



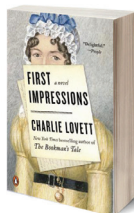
# OCTOBER NOW IN PAPERBACK



## The Bishop's Wife A Novel, by Mette Ivie Harrison

(Soho Crime, 9781616956189, \$15.95)  
"Linda Wallheim is the local bishop's wife and the mother of five sons, all but one out of the house and on their own. As a Mormon, Linda has been increasingly frustrated with some of the Church's doctrine. While her life is busy fulfilling her duties with many community services and being the hostess for the ward at all hours, she chafes under the patriarchal beliefs and practices. When she is called to care for a five-year-old girl whose mother has mysteriously disappeared, Linda begins to question the circumstances of the young wife's absence. A compelling read!"

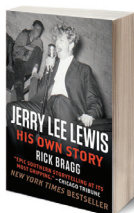
—Patricia Worth, River Reader, Lexington, MO



## First Impressions A Novel, by Charlie Lovett

(Penguin Books, 9780143127727, \$16)  
"This is a frothy and fun mystery/romance that asks 'What if Jane Austen plagiarized her greatest work, *Pride and Prejudice*?' By alternating chapters about Austen and her fictional friendship with an elderly minister and writer with those involving a modern-day bookseller and Austen fan who is searching for love and rare books, Lovett builds suspense while tossing in all kinds of fun Austen factoids. The tale is simple and sweet and the heroine is a modern-day Eliza, torn between two men and her first impressions of each. Delightful, especially for Austen fans—and really, who isn't?"

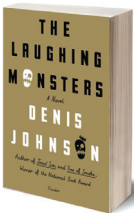
—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



## Jerry Lee Lewis His Own Story, by Rick Bragg

(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062078247, \$16.99)  
"It is possible only Rick Bragg could do true justice to The Killer, a man whose music is an indelible aspect of the American cultural scene. Bragg's knowledge of the South enables him to provide the background of a region of incredible contradictions that spawned Jerry Lee Lewis and helped contribute to a musical revolution, which eventually swept the world. Lewis' own improbable life complements the story of a cultural phenomenon that helped to change society and is still relevant today."

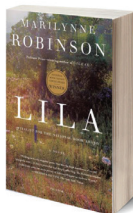
—Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS



## The Laughing Monsters A Novel, by Denis Johnson

(Picador 9781250074911, \$16)  
"In the chaos of West and Central Africa, Johnson has found a setting to match his fevered, conspiratorial, and hilarious imagination. Crackling with wild energy and bizarre happenings, *The Laughing Monsters* tells the story of two desperate and insane souls—an American spy and an African combat expert and 'man of opportunity'—who are each trying to pull off bizarre and dangerous schemes without revealing their true motives to each other or even to themselves. This is quintessential Denis Johnson madness."

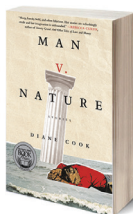
—Rico Lange, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



## Lila A Novel, by Marilynne Robinson

(Picador, 9781250074843, \$16)  
"Robinson revisits the characters from the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead* and its companion novel, *Home*, with her new novel covering the backstory of minister John Ames' young wife, whose raffish beginnings as a migrant worker are told in a series of time shifts. The ebb and flow of the story and the rhythm of the sentences seem effortless, and the skill of a master storyteller at work is fully on display. In *Gilead*, Iowa, Robinson has created her own Yoknapatawpha County, and if Alice Munro is regarded as our modern-day Chekhov, surely Robinson is our contemporary Faulkner. An impressive work."

—Matthew Lage, Iowa Book, Iowa City, IA



## Man V. Nature Stories, by Diane Cook

(Harper Perennial, 9780062333117, \$14.99)  
"Cook has a keen eye for dredging up our deepest fears in these surreal stories. From child abduction to global warming her characters face the unthinkable with remarkable aplomb and surprising results. Cook is a true original and it's impossible to guess just which way her stories will turn, but you can trust that most of the time it will be the right way."

—Arsen Kashkashian, Boulder Bookstore, Boulder, CO



## Night Blindness A Novel, by Susan Strecker

(St. Martin's Griffin, 9781250042842, \$15.99)  
"Family tragedy and guilt are too much for 16-year-old Jensen Reilly to handle by herself, but that is what she tries to do for 13 years. She abandons everything that defines her and starts a new life as an artist and model, eventually eloping with her art professor. Jensen is finally forced to face her past, her old friends, her family, and her first true love when her father is diagnosed with a brain tumor and she returns home to help care for him. *Night Blindness* is a story of first love, family, grief, guilt, forgiveness, and how the truth can truly set one free."

—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



## On Immunity An Inoculation, by Eula Biss

(Graywolf Press, 9781555972207, \$16)  
"Biss' essays about the immunization debate range from the personal to the body politic and back again. Drawing on her experiences as a mother and employing an astonishing diversity of sources, Biss plumbs our ancient fear of infection. Acknowledging the permeability of both our borders and bodies, she arrives at the conclusion that 'immunity is a shared space—a garden we tend together.' Biss' precise language and wry humor make *On Immunity* as engaging as it is informative."

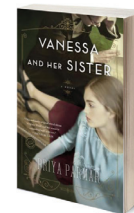
—Brooke Alexander, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX



## Penelope Fitzgerald A Life, by Hermione Lee

(Vintage, 9780804170499, \$17.95)  
"As always with Lee's work, her latest biography offers a detailed and fascinating view of her subject's life. Penelope Fitzgerald was a teacher, a scholar, a world-class novelist, a two-time winner of Britain's Man Booker Prize, and a devoted mother and wife. Fitzgerald came late to fame, and this meticulously researched and beautifully written biography reveals every facet of her life in the most intimate way. I loved it!"

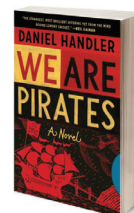
—Kathy Ashton, The King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City, UT



## Vanessa and Her Sister A Novel, by Priya Parmar

(Ballantine Books, 9780804176392, \$16)  
"This novel tells the story of sisters Vanessa and Virginia Stephens, later to become Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf. Vanessa, an emerging painter, tells their stories in her journal accompanied by the letters and telegrams of their families, husbands, and the many brilliant artists and painters in their circle. It is a story of art, literature, betrayal, emotional upheaval, and, above all, the many complicated forms love takes. Set against the backdrop of Edwardian England, a time of sweeping social transformations, *Vanessa and Her Sister* is a moving portrait of a brilliant family."

—Staci Rice, Bluebird Books, Hutchinson, KS



## We Are Pirates A Novel, by Daniel Handler

(Bloomsbury, 9781608197767, \$16)  
"From the mind behind Lemony Snicket comes this weird and wonderful novel, featuring a troubled teenage girl, her befuddled parents, an Alzheimer's-addled old man, and, of course, pirates. Handler plays it straight, until he doesn't, and demonstrates why he is one of the most playful, macabre, and beloved writers working today."

—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



## Wildalone A Novel, by Krassi Zourkova

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062328038, \$14.99)  
"Thea, a piano prodigy determined to leave Bulgaria for America, has just discovered she is a 'ghost child,' someone raised in the shadow of a dead sibling. Her sister, Elza, attended Princeton, also as a piano prodigy, but was found dead with no known cause. Eighteen years later, as Thea learns of this tragedy for the first time, she is determined to solve the mystery of her sister's death, but two brothers, as handsome as they are mysterious, are determined to keep the bizarre circumstances of her sister's death secret. Ancient Greek mythology meets Bulgarian legend in this shadowy, sensuous world of magic, mystery, and romance."

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