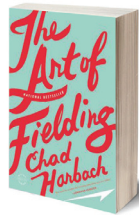




MAY '12

NOW IN PAPERBACK



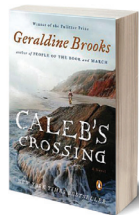
The Art of Fielding A Novel, by Chad Harbach

(Back Bay Books, 9780316126670, \$14.99)

"Despite having reservations about a 'baseball book,' reading this debut novel I discovered that baseball is every bit as exciting and excruciating as any thriller, as complicated as any psychological mystery, and as heartbreaking as my favorite romance. Harbach loves his characters, and never lets them off easily. All the

words I want to use to describe this book—original, heartfelt, classic, hilarious, wise, unforgettable—are insufficient. I loved every word of it."

—Leslie Reiner, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL



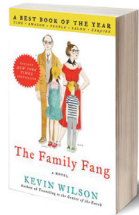
Caleb's Crossing A Novel, by Geraldine Brooks

(Penguin, 9780143121077, \$16)

"Caleb's Crossing reveals how early pioneers and native inhabitants of what is now Martha's Vineyard were capable of intense friendship and a sharing of spiritual beliefs despite dissimilar backgrounds. Brooks once again proves her prowess in this story of the education of the first Native American to graduate from Harvard

College. Caleb, the son of a chieftain, faces criticism from his own people as well as from white society. The narrator, Bethia, desires the same education as Caleb but is denied due to her sex. The two become lifelong friends and their story is an emotional and evocative look at a crossing of cultures."

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



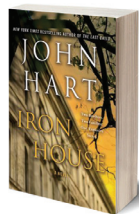
The Family Fang A Novel, by Kevin Wilson

(Ecco, 9780061579059, \$13.99)

"If Salinger's fabled Glass siblings had been raised by avant-garde 1980s performance artists they might have turned out like Annie and Buster—Child A and Child B in their parents' performance art happenings. All families are odd in their own ways, and Wilson simply amplifies the confusion that all parents

induce in their children. I loved the fringe art world setting, but the very familiar quest of adult children coming to grips with the legacy of flawed parents is at the heart of this funny, disquieting novel."

—Robert McDonald, The Book Stall At Chestnut, Winnetka, IL



Iron House A Novel, by John Hart

(St. Martin's Griffin, 9781250007018, \$14.99)

"How far would you go to protect your own blood? For Michael, it starts by breaking free of the crime family that made him a stone-cold killer. It ends walking a lonely road back to the orphanage he escaped from long ago. Iron House is built from greed, power, lust, and corruption, and Michael's fight is a searing

portrait of a man in conflict with his past and present. Weaving together a story of betrayal and redemption that reaches back decades, John Hart once again creates a rock-solid thriller."

—Geoffrey Jennings, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS



A Jane Austen Education

How Six Novels Taught Me About Love, Friendship, and the Things That Really Matter, by William Deresiewicz

(Penguin, 9780143121251, \$15)

"Austen lovers, rejoice! This intelligent, lively look at the beloved author's novels and what they offered in life lessons to one graduate student will resonate with all Austen fans—and others as well. Like many of us, Deresiewicz, an Austen

scholar, found deep lessons on life, love, friendship, and marriage in the pages and parlors of dear Jane's books. A delightful read!"

—Christine Grabish, MacDonald Book Shop, Estes Park, CO



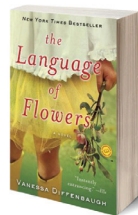
The Lady of the Rivers A Novel, by Philippa Gregory

(Touchstone, 9781416563716, \$16)

"I was riveted from the beginning of this amazing novel, when Jaquetta, a powerful, passionate woman born in tumultuous times, is introduced to Joan of Arc. From Jaquetta's marriage at a young age to a much older duke, and how she negotiates their relationship and her place in court, to her falling in love

with a brave knight, this story will keep you transfixed. A riveting read for lovers of historical fiction and fans of Philippa Gregory. You won't be disappointed!"

—Kym Havens, Wellesley Booksmith, Wellesley, MA



The Language of Flowers

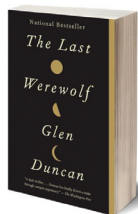
A Novel, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

(Ballantine, 9780345525550, \$15)

"During the Victorian era, flowers conveyed expressions of love and were often used as a form of communication. Victoria Jones, an abandoned child who has been evicted from many group homes, learns this language, and upon her emancipation at age 18, eventually finds a job with a caring florist. A chance

meeting at a flower market forces her to confront her past and learn to love and trust someone again. Diffenbaugh's extraordinary debut brings forth in elegant prose the emotions of anger and mistrust, love and loss, and the possibilities for a second chance at happiness."

—Annie Philbrick, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



The Last Werewolf

by Glen Duncan

(Vintage, 9780307742179, \$14.95)

"With this novel, Duncan has reinvented a genre. Jake Marlowe is literally the last werewolf in existence, and after 200 years he has resigned himself to a date with his executioner at the next full moon. That is, until everything changes. Duncan's razor-sharp writing combines all the gory raunchiness of classic horror with the

elegance of top literary fiction, while also managing to include a considerable amount of hip pop culture. This is a smart and engaging thriller that is not to be missed."

—Katherine Osborne, Kennebooks, Kennebunk, ME



Silver Sparrow

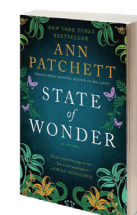
A Novel, by Tayari Jones

(Algonquin, 9781616201425, \$13.95)

"The unconventional, morally troubling relationships at the core of Jones' *Silver Sparrow* illustrate the universality of the human quest for acknowledgment, legitimacy, love, and loyalty. As Chaurisse and her secret half-sister, Dana, move toward adulthood, they must shed idealistic notions of romantic and familial love to face

difficult truths. A complex family drama, a richly crafted coming-of-age story, and a meditation on the nature of love and forgiveness."

—Libby Cowles, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO



State of Wonder

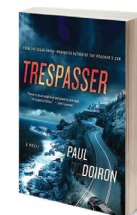
A Novel, by Ann Patchett

(Harper Perennial, 9780062049810, \$15.99)

"When Marina Singh receives a note that her office mate, Anders Eckman, has died in the Amazon while investigating scientific work on female fertility, she is persuaded to follow him into the jungle in search of the doctor with whom he worked—who has also exerted a crucial influence on Marina's life—and to

retrieve Anders' personal effects. This spellbinding, richly atmospheric novel raises ethical questions about scientific research and discovery, loyalty, honesty, and love. Not to be missed!"

—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI



Trespasser

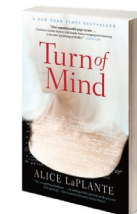
A Novel, by Paul Doiron

(Minotaur, 9781250001597, \$14.99)

"Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch is back on the job, following his introduction in Doiron's debut, *The Poacher's Son*, and once again he's tripping over bodies. He is called to the scene of an accident in which a car hit a deer, but when he arrives neither the deer nor the driver are there. He is convinced by a state patrolman to

leave the matter to the state police, but the situation continues to haunt Bowditch. Where would a young woman go on a cold, snowy Maine night? Devastated when the truth is revealed, Bowditch risks all to finally bring a killer to justice. Doiron is an author to watch!"

—Vicki Erwin, Main Street Books, St. Charles, MO



Turn of Mind

by Alice LaPlante

(Grove Press, 9780802145901, \$15)

"This is an emotionally intense story of a 64-year-old hand surgeon, Jennifer White, as she experiences the unyielding onslaught of dementia. On any given day she is lucid, catatonic, violent, or very, very sly. Did she kill her friend Amanda and amputate her fingers? LaPlante's exceptional skill with words puts

readers inside this brilliant woman's mind so that we might experience her anger, frustration, and increasing confusion. This is a remarkable, heart-wrenching, and utterly compelling debut novel."

—Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM