



DECEMBER 2016 NOW IN PAPERBACK



The Comedians: Drunks, Thieves, Scoundrels and the History of American Comedy

By Kliph Nesteroff

(Grove Press, 9780802125682, \$18)

"This is a sweeping, in-depth story of how American comedy evolved from its earliest days. From Vaudeville and radio to mob-controlled night clubs and television, Nesteroff is adept at showing how the seedy underbelly of show business shaped the stars of yesterday and today. Stuffed to the brim with amusing anecdotes and insider gossip, it is an eye-opening trip. A former comedian himself, Nesteroff has long been a chronicler of the history of comedy in America, and this book is the culmination of years of interviews and research. Fun, entertaining, and insightful."

—Jay Aubrey-Herzog, Northtown Books, Arcata, CA



First Bite: How We Learn to Eat

By Bee Wilson

(Basic Books, 9780465094127, \$16.99)

"Food scholar Wilson explores not only how our food habits are shaped and the origins of our tastes, but also the problems we have with our present diet and how we can change our palates to lead healthier lives. Entertaining, informative, and packed with food wisdom, *First Bite* belongs on the shelves of food lovers, history buffs, and all fans of good writing."

—Linda Bond, Auntie's Bookstore, Spokane, WA



The Guest Room: A Novel

By Chris Bohjalian

(Vintage, 9780804170987, \$16)

"From the explosive beginning all the way to the adrenaline rush of its conclusion, *The Guest Room* packs an emotional punch that will leave the reader gasping. When a bachelor party goes terribly wrong and two Russian mobsters wind up dead in his home, financier Richard Chapman finds himself struggling to save his job and marriage. Intertwined with Richard's story is the tale of Alexandra, a young sex slave with a narrative voice that will break your heart. Nobody does domestic drama quite like Bohjalian. Once again he proves himself a master of page-turning literary fiction."

—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN



Like Family: A Novel

By Paolo Giordano

(Penguin Books, 9780143108610, \$13)

"This short, spare, beautifully evocative novel becomes a major meditation on the mystery of life, with all of its attendant joy and sorrow. The story of Anna—caretaker, nanny, and confidant—becomes the tale of all families with the extremes of happiness and sadness inherent in every situation. *Like Family* is poignant, sure to stir emotions in any reader and, in the end, a paean to living the life that is given."

—Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS



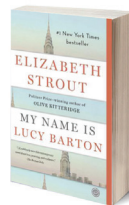
The Madwoman Upstairs: A Novel

By Catherine Lowell

(Touchstone, 9781501126307, \$16)

"*The Madwoman Upstairs* is both a reference to the insane wife of Edward Rochester in *Jane Eyre* and to Samantha Whipple, who is the last remaining descendant of the Brontë sisters. Samantha cannot escape her past with their work, the world's interest in her inheritance of previously undiscovered family treasures, and the current puzzle of artifacts mysteriously appearing in her room that may or may not answer some of her questions. For mystery and Brontë fans alike, this is a delightful romp."

—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA



My Name is Lucy Barton: A Novel

By Elizabeth Strout

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812979527, \$16)

"Strout has the incredible ability to take ordinary, even mundane situations and use them to make acute observations on the human condition. A mother's visit to her daughter in the hospital becomes the vehicle for an astute examination of daily needs, desires, yearnings, wishes, and dreams that become so much of the remembered experience. Using spare, precise, but beautiful language, she has produced another masterpiece in a growing list of impressive work."

—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI



The Passenger: A Novel

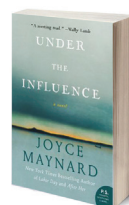
By Lisa Lutz

(Simon & Schuster, 9781451686647, \$15.99)

"This is the sharp, witty, and often sassy story of a woman, variously known as Norah/Jo/Tanya/Amelia/Debra/et al., on the run from events in her past for which she claims innocence. Her only chance of freedom is to run, and while running she changes identities and adds new troubles almost faster than readers can keep track."

A meeting with a mysterious woman named Blue puts her on a new path, one that hopefully will lead her home and give her a chance to finally clear her name. Fast-paced and full of unexpected obstacles, this is a roller-coaster ride of a read you don't want to miss."

—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



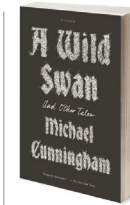
Under the Influence: A Novel

By Joyce Maynard

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062257680, \$15.99)

"Remembrances from *The Great Gatsby* ran through my head both as a warning and a promise as I read *Under the Influence*. I was fascinated by the Havillands, the whirlwind couple at the center of the book, with their wealth, their ease, and their charm. It is easy to see why they appeal to Helen, weary and downtrodden as she is, and why she slips so easily into their embrace. I felt a growing sense of I read, picking up the warning signals Helen ignores, but I was as helpless to escape as she is. I couldn't stop reading until I reached the bitter end!"

—Lauren Peugh, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



A Wild Swan: And Other Tales

By Michael Cunningham

(Picador, 9781250097309, \$16)

"The author of *The Hours* gives us a modern take on classic fairy tales, from a sympathetic Rumpelstiltskin to a jaded but content Steadfast Tin Soldier. Cunningham is not shy with his characters: he strips away sentimentality like an old Band-Aid, tearing through the romanticism that these tales usually inspire. Each story is less a retelling and more an unflinching dissection of human nature—our base needs and urges, our raw fears and joys. Shimizu's haunting illustrations give the book a classic feel, and make it a perfect addition to any fairy tale lover's collection."

—Jennifer Oleinik, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



The Accident Season

By Moira Fowley-Doyle

(Speak, 9780147517326, \$10.99)

"Every October the accident season strikes Cara and her family. Bones are broken and skin is bruised and cut. Some years, the bad years, one of them dies, and Cara thinks this is going to be a bad year. When the origin of the accident season is revealed, no one is ready for it. Spellbinding and sharply beautiful, *The Accident Season* is a haunting look at the power of secrets."

—Amy Brabanec, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA



Anything Could Happen

By Will Walton

(Push, 9781338032499, \$9.99)

"The reason books like this need to be written is to remind us that everyone deserves to be loved unconditionally. The character of Tretch is your brother, your son, your favorite co-worker, your nephew. He is one of the most kind, true, genuine teenage boys you'll ever meet. It takes great courage to be honest, and Walton's main character realizes that being truly honest opens you up to being loved. When you read *Anything Could Happen*, you'll hold your breath, your heart will break, and you'll wish you could see Tretch's dance moves!"

—Rachel Watkins, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



The Game of Love and Death

By Martha Brockenbrough

(Scholastic, 9780545924221, \$9.99)

"This book is captivating from the very first page! Period details from 1920s Seattle form a rich backdrop for a timeless story of illicit love between a white boy and an African American girl. Adults and teens alike will enjoy this historical novel with magical elements. The characters of Love and Death add the perfect touch of magic and mystery, reminiscent of *The Night Circus*."

—Emily Adams, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA