



MARCH 2021 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Author in Chief: The Untold Story of Our Presidents and the Books They Wrote

By Craig Fehrman

(Avid Reader Press/Simon & Schuster, 9781476786582, \$18)

"Fascinating and engaging, Chris Fehrman's *Author in Chief* delivers unique insights into U.S. politics, history, and publishing. Fehrman shows that analyzing our presidents as authors first provides understanding and appreciation into their personal lives and motivations, but also into how those motivations greatly influenced our country as a whole. Proving that books can indeed change the world, *Author in Chief* is a perfect combination of history, politics, and bibliophilia."

—Katerina Argyles, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA



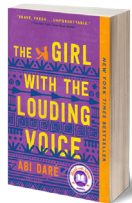
A Children's Bible: A Novel

By Lydia Millet

(W. W. Norton & Company, 9780393867381, \$15.95)

"In *A Children's Bible*, the age-old war between kids and their parents, children and adults, is reimagined through the lens of Biblical devastation. The result is harrowing and, in unexpected moments, hilarious. Millet has created a story that feels both folkloric and brand new, a tale as much about environmental cataclysm as it is about fighting for the people, things, and ideas that remain right and true, no matter how high the water gets. I love Millet's perfectly tuned sentences as much as the ambition of this novel, which I'll continue thinking about for a long time."

—Kristen Iskandrian, Thank You Books, Birmingham, AL



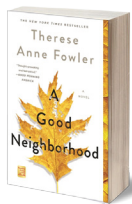
The Girl with the Louding Voice: A Novel

By Abi Daré

(Dutton, 9781524746094, \$17)

"This year is overflowing with phenomenal debuts—including this one from Abi Daré. It tells the story of Adunni, a young girl in Nigeria whose dreams and ambition focus in on one thing: education. In a city where girls like her are looked down upon and considered unworthy, she comes to find that change can begin with even the smallest of voices. This story is the kind that makes you itch: you'll ache for Adunni, bristle at the people who treat her so unjustly, and yearn for her to succeed. This is a stunning, important, and fascinating first novel."

—Lindsay Howard, Lark and Owl Booksellers, Georgetown, TX



A Good Neighborhood: A Novel

By Therese Anne Fowler

(St. Martin's Griffin, 9781250237293, \$16.99)

"Therese Anne Fowler's new novel will have you examining the actions and motivations of everyone you know. Her exquisite storytelling and character development deliver an unforgettable and unpredictable story that touches on many contemporary issues, including race, wealth, control, and status. Be sure to leave yourself some time for this one—once you hit the tipping point, you won't put it down until you finish."

—Kari Erpenbach, University of Minnesota Bookstores, Minneapolis, MN



In Five Years: A Novel

By Rebecca Serle

(Atria Books, 9781982137458, \$17)

"Rebecca Serle's *In Five Years* has so many of the things I want in a terrific novel: a twisty plot that leaves me guessing; radically unexpected developments; settings that I can see, smell, and taste; and probably the thing that Serle does best—an introduction to characters I'll grow to care about and shed tears with.

That last one? The tear thing? *In Five Years* had me weeping for the last part of a coast-to-coast flight, prompting the flight attendant to hand me a drink because, she said, it looked like I needed one. I loved this book and can't wait to offer it to readers."

—Nick Petruakis, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA



The Knockout Queen: A Novel

By Rufi Thorpe

(Vintage, 9780525567295, \$16)

"To say I admire *The Knockout Queen* feels inadequate, though I do admire a great deal of it: its voice, depth, structure—you name it. But it's more honest just to say I love *The Knockout Queen*; I loved reading it, I felt involved in it, and, finally, I was so moved by its ending. This is an epic tale of friendship, one where the

magnitude sneaks up on you quietly—but when it strikes home, it rings so brilliantly true."

—Will Walton, Books Are Magic, Brooklyn, NY



Recollections of My Nonexistence: A Memoir

By Rebecca Solnit

(Penguin Books, 9780593083345, \$16)

"Over Rebecca Solnit's 30 years of writing, readers like me have fallen in love with her seismic, world-shifting essays, and I was not disappointed by this memoir, her first longform writing in seven years. True to her form, this is a memoir not necessarily of the events of Solnit's

coming of age, but rather the greater influences in her development as a feminist, an activist, and a writer in 1980's San Francisco. In these pages, Solnit describes the formation of her own powerful voice while interrogating the culture that routinely silences women through violence and disregard. By sharing these formative years, Solnit is sure to inspire and vindicate generations of women of all ages and offer much-needed encouragement to people of all genders to invest in voices long suppressed."

—Megan Bell, Underground Books, Carrollton, GA



Sea Wife: A Novel

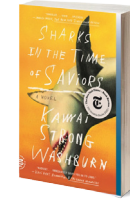
By Amity Gaige

(Vintage, 9780525566922, \$16)

"Wherever you go, your anxieties go with you—even (or especially) if you go live on a boat to sail the world with your spouse and small children. Nothing will ever be the same for Juliet, Michael, and their family after their harrowing year at sea, and no reader will be the same after reading this taut, brilliant novel. I can't stop

thinking about it."

—Mary Laura Philpott, Parnassus Books, Nashville, TN



Sharks in the Time of Saviors: A Novel

By Kawai Strong Washburn

(Picador, 9781250787316, \$17)

"*Sharks in the Time of Saviors* is one of the best pieces of contemporary fiction I've had the pleasure to read. The fact that the book takes place in Hawaii makes it even more special. The author provides the reader with a unique 'chicken skin' experience. The book captures contemporary Hawaii's history over the past 20+ years, including the socioeconomics of race and being Hawaiian, income disparity, housing issues, family issues, and the diaspora that affects so many families in Hawaii who are unable or unwilling to deal with the cost of living. Truly a master work of art."

—Benjamin "Buddy" Bess, Da Shop: Books & Curiosities, Honolulu, HI



This Town Sleeps: A Novel

By Dennis E. Staples

(Counterpoint, 9781640094642, \$16.95)

"*This Town Sleeps*, set on an Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota, is not an elegiac or idyllic work but rather a direct, unblinking, poetic novel that draws the reader inexorably into the gray areas of the hearts of those in this story. A queer coming-of-age story bound up in a town mystery, this tale of Marion

Lafournier, a young gay Ojibwe man, is a compelling debut. Dennis E. Staples is an author whose voice and storytelling will be appreciated in so many ways for years to come."

—Christine Havens, BookPeople, Austin, TX



Valentine: A Novel

By Elizabeth Wetmore

(Harper Perennial, 9780062913272, \$17)

"Before starting this book, you should block out the next 24 hours on your calendar because you will not be able to do anything else. *Valentine* is reminiscent of *Disappearing Earth* in its multi-voice portrayal of the vulnerability, resilience, solidarity, fury, and tenacity of girls and women in the man's world of oil-booming West Texas in the 1970s. These unforgettable characters are the spiritual sisters of Tami Taylor from *Friday Night Lights*. I was haunted by them, I rooted for them, I've been them, and I won't forget them."

—Rebekah Shoaf, Boogie Down Books, Bronx, NY



We Ride Upon Sticks: A Novel

By Quan Barry

(Vintage, 9780525565437, \$16.95)

"This is such a fun romp! It has everything you could possibly want in a book: field hockey, witches, and '80s bangs that have literally taken on a life of their own. Set in Salem in the 1980s, we follow a group of high school field hockey players as they struggle with their new dark powers and attempt to end their losing streak. One of the strangest, most satisfying books I have read in a long time!"

—Hillary Smith, Copperfield's Books, Calistoga, CA