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KPL Fiction Spotlight July 2017

Chilbury Ladies' Choir

by Jennifer Ryan

Published 2017 by Crown Publishing Group (NY)

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781101906750

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

Jacket Notes:

Through letters and journals, *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* unfolds the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of a village choir during World War II

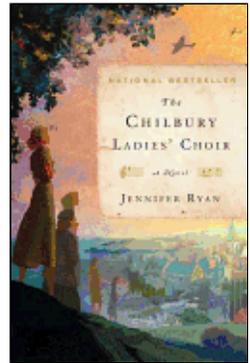
As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to close the choir and instead "carry on singing," resurrecting themselves as the Chilbury Ladies' Choir. We come to know the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of a local scion drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a conniving midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past.

An enchanting ensemble story that shuttles from village intrigue to romance to the heartbreaking matters of life and death, Jennifer Ryan's debut novel thrillingly illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 12/05/2016

In 1940, at a time when women's roles were still firmly rooted in home and hearth, the ladies of Chilbury, England, find themselves at the bleeding edge of progress as the ramifications of World War II begin to infiltrate their little town. The men of Chilbury head to battlefields, and the village choir becomes the first casualty of the war. When a female professor of music insists the choir can be reassembled as a ladies choir, the small community is at first scandalized by such an idea. But this is soon lost to other more salacious events. There is the brigadier who hires an unscrupulous midwife to swap his baby girl for a boy, and his teenage daughter seduces a handsome artist who comes to town under mysterious circumstances. An upstanding single woman (a widow whose only son has gone to fight) is tapped to take a colonel into her home, and a 10-year-old Czech evacuee finds out what happened to her family. As the war advances on Chilbury, even more lives are changed when a German bomb kills a young mother as well as the choir mistress, young men are sent off to war, and spies and black market profiteers lurk in the quiet lanes. Told in the form of diaries and letters in the voices of the female characters, Ryan's novel, reminiscent of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* captures the experience of the war from a woman's perspective. Readers may have come across this kind of story before, but the letter/diary format works well and the plot elements satisfyingly come



together. (Feb.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Woman Next Door

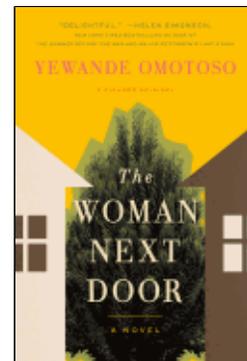
by Yewande Omotoso

Published 2017 by Picador USA

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781250124579

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

Jacket Notes:



Longlisted for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction - A Finalist for the Aidoo-Snyder Book Prize -

One of *Publishers Weekly's* Writers to Watch - One of *The Millions'* and *Refinery 29's* Most Anticipated Books of the Year - One of the Best Black Heritage Reads (*Essence Magazine*)

Loving thy neighbor is easier said than done.

Hortensia James and Marion Agostino are neighbors. One is black, the other white. Both are successful women with impressive careers. Both have recently been widowed, and are living with questions, disappointments, and secrets that have brought them shame. And each has something that the woman next door deeply desires.

Sworn enemies, the two share a hedge and a deliberate hostility, which they maintain with a zeal that belies their age. But, one day, an unexpected event forces Hortensia and Marion together. As the physical barriers between them collapse, their bickering gradually softens into conversation and, gradually, the two discover common ground. But are these sparks of connection enough to ignite a friendship, or is it too late to expect these women to change?

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 12/05/2016

South African Omotoso makes her U.S. debut with this charming, touching, occasionally radiant tale of two prickly octogenarians: two women, one black and one white, neighbors who discover after 20 years of exchanging digs and insults that they might help each other. Eighty-five-year-old Barbados-born textile designer Hortensia James occupies number 10 in the small upscale Cape Town community of Katterijn. In 1994, when Hortensia and her white husband purchased the house, she became Katterijn's first black homeowner. Now, 20 years later, she's a widow who excels at cutting remarks, many aimed at the widow next door, 81-year-old Marion Agostino, self-appointed community leader and number 10's architect. Their mutual animosity is well established until a repair project leaves Hortensia with a broken leg and Marion in need of temporary housing. Seeing an opportunity to avoid home nurses (whom Hortensia detests even more than she detests Marion), Hortensia invites Marion to move in with her. These creative women then create their own kind of crotchety companionship as Hortensia meets her late husband's daughter and the descendants of slaves that once occupied her land, while Marion confronts her failures as a mother, employer, and white woman under Apartheid. Omotoso captures the changing racial relations since the 1950s, as well as the immigrant experience through personal detail and small psychological insights into mixed emotions, the artist's eye, and a widow's remorse. Hers is a fresh voice as adept at evoking the peace of walking up a kopje as the cruelty of South Africa's past. (Feb.) Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

What You Break

(Second book in the Gus Murphy Novel series)

by Reed Farrel Coleman

Published 2017 by G.P. Putnam's Sons

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780399173042

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

Jacket Notes:

Selected as one of Amazon's Best Books of the Month for February

Former Suffolk County cop Gus Murphy returns to prowl the meaner streets of Long Island's darkest precincts with a Russian mercenary at his back in the stunning second installment of Reed Farrel Coleman's critically acclaimed, Edgar-nominated series.

Gus Murphy and his girlfriend, Magdalena, are put in harm's way when Gus is caught up in the distant aftershocks of heinous crimes committed decades ago in Vietnam and Russia. Gus's ex-priest pal, Bill Kilkenny, introduces him to a wealthy businessman anxious to have someone look more deeply into the brutal murder of his granddaughter. Though the police already have the girl's murderer in custody, they have been unable to provide a reason for the killing. The businessman, Spears, offers big incentives if Gus can supply him with what the cops cannot--a motive.

Later that same day, Gus witnesses the execution of a man who has just met with his friend Slava. As Gus looks into the girl's murder and tries to protect Slava from the executioner's bullet, he must navigate a minefield populated by hostile cops, street gangs, and a Russian mercenary who will stop at nothing to do his master's bidding. But in trying to solve the girl's murder and save his friend, Gus may be opening a door into a past that was best left forgotten. Can he fix the damage done, or is it true that what you break you own...forever?

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 11/21/2016

Shamus Award-winner Coleman delves deep into the wounded psyche of his ex-cop lead, Gus Murphy, in his outstanding sequel to 2016's *Where It Hurts*. Gus, who's still struggling with the sudden death of his 20-year-old son, John Jr., kills time working as a courtesy-van driver shuttling between a ratty Suffolk County hotel and Long Island's MacArthur Airport. Meanwhile, the hidden past of his friend Slava Podalak, the hotel's night bellman, has resurfaced with a vengeance, and Gus becomes a witness to murder. In addition, Gus's confidant, Bill Kilkenny, a former priest, asks him to help the wealthy Micah Spears find out not who butchered his granddaughter but why. Spears makes Gus an offer impossible to resist--funding a youth sports foundation in John Jr.'s name. Coleman doesn't pull any punches or settle for pat character arcs in presenting a realistically flawed Gus, who realizes that his morality "was not so much a search for the truth as a set of rationalizations that let sleep at night." Agent: David Hale Smith, Inkwell Management. (Feb.)

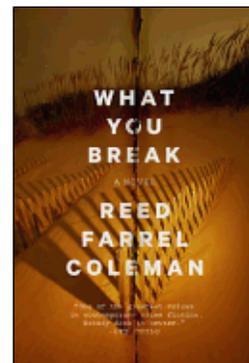
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Mother's Promise

by Sally Hepworth

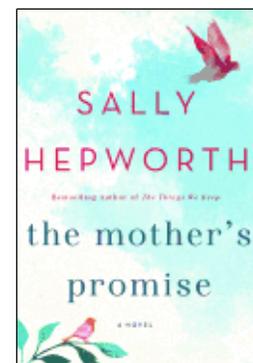
Published 2017 by St. Martin's Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781250077752



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

Jacket Notes:



Sally Hepworth novels are "sure to appeal to fans of Jojo Moyes, Jodi Picoult, and Lisa Genova; book clubs will be lining up." --*Library Journal* (starred review)

All their lives, Alice Stanhope and her daughter, Zoe, have been a family of two, living quietly in Northern California. Zoe has always struggled with crippling social anxiety and her mother has been her constant and fierce protector. With no family to speak of, and the identity of Zoe's father shrouded in mystery, their team of two works--until it doesn't. Until Alice gets sick and needs to fight for her life.

Desperate to find stability for Zoe, Alice reaches out to two women who are practically strangers but who are her only hope: Kate, a nurse, and Sonja, a social worker. As the four of them come together, a chain of events is set into motion and all four of them must confront their sharpest fears and secrets--secrets about abandonment, abuse, estrangement, and the deepest longing for family. Imbued with heart and humor in even the most dismal moments, *The Mother's Promise* is an unforgettable novel about the unbreakable bonds between mothers and daughters and the new ways in which families are forged.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Six Four

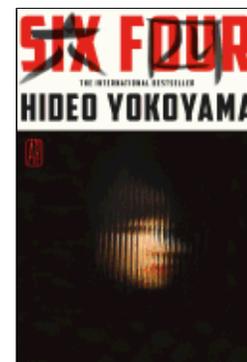
by Hideo Yokoyama

Published 2017 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780374265519

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

Jacket Notes:



International Bestseller

Winner of the Best Japanese Crime Fiction of the Year Award

"Already a bestseller in Japan and the U.K., this cinematic crime novel suffused with fascinating cultural details follows a police department reinvestigating a chilling kidnapping that stumped them 14 years earlier." -
-*Entertainment Weekly*, The Must List

THE NIGHTMARE NO PARENT COULD ENDURE. THE CASE NO DETECTIVE COULD SOLVE. THE TWIST NO READER COULD PREDICT.

For five days, the parents of a seven-year-old Japanese schoolgirl sat and listened to the demands of their daughter's kidnapper. They would never learn his identity. And they would never see their daughter alive again.

Fourteen years later, the mystery remains unsolved. The police department's press officer--Yoshinobu Mikami, a former detective who was involved in the original case and who is now himself the father of a missing daughter--is forced to revisit the botched investigation. The stigma of the case known as "Six Four" has never faded; the police's failure remains a profound source of shame and an unending collective responsibility.

Mikami does not aspire to solve the crime. He has worked in the department for his entire career, and while he has his own ambitions and loyalties, he is hoping simply to reach out to the victim's family and to help finally put the notorious case to rest. But when he spots an anomaly in the files, he uncovers secrets he never could have imagined. He would never have even looked if he'd known what he would find.

An award-winning phenomenon in its native Japan--more than a million copies sold, and the winner of the Best Japanese Crime Fiction of the Year award--and already a critically celebrated top-ten bestseller in the U.K., Hideo Yokoyama's *Six Four* is an unforgettable novel by a literary master at the top of his form. It is a dark and riveting plunge into a crime, an investigation, and a culture like no other.

Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 12/05/2016

Japanese author Yokoyama makes his U.S. debut with a massive and complex police procedural set in 2003 in one of Japan's prefectures. Supt. Yoshinobu Mikami, who has been transferred from criminal investigations to media relations at Prefecture D Police Headquarters, must contend with unhappy members of the press who feel that the police are too selective in what they choose to share. The multilayered plot involves the unsolved kidnapping and murder of a seven-year-old girl 14 years before, physical confrontations between reporters and police, and the discordant relationships among various elements of the police force. Meanwhile, Mikami agonizes over his teenage daughter, Ayumi, who has been missing for weeks. American readers may have trouble following the bewildering conflicts and alliances, but they should gain a better understanding of a very different culture. This is a novel that requires and rewards close attention. The ending is oddly satisfying, though none of the underlying issues are truly resolved. (*Feb.*)

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Feversong
(Ninth book in the Fever series)

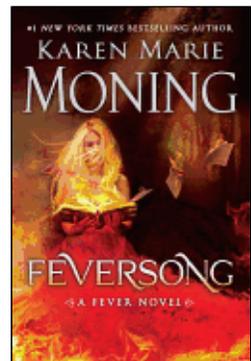
by Karen Marie Moning
Published 2017 by Delacorte Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9780425284353

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

Jacket Notes:

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER - MacKayla Lane and Jericho Barrons return in the epic conclusion to the pulse-pounding Fever series, where a world thrown into chaos grows more treacherous at every turn.



As Mac, Barrons, Ryodan, and Jada struggle to restore control, enemies become allies, right and wrong cease to exist, and the lines between life and death, lust and love, disappear completely. Black holes loom menacingly over Dublin, threatening to destroy the earth, yet the greatest danger is the one MacKayla Lane has unleashed from within: The *Sinsar Dubh*--a sentient book of unthinkable evil--has possessed her body and will stop at nothing in its insatiable quest for power.

The fate of Man and Fae rests on destroying the book and recovering the long-lost Song of Making, the sole magic that can repair the fragile fabric of the earth. But to achieve these aims, *sidhe*-seers, the Nine, Seelie, and Unseelie must form unlikely alliances and make heart-wrenching choices. For Barrons and Jada, this means finding the Seelie queen, who alone can wield the mysterious song, negotiating with a lethal Unseelie prince hell-bent on ruling the Fae courts, and figuring out how to destroy the *Sinsar Dubh* while keeping Mac alive.

This time, there's no gain without sacrifice, no pursuit without risk, no victory without irrevocable loss. In the battle for Mac's soul, every decision exacts a tremendous price.

Look for all of Karen Marie Moning's sensational Fever novels:

DARKFEVER - BLOODFEVER - FAEFEVER - DREAMFEVER - SHADOWFEVER - ICED - BURNED - FEVERBORN - FEVERSONG

Praise for *Feversong*

-Bold and brilliantly layered, deeply emotive and all-consuming, the story curves full circle as Mac and Dani try to save the world. . . . Fans of the series . . . will love every moment, every page. As one now expects from the incredibly talented [Karen Marie] Moning, gasp-inducing surprises await.---**USA Today**

-Heart-pounding.---**Entertainment Weekly**

-Epic.---**New Orleans Gambit**

-Moning is one of the best. . . . [*Feversong* is] an exciting, pulse-pounding action-filled adventure that at times is dark and terrifying, and other times gloriously happy and romantic. . . . Another fantastic story.---**The Reading Cafe**

-[*Feversong* is an] epic ending to an epic series. . . . It's all feels.---**The Review Loft**

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk

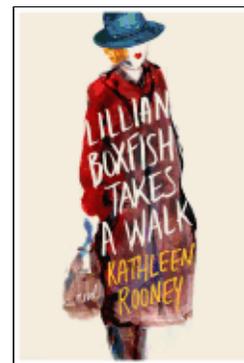
by Kathleen Rooney

Published 2017 by St. Martin's Press

Hardcover, English. ISBN: 9781250113320

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

Jacket Notes:



Extraordinary Hilarious Elegantly written, Rooney creates a glorious paean to a distant literary life and time and an unabashed celebration of human connections that bridge past and future.

***Publishers Weekly* (starred and boxed)**

Fall 2016 *Library Journal* Editors' Pick

In my reckless and undiscouraged youth, Lillian Boxfish writes, I worked in a walnut-paneled office thirteen floors above

West Thirty-Fifth Street

She took 1930s New York by storm, working her way up writing copy for R.H. Macy's to become the highest paid advertising woman in the country. It was a job that, she says, in some ways saved my life, and in other ways ruined it.

Now it's the last night of 1984 and Lillian, 85 years old but just as sharp and savvy as ever, is on her way to a party. It's chilly enough out for her mink coat and Manhattan is grittier now her son keeps warning her about a subway vigilante on the prowl but the quick-tongued poetess has never been one to scare easily. On a walk that takes her over 10 miles around the city, she meets bartenders, bodega clerks, security guards, criminals, children, parents, and parents-to-be, while reviewing a life of excitement and adversity, passion and heartbreak, illuminating all the ways New York has changed and has not.

A love letter to city life in all its guts and grandeur, *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney paints a portrait of a remarkable woman across the canvas of a changing America: from the Jazz Age to the onset of the AIDS epidemic; the Great Depression to the birth of hip-hop.

Lillian figures she might as well take her time. For now, after all, the night is still young.

"

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/17/2016

Inspired by Margaret Fishback, poet and Macy's ad-writing phenom of the 1930s, Rooney imagines an extraordinary walk through the streets of New York City on the last night of 1984, one that triggers a flood of memories for fictional ad woman Lillian Boxfish. The octogenarian muses on the changing urban landscape as she stops at favorite haunts: an intimate neighborhood bar that's just installed a TV, a restaurant where she's dined every New Year's Eve that's about to change owners, the famed Delmonico's, where she ended her marriage. Further stops include a changing lower Manhattan landscape where she meets a haunted Vietnam veteran and engages him in a best last-line contest, a detour to a hospital emergency room with a frightened woman about to have her first baby, and a party where she's both scorned and adored by a new generation of artists, followed by a hilarious encounter with three muggers. Meanwhile, Lillian carefully recounts her celebrated career in advertising, her adored husband and son, and her emotional breakdown. Elegantly written, Rooney creates a glorious paean to a distant literary life and time and an unabashed celebration of human connections that bridge the past and future. *Agent: Lisa Bankoff, ICM Partners. (Jan.)* Copyright 2016 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Year of the Comet

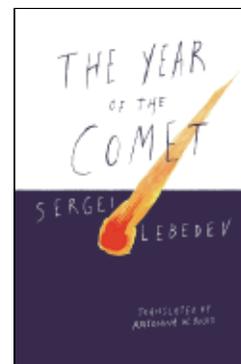
by Antonina W Bouis

Published 2017 by New Vessel Press

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9781939931412

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

Jacket Notes:



"You read and reread Lebedev's lyrical, cutting prose with equal amounts of awe and enjoyment. This gorgeously written, unsettling novel--a rare work about the fall of the Soviet Union as told through the eyes of a child--leaves us with a fresh understanding of that towering moment in recent history."--*Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review)*

From the critically acclaimed author of *Oblivion* comes *Year of the Comet*, a story of a Russian boyhood and coming of age as the Soviet Union is on the brink of collapse. An idyllic childhood takes a sinister turn. Rumors of a serial killer haunt the neighborhood, families pack up and leave town without a word of warning, and the country begins to unravel. Policemen stand by as protesters overtake the streets, knowing that the once awe-inspiring symbols of power they wear on their helmets have become devoid of meaning. Lebedev depicts a vast empire coming apart at the seams, transforming a very public moment into something tender and personal, and writes with stunning beauty and shattering insight about childhood and the growing consciousness of a boy in the world.

Sergei Lebedev was born in Moscow in 1981 and worked for seven years on geological expeditions in Russia and Central Asia. Lebedev is a poet, essayist and journalist. *Oblivion*, his first novel, was published in 2016 by New Vessel Press, to great acclaim.

Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 01/02/2017

Lebedev (*Oblivion*) delivers a remarkable bildungsroman, set against the decline of the Soviet Union. The nameless narrator, a young boy yearning for anonymity and seclusion, reflects on his past and relatives in an attempt to find truth and a better understanding of himself. In doing so, he also tells the story of Soviet rule. When he discovers Grandmother Mara's old edition of the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*, he notices the book includes names and places he has never heard mentioned. These vanished entries spur the protagonist to acknowledge his homeland's fractured identity and to become more aware of the narratives that dictate his life. The appearance of Mister, a serial killer targeting young children, disrupts the rhythms of obeying power and pushes the narrator to pay attention to hints of the nation's inevitable collapse. Like Lebedev's previous novel, this book centers on one's attempt to recover the past from a powerful governing narrative. Antonia W. Bouis's deft translation captures Lebedev's striking prose. The novel is packed with symbolism: "Every object means something, says something, increases the danger that threatens the hero or mitigates it," the narrator muses. The plot remains widely relatable in depicting conflicts of consciousness--the speaker's attempts to reconcile the contradictions between ideology and individuality. This is a smart, convincing, and affecting novel. (*Feb.*)

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We Were on a Break

by Lindsey Kelk

Published 2017 by Harper

Paperback, English. ISBN: 9780008175603

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

Jacket Notes:

Is it a break? Or is it a blip?

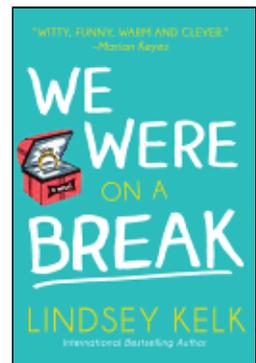
You've just had a holiday, I pointed out, trying not to yawn. Wasn't that enough of a break? I don't mean that kind of break.

There's nothing worse than the last day of holiday. Oh wait, there is. When what should have been a proposal turns into a break, Liv and Adam find themselves on opposite sides of the life they had mapped out.

Friends and family all think they're crazy; Liv throws herself into work animals are so much simpler than humans and Adam tries to get himself out of the hole he's dug.

But as the short break becomes a chasm, can they find a way back to each other? Most importantly, do they want to?

"



Lincoln in the Bardo

by George Saunders

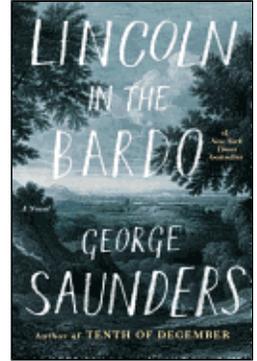
Published 2017 by Random House

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 BarDOA 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 Bevins 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, Bevins and Vollman devote themselves to saving Willie from their fate: "The young ones," Bevins 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?

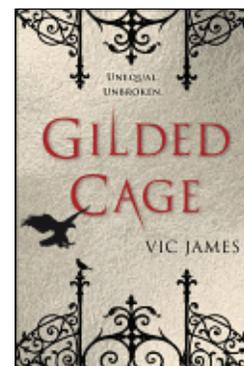
A boy dreams of revolution.

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)**

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

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

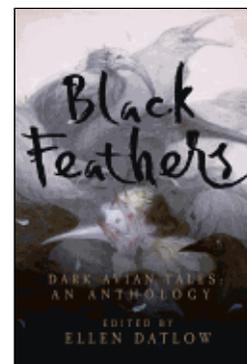
Published 2017 by Pegasus Books

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

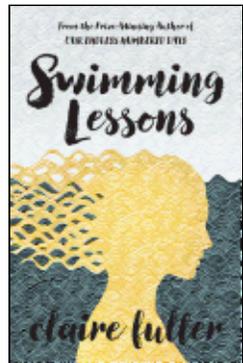
Published 2017 by Tin House Books

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's 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. Ingrid's 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 Flora's 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 story's 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.

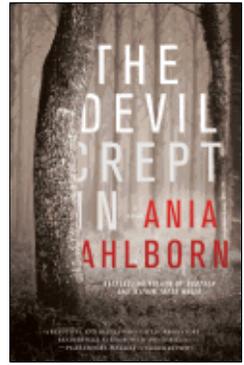
That, and there was that boy, Max Larsen...the one from years ago, found dead after also disappearing under mysterious circumstances. And then there were the animals: pets gone missing out of yards. For years, the residents of Deer Valley have murmured about these unsolved crimes...and that a killer 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

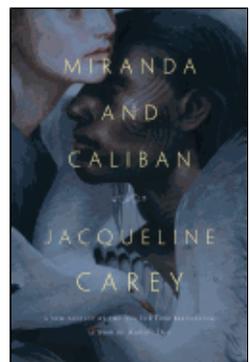
by Jacqueline Carey

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.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

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:

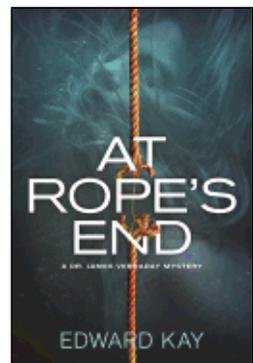
Dr. James Verraday is a professor of forensic psychology specializing in eyewitness recall and criminal profiling. He is a brilliant original thinker with a passion for social justice and a very antagonistic relationship with authority, especially the police force. So when Detective Constance Maclean 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.

"

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

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 she's bucking a senior officer who doesn't 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

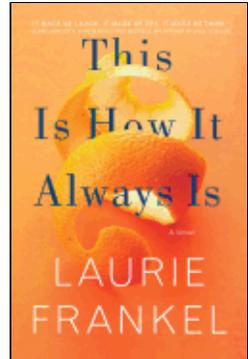
by Laurie Frankel

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

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

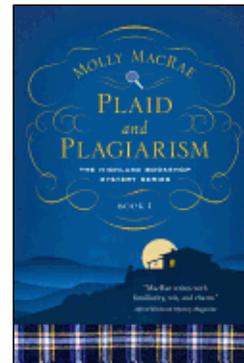
Published 2016 by Pegasus Books

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

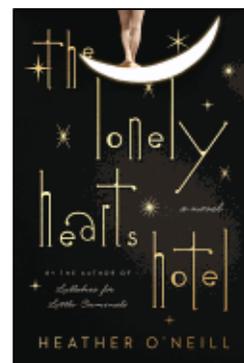
Published 2017 by Riverhead Books

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 any circus act. This novel will cast a spell on readers from page one. (Feb.) Copyright 2017 Publishers Weekly Used with permission.

Perfect Little World

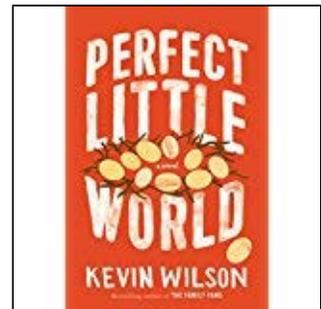
by Kevin Wilson

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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