Epic Human Experiences

The Water Dancer
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power that, years later, saves him from a near drowning. This brush with death inspires Hiram to escape from the only home he’s ever known, and the resulting journey takes him from Virginia’s plantations to guerrilla cells in the wilderness. Even as he’s enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram resolves to rescue the family he left behind. This is the story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children—the violent and capricious separation of families—and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved. One World $28. Octavia Books is hosting Ta-Nehisi Coates on 10/30. See page 12 for more information.

Quichotte
by Salman Rushdie
Inspired by the Cervantes classic, Sam DuChamp, mediocre writer of spy thrillers, creates Quichotte, a courtly, addled salesman obsessed with television who falls in impossible love with a TV star. Together with his (imaginary) son Sancho, Quichotte sets off on a quest across America to prove worthy of her hand. Just as Cervantes wrote Don Quixote to satirize the culture of his time, Rushdie takes the reader on a ride through a country on the verge of moral and spiritual collapse. And with the kind of storytelling magic that is the hallmark of Rushdie’s work, the fully realized lives of DuChamp and Quichotte intertwine in a wickedly entertaining portrait of an age in which fact is so often indiscernible from fiction. Random House $28.

Olive, Again
by Elizabeth Strout
#1 NYT bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout continues the life of Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions. Prickly, wry, resistant to change yet empathetic and ruthlessly honest, the iconic Olive struggles to understand not only her own life but the lives of those around her in Crosby, Maine. Whether with a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her father, a woman about to give birth during a hilariously inopportune moment, a nurse who confesses a high school crush, or a lawyer who struggles with an unwanted inheritance, the unforgettable Olive will continue to startle us, to move us, and to inspire moments of transcendent grace. Random House $27. Avail. 10/15

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Dear Booklover,

Our October/November issue typically coincides with the changing seasons with longer nights and cooling temperatures. The markets are brimming with pumpkins in anticipation of holidays and festivities. It’s a time for cozying up with good stories and friends, of laughter and thoughtfulness. It’s a time of celebration and meditation, all rolled into one. And, Octavia Books will begin to celebrate the start of our twentieth year.

It’s the time of year when cornucopias show up not only on our dining tables, but it’s a season of plenty for the book world as well. As the nights get cooler and leaves pile up outside, we begin to snuggle up with all those wonderful books we’ve collected on our nightstands. We may lose a little sleep after too many late nights full of “just-one-more-page.” But that’s okay.

The pages of this issue of THE OCTAVIAN are packed with stories from some of the masters of our age. We have books from Ta-Nehisi Coates, who will be presenting his new novel on October 30, Ann Patchett, Jacqueline Woodson, Salman Rushdie, and the family duo of horror: Stephen King and his son Joe Hill—and those are just the beginning. Your kids are going to cheer for the new Mysterious Benedict Society, and tear through the pages of the spooky book Guest by Mary Downing Hahn.

And the picture books will inspire laughter and introspection and create wonderful moments to cherish together. Even if you don’t have youngsters in your life, pick up one of these delightful books, as many of them are meant to be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Young Adult is yet another category that frequently defies genre. You don’t have to be a teen or 20 something to enjoy the fully realized fantastical world of Katy Rose Pool’s There Will Come a Darkness, or the podcast-inspired The Infinite Noise by Lauren Shippen.

And because the nonfiction pages will serve up yet another course in this bounty of books, make sure you save room for them. Read about Elton John in his memoir Me, develop your communication skills with Malcolm Gladwell’s Talking to Strangers, and don’t miss the 2nd edition of the runaway hit Atlas Obscura that will absorb you for hours, and then inspire you to pore over the pages again with a loved one, exploring all the unusual and curious places on the planet.

So tuck in and enjoy. And come share the harvest with us at Octavia Books. We can’t wait to see you!

BOOK CLUBS

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

Saturday, October 12, 10:30 am
Semiosis by Sue Burke
Human survival hinges on a bizarre alliance in Semiosis, a character-driven science fiction novel of first contact by debut author Sue Burke. Colonists from Earth wanted the perfect home, but they’ll have to survive on the one they found. They don’t realize another life form watches... and waits.... Only mutual communication can forge an alliance with the planet’s sentient species and prove that humans are more than tools. “This is up there with Ursula K. Le Guin: science fiction at its most fascinating and most humane.” –Thrillist Tor $18.99.

Saturday, November 9, 10:30 am
The Just City by Jo Walton
The goddess Athena thought she was creating a utopia. Populate the island Thera with extraordinary men, women, and children from throughout history, and watch as the mortals forge a harmonious society based on the tenets of Plato’s Republic. Meanwhile, Athena’s brother Apollo has decided to live a mortal human life on the island, in an effort to gain better understanding of humanity. But as both Athena and Apollo soon discover, nothing ever happens as planned. The Just City is included in this paperback edition of the trilogy. Tor $19.99.

OCTAVIA BOOKS BOOK CLUB
Third Saturday at 10:30 am

Saturday, October 19, 10:30 am
The Crime Writer by Jill Dawson
When novelist Patricia Highsmith moves to Suffolk, England in the mid-1960s, she’s seeking seclusion, time to write, and privacy to protect a secret romance with Sam, a married woman living in London. As Pat observes, love is a kind of madness. And when Sam comes for a visit, tension between Pat and Sam’s husband escalates with deadly results. For so long she’s wondered what it would feel like to commit the ultimate transgression. Now she’s not just a chronicler of murder and violence, but a participant. Harper Perennial $15.99.

Saturday, November 16, 10:30 am
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as audaciously as Saul Bellow or Gabriel García Márquez. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family’s origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and seersesses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world. Vintage $16.

COME JOIN THE CONVERSATION!
Exciting New Fiction

The Dutch House
by Ann Patchett
At the end of the WWII, Cyril Conroy begins a real estate empire, purchasing the Dutch House and propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His children, Danny and Maeve, are later exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother. The two wealthy siblings are thrown back into poverty and find that all they have to count on is one another. Set over five decades, *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost that digs into questions of inheritance, love, and forgiveness, of how we see ourselves and of who we really are. Harper $27.99. 🌟🌟🌟

Out of Darkness, Shining Light
by Petina Gappah
Petina Gappah’s powerful novel of exploration and adventure follows the story of the loyal men and women who carried the body of explorer and missionary Dr. Livingstone—along with his papers and maps—1,500 miles across Africa so his remains could be returned home to England and his work preserved there. Narrated by the doctor’s sharp-tongued cook, and a rigidly pious freed slave, this is a story that encompasses the hypocrisy of slavery and colonization—the hypocrisy at the core of the human heart—while celebrating resilience, loyalty, and love. Scribner $27. 🌟🌟🌟

Grand Union: Stories
by Zadie Smith
Zadie Smith has established herself as one of the most iconic and respected writers of her generation. In her first short story collection, she combines her power of observation and her inimitable voice to mine the complex experience of life in the modern world. Moving across genres and perspectives, from the historic to the current to the slyly dystopian, *Grand Union* is a prescient collection about time and place, identity and rebirth, the persistent legacies that haunt our present selves, and the uncanny futures that rush up to meet us. Penguin $27. Avail. 10/8 🌟🌟🌟

Red at the Bone
by Jacqueline Woodson
2001: It is the evening of 16-year-old Melody’s coming of age ceremony. Supported by relatives and friends, she wears a special custom-made dress. Sixteen years earlier, that very dress was sewn for Melody’s mother, for her own ceremony—that never took place. *Red at the Bone* follows two families from different social classes who are joined by an unexpected pregnancy. Moving forward and backward in time, Woodson uncovers the role that history and community play in the experiences and relationships of these families, and in the life of this child. Riverhead $26. 🌟🌟🌟

The Beekeeper of Aleppo
by Christy Lefteri
Nuri is a beekeeper and his wife Afra, an artist. They live a simple life in the hills of the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo—until the unthinkable happens. When all they love is destroyed by war, Nuri knows they must leave. But Afra has lost her sight, leaving Nuri to navigate the journey through Turkey and Greece toward an uncertain future in Britain. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* is a book for our times, putting human faces on the Syrian war with an immigrant story and the triumph of spirit when the world becomes unrecognizable. Ballantine $27. 🌟🌟🌟

The Secrets We Kept
by Lara Prescott
During the Cold War, two CIA secretaries are given the assignment of a lifetime: they must smuggle *Doctor Zhivago* out of the USSR, where no one dare publish it, and help Pasternak’s book make its way into print. Combining a literary love story—the affair between Pasternak and his muse—with a narrative about two women empowered to lead lives of intrigue and risk, *The Secrets We Kept* captures a watershed moment in the history of literature and celebrates the belief that a piece of art can change the world. Inspired by a true story. Knopf $26.95. 🌟🌟🌟

The Last Train to London
by Meg Waite Clayton
Centering on the Kindertransports that carried thousands of children out of Nazi-occupied Europe, *The Last Train to London* follows Truus Wijsmuller, a member of the Dutch resistance who risks her life smuggling Jewish children out of Nazi Germany. After Britain passes a measure to take in child refugees from the German Reich, she dares to approach Adolf Eichmann, the man who would later help devise the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question,” in a race against time to bring children on a perilous journey to an uncertain future abroad. Harper $27.99. 🌟🌟🌟

The Man Who Saw Everything
by Deborah Levy
1988: Saul Adler, a narcissistic young historian, has been invited to Communist East Berlin to do research; in exchange, he must publish a favorable essay about the German Democratic Republic. But an accident in which he is grazed by an oncoming car changes the trajectory of his life. *The Man Who Saw Everything* is about the difficulty of seeing ourselves and others clearly. It greets the specters of old and new love, past and present incursions of Europe, and real and imagined betrayals, while investigating the cyclic nature of history. Bloomsbury $26. Avail. 10/15
The World That We Knew
by Alice Hoffman
In 1941 Berlin, Hanni Kohn makes an impossible decision, sending her 12-year-old daughter away to save her from the Nazi regime. She finds her way to a rabbi, whose daughter, Ettie, creates a golem—a mystical Jewish creature sworn to protect Lea. Once Ava is brought to life, she and Lea and Ettie become eternally entwined. Lea and Ava travel from Paris to a school in a mountaintop village where 3,000 Jews were saved. Meanwhile, Ettie is in hiding, waiting to become the fighter she’s destined to be. Simon & Schuster $27.99.

Pretty Guilty Women
by Gina Lamanna
Something has gone terribly wrong at the Banks wedding. A man is dead. Four women confess to committing the crime alone. Ginger is holding her family together by a thread, and this weekend is not the getaway she anticipated. Kate has money to buy her way out of anything—almost. Emily can’t shake her memories, and plans to drown the whole vacation in a bottle. Lulu’s got ex-husbands to spare, and another on the way. Why would they confess to the same murder? Only they know—and they’re not telling. Sourcebooks Landmark $25.99.

The Whisper Man
by Alex North
After his wife’s death, Tom Kennedy moves to a new town for a fresh start for him and his son Jake. But the town has a past: twenty years ago, a serial killer abducted and murdered five residents. Until Frank Carter was caught, he was called “The Whisper Man,” for he lured his victims by whispering at their windows at night. Just as Tom and Jake settle into their new home, a young boy vanishes, reigniting old rumors that Carter had an accomplice. Now, detectives Amanda Beck and Pete Willis must find the boy before it is too late. Celadon $26.99.

Imaginary Friend
by Stephen Chbosky
Fleeing from an abusive relationship, Kate Reese and her son Christopher find refuge in the remote town of Mill Grove, PA. At first, it seems like the perfect place to settle down. Then Christopher vanishes. Six awful days later, Christopher emerges from the woods, unharmed but not unchanged. He now has a voice in his head only he can hear, with an unusual mission: Build a tree house in the woods by Christmas, or his mother and everyone in the town will never be the same again. Read this one with the lights on. Grand Central $30. Avail. 10/1

Akin
by Emma Donoghue
Noah Selvaggio is a widower living in New York, but born in France. He is days away from his first visit to Nice since childhood, bringing puzzling photos from his mother’s wartime years. When social services puts Noah in charge of his great-nephew, Noah takes Michael along. Nice is changed—haunted by memories of Nazi occupation—and the duo bicker about everything. But Michael helps unearth details about their family, and the two learn of the risks people in all eras have run for loved ones, and find they are more akin than they knew. Little, Brown $28.

Ninth House
by Leigh Bardugo
Raised by a hippie mom, Alex Stern dropped out of school and into a world of shady drug-dealer boyfriends and dead-end jobs. By age 20, she is the sole survivor of a horrific, unsolved multiple homicide. But at her hospital bed, Alex is offered a second chance: to attend Yale on a full ride. In exchange, she is tasked by her benefactors with monitoring the school’s secret societies—the rich and powerful. But their occult activities are sinister. They tamper with magic. They raise the dead. And, sometimes, they prey on the living. Flatiron $27.99. Avail. 10/8

Keeping the Creep in the Family

The Institute by Stephen King
In the middle of the night, intruders murder Luke Ellis’s parents and load him into a black SUV. Luke wakes up at The Institute, in a room that looks just like his own, except there’s no window. And outside his door are other doors, behind which are other kids with special talents—telekinesis and telepathy—who got here the same way. The staff are ruthlessly dedicated to extracting from these children the force of their extranormal gifts. And Luke becomes increasingly desperate to get help. But no one has ever escaped from the Institute. Scribner $30.

Full Throttle: Stories
by Joe Hill
In this collection of short fiction, Joe Hill dissects timeless human struggles in thirteen tales of supernatural suspense. A door that opens to a world of fairy tale wonders becomes the blood-drenched stomping ground for a gang of hunters in “Faun.” A librarian drives a Bookmobile to deliver fresh reads to the dead in “Late Returns.” And tension shimmers in the heat of the Nevada desert as a faceless trucker is caught in a sinister dance with a tribe of motorcycle outlaws in “Throttle,” co-written with Stephen King. William Morrow & Co. $27.99. Avail. 10/1
Virgil Wander  
**by Leif Enger**  
Midwestern movie house owner Virgil Wander is “cruising along at medium altitude” when his car flies off the road into icy Lake Superior. Virgil survives but his language and memory are altered and he emerges into a world no longer familiar. Awakening in this new life, Virgil pieces together his personal history and the lore of his broken town with the help of affable and curious locals. Carried aloft by quotidian pleasures, *Virgil Wander* is a swift, full journey into the heart and heartache of an often overlooked American Upper Midwest. Grove $17. 

Parable of the Talents  
**by Octavia Butler**  
In 2032, Lauren Olamina has realized her vision of a peaceful community that provides refuge for outcasts facing persecution after the election of an ultra-conservative president. In an increasingly dangerous nation, Lauren’s colony—a minority religious faction led by a young black woman—becomes a target for President Jarret’s reign of terror. Years later, Asha struggles to reconcile the legacy of a mother caught between her duty to her chosen family and her calling to lead humankind into a better future. Originally published in 1998. Grand Central $16.99. 

The Raven Tower  
**by Ann Leckie**  
In this masterful fantasy from Hugo, Nebula, and Arthur C. Clarke Award-winning Ann Leckie, the kingdom of Iraden has been protected by the god known as the Raven for centuries. He watches from atop a tower, enacting his will through a human ruler chosen by the Raven himself. But the power of the Raven is weakening, and a usurper has claimed the throne. It is into this unrest that the warrior Eolo arrives. And in seeking to reclaim the city, Eolo discovers that the Raven’s Tower holds a secret that could destroy Iraden forever. Orbit $15.99. Avail. 10/1 

Killing Commendatore  
**by Haruki Murakami,**  
*trans. by Philip Gabriel and Ted Goossen*  
When a thirty-something portrait painter is abandoned by his wife, he secludes himself in the mountain home of a world famous artist. One day, the young painter hears a noise from the attic, and upon investigation, he discovers a previously unseen painting. By unearthing this hidden work of art, he unintentionally opens a circle of mysterious circumstances; and to close it, he must undertake a perilous journey into the netherworld. A tour de force of love and loneliness, war and art. Vintage $17. Avail. 10/1 

The Library Book  
**by Susan Orlean**  
In 1986, a fire at the Los Angeles Public Library consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Over thirty years later, the mystery remains: Was this arson? Journalist Susan Orlean investigates the legendary fire. She visits library departments; delves into the evolution of libraries; studies arson and the history of library fires; attempts to burn a copy of a book; and re-examines the case of Harry Peak, long suspected as the arsonist. Along the way, she reveals the importance of these buildings and why we need them. Simon & Schuster $16.99. Avail. 10/1 

It’s possible to perceive what is coming and still be dumbfounded when it happens.  
—Leif Enger  
Virgil Wander 

Bridge of Clay  
**by Markus Zusak**  
An unforgettable family saga from the author of *The Book Thief.* Bridge of Clay is the story of five brothers who bring each other up in a world run by their own rules. As the Dunbar boys love and fight and learn to reckon with the adult world, they discover the moving secret behind their father’s disappearance. At the center of the family is Clay, a boy who will build a bridge—for his family, for his past, for greatness, for his sins, for a miracle. But how much can Clay overcome? Alfred A. Knopf BYR $14.99. Avail. 10/8 

The Darkest Legacy  
**by Alexandra Bracken**  
The 2018 installment in the *Darkest Minds* series, now a major motion picture. Five years after the destruction of the so-called rehabilitation camps that imprisoned her and countless other Psi kids, seventeen-year-old Suzume “Zu” Kimura has assumed the role of spokesperson for the interim government, fighting for the rights of Psi kids against a tide of misinformation and prejudice. But when she is accused of committing a horrifying act, she is forced to go on the run once more in order to stay alive. Disney-Hyperion $10.99. 

Starred Reviews:  
Booklist  
Kirkus  
Library Journal  
Publishers Weekly  
School Library Journal  
Audiobook Available
Bruce’s Big Storm
by Ryan T. Higgins
Bruce’s home is already a full house. But when a big storm brings all his woodland neighbors knocking, he’ll have to open his door to a crowd of animals in need of shelter—whether he likes it or not. Readers will love this next installment of the uproarious, award-winning Mother Bruce series, starring the grumpy bear with a heart of gold. Be sure to catch the other books in the series, including Mother Bruce, Be Quiet!, We Don’t Eat Our Classmates!, Santa Bruce, and more. Perfect for family read-alouds. Disney-Hyperion $17.99. Ages 3-5.

Come Next Season
by Kim Norman
illus. by Daniel Miyares
A gorgeous picture book that celebrates the magic of the seasons and the joys of family. Come next season… / The lake will sparkle. / The leaves will fall from the trees. / We’ll play all day in the snow. / We’ll visit the farm—and maybe make a friend. Every season is full of its own magic, every change brings new excitement, and every experience is better when it’s shared. With poetic text and beautiful illustrations, Come Next Season is a celebration of nature, adventure, and family—all year round. Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR $17.99. Ages 3-6. Avail. 10/1

The Favorite Book
by Bethanie Deeney Murguia
Have you ever thought about how your favorite things became your favorites in the first place? Sometimes picking a favorite can be easy: you know from the moment you see it. And sometimes, selecting one can take a little longer as you consider all the options. You can have many favorites or none at all. You might even find that your favorite changes. Playful and thought-provoking, this cheerful story encourages young readers to reflect on how they make decisions and pick their own favorite—or two. Candlewick $16.99. Ages 3-6. Avail. 10/3

Fly!
by Mark Teague
It’s a big day up in the tree that Mama bird shares with her baby. Mama bird thinks Baby bird is finally ready to leave the nest and learn to fly so he can migrate south with the rest of their flock. But Baby bird isn’t so sure. Can’t his mother keep bringing him worms in their nest? Can’t he migrate in a hot air balloon instead? Or perhaps a car? This silly wordless picture book will keep young readers giggling as Baby bird figures out that he must flap his wings and learn to fly—whether he likes it or not! Beach Lane $17.99. Ages 3-6.

The Proudest Blue
by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali, illus. by Hatem Aly
With her new light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school will be special. Best of all, it’s her older sister Asiya’s first day of hijab—blue and beautiful, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful words, Faizah finds new strength. Paired with Hatem Aly’s whimsical art, Olympic medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad and Morris Award finalist S.K. Ali present a universal story of new experiences, the bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are. Little, Brown BYR $17.99. Ages 4-7.

Sulwe
by Lupita Nyong’o
illus. by Vashti Harrison
Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. In this stunning debut picture book illustrated by Vashti Harrison, actress Lupita Nyong’o creates a whimsical and heartwarming story about colorism, self-esteem, and learning that true beauty comes from within. Simon & Schuster BYR $17.99. Ages 4-7. Avail. 10/15

Mr. Nogginbody Gets a Hammer
by David Shannon
If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. After snagging his toe, Mr. Nogginbody makes a visit to his hardware store in search of solutions. Armed with a shiny new hammer, he fixes the nail protruding from his floor. But the satisfaction of his first repair carries him away, and he figures that anything resembling a nail can be fixed with a good whack. The results are predictably and theatrically disastrous, until Mr. Nogginbody arrives at a gentle awakening and recognizes that not everything is a nail. Norton YR $17.95. Ages 4-7.

Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You
by Sonia Sotomayor
illus. by Rafael López
Feeling different, especially as a kid, can be tough. But in the same way that different flowers make a garden more beautiful, different types of people make our world more wonderful. In Just Ask!, US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates different abilities. As the children build a community garden together, asking questions of each other along the way, this book encourages readers to do the same: When we meet someone who is different from us but we’re not sure why, all we have to do is Just Ask. Philomel $17.99. Ages 4-8.
The Beast by Ally Condie and Brendan Reichs
In this sequel to The Darkdeep, in which Nico, Opal, Tyler, Emma, and Logan saved their town from a monstrous figment invasion, they now just want to enjoy Halloween and figure out their Torchbearer responsibilities as keepers of the Darkdeep. But when a dangerous new breed of figments starts appearing, and the environment around them spirals out of control, the friends realize they have no idea how they’re supposed to restrain this ancient whirlpool that can make both dreams and nightmares into reality. Bloomsbury Children’s $16.99. Ages 8-11.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia
7th grader Tristan Strong has lost his best friend in a bus accident; all he has left of Eddie is his journal. When a sticky creature steals Eddie’s notebook, Tristan wrestles it and rips open a chasm into the MidPass, a place with a burning sea, bone ships, and iron monsters. He finds himself in the middle of a battle that has left black American folk heroes John Henry and Brer Rabbit exhausted. Now Tristan needs to entice the god Anansi to seal the hole in the sky. But bartering with the trickster comes at a price…. Rick Riordan Presents $17.99. Ages 9-12. Avail. 10/15

Guest: A Changling Tale by Mary Downing Hahn
From the master of spookiness, Mary Downing Hahn. When her adorable baby brother is replaced by an ugly, ill-tempered changeling, Mollie is determined to find the so-called Kinde Folke who took baby Thomas, return the changeling she calls Guest, and make them give Thomas back. Natural and magical obstacles and her own reckless temperament make her journey arduous and full of dangers, and a plot rich in surprises and twists makes this book a must-read for fans of creepy tales. Clarion $16.99. Age 10-12.

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Riddle of Ages by Trenton Lee Stewart
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, not to mention a dramatically preteen Constance. In its triumphant return, the Society encounters unfamiliar challenges, and the series’ humor, camaraderie, escapes, and mind-bending puzzles are as engaging as ever. Little, Brown BYR $18.99. Ages 10-13.

Beverly, Right Here by Kate DiCamillo
Revisiting the world of Raymie Nightingale, DiCamillo turns toward Beverly in a touching conclusion to her novels about the Three Rancheros. As a kid, Beverly ran away from home plenty of times. By now, it’s not running away—it’s leaving. Determined to make it on her own, Beverly tries to forget her dog (buried); her friend Raymie; and her mom, Rhonda, who never cared about anyone but herself. Beverly doesn’t want to depend on anyone. But despite her best efforts, she can’t help forming connections with the people around her…. Candlewick $16.99. Ages 10+.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander illus. by Dawud Anyabwile
The Crossover is now a graphic novel! “With a bolt of lightning on my kicks…The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. ‘Cuz tonight I’m delivering,” raps twelve-year-old Josh Bell. Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has got mad beats, too, which help him find his rhythm when it’s all on the line. See the Bell family in a whole new light through Dawud Anyabwile’s dynamic illustrations. Houghton Mifflin $22.99 HC/$12.99 PB. Ages 10-13.

Animal Farm by George Orwell illus. by Odyr
In 1945, George Orwell created an enduring, devastating story of new tyranny replacing old, and power corrupting even the noblest of causes. Now, in this fully authorized edition, the artist Odyr translates the world and message of Animal Farm into a gorgeously imagined graphic novel. Old Major, Napoleon, Squealer, Snowball, Boxer, and all the animals of Animal Farm come to life in this newly envisaged classic that seamlessly moves between satire and fable and will appeal to all ages, just as Orwell intended. Houghton Mifflin $22. Ages 13+.

Guts by Raina Telgemeier
Raina wakes up one night with an upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it’s probably just a bug. She returns to school, where she deals with the usual: friends, not-friends, and classmates who think the school year is just one long gross-out session. It soon becomes clear that Raina’s tummy trouble isn’t going away… and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and friendships. Raina Telgemeier once again brings us a charming, true story about growing up and gathering the courage to face—and conquer—her fears. Graphix $12.99. Ages 8-12.
Hot New Picks in YA

**The Infinite Noise**
*by Lauren Shippen*
Based on the podcast *The Bright Sessions*, *The Infinite Noise* follows 16-year-old Caleb who happens to be an Atypical—an individual with enhanced abilities. In Caleb’s case, he feels the emotions of everyone around him. Caleb’s life becomes more complicated when he is pulled into the emotional orbit of his classmate, Adam. Caleb’s therapist, Dr. Bright, encourages Caleb to explore this connection. As he and Adam grow closer, Caleb learns more about his himself, his ability, his therapist, and just how dangerous being an Atypical can be. Tor Teen $17.99.

**Permanent Record**
*by Mary H.K. Choi*
On paper, college dropout Pablo Rind doesn’t have a lot going for him. His graveyard shift at a deli in Brooklyn is a struggle. Plus, he’s up to his eyeballs in debt. Pop juggernaut Leanna Smart has enough social media followers to populate continents. As an international icon, her brand is unstoppable. When Leanna and Pablo meet, it’s absurd to think they’d be A Thing. But as they discover how to defy everyone’s deafening expectations, they turn to each other—which is when things get properly complicated. Simon & Schuster BYR $18.99.

**There Will Come a Darkness**
*by Katy Rose Pool*
For generations, the Seven Prophets guided humanity, using their visions to end wars and unite nations. And then 100 years ago, they disappeared, leaving behind one final prophecy foretelling an Age of Darkness and the birth of a new Prophet who could be the world’s salvation... or its destruction. Now, with chaos on the horizon, five souls are set on a collision course: An exiled prince. A killer. A gambler. And a dying girl. One or them—or all of them—could break the world. Will they be savior or destroyer? Henry Holt & Co. BYR $19.99.

**The Last True Poets of the Sea**
*by Julia Drake*
When the *Lyric* sank off the coast, the great-great-great-grandmother of Violet and Sam swam to shore and founded Lyric, Maine. But wrecks run in the family: Violet can’t stop partying with the wrong people. And brilliant, sensitive Sam attempts to take his own life. Shipped back to Lyric while Sam is in treatment, Violet decides to find the lost shipwreck of family legend. She finds a fellow wreck hunter in Liv Stone, and the journey Violet takes—and the bridges she builds along the way—may be the start of something like survival. Disney-Hyperion $17.99. Avail. 10/1

**Shatter City**
*by Scott Westerfeld*
In this sequel to *Impostors*, when the world sees Frey, they think they see her twin sister Rafi. Frey was raised to be Rafi’s double, and now she’s taken on the role without anyone else knowing. Her goal? To destroy the forces that created her. With rebellion rising, Frey is forced to detour to a city where citizens attempt to regulate emotions through an interface on their arms. But she must leave the shadows and enter the chaos of warfare if she is going to find her missing sister and have her revenge against her murderous father. Scholastic $18.99.

**Wayward Son**
*by Rainbow Rowell*
In the highly anticipated sequel to *Carry On*, Simon Snow is back! The story is supposed to be over. Simon beat the villain, won the war, and even fell in love. So why can’t he get off the couch? For a change of scenery, Simon, Penny, and Baz end up tearing across the American West. They find trouble, of course. (Dragons, vampires, skunk-headed things with shotguns.) And they get lost—so lost, they wonder whether they ever knew where they were headed in the first place. Simon’s hero journey might be over—but his life has just begun. Wednesday $19.99.

**Rebel**
*by Marie Lu*
With unmatched suspense, Marie Lu plunges readers back into the world of Legend for a truly grand finale. Even though he’s a brilliant inventor, Eden Wing lives in the shadow of his brother Daniel, who a decade ago, led a revolution that saved the Republic of America. But all that matters to Daniel now is keeping Eden safe. As the brothers struggle to accept who they’ve become since the Republic, a new danger creeps in. Eden finds himself drawn into Ross City’s dark side, and even his legendary brother can’t save him on his own. Roaring Brook $18.99. Avail. 10/1

**Five Dark Fates**
*by Kendare Blake*
After a failed rebellion, Katharine’s reign remains intact. But Jules’s legion curse has been unbound, and it is up to Arsinoe to find a cure to stop the ravaging mist. When Mirabella arrives, seemingly under a banner of truce, Katharine yearns for the closeness that Mirabella and Arsinoe share. But the dead queens hiss caution—Mirabell is not to be trusted. In this conclusion to the Three Dark Crowns series, three sisters will fight. Allegiances will shift. Bonds will be tested. But the fate of the island lies in the hands of its queens. It always has. Harperteen $18.99.
**Home Work**
*by Julie Andrews*
In *Home*, the number one NYT bestseller, Julie Andrews recounted her difficult childhood and her emergence as an acclaimed singer and performer on the stage. Now in *Home Work: A Memoir of My Hollywood Years*, Andrews picks up the story with her arrival in Hollywood and her phenomenal rise to fame in her earliest films—*Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music*. She unveils a personal story, being a new mother, the end of her first marriage, embracing two stepchildren, adopting two more, and falling in love. Hachette Books $30. Avail. 10/15 🎧

**Me**
*by Elton John*
In his first and only official autobiography, music icon Elton John reveals the truth about his extraordinary life, from his rollercoaster lifestyle as shown in the film *Rocketman*, to becoming a living legend. His life has been full of drama and addiction, and in *Me: Elton John Official Autobiography*, Elton writes about getting clean and changing his life, about finding love and becoming a father. In a voice that is warm, humble, and open, this is Elton on his music, relationships, passions, and mistakes. This is a story that will stay with you. Henry Holt $30. Avail. 10/15 🎧

**Dear Girls**
*by Ali Wong*
In her Netflix comedy special *Baby Cobra*, an eight-month pregnant Ali Wong resonated so strongly that she even became a popular Halloween costume. Wong told the world her unfiltered thoughts on marriage, sex, Asian culture, working women, and why you never see new mom comics on stage but you sure see plenty of new dads. Though addressed to her daughters, Ali Wong’s letters in *Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets & Advice for Living Your Best Life* are absurdly funny, moving, and enlightening (and gross) for all. Random House $27. Avail. 10/15 🎧

**Plagued By Fire**
*by Paul Hendrickson*
Frank Lloyd Wright has long been known as a rank egotist who held in contempt almost everything aside from his own genius. But *Plagued By Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright* reveals another side: a son haunted by his father, his relationship with mentor Cecil Corwin; the role of fires in his life; the connection between the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 and the murder of his mistress, her children, and four others by a servant gone mad. With unique vision, Hendrickson explores a life at once unexpected, poetic, and brilliant. Knopf $35. Avail. 10/1 🎧

**Talking to Strangers**
*by Malcolm Gladwell*
How did Fidel Castro fool the CIA? Why did Neville Chamberlain think he could trust Hitler? Why are campus sexual assaults on the rise? *Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don’t Know* is an excursion through history, psychology, and scandals and suggests that because we don’t know how to talk to strangers, we invite conflict and misunderstanding. In his powerful examination of our interactions with strangers—and why they often go wrong—Gladwell has written a gripping guide-book for troubled times. Little, Brown $30. 🎧

**Elements of Fiction**
*by Walter Mosley*
How does one approach the genius of writers like Melville, Dickens, or Twain? In a series of instructive and conversational chapters, Mosley guides the writer through the elements of not just any fiction writing, but the kind of writing that transcends convention and truly stands out. The result is a vivid depiction of the writing process, from the blank page to the first draft to rewriting, and rewriting again. Throughout, *The Elements of Fiction* is enriched by brilliant demonstrative examples that Mosley himself has written here for the first time. Grove Press $23. 🎧

**What We Talk about When We Talk about Books**
*by Leah Price*
Reports of the death of reading are greatly exaggerated. In *What We Talk about When We Talk about Books: The History and Future of Reading*, Leah Price examines the world’s great libraries and finds scant evidence that a golden age of reading ever existed. From the dawn of mass literacy, most readers skimmed and multitasked. The evidence that books are dying proves even scarcer. In encounters with librarians, booksellers, and activists who are reinventing old ways of reading, Price offers fresh hope to bibliophiles and literature lovers alike. Basic $28. 🎧
Atlas Obscura, 2nd Edition
by Joshua Foer, Ella Morton, and Dylan Thuras
Praised as the “bestest travel guide ever” (Mary Roach) and “a joy to read and reread” (Neil Gaiman), Atlas Obscura is a phenomenon of travel books. Now the best gets better and the weirdest gets weirder in Atlas Obscura, 2nd Edition: An Explorer’s Guide to the World’s Hidden Wonders—a completely revised and updated second edition that includes 120 new entries that offer even more of the most curious, bizarre, and mysterious places on earth. In addition, this edition includes a gatefold road trip map, with a dream itinerary. Workman $37.50. Avail. 10/15

The Second Founding by Eric Foner
The Declaration of Independence announced equality as an American ideal, but it took the Civil War and three constitutional amendments to establish that ideal as law. Foner traces the arc of these amendments from their origins to their virtual nullification in the late 19th century. Again today there are serious political challenges to birthright citizenship. The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution both informs our understanding of the past and equips us to be vigilant today in securing our basic rights. WW Norton $26.95.

Tough Luck by R.D. Rosen
In 1935, Sid Luckman made headlines for his football exploits, while his father, Meyer Luckman, made headlines for the murder of his brother-in-law. Amazingly, while Sid became a Hall of Fame NFL quarterback, Meyer served 20-years-to-life in prison, and the connection between sports celebrity son and mobster father was largely ignored. Tough Luck: Sid Luckman, Murder, Inc., and the Rise of the Modern NFL is a tale of a golden son and his disgraced father, layered over an era of Brooklyn mobsters and the rise of the NFL. Atlantic Monthly $27.

The First Cell by Azra Raza
In The First Cell: And the Human Costs of Pursuing Cancer to the Last, Azra Raza explores how our society (mis)treats cancer, how we can do better, and why we must. A journey from hope to despair and back again, Raza explores cancer from every angle—medical, scientific, cultural, personal—and describes how she served as her husband’s oncologist as he succumbed to leukemia. This is no ordinary book of medicine, but a book of wisdom and grace by an author who has devoted her life to making the unbearable easier to bear. Basic $28. Avail. 10/15

Change Is the Only Constant by Ben Orlin
Change Is the Only Constant: The Wisdom of Calculus in a Madcap World is an eloquent exploration of the intersection between calculus and daily life, complete with Orlin’s sly humor and memorably bad drawings. By spinning 28 engaging mathematical tales, Orlin shows us that calculus is simply another language to express the things humans grapple with every day—love, risk, time, and most importantly, change. This is not just math for math’s sake; it’s math for the sake of becoming a wiser and more thoughtful human. Black Dog & Leventhal $27.99. Avail. 10/8

Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs by Caitlin Doughty, Illus. by Dianné Ruz
Every day, funeral director Caitlin Doughty receives dozens of questions about death. The best questions come from kids. What would happen to an astronaut’s body if it were pushed out of a space shuttle? Do people poop when they die? Can Grandma have a Viking funeral? In Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs? Big Questions from Tiny Mortals about Death, Doughty blends her mortician’s knowledge and the history behind common misconceptions about corpses to offer candid and hilarious answers to questions posed by her youngest fans. WW Norton $25.95.

The Body by Bill Bryson
Bill Bryson once again proves to be an incomparable companion as he guides us through the human body—how it functions, its remarkable ability to heal itself, and (unfortunately) the ways it can fail. Full of extraordinary facts (your body made a million red blood cells since you started reading this) and irresistible Bryson-esque anecdotes, The Body: A Guide for Occupants will lead you to a deeper understanding of life in general and you in particular with generous doses of compulsively readable facts and information. Doubleday $30. Avail. 10/15

How to Cook Everything by Mark Bittman
For 20 years, Mark Bittman’s foundational cookbook has been the definitive guide to simple home cooking. How to Cook Everything—Completely Revised Twentieth Anniversary Edition: Simple Recipes for Great Food has been revised for today’s cooks while retaining Bittman’s minimalist style. You’ll find hundreds of new features and recipes, with options like whole grains and sustainable seafood. With its modernized recipes and gorgeous photography, this classic cookbook is more indispensable than ever. Houghton Mifflin $37. Avail. 10/1
Southern food is one of the most beloved and delicious cuisines in America. In South, Sean Brock, the award-winning chef and Southern-food crusader, shares his recipes for key components of the cuisine, from grits and fried chicken to collard greens and corn bread. This is the book Sean Brock fans have been waiting for, and it’s the book Southern-food lovers the world over will use as their bible. Artisan Publishers $40. Avail. 10/15

The Greatest Fury: The Battle of New Orleans and the Rebirth of America by William C. Davis
From master historian William C. Davis, the definitive story of the Battle of New Orleans, the fight that decided the ultimate fate not only of the War of 1812 but the future course of the fledgling American republic. In this gripping, comprehensive study, Davis expertly weaves together narratives of personal motivation and geopolitical implications that make this battle one of the most impactful ever fought on American soil. Dutton Caliber $32. Avail. 10/15

Language in Louisiana: Community and Culture edited by Nathalie Dajko and Shana Walton
Louisiana is often presented as a bastion of French culture and language in an otherwise English environment. Historically, however, the state has boasted a multicultural, polyglot population. Language in Louisiana presents linguistic research on topics such as indigenous language revival; Louisiana’s French varieties; rural and urban dialects of English; and struggles more recent immigrants face to use their heritage languages. UP of Mississippi $30.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the city debated whether to press on with Mardi Gras or cancel the parades. Ultimately, they decided to proceed. Since 2006, a number of new Mardi Gras practices have gained prominence. Downtown Mardi Gras examines six celebrations, using ethnography, folklore, cultural studies, and performance studies, to analyze new Mardi Gras’s connection to traditional Mardi Gras. UP of Mississippi $30.

Sacred Ground: The Cemeteries of New Orleans by Robert Brantley
Sacred Ground explores the open-air museums of New Orleans cemeteries, telling vivid stories about the Crescent City’s haunting social history. New Orleans history is further revealed through biographies of 20 individuals whose grave sites are among those featured, including entrepreneurs, musicians, and an ex-slave turned minister. Event on 10/17! See back page. Princeton Architectural Press $40. Avail. 10/8

Welcome to Jazz by Carolyn Sloan
Welcome to Jazz: A Swing-Along Celebration of America’s Music Featuring “When the Saints Go Marching In” is an interactive swing-along picture book with 12 sound chips. Listen to the instruments of jazz—the rhythm section with its banjo, drums, and tuba, and the leads, like the clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. And you’ll hear singers scat, improvising melodies with nonsense syllables like be-bop and doo-ah! Workman $24.95. Ages 4-8. Avail. 10/15

Singing Out Loud: A Memoir of an Ex-Mardi Gras Queen by Marilee Eaves
Born during WWII, Marilee Eaves has long struggled to fit into the New Orleans elite—secret Mardi Gras societies that ruled the city—into which she was born. When she’s checked into a psychiatric hospital, she realizes what all she’s sacrificed to blend in. Eaves now tells of her journey to evolve in the midst of that culture. Along the way, she wrestles with bipolar disorder, alcoholism, and bad (heartbreaking, and sometimes hilarious) choices. She Writes $16.95. Avail. 11/19

One Day by Gene Weingarten
“The question was simple; What happened on a randomly-chosen date? The answer is complex: So very much. Gene Weingarten brings out the stories leading up to the events of the slow news date, Sunday December 28, 1986. Love and revenge, medical advances, murder, and so much more. The stories here are mostly about unknown people; and Weingarten handles some very delicate events with care.” Blue Rider $28. Avail. 10/22

— Christine Schaefer
Octavia Books bookseller
Upcoming Events at Octavia Books

**BRYAN SPITZFADEN**
*The Incredible Quiet*
Saturday, October 5, 11 am

**ETHAN BROWN**
*Murder in the Bayou*
Monday, October 7, 6 pm

**RENÉE AHDIEH**
*The Beautiful*
Tuesday, October 15, 6 pm
Welcome #1 NYT and USA Today bestselling YA author Renée Ahdieh, presenting her new book, *The Beautiful*, in conversation with her editor Stacey Barney. This is a ticketed event. We’re offering a 45 minute VIP meet-and-greet with Renée beginning at 5 pm for the first 25 people who order the VIP package. G.P. Putnam’s Sons BYR $18.99.

**ROBERT BRANTLEY**
*Sacred Ground: The Cemeteries of New Orleans*
Thursday, October 17, 6 pm
Sacred Ground: The Cemeteries of New Orleans is a photographic portrait of New Orleans’s cemeteries. Brantley celebrates the otherworldly landscapes, intricate ironwork, evocative memorials, and stately monuments as vibrant sites of remembrance. See our Local Flavors section on page 11 for more information about the book. Princeton Architectural Press $40.

**PAULA ARAI**
*Painting Enlightenment*
Sunday, October 20, 1 pm
Meet Paula Arai, Associate Professor of Buddhist Studies at LSU. She will present her book, *Painting Enlightenment: Healing Visions of the Heart Sutra*, a study of the life and work of Iwasaki Tsuneo, a Japanese artist who combined his knowledge as a biologist with his spiritual insights as a Buddhist practitioner to create breathtaking paintings. Shambhala $29.95.

**STEVEN R. WEISMAN**
*The Chosen Wars*
Wednesday, October 23, 7 pm
Location: JCC, 5342 St. Charles Ave.

**JUSTIN DEVILLIER**
*The New Orleans Kitchen: Classic Recipes and Modern Techniques for an Unrivaled Cuisine*
Tuesday, October 29, 6 pm
Location: NOCHI 725 Howard Ave.

**TA-NEHISI COATES**
*The Water Dancer*
Wednesday, October 30, 7 pm
Location: Temple Sinai 6227 St. Charles Ave.
Please join Octavia Books for a special evening with National Book Award-winning author Ta-Nehisi Coates celebrating the publication of *The Water Dancer*, his breathtaking debut novel. Tickets are $30 and can be purchased on our website. Each ticket includes one paperback edition of *The Water Dancer*. Signing and meet-and-greet to follow. One World.

**MARGARET WILKERSON SEXTON**
*The Revisioners*
Tuesday, November 5, 6 pm

**IMPROV NEW ORLEANS: A FESTIVAL OF IDEAS**
**MICHAEL POLLAN & MARK PLOTKIN**
Friday, November 8, 7:30 pm
Location: Louis J. Roussel Performance Hall - Loyola University
Michael Pollan (How to Change Your Mind) joins ethnobotanist Mark Plotkin, (Tales of a Shaman’s Apprentice) to discuss “Improvisation: Creativity, Humor, and Altered States.”

**JULES FEIFFER IN CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL TISSERAND**
Saturday, November 9, 7 pm
Location: Freeman Auditorium at Tulane University
Jules Feiffer, recognized for his legacy as a cartoonist, playwright, screenwriter, author, illustrator, and art instructor, will discuss “Out of Line! Improv and Comics.”
— Tickets for both events: improvconferencenola.com —

**MIKI PFEFFER**
*A New Orleans Author in Mark Twain’s Court*
Wednesday, November 13, 6 pm
Shortly after Grace King wrote her first stories in post-Reconstruction New Orleans, she entered a world of famous figures greater than she could ever have imagined. Notable writers and publishers bolstered her career, and she began a decades-long friendship with Mark Twain and his family that was as unlikely as it was remarkable. LSU Press $82.50.

**EINAT ADMONY**
*Shuk: From Market to Table*
Tuesday, November 19, 7 pm
Location: JCC, 5342 St. Charles Ave.
Join us at the JCC for a special evening with Einat Admony featuring her new book *Shuk: From Market to Table*, which has been named a Best New Cookbook for Fall 2019 by *Publishers Weekly*, *Epicurious*, and *Robb Report*. She will appear in conversation with chef Alon Shaya. Artisan $35.
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