



APRIL 2021 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Afterlife: A Novel

By Julie Alvarez

(Algonquin Books, 9781643751368, \$16.95)

"Most people would make sour milk out of the lemons Antonia has been given, but she finds herself more resilient than she knew she was. When her husband passes away the same day she retires and the problems keep adding up, she must decide what to do. Julia Alvarez writes like she painted a picture you need to sit

beside. Breathless and cinematic, this book is one to share with friends and the one we should be talking about in 2020."

—Suzanne Lucey, Page 158 Books, Wake Forest, NC



All Adults Here: A Novel

By Emma Straub

(Riverhead Books, 9781594634703, \$17)

"A single sudden and shocking occurrence jolts Astrid Strick—widow, mother, and small-town stalwart—into reassessing her life, especially her failings with her three grown children. Even as she tries to find a path toward redemption, it's clear her offspring are nursing different hurts. Straub's lovely and charming comic novel explores the messy and dissonant truths that underpin the illusions we maintain about those closest to us. No one is at fault, and everyone is to blame. Even adults have to grow up. Utterly charming and completely engrossing."

—Anmiryam Budner, Main Point Books, Wayne, PA



Becoming Duchess Goldblatt

By Anonymous

(Mariner Books, 9780358569831, \$15.99)

"After the collapse of her marriage and her whole life, the anonymous author of *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* started a Twitter account, speaking in the voice of an imperious, slightly dotty, always caring 81-year-old writer. The Duchess became the focus of intense adoration and eventually helped her creator to reconnect with the 'real world' even as she kept her identity a secret. *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* is a glorious memoir, a truly 21st-century tale of life both online and off."

—David Enyeart, Next Chapter Booksellers, St. Paul, MN



The Book of Longings: A Novel

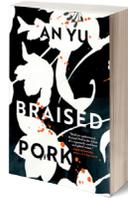
By Sue Monk Kidd

(Penguin Books, 978014311399, \$17)

"I absolutely could not put this book down. Sue Monk Kidd has written a narrative that not only centers on women who are missing from or largely ignored in scriptural accounts, but it focuses on their voices, stories, and hardships—their everyday lives and bigger-than-everyday longings. As Kidd is writing Ana's story, Ana herself is

writing the stories of women she's learned about and women she knows. Her determination to give them voices weaves beautifully and reverently with Jesus' teachings about reaching out to the marginalized and the forgotten."

—Anastacia Compton, Roundabout Books, Bend, OR



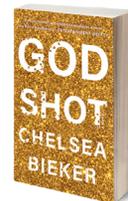
Braised Pork: A Novel

By An Yu

(Grove Press, 9780802148728, \$16)

"An astonishing look at a new widow's attempt to make sense of her husband's death and her new-found independence, through which she rediscovers her love of painting, forms new and profound bonds, and rekindles previously dormant familial relationships, and ultimately finds peace in uncertainty. Set in Beijing and Tibet, *Braised Pork* is a poetic reflection on life and all of its meandering, unpredictable messiness."

—Jake Cumsky-Whitlock, Solid State Books, Washington, DC



Godshot: A Novel

By Chelsea Bieker

(Catapult, 9781646220557, \$16.95)

"Within the first chapter of *Godshot*, you can hear Chelsea Bieker's fist swinging toward you, but it still won't prepare you for the punch to the gut this book delivers. Lacey springs off the page in her first moments and takes you along with her on her dust-torn, glitter-stained, bloodied journey. Sometimes I get tired of being reminded how dangerous it is to be a woman (because, dammit, I KNOW!), but Bieker's prose is so beautifully consuming I found myself whipping through words that twisted my insides. What a resounding book."

—Amy Van Keuren, Savoy Bookshop & Café, Westerly, RI



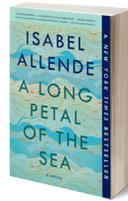
How Much of These Hills Is Gold: A Novel

By C Pam Zhang

(Riverhead Books, 9780525537212, \$16)

"In the most inventive and fresh language I've seen in a long time, C Pam Zhang's *How Much of These Hills Is Gold*, set during the American gold rush, tells the story of siblings Lucy and Sam as they wander the western expanse to give their father a proper burial. Zhang transforms the mythology of the American West and reclaims it through the eyes of first-generation Asian-Americans, tackling themes of race, immigration, and gender and creating a new narrative of a voice and people often left out of this pivotal historical period. Strange and surreal, this is a novel to read with care and gratitude."

—Chris Alonso, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



A Long Petal of the Sea: A Novel

By Isabel Allende

(Ballantine Books, 9780593157497, \$17)

"Isabel Allende's latest novel couldn't come at a better time for American readers heading into an election season. With immigration and desperate people seeking asylum as its central narrative thread, the novel reminds us of the uncanny resiliency of the human spirit and the power of love—both of others and of country—to restore and heal. From his awe-inspiring feat in the novel's opening pages to his persistence in the face of a lifetime of adversity, cardiologist Victor Dalmau will live long and well in readers' minds."

—Kelly Barth, Raven Book Store, Lawrence, KS



Pretty Things: A Novel

By Janelle Brown

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780525479178, \$17)

"Nina Ross is a grifter, just like her mom. She didn't have a lot growing up, and they were always on the move. Vanessa, heiress of a family fortune, is a famous Instagram influencer. Everyone loves her, but her smile hides a past filled with tragedy. Nina and Vanessa's lives become intertwined as part of a long con. *Pretty Things* is excellently written, with an intricate plot full of twists. I loved absolutely everything about this book. I highly recommend it."

—Rebecca Minnock, Murder by the Book, Houston, TX



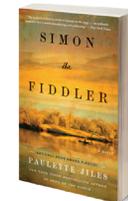
The Roxy Letters: A Novel

By Mary Pauline Lowry

(Simon & Schuster, 9781982121440, \$17)

"Move over Bridget Jones, Roxy is here to stay! Thank goddess! I loved every sentence of *The Roxy Letters*; I found myself laughing out loud at some of her wacky antics. I also loved the quirky cast of characters that danced across the pages, and I think Roxy is the perfect anthero for the new millennium. I can't wait to see where Mary Pauline Lowry's career is headed!"

—Kathleen Caldwell, A Great Good Place for Books, Oakland, CA



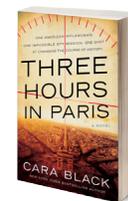
Simon the Fiddler: A Novel

By Paulette Jiles

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062966759, \$16.99)

"Simon Boudlin's passion is to be the best fiddle player there is, beholden to no one and following his muse wherever it takes him. But when he meets the beautiful Doris Aherne, his plans change. Paulette Jiles once again captures the great promise and sweeping beauty of the Texas frontier in cinematic prose as poetic and lyrical as the tunes that pour forth from the fiddler himself. Simon joins that great pantheon of strivers for a better life, and readers will root for him every step of the way. Fans of *News of the World* can rejoice—with *Simon the Fiddler*, Jiles has done it again!"

—Peter Sherman, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



Three Hours in Paris: A Novel

By Cara Black

(Soho Crime, 9781641292580, \$16.95)

"I couldn't put down this well-written and fast-paced thriller. This is the story of Kate Rees, an American female spy, and her tragedies and triumphs during WWII. Cara creates a captivating story around Hitler's three-hour visit to Paris, to which he never returned again, and takes you on a wild ride through the city that day. Each piece of the timeline is expertly stitched together, and I found myself completely involved! Cara Black, you have a new fan!"

—Lisa Valentino, Ink Fish Books, Warren, RI