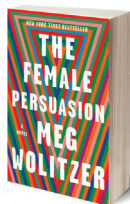




JUNE 2019 NOW IN PAPERBACK



The Female Persuasion: A Novel

By Meg Wolitzer

(Riverhead Books, 9780399573231, \$17)

"I never could have anticipated this book, and now I can't imagine a world without it. *The Female Persuasion* follows the ambitious but shy Greer Kadetsky, her boyfriend, her best friend, and the feminist icon who launches her into the world. Through these vivid, complex, and lovable characters, Wolitzer

explores both the principle and reality of feminism, as well as the desire to become our fullest selves and the twists and turns that journey can take. *The Female Persuasion* is powerful, generous, smart, and deeply kind; I can't wait for the world to meet it."

—Megan Bell, Underground Books, Carrollton, GA



Florida: Stories

By Lauren Groff

(Riverhead Books, 9781594634529, \$16)

"After wowing readers (former President Barack Obama included) with 2015's *Fates and Furies*, Lauren Groff returns with a collection of stories just as wise and meticulously constructed. Within the sun-kissed, palmetto-strewn swampland of Groff's Florida, we encounter a pair of abandoned sisters, anxious

mothers, and a woman being pushed to the edge. Groff examines the lives of her characters with a surveyor's eye, capturing the sense of dread and desire that pervades their existence. *Florida* is an exploration of time and place, both sensual and terrifying, and seems to me both timely and timeless."

—Uriel Perez, BookPeople, Austin, TX



Fruit of the Drunken Tree: A Novel

By Ingrid Rojas Contreras

(Anchor, 9780525434313, \$16)

"*Fruit of the Drunken Tree* made me cry at the airport. I was impressed by the small kingdom of women Contreras builds, with violence always threatening to creep in, all seen through the eyes of Chula, the youngest daughter. Contreras made her perspective believably cloistered while masterfully writing all the

people around Chula in ways that made them feel real. This novel is a dynamic exploration of what is known and, sometimes willfully, what is left unknown."

—Lillian Li, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI



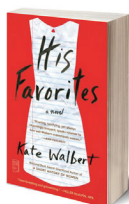
The Great Believers: A Novel

By Rebecca Makkai

(Penguin Books, 9780735223530, \$16)

"This flawlessly written and lovingly told story depicts the immediate toll AIDS took on the Chicago gay community in the '80s and the long-term impact on survivors and their families. Makkai threads it all compellingly together with art world intrigue and institutional drama. *The Great Believers* brought to my mind several of my favorite contemporary novels: *A Little Life*, *Three Junes*, and *The Goldfinch*. Rebecca Makkai, in my opinion, has launched herself into a whole new category of literary achievement with this."

—Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT



His Favorites: A Novel

By Kate Walbert

(Scribner, 9781476799407, \$15)

"Kate Walbert is one of my favorite writers and she continues to create memorable novels, as evidenced by this new one. There's something about the way she tells her story of a young girl struggling to balance a wild energy with a soft heart who is preyed upon by a charismatic and overbearing teacher that makes the novel both sing and complete the heart simultaneously. I read this in one evening and was completely overtaken by it. It is excellent."

—Sheryl Coteur, Copperfield's Books, Sebastopol, CA



Invitation to a Bonfire: A Novel

By Adrienne Celt

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635571530, \$17)

"Adrienne Celt's *Invitation to a Bonfire* is a propulsive literary thriller masterfully constructed and written with an extraordinary, raw urgency that will leave readers breathless. Inspired by the marriage of Vladimir and Vera Nabokov, Celt explores the love and ambition of two strong-willed women who compete for the passions

and artistic control of a literary icon. The novel's characters are original and vividly drawn, with all the complexity and contradictions of their emotions and intentions fully realized. This is a story that you will not be able to put down, and certainly one of the most memorable and satisfying reads of the year. Adrienne Celt is a writer to watch."

—Lori Feathers, Interabang Books, Dallas, TX



Lake Success: A Novel

By Gary Shteyngart

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812987201, \$18)

"When Barry Cohen's marriage and hedge fund company begin to crumble, he hops a Greyhound bus to El Paso, hoping to find himself among the 'real Americans' of the Trump era. Meanwhile, the wife he left behind struggles to build a solo life among the one percent. Together, their stories are a biting portrait of a country unimproved by the best of intentions. Equal parts *Sense and Sensibility*, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, and *Bonfire of the Vanities*, *Lake Success* is a wickedly funny satire and a rollicking good story for tough times."

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



The Lost Family: A Novel

By Jenna Blum

(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062742179, \$16.99)

"The characters in Jenna Blum's *The Lost Family* are deeply real and unforgettable: a man and a woman both trying to compensate for the losses of their previous families by creating a new family, and the daughter who grows up with them, feeling equally lost. Blum gets so many things effortlessly right: the terror of Nazi Germany; the fluctuating zeitgeist of New York in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s; the way the foodie father, the dieting wife, and the eating-disordered daughter all express themselves through their relationship with food. I would recommend it for Meg Wolitzer fans, though Blum's style is definitely her own."

—Nina Barrett, Bookends & Beginnings, Evanston, IL



Number One Chinese Restaurant: A Novel

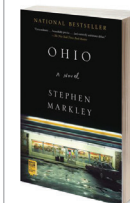
By Lillian Li

(Picador, 9781250229328, \$17)

"Growing up in a small town in the '60s, my first experience of Chinese food served tableside in a grand manner was on our annual vacation to visit family. The Empress restaurant—near the White House!—boasted about its Peking duck, just like the suburban D.C.

Duck House in *Number One Chinese Restaurant*. The Duck House connects three generations of a restaurant dynasty and three star-crossed pairs of lovers, who are about to find out that, like a good stir fry, timing is everything. This is a masterful debut. I came for the fun Chinese restaurant setting, but I stayed for the characters."

—Carla Bayha, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI



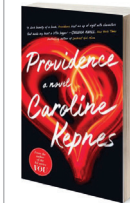
Ohio: A Novel

By Stephen Markley

(Simon & Schuster, 9781501174483, \$16.99)

"Stephen Markley's powerful debut plumbs the depths of the cruel trick played on small-town America during the recession, war, and political and cultural hostility of the last 15 years and delivers us the gift of surprising and exquisite beauty and hope. In this story of four former classmates and one summer night in 2013, Markley gives us insightful and gorgeous prose revealing the humanity that continues to carry on in the broken center of America. I hope to read this author's keen writing for many years to come."

—Beth Albrecht, The Magic Tree Bookstore, Oak Park, IL



Providence: A Novel

By Caroline Kepnes

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780399591457, \$17)

"*Providence*, a novel for the *Stranger Things* audience, is a fun and interesting blend of light fantasy and soft horror themes. I am a huge Lovecraft fan and devour fan fiction or books that reference Lovecraft, and author Caroline Kepnes does a nice job creating a weird

and entertaining ride while explaining Lovecraft and *The Dunwich Horror* to those who may not be familiar. Overall, I found this book to be exactly what I needed: a nice escape from the confines of the horror genre. I'm also happy to see more female writers bringing their own voices to horror in new and interesting ways."

—Guy Lopez, Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA



The Summer Wives: A Novel

By Beatriz Williams

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062660350, \$16.99)

"When her mother marries one of the wealthy summer residents in 1951, 18-year-old Miranda enters the exclusive world of Winthrop Island. A perfect summer beach read, the story moves from 1930 to 1951 to 1969, when Miranda returns to the island. The year-round

residents and the summer people don't mix much, but long-buried secrets won't stay buried forever. Love, scandal, murder, jealousy—*The Summer Wives* has it all!"

—Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY