



# JANUARY 2021 NOW IN PAPERBACK



## The Authenticity Project: A Novel

By Clare Pooley

(Penguin Books, 9781984878632, \$17)

"Sometimes, especially in this digital age, we get caught up in the idea that while our lives are a mess, everyone else has got it together. And maybe—as Clare Pooley explores in *The Authenticity Project*—if we were all just honest about our insecurities and difficulties and worries, it would be easier for people to form stronger bonds. This is a charming book with a sweet love story, but at its heart it's a reminder that we need each other more than we need our phones."

—Melissa Fox, Watermark Books & Café, Wichita, KS



## Cleanness: A Novel

By Garth Greenwell

(Picador, 9781250785664, \$16)

"*Cleanness* is a trance-inducing read. I started this book and was immediately swept up in it, and before I knew it, hours had passed. Greenwell describes human relationships in raw, beautiful detail while also exploring the power dynamics at play. If *Cleanness* is not one of my favorite books of 2020, it will have been a spectacular year for books."

—Hunter Gillum, Beaverdale Books, Des Moines, IA



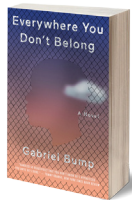
## The Dutch House: A Novel

By Ann Patchett

(Harper Perennial, 9780062963680, \$17)

"Meeting the Conroy family and stepping into their elaborate Dutch house—part museum, part home, with all its secrets and charm, comfort and sadness—enthralled me as the mystery unfolded like a gentle call to arms. From poverty to wealth and from wealth to poverty, we see through Danny's eyes the struggle to hold the family together against grief, greed, and the heartbreak of losing all that once bound them. Patchett paints a masterpiece here; there's no looking away. It lingers in your imagination long after the story has been told."

—Diane McGuire, Valley Bookseller, Stillwater, MN



## Everywhere You Don't Belong: A Novel

By Gabriel Bump

(Algonquin Books, 9781643750859, \$15.95)

"Young Claude is being raised by his grandma in Chicago's changing South Shore, and folks in his life—his parents, friends, neighbors—are disappearing. There's little he can count on besides his grandma, her friend Paul, and his not-quite girlfriend Janice. The violence that was once at a safe distance is now on their doorstep, with corrupt and racist police coming from one direction and the Redbelts gang from the other. It's hard not to imagine Claude wanting to escape, too, but trouble is likely to follow, even to college in Missouri. Told in episodic bursts and filled with emotional resonance, *Everywhere You Don't Belong* is a powerful coming-of-age debut that will stick with you."

—Daniel Goldin, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



## Highfire: A Novel

By Eoin Colfer

(Harper Perennial, 9780062938572, \$16.99)

"*Highfire* hooked me from the first pages. Vern, a grumpy dragon languishing in the Louisiana swamps, believes he's the last of his species. Squib, a 15-year-old boy, is just trying to stay out of trouble and earn some money doing odd jobs. The intersection of these two one-of-a-kind characters sucks you in like a whirlpool. I loved reading about the absurd circumstances they found themselves in. This book has all the earmarks of a great hand-seller for the dead of winter, when we all need something new!"

—Patricia Worth, River Reader Books, Lexington, MO



## The Resisters: A Novel

By Gish Jen

(Vintage, 9780525657224, \$16.95)

"I finished *The Resisters* in a day. I don't know how a book can be so devastating yet so miraculously wonderful at the same time. I was completely captivated by the family whose story Jen tells. The world she creates—set in near-future AutoAmerica—is so believable an outcome of what we see around us today that it feels as much prescient as imagined. A sort of cautionary tale, *The Resisters* is not only a book to love, it's a book that's important. I'm in awe."

—Carole Horne, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA



## Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale

By Adam Minter

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635570113, \$17)

"This book has completely consumed my life for the past few days! *Secondhand* takes us on an adventure through the world of recycling and reuse culture. This is an honest look at how the things that clutter our homes don't just disappear when we bring them to a secondhand store or recycling center. This book wants us to be a part of the reuse movement, to take notice of fast fashion, single-use items, and easily replaced electronics and make conscientious decisions as consumers. I hope many people read *Secondhand* and, in the spirit of the book, pass it on to others."

—Alexa Ochocki, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN



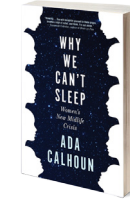
## Uncanny Valley: A Memoir

By Anna Wiener

(Picador, 9781250785695, \$17)

"Like Joan Didion or Renata Adler, Ben Lerner or Sally Rooney, Anna Wiener writes with dead-on specificity, scalpel-sharp analysis, deep sensitivity, and an eye for the absurd. She headed west into the modern gold rush that is the tech boom and now returns with gleaming ingots of insight, weaving tales of a strange land where boy-CEOs ride ripsticks and Hoover up your data. An essential and very human look at the forces shaping who we are and how we behave."

—Sam MacLaughlin, McNally Jackson Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY



## Why We Can't Sleep: Women's New Midlife Crisis

By Ada Calhoun

(Grove Press, 9780802148575, \$16)

"I eagerly snatched this book up, hoping it would offer a magic cure-all for the 4:00 a.m. insomnia that plagues me on a regular basis. Instead, I found solace and comfort, if not in a full eight hours, in the fact that I wasn't alone in staring into the dark in the middle of the night, brain on a carousel, getting pissed and feeling miserable. About most everything. It all makes sense now: I'm not an anomaly or a sleepless loner, I'm part of a larger pattern, a cycle created by the culture of a certain generation—Generation X. *Why We Can't Sleep* gives hope and validation and takes away some of the worry. Although this book is specific to Gen Xers, I think their Baby Boomer parents and their Millennial children will also benefit from reading this fascinating generational study."

—Rani Birchfield, Front Street Books, Alpine, TX



## Blood Heir

By Amélie Wen Zhao

(Ember, 9780525707820, \$10.99)

"This dark *Anastasia* retelling gives the lost princess a monstrous new tale that is as gruesome as her realistic history. With the power to manipulate certain elements, Affinities are regarded as demons in the kingdom of Cyrlia. Ana has been a smudge on the royal family's name due to her affinity for blood and now must prove her innocence after being framed for the king's murder. Ana realizes that not only must she hunt down her father's murderer, she must also fight for those who have been deemed monsters. Amélie has crafted a world full of diverse and complex characters coping with oppression, tragedy, and the painful decisions that come with fighting for something bigger than oneself."

—Kiera Thompson, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY



## Dear Haiti, Love Alaine

By Maika Moulite, Maritza Moulite

(Inkyard Press, 9781335910028, \$10.99)

"With its charming mixed media epistolary style and compelling story, *Dear Haiti, Love Alaine* is a novel that demands to be read. Once you've met Alaine, you'll need to see how her tale ends up. At once endearing and poignant, this illuminative book is important and I am so happy it exists. I can't wait to see what the Moulite sisters write next!"

—Cristina Russell, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



## Winterwood

By Shea Ernschaw

(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 9781534439429, \$11.99)

"In this spine-tingling young adult novel, Nora Walker is the last in a long line of witches but has never found her magic. She lives a quiet life across the lake from a camp for wayward boys. With the arrival of each full moon (and only at the full moon), she ventures into the darkest, most dangerous part of the woods, where she finds lost things. This time, the lost thing she finds is a boy. Very atmospheric and full of surprises."

—Lisa Wright, Oblong Books and Music, Millerton, NY