



MARCH '13

# NOW IN PAPERBACK



### All Woman and Springtime A Novel, by Brandon W. Jones

(Algonquin Books, 9781616202767, \$14.95)

"Mr. Choy had the perfect business plan, with almost no cash outlay for staff. His porn business used North Korean refugees who had nowhere to run. Three young women who were taught from birth that there is no free will and that their every action must benefit the Glorious Leader are easy prey. This is a compelling and

unflinching tale of personal survival, politics, and, above all, friendship that will stay with you."

—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA



### The Book of Jonas A Novel, by Stephen Dau

(Plume, 9780452298972, \$16)

"This debut deals with the aftermath of acts of war, told from the perspective of Jonas, a war orphan, relocated to the states, and Rose, the mother of the American soldier who aided him. Spare and moving, the story details the confusion and fear of both the soldiers and the civilians in an unnamed Muslim country. Tension builds as

Jonas reveals more about the event that destroyed his home, and the inclusion of journal entries by Rose's son, Christopher, serves to add yet another view of the consequences of battle. Believable, intelligent, and ultimately redeeming, *The Book of Jonas* demonstrates the lasting impact of relationships even—maybe especially—in a time of war."

—Leslie Reiner, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL



### The Book of Lost Fragrances A Novel of Suspense, by M.J. Rose

(Atria, 9781451621488, \$16)

"*The Book of Lost Fragrances* takes the reader on a aromatic carpet ride from Egypt to New York City to China to Paris and back again through the ages, involving a secret people would kill for. Cleopatra believed a fragrance could enable one to remember past lives. Today, China has forbidden Tibetans from exploring their belief in

reincarnation to the extent that the boy chosen by the Dalai Lama has disappeared. At the same time Jac L'Etoile, daughter of the famous Paris perfume manufacturer has visions of past lives and lovers. Their stories are connected by a two thousand-year-old fragrance. A sensuous thriller combined with a heartbreaking love story."

—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books & Hobbies, Oscoda, MI



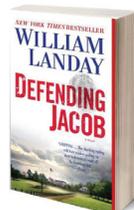
### By the Iowa Sea A Memoir, by Joe Blair

(Scribner, 9781451636062, \$16)

"This is a perfectly written book about a very complicated family under extraordinary circumstances. A troubled couple, Joe and his wife, along with their four kids, live in Coralville, Iowa, at nightmarish flood tide. Blair knows how families work and knows the sorrow of families working poorly. He also learns the

way tragedy can pull things together. His struggles with his wife and learning-disabled son are particularly moving. No one can teach someone to write with Blair's level of honesty and love."

—Paul Ingram, Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City, IA



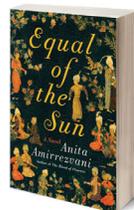
### Defending Jacob A Novel, by William Landay

(Dell, 9780440246138, \$7.99)

"Engrossing from the first page, *Defending Jacob* will keep you on the edge of your seat and then it will break your heart. What appears to be the story of a lovely family with a teenage son becomes a nightmare of suspicions, accusations, isolation, condemnation, and ultimately tragedy when an assistant district

attorney and his wife watch as their only son is arrested for the murder of a classmate. We tend to see those we love with our hearts, which is not always the same as reality, and life can come crashing down in a hurry. I was blown away by this book!"

—Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM



### Equal of the Sun A Novel, by Anita Amirrezvani

(Scribner, 9781451660470, \$17)

"Persia in the 16th century is rife with intrigue and danger. The Shah has died without a successor, and his daughter and protégé, Princess Pari Khan Kanoom, maneuvers to secure a position of power in a man's world. She is aided by the eunuch, Javaher, a man who loves the princess more than life. Based on historical

figures, this sumptuous portrayal of the royal court of Persia is the story of a woman who took risks and made her mark on history."

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



### Let's Pretend This Never Happened A Mostly True Memoir, by Jenny Lawson, The Bloggess

(Berkley Trade, 9780425261019, \$16)

"I just can't recommend Lawson's new memoir highly enough! However, my recommendation does come with a warning: Do not read this in public unless you want others staring at you and wondering if you've gone mad because you're laughing hysterically. The daughter of an off-kilter taxidermist and a mother, who, for the most part, turned her head the other way, Jenny has her issues resulting from standing inside a dead deer at a young age, growing up with live raccoons in the house, and being an arsonist at the age of three."

—Linda Grana, DIESEL: A Bookstore, Oakland, CA

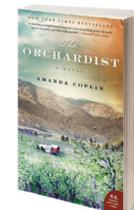


### The Mirage A Novel, by Matt Ruff

(Harper Perennial, 9780061976230, \$15.99)

"Here's another page-turning, mind-reeling masterpiece by Ruff. Imagine a world where the United Arab States is threatened by Christian fundamentalist terrorists, a world where a few good Homeland Security Agents have to fight corruption and conspiracies to protect all they believe in. I predict this is the novel that everyone will be talking about in 2012. And it's not just provocative, it's a darn good read!"

—Tegan Tigani, Queen Anne Avenue Books, Seattle, WA



### The Orchardist A Novel, by Amanda Coplin

(Harper Perennial, 9780062188519, \$15.99)

"Set in rural Washington state in the early 20th century, *The Orchardist* tells the story of Talmadge, who has lived alone since his sister disappeared from their home and orchard when he was a young man. His life is changed when two young pregnant teens, escaping from a horrific situation, arrive at the orchard and he decides to let them into his life. Lyricaly written, this is a moving book about a man's life, the land on which he lives, and the consequences of caring about others."

—Nancy Felton, Broadside Bookshop, Northampton, MA

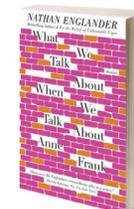


### The Uninvited Guests A Novel, by Sadie Jones

(Harper Perennial, 9780062116512, \$14.99)

"This is a comedy of manners in an Edwardian family manor in the English countryside that quickly spins into a zany tale of people who are not who they appear to be or even who they think they are. Its many twists and turns keep the reader amused and completely intrigued. A delightful romp!"

—Karen T. Harris, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven, MA



### What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank Stories, by Nathan Englander

(Vintage, 9780307949608, \$15)

"Ranging from historical and autobiographical fiction to modern tall tales, Englander's stories are written with a ferocious, startling energy. They also pose difficult questions—dilemmas requiring Solomonic wisdom to resolve—and they don't let anyone off the hook. Above all,

Englander is after the truth, and he takes notions of transparency to ends both logical and absurd to make his characters—and his readers—bare their souls and see what's there. This is powerful fiction that will haunt you after you close the book."

—Laurie Greer, Politics & Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC



### Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? by Jeanette Winterson

(Grove Press, 9780802120878, \$15)

"Readers familiar with Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* will have an inkling of the earnestness and pathos as well as the source of this most perfectly chosen title quote, but no one should stop there: this memoir delivers far more than the expected exploration of that story's roots. This is a captivating book, quotable, and brightly flecked with humor, a personal and, at times, painfully raw story about an adoptee's lifelong search for love. It also makes the strongest case I've ever read for how a life can be saved by literature."

—Jennifer Indeliclae, Ebenezer Books, Johnson, VT