



AUGUST 2016 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Along the Infinite Sea: A Novel

By Beatriz Williams

"Heroines in different decades, Annabelle and Pepper both know the peril of loving a man seemingly always just beyond their reach as well as the need to escape in order to survive. Williams' novel follows Annabelle through the hurdles life throws her way in the years preceding World War II in Europe as well as the parallel trials and tribulations of Pepper during the 1960s. These complicated women meet when Pepper sells her restored Mercedes to Annabelle as a way to raise money for her own escape plan. Together, Annabelle and Pepper come to rescue each other and learn that sometimes love can survive life's trials."

—Dell Marie Swearer, Bluebird Books, Hutchinson, KS



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Barefoot to Avalon: A Brother's Story

By David Payne

"This memoir is the most courageous book I have ever read. The author takes readers with him as he endeavors to make sense of his relationships with his parents and siblings, mental illness, personal shortcomings, and the journey to becoming a writer. The book leaves readers amazed at how much pain the heart can hold and still emerge peaceful, whole, and full of hope. Payne holds nothing back, and his depictions of events are real and full of all that makes us human, both the good and the bad."

—Sharon Wheeler, Purple Crow Books, Hillsborough, NC



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City on Fire: A Novel

By Garth Risk Hallberg

"Big, juicy, and full-throated, *City on Fire* absorbs readers into an expertly crafted 1970s New York City and introduces them to lushly drawn characters: the charismatic young woman with a hidden life, her asthmatic punk groupie friend, the wizened reporter, the obscenely rich and rebellious, the not-so-rebellious, and those who love them. Their lives create a rich tapestry, beginning with a murder on the brink of the New Year in 1977 and culminating later that year during the infamous blackout. With unequivocal skill, Hallberg makes readers feel like they are holding the whole city in their hands."

—Melinda Powers, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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Dragonfish: A Novel

By Vu Tran

"Tran has written a highly original noir mystery involving Suzy, a Vietnamese immigrant, and her police officer ex-husband, Robert. Suzy goes missing in Las Vegas and her current husband, Sonny, enlists Robert's help to track her down. During his search for Suzy, Robert discovers a packet of letters written by her to Mai, Suzy's long-lost daughter, who is now a professional gambler living in Las Vegas. Suspenseful, cinematic, and haunting, Tran's storytelling is superb, and *Dragonfish* is an excellent debut."

—Sherri Gallentine, Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA



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House of Thieves: A Novel

By Charles Belfoure

"The Cross family has it all. Born into the wealthy class in the 1880s and related to the Astors of New York City, their lives are envied. John, the patriarch, is a highly regarded architect; his wife, Helen, a beauty; and his children, George, Julia, and Charlie, each accomplished. But all is not as it seems. George has a gambling problem, and his inability to control himself causes criminals to threaten his family for repayment. Belfoure weaves a fascinating story that reveals the descent of this family into the underworld of crime. The endeavor to save George and the drama that ensues not only captivates the Cross family, but the reader as well. A great read!"

—Stephanie Crowe, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL



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The Japanese Lover: A Novel

By Isabel Allende

"Past and present collide in Allende's new novel. Alma Belasco flees the Nazi incursion in Poland and is raised in her aunt and uncle's home in San Francisco. Alma and Ichimei Fukuda, the gardener's son, have an instant connection but are separated when he is sent to a Japanese internment camp. Years later, while fleeing her own past, Irina Bazili begins work at Alma's retirement home and finds herself caught up in the intrigue and delicate mystery that is Alma's great love. Once again, Allende's unique ability to bring forth light from the darkest recesses of humanity highlights the strength and courage it takes to live—and love."

—Anna Eklund, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



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Missing Pieces: A Novel

By Heather Gudenkauf

"Gudenkauf once again weaves her magic, drawing readers into her latest work. *Missing Pieces* is a story of dark family secrets that have multiplied over the years, eroding the trust and love between husbands and wives, siblings, parents, and children. Gudenkauf uses deliberate pacing, skillful character development, and even the old nursery rhyme 'Three Blind Mice' to bring this thriller to a perfect, stunning ending."

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, The Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



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The Nature of the Beast: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

By Louise Penny

"Penny scores again with this story of the struggle between the forces of good and evil in the tiny Canadian village of Three Pines. Retired homicide chief Armand Gamache must use all of his detective skills and worldly wisdom to solve the murder of a young boy, an investigation that uncovers a threat to global security. The eccentric citizens of this remote outpost add their own color and knowledge to the unraveling of this complex mystery. This book is a pure delight!"

—Sarah Pease, Buttonwood Books & Toys, Cohasset, MA



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The Tsar of Love and Techno: Stories

By Anthony Marra

"A *Constellation of Vital Phenomena* is one of my favorite novels, and now Marra follows that up with a dazzling set of linked stories set in Russia, Chechnya, and Siberia over a period of time spanning from the Russian Revolution to the modern day and beyond. As with his debut novel, what I love are the characters that he makes readers care so deeply about, as well as the fact that I constantly found myself wanting to know more about their lives and the history of their countries. Marra is one of our brightest young talents writing today."

—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



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