



MAY 2019

NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Book of Essie: A Novel

By Meghan MacLean Weir

"*The Book of Essie* is a captivating debut. The original plot moves at lightning speed while giving the reader characters to hang on to, care for, and sympathize with. The novel focuses on 16-year-old Essie Hicks, a star on a reality TV show following her preacher father and her ultra-religious, conservative family. When Essie finds out she is pregnant, she must protect herself and her future in the face of public scorn. Weir proves herself to be a brilliant new talent with a sensitive but unflinching take on child exploitation and life in the public eye. A must-read!"

—Liv Stratman, Books Are Magic, Brooklyn, NY



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Census: A Novel

By Jesse Ball

"Jesse Ball, you brilliant weirdo, how did you do it? *Census* is a novel about everything big, told in the miniature, heart-wrenching tableau of a census. We are grazed by the notion that something is a bit different in this world, breathing down our necks. Sentences inspire double takes, characters jump from the page into life, and a transformative journey is undertaken for both the reader and the characters. As the end of the alphabet approaches, the landscape becomes more haunting, and the reader learns more about love and death than I thought was possible in a single book."

—Halley Parry, Parnassus Books, Nashville, TN



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Clock Dance: A Novel

By Anne Tyler

"Anne Tyler's extraordinary ability to tell a story in the simplest language has helped her become one of our most beloved authors. Here she brings us Willa Drake, who has been seeking something all her life, it seems. It's not until she's reached middle age that she finally opens a new door in her heart and welcomes in the most unusual group of people: an entire neighborhood, ready to bring her a new perspective and understanding of life. Tyler's newest is one for book groups, one for book lovers, and one for you, too."

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



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Dear Mrs. Bird: A Novel

By AJ Pearce

"What initially seems like a breezy career girl story quickly turns into a gripping novel set in the WWII London blitzkrieg. During the nightly bombing runs, Emmeline volunteers at a nearby fire dispatch center. She dreams of becoming a journalist, but instead lands a day job screening advice-seeking letters for a weekly magazine, *Women's Friends*. All too soon, she and her friends become victims of the bombings and must deal with losses and new horrors each night. A most memorable story about both the visible and hidden casualties of war. Recommended for all, including book clubs!"

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



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The Death of Mrs. Westaway: A Novel

By Ruth Ware

"Does Ruth Ware keep getting better and better? Yes, she does. A down-on-her-luck protagonist, a too-good-to-be-true inheritance, and a creepy old mansion combine for a deliciously suspenseful tale. The plucky heroine, Hal, believes she's mistakenly been identified as an heir to a great estate, but she decides to play along in the hopes of scamming a couple thousand pounds out of the situation. Once she's arrived at the reading of the will, she quickly realizes that she is in way over her head. This is a deceptive and suspense-riddled thrill ride!"

—Connie Brooks, Battenkill Books, Cambridge, NY



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The High Season: A Novel

By Judy Blundell

"What would you do to keep your home by the sea on Long Island? Maybe rent it out for the summer to get some cash to pay the bills? But what if the person who rents the house this summer is out to get more than the house? Ruthie's about to find out what she's capable of when the rich and famous Adeline Clay takes over her nest. The parties, guests, and nasty business keep building until Ruthie reaches the end of her patience and there's only one thing left to do. You'll be glad you decided to go along on this ride!"

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



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NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Mars Room: A Novel

By Rachel Kushner

"Rachel Kushner writes some seriously smart and gorgeous prose, so when she headed to prison in *The Mars Room*, I went. It is dark. It is painful. At times, the level of detail in the book and its fabulously invented and drawn characters make it feel like a documentary. We are struggling with so many social justice issues across the country right now it is overwhelming, and I worried that *The Mars Room* would push me over the edge. Instead, I couldn't stop reading. What really happened? Who is to blame? How will things turn out? How can we make things better? Ultimately, Kushner's great success is profoundly illustrating a very simple message: It's complicated."

—Sara Hinckley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA



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My Ex-Life: A Novel

By Stephen McCauley

"This story of loves both great and small is most certainly not saccharine sweet. *My Ex-Life* reminds us that there is a reason for everything, and that sometimes it's wise to go back to the familiar (albeit old) parts of ourselves to remind us just how far we've come. Stephen McCauley writes like your best friend—the one who always says what you're thinking but you'd never have the guts to utter out loud. His perception of even the mundane tasks of life reveals a witty tone dripping with self deprecation and amusement. This book is most certainly one you should put at the top of your to-be-read pile!"

—Jordan Arias, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL



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Spinning Silver: A Novel

By Naomi Novik

"In her second standalone fantasy, Novik once again mines the tales we know to create something completely modern yet timeless. This reimagined version of *Rumpelstiltskin*, set in a tsarist, Eastern Europe-like country called Litvas, is breathtaking. It explores female autonomy, class, Jewish life, and oppression while telling a compelling and richly realized fantasy tale. I just wanted to spend more time with Miryem, Wanda, Irina, and the story's other vibrant, compelling voices. If you loved *Uprooted*, don't hesitate to dive into this one. If you haven't read Novik's earlier work, begin here—you'll be hooked."

—Anmiryam Budner, Main Point Books, Wayne, PA



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There There: A Novel

By Tommy Orange

"*There There* is the kind of book that grabs you from the start and doesn't let go, even after you've turned the last page. It is a work of fiction, but every word of it feels true. Tommy Orange writes with a palpable anger and pain, telling the history of a cultural trauma handed down through generations in the blood and bones and stories of individual lives. He also writes with incredible heart and humor, infusing his characters with a tangible humanity and moments of joy even as they are headed toward tragedy. *There There* has claimed a permanent spot in my heart despite having broken it, or maybe because it did. I think this may be the best book I've ever read."

—Heather Weldon, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



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Welcome to Lagos

By Chibundu Onuzo

"A disparate and electric ensemble cast—sad, hopeful, honorable, conniving, quixotic, and just plain wacky—drive Chibundu Onuzo's remarkable debut, but it's the character of Nigeria itself—the air and soil of its countryside and the high-voltage freneticism of its largest city—that so often shines through, undeniably alive. Equally madcap, heartbreaking, and redemptive, *Welcome to Lagos* unflinchingly and beautifully captures the ambitions and contradictions of a nation on the brink."

—Sam Kaas, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA



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The Word Is Murder: A Novel

By Anthony Horowitz

"When a healthy 60-year-old woman is found strangled in her London home the very day she had organized and paid for her own funeral, former police detective—now consultant—Daniel Hawthorne convinces author Anthony Horowitz to shadow his investigation to eventually publish this very story. Imagine sitting in a darkened English pub listening to Horowitz as he tells the story of the unlikeable but captivating Hawthorne. Readers will quickly join in playing detective as characters, plot twists, clues, and red herrings escalate. Delicious!"

—Jennifer Gwydir, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX



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