones has been described as one of the great literary writers of the 20th century. Now, for the first time in over 20 years, Jones is ready to publish again. *Palmares* is the first of five new works by Gayl Jones to be published in the next two years, rewarding longtime fans and bringing her talent to a new generation of readers.

Intricate and compelling, *Palmares* recounts the journey of Almeyda, a Black slave girl who comes of age on Portuguese plantations and escapes to a fugitive slave settlement called Palmares. Following its destruction, Almeyda embarks on a journey across colonial Brazil to find her husband, lost in battle.

Her story brings to life a world impacted by greed, conquest, and colonial desire. She encounters a mad lexicographer, desperate to avoid military service; a village that praises a god living in a nearby cave; and a medicine woman who offers great magic, at a greater price.

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**The Price of the Ticket**
Collected Nonfiction: 1948–1985
James Baldwin

Personal and prophetic, these essays uncover what it means to live in a racist American society with insights that feel as fresh today as they did over the four decades in which he composed them. Longtime Baldwin fans and especially those just discovering his genius will appreciate this essential collection of his great nonfiction writing, available for the first time in affordable paperback. Along with 46 additional pieces, it includes the full text of dozens of famous essays from such books as:

- *Notes of a Native Son*
- *Nobody Knows My Name*
- *The Fire Next Time*
- *No Name in the Street*
- *The Devil Finds Work*

This collection provides the perfect entrée into Baldwin’s prescient commentary on race, sexuality, and identity in an unjust American society.
Transcendent Kingdom
Yaa Gyasi

NOW IN PAPERBACK
Gifty is a sixth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at the Stanford University School of Medicine studying reward-seeking behavior in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother, Nana, was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after an ankle injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family’s loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith.

“A book of blazing brilliance . . . of profound scientific and spiritual reflection that recalls the works of Richard Powers and Marilynne Robinson. . . . A double helix of wisdom and rage twists through the quiet lines. . . . Thank God, we have this remarkable novel.”—Ron Charles, The Washington Post
SHORTLISTED FOR THE WOMEN’S PRIZE FOR FICTION

Stateway’s Garden
Stories
Jasmon Drain

Before being torn down in 2007, the Stateway Gardens public housing projects on Chicago’s South Side were ridden with deprivation and crime. But for some, like Tracy, the shy, intelligent young boy at the center of this enthralling collection of linked stories, they are simply home. Set in the mid-1980s, this collection gives an intimate look at the hopes, dreams, failures, and fortunes of a group of people growing up with the deck always stacked against them.

The Women of Brewster Place
A Novel in Seven Stories
Gloria Naylor
Foreword by Tayari Jones

In her heralded first novel, Gloria Naylor weaves together the stories of seven women living in Brewster Place, a bleak-inner city sanctuary, creating a powerful, moving portrait of the strengths, struggles, and hopes of black women in America. Vulnerable and resilient, open-handed and openhearted, these women forge their lives in a place that in turn threatens and protects—a common prison and a shared home. Naylor renders both loving and painful human experiences with simple eloquence and uncommon intuition.
**Filthy Animals**

Brandon Taylor

In the series of linked stories at the heart of *Filthy Animals*, set among young creatives in the American Midwest, a young man treads delicate emotional waters as he navigates a series of sexually fraught encounters, forcing him to weigh his vulnerabilities against his loneliness. In other stories, a young woman battles with the cancers draining her body and her family; menacing undercurrents among a group of teenagers explode in violence on a winter night; a little girl tears through a house like a tornado, driving her babysitter to the brink; and couples feel out the jagged edges of connection, comfort, and cruelty.

Riverhead | Hardcover | 288 pages | 978-0-525-53891-2 | $26.00

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**The Fugitivities**

Jesse McCarthy

Like most recent college graduates, Jonah Winters struggles to envision his future. A young black American raised in France and living in New York City, he feels pressured by his friends and family to put the struggles of his community before his search for self. Deciding to leave the country, he sets off for Brazil. As he makes and breaks friendships on the way, reflects on his past relationships, and learns to rely on himself, Jonah slowly forms an understanding of self, community, and freedom that is rarely afforded to young black men.

Melville House | Hardcover | 288 pages | 978-1-61219-806-4 | $25.99

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**Nothing Personal**

James Baldwin

Foreword by Imani Perry

Afterword by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

James Baldwin’s critique of American society at the height of the civil rights movement brings his prescient thoughts on social isolation, race, and police brutality to a new generation of students. Baldwin’s thoughts move through an interconnected range of questions, from America’s fixation on eternal youth, to its refusal to recognize the past, its addiction to consumerism, and the lovelessness that fuels it in its cities and popular culture. He recounts his own encounter with police in a scene disturbingly similar to those we see today documented with ever increasing immediacy.

Beacon Press | Hardcover | 104 pages | 978-0-8070-0642-9 | $18.00

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**Hell of a Book**

Jason Mott

In Jason Mott’s *Hell of a Book*, a Black author sets out on a cross-country publicity tour to promote his bestselling novel. The novel also tells the story of Soot, a young Black boy living in a rural town in the recent past, and The Kid, a possibly imaginary child who appears to the author on his tour. While this heartbreaking and magical book entertains and is at once about family, love of parents and children, art and money, it’s also about the nation’s reckoning with a tragic police shooting playing over and over again on the news.

Dutton | Hardcover | 336 pages | 978-0-593-33096-8 | $27.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION
The Perishing
Natashia Deón
Lou, a young Black woman, wakes up in an alley in 1930s Los Angeles, nearly naked and with no memory of how she got there or where she’s from. Beset by unexplainable flashes from different times that have been haunting her dreams—Lou begins to believe she may be an immortal sent for a very important reason. With the help of her friends, Lou sets out to investigate the mystery of her existence and make sense of the jumble of lifetimes calling to her, just as new forces rise to threaten the existence of those around her.

Counterpoint | Hardcover | 320 pages | 978-1-64009-302-7 | $26.00

Push
Sapphire
Here is the 25th anniversary edition of the classic novel, Push with a new afterword by the author and an introduction by Tayari Jones. Sixteen-year-old Precious Jones has been invisible to the parents who abuse her and to the authorities who dismiss her as just one more of Harlem’s casualties. But when Precious meets a determined teacher, she takes a journey of education and enlightenment.


Vintage | Paperback | 240 pages | 978-0-593-31460-9 | $15.95

Rhode Island Red
Charlotte Carter
REISSUE
Rhode Island Red is the first book in the Nanette Hayes Mysteries, an overlooked classic of African American crime fiction.

“Through crime fiction, [Carter] has explored various subjects including art, race, class, sex and the decisions women make when choosing to step outside the perimeters drawn-up by society and family. In life and literature, Charlotte Carter has walked the freedom path and shown no fear.”—Michael Gonzales, Catapult Magazine

Vintage Crime/Black Lizard | Paperback | 192 pages | 978-0-593-31410-4 | $15.00

Build Your House Around My Body
Violet Kupersmith
In 1986, the teenage daughter of a wealthy Vietnamese family loses her way in an abandoned rubber plantation while fleeing her angry father and is forever changed; in 2011, a young, unhappy Vietnamese American woman disappears from her new home in Saigon without a trace. Part puzzle, part revenge tale, part ghost story, this kaleidoscopic novel spins half a century of Vietnamese history and folklore into a tale of two young women who go missing decades apart.

Random House | Hardcover | 400 pages | 978-0-8129-9332-5 | $27.00
On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous
Ocean Vuong

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family’s history that began before he was born—a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam—and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known. At once a witness to the fraught love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity.

At first, Benny tries to ignore them, but soon the voices follow him outside the house, onto the street and at school, driving him at last to seek refuge in the silence of a large public library, where objects are well-behaved and know to speak in whispers. There, Benny discovers a strange new world. He falls in love with a mesmerizing street artist with a smug pet ferret, who uses the library as her performance space. He meets a homeless philosopher-poet, who encourages him to ask important questions and find his own voice amongst the many.

And he meets his very own Book—a talking thing—who narrates Benny’s life and teaches him to listen to the things that truly matter.

The Book of Form and Emptiness
Ruth Ozeki

One year after the death of his beloved musician father, thirteen-year-old Benny Oh begins to hear voices. The voices belong to the things in his house—a sneaker, a broken Christmas ornament, a piece of wilted lettuce. Although Benny doesn’t understand what these things are saying, he can sense their emotional tone; some are pleasant, a gentle hum or coo, but others are snide, angry and full of pain.

At first, Benny tries to ignore them, but soon the voices follow him outside the house, onto the street and at school, driving him at last to seek refuge in the silence of a large public library, where objects are well-behaved and know to speak in whispers. There, Benny discovers a strange new world. He falls in love with a mesmerizing street artist with a smug pet ferret, who uses the library as her performance space. He meets a homeless philosopher-poet, who encourages him to ask important questions and find his own voice amongst the many.

And he meets his very own Book—a talking thing—who narrates Benny’s life and teaches him to listen to the things that truly matter.

Intimacies
Katie Kitamura

An interpreter has come to The Hague to escape New York and work at the International Court. A woman of many languages and identities, she is looking for a place to finally call home. A woman of quiet passion, she confronts power, love, and violence, both in her personal intimacies and in her work at the Court. She is soon pushed to the precipice, where betrayal and heartbreak threaten to overwhelm her, forcing her to decide what she wants from her life.

“In exploring how one’s proximity to power and violence can hold endless repercussions, Kitamura interrogates how our intimacies can change the course of our lives.” —Time

Riverhead | Hardcover | 240 pages | 978-0-399-57664-4 | $26.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION
AMERICAN LITERATURE

Blue-Skinned Gods
SJ Sindu

In Tamil Nadu, India, a boy is born with blue skin. His father sets up an ashram, and the family makes a living off of the pilgrims who seek the child's blessings and miracles, believing young Kalki to be the tenth human incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. Over the next two decades, Kalki's family unravels, and every relationship he relied on starts falling apart. Traveling from India to the underground rock scene of New York City, *Blue-Skinned Gods* explores ethnic, gender, and sexual identities, and spans continents and faiths, in an expansive look at the need for belief in our globally interconnected world.

*Soho Press | Hardcover | 336 pages | 978-1-64129-242-9 | $26.00

Lurkers
Sandi Tan

From author and filmmaker Sandi Tan, director of the acclaimed documentary *Shirkers*, comes a novel about a neighborhood of immigrants, seekers, lovers, and lurkers. The residents of Santa Claus Lane do their best to stay out of each other’s way, but desire, fury and mischief too often propel these suburban neighbors to collide. Korean American sisters Mira and Rosemary find their world rocked by a suicide; a creepy drama teacher grooms his students; a gay horror novelist finds that aging is more terrifying than any monster; and a white mom and her adopted Vietnamese daughter realize that their anger binds them rather than pushes them apart.

*Soho Press | Hardcover | 320 pages | 978-1-64129-255-9 | $27.00

Martita, I Remember You / Martita, te recuerdo
Sandra Cisneros
Translated by Liliana Valenzuela

As a young woman, Corina leaves her Mexican family in Chicago to pursue her dream of becoming a writer in the cafes of Paris. Instead, she spends her brief time in the City of Light befriending panhandling artists in the subway, sleeping on crowded attic floors, dancing the tango at underground parties, and her intense friendships with Martita and Paola. Over the years the three women disperse to three continents, fall out of touch and out of mind—until a letter unearthed in a closet brings Corina’s days in Paris back with breathtaking immediacy.

Told with intimacy and searing tenderness, this tribute to the life-changing power of youthful friendship is Cisneros at her best, in a beautiful dual-language edition.

“Every heart-revving scene is sensuously and incisively rendered, cohering into a vivid, tender, funny, bittersweet, and haunting episodic tale of peril, courage, concession, selfhood, and friendship.”
—*Booklist* (starred review)

*Vintage | Paperback | 128 pages | 978-0-593-31366-4 | $12.95
Also Available: The House on Mango Street 9780679734772

Also Available:
The House on Mango Street 9780679734772
It Is Wood, It Is Stone
Gabriella Burnham

Linda, an American, has moved to São Paulo with her husband for a year professorship. As he submerges himself in work, Linda finds herself adrift. Her unwavering and skilled maid, Marta, is meanwhile struggling to make sense of her country’s complicated history and its racial tensions. An exquisite debut novel by Brazilian American author Gabriella Burnham, *It Is Wood, It Is Stone* is about women whose romantic and subversive entanglements reflect on class and colorism, sexuality, and complex, divisive histories.

One World | Paperback | 224 pages | 978-1-9848-5585-5 | $17.00

The Rock Eaters
Stories
Brenda Peynado

What does it mean to be other? What does it mean to love in a world determined to keep us apart?

These questions murmur in the heart of each of Brenda Peynado’s strange and singular stories. Threaded with magic, transcending time and place, these stories explore what it means to cross borders and break down walls, personally and politically.

With elements of science fiction and fantasy, fabulism and magical realism, Brenda Peynado uses her stories to reflect our flawed world, and the incredible, terrifying, and marvelous nature of humanity.

Penguin | Paperback | 288 pages | 978-0-14-313562-3 | $16.00

Dominicana
Angie Cruz

SPANISH LANGUAGE EDITION

On the last day of 1964, fifteen-year-old Ana Canción marries Juan Ruiz in the Dominican countryside. The following day she becomes Ana Ruiz, a wife confined to a one-bedroom in Washington Heights. Juan is unfaithful, abusive, and controlling. Juan returns briefly to the Dominican Republic when the civil war begins, leaving his brother César to care for Ana. During that respite from confinement, she experiences true love, which awakens her will to fight for independence. A timeless portrait of womanhood and citizenship, which rings true in this era of forced migration.

Seven Stories Press | Paperback | 400 pages | 978-1-64421-070-3 | $18.95

The All-Night Sun
Diane Zinna

Lauren, a college writing instructor, exists at a remove from everyone around her until a new student joins her class: Siri. They fall headlong into an all-consuming friendship. When Siri invites her on a trip home to Sweden for the summer, Lauren impulsively accepts. But once there, Lauren starts to see a troubling new side of her friend, and things take a dark turn during a celebration of Midsommar’s Eve, a night when no one sleeps and boundaries blur.

Random House | Paperback | 352 pages | 978-1-9848-5418-6 | $17.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE
Boston Adventure
Jean Stafford
Introduction by Rumaan Alam
Growing up in a fishing village north of Boston between the wars, Sonie, the child of immigrants, is so poor that she must “sleep on a pallet made of old coats and comforters.” When Sonie eventually receives an invitation to move to Beacon Hill from the austere and fascinating Miss Pride, she believes her salvation is at hand. In Boston, Sonie does come to know a new and broader world, one in which she mingles with both blue bloods and louche European refugees, and yet her troubles, she discovers, are hardly over.

NYRB Classics | Paperback | 512 pages | 978-1-68137-537-3 | $17.95

How High? — That High
Diane Williams
Diane Williams, an American master of the short story, is back with a collection in which she once again expands the possibilities of fiction. These stories depict ordinary moments—a visit to the doctor’s office or a married couple’s hundredth dance together—but within the quotidian, Williams delivers a lifetime of insecurities, lusts, rejections, and revelations, making her work equally discomfiting and amusing. With unmatched wit in every sentence, Williams captures whole universes in a story, delivering visionary insights into what it means to be human.

Soho Press | Hardcover | 128 pages | 978-1-64129-306-8 | $25.00

John Williams: Collected Novels
Butcher’s Crossing / Stoner / Augustus
Edited by Daniel Mendelsohn
John Williams’s three major works have come to be recognized as modern American classics and are collected in this Library of America volume for the first time. In Butcher’s Crossing, he unsettles the conventions of the Western novel to tell the haunting story of a buffalo hunting expedition. In Stoner, he portrays power politics in academe and the quiet heroism of a midwestern English professor. In Augustus, set in ancient Rome, Williams again takes on the subject of power, more particularly, in the author’s own words, “the ambivalence between the public necessity and the private want or need.”

Library of America | Hardcover | 887 pages | 978-1-59853-702-4 | $40.00

O. Henry: 101 Stories
Edited by Ben Yagoda
Texas troubadour, convicted embezzler, and adopted New Yorker William Sidney Porter—better known as O. Henry—was one of the world’s great storytellers. This Library of America volume offers a fresh look at the full range of his literary genius. Here are 101 stories, including such favorites as “The Ransom of Red Chief,” “The Last of the Troubadours,” and “The Cop and the Anthem,” alongside lesser-known and previously uncollected stories, including three early tales published here for the first time. With full annotation and a newly researched chronology of Porter’s life and career, this is a definitive edition for students of a major American writer.

Library of America | Hardcover | 840 pages | 978-1-59853-690-4 | $35.00
AMERICAN LITERATURE

The Bachelor
Andrew Palmer

The narrator of Andrew Palmer’s debut novel, reeling from a breakup, returns to his Iowa hometown, where he’s plunged into unlikely twin obsessions: the reality show *The Bachelor* and the Pulitzer Prize–winning poet John Berryman. Somewhere along the way, representations of reality become harder and harder to distinguish from real life. Soon he finds himself corresponding with multiple love interests, participating in an ill-considered outing, and trying to puzzle through the strange turn his life has taken.

Hogarth | Hardcover | 288 pages | 978-0-593-23089-3 | $27.00

Oh William!
Elizabeth Strout

Lucy Barton is a writer, but her ex-husband, William, remains a hard man to read. Lucy is both surprised and not surprised when William asks her to join him on a trip to investigate a recently uncovered family secret—one of those secrets that rearrange everything we think we know about the people closest to us. What happens next is nothing less than another example of what Hilary Mantel has called Elizabeth Strout’s “perfect attunement to the human condition.”

Random House | Hardcover | 256 pages | 978-0-8129-8943-4 | $27.00

Something New Under the Sun
Alexandra Kleeman

East Coast novelist Patrick Hamlin comes to Hollywood to oversee the production of a film adaptation of one of his books, but California is not as he imagined: Drought, wildfire, and corporate corruption are omnipresent, and the company behind a mysterious new brand of synthetic water seems to be at the root of it all. Patrick partners with actress Cassidy Carter to investigate the sun-scorched city’s darker crevices, where they discover that catastrophe resembles order until the last possible second.

In this often-witty and all-too-timely story, Alexandra Kleeman grapples with the corruption of our environment in the age of alternative facts. *Something New Under the Sun* is a meticulous and deeply felt accounting of our very human anxieties, liabilities, dependencies, and, ultimately, responsibility to truth.

Hogarth | Hardcover | 368 pages | 978-1-9848-2630-5 | $28.00
**Antkind**  
*Charlie Kaufman*

B. Rosenberger Rosenberg, neurotic and underappreciated film critic, stumbles upon a hitherto unseen film that he’s convinced will change his career trajectory and rock the world of cinema to its core. The only problem: The film is destroyed, leaving him the sole witness to its inadvertently ephemeral genius. This debut novel, from the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *Being John Malkovich*, *Adaptation*, and more, is a richly layered meditation on art, time, memory, identity, comedy, and the nature of existence itself.

Random House | Paperback | 720 pages | 978-0-399-58969-0 | $18.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE

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**Must I Go**  
*Yiyun Li*

Lilia has outlived three husbands, raised five children, and seen the arrival of 17 grandchildren. Now she has turned her keen attention to the diary of a long-forgotten man named Roland, with whom she once had a fleeting affair, annotating the diary with her own rather different version of events. With great candor and insight, Yiyun Li navigates the twin poles of grief and resilience, loss and rebirth, that compass a human heart.

Random House | Paperback | 368 pages | 978-0-399-58913-3 | $18.00

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**August**  
*Callan Wink*

Following his parents’ divorce, August’s mother decides they need to start over in a new town. There, he tries to be an average teen, but when his role in a shocking act of violence throws him off course once more, he flees to rural Montana, where he learns that even the smallest communities have dark secrets. Filled with unforgettable characters and stunning natural landscapes, this book is a moving look at coming of age in the American heartland.

Random House | Paperback | 304 pages | 978-0-8129-8390-6 | $17.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE

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**Detransition, Baby**  
*Torrey Peters*

Just when Reese thought she had scraped together the sort of life previous generations of trans women could only dream of, her girlfriend, Amy, detransitioned and became Ames, and everything fell apart. Torrey Peters brilliantly navigates the most dangerous taboos around gender in this exploration of the emotional, messy, vulnerable corners of womanhood that platitudes and good intentions can’t reach.

One World | Paperback | 368 pages | 978-0-593-13338-5 | $18.00

LONGLISTED FOR THE WOMEN’S PRIZE FOR FICTION
Our Country Friends
Gary Shteyngart
In March 2020, a group of friends and friends-of-friends gather in a country house to wait out the pandemic. Over the next six months new relationships will take hold, while old betrayals will emerge, forcing each character to reevaluate what matters most. In a remarkable literary feat, Gary Shteyngart has documented through fiction the emotional toll of our recent times: a story of love and friendship that reads like a great Russian novel set in upstate New York.

Random House | Hardcover | 336 pages | 978-1-9848-5512-1 | $28.00

I Love You but I've Chosen Darkness
Claire Vaye Watkins
Leaving behind her husband and their baby daughter, a writer gets on a flight for a speaking engagement in Reno, not carrying much besides a breast pump and a spiraling case of postpartum depression. Her temporary escape from domestic duties and an opportunity to reconnect with old friends mutates into an extended romp away from the confines of marriage and motherhood, and a seemingly bottomless descent into the past.

“Watkins’ vision . . . is mercilessly sharp.”—NPR

Riverhead | Hardcover | 304 pages | 978-0-593-33021-0 | $27.00

Matrix
Lauren Groff
Cast out of the royal court by Eleanor of Aquitaine, deemed too coarse and rough-hewn for marriage or courtly life, seventeen-year-old Marie de France is sent to England to be the new prioress of an impoverished abbey, its nuns on the brink of starvation and beset by disease. Equally alive to the sacred and the profane, Matrix gathers currents of violence, sensuality, and religious ecstasy in a mesmerizing portrait of consuming passion, aberrant faith, and a woman that history moves both through and around.

Riverhead | Hardcover | 272 pages | 978-1-59463-449-9 | $28.00
LOONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION

Jacket Weather
Mike DeCapite
Mike knew June in New York’s downtown music scene in the eighties. Now he’s twice divorced and happy to be alone—so happy he’s writing a book about it. Then he meets June again. “And here she was with a raincoat over the back of the chair talking about getting a divorce and saying she’s done with relationships.” Told in fragments of narrative, reveries, recipes, bits of conversation and snatches of weather, Jacket Weather collapses a decade in Mike and June’s life and shifts a reader to a glowing nostalgia for the present.

Soft Skull | Paperback | 272 pages | 978-1-59376-693-1 | $16.95
**Transmutation**

Stories  
Alex DiFrancesco

Building on the success of *All City*, here is a wry, and at the same time dark and risk-taking, story collection from author Alex DiFrancesco that pushes the boundaries of transgender awareness and filial bonds. Here is the hate between 16-year-old Junie, who is transitioning, and their mom’s boyfriend Chad when the family moves into Chad’s house on Lake Erie. And here is the love being tested between Sawyer and his dad, who named his boat after his child and resists changing it from Sara to Sawyer now.

Seven Stories Press | Paperback | 144 pages | 978-1-64421-066-6 | $16.95

**A Daughter of the Samurai**

A Memoir  
Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto  
Introduction by Karen Tei Yamashita and Yuki Obayashi

The youngest daughter of a high-ranking samurai in late-19th-century Japan, Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto becomes engaged to a Japanese merchant in Ohio and arrives in the U.S. alive to the contradictions, ironies, and beauties of both cultures. Her memoir, reprinted for the first time in decades, is an unforgettable tribute to the experiences of the first generation of Japanese immigrants. Featuring a new introduction by University of California, Santa Cruz scholars Karen Tei Yamashita and Yuki Obayashi.

Modern Library | Paperback | 304 pages | 978-0-593-24266-7 | $17.00

**Seek You**

A Journey Through American Loneliness  
Kristen Radtke

In *Seek You*, Kristen Radtke’s wide-ranging exploration of our inner lives and public selves, Radtke digs into the ways in which individuals attempt to feel closer to one another, and the distance that remains. Through the lenses of gender and violence, technology and art, Radtke ushers us through a history of loneliness and longing, and shares what feels impossible to share.

“Kristen Radtke’s *Seek You* seems almost to invent something brand new: the comic strip feature documentary? The long-form graphic essay? I dunno, and it really doesn’t matter, because the humanity so keenly summed up in every line and mark of Radtke’s hand transcendently transmutes both the seriousness of her investigatory aim and the genuine desperation which underpins its timely yet universal thesis—all the while magnified by the skill, empathy and great intelligence of its author.”

—Chris Ware, author of *Rusty Brown*

Pantheon | Hardcover | 352 pages | 978-1-5247-4806-7 | $30.00  
Also Available: *Imagine Only Wanting This* 978101870839
**The Letters of Shirley Jackson**
Edited by Laurence Jackson Hyman

Written over the course of nearly three decades, from Jackson’s college years to six days before her early death at age 48, these letters become the autobiography Shirley Jackson never wrote. Compiled and edited by her elder son, Laurence Jackson Hyman, in consultation with Jackson scholar Bernice M. Murphy and featuring Jackson’s own witty line drawings, this intimate collection holds the beguiling prism of Shirley Jackson—writer and reader, mother and daughter, neighbor and wife—up to the light.

Random House | Hardcover | 672 pages | 978-0-593-13464-1 | $35.00

**Wuthering Heights**
Emily Brontë
Introduction by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

When young orphan Heathcliff is adopted by a wealthy gentleman, he quickly forms a close bond with his benefactor’s daughter, Cathy. But over the years, their childhood friendship morphs into a desperate, possessive love, as they wrestle with the tyrannical rule of Cathy’s brother and the confines of social class that keep them apart. What follows is an ingenious narrative of frustrated passion and tortured heartbeat reverberating through the generations, wrought with all the brutality, power, and wildness of the Yorkshire moors.

With striking force, Emily Brontë’s prose claws at the nature of human folly, defying the gender, religious, and social mores of its day. *Wuthering Heights* is a transcendent, mystifying masterpiece that examines the cruelty of love, and the ways in which the past, scratching at a windowpane with ghostly fingers, never lets us go.

Featuring a new introduction by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, author of *Mexican Gothic*.

Modern Library | Paperback | 384 pages | 978-0-593-24403-6 | $8.00

**Songbirds**
Christy Lefteri

Living on the island of Cyprus, Nisha works as a nanny and maid for a wealthy widow, Petra, to support the family she left behind in Sri Lanka. But when she vanishes and the police refuse to pursue the case, Petra takes on the investigation herself, revealing the darker side of a migrant’s life. Inspired by the real-life disappearance of domestic workers in Cyprus, Christy Lefteri has crafted a poignant narrative of the human stories behind the headlines.

Ballantine Books | Hardcover | 336 pages | 978-0-593-23804-2 | $27.00
**A Passage to India**  
*E. M. Forster*

When Adela Quested arrives in the Indian town of Chandrapore, she quickly grows disillusioned with its prejudiced colonial community and seeks the guidance of the well-respected Dr. Aziz—but the doctor soon finds himself at the center of a scandal that rocks Chandrapore to its core. The richest and most ambitious novel by one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, this masterpiece counts the human cost of British-occupied India, a society afflicted by imperialism and racism.

Modern Library | Paperback | 352 pages | 978-0-593-24156-1 | $12.00

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**The Voyage Out**  
*Virginia Woolf*  
*Introduction by Elisa Gabbert*

A young woman learns about life and love in this first novel by one of the 20th century’s most brilliant and prolific writers. *The Voyage Out* is a softer and more traditional novel than Virginia Woolf’s later work, even as its poetic style and innovative technique—with detailed portraits of characters’ inner lives and mesmeric shifts between the quotidian and the profound—reflect Woolf’s signature style. Featuring a new introduction by Elisa Gabbert, author of *The Unreality of Memory*.

Modern Library | Paperback | 416 pages | 978-0-593-24262-9 | $15.00

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**China Room**  
*Sunjeev Sahota*

*China Room* is a transfixing novel about two unforgettable characters seeking to free themselves—one from the expectations of women in early 20th century Punjab, and the other from the weight of life in the contemporary Indian diaspora. Partly inspired by award-winning author Sunjeev Sahota’s family history, it is at once a deft exploration of how systems of power circumscribe individual lives and a deeply moving portrait of the unconquerable human capacity to resist them.

Viking | Hardcover | 256 pages | 978-0-593-29814-5 | $27.00  
LONGLISTED FOR THE 2021 BOOKER PRIZE

Also Available: *The Year of the Runaways* 9781101911884

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**The Constant Rabbit**  
*Jasper Fforde*

England, 2022. There are 1.2 million human-size rabbits living in the UK. They can walk, talk, drive cars, and they like to read Voltaire, the result of an Inexplicable Anthropomorphizing Event fifty-five years before. An inimitable blend of satire, fantasy, and thriller, *The Constant Rabbit* is the latest dazzlingly original foray into Jasper Fforde’s ever-astonishing creative genius.

Penguin | Paperback | 320 pages | 978-0-593-29654-7 | $17.00
Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont
Elizabeth Taylor
Introduction by Michael Hofmann

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in January, the recently widowed Mrs. Palfrey moves to the Claremont Hotel in South Kensington. What is she to do with herself now that she has all the time in the world? Go for a walk. Go to a museum. Go to the end of the block. Mrs. Palfrey prides herself on having always known "the right thing to do," but in this new situation she discovers that resource is much reduced. Before she knows it, in fact, she tries something else.

Elizabeth Taylor’s final and most popular novel is as unsparing as it is, ultimately, heartbreaking.

NYRB Classics | Paperback | 224 pages | 978-1-68137-564-9 | $15.95

In the Country of Others
Leila Slimani

Mathilde, a young Frenchwoman, falls in love with Amine, a Moroccan soldier in the French army during World War II. After the war, the couple settles in Morocco. While Amine tries to cultivate his family farm’s rocky terrain, Mathilde feels her vitality sapped by the isolation, the lack of money, and the mistrust she inspires as a foreigner. As tensions mount between the Moroccans and the French colonists, Amine finds himself caught in the crossfire: in solidarity with his Moroccan workers yet also a landowner, despised by the French yet married to a Frenchwoman, and proud of his wife’s resolve but ashamed by her refusal to be subjugated.

Penguin | Hardcover | 320 pages | 978-0-14-313597-5 | $26.00

Kin
Miljenko Jergović
Translated by Russell Scott Valentino

In this sprawling narrative which spans the entire twentieth century, ordinary, forgotten objects—a grandfather’s beekeeping journals, a rusty benzene lighter, an army issued raincoat—become the lenses through which Jergović investigates the joys and sorrows of a family living through a century of war. The work is ultimately an ode to Yugoslavia as Jergović sees his country through the devastation of the First World War, the Second, the Cold, then the Bosnian war of the 90s.

Archipelago | Paperback | 877 pages | 978-1-939810-52-6 | $25.00

The Adventures of Pinocchio
Carlo Collodi
Translated with an Introduction and Notes by John Hooper and Anna Krazcyna

This effervescent new translation captures the antic spirit that makes the mischievous, egotistical, and easily distracted Pinocchio a late nineteenth-century prototype for the likes of Bart Simpson. Featuring copious annotations informed by the translators’ deep knowledge of Italy, it reveals the novel to be not only a subversively entertaining children’s book but also a sophisticated satire reflecting the author’s concern for the social inequality of his time and his belief that duty to others is at the core of our humanity.

Penguin Classics | Paperback | 224 pages | 978-0-14-313609-5 | $15.00
**EUROPEAN LITERATURE**

**A Very Old Man**
Stories
Italo Svevo  
Translated by Frederika Randall  
Introduction by Nathaniel Rich

*A Very Old Man* collects five linked stories, parts of an unfinished novel that the great Triestine Italo Svevo wrote at the end of his life. Here Svevo revisits themes that fascinated him from the start—aging, deceit, and self-deception, as well as the fragility, fecklessness, and plain foolishness of the bourgeois paterfamilias—as memories of World War I and the contemporary rise of Italian fascism cast a shadow over the book’s pages.

NYRB Classics | Paperback | 224 pages | 978-1-68137-593-9 | $15.95

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**The Morning Star**
Karl Ove Knausgaard  
Translated by Martin Aitken

It’s a normal night in August. Literature professor Arne and artist Tove are with their children at the resort in Sørlandet. Their friend, Egil is staying in a cabin nearby. Kathrine, a priest, is on her way home, the journalist Jostein is out on the town, and his wife Turid has a night shift. Above them all, a huge star suddenly appears in the sky. No one, not even the astronomers, knows for sure what kind of phenomenon it is. Slowly the interest in the news subsides, and life goes on, but not quite as before, for unusual phenomena begin to occur on the fringes of human existence.

Penguin Press | Hardcover | 688 pages | 978-0-399-56342-3 | $30.00

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**The Motorcycle Diaries**
Notes on a Latin American Journey
Ernesto Che Guevara

*The Motorcycle Diaries* is Che Guevara’s diary of his journey to discover the continent of Latin America while still a medical student, setting out in 1952 on a vintage Norton motorcycle together with his friend Alberto Granado, a biochemist. It captures, arguably as much as any book ever written, the exuberance and joy of one person’s youthful belief in the possibilities of humankind tending towards justice, peace and happiness. This edition includes a new introduction by Walter Salles and an array of new material that was assembled for the 2004 edition coinciding with the release of the film, including 24 pages of previously unpublished photos taken by Che, notes and comments by his wife, Aleida Guevara March, and an extensive introduction by the distinguished Cuban author, Cintio Vitier.

Seven Stories Press | Paperback | 192 pages | 978-1-64421-068-0 | $17.95
Dear Senthuran

A Black Spirit Memoir

Akwaeke Emezi

In three critically acclaimed novels, Akwaeke Emezi has introduced readers to a landscape marked by familial tensions, Igbo belief systems, and a boundless search for what it means to be free. Now, the bestselling author of *The Death of Vivek Oji* reveals the harrowing yet resolute truths of their own life. Through candid, intimate correspondence with friends, lovers, and family, Emezi weaves through transformative decisions about their gender and body, their precipitous path to success as a writer, and the turmoil of relationships on an emotional, romantic, and spiritual plane, culminating in a book that is as tender as it is brutal.

Riverhead | Hardcover | 240 pages | 978-0-593-32919-1 | $27.00

Ghost Forest

Pik-Shuen Fung

How do you grieve, if your family doesn't talk about feelings? This is the question the unnamed protagonist of *Ghost Forest* considers after her father dies. As she revisits memories of her father through the years, she struggles with unresolved questions and misunderstandings, turning to her mother and grandmother for answers. Fung writes with a poetic and haunting voice, layering detail and abstraction, weaving memory and oral history to paint a moving portrait of a Chinese-Canadian astronaut family.

One World | Hardcover | 272 pages | 978-0-593-23096-1 | $26.00

Oedipus Trilogy

New Versions of Sophocles’ *Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone*

Translated and with an Introduction by Bryan Doerries

Here are *Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone*, in new versions for contemporary readers. Each has been the basis for groundbreaking theatrical performances by Theater of War Productions, in which actors present dramatic readings, followed by discussions designed to confront social issues by drawing out raw and personal reactions to themes highlighted in the plays.

“In these fresh renderings of Sophocles’ Theban plays, Doerries unearths the impulses beneath the ancient text by stripping back its encrusted surface to reveal the urgent core.”—Peter Brook

“Bryan Doerries is a singular genius, activating an old alchemy for our young century just when we need it the most. He has brought the *Oedipus Trilogy* wondrously to life, in experiences both traditional and digital, towards our essential communal grieving, and healing, and growing. This book, like his body of work, is a gift to us all.”—Krista Tippett

Vintage | Paperback | 496 pages | 978-0-593-31495-1 | $15.00
The Plague
Albert Camus
Translated by Laura Marris

In this fresh yet careful translation, award-winning translator Laura Marris breathes new life into Albert Camus’s ever-resonant tale. Restoring the restrained lyricism of the original French text, and liberating it from the archaisms and assumptions of the previous English translation, Marris grants English readers the closest access we have ever had to the meaning and searing beauty of The Plague. This updated edition promises to add relevance and urgency to a classic novel of twentieth-century literature.

Knopf | Hardcover | 352 pages | 978-0-593-31866-9 | $26.00

Kalevala
The Epic of the Finnish People
Compiled and Edited by Elias Lönnrot
Translated by Eino Friberg
Introduction by Jukka Korpela

Sharing its title with the poetic name for Finland—“the land of heroes”—Kalevala is the soaring epic poem of the Finnish people. Sung by rural Finns since prehistoric times, and formally compiled by Elias Lönnrot in the nineteenth century, it is a landmark of Finnish culture and played a vital role in galvanizing Finland’s national identity in the decades leading up to independence.

Penguin Classics | Paperback | 640 pages | 978-0-241-40306-8 | $20.00

The Best Short Stories 2021
The O. Henry Prize Winners
Edited by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Jennifer Minton Quigley, series editor

The Best Short Stories 2021: The O. Henry Prize Winners—continuing a century-long tradition of cutting-edge literary excellence—contains twenty prizewinning stories chosen from the thousands published in magazines over the previous year. Now entering its second century, the prestigious annual story anthology has a new title and a new guest editor, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie has brought her own refreshing perspective to the prize, selecting stories by an engaging mix of celebrated names and young emerging voices. The winning stories are accompanied by an introduction by Adichie, observations from the winning writers on what inspired them, and an extensive resource list of magazines that publish short fiction. Some of the writers featured in this collection include Daphne Palasi Andreades, David Means, Sindyra Bhanoo, Crystal Wilkinson, Alice Jolly, David Rabe, Karina Sainz Borgo (translator, Elizabeth Bryer), Jamel Brinkley, Tessa Hadley, Adachioma Ezeano, Tiphanie Yanique, and Anthony Doerr.

Anchor | Paperback | 400 pages | 978-0-593-31125-7 | $16.95
Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth
Wole Soyinka

From the first Black winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and one of our fiercest political activists, Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth is a fictional meditation on power and greed—and a scathing indictment of political and social corruption. In an imaginary Nigeria, a cunning entrepreneur is selling body parts stolen from Dr. Menka’s hospital for use in ritualistic practices. Dr. Menka shares the grisly news with his oldest college friend, bon vivant, star engineer, and Yoruba royal, Duyole Pitane-Payne. The life of every party, Duyole is about to assume a prestigious post at the United Nations in New York, but it now seems that someone is determined that he not make it there. And neither Dr. Menka nor Duyole knows why, or how close the enemy is, or how powerful. Wole Soyinka gives a stirring call to arms against the abuse of power.

Sankofa
Chibundu Onuzo

Anna is at a stage of her life when she’s beginning to wonder who she really is. She has separated from her husband, her daughter is all grown up, and her mother—the only parent who raised her—is dead. Searching through her mother’s belongings one day, Anna finds clues about the African father she never knew. His student diaries chronicle his involvement in radical politics in 1970s London. Anna discovers that he eventually became the president—some would say dictator—of a small nation in West Africa. And he is still alive...

When Anna decides to track her father down, a journey begins that is disarmingly moving, funny, and fascinating. Like the metaphorical bird that gives the novel its name, Sankofa expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present to address universal questions of race and belonging, the overseas experience for the African diaspora, and the search for a family’s hidden roots.
The Tale of Princess Fatima, Warrior Woman
The Arabic Epic of Dhat al-Himma
Edited, Translated, and with an Introduction and Notes by Melanie Magidow

Published in English for the first time, and the only Arabic epic named for a woman, The Tale of Princess Fatima recounts the thrilling adventures of a legendary medieval warrior universally known throughout the Middle East and long overdue to join world literature’s pantheon of female heroes. “This engaging and reader-friendly translation brings to life a very important moment in world history, capturing through epic proportions the timeless social issues of race, gender, and class.”—Heidi Morrison, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse

Penguin Classics | Paperback | 208 pages | 978-0-14-313426-8 | $16.00

The Republic of False Truths
Alaa Al Aswany

Here is a novel about the Egyptian revolution that shows the battle raging between those in power and those prepared to lay down their lives in the defense of freedom. This globally acclaimed narrative is still banned across much of the region. “Brave, sobering, provocative, and thoroughly absorbing…. A gripping chorus of voices…. In today’s splintered and partisan political and media landscape, this is a stark lesson for democracies everywhere: Whomever controls the narrative, controls the outcomes.”—Booklist (starred review)

Knopf | Hardcover | 416 pages | 978-0-307-95722-1 | $28.95

What Strange Paradise
Omar El Akkad

From the author American War, a profoundly moving novel that looks at the global refugee crisis through the story of two children. “It is one thing to put a human face on a migrant crisis and another to do so in so compelling a way that a reader simply cannot put your book down.”—Gish Jen, author of The Resisters

“Extraordinary…. it deserves to be an instant classic.”—Wendell Steavenson, The New York Times Book Review

Knopf | Hardcover | 256 pages | 978-0-525-65790-3 | $26.00
Also Available: American War 9781101973134

You Exist Too Much
Zaina Arafat

On a hot day in Bethlehem, a 12-year-old Palestinian-American girl is yelled at by a group of men. She has exposed her legs in a biblical city, an act they deem forbidden, and their judgment will echo on through her adolescence. When our narrator finally admits to her mother that she is queer, her mother’s response only intensifies a sense of shame: “You exist too much,” she tells her daughter.

Told in vignettes that flash between the U.S. and the Middle East—from New York to Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—Zaina Arafat’s debut novel explores the fantasies and desires of one young woman caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities.

Catapult | Paperback | 272 pages | 978-1-64622-059-5 | $16.95
A Passage North
Anuk Arudpragasam

As Krishan makes the long journey by train from Colombo into the war-torn Northern Province for the funeral of his grandmother’s caretaker, Rani, so begins a powerful meditation on absence and longing. An unsparing account of the legacy of Sri Lanka’s 30-year civil war, this procession to a pyre “at the end of the earth” lays bare the imprints of an island’s past, the unattainable distances between who we are and what we seek.

Hogarth | Hardcover | 304 pages | 978-0-593-23070-1 | $27.00
SHORTLISTED FOR THE 2021 BOOKER PRIZE

AI 2041
Ten Visions for Our Future
Kai-Fu Lee and Chen Qiufan

In this provocative, utterly original work, Kai-Fu Lee, the former president of Google China and bestselling author of AI Superpowers, teams up with celebrated novelist Chen Qiufan to imagine our world in 2041 and how it will be shaped by AI in 10 gripping short stories. By gazing toward a not-so-distant horizon, AI 2041 offers urgent insights into our collective future—while reminding readers that, ultimately, human-kind remains the author of its destiny.

Currency | Hardcover | 480 pages | 978-0-593-23629-5 | $30.00

A Burning
Megha Majumdar

NOW IN PAPERBACK

A Burning is a debut novel about three unforgettable characters who find their lives entangled in the wake of a catastrophe in contemporary India. Jivan is a Muslim girl from the slums who is accused of executing a terrorist attack on a train. PT Sir is an opportunistic gym teacher whose own ascent becomes linked to Jivan’s fall. Lovely—an irresistible outcast—has the alibi that can set Jivan free, but it will cost her everything she holds dear.

“Majumdar demonstrates an uncanny ability to capture the vast scope of a tumultuous society by attending to the hopes and fears of people living on the margins. The effect is transporting.”—Ron Charles, The Washington Post

“The interplay of choice and circumstance has always been the playing field of great fiction, and on this terrain, a powerful new writer stakes her claim.”—Parul Sehgal, The New York Times

FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE JOHN LEONARD PRIZE

Vintage | Paperback | 304 pages | 978-0-593-08125-9 | $16.00
The Woman in the Purple Skirt
Natsuko Imamura
Almost every afternoon, the Woman in the Purple Skirt sits on the same park bench, where she eats a cream bun while the local children make a game of trying to get her attention. Unbeknownst to her, she is being watched—by the Woman in the Yellow Cardigan. Studiously deadpan and chillingly voyeuristic, The Woman in the Purple Skirt explores envy, loneliness, power dynamics, and the vulnerability of unmarried women in this prizewinning novel by one of Japan’s most acclaimed young writers.

Shoko’s Smile
Stories
Choi Eunyoung
Translated by Sung Ryu
In crisp, unembellished prose, Choi Eunyoung paints intimate portraits of the lives of young women in South Korea, balancing the personal with the political. In the title story, a fraught friendship between an exchange student and her host sister follows them from adolescence to adulthood. In “A Song from Afar,” a young woman grapples with the death of her lover, traveling to Russia to search for information about the deceased. In “Secret,” the parents of a teacher killed in the Sewol ferry sinking hide the news of her death from her grandmother.

Em
Kim Thúy
Translated by Sheila Fischman
Emma-Jade and Louis are born into the havoc of the Vietnam War. Orphaned, saved and cared for by adults coping with the chaos of Saigon in free-fall, they become children of the Vietnamese diaspora. A portrait of Vietnamese identity emerges that is wholly remarkable, honed in wartime violence that borders on genocide, and then by the ingenuity, sheer grit and intelligence of Vietnamese-Americans, Vietnamese-Canadians and other Vietnamese former refugees who go on to build some of the most powerful small business empires in the world. Em is a poetic story steeped in history, about those most impacted by the violence.

Radiant Fugitives
Nawaaz Ahmed
Working as a consultant for Kamala Harris’s attorney general campaign in Obama-era San Francisco, Seema has constructed a successful life for herself in the West, despite still struggling with her father’s long-ago decision to exile her from the family after she came out as lesbian. Now, nine months pregnant and estranged from the father of her unborn son, Seema seeks solace in the company of those she once thought lost to her. Told from the point of view of Seema’s child at the moment of his birth, Radiant Fugitives is a moving tale of a family and a country grappling with acceptance, forgiveness, and enduring love.
Strange Beasts of China
Yan Ge
Translated by Jeremy Tiang

In the fictional Chinese city of Yong’an, an amateur cryptozoologist is commissioned to uncover the stories of its fabled beasts. These creatures live alongside humans in near-inconspicuousness—save their greenish skin, serrated earlobes, and strange birthmarks.

Part detective story, part metaphysical enquiry, Strange Beasts of China engages existential questions of identity, humanity, love and morality with whimsy and stylistic verve.

Melville House | Hardcover | 240 pages | 978-1-61219-909-2 | $25.99

Terminal Boredom
Stories
Izumi Suzuki
Translated by Polly Barton, Sam Bett, David Boyd and Daniel Joseph

Terminal Boredom is the first English language publication of the work of Izumi Suzuki, a legend of Japanese science fiction and a countercultural icon. At turns nonchalantly hip and charmingly deranged, Suzuki’s speculative fiction would be echoed in countless later works, from Margaret Atwood and Harumi Murakami, to Black Mirror and Ex Machina. In these darkly playful stories, the fantastical elements are always earthed by the universal strife between the sexes, and the reality of life on the lower rungs.

Verso Fiction | Paperback | 224 pages | 978-1-78873-988-7 | $19.95

Songs for the Flames
Stories
Juan Gabriel Vásquez

Juan Gabriel Vásquez returns to stories with these nine morally complex tales, fresh proof of his narrative versatility and his profound understanding of the lives of others. The characters in Songs for the Flames are men and women touched by violence—sometimes directly, sometimes only in passing—but whose lives are changed forever, consumed by fire and by unexpected encounters and unyielding forces.

Riverhead | Hardcover | 256 pages | 978-0-593-19013-5 | $26.00

The President and the Frog
Carolina De Robertis

The President and the Frog is an incandescent novel—political, mystical, timely, and heartening—about the power of memory, and the pursuit of justice.

“A work of stunning insight and beauty, The President and the Frog is a song of hope in despairing times, a meditation on freedom and survival, on the quiet exultations of the ordinary (think Neruda’s Odes to Common Things). A luminous, opulent, and unforgettable novel.”

—Cristina García, author of Dreaming in Cuban

Knopf | Hardcover | 224 pages | 978-0-593-31841-6 | $25.00
When We Cease to Understand the World
Benjamin Labatut
Translated by Adrian Nathan West

When We Cease to Understand the World is a book about the complicated links between scientific and mathematical discovery, madness, and destruction. Fritz Haber, Alexander Grothendieck, Werner Heisenberg, Erwin Schrödinger—these are some of luminaries into whose troubled lives Benjamin Labatut thrusts the reader, showing us how they grappled with the most profound questions of existence. They have strokes of unparalleled genius, alienate friends and lovers, descend into isolation and insanity. Some of their discoveries reshape human life for the better, others pave the way to chaos and unimaginable suffering.

Love After Love
Ingrid Persaud

Love After Love follows an unconventional family in Trinidad, which is split apart by a secret with heartbreaking consequences. The son, Solo, flees Trinidad for New York to carve out a lonely existence as an undocumented immigrant, with only a singular thread still holding mother and son together. In vibrant, addictive Trinidadian prose, Love After Love questions who and how we love, the obligations of family, and the consequences of choices made in desperation.

Monster in the Middle
Tiphanie Yanique

Vibrant and emotionally riveting, Monster in the Middle moves across decades, from the U.S. to the Virgin Islands to Ghana and back again, to show how one couple’s romance is intrinsically influenced by the family lore and love stories that preceded their own pairing. What challenges and traumas must this new couple inherit, what hopes and ambitions will keep them moving forward? Exploring desire and identity, religion and class, passion and obligation, the novel posits that in order to answer the question “who are we meant to be with?” we must first understand who we are and how we came to be.

Whale Day
And Other Poems
Billy Collins

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins’s new collection brings together more than 50 poems and showcases his deft mixing of the playful and the serious. Here are poems that leap with whimsy and imagination, yet stay grounded in the familiar, common things of everyday experience. Sensitive to the wonders of being alive as well as the thrill of mortality, Whale Day builds on and amplifies Collins’s reputation as one of America’s most interesting and durable poets.
Mutiny
Phillip B. Williams

Mutiny: a rebellion, a subversion, an onslaught. In poems that rebuke classical mythos and western canonical figures, and embrace Afro-Diasporan folk and spiritual imagery, Phillip B. Williams conjures the hell of being erased, exploited, and ill-imagined and then, through a force and generosity of vision, propels himself into life, selfhood, and a path forward. Intimate, bold, and sonically mesmerizing, Mutiny addresses loneliness, desire, doubt, memory, and the borderline between beauty and tragedy.

Penguin | Paperback | 112 pages | 978-0-14-313693-4 | $20.00

Stereo(TYPE)
Jonah Mixon-Webster

REISSUE
Stereo(TYPE) is a reckoning, a revision of sacred mythologies, and a work of documentary reporting from Jonah Mixon-Webster’s hometown of Flint, Michigan, where clean tap water remains an uncertainty and the aftermath of racist policies persist.

“Mixon-Webster is a master of experimentation, for his work reads across multiple genres, creating new hybrids. . . . This work is alive, demanding to be reckoned with, respected, and recognized.”
—Fatimah Asghar, author of If They Come for Us

Knopf | Paperback | 112 pages | 978-1-5247-1194-8 | $18.00

Stones
Kevin Young

Whether it’s the fireflies of a Louisiana summer caught in a mason jar, or his grandmother, Mama Annie, who latches the screen door when someone steps out for just a moment, all that makes up flickering precarious joy, all that one would want to protect, is lifted into the light in this moving book. Stones becomes an ode to Kevin Young’s home places and his dear departed, and to what of them—of us—poetry can save.

Knopf | Hardcover | 128 pages | 978-1-5247-3256-1 | $27.00
Also Available: Blue Laws 9780345807410

Purgatorio
Dante Alighieri
Translated and with an introduction by D. M. Black
Preface by Robert Pogue Harrison

Purgatorio, the middle section of Dante’s great poem about losing, and subsequently finding, one’s way in the middle of one’s life is, unsurprisingly, the beating heart of The Divine Comedy, as this powerful and lucid new translation and bilingual edition by D. M. Black makes wonderfully clear.

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The Aeneid
Vergil
Translated by Shadi Bartsch

2,000 years ago, *The Aeneid* not only gave Romans a thrilling origin story, it established many of the fundamental themes of Western literature—the role of duty, the relationship between art and violence, the tension between immigrant and indigenous people, and the way new foundations are so often built upon the wreckage of those who came before.

Shadi Bartsch, Guggenheim Laureate, award-winning translator, and chaired professor at the University of Chicago, illuminates the epic’s subversive approach to storytelling. Even as Vergil writes the foundation myth for Rome, he seems to comment on this tendency to mythologize our heroes and societies, and to gesture to the stories that get lost in the mythmaking. Bartsch’s translation, maintaining the brisk pace of Vergil’s Latin even as it offers readers a metrical line-by-line translation, provides a literary and historical context to make the *Aeneid* resonant for a new generation of readers.

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Translated by Robert Dorsett
Foreword by Ai Weiwei

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