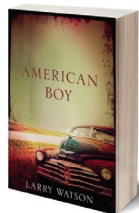




AUGUST '12

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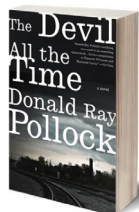


American Boy A Novel, by Larry Watson

(Milkweed Editions, 9781571310958, \$15)

"Pure. Simple. Classic. Little more needs to be said about Larry Watson's utterly breathtaking coming-of-age novel featuring two high school chums, Johnny Dunbar and Matthew Garth. This novel takes a fresh look at that time of life, the teen years, when everything happens so suddenly and with such ferociousness—a time of intensity, immediacy, and raw emotions. Watson captures it all in this wonderful novel. I recommend it without reserve to every reader who appreciates life and fine literature."

—Nancy Simpson, The Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



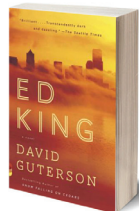
The Devil All the Time A Novel, by Donald Ray Pollock

(Anchor, 9780307744869, \$15)

"This is a powerhouse of a novel. Disturbing? Yes. But Pollock, the author of the story collection *Knockemstiff*, earns the gravity of his subject matter. As the title suggests, God is pretty elusive to the characters in this book, despite their many attempts to have it otherwise. There is, however, an almost biblical inevitability in the fate of these

people, and Pollock hooks your interest in their destinies from the very beginning. It's (pardon the pun) 'a hell of a ride!'"

—Robert Sindelar, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA



Ed King A Novel, by David Guterson

(Vintage, 9780307455901, \$15.95)

"A rollicking modern-day version of the classic tragedy *Oedipus Rex*, this wickedly funny story will leave you in stitches. It has the cynicism of Tom Wolfe mixed with the absurdity of Carl Hiaasen. The novel begins with a slow and dangerous seduction, and then picks up speed as each new character is introduced. Guterson

fearlessly takes on contemporary societal themes as his novel builds to a thrill-ride climax. Highly recommended!"

—Jane Bowman, Eagle Harbor Book Company, Bainbridge Island, WA



The Homecoming of Samuel Lake A Novel, by Jenny Wingfield

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780385344098, \$15)

"Wingfield has the storyteller's gift, and she writes her debut tale of preacher-without-a-church Samuel Lake and his family with the assurance of a seasoned author. After the death of his father-in-law, John, Samuel moves his wife,

Willadee, and their three children into his mother-in-law's house in rural Arkansas. John used to run *Never Closes*—a bar that stayed open all night—from the back porch of his house. Calla, his wife, runs *Moses*—a convenience store that is open all day—from the front porch. Inside the house between those two porches, an extraordinary family lives a life complete with love, lust, heartbreak, heroics, and miracles. A perfect book for the many fans of *The Help*."

—Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

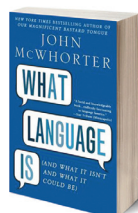


If Jack's in Love A Novel, by Stephen Wetta

(Berkley Trade, 9780425247785, \$15)

"Jack Witcher is 12 going on 13 and in love with Myra Joyner. When Myra's brother goes missing and Jack's older brother, Stan, becomes the leading suspect in the disappearance, Jack's world starts to unravel. Not that he ever had it very good: his father is unemployed and hangs around the house watching soap operas; his brother is a pot-smoking 'hippie freak' with a terrible temper; and his mother is trying to understand why her family is the laughingstock of the town. Wetta has written a coming-of-age novel set in 1967 that is at once dark, witty, and charming."

—Ken Favell, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI



What Language Is: And What It Isn't and What It Could Be, by John McWhorter

(Gotham, 9781592407200, \$16)

"This is a light-hearted investigation into how linguists view language. From languages that change tone for different tenses to languages that do not have any regular verbs, this is an entertaining foray into what language is and what it is not. I look forward to reading more

from this talented linguist."

—Fran Wilson, Colorado State University Bookstore, Fort Collins, CO



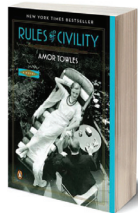
The Lost Memory of Skin A Novel, by Russell Banks

(Ecco, 9780061857645, \$14.99)

"The Kid made a stupid mistake one night and is now excluded from society at the age of 22. Labeled as a sex offender, he is shackled to a GPS monitoring device and forbidden to live within 2,500 feet of anywhere children might gather. One of the few places that remain for him is under a causeway with other convicted sex offenders.

Enter the Professor, a bearded, overweight genius with secrets of his own. Has society, with its low tolerance and lack of compassion, created new victims? Banks has tackled a theme important to our welfare as a society. Sure to elicit a stimulating discussion for book groups."

—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI



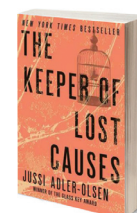
Rules of Civility A Novel, by Amor Towles

(Penguin, 9780143121169, \$16)

"This flawless debut novel follows two young women, boarding-house roommates, making their way in 1938 Manhattan. A chance meeting with an enigmatic young businessman launches the pair into areas of society heretofore closed to them, where they encounter a large cast of characters both charming and repellent. With echoes of Fitzgerald,

Towles evokes effortlessly the era of pre-war Manhattan, from the workplace politics of a law office secretarial pool to the alcohol-fueled lawn party of the Long Island gin-and-horses set. This is an astonishing book! the best description of the power of books that I have ever encountered!"

—Matthew Lage, Iowa Book, Iowa City, IA

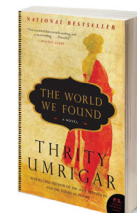


The Keeper of Lost Causes by Jussi Adler-Olsen

(Plume, 9780452297906, \$16)

"Recovering from an ambush that finished the careers of his partners, Carl Mørck returns to the Copenhagen homicide unit where he is appointed as head of the newly created unsolved cases unit. Mørck's plan to leisurely sail through until retirement, is undermined by his new assistant, Assad, whose most irritating trait is the persistent need to 'do' something. At random, Mørck opens the five-year-old file of a missing prominent politician, whose body was never found after apparently falling over the side of a ferry. The ensuing battles between Mørck and his overly energetic assistant, his confrontations with others in his department, and the unfolding of the missing politician case had me glued to the pages."

—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA



The World We Found A Novel, by Thrity Umrigar

(Harper Perennial, 9780061938351, \$14.99)

"Umrigar's latest recalls the halcyon days at university in 1970's Bombay, which were characterized by intense friendships, fierce ambitions and a determination to change the world, as remembered by four women whose lives have ended up radically different from their collegiate dreams: one, dying in America, whose last wish is to see her three friends, two living in upper middle class Mumbai, and the fourth who has been long-estranged from their circle. Painful secrets, both past and present, threaten to prevent the reunion. Blood may be thicker than water, but Umrigar proves that friendship is thicker than blood in this marvelous novel that is both fascinating and disturbing by turns."

—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

KEEP
BOOKS
ON YOUR
MAIN
STREET

