



JUNE 2016 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Church of Marvels: A Novel

By Leslie Parry

(Ecco, 9780062367563, \$15.99)

"In this page-turner of a debut very little is what it first appears to be. Set in Coney Island and Manhattan at the end of the 19th century, *Church of Marvels* is populated with carnival folk and others living on the edge of society with either much to hide or much to discover. The

characters are richly drawn and their circumstances exceptionally intriguing as they seek and find the complicated truths of their lives in the dark underbelly of New York."

—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO



Circling the Sun: A Novel

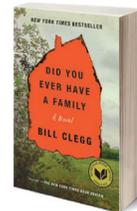
By Paula McLain

(Ballantine Books, 9780345534200, \$16)

"Reading *Circling the Sun* reminded me of the deep pleasure of solid storytelling: the vast landscape of colonial Kenya, complicated and compelling historical characters, love, suffering, and adventure combine to create a captivating narrative. McLain imagines the African childhood and early adulthood

of real-life horse trainer and pioneering female aviator, Beryl Markham, as well as her social milieu which included Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, who, as Isak Dinesen, wrote *Out of Africa*. Markham lived a fascinating and uncompromising life filled with danger, ill-fated romance, and stunning bravery, and McLain does justice to her memory with this sensitive and beautifully written portrayal."

—Rhianna Walton, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



Did You Ever Have a Family: A Novel

By Bill Clegg

(Gallery/Scout Press, 9781476798189, \$16)

"It has been some time since a book has affected me quite the way this novel has. I was struck by the authentic portrayal of characters that moved beyond the pages and made me see human beings in a whole new way. A tragedy of great proportion sets in motion an unraveling of lives,

an examination of what people hold dear, and a recognition of how relationships with those closest are the most important facets of life. I really lived with these characters for the brief time I was reading this book. The writing is beautiful and the mystery at the heart of the book will keep readers riveted. This is the sort of work scholars are referring to when they explain why literature and the novel is so vitally important to our understanding of the human condition."

—Jenny Lyons, The Vermont Bookshop, Middlebury, VT



How to Start a Fire: A Novel

By Lisa Lutz

(Mariner Books, 9780544705180, \$14.95)

"*How to Start a Fire* integrates Lutz's trademark humor, quippy dialog, and quirky characters with a story of three college friends who meet in Santa Cruz in 1993. Readers will fall in love with these three women as they experience failed marriages, career decisions, and other

significant life events. Those who are new to Lutz will gobble up this standalone entry and then race to their bookstore to begin reading about the Spellman family in her earlier bestselling series."

—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA



Kitchens of the Great Midwest: A Novel

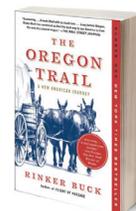
By J. Ryan Stradal

(Penguin Books, 9780143109419, \$16)

"In the story of Midwestern chef savant Eva Thorvald and the people—and foods—that touch her life, Stradal has created a picture of the American foodie revolution of the past 25 years

and of its intersections with class, economics, family, and culture. Along with irresistible characters and stories, this is a novel about the potential that food and cooking offer for joy and empowerment, for snobbery and shame, and for identity and reinvention. Beautifully structured and affectionately and hilariously written, this is a novel that—like Thorvald's exclusive pop-up supper club—everyone is going to be talking about!"

—Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY



The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey

By Rinker Buck

(Simon & Schuster, 9781451659177, \$16.99)

"Inspired by a family trip in a covered wagon in the 1950s, Rinker Buck and his brother Nick set out by wagon to discover what remains of the Oregon Trail between Missouri and Oregon.

Along the way, readers learn about wagon design, mule heritage, and what pioneers needed to endure traveling west in the 19th century. This is also a moving personal story of brotherhood, endurance, and the kindness of strangers. Buck weaves fact, action, and reflection together into a page-turning delight that history buffs and fans of contemporary nonfiction will not want to miss."

—Dick Hermans, Oblong Books & Music, Millerton, NY



The Rocks: A Novel

By Peter Nichols

(Riverhead Books, 9781101983393, \$16)

"This enchanting tale set against the backdrop of the beautiful Mediterranean is a bittersweet double love story told in reverse. *The Rocks* begins with a dramatic, shocking event and then moves backward in time to reveal the 60-year-old secret that caused the unraveling of

a marriage and forever altered the lives of the two families involved. A page-turning family saga with a mystery at its core, this is the perfect book to usher in a summer of great reading!"

—Adrian Newell, Warwick's, La Jolla, CA



Sevevenes: A Novel

By Neal Stephenson

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062334510, \$17.99)

"In this exciting and cerebral epic spanning 5,000 years, Stephenson explores the effects of a devastating catastrophe on the course of humanity. After the moon is shattered by an unknown agent, small groups of humans survive

the ensuing holocaust—some by digging deep underground, others by seeking refuge in space. Millennia later, the separate branches of mankind converge, inexorably changed. I was completely consumed by this book, terrified and awed by Stephenson's vision of our future. This is essential science fiction."

—Emily Ring, Inklings Bookshop, Yakima, WA



This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!: A Novel

By Jonathan Evison

(Algonquin Books, 9781616206017, \$15.95)

"With *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!*, Evison has crafted an instant classic. Recently widowed 78-year-old Harriet embarks on an Alaskan cruise that proves to be the vehicle

for her own self-discovery. As one shocking truth after another is revealed about Harriet's life, readers come to love this woman who is anything but perfect, and whose life is anything but ordinary. With an inventive, addictive structure and prose that surges with life, humor, and compassion, *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* is one to move to the very top of your reading list."

—Rob Dougherty, Clinton Book Shop, Clinton, NJ



Revisit & Rediscover

Take
a fresh look
at these old
favorites.



The God of Small Things: A Novel

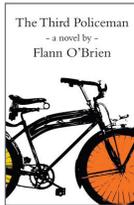
By Arundhati Roy
(Random House Trade Paperbacks,
9780812979657, \$16)

Originally published in hardcover in 1997

"Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning *The God of Small Things* opens with the funeral of a child in a small, rural Indian town in 1969. The circumstances

of Sophie Mol's death, deftly revealed through prose as lush and vivid as the Indian countryside, are told through the eyes of seven-year-old Rahel, who, with her twin brother, Estha, is caught up in events utterly beyond her control and comprehension. Caste, politics, history, and love laws are the inescapable forces that lead to tragedy and broken lives in this unforgettable and beautiful novel."

—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

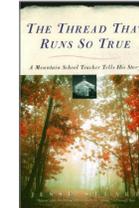


The Third Policeman: A Novel

By Flann O'Brien
(Dalkey Archive Press, 9781564782144, \$13.95)
Originally published in paperback in 1976

"From the opening page of *The Third Policeman*, it is clear that you are in the hands of an unusual genius. While O'Brien's electric writing is the warm engine of the book, his buoyant humor keeps it all light on the page. Oh, and what is it about, you might ask? Bicycles, of course. But also the nature of existence and the macabre absurdities that inhabit it."

—Stephanie Valdez, Community Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY



The Thread That Runs So True: A Mountain School Teacher Tells His Story

By Jesse Stuart

(Touchstone, 9780684719047, \$16)
Originally published in hardcover in 1949

"Armed with a high school diploma and a deep, abiding belief in the power of books and reading, Jesse Stuart started teaching in a one-room school in rural Eastern Kentucky when he was 17. With time off to put himself through college and graduate school, Stuart would end up spending more than 20 years teaching. His classic account of those years, *The Thread That Runs So True*, is a vivid testament to the power of a great teacher to transform lives. It is a funny, lyrical, and thoughtful book that belongs on any shelf of classic American writing."

—Michael Barnard, Rakestraw Books, Danville, CA