



# OCTOBER '16

## The Mothers: A Novel

By Brit Bennett

"The 'mothers' of this book's title refers to the gaggle of elderly churchgoing women who comment on the congregation around them, especially the trio of Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey. But *The Mothers* is about more than that—it refers to the concept of motherhood, whether biological, lost, aborted, adoptive, or conflicted. The three young people at the heart of this story are all flawed, but their portrayals are realistic and they are easy for readers to support. This is a book about salvation—not the spiritual salvation that the gossiping, but well-intentioned mothers seek, but the kind that comes with self-acceptance and growth. *The Mothers* is an honest, modern, and triumphant book."

—Jamie Thomas, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL



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# OCTOBER '16

## News of the World: A Novel

By Paulette Jiles

"This short, powerful novel is historical fiction at its best! Captain Kidd, a 72-year-old war veteran and professional news reader, has been tasked with returning Johanna, a 10-year-old white girl kidnapped by the Kiowa when she was six and recently ransomed, to relatives living near San Antonio. The Captain knows the journey will not be easy but believes it is his duty to do the right thing, despite the dangers that lie ahead. What he doesn't expect is the strength of the bond that develops between him and Johanna, one so powerful that it defines the choice he makes at journey's end. Beautifully descriptive prose drives the narrative through the harsh and unforgiving landscape of the West during the late 1800s."

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



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# OCTOBER '16

## Small Great Things: A Novel

By Jodi Picoult

"Picoult can be relied upon to find the themes that are most important to our national conversation and then to explore them with wit, warmth, and skill. In *Small Great Things*, she illuminates the racial divide in our country through the vivid stories of a black nurse, a white supremacist, and the public defender who intervenes when the worst happens. This excellent, timely novel is sure to be loved by Picoult's fans and is certain to create new ones."

—Michael Hermann, Gibson's Bookstore, Concord, NH



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# OCTOBER '16

## Reputations: A Novel

By Juan Gabriel Vásquez

"With direct and forceful narrative and a translation as smooth and peaceful as the quiet narrator himself, this book takes the reader on a days-long search for the past and the present in modern day Bogotá. A prominent political cartoonist is shaken when a forgotten uncertainty from the past resurfaces. This psychological study of the concept that what we believe makes us who we are is a masterpiece!"

—Nicole Magistro, The Bookworm of Edwards, Edwards, CO



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## OCTOBER '16

### The Other Einstein: A Novel

By Marie Benedict

"To portray Einstein not as the scientific genius we have been led to know, but as a callous, manipulative human being is what Benedict brilliantly accomplishes. Could the highly intelligent Mileva Maric—leading the bohemian life in 1890s Zurich—pursue a nontraditional career in science and math and simultaneously maintain a traditional relationship with the young Albert Einstein? With historical flair, *The Other Einstein* presents a volatile life filled with moments of collaboration and sacrifice, humiliation and outrage, and a will to change forces to save one's own existence."

—Mindy Ostrow, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY



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## OCTOBER '16

### The Trespasser: A Novel

By Tana French

"While French's mysteries stand alone, a minor character from the previous book always becomes the main character in the next one. In this case, it is Antoinette Conway, the lone female detective in the 'Boys Club' that is the Murder Squad of the Dublin Police Department. She is partnered with Stephen Moran, a young and inexperienced detective, and assigned nothing but domestic disturbance cases. The latest one appears to be no different: Aislinn Murray is found murdered in her flat with the table set for dinner, but there is no sign of anyone else on the scene. Is this a romantic evening that took an ugly turn, or is there something more sinister afoot?"

—Sharon K. Nagle, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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## OCTOBER '16

### Children of the New World: Stories

By Alexander Weinstein

"Imaginative and articulate, *Children of the New World* envisions fascinating technologies and the cultures shaped by them. As in the best speculative fiction, Weinstein's stories are driven by a longing for deeper answers: What defines us as human? How will we maintain this humanity as our lives become increasingly interwoven with the digital? I am haunted by many of the characters in these stories and their search for the human connection in worlds where technology appears to supersede it, but I am comforted by Weinstein's implication that such connection will still be essential. This debut is an astonishing addition to the world of speculative fiction."

—Kelsey O'Rourke, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI



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## OCTOBER '16

### Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South

By Beth Macy

"In the early 20th century, Albino African American brothers are kidnapped by unscrupulous and racist circus managers who not only steal their earnings from their work as freak show performers, but also tell their mother that they are dead. This occurs during the height of the Jim Crow South, when black lives didn't matter and lynching was at its peak. The mother's persistent and heroic fight through legal channels to recoup her sons' wages and achieve a better standard of living is at the heart of this true story, an inside look at the historical depths of American racism."

—Joan Grenier, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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## OCTOBER '16

### **Trainwreck: The Women We Love to Hate, Mock, and Fear ... and Why**

By Sady Doyle

"At its best, pop culture criticism forces us to reconsider a familiar product by placing it in a new context and, in doing so, imbuing it with new meaning. *Trainwreck* is just that. Doyle effectively and entertainingly litigates her case: that Western culture's fascination with 'fallen' female starlets—aka trainwrecks—is simply a modern form of the patriarchal silencing and marginalization of women that has been going for centuries. With sly humor and lively prose, Doyle systematically punches through all the familiar straw-man arguments and convincingly illustrates that the 'harmless fun' of Internet clickbait and TMZ gossip are merely modern forms of public shaming. A must-read."

—Matt Nixon, The Booksellers at Laurelwood, Memphis, TN



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## OCTOBER '16

### **Mercury: A Novel**

By Margot Livesey

"This riveting psychological novel delves into the lives of Donald and Vivian, a married couple whose stability is threatened and ultimately undermined when Vivian, whose former life as an aspiring equestrian was cut short, meets Mercury, a magnificent horse with a tragic history. What unfolds may seem like destiny to Vivian, but to Donald, a staid and deliberate ophthalmologist still mourning the death of his beloved father, it tests everything he's ever known, including his faculty for navigating the world. A truly remarkable study of human nature and the blindspots that hinder us all."

—Mary Cotton, Newtonville Books, Newton, MA



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## OCTOBER '16

### **All That Man Is: A Novel**

By David Szalay

"*All That Man Is* was recently longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and with good reason. The novel's parade of characters, ranging from teenagers to a man in his twilight years, when taken as a whole, represents an 'everyman' in whom readers can easily see pieces of themselves. With prose reminiscent of Amis, Kundera, and Nabokov, Szalay offers a collection of related stories that speak to the mundane qualities of modern life with a sympathetic tone, a reflection of our struggle to move forward in a world increasingly unfamiliar to most of us, but not without hope."

—Tom Beans, Dudley's Bookshop Café, Bend, OR



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## OCTOBER '16

### **Today Will Be Different**

By Maria Semple

"With her signature writing style and matter-of-fact and honest tone, Semple can make me laugh while reading like no one else can. Truth be told, there's not much to the plot here other than Eleanor decides today will be different and, of course, everything that could possibly go wrong does go wrong. However, the simplicity of the plot is what makes this book a wonderful read for all of us who don't have it together, who forget things, and who sometimes just plain lose their cool."

—Kristin Beverly, Half Price Books, Dallas, TX



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## OCTOBER '16

### The Wangs vs. the World: A Novel

By Jade Chang

"Simultaneously tongue-in-cheek and earnest, *The Wangs vs. the World* is one hell of a ride. Literally. Join the Wang family patriarch, Charles, as he and his family drive across the country from Los Angeles to New York in shame after his cosmetic company is destroyed by a doomed business investment. Homeless, penniless, yet still fiercely proud, Charles sets out to reunite his children and reclaim the ancestral land of the Wangs from the Chinese Communists. A hilarious, moving, and rollicking tale of family, ancestry, and a worn-out Mercedes station wagon, *The Wangs vs. the World* is not to be missed!"

—Michelle Chen, WORD, Brooklyn, NY



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## OCTOBER '16

### Cruel Beautiful World: A Novel

By Caroline Leavitt

"*Cruel Beautiful World* is a masterful family drama about sisterhood, love, and the dangers of entering the adult world. Lucy is sure that she and her high school teacher are in love. She agrees to run away with William to a rural paradise where they can be together safely until she turns 18. Lucy, however, gets more than she bargained for when her life turns into one of isolation and deprivation. Her sister, Charlotte, never gives up hope that Lucy will return. Their shocking reunion will leave readers riveted to the page and these characters will haunt readers long after the book is finished."

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



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## OCTOBER '16

### The Wonder: A Novel

By Emma Donoghue

"Lib Wright, a protégé of Florence Nightingale and a nursing veteran of the Crimean War, is dispatched from London to a remote Irish village to keep watch on Anna O'Donnell, a young girl who is rumored to have refrained from eating for four months yet continues to thrive. Miracle or hoax? Lib is determined to uncover the truth, but the truth is never simple. In this beautiful, haunting novel, Donoghue weaves a tale of misguided faith and duty, exploited innocence, and redemptive love. What is the secret behind Anna's mysterious ability to survive? The truth is uncovered as *The Wonder* propels readers to a shocking conclusion."

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



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## OCTOBER '16

### The Kept Woman: A Novel

By Karin Slaughter

"*The Kept Woman* features Georgia detective Will Trent in a compelling mystery involving a superstar sports figure, his wife, and a rape. The athlete had already been cleared of the rape allegations when a dead man is found in a building he is making into a high-end club with other wealthy investors. At the scene, blood is found that doesn't match that of the dead man, indicating that there is a second victim – a woman – in dire trouble. Another suspenseful tour de force from Slaughter."

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



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## OCTOBER '16

### Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill

By Candice Millard

"No one was more certain that he was destined for greatness than Winston Churchill and he let nothing deter or discourage him from achieving that goal. The young Churchill saw his path to prominence and power through fearless exploits in the British Army and as a war correspondent. England's brutal war with the Boer rebels in southern Africa would prove to be his crucible. Millard's exciting chronicle of Churchill's experiences there, both daring and humbling, is a fitting tribute to a man whose early dreams of glory proved to be a self-fulfilling prophesy."

—Alden Graves, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

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## OCTOBER '16

### The Clay Girl: A Novel

By Heather Tucker

"Ari Appleton has been dealt the worst hand ever in terms of parents: her dad is an incestuous pedophile who is both charismatic and cruel, and her mother is an incredibly egocentric addict who bore six girls and has not one iota of love for anyone but herself. Ari moves away from the drug culture and sexual revolution in Toronto in the 1960s to Pleasant Cove, an idyllic place where she is surrounded by love and nurturing. This novel is full of take-your-breath-away writing, and Ari joins the ranks of heroines who take the worst society has to offer and turn it into strength and kindness."

—Linda Sherman-Nurick, Cellar Door Books, Riverside, CA

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## OCTOBER '16

### The Life-Writer

By David Constantine

"Occasionally tragic and always tender, Constantine's novel is a moving exploration of the ways in which we relate to the people we love. After the death of her husband, Katrin—a literary biographer who has dedicated her career to recording the lives of obscure and largely unsuccessful writers—finds herself drawn to a new project: telling the story of the early life and first love of the man she would later marry. A remarkable story of grief, rediscovery, and reconciliation."

—Sam Kaas, Village Books, Bellingham, WA

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## OCTOBER '16

### Irena's Children: The Extraordinary Story of the Woman Who Saved 2,500 Children from the Warsaw Ghetto

By Tilar J. Mazzeo

"There have been accounts of men who helped Jews and other victims of the Nazi regime escape the clutches of genocidal pogroms and mass slaughter, but this story is about a woman who courageously smuggled thousands of children to safety. Granted unusual access to the Warsaw ghetto as a public health specialist, Irena Sendler used her position to rescue children by various means, sometimes right under the noses of guards. As compelling as any great fiction thriller, Irena's story will remain with the reader for a long time to come."

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

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