



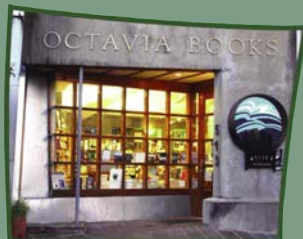
THE OCTAVIAN

Octavia Books' bi-monthly newsletter for booklovers



Voted Best
Locally Owned
Bookstore

April / May 2020



OCTAVIA BOOKS
513 Octavia Street
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STORE HOURS

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Sunday 10 am - 5 pm



Located in uptown New Orleans
at the corner of Octavia
and Laurel Streets between
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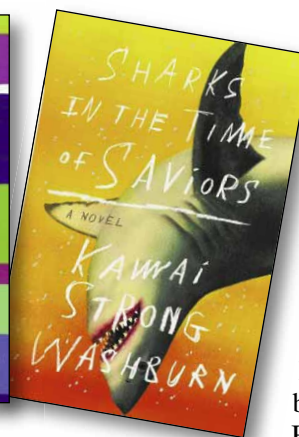
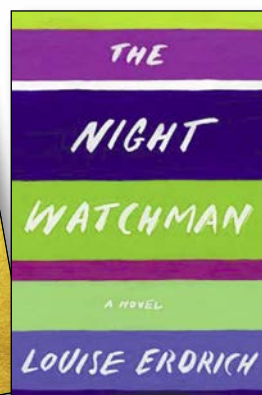
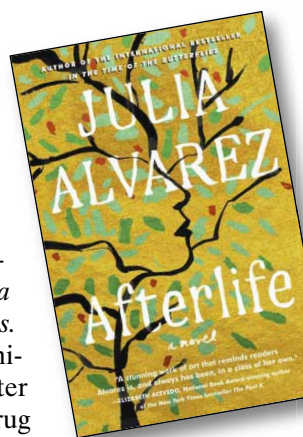
Let your imagination run wild.

American Tales

Afterlife

by Julia Alvarez

The first adult novel in almost fifteen years by the internationally best-selling author of *In the Time of the Butterflies* and *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*. Antonia Vega, the immigrant writer at the center of *Afterlife*, has had the rug pulled out from under her. She has just retired from the college where she taught English when her beloved husband, Sam, suddenly dies. And then more jolts: her sister disappears, and Antonia returns home one evening to find a pregnant, undocumented teenager on her doorstep. Antonia has always sought direction in the literature she loves—lines from her favorite authors play in her head like a soundtrack—but now she finds that the world demands more of her than words. Algonquin \$25.95. Avail. 4/7



Sharks in the Time of Saviors

by Kawai Strong Washburn

In 1995 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on a rare family vacation, seven-year-old Nainoa Flores falls overboard a cruise ship into the Pacific Ocean. When a shiver of sharks appears in the water, everyone fears for the worst. But instead, Noa is gingerly delivered to his mother in the jaws of a shark, marking his story as the stuff of legends. Nainoa's family hails his rescue as a sign of favor from ancient Hawaiian gods—a belief that appears validated after he exhibits puzzling new abilities. But as time passes, this supposed divine favor begins to drive the family apart. And when supernatural events revisit the Flores family in Hawai'i—with tragic consequences—they are all forced to reckon with the bonds of family, the meaning of heritage, and the cost of survival. MCD \$27.

The Night Watchman

by Louise Erdrich

Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at a plant near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member trying to understand an “emancipation” bill on its way to the floor of the US Congress. Thomas lives in the reservation community along with Patrice, who works at the plant, young Chippewa boxer Wood Mountain and his mother Juggie Blue, her niece and Patrice's best friend Valentine, and Stack Barnes, the white high school math teacher who is in love with Patrice. Illuminating these characters with compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is based on the life of Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession all the way to Washington, D.C. Harper \$28.99.



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Dear Booklover,



It's Spring and throughout our neighborhood flowers and trees are blooming, birds are chirping, and bees are buzzing. Of course, in New Orleans, while much vegetation remained green throughout the mild winter, it's still very much a time of awakening and new growth. It is a time to go outdoors and be a part of nature. A time to reflect on seasons that have come and gone, and what new can be created or discovered.

There are so many fresh and exciting books that will be showing up on our bookshelves that will help you create a new garden, be a conscious eater, or just help with how to be a healthier you. Of course, there are also new fiction titles just waiting to make their way home with you. Let us not forget the younger readers. There are loads of new books that will entice even a reluctant reader.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, May 9, when we and other locally-owned bookstores are working together to celebrate New Orleans Independent Bookstore Day (being in New Orleans, we hold our celebration a little later so as not to conflict with Jazz Fest). There will be loads of fun, often quirky, and always exciting literary activities including a scavenger hunt between the stores. We will be featuring special art and gifts created exclusively for Independent Bookstore Day. Look forward to a special announcement Octavia Books is saving just for that day.

Remember, when you shop at your local bookstore, you are not only taking home a gem of a book—you are also taking part in a larger movement. Most people understand this movement as one that promotes local economies, community building, and meaningful relationships.

These values drive the selections in this edition of THE OCTAVIAN as well. Read on for our best recommendations, upcoming events, and local flavors. When you walk into Octavia Books for your next to-read book, you can be assured that our collection is hand-picked, multi-faceted, and impactful. It offers a personal source of enjoyment, of emotional experience, of intellectual challenge. You are participating in a movement to strengthen your community and build bonds between your neighbors and your local economy.

Judith A. Pappas — *Thomas P. Sowa*

BOOK CLUBS

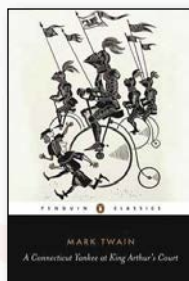
OCTAVIA BOOKS SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB

Second Saturday at 10:30 am

Saturday, April 11, 10:30 am

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court

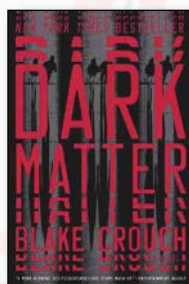
by Mark Twain



When Connecticut mechanic and foreman Hank Morgan is knocked unconscious, he wakes not to his 19th-century America but to the bewildering sights and sounds of 6th-century Camelot. Although confused at first and quickly imprisoned, he soon realizes that his knowledge of the future can transform his fate. Correctly predicting a solar eclipse from inside his prison cell, Morgan terrifies the people of England into releasing him and swiftly establishes himself as the most powerful magician in the land, stronger than Merlin and greatly admired by Arthur himself. Penguin \$10. ★🔊

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 am

Dark Matter by Blake Crouch



"Are you happy with your life?" Those are the last words Jason Dessen hears before his abductor knocks him unconscious. Before he awakens strapped to a gurney, surrounded by strangers in hazmat suits. Before a man Jason's never met smiles down at him and says, "Welcome back, my friend." In this world he's woken up to, Jason's life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college physics professor, but a genius who has achieved something impossible. Is it this world or the other that's the dream? Broadway \$17. 📖★🔊

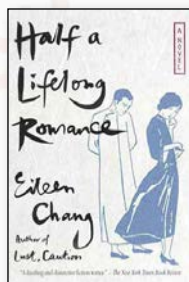
OCTAVIA BOOKS BOOK CLUB

Third Saturday at 10:30 am

Saturday, April 18, 10:30 am

Half a Lifelong Romance

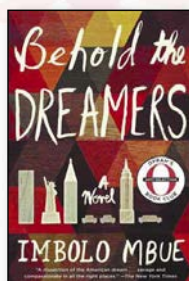
by Eileen Chang, trans. by Karen S. Kingsbury



Shanghai, 1930s. Shen Shijun, a young engineer, has fallen in love with his colleague, the beautiful Gu Manzhen. He is determined to resist his family's efforts to match him with his wealthy cousin so that he can marry her. But dark circumstances force the two young lovers apart. As Manzhen and Shijun go on their separate paths, they lose track of one another, and their lives become filled with missed connections and tragic misunderstandings. Still, Manzhen and Shijun dare to hold out hope—however slim—that they might one day meet again. Anchor \$16. 🔊

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 am

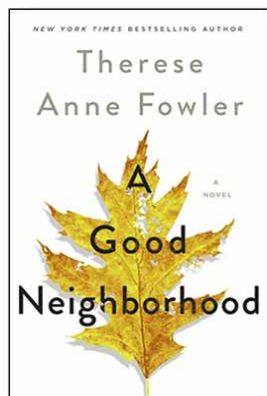
Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue



Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the U.S. to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. However, the world of privilege conceals troubling secrets, and Jende and Neni notice cracks in the employers' façades. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job—even as their marriage is falling apart. Random House \$17. 📖🔊

COME JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

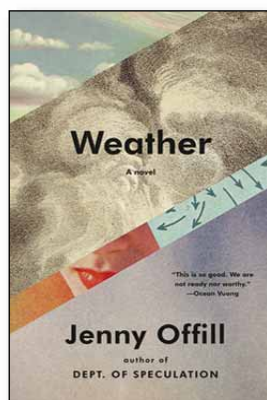
Exciting New Fiction



A Good Neighborhood

by **Therese Anne Fowler**

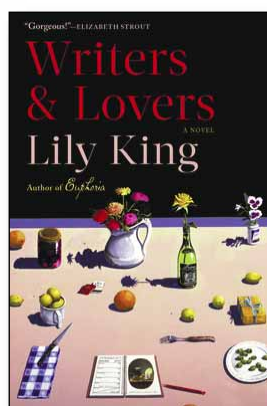
In the verdant, tight-knit neighborhood of Oak Knoll, professor of forestry and ecology Valerie Alston-Holt is raising her bright and talented biracial son, Xavier, who's headed to college in the fall. All is well until the Whitmans—a family with new money and a secretly troubled teenage daughter—raze the house and trees next door to build themselves a showplace. With little in common except a property line, these two families quickly find themselves at odds: first, over an historic oak tree in Valerie's yard, and soon after, the romance between their two teenagers. St. Martin's \$27.99.



Weather

by **Jenny Offill**

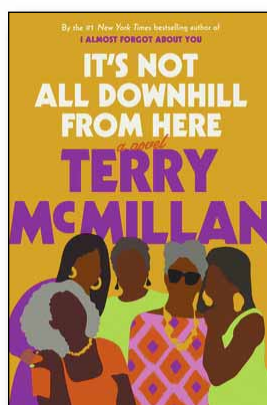
Lizzie Benson works as a librarian. When her old mentor, Sylvia, hires her to help with her podcast, *Hell and High Water*, Lizzie answers listener mail from left-wingers worried about climate change and right-wingers worried about the decline of western civilization. As Lizzie dives into this polarized world, she wonders what it means to keep tending your own garden once you've seen the flames beyond its walls. She is forced to address the limits of her experience—but still she tries to save everyone, using what she's learned from her years of wandering the library stacks. Knopf \$23.95.



Writers & Lovers

by **Lily King**

Blindsided by her mother's sudden death, and wrecked by a love affair, Casey Peabody has arrived in Massachusetts in 1997 without a plan. A former child golf prodigy, she now waits tables and works on the novel she's been writing for six years. At thirty-one, Casey is clutching onto something nearly all her old friends have let go of: the determination to live a creative life. When she falls for two men at the same time, her world fractures even more, and Casey's fight to balance the conflicting demands of art and life is challenged in ways that push her to the brink. Grove \$27.



It's Not All Downhill from Here

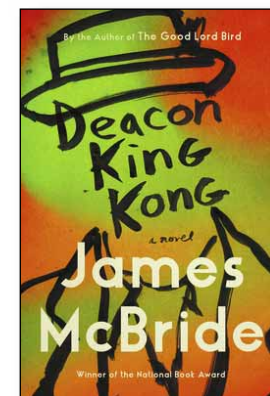
by **Terry McMillan**

On the eve of Loretha Curry's 68th birthday, she has a beauty-supply empire, a gaggle of friends, and a husband whose moves still surprise. True, she's carrying a few extra pounds, but Loretha is not one who thinks her best days are behind her—and she's determined to prove wrong her mother, her sister, and everyone else with that outdated view of aging. It's *not* all downhill from here. But when an unexpected loss turns her world upside down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength and determination to keep thriving, pursue joy, and chart new paths. Ballantine \$28.

Deacon King Kong

by **James McBride**

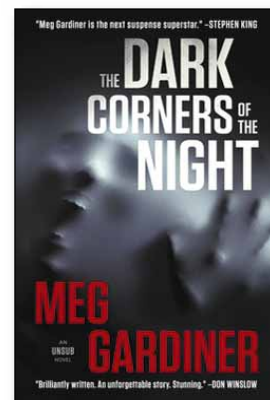
In September 1969, a cranky old church deacon shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in Brooklyn, and in front of everybody shoots the project's drug dealer. The reasons for this violence and its consequences lie at the heart of *Deacon King Kong*. James McBride's funny, moving novel brings to vivid life the people affected by the shooting: the victim, the African-American and Latinx residents who witnessed it, the white neighbors, the local cops, the deacon's church members, neighborhood Italian mobsters, and the shooter himself. Riverhead \$28.



Dark Corners of the Night

by **Meg Gardiner**

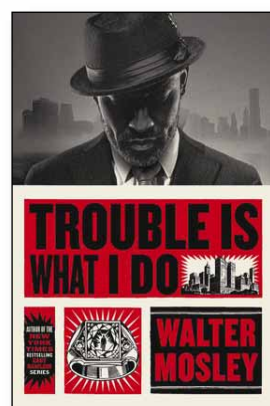
In this latest installment of the UNSUB series, the Midnight Man appears in the darkness, coming for parents but leaving the children alive, witnesses to unspeakable horror. FBI behavioral analyst Caitlin Hendrix has come to assist in the Midnight Man investigation and do what she does best—hunt a serial killer. But something about this UNSUB—unknown subject—doesn't sit right. She soon realizes that this case will test not only her skills but also her dedication, for within the heart of a killer lives a secret that mirrors Caitlin's own past. Blackstone \$26.99.



Trouble Is What I Do

by **Walter Mosley**

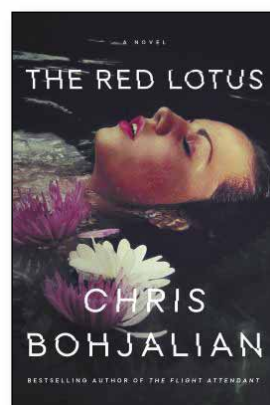
Morally ambiguous P.I. Leonid McGill is back—and investigating crimes against society's most downtrodden—in this installment of the beloved detective series. Phillip "Catfish" Worry is a 92-year-old Mississippi bluesman who needs Leonid's help: deliver a letter revealing the black lineage of a wealthy heiress and her corrupt father. The opportunity to do a simple favor while shocking the prevailing elite is too much for Leonid to resist. But when an assassin puts a hit on Catfish, Leonid has no choice but to confront the ghost of his own felonious past. Mulholland \$24.



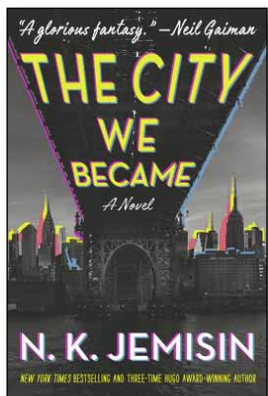
The Red Lotus

by **Chris Bohjalian**

The first time Alexis saw Austin, it was not in a bar, but in the emergency room where Alexis sutured a bullet wound in Austin's arm. Six months later, on the brink of falling in love, they travel to Vietnam so that Austin can show her his passion for cycling and pay his respects to the place where his father and uncle fought in the war. But as Alexis waits at the hotel for him to return from his solo ride, two men emerge from the tall grass, and Austin vanishes into thin air. Doubleday \$27.95.



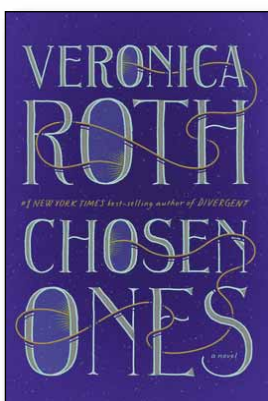
Stories to Mesmerize



The City We Became

by N.K. Jemisin

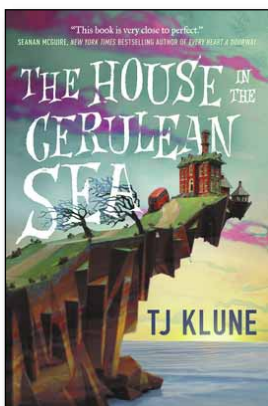
Five New Yorkers must come together to defend their city from an ancient evil in this stunning new novel by Hugo Award-winner and *NYT* bestselling author N.K. Jemisin. Every great city has a soul. Some are as ancient as myths, and others are as new and destructive as children. New York City? She's got six. But every city also has a dark side. A roiling, ancient evil stirs in the halls of power, threatening to destroy the city and her six newborn avatars unless they can come together and stop it once and for all. This is the first book in The Great Cities Trilogy. Orbit \$28.



Chosen Ones

by Veronica Roth

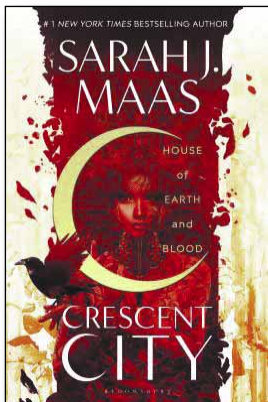
Fifteen years ago, five ordinary teenagers were singled out by a prophecy to take down a powerful entity wreaking havoc across North America. Known as the Dark One, he leveled cities and claimed thousands of lives. Chosen Ones, as the teens were known, gave everything they had to defeat him. On the 10th anniversary of the Dark One's defeat, one of the Chosen Ones dies. And when the others gather for the funeral, they discover the Dark One's ultimate goal was bigger than they or even prophecy could have foretold. John Joseph Adams \$26.99. Avail. 4/7



The House in the Cerulean Sea

by TJ Klune

Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an enchanting love story about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. Tor \$26.99.



House of Earth and Blood

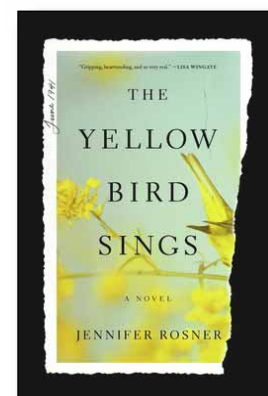
by Sarah Maas

In this launch to Sarah Maas' new Crescent City series, Bryce Quinlan had the perfect life until a demon murdered her closest friends. But when the accused is behind bars, the crimes start up again. Hunt Athalar is a notorious Fallen angel, now enslaved to the Archangels he once attempted to overthrow. His brutal skills and strength have been set to one purpose—to assassinate his boss's enemies. But with a demon wreaking havoc in the city, he's offered an irresistible deal: help Bryce find the murderer, and his freedom will be within reach. Bloomsbury \$28.

The Yellow Bird Sings

by Jennifer Rosner

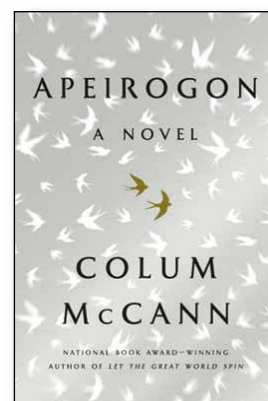
As Nazi soldiers round up Jews in their town, Róza and her 5-year-old daughter, Shira, hide in a barn. Hidden in the hayloft, Shira struggles to stay quiet, as music pulses through her and the farmyard beckons. To soothe her daughter, Róza tells her a story about a girl in an enchanted garden and a bird that sings the sounds she is forbidden to utter. In this make-believe world, Róza can shield Shira from outside horrors. But eventually their haven is no longer safe, and Róza must decide whether to keep Shira by her side or give her the chance to survive apart. Flatiron \$25.99.



Apeirogon

by Colum McCann

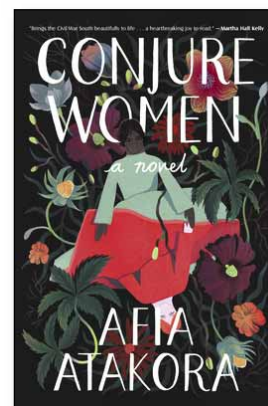
Bassam Aramin is Palestinian. Rami Elhanan is Israeli. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their daily lives, from the roads they are allowed to drive on, to the schools their daughters, Abir and Smadar, attend, to the checkpoints they must negotiate. Their worlds shift irreparably after 10-year-old Abir is killed by a bullet and 13-year-old Smadar becomes the victim of suicide bombers. When Bassam and Rami learn of each other's stories, they recognize the loss that connects them and they attempt to use their grief for peace. Random House \$28.



Conjure Women

by Afia Atakora

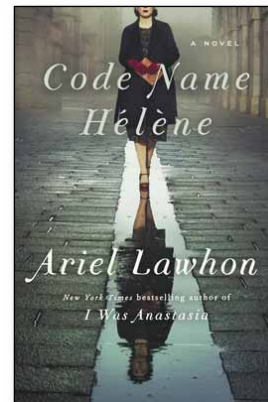
Conjure Women is a sweeping story that brings the South before and after the Civil War to life. Spanning generations, it tells of the lives of three women: Miss May Belle, a wise healing woman; her daughter Rue, who is reluctant to follow in her mother's footsteps as a midwife; and their master's daughter Varina. The secrets and bonds among these women come to a head at the beginning of a war and at the birth of an accursed child, who sets the townspeople alight with fear that threatens their newly won, tenuous freedom. Random House \$27. Avail. 4/7



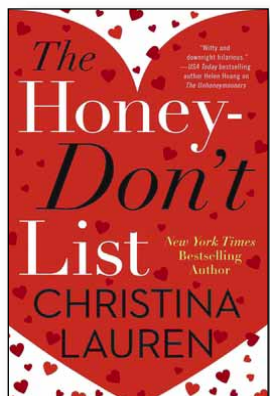
Code Name Hélène

by Ariel Lawhon

Based on a true story. 1936: Nancy Wake is a reporter in Paris when she marries Henri Fiocca. Now Nancy Fiocca, as Germans invade France, she takes a code name. As Lucienne Carlier, Nancy smuggles people across the border and is known as The White Mouse for her ability to evade capture. In Britain, as Hélène, she trains with the Special Operations Executives. And finally, as Madame Andrée, Nancy returns to France and becomes a leader in the French Resistance. But no one can protect Nancy if the enemy finds out these four women are one and the same. Doubleday \$27.95.



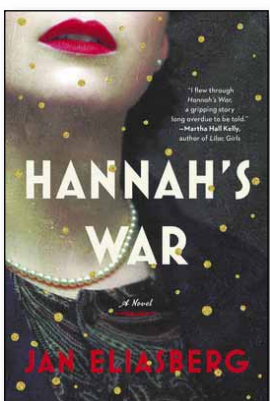
New in Paperback



The Honey-Don't List

by Christina Lauren

Carey Douglas has worked for home remodeling gurus Melissa and Rusty Tripp for nearly a decade. With a new show and a book about to launch, they are on the verge of superstardom. Unfortunately, the couple can't stand each other. James McCann was hired as an engineer, and now both he and Carey must go on book tour with the Tripps to keep their bosses' secrets hidden, and their own jobs secure. "[H]ilariously zany and heartfelt" (*Booklist*) Christina Lauren brings a romantic comedy that proves if it's broke, you might as well fix it. Gallery \$16 PB/\$28 HC. ★🎧



Hannah's War

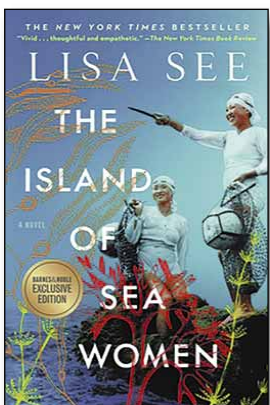
by Jan Eliasberg

Berlin, 1938: Dr. Hannah Weiss is on the verge of the greatest discovery of the 20th century: splitting the atom. She believes the weapon's creation will secure an end to future wars, but her research is eventually stolen by her German colleagues. New Mexico, 1945: Major Jack Delaney is out to catch a spy who is leaking equations to Hitler's scientists. Among his suspects is Hannah Weiss, an exiled physicist lending her talent to J. Robert Oppenheimer's mission. But Jack soon realizes they have more in common than they bargained for. Back Bay \$16.99.

The Island of Sea Women

by Lisa See

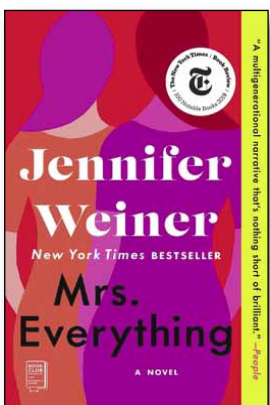
Mi-ja and Young-sook live on the Korean island of Jeju and become baby divers with their village's all-female diving collective. Over decades that span Japanese colonialism, WWII, the Korean War, and the era of cell phones, the residents of Jeju find themselves caught between warring empires. Mi-ja is the daughter of a Japanese collaborator, and is forever marked by this association. Young-sook will inherit her mother's position leading the village divers. And despite developing the closest of bonds, their relationship will be pushed to the breaking point. Scribner \$18. 📖🎧



Mrs. Everything

by Jennifer Weiner

Jo and Bethie Kaufman were born into a world of promise. Growing up in 1950s Detroit, they live in a perfect "Dick and Jane" house, where their roles are clearly defined. Jo is the tomboy, the rebel with a passion to make the world more fair; Bethie is the feminine good girl, who enjoys the power her beauty confers. But as their lives unfold against the background of free love and Vietnam, the truth looks different from what the girls imagined. Neither woman has a life that feels authentic or brings her joy. Is it too late for the women to stake a claim on happily ever after? *How should a woman be in the world?* Washington Square \$17. Avail. 4/7 📖★🎧



The Last Summer of

Ada Bloom

by Martine Murray

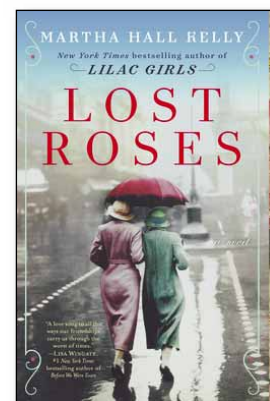
In a small town during one long summer, the Bloom family is unraveling. Martha is straining against the confines of her life when an old flame shows up. Her husband is frustrated with his distant wife. And while teenagers Tilly and Ben are about to step out into the world, nine-year-old Ada is holding onto a childhood that might soon be lost. *The Last Summer of Ada Bloom* is about the fragility of family relationships, the secrets we keep, the power they hold to shape our lives, and the power of love to hold it all together. Tin House \$15.95. Avail. 4/7 ★



Lost Roses

by Martha Hall Kelly

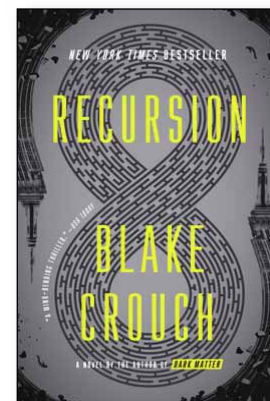
Lilac Girls introduced real-life heroine Caroline Ferriday. Now *Lost Roses*, also inspired by true events, features Caroline's mother and follows three women in the shadow of WWI. It is 1914, and New Yorker Eliza Ferriday is traveling to St. Petersburg with her friend Sofya Streshnayva, a cousin of the Romanovs. But Austria declares war on Serbia, and Eliza escapes back to America, while Sofya and her family flee to their country estate. There they hire the local fortune-teller's daughter, Varinka, for domestic help, and bring more danger into their household. Ballantine \$17. 📖🎧



Recursion

by Blake Crouch

Reality is broken. At first, it looks like a disease. An epidemic that spreads through no known means, driving its victims mad with memories of a life they never lived. But the force that's sweeping the world is just the first shock wave, unleashed by a stunning discovery—and what's in jeopardy is not our minds but the very fabric of time itself. In New York City, Detective Barry Sutton is closing in on the truth—and in a remote laboratory, neuroscientist Helena Smith is unaware that she alone holds the key to this mystery... and the tools for fighting back. Ballantine \$17. 📖★🎧



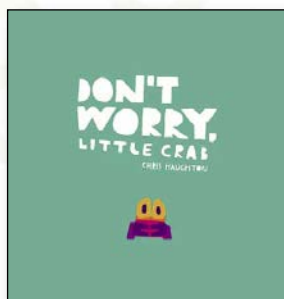
Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm.

— John Muir





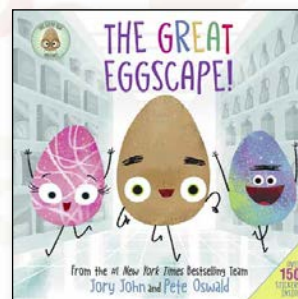
TALES FOR TOTS



Don't Worry, Little Crab by Chris Haughton

Little Crab and Very Big Crab live in a tiny rock pool near the sea. Today they're going for a dip in the big ocean. "This is going to be so great," says Little Crab, splish-splashing along. Then comes a first glance down at the waves. *WHOOSH!* Maybe it's better if they don't go in? With vivid colors, bold shapes, and his trademark visual humor, Chris Haughton shows that sometimes a gentle "don't worry, I'm here" can

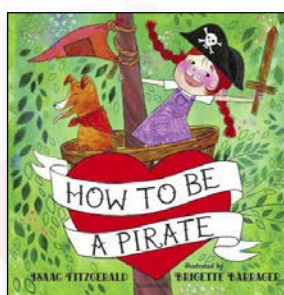
help tentative little crabs discover the brilliant worlds that await when they take the plunge. Candlewick \$17.99. Ages 3-6. Avail. 4/7 ★



The Great Eggscapade! by Jory John illus. by Pete Oswald

Shel (an egg) isn't a huge fan of group activities, especially when he's made to be "It" for a game of hide-and-seek. Nevertheless, Shel doesn't want to let his friends down, so he reluctantly plays anyway. But after a morning of hiding and seeking, somebody's still missing. Will the dozen eggs friends ever

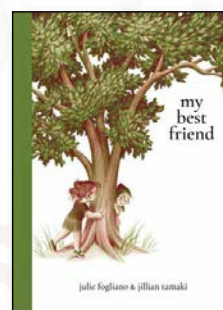
be reunited? Find out in this hilarious egg hunt adventure that reminds us to break out of our shells and help our friends in need! Includes two sticker sheets, perfect for decorating your own eggs. HarperCollins \$10.99. Ages 4-8.



How to Be a Pirate by Isaac Fitzgerald illus. by Brigitte Barrager

CeCe dreams of being a pirate. When the neighborhood boys tell her that she can't, she wonders where to begin. Luckily, she suspects her grandpa must know something about being a pirate—why else would he have all those tattoos? As he shares each tattoo, Grandpa and CeCe are transported, and

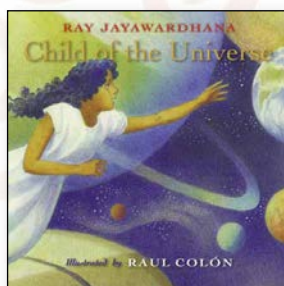
CeCe discovers that there are all kinds of ways to be a pirate—Be BRAVE! Be QUICK! Be INDEPENDENT! And FUN!—and most of all, BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Bloomsbury \$17.99. Ages 3-6.



My Best Friend by Julie Fogliano illus. by Jillian Tamaki

NYT bestselling author Julie Fogliano and Caldecott Honor winner Jillian Tamaki come together to tell a delightful story of first friendship. *she is my best friend i think / i never had a best friend so I'm not sure / but i think she is a really good best friend / because when we were drawing / she drew me / and i drew her.* What is a best friend, if not someone who laughs with you the whole day, especially

when you pretend to be a pickle? This pitch-perfect picture book is a sweet celebration of the magic of friendship. Atheneum BYR \$17.99. Ages 4-8. ★★ SLJ



Child of the Universe by Ray Jayawardhana illus. by Raul Colon

"Just like the sun gives shine to the moon, / you light up the world beyond this room... / You are grand and marvelous, strong and mysterious. / The history of the world is in your fingertips." A lyrical meditation on the preciousness of one child and the vastness of the universe, this gorgeous picture book shares the

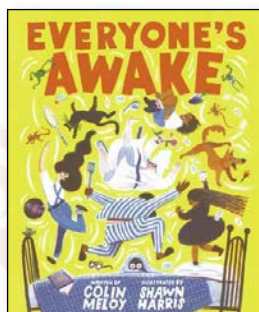
immensity of a parent's love along with the message that we are all connected to the broader cosmos in important and intimate ways. A perfect bedtime read-aloud. Make Me a World \$17.99. Ages 3-7. ★★ SLJ



Summer Song by Kevin Henkes illus. by Laura Dronzek

Bees buzz, birds sing, and children roll in the grass and feel the heat of the summer sun. With striking verbal imagery, repetition, and alliteration, Kevin Henkes introduces basic concepts of language and the summer season. Laura Dronzek's glowing paintings beautifully illustrate the season's wonders. This is a companion to the bestselling *When Spring Comes*, *In the Middle of Fall*,

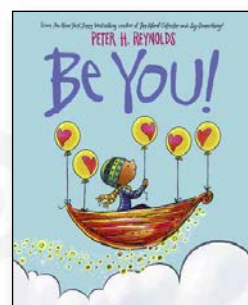
and *Winter Is Here*, and is ideal for introducing the season, for story time, and for bedtime reading. Greenwillow \$18.99. Ages 4-8. Avail. 4/7 ★



Everyone's Awake by Colin Meloy, illus. by Shawn Harris

Giggle your way to sweet and silly dreams! A goodnight routine turns marvelously madcap in this cleverly rhymed picture book. Instead of settling down to sleep, Dad bakes bread, Mom fixes the roof, and Grandma plays cards with a ghost. And between the dog, the cat, Sister, and Brother, there's at least three different wars being waged! A modern classic perfect for read-aloud fun and bedtime alike. Fans of *Goodnight Already* and

Dinosaur vs Bedtime will find *Everyone's Awake* to be a perfect path to a good night's sleep. Chronicle \$17.99. Ages 4-7.



Be You! by Peter Reynolds

Be curious... Be adventurous... Be brave... BE YOU! Discover a joyful reminder of the ways that every child is unique and special, from the beloved creator of *The Dot*, *Happy Dreamer*, and *New York Times* bestseller, *The Word Collector*. Here, Reynolds reminds readers to "be your own work of art." To be patient, persistent, and true. Because there is one, and *only* one, YOU. In the tradition of books like *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* and *I*

Wish You More comes a wholly original, inspirational celebration of individuality. Orchard \$17.99. Ages 4-8.

CHAPTER BOOKS



The Wild Robot & The Wild Robot Escapes

by Peter Brown

Wall-E meets *Hatchet* in these illustrated middle grade novels from Caldecott Honor winner Peter Brown, now in paperback. In the first book, robot Roz is alone on a remote island, and her only hope for survival is to learn from the island's hostile animal inhabitants. And in the second, after being captured and returned to civilization for reprogramming, Roz is sent to Hilltop Farm where she befriends her owner's family and animals, but pines for her son. Little, Brown BYR \$8.99 each. Ages 8-11. Avail. 4/7

Mañanaland

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Maximiliano Córdoba loves the legend Buelo tells him about a mythical gatekeeper who guides travelers on a journey into tomorrow. If Max could see tomorrow, he would know if he'd make the fútbol team and whether he'd ever meet his mother. So when Max uncovers a buried family secret—involving a network of guardians who lead people fleeing a neighboring country to safety—he decides to seek answers on his own. With a compass, a stone rubbing, and Buelo's legend as his guides, he sets out to discover what the future holds. Scholastic \$18.99. Ages 8-12.



The List of Things That Will Not Change

by Rebecca Stead

After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she keeps a list in her notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and though she's never met his daughter, now she'll finally have a sister. And as the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy. Wendy Lamb \$16.99. Ages 8-12. Avail. 4/7

If We Were Giants

by Dave Matthews and Clete Barrett Smith, illus. by Antonio Javier Caparo

Kirra lives in a community hidden inside a dormant volcano and is in training to be a Storyteller. But when she unknowingly leads a group called the Takers to her doorstep, they rob her of everything she has ever held dear. Devastated, she is found by Luwan and adopted into his family in the trees of a forest. But the Takers return. To save the Tree Folk, Kirra must face her inner demons and summon her storytelling to weave the most important tale of her life. Disney-Hyperion \$16.99. Ages 8-12.



Aru Shah and the Tree of Wishes

by Roshani Chokshi

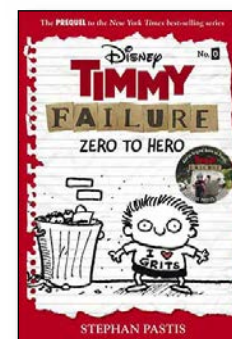
War between the devas and the demons is imminent, and the Otherworld is on high alert. Fourteen-year-old Aru Shah and her friends are sent to rescue two "targets," one of whom is about to utter a prophecy that could mean the difference between victory and defeat. When the Pandavas fail to prevent the prophecy from reaching the Sleeper's ears, Aru seeks the wish-granting tree. If she can reach it before the Sleeper, perhaps she can turn everything around. But you should be careful what you wish for. Rick Riordan Presents \$16.99. Ages 9-12. Avail. 4/7



Timmy Failure: Zero to Hero

by Stephan Pastis

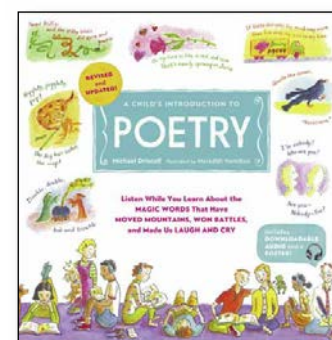
Timmy Failure is not just any detective—he is the greatest detective in his town, perhaps the nation. He is so famous that there have been seven books written about his life. Plus a movie. And so he has agreed to provide the world with his extraordinary origin story, as dictated to his biographer and best friend, Charles "Rollo" Tookus. Stephan Pastis is back with the hilariously heartwarming tale of how it all started for our favorite clueless detective—including how he got that red scarf! Disney-Hyperion \$14.99. Ages 9-12. Avail. 4/7



A Child's Introduction to Poetry

by Michael Driscoll, illus. by Meredith Hamilton

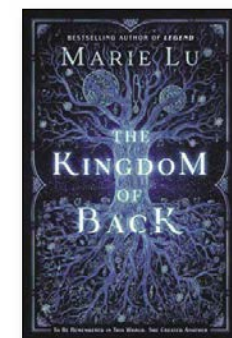
Celebrate National Poetry Month! Poetry can be fun—especially when we can read it, hear it, and discover its many delights. *A Child's Introduction to Poetry* joyously introduces kids to the greatest poets in history—from Homer and Shakespeare to Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou—and provides excellent examples of their work and commentary on what makes it so special and everlasting. The book covers every style of poem, from epics to haikus, and is filled with examples of each one. Black Dog & Leventhal \$19.99. Ages 9-12.



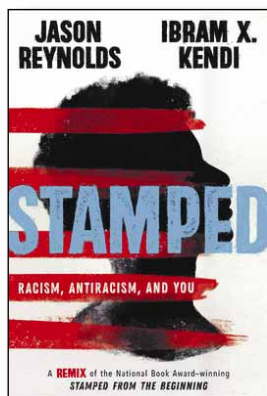
The Kingdom of Back

by Marie Lu

Born with a gift for music, Nannerl Mozart wants to be remembered forever. But even as she delights audiences with her playing, she is a young woman in 18th century Europe, and that means composing is forbidden to her. She will perform only until she reaches a marriageable age. As Nannerl's hope dims, the talents of her beloved brother, Wolfgang, shine brighter. Until one day a stranger from a magical land appears with an offer. He has the power to make her wish come true—but his help may cost her everything. G.P. Putnam's Sons BYR \$18.99. Ages 12+.



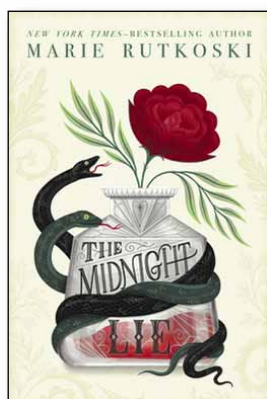
Hot New Picks in YA



Stamped

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

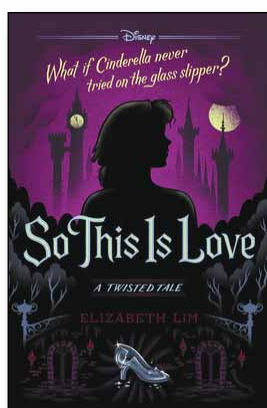
This is not a history book. This is a book about the here and now. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives. Little, Brown BYR \$18.99.



The Midnight Lie

by Marie Rutkoski

Set in the world of the Winner's Trilogy, *The Midnight Lie* is an epic LGBTQ romantic fantasy. Where Nirrim lives, society's pleasures are reserved for the High Kith. Life in the Ward is grim, especially for people of her low status. Nirrim keeps her head down and a dangerous secret close to her chest. But then she encounters Sid, a rakish traveler from far away, who whispers rumors that the High Kith possess magic. Sid tempts Nirrim to seek that magic for herself. But to do that, Nirrim must surrender her old life. Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR \$18.99.



So This Is Love

by Elizabeth Lim

What if Cinderella never tried on the glass slipper? Unable to prove that she's the missing princess, Cinderella attempts a fresh start, looking for work at the palace as a seamstress. But when the Grand Duke appoints her to serve under the king's visiting sister, Cinderella becomes witness to a grand conspiracy to take the king—and the prince—out of power, as well as a longstanding prejudice against fairies. Faced with questions of love and loyalty to the kingdom, Cinderella must find a way to stop the villains before it's too late. Disney-Hyperion \$17.99. Avail. 4/7



Be Not Far From Me

by Mindy McGinnis

The world is not tame. Ashley knows this deep in her bones, more at home with trees overhead than a roof. So when she goes hiking in the Smokies with her friends, the creaking trees are second nature to her. But people are not tame either. And when Ashley catches her boyfriend with another girl, drunken rage sends her running into the night, stopped only by a nasty fall into a ravine. Morning brings the realization that she's alone—and far off trail. Lost in undisturbed forest, Ashley must survive with infection creeping up her leg. Katherine Tegen \$18.99.

The Lucky Ones

by Liz Lawson

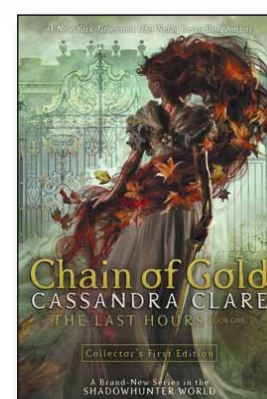
Eleven months after the school shooting that killed her twin brother, May still doesn't know why she was the only one to walk out of the band room. No one gets what she went through. Zach lost his old life and friends when his mother decided to defend the shooter. All, that is, except for his loyal best friend. Which is how Zach ends up at band practice that night. The *same* night May goes to audition for a new band. Which is how May meets Zach. And how Zach meets May. And how both might figure out that surviving could be an option after all. Delacorte \$18.99. Avail. 4/7



Chain of Gold

by Cassandra Clare

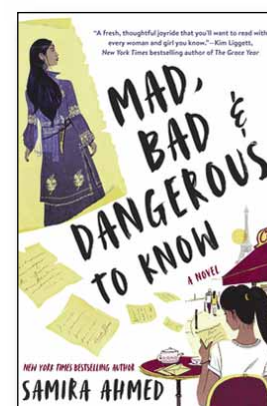
Cordelia Carstairs is a Shadowhunter, trained to battle demons. When her father is accused of a terrible crime, she and her brother travel to London in hopes of preventing the family's ruin. Soon she is drawn into her childhood friends' world of glittering ballrooms and supernatural salons. But Cordelia's new life is blown apart when a series of demon attacks devastate London, and she and her friends discover that their own connection to a dark legacy has gifted them with incredible powers. *Chain of Gold* is a Shadowhunters novel. Margaret K. McElderry \$24.99.



Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know

by Samira Ahmed

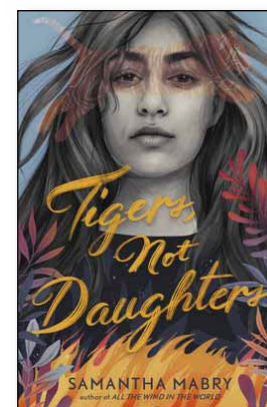
17-year-old budding art historian Khayyam Maquet is too distracted by personal troubles to enjoy her holiday in Paris. 200 years previous, Leila struggles to keep her true love hidden from the Pasha who has "gifted" her with favored status in his harem. As Khayyam begins to connect allusions to an enigmatic 19th-century Muslim woman whose path may have intersected with Alexandre Dumas, Eugène Delacroix, and Lord Byron, the lives of the two women intertwine across the centuries—one being uncovered, and the other transformed. Soho Teen \$18.99. Avail. 4/7



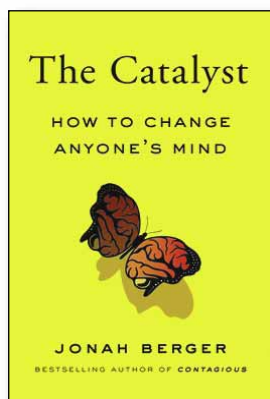
Tigers, Not Daughters

by Samantha Mabry

In this follow-up to *All the Wind in the World*, the Torres sisters dream of escape from their despotic widowed father and their San Antonio neighborhood. In the summer after her senior year of high school, Ana, the oldest sister, falls to her death from her bedroom window. A year later, her sisters are still consumed by grief; their dream of leaving seems out of reach. But strange things start happening in the house: mysterious laughter, shadows, writing on the walls. The sisters wonder if Ana is trying to send them a message—and what she's trying to say. Algonquin YR \$17.95.



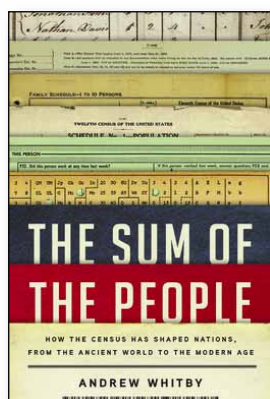
Understanding Our World



The Catalyst

by Jonah Berger

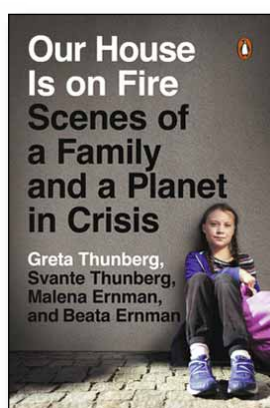
The Catalyst: How to Change Anyone's Mind identifies the key barriers to change and how to mitigate them. You'll learn how catalysts change minds in the toughest of situations: how hostage negotiators get people to come out with their hands up and how marketers get new products to catch on, how leaders transform organizational culture and how activists ignite social movements, how substance abuse counselors get addicts to realize they have a problem, and how political canvassers change deeply rooted political beliefs. Simon & Schuster \$26.99. 🎧



The Sum of the People

by Andrew Whitby

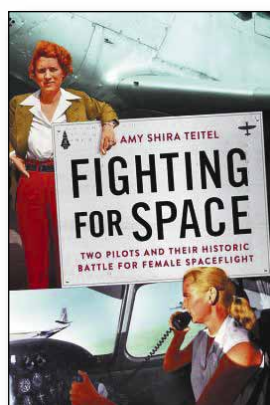
In *The Sum of the People: How the Census Has Shaped Nations, from the Ancient World to the Modern Age*, Andrew Whitby traces the history of the census, from ancient China and the Roman Empire, through revolutionary America and Nazi-occupied Europe, to the steps of the Supreme Court. Marvels of democracy, instruments of exclusion, and, at worst, tools of tyranny and genocide, censuses have profoundly shaped societies. Today, as we struggle to resist the creep of mass surveillance, the traditional census may offer the seeds of an alternative. Basic \$30.



Our House Is on Fire

by Greta Thunberg, Svante Thunberg, Malena Ernman, and Beata Ernman

When climate activist Greta Thunberg was eleven, her parents Malena and Svante, and her little sister Beata, were facing a crisis in their own home. Greta had stopped eating and speaking, and her parents had reconfigured their lives to care for her. They eventually discovered the cause of Greta's distress: her imperiled future on a rapidly heating planet. Steered by Greta's determination, they began to see connections between their own suffering and the planet's. *Our House Is on Fire: Scenes of a Family and a Planet in Crisis* is the story of how this family fought their problems at home by taking global action. Penguin \$17. 🎧



Fighting for Space

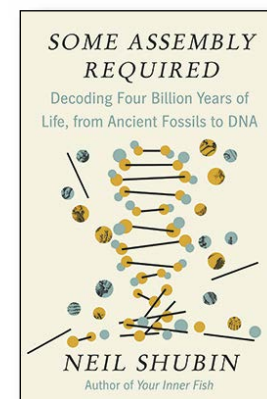
by Amy Shira Teitel

When the space age dawned in the late 1950s, Jackie Cochran held more flying records than any pilot of the 20th century. She was more qualified than any woman in the world to make the leap from atmosphere to orbit. Yet it was Jerrie Cobb, twenty-five years Jackie's junior, who finagled her way into taking the same medical tests as the Mercury astronauts. *Fighting for Space: Two Pilots and Their Historic Battle for Female Spaceflight* presents these women's stories as guides through the shifting social, political, and technical landscape of the time. Grand Central \$30. 🎧

Some Assembly Required

by Neil Shubin

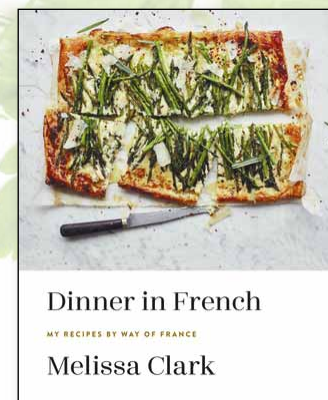
We have arrived at a remarkable moment—prehistoric fossils coupled with new DNA technology have given us the tools to answer some of the basic questions of our existence: How do big changes in evolution happen? Is our presence on Earth the product of mere chance? This new science reveals a multibillion-year evolutionary history filled with twists and turns, accident and invention. In *Some Assembly Required: Decoding Four Billion Years of Life, from Ancient Fossils to DNA*, Neil Shubin takes readers on a journey of discovery spanning centuries. Pantheon \$26.95. 📖 🌐 📱 🌟 🎧



Dinner in French

by Melissa Clark

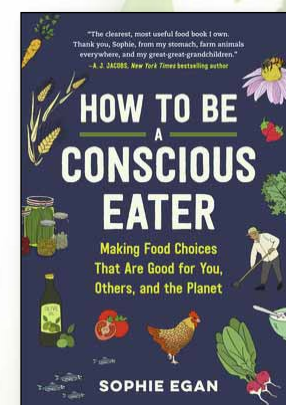
The new French classics in 150 recipes that reflect a modern yet distinctly French recipe canon, from food writer Melissa Clark. She first fell in love with France and French food as a child; now Melissa updates classic French techniques and dishes to reflect how we cook, shop, and eat today. With recipes such as Salade Nicoise with Haricot Vert, Scalloped Potato Gratin, and Ratatouille Sheet-Pan Chicken, *Dinner in French: My Recipes by Way of France: A Cookbook* will become a go-to resource and endure as an indispensable classic. Clarkson Potter \$37.50. ★



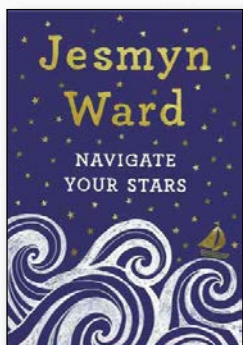
How to Be a Conscious Eater

by Sophie Egan

Is organic really worth it? Are eggs ok to eat? If so, which ones are best for you, and for the chicken—Cage-Free, Free-Range, Pasture-Raised? What about farmed salmon, soy milk, sugar, gluten, coconut oil, almonds? Thumbs-up, thumbs-down, or somewhere in between? Using three criteria—*Is it good for me? Is it good for others? Is it good for the planet?*—*How to Be a Conscious Eater: Making Food Choices That Are Good for You, Others, and the Planet* helps us navigate the world of food so that we can all become conscious eaters. Workman \$16.95. ★



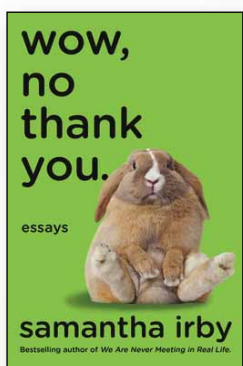
Fascinating Lives



Navigate Your Stars

by Jesmyn Ward

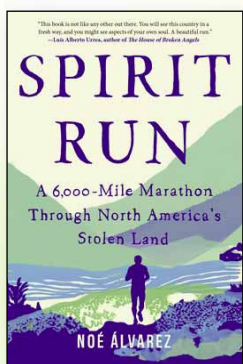
For Tulane University's 2018 commencement, two-time National Book Award-winner Jesmyn Ward delivered a stirring speech about hard work and the importance of respect, inspiring the audience with her meditation on tenacity in the face of hardship. Now, in book form, Ward's words will inspire readers as they prepare for the next chapter in their lives, whether, like Ward, they are the first in their families to graduate from college or are preceded by generations, or whether they are embarking on a different kind of journey later in life. Scribner \$16. Avail. 4/7 🎧



Wow, No Thank You.

by Samantha Irby

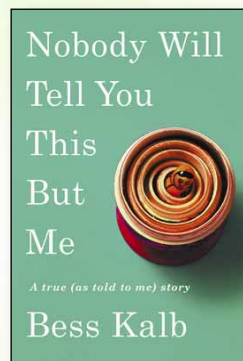
Irby is forty and increasingly uncomfortable in her own skin. Having published successful books but friendzoned by Hollywood, she has moved into a house with a garden with her wife in a Blue town in the middle of a Red state where she now hosts book clubs and makes mason jar salads. This is the bourgeois life of a Hallmark Channel dream. She spends weeks in LA meeting with TV executives while being a "cheese fry-eating slightly damp Midwest person." *Wow, No Thank You.: Essays* draws on the raw, hilarious particulars of Irby's new life. Vintage \$15.95. 🎧



Spirit Run

by Noé Álvarez

At nineteen, Noé Álvarez learned about a Native American/First Nations movement called the Peace and Dignity Journeys, epic marathons meant to renew cultural connections across North America. He joined a group of Dené, Secwépemc, Gitksan, Dakelh, Apache, Tohono O'odham, Seri, Purépecha, and Maya runners, all fleeing difficult beginnings. In *Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land*, Álvarez writes about his four-month-long journey from Canada to Guatemala, telling their stories alongside his own. Catapult \$26. ★ 🎧



Nobody Will Tell You This But Me

by Bess Kalb

Bess Kalb saved every voicemail her grandmother Bobby Bell ever left her. Bobby was a force—irrepressible, glamorous, unapologetically opinionated. Then, at ninety, Bobby died. But in this debut memoir, Bobby is speaking to Bess in her passionate voice once more. In *Nobody Will Tell You This But Me: A True (as Told to Me) Story*, Bobby delivers—in phone calls, texts, and heart-to-hearts—her signature wisdom: *If the earth is cracking behind you, you put one foot in front of the other. Never. Buy. Fake. Anything. I swear on your life every word of this is true.* Knopf \$25.95. 🎧

The Upside of Being Down

by Jen Gotch

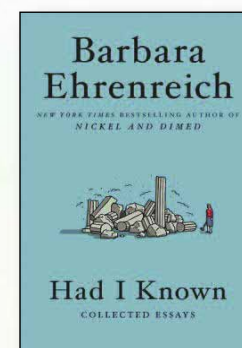
After graduating from college, Jen Gotch was living with her parents when she became convinced that her skin had turned green. Hallucinating was terrifying, but it led to her first diagnosis and the start of a journey towards self-awareness, acceptance, success, and ultimately, joy. With humor and candor, in *The Upside of Being Down: How Mental Health Struggles Led to My Greatest Successes in Work and Life*, Gotch shares the empowering story of her unlikely path to becoming the creator and CCO of a multimillion-dollar brand. Gallery \$27. 🎧



Had I Known

by Barbara Ehrenreich

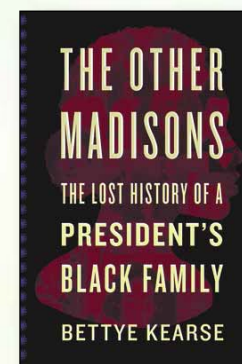
A self-proclaimed "myth buster by trade," Ehrenreich has covered a wide range of topics as a journalist and activist. *Had I Known: Collected Essays* gathers the articles from a long-ranging career that highlight her brilliance, social consciousness, and wry wit. From her award-winning article "Welcome to Cancerland," published after she was diagnosed with breast cancer, to her undercover investigative journalism in *Nickel and Dimed*, *Had I Known* pulls from her vast and varied collection to create one must-have volume. Twelve \$28. ★ 🎧



The Other Madisons

by Bettye Kears

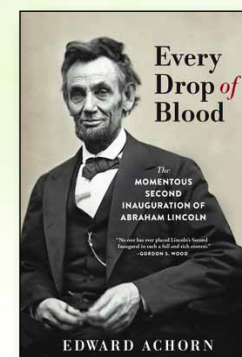
For thousands of years, West African *griots* and *griottes* have recited their people's stories. This is how Bettye Kears learned she is a descendant of President James Madison and his slave and half-sister, Coreen. Their credo—"Always remember—you're a Madison. You come from African slaves and a president"—was intended to be a source of pride, but for her, it echoed slavery, rape, and incest. *The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family* is the saga of an extraordinary American family told by a *griotte* in search of the whole story. Houghton Mifflin \$28. 🎧



Every Drop of Blood

by Edward Achorn

By March 4, 1865, the Civil War had slaughtered more than 700,000 Americans. Tens of thousands crowded the Capitol grounds that day to see Abraham Lincoln take the oath for a second term. In his inaugural address, he stunned the nation by arguing that both sides had been wrong, and that the war's horrors—every drop of blood spilled—might have been God's just verdict on the national sin of slavery. *Every Drop of Blood: The Momentous Second Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln* echoes down the decades to resonate in our own time. Atlantic Monthly \$28.

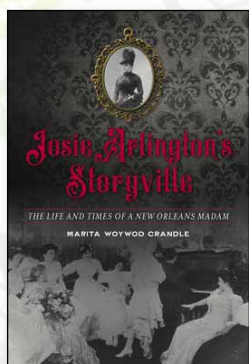


LOCAL FLAVORS



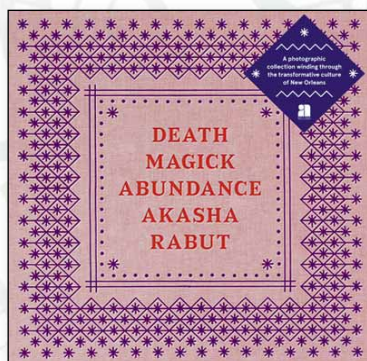
Mosquito Supper Club: Cajun Recipes from a Disappearing Bayou by Melissa Martin

For anyone who loves Cajun food or is interested in American cooking or wants to discover a distinct and engaging new female voice—or just wants to make the very best duck gumbo, shrimp jambalaya, she-crab soup, crawfish étouffée, smothered chicken, fried okra, oyster bisque, and sweet potato pie—comes *Mosquito Supper Club*. Martin is a gifted cook who brings a female perspective to a world we've only heard about from men. The stories she tells come straight from her own life, and yet in this age of climate change and erasure of local cultures, they feel universal, moving, and urgent. Artisan \$35. Avail. 4/14 ★



Josie Arlington's Storyville: The Life and Times of a New Orleans Madam by Marita Woywod Crandle

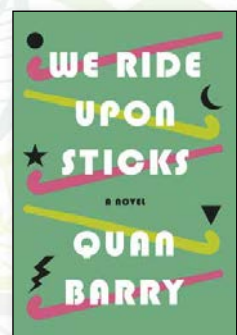
At a time when women were denied opportunity, the lavish parlors of Storyville offered advancement for women who welcomed the vice. Mary Deubler, the Storyville madam who called herself Josie Arlington, welcomed carnal enterprise. A turbulent childhood forced her into a life of prostitution at an early age, but fueled by ambition, she opened a brothel that developed a dangerous reputation. An establishment filled with exotic girls, who added a rare air of refinement to its proffered debauchery, it allowed Josie to become something even rarer for her time: a self-made woman of wealth and influence. History Press \$23.99.



Death Magick Abundance by Akasha Rabut

More than any parade or disaster, New Orleans is the people—the ones who persevere and transform the city in all its vibrancy. For nearly a decade, photographer Akasha Rabut has documented this thriving culture. In her first book, she reveals the city's spirit through the pink smoke of the Caramel Curves, the first all-female black motorcycle club; alongside the Southern Riderz, urban cowboys on horseback in the streets; amid the talent of the Edna Karr High School marching band, majorettes, and dance team; and many others who represent the next generation of New Orleans. Anthology Editions \$40.

May We Recommend ...



We Ride Upon Sticks: A Novel by Quan Barry

"Witches and hockey? Sign me up! From the first scenes of the game in progress on through, *We Ride* provided wry smiles and big laughs along with a pretty heady hit of nostalgia. The characters are clever, and the plot is enjoyable and well-fleshed-out." Pantheon \$26.95. ★🎧

—Christie Schaefer, Octavia Books Bookseller

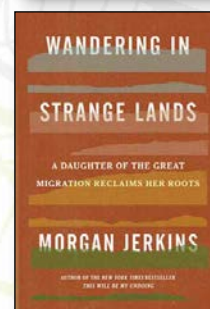
Upcoming Events at Octavia Books

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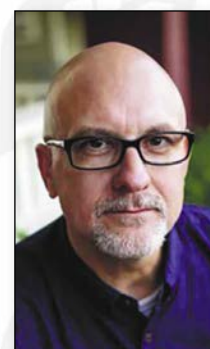


MORGAN JERKINS *Wandering in Strange Lands: A Daughter of the Great Migration Reclaims Her Roots*

Thursday, May 21, 6 pm



Between 1916 and 1970, six million black Americans left their homes in the South for jobs in cities in the North, West, and Midwest in a movement known as The Great Migration. But while this event transformed the complexion of America and provided black people with new opportunities, it also disconnected them from their sense of identity, argues Morgan Jerkins. In this fascinating exploration, she recreates her ancestors' journeys, following the routes they took from Georgia and South Carolina to Louisiana, Oklahoma, and California.



SIDNEY THOMPSON *Follow the Angels, Follow the Doves*

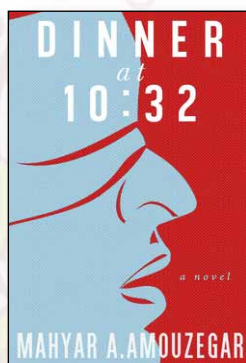
Sunday, May 31, 3 pm



Before Bass Reeves could stake his claim as the most successful 19th-century American lawman, arresting more outlaws than any other deputy during his 32-year career as a deputy U.S. marshal in some of the most dangerous regions of the Wild West, he was a slave. *Follow the Angels, Follow the Doves* is an important historical work that places Reeves in the pantheon of American heroes and a thrilling historical novel that narrates a great man's exploits amid the near-mythic world of the 19th-century frontier. Join us!



Upcoming Events at Octavia Books



MAHYAR AMOZEGAR *Dinner at 10:32* BOOK LAUNCH

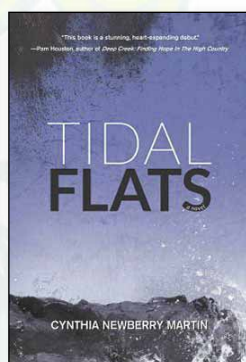
Saturday, April 18, 6 pm
Join Mahyar Amouzegar for the book launch of *Dinner at 10:32*! Near the end of his life, Donte's granddaughter asks him a simple question: What are the true origins of

his long love affair with his wife? From there, Donte embarks on a reminiscence of their complex love story, along with other romances, friendships, and intrigues that peppered his younger days. As he reveals the moments that formed him by sharing stories with his granddaughter, both are led to contemplate memories, truths, secrets, and hope.



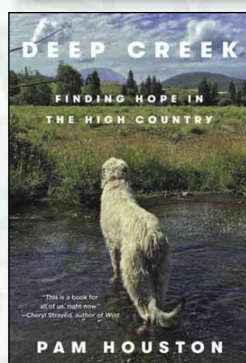
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH READING & SIGNING **Wednesday, April 22, 6 pm**

Celebrate National Poetry Month with us as we present poets Gena Ferrara (*Weight of the Ripened*); Julie Kane (*Mothers of Ireland*); and Ralph Adamo (*All the Good Hiding Places*). After the reading, the poets will sign their books.

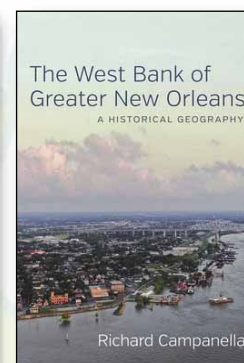
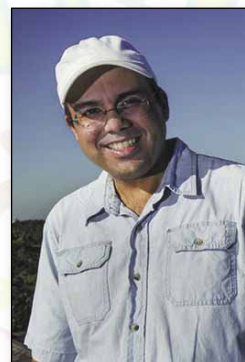


CYNTHIA NEWBERRY MARTIN and PAM HOUSTON *Tidal Flats* *Deep Creek*

Tuesday, April 28, 6 pm
Cynthia Newberry Martin will discuss *Tidal Flats*, an elegant debut novel in which a couple must navigate that fine line between the things they want for themselves and the life they want together... and it appears that the wife will have to choose one or the other. Pam Houston will share from her memoir *Deep Creek*, about her experience on her 120-acre homestead high in the Colorado Rockies,



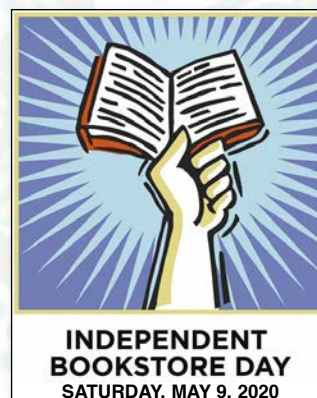
where she discovers how the natural world has mothered and healed her after a childhood of horrific parental abuse and neglect.



RICHARD CAMPANELLA *The West Bank of Greater New Orleans* BOOK LAUNCH **Thursday, May 7, 6 pm**

The West Bank has been a vital part of greater New Orleans since the city's inception, serving

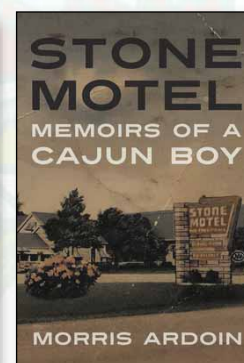
as its breadbasket, foundry, shipbuilder, railroad terminal, train manufacturer, and even livestock hub. Richard Campanella is the first to examine the West Bank holistically, as a legitimate subregion with its own story to tell. No other part of greater New Orleans has more diverse yet deeply rooted populations, and he challenges the notion that their story is subsidiary to a more important narrative across the river.



INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY New Orleans

Saturday, May 9, all day

Please come by to celebrate Independent Bookstore Day with us. We'll have fun together with activities and some exclusive literary-themed art and gift items. Independent Bookstore Day is a one-day national party that takes place at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April. Every store is unique and independent, and every party is different, especially in New Orleans! Because of Jazz Fest, we celebrate Independent Bookstore Day after the rest of the country. Come join us May 9!



MORRIS ARDOIN *Stone Motel: Memoirs of a Cajun Boy* **Friday, May 15, 6 pm**

In the summers of the early 1970s, Morris Ardoin and his siblings helped run their family's roadside motel in a bayou town in Cajun Louisiana. The stifling heat inspired them to find creative ways to stay cool

and out of trouble. When they were not doing their chores—handling a colorful cast of customers, scrubbing toilets, plucking chicken bones and used condoms from under the beds—they played canasta, an old ladies' game that provided them with refuge from the sun and their violent, troubled father. Come, and listen to his recollections.

For the latest event information, visit OctaviaBooks.com!