Grand-Slams You Don’t Want to Miss!

Big Sky
by Kate Atkinson
Bestselling author Kate Atkinson returns to the world of the iconoclastic detective Jackson Brodie. In Big Sky, Brodie has relocated to a quiet seaside village, in the occasional company of his recalcitrant teenage son and an aging Labrador, both at the discretion of his ex-partner Julia. It’s picturesque, but something darker lurks behind the scenes. Jackson’s current job, gathering proof of an unfaithful husband, is fairly standard-issue, but a chance encounter with a desperate man on a crumbling cliff leads him into a sinister network—and back across the path of his old friend Reggie. Old secrets and new lies intersect in this breathtaking novel by one of the most dazzling and surprising writers at work today. Little, Brown $28.  🧙‍♀️♂️

The Nickel Boys
by Colson Whitehead
Abandoned by his parents, but kept on the straight and narrow by his grandmother, Elwood Curtis is about to enroll in the local black college. But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, whose mission statement says it provides “physical, intellectual and moral training” to delinquent boys. In reality, the Academy is a grotesque chamber of horrors where the sadistic staff beats and sexually abuses the students. Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, The Nickel Boys is a driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers. Doubleday $24.95.  🧙‍♂️♂️

Chances Are...
by Richard Russo
From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Empire Falls comes a riveting story about the complex power of friendship. One beautiful September day, three men convene on Martha’s Vineyard, friends since college circa the sixties. They couldn’t have been more different then, or today—Lincoln’s a real estate broker, Teddy a tiny-press publisher, and Mickey a musician beyond his rockin’ age. Each holds his own secrets, in addition to the mystery that none of them has stopped puzzling over since a weekend on the Vineyard in 1971: the disappearance of the woman each of them loved. Shot through with Russo’s trademark comedy and humanity, Chances Are... introduces a new level of suspense and menace. Knopf $26.95.  🧙‍♂️♂️

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Dear Booklover,

One of the best parts of bookselling is replacing fear with familiarity. We often are scared of what we do not understand or what is unknown. Far off countries may seem forbidding and unrelated; experiences that are outside our range can feel uncomfortable (I could never do that!); transitions into new school years, jobs, or new places can be filled with anxiety.

The power of story isn’t just that we get to deeply experience something outside our immediate world, but that these experiences impart wisdom and understanding. What was formerly unknown to us becomes less scary and more accessible. This extends outside the confines of the book’s pages, empowering us to try new things we never thought we could, or talk to a person far different from us who we previously wouldn’t have chosen to interact with. It tears down self-constructed walls, opening new opportunities to live richer lives.

In this issue, you’ll find a range of empowering books to connect you meaningfully with your world. We are featuring protagonists from Florida to California, and a national sleeping epidemic in the states between (check out Chuck Wendig’s Wanderers on p. 4!). From there we go to Australia, France, and the Philippines (the incredible When the World Stopped Turning by Michael Morpurgo can be found on p. 7), to follow brave and flawed characters who save the world and destroy it, who help and are helped by their friends and family.

We’re particularly excited about our graphic novels, from adult fiction (the next Adventure Zone on p. 3!), to great titles for young people (feature on p. 7), and a graphic memoir by George Takei called They Called Us Enemy (p. 9) in which the beloved actor shares his story of being imprisoned with his family in a “relocation center” in 1942.

And that brings us to the non-fiction on pages 9 and 10, filled with so many incredible stories and explorations, it’s hard to know where to begin. Just read them all, and then start a farm, help kids be agents of change, and be moved by incredible memoirs.

Here’s to you! Come in and spend some time with us at Octavia Books, and tell us what books you are moved by!

BOOK CLUBS

OCTAVIA BOOKS SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
Second Saturday at 10:30 am

Saturday, August 10, 10:30 am
Binti by Nnedi Okorafor
Winner of the Hugo Award and the Nebula Award for Best Novella! Her name is Binti, and she is the first of the Himba people ever to be offered a place at Oomza University, the finest institution of higher learning in the galaxy. But to accept the offer will mean giving up her place in her family to travel between the stars among strangers who do not share her ways or respect her customs. Her journey will not be easy. The world she seeks to enter has long warred with the Meduse, an alien race that has become the stuff of nightmares. Tor $9.99.

Saturday, September 17, 10:30 am
Children of Time by Adrian Tchaikovsky
The last remnants of the human race left a dying Earth, desperate to find a new home among the stars. Following in the footsteps of their ancestors, they discover the greatest treasure of the past age—a world terraformed and prepared for human life. But all is not right in this new Eden. In the long years since the planet was abandoned, the work of its architects has borne disastrous fruit. The planet is not waiting for them, pristine and unoccupied. New masters have turned it from a refuge into mankind’s worst nightmare. Orbit $16.99.

OCTAVIA BOOKS BOOK CLUB
Third Saturday at 10:30 am

Saturday, August 14, 10:30 am
The Overstory by Richard Powers
The Overstory, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize, is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism that is also a stunning evocation of the natural world. The novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late 20th-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see it and are drawn into its unfolding catastrophe. W.W. Norton $18.95.

Saturday, September 21, 10:30 am
The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy
The Ministry of Utmost Happiness takes us on an intimate journey across the Indian subcontinent—from the cramped neighborhoods of Old Delhi and the roads of the new city to the mountains and valleys of Kashmir and beyond, where war is peace and peace is war. Braiding together the lives of a diverse cast of characters who have been broken by the world they live in and then rescued, patched together by acts of love—and by hope, here Arundhati Roy reinvents what a novel can do and can be. Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Vintage $16.95.
Deep River
by Karl Marlantes
In the early 1900s, as Russia’s oppressive rule takes its toll on Finland, the Koski siblings—Ilmari, Matti, and Aino—flee to the United States. They settle in a Washington logging community, where the harvesting of the old-growth forests begets rapid development, and radical labor movements begin to catch fire. Here, the brothers climb and fell trees, while Aino helps organize the industry’s first unions. And as the siblings strive to rebuild their lives in America, they also try to hold fast to their homeland traditions. Atlantic Monthly $30.

Murder on the Rockport Limited!
by Clint, Justin, Griffin, and Travis McElroy, illus. by Carey Pietsch
This second Adventure Zone graphic novel (adapted from the McElroy family's wildly popular D&D podcast), picks up where the smash hit Here There Be Gerbils left off. We rejoin hero-adjacent sort-of-comrades-in-arms Taako, Magnus, and Merle on a wild career through a D&D railroad murder mystery. This installment has a little of everything: a genius child detective, an axe-wielding professional wrestler, a surly wizard, cursed magical artifacts, and a pair of meat monsters. First Second $26.99HC/$19.99PB.

gods with a little g
by Tupelo Hassman
So cut off that even the Internet is blocked, Rosary, California, run by evangelicals. Helen and her friends turn to the Tire Yard, sex, and beer to pass the days until they turn 18 and can leave. Win and Rainbolene are particularly keen to depart—Rain because she’ll be able to get the hormones she needs to fully become herself. Watching over them is outcast Aunt Bev. As the pages unfold, these flawed, lovable characters discover aspects of each other’s hearts that reshape how they think about trust and family, and how to make a future you can see. Farrar, Straus & Giroux $27. Avail. 8/13.

The Oysterville Sewing Circle
by Susan Wiggs
Caroline Shelby has returned to Oysterville, a tiny hamlet at the edge of the Pacific. Ten years ago, Caroline launched a glamorous Manhattan fashion career. But her success in New York imploded in scandal and tragedy, forcing her to flee. With her are two young children who were orphaned in a single chilling moment. With life so changed, Caroline returns to her beloved sewing shop owned by Mrs. Lindy Bloom, and thus begins the Oysterville Sewing Circle—where women support each other through their hidden troubles. William Morrow & Co. $26.99. Avail. 8/13.

Delayed Rays of a Star
by Amanda Lee Koe
In a chance encounter at a 1928 Berlin soirée, a photographer captures three very different women in one frame: up-and-coming German actress Marlene Dietrich, who would become a lasting Hollywood icon; Anna May Wong, the world’s first Chinese American star, playing bit parts while dreaming of breaking away from her father’s laundry; and Leni Riefenstahl, whose work as a director would make her famous—then, infamous. From this point of intersection, Amanda Lee Koe’s wry prose explores ego, persona, and desire. Nan A. Talese $27.95.

Evvie Drake Starts Over
by Linda Holmes
In a seaside town in Maine, and nearly a year after her husband’s death in a car crash, Evelyn “Evvie” Drake rarely leaves her large, painfully empty house. In New York City, Dean Tenney, former Major League pitcher, can’t throw straight anymore, and he can’t figure out why. As the media storm heats up, he goes to Maine for a chance to hit the reset button. And when he moves into an apartment at the back of Evvie’s house, an unexpected friendship soon turns into something more. A joyful, hilarious, and hopeful debut! Ballantine $26.

The Dearly Beloved
by Cara Wall
Charles and Lily, James and Nan. They meet in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. Their personal differences however, threaten to tear them apart. Against the backdrop of turbulent changes facing the city and the church’s congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships, each struggling with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy in this poignant meditation on faith and reason, marriage and children. Simon & Schuster $26.99. Avail. 8/13.

Fleishman Is in Trouble
by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
After almost 15 years of marriage, newly separated Toby Fleishman is enjoying a summer of sexual emancipation and optimism until his wife drops their two children off at his place and doesn’t return. As Toby tries to figure out where Rachel went, all while juggling patients, parental duties, and his app-assisted sexual popularity, he clings to his narrative of the spurned husband with the too-ambitious wife. But if Toby wants to understand what happened to his marriage, he is going to have to consider that he might not have seen things clearly in the first place. Random House $27.
Thrillers and Mysteries

Wanderers
by Chuck Wendig
Shana’s sister appears to be sleepwalking. She cannot talk, cannot be woken up, and is heading to a destination that only she knows. Soon they are joined by sleepwalkers from across America, accompanied by protective friends and family. For the sleepwalking phenomenon awakens terror and violence in America. With society collapsing, the sleepwalkers’ fate depends on unraveling the epidemic’s mystery. The terrifying secret will either tear the nation apart—or bring the survivors together to make a shattered world. Del Ray $28.99. ★★★

Never Have I Ever
by Josilyn Jackson
Amy Whey is proud of her ordinary, domestic life, until one book club night that brings Angelica Roux to her doorstep. Sultry and magnetic, Roux lures the group into a “harmless” game of spilling secrets. Only Amy knows better, and later, Roux threatens to make Amy pay for her past dark sins if she doesn’t give Roux what she wants. To save the life she’s built, Amy must match wits with the devil in an escalating war of hidden pasts. The consequences are dire if she can’t beat Roux, and if she wins, she could lose everything. William Morrow & Co. $26.99. ★★★

The Turn of the Key
by Ruth Ware
When she reads the ad, it seems too good to pass up—a live-in nannying post, with a staggering salary. And when Rowan arrives at Heatherbrae House, she is smitten—by the luxurious “smart” home fitted out with all modern conveniences, by the Scottish Highlands, and by this picture-perfect family. What she doesn’t know is that she’s stepping into a nightmare that will end with a child dead and herself in prison, on trial for murder. Full of menace, this is a spellbinding tale from the Agatha Christie of our time. Gallery/Scout $27.99. Avail. 8/6 ★★★

Conviction
by Denise Mina
The day Anna McDonald’s quiet, respectable life explodes starts off normally: packing up the kids for school, making breakfast, listening to yet another true crime podcast. Then her husband comes in with an announcement, and Anna is suddenly, shockingly alone. Desperate for distraction, Anna returns to the podcast. Other people’s problems are much better than one’s own. But this case actually is Anna’s problem. She knows one of the victims from an earlier life. And she is convinced that she knows what really happened. Mulholland $27. ★★★★★

The Swallows
by Lisa Lutz
At Stonebridge Academy, one of Alexandra Witt’s creative writing assignments generates disturbing student responses, and she becomes immersed in an investigation of the students atop the school’s social hierarchy. She soon inspires the girls who’ve started to question the school’s “boys will be boys” attitude and incites a resistance. A boys-versus-girls skirmish turns into an all-out war, with deeply personal—and potentially fatal—consequences. Because the scariest threat of all might be that sooner or later, girls will be girls. Ballantine $27. Avail. 8/13 ★★★

Lady in the Lake
by Laura Lippman
Baltimore, 1966. Last year, Maddie Schwartz was a happy housewife. This year, she’s bolted from her marriage, determined to live a meaningful life. Maddie wants to matter, so she helps police find a murdered girl, and this leads to a job at the newspaper. Here Maddie has the opportunity to make her name, and she has found the story to do it: a missing woman whose body was discovered in the fountain of a city park lake. But for all her ambition, Maddie’s inability to look beyond her own needs will lead to tragedy and turmoil. William Morrow & Co. $26.99. ★★★★

Girls Like Us
by Cristina Alger
When Homicide Detective Martin Flynn dies in a motorcycle accident, FBI Agent Nell Flynn returns home to close her father’s estate. While there, she becomes involved in an investigation into the murders of two young women, and it seems that her father should be the prime suspect. Plagued by doubts about her mother’s murder years before—and her own role in exonerating her father—Nell can’t help but ask questions about who killed these two young women and why. But she may not like the answers she finds. G.P. Putnam’s Sons $26. ★★★

The Birthday Girl
by Melissa de la Cruz
At her 40th birthday, it appears Ellie has everything: an adorable family; lush homes in Los Angeles, Park City, and Palm Springs; a career as a fashion designer; and glamorous friends. Except Ellie has many secrets, including a certain 16th birthday she’s tried hard to forget. At her fabulous 40th birthday party, things aren’t going to plan. Everyone who matters in her life shows up, invited or not—friends and frenemies, stepdaughters and business partners, ex-wives and ex-husbands—and the façade of her life crumbles. Dutton $27. Avail. 8/6 ★★★
**The Witch Elm**  
by Tana French  
Toby is a happy-go-lucky charmer who’s celebrating with friends when the night takes a turn that will change his life—he surprises two burglars who beat him and leave him for dead. Struggling to recover from his injuries, Toby begins to understand that he might never be the same again, he takes refuge at his family’s ancestral home to care for his dying uncle Hugo. Then a skull is found in the trunk of an elm tree in the garden—and as detectives close in, Toby is forced to face the possibility that his past may not be what he has always believed. Penguin $17.

**The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone**  
by Felicity McLean  
Tikka Malloy was eleven during the Australian summer of 1992, when the Van Apfel sisters—Ruth, Hannah, and the beautiful Cordelia—mysteriously disappeared. Did they just run far away from their harsh, evangelical parents, or were they taken? While the search for the girls united the community, their disappearance was never solved, and Tikka and her sister Laura have been haunted ever since by the loss of their playmates. Now, years later, Tikka has returned home to try to make sense of that strange moment in time. Algonquin $15.95.

**Kingdom of the Blind**  
by Louise Penny  
With the highly anticipated 15th installment out in late August (A Better Man), catch up on the previous Chief Inspector Gamache novel, now in paperback! When a letter invites Armand Gamache to an abandoned farm-house, he discovers a stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Curious and still on suspension, Gamache accepts and learns of two other executors; none of them had ever met the elderly woman. Curious and still on suspension, Gamache accepts and learns of two other executors; none of them had ever met the elderly woman. But when a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing. Minotaur $16.99.

**The Only Woman in the Room**  
by Marie Benedict  
The instant NYT bestseller! Her beauty saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated, she overheard the Third Reich’s plans while at her husband’s side. She fled in disguise from their castle, and landed in Hollywood, becoming Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But she kept another secret: she was a scientist. And she had an idea that might help the country fight the Nazis. Based on the true story of the icon who revolutionized modern communication. Sourcebooks Landmark $16.99. Avail. 8/6

**Happily Ever Esther**  
by Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter  
Steve Jenkins and Derek Walter had their lives turned upside down when they adopted their pig-daughter Esther—a “micro” pig who turned out to be 650 pounds. To care for Esther (and to rescue other animals), they left the city and moved to a farm. But Derek and Steve quickly realized the frantic realities of being a farmer, and before they knew it their sanctuary grew to as many as 42 animals. Written with joy and humor, this charming memoir captures the emotional journey of a family advocating for animals everywhere. Grand Central $16.99.

**How Long ‘til Black Future Month?: Stories**  
by N.K. Jemisin  
N. K. Jemisin is one of the most acclaimed speculative fiction authors of our time. In her first collection of short fiction, dragons and hateful spirits haunt the flooded streets of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, learning from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow South offers impossible promises to save her daughter from a fey. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story “The City Born Great,” a street kid fights to give birth to an old metropolis’s soul. Orbit $16.99. Avail. 8/13

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It was said that the gods favored fools because they were entertaining to watch.

— N.K. Jemisin  
The Killing Moon
Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas by Aaron Blabey
Everyone knows that piranhas don’t eat bananas—except for Brian. This little fish loves to munch not only on bananas, but on fruit of all kinds! Brian’s piranha friends think he’s crazy. Piranhas don’t eat bananas—their sharp teeth are for eating meat! And there’s a scrumptious pair of feet dangling in the water nearby.... Rich with author-illustrator Aaron Blabey’s hysterical text and unforgettably wacky illustrations, Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas is a hilarious story about trying new things—no matter how strange! Scholastic $14.99. Ages 3-5.

Give Me Back My Bones! by Kim Norman, illus. by Bob Kolar
A stormy night at sea has uncovered some long-buried surprises. Is that the mast of a shipwreck? A faded pirate hat? And what’s that hiding in the sand? A mandible and a clavicle, phalanges and femurs, a tibia and a fibula—could there be a set of bones scattered across the ocean floor? A jaunty rhyming story takes readers on an underwater scavenger hunt as a comical skeleton tries to put itself back together. Make no bones about it: this rollicking read-aloud will have young ones learning anatomy without even realizing it. Candlewick $16.99. Ages 4-7.

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes
illus. by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
Starting kindergarten is a big milestone—and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He’s dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can’t wait to be part of a whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he’s up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterword, he can’t wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements—and then wake up to start another day. Barnes’s empowering story will give new kindergarteners a reassuring confidence boost. Dial $17.99. Ages 3-6. Avail. 8/13

Unicorn Is Maybe Not So Great After All by Bob Shea
You remember Unicorn. You know, Goat’s friend? The one who can fly, make it rain cupcakes, and turn things into gold? On the first day of school, Unicorn expects to make his usual big splash. But no one pays him much attention—the other kids are much more interested in the latest trend in toys. Unicorn comes up with a plan to get his mojo back, but his efforts turn out to be more annoying than impressive. Can Goat help him recover his magic, or is Unicorn destined to a life of mediocrity? Disney-Hyperion $17.99. Ages 4-7.

Tallulah the Tooth Fairy CEO by Tamara Pizzoli
illus. by Federico Fabiani
Hilarious and smart, Tallulah the Tooth Fairy CEO is a modern take on the classic tooth fairy story that is perfect for powerful little leaders ready to take on the world—one tooth at a time. Meet Tallulah. She’s the Tooth Fairy CEO. Tallulah knows practically everything about being a tooth fairy. How to collect teeth. Dispense money. Train other fairies. And it’s all in the Teeth Titans Incorporated Employee Manual. But when something happens that’s not covered in the manual, what’s a fairy to do? Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR $17.99. Ages 4-8.

Goodbye Friend! Hello Friend! by Cori Doerrfeld
Change is hard, but Goodbye, Friend! Hello, Friend! demonstrates how, when one experience ends, another begins. It follows two friends as they say goodbye to snowmen, and hello to stomping in puddles. They say goodbye to long walks, butterflies, and the sun... and hello to long evening talks, fireflies, and the stars. But the hardest goodbye comes when one of the friends moves away. Sometimes new beginnings take time. But even the hardest days come to an end, and you never know what tomorrow will bring. Nancy Paulsen $17.99. Ages 4-8.
The Poison Jungle
by Tui Sutherland
The NYT bestselling series continues with brand-new tribes of dragons! It’s no secret that Sundew wants to destroy the HiveWings, exacting revenge on the tribe that tried to wipe out the LeafWings and ripped every tree from the surface of Pantala. Every tree, that is, except the wild and dangerous Poison Jungle, where surviving LeafWings have been hiding since the war. Now that a new war is upon them, Sundew and her friends must unearth the oldest secret in that jungle—even if it has the power to destroy them all. Scholastic $16.99. Ages 10-14.

School-Tripped
by Jennifer Holm, illus. by Matthew Holm
Watch out, Big City! Babymouse is on a field trip without a chaperone in the third book in the highly illustrated Babymouse: Tales from the Locker series. Babymouse’s middle school art class is headed to a museum in the Big City—unsupervised! But when she overhears Felicia Furrypaws planning to ditch the museum and hit the town instead, Babymouse decides to test her freedom with an urban adventure of her own. Will she make it back before the bus leaves? Or will the Big City trip her up big-time? Random House BYR $13.99. Ages 8-12.

Serafina and the Seven Stars
by Robert Beatty
Serafina, the Guardian of Biltmore Estate, patrols the grounds night and day, uncertain of her place after her best friend Braeden Vanderbilt’s departure for boarding school. At the start of the estate’s annual hunt, Serafina keeps a close eye on the guests. But she becomes increasingly unsettled by what Biltmore has become—a place haunted by nameless terrors where no dark corridor is safe. Serafina and the Seven Stars marks the return of a heroine like no other in this fourth installment of the Serafina series. Disney-Hyperion $16.99. Ages 9-12.

The Day the World Stopped Turning
by Michael Morpurgo
In France during WWII, Lorenzo lives among the salt flats and the flamingos. There are lots of things he doesn’t understand, but he knows how to talk to and heal animals. He loves routine, music, and going to market. It’s there he meets Kezia, a Roma girl, who helps her parents run their carousel—and who shows him how to ride it. But then come the German soldiers, and everything falls apart: the carousel, Kezia’s family, even Lorenzo’s beloved flamingos. Yet there are kind people even among soldiers…. Feiwel & Friends $16.99. Ages 10-14.

Geronimo Stilton Reporter:
It’s My Scoop!
by Geronimo Stilton
Geronimo Stilton, top reporter for The Rodent’s Gazette, has a reputation of breaking the top news stories first to the citizens of New Mouse City. But lately, Sally Ratnouse of rival Paper The Daily Rat, has been leaking Geronimo’s secret scoop! Can Geronimo keep the lid on a surprise celebrity guest to the city’s 100 year celebration or will Sally rat him out? Papercutz $9.99. Ages 8-11.

Cheshire Crossing
by Andy Weir, illus. by Sarah Andersen
What happens to Alice when she comes back from Wonderland? Wendy from Neverland? Dorothy from Oz? They meet here, at Cheshire Crossing—a boarding school where girls like them learn how to cope with their supernatural experiences. But the trio has had their fill of authority figures. Soon they’re dashing between universes, wreaking havoc—and, inadvertently, bringing the Wicked Witch and Hook together in a supervillain love match. Ten Speed $14.99. Ages 8-12.

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel
by Eoin Colfer and Michael Moreci
illus. by Stephen Gilpin
In 2001, audiences first met and fell in love with a twelve-year-old criminal mastermind named Artemis Fowl. Since then, the eight-book series about his adventures has sold over 25 million copies. To coincide with the major motion picture coming in August 2019, here is an all-new graphic novel adaptation. Readers of all ages can now follow the siege at Fowl Manor between Artemis and the fairies in action-packed, full-color panels. Disney-Hyperion $21.99HC/$12.99PB. Ages 8-12.

The Last Olympian:
The Graphic Novel
by Rick Riordan and Robert Venditti
illus. by Orpheus Collar and Antoine Dodé
In this epic finale to the NYT best-selling Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, the long-awaited prophecy surrounding Percy’s 16th birthday unfolds. And as the battle for Western civilization rages on the streets of Manhattan, Percy faces a terrifying suspicion that he may be fighting against his own fate. Relive the showdown in this all-new graphic novel adaptation. Disney-Hyperion $21.99HC/$12.99PB. Ages 10-13. Avail. 8/13.
Shatter the Sky
by Rebecca Kim Wells
Raised among the ruins of a conquered mountain nation, Maren dreams only of sharing a quiet life with her girlfriend Kaia—until Kaia is abducted by the Aurati, prophetic agents of the emperor, and forced to join their ranks. Desperate to save her, Maren hatches a plan to steal one of the emperor’s coveted dragons and storm the Aurati stronghold. To succeed, she must become an apprentice to the Aromatory—the emperor’s mysterious dragon trainer. But she is unprepared for the dangerous secrets she uncovers.… Simon & Schuster BYR $18.99.

Midnight Beauties
by Megan Shepherd
Ever since she discovered her affinity for magic, 17-year-old Anouk has been desperate to become a witch. It’s the only way to save her friends who, like Anouk, are beasties: animals enchanted into humans. But unlike Anouk, the other beasties didn’t make it out of the battle at Montélîmar in one piece. With her friends trapped in their animal forms, Anouk is forced into a sinister and deadly deal. This spellbinding sequel and conclusion to Grim Lovelies is perfect for fans of The Cruel Prince and The Hazel Wood. Houghton Mifflin $17.99. Avail. 8/13

Patron Saints of Nothing
by Randy Ribay
Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of Michigan. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte’s war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about it, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth—and the part he played in it. Kokila $17.99.

The Merciful Crow
by Margaret Owen
A future chieftain. Fie’s Crow caste of undertakers and mercy-killers takes more abuse than coin, but when they’re called to collect royal dead, she’s hoping they’ll find the payout of a lifetime. A fugitive prince. When Crown Prince Jasimir turns out to have faked his death, he offers a wager to Fie: protect him, and he’ll protect the Crows when he reigns. A too-cunning bodyguard. Hawk warrior Tavin has always put Jas’s life before his, magically assuming the prince’s appearance. But now Tavin begins to want something to call his own. Henry Holt $18.99.

Please Send Help
by Gaby Dunn and Allison Raskin
Ava and Gen are best friends. Ava knows what she wants and has life goals. Gen… not so much. But no matter how annoying a 2 AM rant might get, Ava has always been there for Gen and Gen for Ava. But then they graduated high school. Now, they’re over a thousand miles apart and in the real world, and it’s the worst, but they still have each other’s support. Through their hilarious, sometimes emotional conversations, Ava and Gen help each other navigate. But as the two of them start to change, will their friendship survive the distance? Wednesday $18.99.

The Boy and Girl Who Broke the World
by Amy Reed
Billy and Lydia don’t have much in common, except for growing up on the wrong side of the tracks, the lack of a mother, and a persistent loneliness. When they are thrust together, Lydia’s cynicism meets Billy’s optimism, and each begins to question themselves. On top of that, weird things (an impossible tornado, an all-consuming fog) are happening—maybe even because of them. And as they confront the truth about their pasts, they must also deal with a narcissistic rock star, a war between unicorns and dragons, and… the apocalypse. Simon Pulse $19.99.

Pan’s Labyrinth
by Guillermo del Toro and Cornelia Funke
illus. by Allen Williams
Oscar winning writer-director Guillermo del Toro and NYT bestselling author Cornelia Funke have come together to transform del Toro’s hit movie Pan’s Labyrinth into an epic, dark fantasy novel for readers of all ages. This spellbinding tale takes readers to a sinister, magical, and war-torn world filled with trickster fauns, murderous soldiers, child-eating monsters, courageous rebels, and a long-lost princess hoping to be reunited with her family. A brilliant collaboration between masterful storytellers that’s not to be missed. Katherine Tegen $19.99.

House of Salt and Sorrows
by Erin Craig
Annaleigh lives at Highbrook with her sisters, their father, and stepmother. Once there were twelve, but four of the girls’ lives have been cut short. Each death was more tragic than the last—the plague, a fall, a drowning, a slippery plunge—and there are whispers that the family is cursed. But Annaleigh is suspicious that her sister’s deaths were no accidents. The girls have been sneaking out at night to attend glittering balls, and Annaleigh isn’t sure whether to stop them or join their forbidden trysts. Because who—or what—are they really dancing with? Delacorte $18.99. Avail. 8/6.
They Called Us Enemy
by George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott, illus. by Harmony Becker
George Takei has captured hearts with his stage presence and commitment to equal rights. But he was four in 1942, when at the president’s order, every person of Japanese descent on the west coast was shipped to “relocation centers,” where they would be held for years under armed guard. In this graphic memoir, Takei shares his firsthand account. What does it mean to be American? Who gets to decide? When the world is against you, what can one person do? To answer these questions, Takei takes us on the journey of a lifetime. Top Shelf $19.99.

Last Witnesses
by Svetlana Alexievich, trans. by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky
Nobel Prize-winning writer Svetlana Alexievich brings together voices across Russia in Last Witnesses: An Oral History of the Children of World War II. This is a collection of memories from a generation who grew up with the trauma of the war—trauma that would change the course of the Russian nation. This symphony of stories, filled with everyday details of life in combat, gives voice to those whose memories have been lost in official narratives, uncovering a powerful, hidden history. Random House $30.

A Dream about Lightning Bugs
by Ben Folds
Ben Folds is a celebrated American singer-songwriter, beloved for his powerful songs and his time as frontman of the band Ben Folds Five. But Folds confesses he’s an unconventional icon, more normcore than hardcore. Now, in A Dream about Lightning Bugs: A Life of Music and Cheap Lessons, genre-defying Folds presents a memoir that is as nuanced, witty, and relatable as his cult-classic songs. He digs deep into the experiences that shaped him, imparting hard-earned wisdom about both art and life. Ballantine $28.

Haben
by Haben Girma
Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law is the story of Haben Girma, the first deafblind graduate of Harvard Law School, and her journey from isolation to the world stage. Spending childhood summers in Eritrea, she found strength in her parents’ refugee story, and left to travel the world. Defining disability as an opportunity for innovation, Haben built a school in Mali, climbed an Alaskan iceberg, and met with President Obama. She now uses her talents to advocate for people with disabilities. Twelve $27. Avail. 8/6

Body Leaping Backward
by Maureen Stanton
For Maureen Stanton’s proper Catholic mother, the threat of the town’s prison was a way to keep her seven children in line. But the 1970s brought upheaval to America. Her parents separate, and her mother descends into shoplifting, then grand larceny to keep a toehold in the middle class. Stanton too slips into delinquency and addiction. Body Leaping Backward: Memoir of a Delinquent Girlhood is a haunting story of a self-destructive girlhood, a nation overwhelmed, and the life-altering impact of glimpsing a bigger world. Houghton Mifflin $26.

What Set Me Free
by Brian Banks
What Set Me Free: A True Story of Wrongful Conviction, a Dream Deferred, and a Man Redeemed follows Brian Banks, who at 16 was a nationally recruited All-American Football player. But before his 17th birthday, he was falsely accused of a heinous crime and sentenced to six years in prison. Almost five years after he emerged, his accuser recanted and Brian was exonerated with the help of the California Innocence Project. Finally free, Brian sought to recapture his dream to play for the NFL, which he did at age 28. Atria $16.99.

Travel Light, Move Fast
by Alexandra Fuller
After her father’s death, Alexandra Fuller realizes that to weather his loss, she will need to become the parts of him she misses. So begins Travel Light, Move Fast, the unforgettable story of Tim Fuller, a self-exiled black sheep who moved to Africa to fight in the Rhodesian Bush War before settling as a farmer in Zambia. A man who was more afraid of boredom than of getting lost, he taught his daughters to live as if everything needed to happen all at once. Now, Fuller internalizes his lessons, celebrating a man who swallowed life whole. Penguin $27. Avail. 8/6

I do have that mindset—that most good art comes from some turmoil, from someone trying to come to some equilibrium, or come up and get a breath.

— Ben Folds
The Ghosts of Eden Park
by Karen Abbott
During Prohibition, George Remus starts trafficking whiskey and owns 35 percent of all liquor in the US by 1921. To bring him down, prosecutor Mabel Walker Willebrandt dispatches investigator Franklin Dodge. Remus is imprisoned, his wife has an affair with Dodge, and the two plot to ruin Remus, sparking a feud that reaches government and ends in murder. The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America tells this fascinating true story. Crown $28. Avail. 8/6

Dead Wrong
by Randall Sullivan
Dead Wrong: The Continuing Story of City of Lies, Corruption and Cover-Up in the Notorious B.I.G. Murder Investigation picks up where Sullivan’s 2002 book, Labyrinth, left off in its startling disclosures about corruption in the LAPD and its alleged involvement in the murder of the Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur. Dead Wrong tells the story of the last 16 years in the B.I.G. investigations, demonstrating a conspiracy that went to the top, and implicating some of the most powerful men in national law enforcement. Atlantic Monthly $26.

The Trouble with Gravity
by Richard Panek
What is gravity? Nobody really knows. How something so pervasive can be so mysterious is a great conundrum of modern science. But as Panek shows in The Trouble with Gravity: Solving the Mystery Beneath Our Feet, gravity is a cold case that we are closer to cracking than ever—and whose investigation has yielded truths about the cosmos and humanity itself. “A thoughtful meditation on the mythic, cultural, philosophical and, yes, scientific implications of what happens when a wet potato or a crystal vase slips from your hand.” –Billy Collins. Houghton Mifflin $28.

I Wish for Change
by Kyle Schwartz
In I Wish for Change: Unleashing the Power of Kids to Make a Difference, teacher and author Kyle Schwartz equips teachers and parents to help children stand up for what they believe and make value-driven decisions. She shows how children’s adaptability, vulnerability, and empathy make them excellent agents for change, and how to teach them about the mechanics and structures of power so they can effectively impact them. Filled with inspiring stories as well as practical, replicable strategies for the classroom. Da Capo Lifelong Books $20.

Gods of the Upper Air
by Charles King
At the end of the 19th century, it was commonly believed that race and sex determined people’s natures. Cultural anthropology champion Franz Boas proposed instead that every society solves the same basic problems, with its own rules. Boas’s students included Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict, and Zora Neale Hurston. Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century explores how they reshaped how we think of women, men, normalcy, and deviance. Doubleday $30. Avail. 8/6

Buzz, Sting, Bite
by Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson
Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects is an enthusiastic, witty, and informative introduction to the insect world and why we—and the planet we inhabit—could not survive without them. There are insects that have ears on their knees, eyes on their penises, and tongues under their feet. Blowfly larva can clean wounds; flour beetle larva digest plastic; several species have helped us develop antibiotics. Buzz, Sting, Bite: Why We Need Insects is an essential introduction to the little creatures that make the world go round. Simon & Schuster $26.

The Nocturnal Brain
by Guy Leschziner
For Dr. Guy Leschziner’s patients, there is no rest for the weary in mind and body. Insomnia, narcolepsy, night terrors, apnea, and sleepwalking are a sampling of conditions afflicting sufferers who cannot sleep—and their experiences in trying are the stuff of nightmares. In The Nocturnal Brain: Nightmares, Neuroscience, and the Secret World of Sleep, Leschziner shares compassionate stories of his patients and their conditions, illustrating the neuroscience behind our sleeping minds, and factors necessary in getting the rest we need. St. Martin’s $28.99.

Opium
by John Halpern and David Blistein
Opium: How an Ancient Flower Shaped and Poisoned Our World tells the fascinating tale of how we arrived at today’s opium addiction crisis. From poppy artifacts in ancient Mesopotamia, to Greek physicians who refined its power, colonial empires who marketed it around the world, and drug companies who developed synthetics, this masterfully woven narrative tells the story of how one beautiful flower became the fascination of leaders and nations through the centuries and exposed the fragility of our civilization. Hachette Books $29. Avail. 8/13.
The Yellow House
by Sarah M. Broom

House of Whispers Vol. 1: The Power Divided
by Nalo Hopkinson and Neil Gaiman
Set in New Orleans, *The Power Divided* is one of four books expanding Gaiman’s Sandman Universe. Welcome to the houseboat of Erzulie Fréda, where the souls of Voodoo followers go when they sleep. But Erzulie’s dream river turns sour, tossing her house into another realm…the Dreaming! From her bayou, Erzulie scries upon something is very wrong. When she overhears an administrator saying she’s “not making it through the week,” Rose is sure Rose is convinced that if she’s to survive, she has to escape. Minotaur $28.99.

New Orleans Coffee: A Rich History
by Suzanne Stone, with David Feldman
New Orleans history is steeped in coffee. Outside the Cathedral of St. Louis, early entrepreneurs provided churchgoers with the brew, and it was sold in the French Market beginning in the late 1700s. Café du Monde started serving café au lait more than a century ago. Since 1978, myriad coffee shops have opened to meet increasing demand. Suzanne Stone presents the tradition’s story, including how chicory became part of the city's flavor. History Press $21.99.

The Little Local New Orleans Cookbook
by Stephanie Carter
*The Little Local New Orleans Cookbook* brings the essential flavors of New Orleans to your table. From festive cocktails and finger foods to celebration fare, you’ll find recipes for Sazerac and Hurricane cocktails, Creole gumbo, jambalaya, blackened redfish, king cake, pralines, and other traditional dishes. Written by a regional food expert and beautifully illustrated. Countryman Press $14.95. Avail. 8/20

The Deep End of Flavor
by Tenney Flynn, with Susan Puckett
Tenney Flynn, chef and co-owner of of GW Fins, gives readers a tour of his hometown along with a toolkit for cooking seafood, from testing freshness at the market to pairing delicious fish recipes with sides and wines. From classic Barbecued Shrimp to adventurous Pompano en Papillote with Oysters, Rockefeller Spinach, and Melted Tomatoes, *The Deep End of Flavor: Recipes and Stories from New Orleans’ Premier Seafood Chef* makes cooking fish “as easy as frying an egg.” Gibbs Smith $30.

Dreaming of New Orleans
by Gretchen Everin, illus. by Jared Souza
In this fun board book, *Dreaming of New Orleans: Counting Down Around the Town*, we’ll learn to count down from 10 to 1, while discovering fantastic floats in the Mardi Gras parade, music in the French Quarter, St. Louis Cathedral, streetcars on St. Charles, and more! There’s so much to see—won’t you join me? Counting is fun, and you’ll love counting around New Orleans! Commonwealth $9.95. Ages 2-4.

LOCA L FLAVORS

NEVADA BARR
What Rose Forgot
Tuesday, September 24, 6 pm
Join Nevada Barr for her gripping standalone, in which Rose Dennis, a grandmother in her 60s, emerges from a mental fog to find herself committed to an Alzheimer’s Unit in a nursing home. With no memory of how she ended up here, Rose is sure something is very wrong. When she overhears an administrator saying she’s “not making it through the week,” Rose is convinced that if she’s to survive, she has to escape. Minotaur $28.99.

TRENTON LEE STEWART
BOOK LAUNCH
The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Riddle of Ages
Wednesday, September 25, 4 pm
The brilliant gang from the NYT bestselling series is back! Some time has passed since Reynie, Sticky, Kate, and Constance have had a mission. But with the arrival of a new Society member—and a new threat—they must reunite to face new dangers, including Mr. Curtain and a telepathic enemy tracking their every move, not to mention a dramatically preteen Constance. Welcome Trenton Lee Stewart! Little, Brown BYR $18.99. Ages 10-13.

MAX BRALLIER
The Last Kids on Earth and the Midnight Blade
Sunday, September 29, 11 am
Max Brallier’s national tour for *The Last Kids on Earth and the Midnight Blade* is coming to Octavia Books! Please join us for this special late Sunday morning event. Not only will the star-studded Netflix Original animated series premiere the same day the book is being released, just 12 days before our event, but Max will be arriving at the bookstore in a tricked-out truck—aka Big Mama—promising you an incredible photo op and amazing experience for everyone. Viking BYR $13.99.

Upcoming Events at Octavia Books
— continued from back page —
LISA SANDLIN

*Bird Boys*

**Thursday, August 1, 6 pm**

Join Lisa Sandlin for a peek into her new novel! After a serial killer almost murdered Delpha Wade (*The Do-Right*, 2015), the hospital releases her to the police. She admits she killed the man in self-defense, but she’s an ex-con, having stabbed a man in 1959 who was raping her. Now it’s 1973. Her private detective boss has a plan—a client: one brother looking for the long-lost other, but around one of these guys, people die. Cinco Puntos $16.95. Avail. 8/20.

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ANDREW FELDMAN

*Ernesto*

**Tuesday, August 13, 6 pm**

Join Andrew Feldman, the first North American scholar permitted to study in residence at Hemingway’s beloved Cuban home. Ernest Hemingway settled near the fishing village of Cojimar, and thought of himself as Cuban. His life there inspired his *The Old Man and the Sea*. In *Ernesto: The Untold Story of Hemingway in Revolutionary Cuba*, Feldman uses his unprecedented access to tell the full story of Hemingway’s self-professed Cuban-ness. Melville House $29.99.

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AN EVENING WITH DANIEL BROOK AND GREG OSBORN

*The Accident of Color*

**Wednesday, August 14, 6 pm**

Location: New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave.

Please join us for at the main New Orleans Public Library where Daniel Brook will discuss *The Accident of Color: A Story of Race in Reconstruction*, and the research methods that enabled him to bring to life Reconstruction-era civil rights struggles in Charleston and New Orleans. Mr. Brook will be in conversation with Greg Osborn from the Library’s Louisiana Division/City Archives & Special Collections. Octavia Books is the official bookseller. W. W. Norton $27.95.

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MINROSE GWIN

*The Accidental*

**Monday, August 19, 6 pm**

Join us as novelist Minrose Gwin returns to Octavia Books to give a reading and sign *The Accidental*. Following the death of their mother from a botched backwoods abortion, the McAlister daughters cope with the effect of this tragedy as they come of age in 1950s Mississippi and then grow up to face their own impossible choices—an unforgettable novel that is threaded with the stories of mothers and daughters in pre-Roe vs. Wade America. William Morrow $16.99.

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DAVID SHANNON

*MR. NOGGINBODY GETS A HAMMER RELEASE PARTY*

**Thursday, September 5, 4:45 pm**

After snagging his toe, Mr. Nogginbody makes a visit to a hardware store in search of solutions. Armed with a shiny new hammer, he successfully fixes the nail protruding from his floor. But the satisfaction of his repair carries him away, and he figures that anything resembling a nail—from a lamp switch to a fire hydrant—can be fixed with a good whack. The results are theatrically disastrous! Don’t miss David Shannon! Norton YR $17.95. Ages 4-7.

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WHY THERE ARE WORDS

**Wednesday, September 11, 6 pm**

Join us for the third quarterly reading of the year of the *Why There Are Words—New Orleans* (WTAW-NOLA). Hear from six featured local writers focusing on a common theme at Octavia Books. Books will be on sale and authors will be signing. A voluntary $10 donation to WTAW-NOLA at the door is suggested. The program is curated and emceed by Liz Green.

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STEPHEN Y. LANDRY

*Beats Day in New Orleans*

**Monday, September 16, 6 pm**

Please join us on the 55th anniversary of the Beatles’ 1964 New Orleans City Park concert for the launch of Steven Y. Landry’s new book! On September 16, 1964, the Beatles made the 20 second stop of their first North American tour in New Orleans. It was a day unequaled in Beatles—and New Orleans—history. Landry explores the melodies of New Orleans and the lads from Liverpool through the lens of their 1964 performance. Pel $27.95.

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POPPY TOOKER

*DRAG QUEEN BRUNCH BOOK LAUNCH*

**Wednesday, September 18, 6 pm**

Please join us for the bookstore launch of Poppy Tooker’s *Drag Queen Brunch*. Tag along with Poppy’s bevy of rollicking drag queens for an unforgettable time. Stunning photos of glamorous divas vie with world-famous brunch dishes bringing a surprise with every turn of the page. $29.99.

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