



APRIL 2019 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Country Dark: A Novel

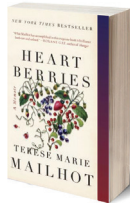
By Chris Offutt

(Grove Press, 9780802129338, \$16)

"Country Dark spans 1954 to 1971, opening with Tucker's return home from the Korean War, to rural Kentucky near the Ohio border, where he takes up a job as a driver in a bootlegging operation. Tucker is devoted to his rural home life and to his young wife and children, and once their way of life is threatened, he understands he may have to

employ his wartime skills to keep it together. Chris Offutt's new novel is almost impossible not to race through, but should be savored."

—Richard Howorth, Square Books, Oxford, MS



Heart Berries: A Memoir

By Terese Marie Mailhot

(Counterpoint, 9781640091603, \$16.95)

"In a time of memoirs that help a reader understand vulnerability and the experience of facing down fear, Terese Marie Mailhot's cathartic, moving *Heart Berries* is one of the bravest and most fearless of such books. Her coming-of-age on a First Nation reservation, Seabird Island in Canada, is particular to that vividly evoked place, but also carries larger, universal lessons for the human spirit and its survival. A necessary book."

—Rick Simonson, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



Heavy: An American Memoir

By Kiese Laymon

(Scribner, 9781501125669, \$16)

"Telling the truth has always been a radical and political act, but Kiese Laymon writes in *Heavy* with a rare, vulnerable unity of personal urgency and political clarity. This is a story about how our country's lies and thefts weigh heavily on the hearts and souls of its black mothers and sons. About how dishonesty about white supremacy, money, sex, and violence threads through our most intimate relationships and causes us to become strangers to ourselves. If *Heavy* is about lies, it is also fundamentally about the redemptive power of truth, stories, language, and joy. If there's a way out of the loneliness of being human in a country that does not value or support humanity, Laymon suggests, it is in the connection we find in the words we toss to one another, like lifelines, like laughter."

—E.R. Anderson, Charis Books & More, Atlanta, GA



I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death

By Maggie O'Farrell

(Vintage, 9780525436058, \$16)

"Maggie O'Farrell's memoir left me breathless and heart-sore. There were times I literally had a fist to my own heart in sympathy. The encounters told according to each limb or organ is a genius device; it is as though each distinct part of her body had its own voice and

wanted my sole attention. This is one of the most mesmerizing memoirs I have ever read. The breadth and scope of Maggie's 17 brushes with death left me gasping for air, and her strong voice is indelible. There is no victim here, and life is to be treasured but not treated too delicately."

—Maeve Noonan, Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Springs, NY



Lawn Boy: A Novel

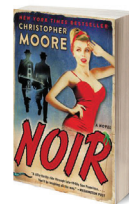
By Jonathan Evison

(Algonquin Books, 9781616209230, \$15.95)

"Mike Muñoz is a broke, unemployed, sexually confused 22-year-old Chicano man living in Washington State, just trying to find the right path to his American dream. One setback after another is laid in front of him, and Mike wonders if he will ever make the leap from survival mode to working toward his goals. I loved this book for the

sincere, engaging way the author addresses the issues of class distinction and cultural discrimination, and Mike is such a funny, tenacious, lovable human that you can't help but ache for his disappointments and cheer for his victories. I hope everyone reads this inspiring novel."

—Cassie Clemans, Roundabout Books, Bend, OR



Noir: A Novel

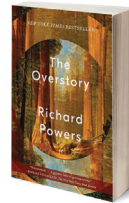
By Christopher Moore

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062433992, \$16.95)

"Christopher Moore has done it again! *Noir* is now among my very favorites by this popular novelist. This book is everything it promises: A love letter to hard-boiled detective fiction, a thorough and loving bath in the atmosphere of 1947 San Francisco, and loads of laughs along the way. Aliens? Yes. Romance? Also yes.

Add in a cast of characters with heart, moxie, and beguiling banter and you've got *Noir*, a recipe for pure enjoyment."

—Mary McDonald, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI



The Overstory: A Novel

By Richard Powers

(W. W. Norton & Company, 9780393356687, \$18.95)

"*The Overstory*, which contains an energy like that of the trees that link its intertwining stories, is nothing short of stunning. Such links between the human and non-human are mostly hidden to us, but only because we tend not to look very closely (or prefer not to see). Powers' most beautiful sentences are also the most devastating, which

hints at the novel's hope that death—whether of a person or a plant—is never quite the end that it seems. Until, that is, we look, or prefer, finally, to see. As we are instructed near the novel's end, 'What you make from a tree should be at least as miraculous as what you cut down.' Plainly put: *The Overstory* is perhaps as close to such a miracle as we currently deserve."

—Brad Johnson, East Bay Booksellers, Oakland, CA



Promise: A Novel

By Minrose Gwin

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062471727, \$15.99)

"I could not put this book down. I felt like I was trapped in Gwin's tornado, wandering through the devastated streets and blown-apart buildings, feeling the chaos and brokenness. In the midst of it all, I could also feel the strength and determination of Dovey and Jo and experience their humanity, honesty, obstinance, and

kindness. With all the fires, hurricanes, and floods we've had around the country recently, along with continuing racial tensions, this story, though set in 1936, speaks loudly to us today."

—Serena Wycoff, Copperfish Books, Punta Gorda, FL



Tin Man: A Novel

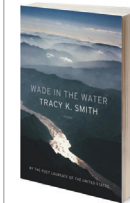
By Sarah Winman

(G.P. Putnam's Sons, 9780735218765, \$14)

"Michael loves Ellis, Ellis loves Annie, and Annie loves them both. Yet Sarah Winman's blistering novel *Tin Man* is anything but the usual love triangle. Instead, Winman asks us to consider what remains of love after its object is gone. She crowds this spare little book, set in London, Oxford, and the south of France, with

vivid portraits of loss and mourning. At once terse and expansive, *Tin Man* is a firework flashing in the night—gone too soon but burned forever into the reader's memory."

—David Enyeart, Common Good Books, St. Paul, MN



Wade in the Water: Poems

By Tracy K. Smith

(Graywolf Press, 9781555978365, \$16)

"In *Wade in the Water*, Smith masterfully makes herself into a medium through which the voices of other (forgotten) people can become poetry. 'I Will Tell You the Truth About This...' is a haunting and beautiful poem written using the letters and statements of African-Americans who enlisted as soldiers in the Civil War.

Here, Smith is simultaneously the declarer and the creator of a space wherein others may be given room to declare. It is this balancing act that brings out the heart and beauty of *Wade in the Water*. The impersonal is made intimate, the world is made individual, and through it all, Smith guides us with true poetic sense. *Wade in the Water* is a necessary, beautiful book!"

—Eli Sorich, Magers & Quinn Booksellers, Minneapolis, MN



Warlight: A Novel

By Michael Ondaatje

(Vintage, 9780525562962, \$16.95)

"With his usual virtuosity, master storyteller Michael Ondaatje delivers a mysterious, shimmering new coming-of-age novel. *Warlight* is the unexpected story of two teenagers abandoned by their enigmatic parents in post-war London. Casually watched over by a dodgy cast of characters—petty criminals, opera singers, and

panting greyhounds—Nathaniel and Rachel try to make sense of their new world while struggling to define their parents' shadowy wartime pasts. Years later, Nathaniel embarks on a quest to discover the disturbing truth, and his own unwitting part in it. Balancing poignance with surprising comic touches, *Warlight* is a stellar addition to the Ondaatje canon."

—Chrysler Szarlan, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



Washington Black: A Novel

By Esi Edugyan

(Vintage, 9780525563242, \$16.95)

"Epic in scope, ranging from a brutal slave plantation in Barbados to scenes in the Arctic, antebellum America, and London, plus a thoughtful denouement in the Moroccan desert, Edugyan's novel explores the complex relationship between slave and master, the hubris of good intentions, and the tense life of a runaway in constant flight with a Javert on

his tail. What results is a compulsive page-turner blessed with effortless prose. Highly recommended."

—Matt Lage, Iowa Book, Iowa City, IA