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KPL Fiction Spotlight February 2017

Faithful

by Alice Hoffman

Published 2016 by Simon & Schuster

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781476799209

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Marriage of Opposites* and *The Dovekeepers* comes a soul-searching story about a young woman struggling to redefine herself and the power of love, family, and fate.

Growing up on Long Island, Shelby Richmond is an ordinary girl until one night an extraordinary tragedy changes her fate. Her best friend's future is destroyed in an accident, while Shelby walks away with the burden of guilt.

What happens when a life is turned inside out? When love is something so distant it may as well be a star in the sky? *Faithful* is the story of a survivor, filled with emotion from dark suffering to true happiness a moving portrait of a young woman finding her way in the modern world. A fan of Chinese food, dogs, bookstores, and men she should stay away from, Shelby has to fight her way back to her own future. In New York City she finds a circle of lost and found souls including an angel who's been watching over her ever since that fateful icy night.

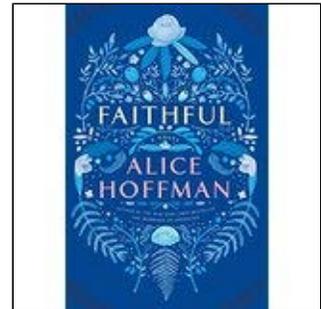
Here is a character you will fall in love with, so believable and real and endearing, that she captures both the ache of loneliness and the joy of finding yourself at last. For anyone who's ever been a hurt teenager, for every mother of a daughter who has lost her way, *Faithful* is a roadmap.

Alice Hoffman's trademark alchemy (*USA TODAY*) and her ability to write about the delicate balance between the everyday world and the extraordinary (WBUR) make this an unforgettable story. With beautifully crafted prose, Alice Hoffman spins hope from heartbreak in this profoundly moving novel."

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Publishers Weekly 09/05/2016

The sweet-natured latest novel from Hoffman (*The Marriage of Opposites*) ambles along pleasantly enough as it follows the recovery from grief of young Shelby Richmond. As a high school senior, Shelby is driving with her best friend Helene one snowy February night on Long Island when her car goes out of control, leaving Helene in a coma and Shelby ridden with guilt. After a suicide attempt, three months in a psychiatric institution, and a couple of years hiding out in her parents' basement smoking marijuana, Shelby moves to Manhattan, gets a job, makes friends, rescues several dogs, finds a calling, and finds and loses and then finds love. She's helped along on this path by homemade postcards from a mysterious source with messages such as a



something and a Save something. A subplot involving the magical powers attributed to Helene by the hundreds of people who troop faithfully to her door in hopes of a cure goes almost nowhere, and Shelby's life is one learning experience after another is oddly episodic. The novel, with its hopeful message and well-intentioned characters, will appeal for the relatability of Shelby's slow coming-of-age, romantic difficulties (many of her own making), difficulty in choosing a career, and changing relationship with her parents. *Agent: Amanda Urban, ICM Partners. (Nov.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.*

Twenty-Three (Third book in the Promise Falls Trilogy series)

by Linwood Barclay

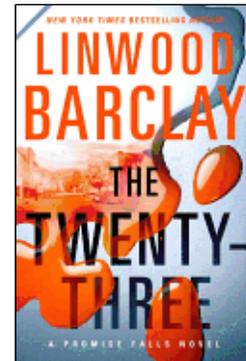
Published 2016 by Berkley Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780451472724

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

From *New York Times* and #1 international bestselling author Linwood Barclay comes the jaw-dropping finale of the Promise Falls Trilogy.



Everything has been leading to this.

It's the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd, and the small town of Promise Falls, New York, has found itself in the midst of a full-blown catastrophe. Hundreds of people are going to the hospital with similar flu-like symptoms and dozens have died. Investigators quickly zero in on the water supply. But the question for many, including private investigator Cal Weaver, remains: Who would benefit from a mass poisoning of this town?

Meanwhile, Detective Barry Duckworth is faced with another problem. A college student has been murdered, and he's seen the killer's handiwork before in the unsolved homicides of two other women in town. Suddenly, all the strange things that have happened in the last month start to add up

Bloody mannequins found in car 23 of an abandoned Ferris wheel a fiery, out-of-control bus with 23 on the back, that same number on the hoodie of a man accused of assault

The motive for harming the people of Promise Falls points to the number 23 and working out why will bring Duckworth closer to death than he's ever been before "

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Publishers Weekly 09/26/2016

Bizarre incidents continue to maim and kill the residents of Promise Falls, N.Y., in Barclay's fast and furious conclusion to the trilogy that began with 2015's *Broken Promise*. Many believe a serial killer is at work, while others are perplexed and refuse to believe such a thing could happen in their beloved burg. But then the next calamity hits with brute force: townspeople young, old, rich, poor begin to drop like flies from a mysterious ailment. Symptoms such as dizziness, blurred vision, and a racing heartbeat come on suddenly, and most victims are dead within hours. Others linger, comatose in a hospital crammed with bodies and helpless nurses and doctors. As the death toll rises, a pattern finally emerges, and Det. Barry Duckworth races to save the town and his own loved ones. Though some readers may feel befuddled by the sheer number of characters and relationships, Barclay skillfully juggles all the different plot lines right up to the stunning conclusion. *Author tour. Agent: Helen Heller, Helen Heller Agency (Canada). (Nov.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.*

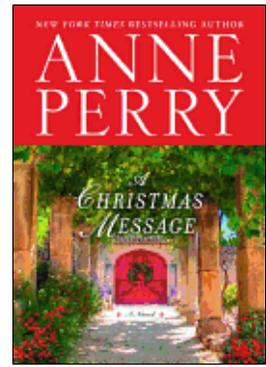
Christmas Message

by Anne Perry

Published 2016 by Ballantine Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781101886380

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)



Jacket Notes:

In the spirit of the season, *New York Times* bestselling author Anne Perry presents readers with the gift of another holiday mystery, taking them to the Holy Land for an intriguing and miraculous journey of discovery.

The year is 1900, and Victor Narraway is giving his wife, Vespasia, an unforgettable Christmas present a trip to Jerusalem. Vespasia is enchanted by the exotic landscape of Palestine, and charmed by a fellow traveler the Narraways meet at their hotel in Jaffa. But when the man is murdered over a torn piece of ancient parchment he was taking to Jerusalem, Victor and Vespasia risk their lives to finish his mission and deliver the puzzling document to its home. Pursued by a shadowy figure with evil intent, they embark on a dangerous yet ultimately enlightening pilgrimage to the holy city, where the mysterious message on the parchment may finally be revealed.

Rich in suspense and wonder, *A Christmas Message* is at once a breathtaking adventure story and a poignant meditation on faith and spirituality.

Praise for the Christmas novels of Anne Perry

Perry's Victorian-era holiday mysteries [are] an annual treat. *The Wall Street Journal*

A Christmas Escape

Rivals the classic murder mysteries of Dame Agatha Christie . . . The suspense is built up so well. *Bookreporter*

A New York Christmas

A thoroughly enjoyable mystery set against the wonderful historical backdrop of 1904 New York City at Christmastime. *Library Journal* (starred review)

A Christmas Hope

Very much recommended . . . a wonderful story. *Historical Novel Review*

A Christmas Garland

In Anne Perry's gifted hands, the puzzle plays out brilliantly. *Greensboro News & Record*

A Christmas Homecoming

Could have been devised by Agatha Christie . . . [Perry is] a modern master. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*"

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Publishers Weekly 09/12/2016

Metaphysical concerns weigh down bestseller Perry's unsatisfying 14th Christmas-themed mystery (after 2015's *A Christmas Escape*). In 1900, Victor Narraway, the former head of London's Special Branch, gives his wife, Vespasia, a trip to Jerusalem, a present whose aspiritual resonance surprises her. On a stopover in Jaffa, the pair encounter a kind old man at their hotel, but when they return to their lodging on the following evening, Victor finds the man with his throat slit and his room ransacked. Meanwhile, Victor discovers a piece of parchment in his jacket pocket evidently from the dead man. Folded within the parchment is an unsigned note beseeching Victor to deliver it to a House of Bread on the Via Dolorosa by Christmas Eve. The Narraways feel morally obliged to fulfill the request, a choice that places their lives in danger from a shadowy menace. The heavy-handed spiritual struggle the couple subsequently endures leaves the reader with the sense that the important themes Perry explores would have been better suited to a longer work. *Agent: Donald Maass, Donald Maass Literary. (Nov.)* Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Turbo Twenty-Three

by Janet Evanovich

Published 2016 by Bantam

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780345543004

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

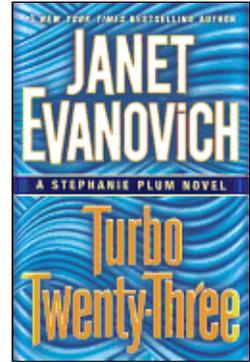
Jacket Notes:

In the heart of Trenton, N.J., a killer is out to make sure someone gets his just desserts.

Larry Virgil skipped out on his latest court date after he was arrested for hijacking an eighteen-wheeler full of premium bourbon. Fortunately for bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, Larry is just stupid enough to attempt almost the exact same crime *again*. Only this time he flees the scene, leaving behind a freezer truck loaded with Bogart ice cream and a dead body frozen solid and covered in chocolate and chopped pecans.

As fate would have it, Stephanie's mentor and occasional employer, Ranger, needs her to go undercover at the Bogart factory to find out who's putting their employees on ice and sabotaging the business. It's going to be hard for Stephanie to keep her hands off all that ice cream, and even harder for her to keep her hands off Ranger. It's also going to be hard to explain to Trenton's hottest cop, Joe Morelli, why she is spending late nights with Ranger, late nights with Lula and Randy Briggs who are naked and afraid and late nights keeping tabs on Grandma Mazur and her new fella. Stephanie Plum has a lot on her plate, but for a girl who claims to have virtually no marketable skills, these are the kinds of *sweet* assignments she does best."

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No Man's Land

by David Baldacci

Published 2016 by Grand Central Publishing

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781455586516

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

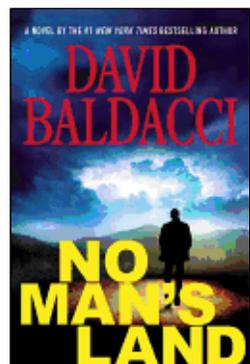
Jacket Notes:

Special Agent John Puller, combat veteran and the army's most tenacious investigator, is back in this action-packed thriller from worldwide #1 bestselling author David Baldacci.

NO MAN'S LAND

Two men. Thirty years.

John Puller's mother, Jackie, vanished thirty years ago from Fort Monroe, Virginia, when Puller was just a boy. Paul Rogers has been in prison for ten years. But twenty years before that, he was at Fort Monroe. One night three decades ago, Puller's and Rogers' worlds collided with devastating results, and the truth has been buried ever since.



Until now.

Military investigators, armed with a letter from a friend of Jackie's, arrive in the hospital room of Puller's father--a legendary three-star now sinking into dementia--and reveal that Puller Sr. has been accused of murdering Jackie.

Aided by his brother Robert Puller, an Air Force major, and Veronica Knox, who works for a shadowy U.S. intelligence organization, Puller begins a journey that will take him into his own past, to find the truth about his mother.

Paul Rogers' time is running out. With the clock ticking, he begins his own journey, one that will take him across the country to the place where all his troubles began: a mysterious building on the grounds of Fort Monroe. There, thirty years ago, the man Rogers had once been vanished too, and was replaced with a monster. And now the monster wants revenge. And the only person standing in his way is John Puller.

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Publishers Weekly 10/10/2016

Bestseller Baldacci makes the implausible plausible in his riveting fourth thriller featuring U.S. Army criminal investigator John Puller (after 2014 as *The Escape*). Thirty years after Puller's mother, Jackie, disappeared from Virginia as Fort Monroe, a neighbor at the time, now terminally ill, has written the authorities to make a devastating claim. Although Puller's soldier father was believed to have been abroad on the fateful night, new evidence has emerged that he was in the vicinity when Jackie vanished, and that coupled with the dying neighbor's belated accusations that he murdered her has led to a reopening of the dormant case. Puller, naturally, ignores requests to stay out of the investigation and finds that some logical avenues of inquiry weren't pursued at the time. Meanwhile, brutal Paul Rogers, who has been discharged from prison, embarks on a quest of his own, whose purposes are initially artfully concealed. Baldacci maintains tension throughout and imbues his characters with enough humanity to make readers care what happens to them. Agent: Aaron Priest, Aaron M. Priest Literary Agency. (Nov.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Chaos

by Patricia Daniels Cornwell

Published 2016 by William Morrow & Company

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780062436689

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Patricia Cornwell returns with the remarkable twenty-fourth thriller in her popular high-stakes series starring medical examiner Dr. Kay Scarpetta.

In the quiet of twilight, on an early autumn day, twenty-six-year-old Elisa Vandersteel is killed while riding her bicycle along the Charles River. It appears she was struck by lightning except the weather is perfectly clear with not a cloud in sight. Dr. Kay Scarpetta, the Cambridge Forensic Center's director and chief, decides at the scene that this is no accidental Act of God.

Her investigation becomes complicated when she begins receiving a flurry of bizarre poems from an anonymous cyberbully who calls himself Tailend Charlie. Though subsequent lab results support Scarpetta's conclusions, the threatening messages don't stop. When the tenth poem arrives exactly twenty-four hours after Elisa's death, Scarpetta begins to suspect the harasser is involved, and sounds the alarm to her investigative partner Pete Marino and her husband, FBI analyst Benton Wesley.

She also enlists the help of her niece, Lucy. But to Scarpetta's surprise, tracking the slippery Tailend Charlie is nearly impossible, even for someone as brilliant as her niece. Also, Lucy can't explain how this anonymous nemesis could have access to private information. To make matters worse, a venomous media is whipping the public into a frenzy, questioning the seasoned forensics chief's judgment and "a quack cause of death on a par with spontaneous combustion."



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Publishers Weekly 09/26/2016

In bestseller Cornwell's uneven 24th Kay Scarpetta novel (after 2015's *Depraved Heart*, the forensic pathologist investigates the bizarre death of 23-year-old Brit Elisa Vandersteelis, who was riding her bicycle in a Cambridge, Mass., park when she suffered a fatal electrical burn that looks like a lightning strike but isn't. Meanwhile, Scarpetta's FBI agent husband, Benton Wesley, is called away on matters of national security, which turn out to involve the sudden death of Gen. John Briggs, a long-time friend of Scarpetta's and one of the backers of her Cambridge Forensic Center. Electricity seemed to play a role in his death, too, making Scarpetta believe there's a connection. Of course, whenever there's a series of suspicious deaths, the specter of Carrie Grethen, Scarpetta's nemesis, isn't far from her thoughts. Coupled with threats she's been receiving from the mysterious Tailend Charlie, these new deaths appear to fit Carrie's MO. Lots of cutting-edge forensic detail and some revelatory character moments help compensate for a plot with only occasional flashes of narrative energy. *Agent: Esther Newberg, ICM. (Nov.)* Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Cross the Line

by James Patterson

Published 2016 by Little Brown and Company

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780316407090

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

In all of Alex Cross's years with Homicide, Washington, DC, has never been more dangerous.

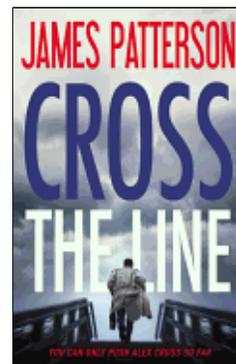
After shots pierce the tranquil nighttime calm of Rock Creek Park, a man is dead: what looks at first like road rage might be something much more sinister. But Alex has only just begun asking questions when he's called across town to investigate a new murder, one that hits close to home: Washington's own chief of detectives. And Alex's former boss, beloved mentor of Alex's wife, Bree.

Now there's a killer on the loose, a long list of possible suspects, a city in panic, and nobody in charge of the besieged police force.

Until Bree gets tapped for the job.

As Bree scrambles to find her footing and close two high-profile cases, new violence stuns the capital. What should be a time for her to rely on Alex for support and cooperation is instead a moment of crisis in their marriage as well as their city when their investigative instincts clash and their relationship reaches a breaking point.

And the fiendish mind behind all the violence has appointed himself judge, jury, and executioner, with a terrifying master plan he's only begun to put in motion. To beat him at his own game, Alex and Bree must take the law back into their own hands before he puts them both out of commission...permanently.

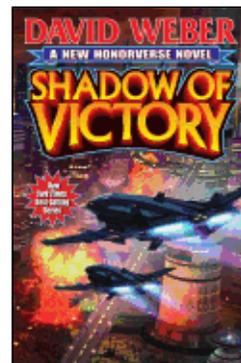


[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Shadow of Victory

by David Weber

Published 2016 by Baen



Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781476781822

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

The Mesan Alignment is revealed, and, for Honor Harrington and the Manticoran Star Kingdom, this means war!

Unintended Consequences

Sometimes things don't work out exactly as planned.

The Mesan Alignment has a plan one it's been working on for centuries. A plan to remake the galaxy and genetically improve the human race *its* way.

Until recently, things have gone pretty much as scheduled, but then the Alignment hit a minor bump in the road called the Star Empire of Manticore. So the Alignment engineered a war between the Solarian League, the biggest and most formidable interstellar power in human history. To help push things along, the Alignment launched a devastating sneak attack which destroyed the Royal Manticoran Navy's industrial infrastructure.

And in order to undercut Manticore's galaxy-wide reputation as a star nation of its word, it launched Operation Janus a false-flag covert operation to encourage rebellions it knows will fail by promising *Manticoran* support. The twin purposes are to harden Solarian determination to destroy the Star Empire once and for all, and to devastate the Star Empire's reputation with the rest of the galaxy.

But even the best laid plans can have unintended consequences, and one of those consequences in this case may just be a new dawn of freedom for oppressed star nations everywhere.

About *Shadow of Freedom*

This entry is just as exciting as Weber's initial offering. . . The result is a fast-paced and action-packed story that follows [our characters] as they move from reaction to command of the situation. Weber builds *Shadow of Freedom* to an exciting and unexpected climax. *Daily News of Galveston*

About *Mission of Honor*, #13 in the Honor Harrington series:

Weber combines realistic, engaging characters with intelligent technological projection and a deep understanding of military bureaucracy in this long-awaited Honor Harrington novel. . . Fans of this venerable space opera will rejoice to see Honor back in action. *Publishers Weekly*

This latest Honor Harrington novel brings the saga to another crucial turning point. . . Readers may feel confident that they will be Honored many more times and enjoy it every time. *Booklist*

About David Weber and the Honor Harrington series:

. . . everything you could want in a heroine . . . Excellent . . . plenty of action. *Science Fiction Age*

Brilliant! Brilliant! Brilliant! Anne McCaffrey

Compelling combat combined with engaging characters for a great space opera adventure. *Locus*"

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War at the Edge of the World: Twilight of Empire: Book One

by Ian James Ross
Published 2015 by Overlook Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781468311211

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

Once a soldier in an elite legion from the Danube, now stuck in Britain's provincial backwater, Castus believes his glory days are over. But fate is about to intervene. When the king of the Picts, the savage people beyond Hadrian's Wall, dies in mysterious circumstances, Castus is selected to command the bodyguard of a Roman envoy sent to negotiate with the barbarians. But the diplomatic mission ends in bloody tragedy. Castus and his men are soon fighting for their lives and the legionary discovers that nothing about his doomed mission was ever what it seemed. "



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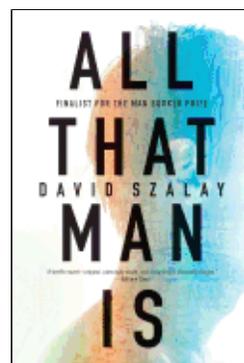
All That Man Is

by David Szalay
Published 2016 by Graywolf Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781555977535

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



Finalist for the 2016 Man Booker Prize

Winner of the 2016 Paris Review Plimpton Prize for Fiction

A magnificent and ambitiously conceived portrait of contemporary life, by a genius of realism

Nine men. Each of them at a different stage in life, each of them away from home, and each of them striving--in the suburbs of Prague, in an overdeveloped Alpine village, beside a Belgian motorway, in a dingy Cyprus hotel--to understand what it means to be alive, here and now. Tracing a dramatic arc from the spring of youth to the winter of old age, the ostensibly separate narratives of *All That Man Is* aggregate into a picture of a single shared existence, a picture that interrogates the state of modern manhood while bringing to life, unforgettably, the physical and emotional terrain of an increasingly globalized Europe. And so these nine lives form an ingenious and new kind of novel, in which David Szalay expertly plots a dark predicament for the twenty-first-century man.

Dark and disturbing, but also often wickedly and uproariously comic, *All That Man Is* is notable for the acute psychological penetration Szalay brings to bear on his characters, from the working-class ex-grunt to the pompous college student, the middle-aged loser to the Russian oligarch. Steadily and mercilessly, as this brilliantly conceived book progresses, the protagonist at the center of each chapter is older than the last one, it gets colder out, and *All That Man Is* gathers exquisite power. Szalay is a writer of supreme gifts--a master of a new kind of realism that vibrates with detail, intelligence, relevance, and devastating pathos.

Publishers Weekly 07/18/2016

Szalay ("London and the South-East" delivers a kaleidoscopic portrayal of nine men at various stages in their lives, each in the throes of extraordinary change. Despite their diverse circumstances, they are all somehow connected, engaged in a search for relevance and dare they even consider its meaning. English teenagers Simon and Ferdinand arrive in Berlin with competing ideas of how best to enjoy their time abroad; Bernard, working halfheartedly in his uncle's window shop outside Lille, France, experiences a life-altering holiday at a Cyprus beach resort; Kristian, a successful Danish tabloid editor, brings down the country's defense minister after an indiscretion; Aleksandr, a disgraced Russian oligarch, contemplates suicide; an aging diplomat considers his mortality while recuperating from a heart operation in an Italian villa and notes, in what could be the book's tagline, "How little we understand about life as it is actually happening. The moments fly past, like trackside pylons seen from a train window." Without exception, the stories are subtle, seductive, poignant, humorous and bear witness to the alienation, self-doubt, and fragmentation of contemporary life; each succeeds on its own while complementing the others. Szalay's riveting prose and his consummate command of structure illuminate the individual while exploring society's unsettling complexity. In 2013, Szalay was named as one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists. This effort exceeds even that lofty expectation. " (Oct.)" Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Association of Small Bombs

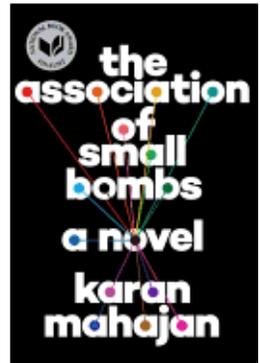
by Karan Mahajan

Published 2016 by Viking

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780525429630

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



National Book Award Finalist

One of the *New York Times* Book Review's Ten Best Books of the Year

A *Washington Post* Notable Fiction Book of 2016

Named a Best Book of 2016 by: *Buzzfeed*, *Esquire*, *New York* magazine, *The Huffington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The AV Club*, *The Fader*, *Redbook*, *Electric Literature*, *Book Riot*, *Bustle*, *Good magazine*, *PureWow*, and *PopSugar*

Longlisted for the FT/Oppenheimer Emerging Voices Award

Wonderful. . . . Smart, devastating, unpredictable, and enviably adept in its handling of tragedy and its fallout. If you enjoy novels that happily disrupt traditional narratives about grief, death, violence, politics I suggest you go out and buy this one. Post haste. Fiona Maazel, *The New York Times Book Review*

Brilliant. . . . Mr. Mahajan's writing is acrid and bracing, tightly packed with dissonant imagery. . . . *The Association of Small Bombs* is not the first novel about the aftermath of a terrorist attack, but it is the finest I've read at capturing the seduction and force of the murderous, annihilating illogic that increasingly consumes the globe. Sam Sacks, *The Wall Street Journal*

[Mahajan's] eagerness to go at the bomb from every angle suggests a voracious approach to fiction-making, a daring imaginative promiscuity that moves beyond the scope of his first, very good novel, *Family Planning*. *The New Yorker*

[A] beautifully written novel. . . . Ambitious. . . . Carries us deep into the human side of a tragedy. *The Washington Post*

For readers of Mohsin Hamid, Dave Eggers, Arundhati Roy, and Teju Cole, *The Association of Small Bombs* is an expansive and deeply humane novel that is at once groundbreaking in its empathy, dazzling in its acuity, and ambitious in scope

When brothers Tushar and Nakul Khurana, two Delhi schoolboys, pick up their family's television set at a repair shop with their friend Mansoor Ahmed one day in 1996, disaster strikes without warning. A bomb one of the many small bombs that go off seemingly unheralded across the world detonates in the Delhi marketplace, instantly claiming the lives of the Khurana boys, to the devastation of their parents. Mansoor survives, bearing the physical and psychological effects of the bomb. After a brief stint at university in America, Mansoor returns to Delhi, where his life becomes entangled with the mysterious and charismatic Ayub, a fearless young activist whose own allegiances and beliefs are more malleable than Mansoor could imagine. Woven among the story of the Khuranas and the Ahmeds is the gripping tale of Shockie, a Kashmiri bomb maker who has forsaken his own life for the independence of his homeland.

Karan Mahajan writes brilliantly about the effects of terrorism on victims and perpetrators, proving himself to be one of the most provocative and dynamic novelists of his generation.

"

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Publishers Weekly 01/25/2016

The disintegration of the lives of both Hindus and Muslims affected by a bomb blast at Lajpat Market in Delhi in 1996 is the subject of Mahajan's second novel (after "Family Planning"). In the aftermath of the violence we follow not only a Muslim boy who survives, Mansoor Ahmed, but his parents; the Hindu parents of Mansoor's two friends killed in the blast; the bomb maker, named Shockie; and several activists who seek justice after the tragedy. The lives of Mansoor's parents and the dead brothers' mother and father unravel, their careers and marriages frayed by grief and anxiety. Mansoor tries to concentrate on his studies in the States, but returns to India and falls in with a charismatic activist called Ayub, soon to be unhinged by a breakup with his upper-class girlfriend. Mahajan's talent is in conveying the sense that the world is gray, not black-and-white, and he accomplishes this by weaving together the evolving motives and passions of his characters so intricately that in the end we see each as culpable, and human. In his searing story, lives (and life itself) are subjected to close inspection and at times discomfition. "(Mar.)" Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Orphans of the Carnival

by Carol Birch

Published 2016 by Doubleday Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780385541527

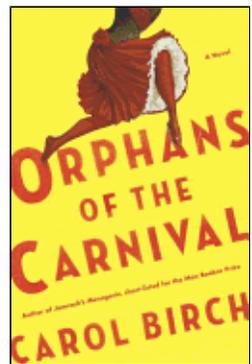
[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

From the Booker short-listed author of *Jamrach's Menagerie* comes the extraordinary, moving, and unsettling tale of a woman, branded a freak from birth, who becomes an international sensation but longs for genuine human connection

London had the best freaks, always had. The Egyptian Hall, the Promenade of Wonders, the Siamese twins, pinheads, midgets, cannibals, giants, living skeletons, the fat, the hairy, the legless, the armless, the noseless, London had seen it all. In the Hall of Ugliness the competition was stiff. But no one had ever seen anything quite like Julia . . .

Pronounced by the most eminent physician of the day to be "a true hybrid wherein the nature of woman presides over that of the brute," Julia Pastrana stood apart from the other carnival acts. She was fluent in English, French and Spanish, an accomplished musician with an exquisite singing voice, equally at ease riding horseback and turning pirouettes but all anyone noticed was her utterly unusual face. Alternately vilified and celebrated, Julia toured through New Orleans, New York, London, Berlin, Vienna, and Moscow, often hobnobbing with high society as she made her fame and fortune.



Beneath the flashy lights and thunderous applause lies a bright, compassionate young woman who only wants people to see beyond her hairy visage and perhaps, the chance for love. When Julia visits a mysterious shaman in the back alleys of New Orleans, he gives her a potion and says that she'll find a man within the year. Sure enough, Julia soon meets Theodore Lent, a boyishly charming showman who catapults Julia onto the global stage. As they travel the world, the two fall into an easy intimacy, but the question of whether Theo truly cares for Julia or if his management is just a gentler form of exploitation lingers heavily with every kind word and soft embrace.

Stunningly written and deeply compelling, *Orphans of the Carnival* is a haunting examination of how we define ourselves and, ultimately, of what it means to be human."

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 09/26/2016

Birch's vivid novel is about the life of an infamous Mexican orphan named Julia Pastrana. The performer (based on a real person who lived from 1834 to 1860) first appeared on the carnival stage in New Orleans in the mid-1800s. She was a slight girl with delicate feet who sang, danced, and spoke several languages. Sheas also described as having the face of an ape, her body covered with hair (aaaltas not fur, a she always scolded, aitas hair.aaa). As in her previous novel, the Booker-nominated *Jamrachas Menagerie* Birch follows a forgotten historical figure living in an age when Darwin was the rage and the boundaries of society were strict. Julia seemed an ordinary girl who worked hard to perfect her act as she traveled the world, from New York to London, Berlin to St. Petersburg. Though itas arguable that sheas not being exploited by the minders, rubes, and carnival folk with whom she travels, Julia accepts the dastardly marriage proposal of Theo Lent, her manager. Along the road, Julia and Theo meet many colorful people, some grand and some who cannot come to terms with what Julia is. Woven into this historical narrative is the story of a 21st-century girl called Rose, an endearing hoarder who has found a doll in a rubbish bin in London that was once a beloved possession of Juliaas. Rose is a memorable character, and the rest of the cast of misfits, dolls, and bad guys are just as full of nuance. Among the novelas many pleasures are Birchas compelling turns of phrase, and an immersive, melancholy milieu. (Nov.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Ornatrix

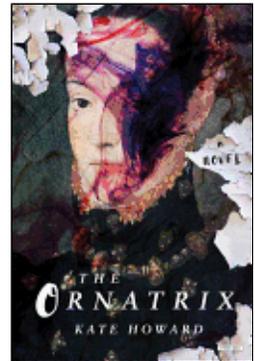
by Kate Howard

Published 2016 by Overlook Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781468313826

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



In this exquisitely dark debut, Kate Howard delivers a stirring tale on the cost of beauty, packed with suspense and period detail worthy of Kate Mosse, Jessie Burton, and Tracy Chevalier.

Cursed from birth by the bird-shaped blemish across her face, Flavia spends much of her life hidden from the outside world. Lonely and alienated even from her family, she sabotages her sister s wedding in a fit of jealous rage and is exiled to serve in the convent of Santa Giuliana. Soon she finds that another exile dwells in the convent: a former Venetian courtesan named Ghostanza whose ostentatious appearance clashes with the otherwise austere convent and sparks gossip throughout the town. When Ghostanza claims Flavia as her ornatrix her personal hairdresser and handmaid Flavia is pulled into a world of glamor and concealment where admiration is everything and perfection is the ultimate, elusive goal. And she soon finds that with beauty in her grasp, in the form of the poisonous but stunning white lead cerussa, Flavia will do anything to leave her marked face behind.

Rich in description and character, Kate Howard s stunning novel is painted against a vivid historical landscape with themes and characters relevant today, tackling issues of belonging, female identity, and the perception of beauty.

"

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Cover Me in Darkness: A Mystery

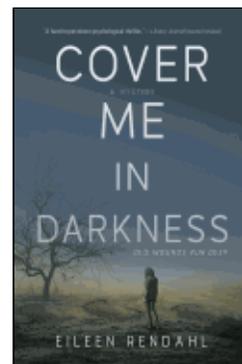
by Eileen Rendahl

Published 2016 by Midnight Ink

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9780738750200

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



Amanda Sinclair has to fight harder than most for everything she has after fleeing the cult that left her brother dead at her mother's hand. Amanda works a quiet job in quality control for a small cosmetics company, trying to leave her past behind her—until she learns that her mother has committed suicide in the mental ward where she's been locked away for the past ten years.

But when Amanda receives her mother's personal belongings, she finds a troubling connection to the upcoming parole hearing for cult leader Patrick Collier. And then troubling things begin happening to Amanda herself. Teaming up with her mother's psychologist, Amanda starts to peel away the layers of secrets that she's built between herself and her own past, and what she finds is a truth that's almost too big to believe.

Praise:

"A hard-to-put-down psychological thriller."—*Library Journal* (starred review)

"Dark and charged from the start, *Cover Me in Darkness* . . . is an excellent new novel by a confident writer."—*ForeWord Reviews*

"Readers who stick it out are rewarded with a sudden, pulse-pounding conclusion . . . leaving readers satisfied."—*RT Book Reviews*

"Unlikely allies drive a story in which Rendahl never lets her heroine escape her past."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Disturbing."—*Publishers Weekly*

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/24/2016

In this disturbing suspense novel from Rendahl (*Kernel of Truth* as Kristi Abbott), Lisa Framingham's apparent suicide shocks her daughter, Amanda Sinclair, a lab tech at Chicago-based Bellefontaine Cosmetics. Years before, when Amanda was 17, she and her mother had been members of Patrick Collier's cult, Children of the Greater God, until Lisa, who had mental health problems, killed Amanda's three-year-old brother and was institutionalized. Meanwhile, Collier is now up for parole as he nears the end of a prison sentence for misuse of church funds. Among Lisa's meager belongings, Amanda discovers items that make her think her mother was murdered. Threats start to come in as her investigation deepens. Amanda finds solace in her job, doing product tests that could significantly boost Bellefontaine's fortunes, until she uncovers a problem there as well. Pressure at work and home unexpectedly conjoin, driving emotionally fragile Amanda to the brink as the book builds to its melodramatic finish. (*Dec.*) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

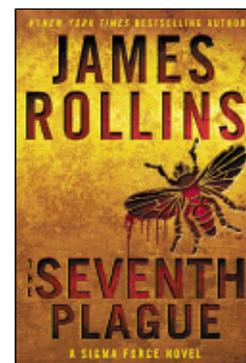
Seventh Plague

by James Rollins
Published 2016 by William Morrow & Company

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780062381682

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



In a breathtaking blend of scientific intrigue and historical mystery, #1 *New York Times* bestselling mastermind, James Rollins, reveals an ancient threat hidden within the pages of the Bible, one that threatens the modern world in *The Seventh Plague*

If the biblical plagues of Egypt truly happened could they happen again on a global scale?

Two years after vanishing into the Sudanese desert, the leader of a British archeological expedition, Professor Harold McCabe, comes stumbling out of the sands, frantic and delirious, but he dies before he can tell his story. The mystery deepens when an autopsy uncovers a bizarre corruption: someone had begun to mummify the professor's body while he was still alive.

His strange remains are returned to London for further study, when alarming news arrives from Egypt. The medical team who had performed the man's autopsy has fallen ill with an unknown disease, one that is quickly spreading throughout Cairo. Fearing the worst, a colleague of the professor reaches out to a longtime friend: Painter Crowe, the director of Sigma Force. The call is urgent, for Professor McCabe had vanished into the desert while searching for proof of the ten plagues of Moses. As the pandemic grows, a disturbing question arises.

Are those plagues starting again?

Before Director Crowe can investigate, a mysterious group of assassins leaves behind a fiery wake of destruction and death, erasing all evidence. With the professor's body incinerated, his home firebombed, Sigma Force must turn to the archaeologist's only daughter, Jane McCabe, for help. While sifting through what's left of her father's work, she discovers a puzzling connection tying the current threat to a shocking historical mystery, one involving the travels of Mark Twain, the genius of Nikola Tesla, and the adventures of famous explorer Henry Morgan Stanley.

To unravel a secret going back millennia, Director Crowe and Commander Grayson Pierce will be thrust to opposite sides of the globe. One will search for the truth, traveling from the plague-ridden streets of Cairo to a vast ancient tomb buried under the burning sands of the Sudan; the other will struggle to stop a mad genius locked within a remote Arctic engineering complex, risking the lives of all those he holds dear.

As the global crisis grows ever larger, Sigma Force will confront a threat born of the ancient past and made real by the latest science a danger that will unleash a cascading series of plagues, culminating in a scourge that could kill all of the world's

children . . . decimating humankind forever.

"

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/31/2016

Bestseller Rollinsas epic 12th Sigma Force adventure (after *The Bone Labyrinth* features exotic locales, heroic quests, quixotic villains, action galore, and enough science and scientific curiosities to titillate even casual readers. Archeologist Harold McCabe, who has been missing for two years, suddenly emerges from the Egyptian desert near death and dies before being able to say where he has been and what has happened. McCabe's body seems to be the source of a deadly pathogen that threatens to cause a pandemic. That threat sends one team including McCabe's daughter, Jean McCabe; bio-archaeologist Derek Rankin; and Sigma Force operative named Seichan and Commander Grayson Piercea to Egypt and Sudan. Meanwhile, Safia al-Maaz, a senior curator at the British Museum, is kidnapped while speaking with Sigma Force director Painter Crowe in Washington, D.C., and Painter follows that line, which leads to the Arctic and a huge installation run by billionaire Simon Hartnell. A Russian assassin, Valya Mikhailov, matches skills and wits with Seichan, while Valya's assassin twin brother, Anton, does likewise with Crowe. Rollinsas characters are as large as his landscape in this vast and vastly entertaining thriller saga. *Agents: Russ Galen, Scovil Galen Ghost Literary Agency; and Danny Baror, Baror International. (Dec.)*
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Invisible Life of Ivan Isaenko

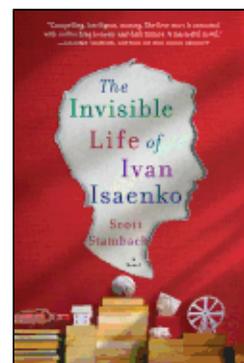
by Scott Stambach

Published 2016 by St. Martin's Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781250081865

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



The Fault In Our Stars* meets *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

Seventeen-year-old Ivan Isaenko is a life-long resident of the Mazyr Hospital for Gravely Ill Children in Belarus. For the most part, every day is exactly the same for Ivan, which is why he turns everything into a game, manipulating people and events around him for his own amusement.

Until Polina arrives.

She steals his books. She challenges his routine. The nurses like her.

She is exquisite. Soon, he cannot help being drawn to her and the two forge a romance that is tenuous and beautiful and everything they never dared dream of. Before, he survived by being utterly detached from things and people. Now, Ivan wants something more: Ivan wants Polina to live.

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Publishers Weekly 05/16/2016

Stambach's impressive, well-structured debut is set at the Mazyr Hospital for Gravely Ill Children in Belarus. Seventeen-year-old Ivan Isaenko has lived there all his life. Due to the Chernobyl disaster just before his birth, Ivan has no legs, one arm, a hand with a thumb and two fingers, and a droopy face that makes it difficult to speak or smile. Unlike many of his fellow patients, Ivan is self-aware and stubborn, as he describes in one of his amusing short lists: aThere are two things I've learned... (A) I can eventually... learn to do just about anything with only one arm... and (B) if there is a God, then I should thank Him for my thumb, since it is the only thing that makes (A) possible.a Ivan's clever, bleak observations about life at the hospital and an underfunded post-Soviet hell mitigated only by the inexhaustible kindness of the maternal nurse Natalya Beneshenko make up the book's first half. In the second, he

narrates his love affair with Polina Pushkin, a recently orphaned 16-year-old dying of leukemia. Through their romance built on mischief, Russian literature, and a need for recognition, Ivan begins to grapple with his fears and take responsibility for his future. Stambachas surprising, empathetic novel takes on heavy themes of illness, suffering, religion, patience, and purpose, with a balanced mix of humor and heart. "Agent: Victoria Sanders, Victoria Sanders & Associates. (Aug.)" Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Civilwarland in Bad Decline: Stories and a Novella

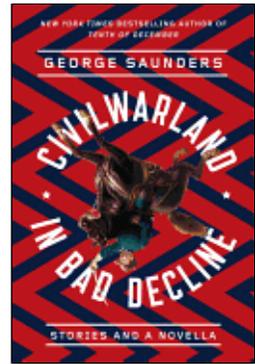
by George Saunders

Published 2016 by Random House Trade

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9780812987683

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



Since its publication in 1996, George Saunders s debut collection has grown in esteem from a cherished cult classic to a masterpiece of the form, inspiring an entire generation of writers along the way. In six stories and a novella, Saunders hatches an unforgettable cast of characters, each struggling to survive in an increasingly haywire world. With a new introduction by Joshua Ferris and a new author s note by Saunders himself, this edition is essential reading for those seeking to discover or revisit a virtuosic, disturbingly prescient voice.

Praise for George Saunders and *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*

It s no exaggeration to say that short story master George Saunders helped change the trajectory of American fiction. ***The Wall Street Journal***

Saunders s satiric vision of America is dark and demented; it s also ferocious and very funny. **Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

George Saunders is a writer of arresting brilliance and originality, with a sure sense of his material and apparently inexhaustible resources of voice. [*CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*] is scary, hilarious, and unforgettable. **Tobias Wolff**

Saunders makes the all-but-impossible look effortless. **Jonathan Franzen**

Not since Twain has America produced a satirist this funny. **Zadie Smith**

An astoundingly tuned voice graceful, dark, authentic, and funny telling just the kinds of stories we need to get us through these times. **Thomas Pynchon**

"

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Survivor's Guide to Family Happiness

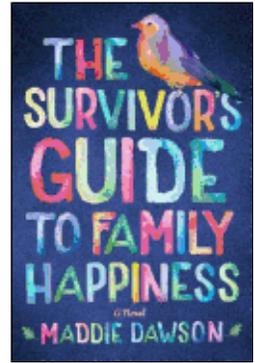
by Maddie Dawson

Published 2016 by Lake Union Publishing

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781503939103

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



Three women, three lives, and one chance to become a family whether they want to or not.

Newly orphaned, recently divorced, and semiadrift, Nina Popkin is on a search for her birth mother. She's spent her life looking into strangers' faces, fantasizing they're related to her, and now, at thirty-five, she's ready for answers.

Meanwhile, the last thing Lindy McIntyre wants is someone like Nina bursting into her life, announcing that they're sisters and campaigning to track down their mother. She's too busy with her successful salon, three children, beautiful home, and oh yes, some pesky little anxiety attacks.

But Nina is determined to reassemble her birth family. Her search turns up Phoebe Mullen, a guarded, hard-talking woman convinced she has nothing to offer. Gradually sharing stories and secrets, the three women make for a messy, unpredictable family that looks nothing like Nina pictured but may be exactly what she needs. Nina's moving, ridiculous, tragic, and transcendent journey becomes a love story proving that real family has nothing to do with DNA.

"

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Education of Dixie Dupree

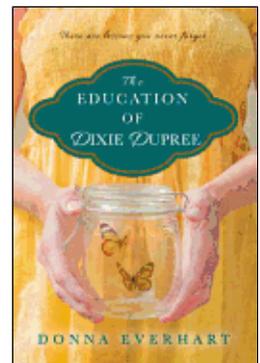
by Donna Everhart

Published 2016 by Kensington Publishing Corporation

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781496705518

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



In 1969, Dixie Dupree is eleven years old and already an expert liar. Sometimes the lies are for her mama, Evie's sake to explain away a bruise brought on by her quick-as-lightning temper. And sometimes the lies are to spite Evie, who longs to leave her unhappy marriage in Perry County, Alabama, and return to her beloved New Hampshire. But for Dixie and her brother, Alabama is home, a place of pine-scented breezes and hot, languid afternoons.

Though Dixie is learning that the family she once believed was happy has deep fractures, even her vivid imagination couldn't concoct the events about to unfold. Dixie records everything in her diary: her parents' fights, her father's drinking and his unexplained departure, and the arrival of Uncle Ray. Only when Dixie desperately needs help and is met with disbelief does she realize how much damage her past lies have done. But she has courage and a spirit that may yet prevail, forcing secrets into the open and allowing her to forgive and become whole again.

Narrated by her young heroine in a voice as sure and resonant as *The Secret Life of Bees* Lily or *Bastard Out of Carolina*'s Bone, Donna Everhart's

remarkable debut is a story about mothers and daughters, the guilt and pain that pass between generations, and the truths that are impossible to hide, especially from ourselves."

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Do Not Say We Have Nothing

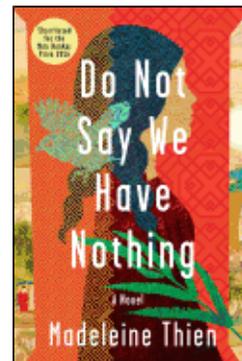
by Madeleine Thien

Published 2016 by W. W. Norton & Company

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780393609882

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:



In a single year, my father left us twice. The first time, to end his marriage, and the second, when he took his own life. I was ten years old.

Master storyteller Madeleine Thien takes us inside an extended family in China, showing us the lives of two successive generations those who lived through Mao's Cultural Revolution and their children, who became the students protesting in Tiananmen Square. At the center of this epic story are two young women, Marie and Ai-Ming. Through their relationship Marie strives to piece together the tale of her fractured family in present-day Vancouver, seeking answers in the fragile layers of their collective story. Her quest will unveil how Kai, her enigmatic father, a talented pianist, and Ai-Ming's father, the shy and brilliant composer, Sparrow, along with the violin prodigy Zhuli were forced to reimagine their artistic and private selves during China's political campaigns and how their fates reverberate through the years with lasting consequences.

With maturity and sophistication, humor and beauty, Thien has crafted a novel that is at once intimate and grandly political, rooted in the details of life inside China yet transcendent in its universality.

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