



DECEMBER 2020 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Anyone: A Novel

By Charles Soule

"In *Anyone*, Charles Soule takes what was so fun about his novel *The Oracle Year* and perfects it. This takes the high-paced adventure of a spy novel or an action film and pairs it with the thoughtfulness that is found in really good science fiction. Soule puts his characters through unimaginable stressors to make us evaluate our views on race, identity, humanity, and the very existence of the self."

—Faith Parke-Dodge, Page 158 Books, Wake Forest, NC



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Dead Astronauts: A Novel

By Jeff VanderMeer

"Set in the same world as his excellent 2017 novel *Borne*, *Dead Astronauts* finds VanderMeer again at the top of his game exploring a universe destroyed by the nefarious Company. Delightful strangeness abounds: a man disintegrating into hundreds of salamanders, an ancient giant fish called Leviathan, a large blue fox with a message to deliver across time—all these and more make *Dead Astronauts* one of VanderMeer's most engagingly strange and beguiling novels. As he continues to explore deeply environmental themes, his unique lens makes the reader ponder our current climate crisis in a new way. A wonderfully weird, nature-driven science fiction odyssey through time and space."

—Caleb Masters, Bookmarks, Winston-Salem, NC



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The German House: A Novel

By Annette Hess

"*The German House* captured my imagination. The author expertly unfolds the story of Eva Bruhns, a translator for the 1963 Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials, with such believability that the reader feels complicit in the denial of the past. As she hears testimonies, Eva discovers that anyone can be guilty of some horrific role in the war, however unaware they were of inhumane acts, or however prey to propaganda. The reader's nausea will build as Eva gets closer to the truth. This historical novel seethes with life and feels authentic at every turn."

—Diane McGuire, Valley Bookseller, Stillwater, MN



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How Quickly She Disappears: A Novel

By Raymond Fleischmann

"*How Quickly She Disappears* is a Thriller with a capital T!! Set in Alaska with flashbacks to a childhood in Pennsylvania, the story follows Elisabeth, who is still haunted by and feeling partially responsible for the disappearance of her twin sister, Jacqueline, when they were 11. It's been 20 years, but when a stranger, Alfred, shows up claiming to have proof Jacqueline is still alive, Elisabeth sets out to assuage her guilty conscience. Alfred is demanding. Alfred demands frightening things of her. And as he teases her with more and more information, the stakes and demands escalate. How far will she go? Author Raymond Fleischmann will put you to the test. Your heart will race. Your breathing will become shallow. The pages will fly. This thriller is unlike any you've ever read!"

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



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The Innocents: A Novel

By Michael Crummey

"Michael Crummey is a master chronicler of isolation, and *The Innocents* is a perfect example. Following an orphaned brother and sister trying to survive on the coast of Newfoundland, this is a spare and elemental novel about the power of family and the act of survival, even in the harshest circumstances."

—Tyler Goodson, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



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Long Bright River: A Novel

By Liz Moore

"This story's power comes not just from its beautiful writing but the reality of its characters and the incisive nature of its setting. Liz Moore has created a masterpiece that exposes the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia, highlighting the vulnerability of its victims and the sheer scope of suffering it causes. From the first page, when the murder mystery begins, readers will suffer and rejoice with the novel's oh-so-human characters. The power of this story is a fire that will linger for a long time."

—Hilary Kotecki, The Doylestown & Lahaska Bookshops, Doylestown, PA



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Olive, Again: A Novel

By Elizabeth Strout

"Thank goodness Elizabeth Strout decided to return for another round with one of the most beloved, maddening, confounding, and compelling characters I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Readers will delight in the fact that Olive, while forging new relationships and puzzling over long-existing ones, remains the crazy, complicated family member you just can't quit. Add in spare yet beautifully rendered prose about the rugged, breathtaking state of Maine and you've got a gem of a book, one that leaves you rooting for Olive, despite her numerous shortcomings, as she stumbles through love, friendship, loss, and what it means to grow old. Strout, through Olive, reminds us that it's a messy business being human, but it's a privilege to be along for the ride."

—Page Berger, Barrett Bookstore, Darien, CT



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On Swift Horses: A Novel

By Shannon Pufahl

"This densely atmospheric debut sinks its hooks deep into post-war America's tender underbelly, exposing the homophobia and bigotry beneath a nation's renewed spirit of hope and opportunity. Muriel and Julius are restless outsiders, siblings-in-law who share a passion for gambling as well as their more furtive passion. Both are trying to make their own opportunities to find love and happiness—a gamble that one will unexpectedly win and one will just as unexpectedly lose. An immersive and rewarding first novel."

—Karen Brissette, Shakespeare & Co., New York, NY



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Separation Anxiety: A Novel

By Laura Zigman

“Told with humor, wit, and wisdom, Laura Zigman’s novel explores the unexpected trials of middle age. We follow Judy Vogel, who is rebounding from the recent deaths of her parents, struggling with writer’s block, juggling financial issues, coping with a failing marriage, and raising an adolescent son. When she comes across her son’s old baby sling, she starts to wear the family dog as a unique form of support. This thought-provoking novel is full of heart, hope, and the strength to move forward.”

—Maxwell Gregory, Lake Forest Book Store, Lake Forest, IL



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The Ship of Dreams: The Sinking of the Titanic and the End of the Edwardian Era

By Gareth Russell

“*The Ship of Dreams* recounts the *Titanic* epic largely from the perspective of six of her first-class passengers, including the naval architect who designed the ship; a movie star; a vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad and his 17-year-old son, Isidor Strauss, who founded Macy’s Department Store; and Lucy Noël Martha Leslie, the Countess of Rothes. This incisive and engrossing account of the ship’s evolution and tragic loss injects an intelligent light into an event that is as much enshrouded in legend as the *Titanic*’s remains are in the deep, dark ocean. This story is both a paean to the genius of the age that gave birth to the *Titanic* and a eulogy for the hubris that doomed her.”

—Alden Graves, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



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The Water Dancer: A Novel

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

“Ta-Nehisi Coates understands something big and he understands it better than anyone else right now. *The Water Dancer* led me on a journey up and down the landscape of American slavery with a narrative that feels like *The Book of Exodus* meets, well, Ta-Nehisi Coates. Over 400 pages I have cried, I have laughed, I have been educated, and I have been enlightened. Coates writes with an honesty that can only come from a sublime, even spiritual, understanding of the souls of the white man and the black man in America. Written with poignancy and humanity, *The Water Dancer* left me stunned but clear-headed, like I had just been woken up from a deep, dream-filled sleep.”

—Norris Rettiger, Lemuria Bookstore, Jackson, MS



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When Time Stopped

By Ariana Neumann

“This book is beautiful, intimate, breathtaking, and heartbreaking. It reads like a novel and yet gives a better sense of what was happening to Jewish families during the Holocaust than any history book I’ve read. I feel so invested in the Neumann family and their friends, as if I know them personally. More than anything, my takeaway from this book is the love and hope that was so clearly poured into it.”

—Gabrielle Belisle, An Unlikely Story, Plainville, MA



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