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KPL Fiction Spotlight May 2017

Transit

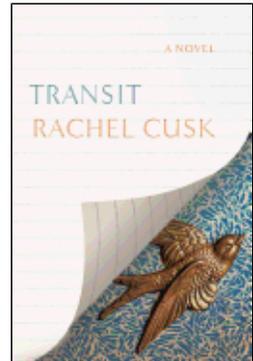
by Rachel Cusk

Published 2017 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780374278625

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

Jacket Notes:



The stunning second novel of a trilogy that began with *Outline*, one of *The New York Times Book Review's* ten best books of 2015

In the wake of her family's collapse, a writer and her two young sons move to London. The process of this upheaval is the catalyst for a number of transitions--personal, moral, artistic, and practical--as she endeavors to construct a new reality for herself and her children. In the city, she is made to confront aspects of living that she has, until now, avoided, and to consider questions of vulnerability and power, death and renewal, in what becomes her struggle to reattach herself to, and believe in, life.

Filtered through the impersonal gaze of its keenly intelligent protagonist, *Transit* sees Rachel Cusk delve deeper into the themes first raised in her critically acclaimed novel *Outline* and offers up a penetrating and moving reflection on childhood and fate, the value of suffering, the moral problems of personal responsibility, and the mystery of change.

In this second book of a precise, short, yet epic cycle, Cusk describes the most elemental experiences, the liminal qualities of life. She captures with unsettling restraint and honesty the longing to both inhabit and flee one's life, and the wrenching ambivalence animating our desire to feel real.

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Publishers Weekly 10/24/2016

Cusk's outstanding latest, the second in a trilogy, works as both a companion piece to the superb *Outline* and as an independent narrative, following Faye, a writer and teacher, who moves to London with her two young sons after a divorce. As in *Outline*, Faye's arc is less about plotted action and is more a series of vignettes, focused this time on long conversations about the ways we journey through life. During these chats, her hairdresser reveals his confrontation with fear and being unwanted one New Year's Eve, and an author, while speaking on a panel with Faye at a literary festival, talks about the fame he has received by revealing personal stories. A construction worker soundproofing her floors talks with Faye about architecture and broken families, and a potential student discusses her obsession with an obscure painter, and how her love for him sprung from the ashes of a failed attempted affair. As always, Cusk's ear for language and dialogue is sharp; her characters speak about universal ideas, such as anxiety and lust. This marvelous novel continues the author's vivid exploration of the human condition. (*Jan.*)

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Murder with Macaroni and Cheese (Second book in the Mahalia Watkins Mystery series)

by A L Herbert

Published 2016 by Kensington Publishing Corporation

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781617731761

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

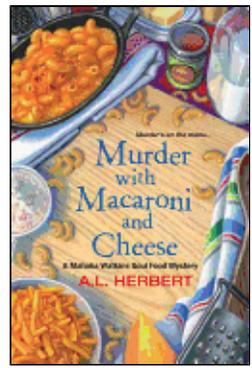
Jacket Notes:

Mahalia's Sweet Tea is known for serving the best soul food in Prince George's County, Maryland. But owner Halia also likes to indulge in some a la carte detective work. Can she solve the murder of a former mean girl when a high school reunion takes a deadly turn?

When the organizing committee for her upcoming high school reunion desperately needs a caterer, Halia agrees to help out. Soon she's serving up her signature macaroni and cheese and famous chicken wings to a host of appreciative ex-classmates. Some folks have blossomed since graduation. Others, like manipulative Raynell Rollins, currently married to a former football star, haven't changed nearly enough.

When Raynell is found dead the morning after the reunion, the roll call of possible suspects could fill the school gymnasium. Extra-marital affairs, mega-church scandals and sports secrets Raynell had her perfectly manicured hand in a lot of sticky situations. With her cousin Wavonne's bungling assistance and a helping of unwelcome dating advice from her mother, Celia Halia is on course to track down the killer, before she becomes the alumna most likely to meet an untimely end.

Features delicious recipes from Mahalia's Sweet Tea, including Double Crust Chicken Pot Pie and Chocolate Marshmallow Cake!"



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 07/04/2016

Sweet-tart and wickedly wholesome as the heroine's fresh citrus margaritas, Hubert's second book follows the surefire recipe of the series opener, 2015's *Murder with Fried Chicken and Waffles*. The menu's sure to include mayhem when 40-something Halia Watkins, proprietor of Mahalia's Sweet Tea in Maryland's Prince George's County, agrees to cater her high school reunion, despite nightmare memories of organizer Raynell Rollins. Now a rich realtor, Raynell has a fatal fall post-reunion. The cops call the death accidental, but folks with motive to kill abound. Cue bighearted Halia to suss out the murderer, "helped" by her hilarious trash-talking young cousin, Wavonne, who mainly sleuths Raynell's closets for designer duds. Hubert's African-American cast and culture offer refreshing spins on the default white tropes of cozy fiction. Instead of a

jumble sale at the rectory, there's a high-end charity auction at the Rebirth megachurch. Diet-busting recipes punctuate the action. *Agent: Deborah Schneider, Gelfman Schneider/ICM Partners. (Sept.)*

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Kill the Father (First book in the Caselli and Torre series)

by Sandrone Dazieri

Published 2017 by Scribner Book Company

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781501130731

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

Jacket Notes:

In this fascinatingly complex thriller, two people, each shattered by their past, team to solve a series of killings and abductions--a ruthlessly planned escalation that turns out to be merely the visible surface of something far more sinister.

When a woman is beheaded in a park outside Rome and her six-year-old son goes missing, the police unit assigned to the case sees an easy solution: they arrest the woman's husband and await his confession. But the chief of Rome's major crimes unit doubts things are so simple. Secretly, he lures to the case two of Italy's top analytical minds: Deputy Captain Colomba Caselli, a fierce, warrior-like detective still reeling from having survived a bloody catastrophe, and Dante Torre, a man who spent his childhood trapped inside a concrete silo. Fed by the gloved hand of a masked kidnapper who called himself "the Father," Dante emerged from his ordeal with crippling claustrophobia but, also, with an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and hyperobservant capacities.

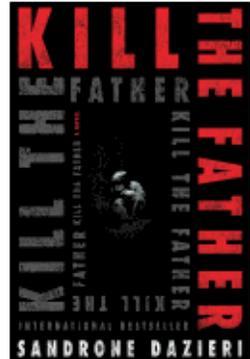
All evidence suggests that the Father is back and active after being dormant for decades. Indeed, he has left telltale signs that signal he's looking forward to a reunion with Dante. But when Colomba and Dante begin following the ever-more-bizarre trail of clues, they grasp that what's really going on is darker than they ever imagined.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/10/2016

Dazieri's dazzling U.S. debut, the first in a series, introduces Deputy Capt. Colomba Caselli, a Rome police detective recuperating from major work-related PTSD, and Dante Torre, a near-incapacitated claustrophobic private consultant on missing-person cases. Caselli, who's tough as nails but deeply injured by guilt over her role in a Paris bombing, is contemplating resigning from the police, but she feels she owes it to her boss to investigate the decapitation of a young mother and the disappearance of the woman's preteen son. Torre is drawn into the case because in his own youth he was held captive for years in a silo by an unknown captor he called Father. Torre and Colomba, both driven by rage and revenge, make a convoluted descent into an abyss of child abductions, gang-related crime, government cover-ups, and international terrorism. Told in brutal, often wrenching detail, this is not an odyssey for the faint of heart. *Agent: Laura Grandi, Grandi e Associati (Italy). (Jan.)*

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History of Wolves

by Emily Fridlund

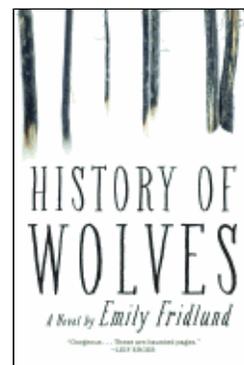
Published 2017 by Atlantic Monthly Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780802125873

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

Jacket Notes:

"So delicately calibrated and precisely beautiful that one might not immediately sense the sledgehammer of pain building inside this book. And I mean that in the best way. What powerful tension and depth this provides!"--Aimee Bender



Fourteen-year-old Linda lives with her parents in the beautiful, austere woods of northern Minnesota, where their nearly abandoned commune stands as a last vestige of a lost counter-culture world. Isolated at home and an outlander at school, Linda is drawn to the enigmatic, attractive Lily and new history teacher Mr. Grierson. When Mr. Grierson is charged with possessing child pornography, the implications of his arrest deeply affect Linda as she wrestles with her own fledgling desires and craving to belong.

And then the young Gardner family moves in across the lake and Linda finds herself welcomed into their home as a babysitter for their little boy, Paul. It seems that her life finally has purpose but with this new sense of belonging she is also drawn into secrets she doesn't understand. Over the course of a few days, Linda makes a set of choices that reverberate throughout her life. As she struggles to find a way out of the sequestered world into which she was born, Linda confronts the life-and-death consequences of the things people do--and fail to do--for the people they love.

Winner of the McGinnis-Ritchie award for its first chapter, Emily Fridlund's propulsive and gorgeously written *History of Wolves* introduces a new writer of enormous range and talent.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/03/2016

In Fridlund's stellar debut novel, 14-year-old Linda, an observant loner growing up in the Minnesota woods, becomes intrigued with the Gardners, the young family that moves in across the lake from her home. As she gets to know them, she realizes that something is amiss. Having been raised in a commune by unconventional parents, Linda is prone to provocative statements and challenging authority. She's also fascinated by the scandal that occurs when Lily Holburn, a student at her school, accuses a teacher, Adam Grierson, of inappropriate behavior but then recants her testimony. At the same time, Linda forges a friendship with the comparatively worldly Patra Gardner and her endearing four-year-old, Paul, whom Linda babysits for a summer before his sudden and mysterious death. Matters take a curious turn once Patra's husband, an older man named Leo, returns after months away at work. Fridlund expertly laces Linda's possessive protectiveness for Patra with something darker, bordering on romantic jealousy. A sense of foreboding subtly permeates the story as Fridlund slowly reveals what happened to Paul. Her wordsmithing is fantastic, rife with vivid turns of phrase. Fridlund has elegantly crafted a striking protagonist whose dark leanings cap off the tragedy at the heart of this book, which is moving and disturbing, and which will stay with the reader. *Agent: Nicole Aragi, Aragi Inc. (Jan.)*

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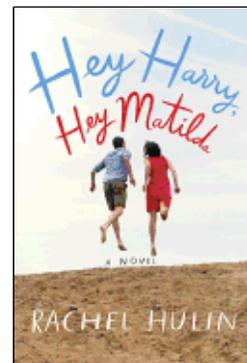
Hey Harry, Hey Matilda

by Rachel Hulin

Published 2017 by Doubleday Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780385541671

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



Jacket Notes:

***Hey Harry, Hey Matilda* is the story told entirely in hilarious emails of fraternal twins Harry and Matilda Goodman as they fumble into adulthood, telling lies and keeping secrets, and finally confronting their complicated twinship.**

Matilda Goodman is an underemployed wedding photographer grappling with her failure to live as an artist and the very bad lie she has told her boyfriend (that she has a dead twin). Harry, her (totally alive) brother, is an untenured professor of literature, anxiously contemplating his publishing status (unpublished) and sleeping with a student. When Matilda invites her boyfriend home for Thanksgiving to meet the family, and when Harry makes a desperate and unethical move to save his career, they set off an avalanche of shame, scandal, and drunken hot tub revelations that force them to examine the truth about who they really are. A wonderfully subversive, sensitive novel of romantic entanglement and misguided ambition, *Hey Harry, Hey Matilda* is a joyful look at love and family in all its forms."

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/17/2016

In her debut novel, Hulin explores the complicated relationship between 32-year-old fraternal twins, Harry and Matilda Goodman, through their email correspondence. Matilda is an eccentric Brooklyn-based wedding photographer, and Harry is an English professor at a Connecticut university hoping to publish and procure tenure. The content of their emails spans their daily experiences, worries about the future, and memories. They share secrets Matilda admits that she told her boyfriend that her twin had died; Harry confides in her after making an unethical move in his career while avoiding other secrets. Their messages are often laugh-out-loud funny, as when Matilda recounts the weddings she photographs, and when they forward each other emails from their philosophizing, self-absorbed father. As the siblings meander through various topics, some messages seem superfluously detailed; however, this slowly leads to a disclosure that puts their correspondence into a different light. Visual cues seem integral to Hulin's project as Matilda illustrates feelings with diagrams, and photographs separate each section. Though the narrative is constrained by the epistolary form, even when the twins prompt each other to write a scene alike a movie or alike a story, the book is an entertaining caper and a thought-provoking look at family, memory, and the complexities of love. (*Jan.*) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Human Acts

by Han Kang

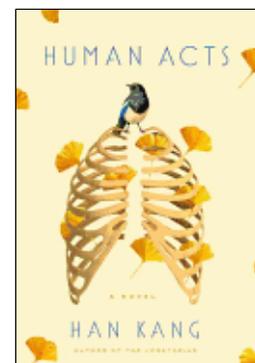
Published 2017 by Hogarth Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781101906729

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

Jacket Notes:

From the internationally bestselling author of *THE VEGETARIAN*, a "rare and astonishing" (*The Observer*) portrait of political unrest and the universal struggle for justice



In the midst of a violent student uprising in South Korea, a young boy named Dong-ho is shockingly killed.

The story of this tragic episode unfolds in a sequence of interconnected chapters as the victims and the bereaved encounter suppression, denial, and the echoing agony of the massacre. From Dong-ho's best friend who meets his own fateful end; to an editor struggling against censorship; to a prisoner and a factory worker, each suffering from traumatic memories; and to Dong-ho's own grief-stricken mother; and through their collective heartbreak and acts of hope is the tale of a brutalized people in search of a voice.

An award-winning, controversial bestseller, *HUMAN ACTS* is a timeless, pointillist portrait of an historic event with reverberations still being felt today,

by turns tracing the harsh reality of oppression and the resounding, extraordinary poetry of humanity.

Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 07/04/2016

After winning the Man Booker International Prize for *The Vegetarian*, Han has written a harrowing second novel that traces the long-term reverberations from South Korea's 1980 Gwangju Uprising, in which government troops killed anywhere between 200 and 2,000 civilians in the chaos following the assassination of President Park Chung-hee in 1979. The story opens in that fateful year with Dong-ho, a 15-year-old boy searching for his friend Jeong-Dae while tending to the bodies of protestors in the municipal gymnasium, helping family members identify and claim them. But Dong-ho is soon another casualty in the violence, and the novel, structured in linked stories, traverses the subsequent years to document the aftermath of Dong-ho's death. The story is told in a combination of first-, second-, and third-person narration by those who knew Dong-ho, and it includes Jeong-Dae's life after death, a book editor's fight against censorship, a prisoner's recollection of his captivity and torture, a former factory worker whose memories of the violence are brought up when an author needs her as a "witness," and Dong-ho's mother, remembering her son 30 years after his death. In the final chapter, Han herself reveals her connection to Dong-ho. Han's novel is an attempt to verbalize something unspeakable, and her characters often find themselves adrift decades after the event. But she humanizes the terrible violence by focusing on the more mundane aspects: tending and transporting bodies, or attempting to work an ordinary job years later. And by placing the reader in the wake of Dong-ho's memory, preserved by his family and friends, Han has given a voice to those who were lost in the Gwangju Uprising. (Jan.)

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In the Light of the Garden

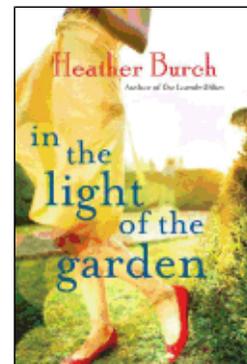
by Heather Burch

Published 2017 by Lake Union Publishing

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781503941144

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

Jacket Notes:



***In the Light of the Garden* is a novel about unearthed family secrets, the enchantment of past loves, and the indelible power of forgiveness.**

Inheriting her grandparents' island estate on Florida's Gulf coast is a special kind of homecoming for thirty-one-year-old Charity Baxter. Raised by a narcissistic single mother, Charity's only sense of a loving home comes from childhood summers spent with Gramps and Grandma. But piercing her fondest memories is her sharpest grief--the death of her beloved grandmother, when Charity stopped believing in the magical healing power of the weeping willow that still casts a shadow on their property.

Now that Charity has returned, she's full of longing and regret, until she befriends her neighbor Dalton Reynolds, who has come to Gaslamp Island carrying his own heartache. As other exiles arrive--a great uncle harboring secrets, a teenage runaway--Charity begins to reconsider what makes a family. When her own estranged mother shows up in crisis, Charity is challenged to search her heart for forgiveness. But forgiving herself may require a little magic from the last place she'd expect to find it.

Read or Write a Comment ►

Ocean of Storms

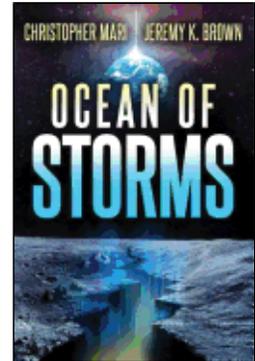
by Christopher Mari

Published 2016 by 47north

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781503938779

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

Jacket Notes:



In the near future, political tensions between the United States and China are at an all-time high. Then a catastrophic explosion on the moon cleaves a vast gash in the lunar surface, and the massive electromagnetic pulse it unleashes obliterates Earth's electrical infrastructure. To plumb the depths of the newly created lunar fissure and excavate the source of the power surge, the feuding nations are forced to cooperate on a high-risk mission to return mankind to the moon.

Now, a diverse, highly skilled ensemble of astronauts--and a pair of maverick archaeologists plucked from the Peruvian jungle--will brave conspiracy on Earth and disaster in space to make a shocking discovery.

Ocean of Storms is an epic adventure that spans space and time as its heroes race to fulfill an ancient mission that may change the course of humanity's future.

Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 10/24/2016

Stock characters in a stock setting will disappoint readers of this near-future thriller. The entire Earth is rocked by a devastating electromagnetic pulse that kills thousands and creates global panic. After electrical systems come back online, scientists determine that the EMP was caused by something beneath the Moon's surface, probably the product of alien intelligence. The U.S. and China race to get there first and investigate. There are predictable setbacks along the way for the American effort, indications that not all Americans are on board with the plan, and escalating tensions between the two countries over Taiwan. The astronauts' discovery of what's on the Moon will feel anticlimactic to anyone familiar with the genre. The writing is mostly solid, suggesting that given a less derivative story the writers could produce a more satisfying novel, but some distracting lapses and the well-worn plot are discouraging. (*Nov.*)

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Time of Death

(First book in the Stillwater General Mystery series)

by Lucy Kerr

Published 2016 by Crooked Lane Books

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781629539911

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

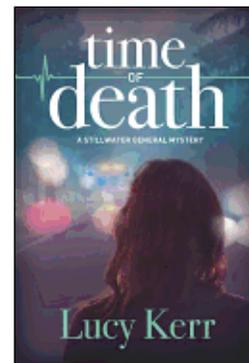
Jacket Notes:

It's been twelve years since ER nurse Frankie Stapleton fled the quiet banks of Stillwater, but with her sister's pregnancy taking a dangerous turn and a string of failed relationships in Chicago hanging over her, Frankie is back-and hoping to put the past behind her. Within minutes of arriving at Stillwater General Hospital however, she ends up saving a man's life, only to have him turn up dead hours later - and the hospital blames Frankie.

Her instincts say Clem Jensen didn't die of natural causes, but the more she digs, the more she discovers too many suspects, a few surprising allies, and some hard truths about the first man she ever loved-and left. Now the boy she once knew is a skeptical sheriff's deputy, her family's hardware store is in jeopardy, and the rift between Frankie and her loved ones is deeper than ever.

With her career-and future-on life support, Frankie must catch a killer, clear her name, and heal the wounds of the past in Lucy Kerr's enthralling mystery debut, *Time of Death*.

[Read or Write a Comment ▶](#)



Lincoln in the Bardo

by George Saunders

Published 2017 by Random House

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780812995343

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

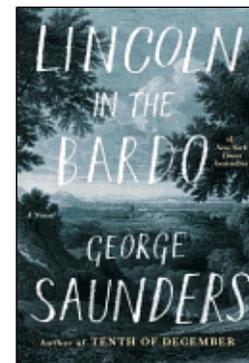
Jacket Notes:

The long-awaited first novel from the author of *Tenth of December* a moving and original father-son story featuring none other than Abraham Lincoln, as well as an unforgettable cast of supporting characters, living and dead, historical and invented

February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies upstairs in the White House, gravely ill. In a matter of days, despite predictions of a recovery, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. "My poor boy, he was too good for this earth," the president says at the time. "God has called him home." Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body.

From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story of familial love and loss that breaks free of its realistic, historical framework into a supernatural realm both hilarious and terrifying. Willie Lincoln finds himself in a strange purgatory where ghosts mingle, gripe, commiserate, quarrel, and enact bizarre acts of penance. Within this transitional state--called, in the Tibetan tradition, the bardo--a monumental struggle erupts over young Willie's soul.

Lincoln in the Bardo is an astonishing feat of imagination and a bold step forward from one of the most important and influential writers of his generation. Formally daring, generous in spirit, deeply concerned with matters of the heart, it is a testament to fiction's ability to speak honestly and powerfully to the things that really matter to us. Saunders has invented a thrilling new form that deploys a kaleidoscopic, theatrical panorama of voices to ask a timeless, profound question: How do we live and love when we know that everything we love must end?



Praise for *Lincoln in the Bardo*

"A luminous feat of generosity and humanism."--**Colson Whitehead, *The New York Times Book Review***

"A masterpiece."--**Zadie Smith**

"Ingenious . . . Saunders--well on his way toward becoming a twenty-first-century Twain--crafts an American patchwork of love and loss, giving shape to our foundational sorrows."--**Vogue**

"Saunders is the most humane American writer working today."--**Harper's Magazine**

"The novel beats with a present-day urgency--a nation at war with itself, the unbearable grief of a father who has lost a child, and a howling congregation of ghosts, as divided in death as in life, unwilling to move on."--**Vanity Fair**

"A brilliant, Buddhist reimagining of an American story of great loss and great love."--**Elle**

"Wildly imaginative"--**Marie Claire**

"Mesmerizing . . . Dantesque . . . A haunting American ballad."--**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

"Exhilarating . . . Ruthless and relentless in its evocation not only of Lincoln and his quandary, but also of the tenuous existential state shared by all of us."--**Kirkus Reviews (starred review)**

"It's unlike anything you've ever read, except that the grotesque humor, pathos, and, ultimately, human kindness at its core mark it as a work that could come only from Saunders."--**The National**

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 08/08/2016

Saundersas ("Tenth of December" mesmerizing historical novel is also a moving ghost story. A Dantesque tour through a Georgetown cemetery teeming with spirits, the book takes place on a February night in 1862, when Abraham Lincoln visits the grave of his recently interred 11-year-old son, Willie. The distraught Lincoln's nocturnal visit has a vivifying effect on the graveyard's spectral denizens, a gallery of grotesques who have chosen to loiter in the Bardo, a Tibetan term for a liminal state rather than face final judgment. Among this community, which is still riven by racial and class divisions, are Roger Bevens III, who slashed his wrists after being spurned by a lover, and Hans Vollman, a wooden-toothed forty-six-year-old printer struck in the head by a falling beam shortly after marrying his young wife. As irritable, chatty, and bored in their purgatory as Beckett characters, Bevens and Vollman devote themselves to saving Willie from their fate: "The young ones," a Bevens explains, "are not meant to tarry." Periodically interrupting the graveyard action are slyly arranged assemblies of historical accounts of the Lincoln era. These excerpts and Lincoln's anguished musings compose a collage-like portrait of a wartime president burdened by private and public grief, mourning his son's death as staggering battlefield reports test his (and the nation's) resolve. Saunders's enlivening imagination runs wild in detailing the ghost's bizarre manifestations, but melancholy is the novel's dominant tone. Two sad strains, the spirit's stubborn, nostalgic attachment to the world of the living and Lincoln's monumental sorrow, make up a haunting American ballad that will inspire increased devotion among Saunders's admirers. "(Feb.)" Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly. Used with permission.

Gilded Cage (First book in the Dark Gifts series)

by Vic James

Published 2017 by Del Rey Books

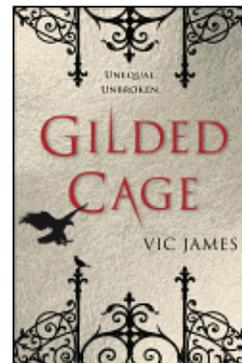
Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780425284155

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

Jacket Notes:

A darkly fantastical debut set in a modern England where magically gifted aristocrats rule, and commoners are doomed to serve--for readers of Victoria Aveyard and Susanna Clarke

NOT ALL ARE FREE.



NOT ALL ARE EQUAL.

NOT ALL WILL BE SAVED.

Our world belongs to the Equals--aristocrats with magical gifts--and all commoners must serve them for ten years.

But behind the gates of England's grandest estate lies a power that could break the world.

A girl thirsts for love and knowledge.

Abi is a servant to England's most powerful family, but her spirit is free. So when she falls for one of their noble-born sons, Abi faces a terrible choice. Uncovering the family's secrets might win her liberty--but will her heart pay the price?

A boy dreams of revolution.

Abi's brother, Luke, is enslaved in a brutal factory town. Far from his family and cruelly oppressed, he makes friends whose ideals could cost him everything. Now Luke has discovered there may be a power even greater than magic: revolution.

And an aristocrat will remake the world with his dark gifts.

He is a shadow in the glittering world of the Equals, with mysterious powers no one else understands. But will he liberate--or destroy?

Praise for *Gilded Cage*

-Beautifully characterised and compellingly plotted, *Gilded Cage* is an impressive debut.---***The Guardian***

-An alternate modern-day England where enticing drama and social unrest mix with aristocratic scandal and glamorous magic . . . conjuring up the specters of *Les Miserables* and *Downton Abbey* . . . an absorbing first installment that presages an intriguing new fantasy series.---***Kirkus Reviews***

-*Gilded Cage* is a heart-pounding combination of dark magic, political revolution, and forbidden romance that had me addicted from the first page!---**Danielle L. Jensen, USA Today bestselling author of The Malediction Trilogy**

-Devious and deliciously dark with lashings of magic, mystery, and mayhem, this juggernaut of a book will keep you hanging on by your fingernails until the very last page.---**Taran Matharu, New York Times bestselling author of The Summoner Trilogy**

-A dark and intriguing vision of an alternate, magic-drenched Britain, *Gilded Cage* kept me up long into the night.---**Aliette de Bodard, author of The House of Shattered Wings**

-Brisk plotting, sympathetic characters, and plenty of intrigue will keep readers on the edges of their seats, eager for the next book in a very promising series.---**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

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Publishers Weekly 09/12/2016

James's clever debut, first published on Wattpad, introduces an alternate present day in which British society is stratified into aristocrats, who have magical skill, and mundane commoners, who are required by law to spend 10 years serving the skilled. Most end up in the factories and workhouses in Manchester's infamous slave town, Millmoor. That's the fate of 16-year-old Luke Hadley; the rest of his relatives are sent to work at Kyneston, the country estate of the Jardines, one of the most powerful families in the country. At Millmoor, Luke quickly becomes part of a secret group that helps ease the harsh lives of workers. Meanwhile, his parents and sisters are caught in the middle of Jardine family intrigues and political scheming that could change the country forever. The setting is so interesting that readers will eagerly suspend disbelief, and James drops tantalizing hints about how the rest of the world treats those who do and don't have access to magic. Brisk plotting, sympathetic characters, and plenty of intrigue will keep readers on the edges of their seats, eager for the next book in a very promising series. *Agent: Ginger Clark, Curtis Brown, Ltd. (Feb.)*

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Black Feathers: Dark Avian Tales: An Anthology

by Ellen Datlow

Published 2017 by Pegasus Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781681773216

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

Jacket Notes:

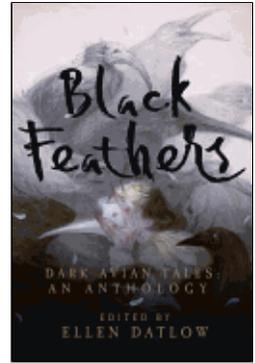
There's definitely a dark side to the avian. Birds of prey sometimes kill other birds (the shrike), destroy other birds' eggs (blue jays), and even have been known to kill small animals (the kea sometimes eats live lambs). And who isn't disgusted by birds that eat the dead--vultures awaiting their next meal as the life blood flows from the dying. One of our greatest fears is of being eaten by vultures before we're quite dead. Is it any wonder that with so many interpretations of the avian, that the contributors herein are eager to be transformed or influenced by them? Included in *Black Feathers* are those obsessed by birds of one type or another. Do they want to become birds or just take on some of the "power" of birds? The presence or absence of birds portends the future. A grieving widow takes comfort in her majestic winged neighbors, who enable her to cope with a predatory relative. An isolated society of women relies on a bird to tell their fortunes. A silent young girl and her pet bird might be the only hope a detective has of tracking down a serial killer in a tourist town. A chatty parrot makes illegal deals with the dying. A troubled man lives in isolation with only one friend for company--a jackdaw. In each of these fictions, you will encounter the dark resonance between the human and avian. You see in yourself the savagery of a predator, the shrewd stalking of a hunter, and you are lured by birds that speak human language, that make beautiful music, that cypher numbers, and seem to have a moral center. You wade into this feathered nightmare, and brave the horror of death, trading your safety and sanity for that which we all seek--the promise of flight.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/31/2016

In this collection of 14 original tales and two reprints, Datlow (*Children of Lovecraft*) taps into the spooky and sometimes unsettling aspects of the bird kingdom. She makes a solid selection of dark fantasy and horror pieces, many of which possess a more literary tone, opting for psychological and subtle terror over blood and gore. As the stories unfold, several motifs unfold. Death and transformation feature in Jeffrey Ford's "The Murmurations of Vienna Von Drome," in which a detective tracks a serial killer by following a victim's daughter, and Pat Cadigan's "A Little Bird Told Me," in which a woman tasked with investigating those who cheat death discovers a bizarre connection with the local birds. Seanan McGuire's wonderful "The Mathematical Inevitability of Corvids" features a teen girl whose obsession with crows and numbers helps her deal with a world perpetually on the brink of disaster. Paul Tremblay's "Something About Birds" is an interview with a fictional acclaimed horror writer that gradually takes a creepy turn. This collection isn't for those with delicate sensibilities; awful things happen to just about everyone, and open-ended or ambiguous conclusions may frustrate some readers. Still, it's a thought-provoking exploration of the theme. (*Feb.*)

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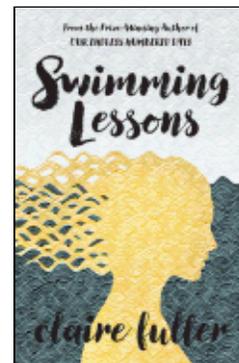
Swimming Lessons

by Claire Fuller

Published 2017 by Tin House Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781941040515

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



Jacket Notes:

"Ingrid Coleman writes letters to her husband Gil about the truth of their marriage, but instead of giving them to him, she hides them in the thousands of books he has collected over the years. When Ingrid has written her final letter she disappears from a Dorset beach, leaving behind her beautiful but dilapidated house by the sea, her husband, and her two daughters"--Dust jacket flap.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 11/14/2016

aGil Coleman looked down from the first-floor window of the bookshop and saw his dead wife standing on the pavement below.a This provocative sentence opens Fulleras (*Our Endless Numbered Days* second novel, and an intriguing epilogue ends it; in between is the story of a woman as failed marriage. When Ingrid Coleman disappeared from a Dorset beach, her years of swimming alone in the sea are presumed to have caught up with her, but her body is never found. Neither are her letters to Gil recounting their years together, tucked within the pages of books in his library, until that fateful day in the bookstore when he spies one while searching for the notes and marginalia that so fascinated him as an author. The novel unfolds in dual timelines. Ingridas one-way correspondence effectively and uncomfortably reveals her unraveling within an unhappy marriage to a selfish man unsuited for fidelity and fatherhood. A present-day story line provides younger daughter Floraas sometimes less-well-delineated point of view; she returns home to join her sister, Nan, in caring for Gil after he injures himself chasing after Ingrid. Fuller successfully creates two discomfiting narratives, a strong backdrop for the storyas essential mystery. (*Feb.*) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Devil Crept In

by Ania Ahlborn

Published 2017 by Gallery Books

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781476783758

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

Jacket Notes:

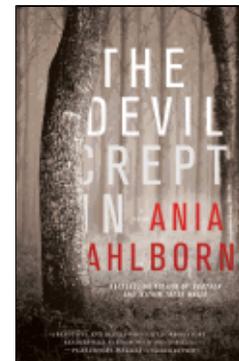
An unforgettable horror novel from bestselling sensation Ania Ahlborn--hailed as a writer of "some of the most promising horror I've encountered in years" (*New York Times* bestselling author Seanan McGuire)--in which a small-town boy investigates the mysterious disappearance of his cousin and uncovers a terrifying secret kept hidden for years.

Young Jude Brighton has been missing for three days, and while the search for him is in full swing in the small town of Deer Valley, Oregon, the locals are starting to lose hope. They're well aware that the first forty-eight hours are critical and after that, the odds usually point to a worst-case scenario. And despite Stevie Clark's youth, he knows that, too; he's seen the cop shows. He knows what each ticking moment may mean for Jude, his cousin and best friend.

That, and there was that boy, Max Larsen...the one from years ago, found dead after also disappearing under mysterious circumstances. And then there were the animals: pets gone missing out of yards. For years, the residents of Deer Valley have murmured about these unsolved crimes...and that a killer may still be lurking around their quiet town. Now, fear is reborn--and for Stevie, who is determined to find out what really happened to Jude, the awful truth may be too horrifying to imagine.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 11/21/2016



Lauded author Ahlborn (*Within These Walls*) delivers a beautiful and deftly wrought horror story of mothers, sons, and the delicate bond between cousins. Ten-year-old Stevie Clark of Deer Valley, Ore., is a word-salad stutterer with one friend in the world: his older cousin Jude. When Jude goes missing, Stevie is the only one who takes it seriously, and he knows the creepy house in the woods must be involved. Despite an uninterested town and his own fear, Stevie embarks on an investigation that convinces him there's a monster lurking in the woods. The real horror comes when Jude abruptly returns and Stevie must accept that he may still have lost his friend. With sympathetic attention paid to the relationships between overwhelmed mothers and the sons they can't save from evil, and prose that elegantly evokes tension while illustrating Stevie's rich inner world, readers will be engrossed and thrilled right through to the chewy final twist. (*Feb.*)

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Miranda and Caliban

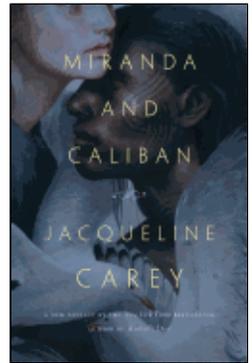
by Jacqueline Carey

Published 2017 by Tor Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780765386793

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

Jacket Notes:



A lovely girl grows up in isolation where her father, a powerful magus, has spirited them to in order to keep them safe.

We all know the tale of Prospero's quest for revenge, but what of Miranda? Or Caliban, the so-called savage Prospero chained to his will?

In this incredible retelling of the fantastical tale, Jacqueline Carey shows readers the other side of the coin--the dutiful and tenderhearted Miranda, who loves her father but is terribly lonely. And Caliban, the strange and feral boy Prospero has bewitched to serve him. The two find solace and companionship in each other as Prospero weaves his magic and dreams of revenge.

Always under Prospero's jealous eye, Miranda and Caliban battle the dark, unknowable forces that bind them to the island even as the pangs of adolescence create a new awareness of each other and their doomed relationship.

Miranda and Caliban is bestselling fantasy author Jacqueline Carey's gorgeous retelling of *The Tempest*. With hypnotic prose and a wild imagination, Carey explores the themes of twisted love and unchecked power that lie at the heart of Shakespeare's masterpiece, while serving up a fresh take on the play's iconic characters.

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Publishers Weekly 10/17/2016

Carey (the Santa Olivia series) turns Shakespeare's *Tempest* on its head, in ways that are always supportable by the original text, with this brilliant deconstruction. On the deserted island where Miranda grows up, her magician father, Prospero, keeps mostly to himself for the sake of his magical studies. Miranda is the childhood playmate and teacher of the orphan Caliban, the island's original inhabitant, but when they come of age, their friendship grows into romance, which Prospero cannot tolerate. The magician has had plans for Miranda for years--plans involving his enemies, a love spell, and, of course, a tempest. Carey's version of Prospero is unable to see his daughter as more than a tool, and unable to see Caliban through his preconceptions and academic prejudices. The foreordained pattern of the play mixes beautifully with Carey's intricate characterization and eye for sensory detail, building mercilessly to dazzling, and devastating, tragic effect. (*Feb.*) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

At Rope's End

by Edward Kay

Published 2017 by Crooked Lane Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781683310006

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

Jacket Notes:

Dr. James Verraday is a professor of forensic psychology specializing in eyewitness recall and criminal profiling. He s a brilliant original thinker with a passion for social justice and a very antagonistic relationship with authority, especially the police force. So when Detective Constance Maclean appears in Verraday s lecture hall at the end of one of his classes, he bristles. But the body of a young woman has just been found in a cranberry bog south of Seattle, and Maclean is convinced that this murder is tied to an earlier killing.

The Seattle police already have a suspect in custody for that case, but Maclean suspects the lead detective is knowingly putting away an innocent man to boost his numbers and quiet his critics. Verraday reluctantly agrees to use his skills as a profiler to help out with the investigation--if only to satisfy his own conviction that law enforcement is riddled with corruption. They form an unlikely alliance and soon find themselves tied up in a deadly game to find a serial killer whose wealth and influence make him almost untouchable.

"

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Publishers Weekly 11/07/2016

Screenwriter Kayas intriguing mystery debut blends academia and law enforcement in what looks to be a promising marriage made in the name of crime. Det. Constance Maclean of the Seattle PD is convinced that the murder of a beautiful young woman, whose body was fished out of a cranberry bog, is the work of a serial killer. Clues are hard to come by, and because sheas bucking a senior officer who doesnt put any stock in her hunches, Maclean decides to circumvent department policy. Turning to forensic psychologist James Verraday, a university professor, as a consultant is a definite breach of protocol, but it sets the stage for an enduring partnership. Both characters are single. Both have complicated pasts and even more complicated presents, and both share similar political ideologies, though Verraday is more liberal. Aside from rather lengthy passages expounding on topics such as criminal profiling and bipolarism, Kay spins a good whodunit with a juicy bonus twist at the end. (*Jan.*) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

This Is How It Always Is

by Laurie Frankel

Published 2017 by Flatiron Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781250088550

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

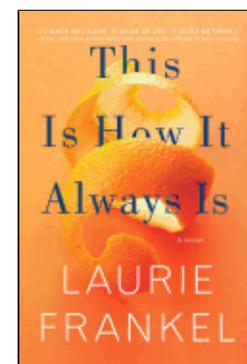
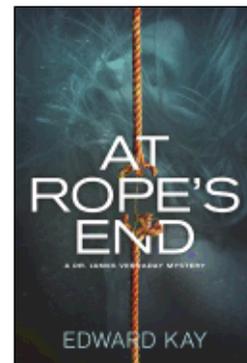
Jacket Notes:

"It made me laugh, it made me cry, it made me think." --Liane Moriarty, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Big Little Lies*

This is how a family keeps a secret...and how that secret ends up keeping them.

This is how a family lives happily ever after...until happily ever after becomes complicated.

This is how children change...and then change the world.



This is Claude. He's five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess.

When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl.

Rosie and Penn want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. They're just not sure they're ready to share that with the world. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret. Until one day it explodes.

Laurie Frankel's *This Is How It Always Is* is a novel about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. And it's about the ways this is how it always is: Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again, parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts, children grow but not always according to plan. And families with secrets don't get to keep them forever.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 11/28/2016

Frankel's third novel is about the large, rambunctious Walsh-Adams family. While Penn writes his "DN" (damn novel) and spins fractured fairy tales from the family's ramshackle farmhouse in Madison, Wis., Rosie works as an emergency physician. Four sons have made the happily married couple exhausted and wanting a daughter; alas, their fifth is another boy. Extraordinarily verbal little Claude is quirky and clever, traits that run in the family, and at age three says, "I want to be a girl." Claude is the focus, but Frankel captures the older brothers' boyish grossness. She also fleshes out his two eldest brothers, who worry about Claude's safety when Rosie and Penn agree that Claude can be Poppy at school. But coming out further isolates this unique child. Encouragement from a therapist and an accepting grandma can go just so far; Poppy only blossoms after the Walsh-Adamses move to progressive Seattle and keep her trans status private, although what is good for Poppy is increasingly difficult on her brothers. The story takes a darker turn when she is outed; Rosie and her youngest must find their footing while Penn stays at home with the other kids. Frankel's (The Atlas of Love) slightly askew voice, exemplified by Rosie and Penn's nontraditional gender roles, keeps the narrative sharp and surprising. This is a wonderfully contradictory story a heartwarming and generous, yet written with a wry sensibility. Agent: Molly Friedrich, Friedrich Literary Agency. (Jan.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Plaid and Plagiarism (First book in the Highland Bookshop Mystery series)

by Molly MacRae

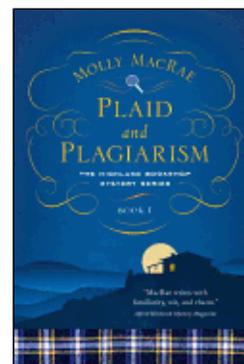
Published 2016 by Pegasus Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781681772561

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

Jacket Notes:

First, Janet Marsh is told she'll have to wait before moving into her new home. Then she finds out the house has been vandalized. Again. The chief suspect? Una Graham, an advice columnist for the local paper--who's trying to make a name for herself as an investigative reporter. When Janet and her business partners go looking for clues at the house, they find a body--it's Una, in the garden shed, with a sickle in her neck. Janet never did like that garden shed Who wanted Una dead? After discovering a cache of nasty letters, Janet and her friends are beginning to wonder *whodidn't*, including Janet's ex-husband. Surrounded by a cast of characters with whom readers will fall in love, the new owners of Yon Bonnie Books set out to solve Una's murder so they can get back to business. A delightful and deadly new novel about recognizing one's strengths and weakness--while also trying to open a new book shop *Plaid and Plagiarism* is the start of an entertaining new Scottish mystery series.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/03/2016

Four women open a bookstore in Inversgail, Scotland, in this charming series debut from MacRae (*Knot the Usual Suspects* and four other Haunted Yarn mysteries). Janet Marsh, a former Illinois librarian, is seeking a new life after a painful divorce; Janet's 38-year-old daughter, Tallie, is a burned-out law professor; and Tallie's former college roommate, Summer Jacobs, is an ex-reporter. The fourth friend, Christine Robertson, was born in the Highland town but has spent most of her married life in Illinois. They have bought not only Yon Bonnie Books but the adjoining space (future tearoom) and the bedrooms upstairs (future B and B). Their ambitious plans hit one snag after another, including renters who trash Janet's house and a body in the shed at the bottom of the garden. In an effort to move the police investigation along, the four poke around, learning that many locals (a) didn't like the victim and (b) don't like a lot of "foreigners" in Inversgail. It will be fun to see what these independent, resourceful, and likable women do next. (*Dec.*)

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Lonely Hearts Hotel

by Heather O'Neill

Published 2017 by Riverhead Books

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780735213739

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

Jacket Notes:

"So filled with vivid descriptions and complex characters that the reader's experience is virtually cinematic. . . Utterly compelling." - *The Washington Post*

A spellbinding story about two gifted orphans - in love with each other since they can remember - whose childhood talents allow them to rewrite their future.

The Lonely Hearts Hotel is a love story with the power of legend. An unparalleled tale of charismatic pianos, invisible dance partners, radicalized chorus girls, drug-addicted musicians, brooding clowns, and an underworld whose economy hinges on the price of a kiss. In a landscape like this, it takes great creative gifts to thwart one's origins. It might also take true love.

Two babies are abandoned in a Montreal orphanage in the winter of 1914. Before long, their talents emerge: Pierrot is a piano prodigy; Rose lights up even the dreariest room with her dancing and comedy. As they travel around the city performing clown routines, the children fall in love with each other and dream up a plan for the most extraordinary and seductive circus show the world has ever seen.

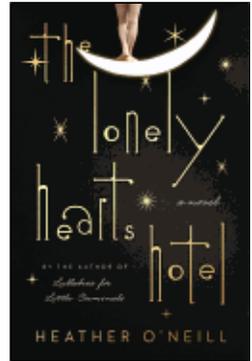
Separated as teenagers, sent off to work as servants during the Great Depression, both descend into the city's underworld, dabbling in sex, drugs and theft in order to survive. But when Rose and Pierrot finally reunite beneath the snowflakes - after years of searching and desperate poverty - the possibilities of their childhood dreams are renewed, and they'll go to extreme lengths to make them come true. Soon, Rose, Pierrot and their troupe of clowns and chorus girls have hit New York, commanding the stage as well as the alleys, and neither the theater nor the underworld will ever look the same.

With her musical language and extravagantly realized world, Heather O'Neill enchants us with a novel so magical there is no escaping its spell.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 03/06/2017

In a love story of epic proportions, O'Neill's (*Daydreams of Angels*) excellent historical novel plumbs the depths of happiness and despair for two orphans determined not to let the world get them down. Stepping into the minds of children, circus performers, prostitutes, gangsters, and into the dismal days of the Great Depression, the world on these pages is unforgettable and larger than the moon. Pierrot and Rose are abandoned to an orphanage in 1914 Montreal, where they grow up together and discover their talent for absurdist, Vaudevillian-style performances in front of the other orphan children, then later in front of rich patrons in the city. Pierrot, with his mesmerizing piano, and Rose, with her invisible dancing bear, make lavish plans for their artistic career, fall in love with each other, and are inseparable until they are forced apart as teens. Through the ensuing years, each holds on to their dreams of extravagant circus shows and of finding each other again, while entering a dark world of drugs, sex, starvation, and survival. At the very end of the tunnel are floodlights to the stage, sad clowns, gigantic moon props, chorus girls, and the one thing that time and distance cannot diminish a true love grander than



Perfect Little World

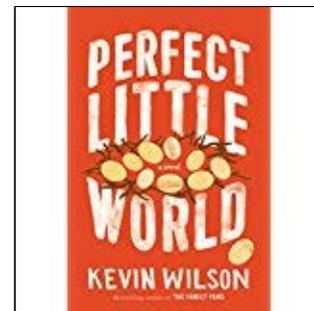
by Kevin Wilson

Published 2017 by Ecco Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780062450326

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

Jacket Notes:



Kevin Wilson's anticipated follow-up to *The Family Fang*, *Perfect Little World* is a warm-hearted and emotional story about a young woman charting her own course.

"[A] moving novel about love, parenting, and the families we create for ourselves." --*Library Journal*

When Isabelle Poole meets Dr. Preston Grind, she's fresh out of high school, pregnant with her art teacher's baby, and totally on her own. Izzy knows she can be a good mother but without any money or relatives to help, she's left searching.

Dr. Grind, an awkwardly charming child psychologist, has spent his life studying family, even after tragedy struck his own. Now, with the help of an eccentric billionaire, he has the chance to create a "perfect little world"--to study what would happen when ten children are raised collectively, without knowing who their biological parents are. He calls it The Infinite Family Project and he wants Izzy and her son to join.

This attempt at a utopian ideal starts off promising, but soon the gentle equilibrium among the families disintegrates: unspoken resentments between the couples begin to fester; the project's funding becomes tenuous; and Izzy's growing feelings for Dr. Grind make her question her participation in this strange experiment in the first place.

Written with the same compassion and charm that won over legions of readers with *The Family Fang*, Kevin Wilson shows us with grace and humor that the best families are the ones we make for ourselves.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/10/2016

The author of *The Family Fang* invents another unusual family structure for his sweet and thoroughly satisfying second novel. When bright high school senior Izzy Poole, whose mother has died and whose alcoholic father ignores her, discovers that she is pregnant by the art teacher at her Tennessee school, her choices are limited, especially after the teacher commits suicide. So when she is approached by idealistic child psychologist Dr. Preston Grind to join an experiment in communal child raising funded by the billionaire heiress to a retail store fortune, she somewhat reluctantly takes up the offer. The idea is that Izzy and nine other couples, all pregnant at the same time, will raise their kids in common in the Infinite Family Project for 10 years, to see if that situation aids the children's emotional and intellectual development. The children thrive; the adults, not so much. Wilson keeps his eye on the grown-ups, particularly Izzy and Preston, as rifts begin to form in the carefully planned and maintained structure. Wilson grounds his premise in credible human motivations and behavior, resulting in a memorable cast of characters. He uses his intriguing premise to explore the meaning of family and the limits of rational decision making. *Agent: Julie Barer, the Book Group. (Jan.)* Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

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