



JANUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Celine: A Novel

By Peter Heller

(Vintage, 9781101973486, \$16)

"There should be an excused absence from life when a new Peter Heller novel is released. Heller's strong narrative voice and complex plotting have always stood out to me and *Celine* is another example of this. Loosely based on Heller's mother, Celine is a hard-nosed—if a bit worn down—private investigator living

in post-9/11 Brooklyn. She has a stellar reputation, but when she is sent on a case to locate a young woman's missing father, it's clear that her age (and lifestyle) has caught up with her. You will fall in love with Celine — I would give just about anything to follow her on more adventures."

—Katelyn Phillips, WORD, Jersey City, NJ



The Dry: A Novel

By Jane Harper

(Flatiron Books, 9781250105622, \$15.99)

"Twenty years ago Federal Agent Aaron Falk left his childhood home in the farming community of Kiewarra under a cloud of suspicion. The only thing that saved him from a murder charge was the alibi provided by his best friend, Luke. Now Aaron is going home to attend Luke's funeral. Luke murdered his wife and son, and then took his own life, sparing only his baby daughter. But Luke's parents and Sergeant Greg Raco, question the official narrative. As Aaron delves into the secrets hidden in the drought-suffering community, tempers flare. This gritty mystery is well-written with clever plot twists and strong characters."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books & Music, Sunriver, OR



The Girl Before: A Novel

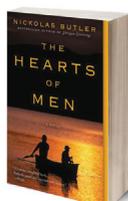
By JP Delaney

(Ballantine Books, 9780425285060, \$16)

"Immediate guarantee: You will NOT be able to put this book down. *The Girl Before* unfolds through the perspectives of two women: Emma (then) and Jane (now). It chronicles their lives in the stunningly and scarily minimalist home One Folgate Street and its aloof yet magnetic owner. Delaney spins a masterful story

that epitomizes the notion that you never really know everything about anyone. Fans of *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train* will enjoy this book."

—Destinee Hodge, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC



The Hearts of Men: A Novel

By Nicholas Butler

(Ecco, 9780062469694, \$16.99)

"Two of Butler's strengths are his rich Wisconsin settings and his ability to probe the depths of men's friendships. His new novel, an epic about three generations at a Boy Scout camp, takes that to the next level. It starts with the bullied Nelson, who finds purpose in the Scouts and winds up running the camp,

and Jonathan, the older boy who becomes both his manipulator and protector. Their complicated friendship unfolds through Jonathan's son and grandson, who both spend summers at Chippewa, but what's a Scout to do when the Scout Oath doesn't hold up in reality? In Butler's hands, the answers unfold, all in the context of a heck of a good story."

—Daniel Goldin, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



The Lonely Hearts Hotel: A Novel

By Heather O'Neill

(Riverhead Books, 9780735213746, \$17)

"If there is Canadian magical realism, this is it! *The Lonely Hearts Hotel* is the charming story of Rose and Pierrot, two children raised in a Montreal orphanage in the early 20th century. O'Neill traces their romance from their childhood of entertaining rich people in their homes to their less salubrious post-orphanage careers.

When Rose and Pierrot meet again as adults, magic happens—but can this magic survive the rigors of the real world? Fantastic and fabulous in the truest sense of both words."

—Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY



Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore: A Novel

By Matthew Sullivan

(Scribner, 978150116858, \$17)

"Still reeling from witnessing a tragic event many years ago, Lydia is thrown headfirst into yet another tragedy after one of her favorite bookshop patrons commits suicide in the store and mysteriously leaves all his possessions to her. As Lydia follows the thread that he leaves her, she finds out more about him, her town, and even her own past. *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* is a great book that keeps you guessing. Highly recommended for fans of a good mystery."

—Will Bason, BookPeople, Austin, TX



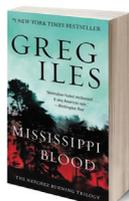
The Midnight Cool: A Novel

By Lydia Peelle

(Harper Perennial, 9780062475473, \$15.99)

"The journey of middle-aged swindler Billy and his young, idealistic partner Charles is a journey into the history and heart of the oft-maligned American dream. As the nation considers whether it will join World War I, Billy and Charles must weigh the merits of freedom against patriotic obligation, their life on the road against the temptation of putting down roots, and their diverging desires against the love and loyalty they bear for each other. As Billy says, 'I reckon that's the beauty and the shame of it, all at once.' Peelle's exploration of this beauty and shame is exquisitely wrought, richly populated, and ultimately devastating. I finished the novel in tears."

—Mairead Small Staid, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI



Mississippi Blood: The Natchez Burning Trilogy

By Greg Iles

(William Morrow, 978006231184, \$9.99)

"*Mississippi Blood* is the culmination of the Natchez Trilogy, which follows characters who are trying to get to the bottom of brutal Civil Rights-era crimes. Penn Cage watches as the world around him calls into question everything he thinks he knows, including the moral fortitude of his father.

Rippling with parallels to our everyday America, *Mississippi Blood* will, hopefully, push us all to recognize the truths about ourselves and our country."

—Veronica Brooks-Sigler, Octavia Books, New Orleans, LA



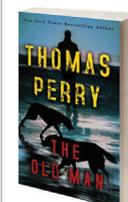
The Most Dangerous Place on Earth: A Novel

By Lindsey Lee Johnson

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812987126, \$17)

"If only we had had the wisdom back in high school, to see behind the facades of the kids who intimidated us, fascinated us, irritated us, and disgusted us—and to understand how the ways we collided with each other and with life would play out for us. Johnson's literary superpower is to plunge us into such a school and make us feel it all again as if we are there—only this time with all of the wisdom we lacked previously."

—Nina Barrett, Bookends & Beginnings, Evanston, IL



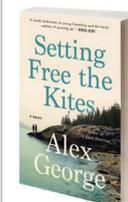
The Old Man

By Thomas Perry

(Mysterious Press, 9780802127532, \$16)

"Dan Chase is a wealthy old man living a quiet life after the death of his wife and his daughter's move to another part of the country. But wait—he is being followed, and then his house is broken into and he has to kill the intruder. Next, the old man turns to his 'go' bag as it seems he has many identities, stashes of currency, and a plan to disappear. There are secrets to be discovered all throughout this tale and Perry keeps readers wondering what will come next. This is definitely one of Perry's best!"

—Barbara Kelly, Kelly's Books to Go, South Portland, ME



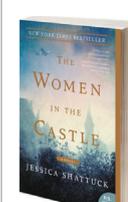
Setting Free the Kites: A Novel

By Alex George

(G.P. Putnam's Sons, 9780399576485, \$16)

"This heartfelt and compelling novel from a *Good American* author Alex George is a story of friendship, loss, and how we deal with grief, a story about how a single friendship can change us forever. Yet again, George has developed beautiful, layered characters and you will quickly fall in love with Nathan, Robert, and Liam in blustery seaside Maine in the 1970s. You will hear the excitement each hot, blistering summer of children and families visiting the amusement park owned by Robert's family. You will laugh, you will cry, and you will grieve, but you will not be disappointed."

—Amanda Zirn, Bethany Beach Books, Bethany Beach, DE



The Women in the Castle: A Novel

By Jessica Shattuck

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062563675, \$16.99)

"Three war widows and their children help each other survive at the end of World War II in this engaging novel filled with rich period details. Their husbands died as members of the resistance, but aside from that common thread, Marianne, Benita, and Ania bring very different backgrounds to their makeshift home in the castle's kitchen. They also face repercussions from past choices and current secrets. Jessica Shattuck brings us into their world and shows us that the rules for love and loyalty are different in wartime."

—Dawn Rennert, The Concord Bookshop, Concord, MA