



MARCH 2020 NOW IN PAPERBACK



The Bird King: A Novel

By G. Willow Wilson

(Grove Press, 9780802148292, \$16)

"Fatima is a concubine of the sultan of the last emirate in the Iberian Peninsula to submit to the Spanish Inquisition. When her dearest friend is singled out by the Inquisition, she flees with him and a jinn, following the trail of the elusive and mythical Bird King, who may or may not be able to grant them sanctuary. Wilson's latest novel is rich

with the historical detail, lush description, and fantastical elements that we have come to know and love from her. A story of resistance, freedom, seeking, and strength, and a true fable for our times."

—Anna Eklund, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island

By Earl Swift

(Dey Street Books, 9780062661401, \$17.99)

"I was so impressed with this story of Tangier, an exploration of science, history, religion, and culture driven by emotionally salient commentary from people who live there today. The community is conservative both religiously and politically, but their home is being

swept away by rising sea levels thanks to climate change, which is usually a politically charged topic. It was also interesting to have insight into what is likely the United States' first group of 'climate refugees'. Thoughtfully, lovingly, and intelligently done. An important read!"

—Chloe Groth, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN



Gingerbread: A Novel

By Helen Oyeyemi

(Riverhead Books, 9781594634666, \$17)

"To me, any new book by Helen Oyeyemi is a cause for celebration, and *Gingerbread* is no exception. Harriet Lee is a mother, a daughter, a PTA-wannabe, a tutor, and a gingerbread baker. She is also Druhastranian—a refugee from a country that may (or may not) exist. No one is quite sure where Druhastrana is or how to get there, but Harriet's daughter, Perdita, is determined to find out even if it kills her. While still imbued with Oyeyemi's trademark fairy tale essence, this novel is a departure into weirder, more uncanny territory. Oyeyemi, who lives in Prague, has finally given us her Czech novel, and it's perfect."

—Devon Dunn, Book Culture, New York, NY



The Hunting Party: A Novel

By Lucy Foley

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062868916, \$16.99)

"Lucy Foley's *The Hunting Party* is a slick, streamlined murder mystery set on a remote Scottish luxury estate. A group of old friends get together for their yearly New Year's trip, but after over a decade of closeness, some of them may be near the breaking point. Foley uses the multiple-narrator approach to distort the reader's perspective and challenge their assumptions, but it doesn't feel excessive. With multiple puzzles that come together to create the bigger picture and a short timeline that adds to the claustrophobic urgency, this novel is a devilishly thrilling winter read."

—Annie Metcalf, Magers & Quinn Booksellers, Minneapolis, MN



The Island of Sea Women: A Novel

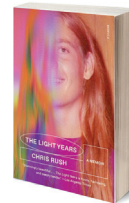
By Lisa See

(Scribner, 9781501154867, \$18)

"Jeju Island is home to generations of *haenyo*—women who take their living from both land and sea and call the shots in their matriarchal society. Young-sook and Mi-ja are best friends in the 1930s, learning to dive with their all-female collective while their island suffers under Japanese colonialism. Lisa See follows them as they

grow up under Japanese rule and into the 21st century. *The Island of Sea Women* is not only a story of friendship found, lost, and found again, but also a richly detailed picture of a unique culture of women in a world spinning out of control. Amazing detail and presence."

—Janet Rhodes, BookPeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID



The Light Years: A Memoir

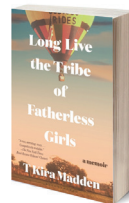
By Chris Rush

(Picador, 9781250251190, \$18)

"Rush's memoir depicts the wild, drug-filled days of his youth with such luminous prose it feels as though we're with him. That this book exists is proof that Rush makes it through every situation he encounters, and he brings such generosity to those who were alongside him that it's impossible not to care about him or his

family and loved ones. *The Light Years* offers a perfect glimpse into the counterculture of the '60s and '70s. A perfect pick for those who lived through that time and those who wish they could."

—Katie Orphan, The Last Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA



Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls: A Memoir

By T Kira Madden

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635574760, \$18)

"Madden has no limits when it comes to the ones she loves—her cool and free older friends, her Internet-famous first girlfriend, her mother, her father, and us, the fortunate readers. She accomplishes one of the great feats of a memoir: in telling the story of her life,

she translates its remarkable aspects (for one, her father worked for Jordan Belfort and was, yes, a wolf of Wall Street) while making the commonplace (love for one's parents) remarkable. Her prose is a Lisa Frank- racetrack-Hawaiian shirt phantasmagoria that I couldn't get enough of. And, man, that last section—it'll knock you loose."

—Molly Moore, BookPeople, Austin, TX



My Lovely Wife: A Novel

By Samantha Downing

(Berkley, 9780451491732, \$16)

"It started out as a game, a series of hypothetical questions to live up their marriage: Who could they hurt? And what could they get away with? With two kids and a mortgage, Millicent and her husband need all the excitement they can find. But soon conversation isn't enough and their dream life turns into a nightmare.

Because the thing about games is there's always a winner...and a loser. Downing has written the perfect psychological thriller. Once I picked it up, I didn't stop reading until I reached the final, stunning sentence. *My Lovely Wife* is a wholly original and thoroughly terrifying read!"

—Lauren Peugh, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



The Priory of the Orange Tree: A Novel

By Samantha Shannon

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635570304, \$20)

"A fabulous, complex fantasy that will appeal to fans of Erika Johansen, Melissa Caruso, and George R.R. Martin, *Priory* has something for every fantasy lover. Shannon's story and its characters' fates revolve around the most riveting aspect of the whole book: dragons! Shannon writes with a fast-paced, engrossing voice that continues to build with every chapter. I loved this world and think readers will wholeheartedly embrace it."

—Lauren Nopenz Fairley, Curious Iguana, Frederick, MD



We Are All Good People Here: A Novel

By Susan Rebecca White

(Atria Books, 9781451608922, \$16.99)

"I've been reading and admiring Susan Rebecca White's novels since her 2009 debut, *Bound South*, and her new book is a continuation of her unmatched knack for capturing the essence of her Atlanta upbringing. Adding layers of historical context to the familiar world of her previous works, White tells

a moving and thought-provoking story that spans the tumultuous final decades of the American Century. She explores race, class, privilege, and politics through a cast of very human characters ranging across the entire socioeconomic and ideological spectrum. The book bears witness to the evolution in conscience of these times as the reader experiences the evolution of this ambitious, talented writer."

—Frank Reiss, A Cappella Books, Atlanta, GA



When All Is Said: A Novel

By Anne Griffin

(Picador, 9781250251336, \$17)

"Dark and unflinching yet packed with heart and humanity, *When All Is Said* is Irish storytelling at its best. Maurice Hannigan sits in a bar on a Saturday night and toasts five people who have been important in his life and who have left him, either through death or distance. The 84-year-old widower spools out his story like

tangled fishing line, raising one glass to each of his departed loved ones. It all leads up to a startling yet inevitable end to an unsettling yet satisfying story."

—Grace Harper, Mac's Backs, Cleveland Heights, OH



When You Read This: A Novel

By Mary Adkins

(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062834683, \$16.99)

"Death is called the final act, but for our loved ones who survive us, the show inevitably goes on. In *When You Read This*, Mary Adkins gives equal stage time to Iris Massey, a woman recently diagnosed with terminal cancer who begins a blog about her experiences, and those she has left behind. Grief is a unifying theme in this novel, from Iris, who struggles to come to terms with her death, to her sister, Jade, who is left rudderless without her, and even Iris' boss, Smith, who is determined to fulfill Iris' last request of having her blog published as a book. Poignant and bittersweet, *When You Read This* is a well-rounded blend of romance, comedy, and drama."

—Heather Herbaugh, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD