**JUNE 2020**

**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

**Bunny: A Novel**
By Mona Awad
(Penguin Books, 9780525559757, $17)

"Mona Awad tells a harrowing story of a writer trying to overcome her writer’s block while simultaneously refusing to look deeper into herself or acknowledge her own needs or desires. This lack of self-knowledge leads her to a friendship with a group of young MFA students who are always ‘workshopping’... with disastrous consequences. The writing feels cinematic at times, moody and illustrative. Home, identity, love (both romantic and platonic), inner (and outer) demons, and academic elitism all play a part in this spectacle of creation and destruction. Awad creates a kind of magic that changes with the wind, a contemporary Prometheus tale."
—Katrina Feraco, The Toadstool Bookshop, Keene, NH

**Evie Drake Starts Over: A Novel**
By Linda Holmes
(Ballantine Books, 9780525619260, $17)

"Evie Drake is young and newly widowed, but no one knows that on the day her husband died, she had finally worked up the nerve to leave him. Dean Tenney is a major league baseball pitcher who has inexplicably lost the talent that made him a star. When Dean moves to Evie’s small town to escape the humiliating sports headlines, their friendship proves to be just what both of them need. This is an absolute treasure of a novel—big-hearted, funny, sweet, and utterly satisfying. I cannot wait to sell this charming gem."
—Emilie Sommer, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

**Family of Origin: A Novel**
By CJ Hauser
(Anchor, 9780525565390, $16)

"CJ Hauser has written a completely original novel featuring an eccentric cast of characters who distract themselves from the ignorance and squalor of the past, their failures and fears, and all the warning signs of imminent end times. It’s also about a duck with joie de vivre. A comedy of maladaptive manners, Family of Origin is hard to pin down and even harder to put down. Hauser’s uncommonly funny and moving novel transported me out of my day-to-day life while letting me see the world as it is but also anew."
—John Francisconii, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT

**The Family Upstairs: A Novel**
By Lisa Jewell
(Atria Books, 9781501198047, $17)

"Just having children does not make you a parent, and that truth is apparent in the pages of this book. A wealthy family in London seems to have everything—a great home, private schools, mentions in the press—but it is somehow not enough. Once you open the door to the unknown, can it really ever be closed? The influence of the charismatic egotist is told with flawlessness accuracy and stark images. In these situations, the children suffer the most; they are powerless and easy prey. This book details an unfolding family crisis where abuse can take many forms. Hard to put down and with several huge twists, The Family Upstairs will satisfy even the most discriminating fan. Lisa Jewell has exceeded all expectations."
—Jackie Willey, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

**In West Mills: A Novel**
By De’Shawn Charles Winslow
(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635575286, $16)

“In West Mills is a beautiful and cohesive debut. Reminiscent of Janie Crawford in Their Eyes Were Watching God, Winslow has written the character of Knot Centre, a woman who speaks her mind—for better or for worse—and who is passionate, intelligent, and stubborn to a fault. The events of the novel take place from the I940s to the 1980s, allowing readers to watch as fateful decisions and their consequences play out for the city’s citizens. In such a small town, secrets weigh heavy and threaten to tear people apart, but Winslow’s writing is exuberant and full of life. His characters are never fully under by their sorrows—a rarity in literature today."
—Margaret Leonard, Dotters Books, Eau Claire, WI

**Inland: A Novel**
By Téa Obreht
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812982756, $18)

"Man, I could live my whole life inside this novel and be perfectly happy. Téa Obreht is the real thing. Inland has the stern gorgeousness of Blood Meridian, the cinematic perfection of Station Eleven, the fantasy-like atmosphere of Cloud Atlas, and the deep-heartedness of The Winter Soldier. This is the sort of novel that makes people want to get up and soldier on. I really loved this book."
—Erica Eierdorfer, Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, NC

**Leading Men: A Novel**
By Christopher Castellani
(Penguin Books, 9780525559078, $17)

“Make yourself an Aperol Spritz (or an entire pitcher) before. Grief is distinctly personal and Greene’s story of the death of his father—his only family, his only relative and a possible home. Odie, his brother Albert, their school headmistress and the law, they encounter other wanderers and escapees from life as they can’t escape towards St. Louis to find their only known relative and a possible home. Odie, his brother Albert, their schoolmate Mose, and newly orphaned Emmy are unforgettable characters in an unforgiving era. Epic, thrilling, and beautifully written, this is storytelling at its very best."
—Renee Barker, The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL

**This Tender Land: A Novel**
By William Kent Krueger
(Atria Books, 97816477649303, $17)

"The work of a master storyteller about the making of a young storyteller, This Tender Land is a coming-of-age novel for the ages. It begins in an isolated Dickensian boarding school in Minnesota during the early years of the Depression, then morphs into the story of four runaways in a canoe à la Huckleberry Finn. On the run from their school headmistress and the law, they encounter other wanderers and escapees from life as they can’t escape towards St. Louis to find their only known relative and a possible home. Odie, his brother Albert, their schoolmate Mose, and newly orphaned Emmy are unforgettable characters in an unforgiving era. Epic, thrilling, and beautifully written, this is storytelling at its very best."
—Michelle Cavalier, Cavalier House Books, Denham Springs, LA

**Once More We Saw Stars: A Memoir of Life and Love After Unimaginable Loss**
By Jayson Greene
(Vintage, 9780525435341, $16)

"Some memoirs transcend the author’s experience and turn emotional turns), (with the absence of gore but plenty of plot twists and turns), The Whisper Man is a grand ride into the minds of those who kill and those who are victims. You’ll find yourself looking over your shoulder when reading this book. Don’t stand too close to an open window..."
—Helen Gregory, Maria’s Bookshop, Durango, CO

**Whisper Network: A Novel**
By Chandler Baker
(Flattron Books, 978152025360, $16)

"It was inevitable that, with the #MeToo movement sweeping America, someone would pen a novel encompassing the realities of working women in our country. What I wasn’t prepared for, however, was the degree to which I’d become involved in Whisper Network, racing home to finish it because I loved the story. I haven’t felt this strength of solidarity with other women since the march in D.C. I closed this book with a resounding, ‘Oh, hell yes!’"
—Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI