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NOW IN PAPERBACK

And So It Goes

Kurt Vonnegut: A Life, by Charles J. Shields

"Shields' authorized portrayal of one of America's most beloved authors sheds light on the man behind the curtain. Readers for the first time gain insight into the progression of Vonnegut's works, from market-minded science fiction to artful literature. With a varied pace, spending just the right amount of time on each subject and detail, Shields effortlessly lays out Vonnegut's history as a story, an entertaining read complete with conversational asides. It is no wonder that Vonnegut himself chose Shields to expose his life to the masses."

—Nick Hodge, Read Between the Lynes, Woodstock



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Birds of a Lesser Paradise

Stories, by Megan Mayhew Bergman

"*Birds of a Lesser Paradise* is a poignant collection of stories, each filled with vivid imagery, surprising wit, and elegant prose. My copy is filled with dog-eared pages of Bergman's brilliantly written observations on who we are and who we hope to be. She masterfully captures the fragility of human life by placing it within and against the natural world. Read these stories. You will be so thankful you did, and then you will read them again!"

—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL



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Carry the One

A Novel, by Carol Anshaw

"Carmen and Matt's wedding was festive, full of dancing, drinking, and celebrating the joining of two lives. But for Carmen and Matt their wedding night would not be remembered solely with joy, but rather as the night a car full of their relatives and close friends headed out into the dark and accidentally killed a young girl on a lonely stretch of road. The occupants of that car and the wedding couple would be shackled by the guilt of that night for years to come. *Carry the One* examines the subtle shades of change this tragic accident causes in their lives. It is a compelling story of friendship, loss, betrayal, and life at its most real."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR



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The Demi-Monde

A Novel, by Rod Rees

"Like a literary love child of Neal Stephenson and Tad Williams, *The Demi-Monde: Winter*, the first in a proposed quartet, is a dark, dangerous adventure tale set in a vaguely steampunk virtual world populated by the avatars of some of history's most villainous characters. Eighteen-year-old Ella is thrust into a world unlike any she has ever known when she is hired to retrieve the president's daughter from a virtual environment that was originally created to train combat soldiers in guerrilla warfare. A page-turner and a highly entertaining opening to a very promising series."

—Billie Bloebaum, Powell's Books at PDX, Portland, OR



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The Healing

A Novel, by Jonathan Odell

"During the years before the Civil War, Master Ben purchases Polly Shine, a slave woman known to possess healing powers, to help 'doctor' his slaves suffering from a mysterious plague. Polly also needs to pass on her healing knowledge to the next generation and focuses on Granada, a young slave girl. Granada is not so willing to accept her gift and is not interested in learning anything from Polly. Despite Granada's impatience and resistance, Polly teaches her that the gift of healing is much more than just learning to heal."

—Julia Barth, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX



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Holy Ghost Girl

A Memoir, by Donna M. Johnson

"Johnson's treatment of her childhood immersed in the Pentecostal tent-meeting movement is flawless. She is truthful about her memories, but she does not rush to the judgment of others. Weak of flesh but strong in willpower, well-meaning Randall Terrell is the leader of a traveling group of the faithful. Tent meetings are huge, and once the donations become enough to cover bills, they soon lead to an excess that is all too familiar. This is an excellent book for those wanting to both know more about this particular spiritual movement and gain some understanding of the faith that kept the followers going."

—Linda Bond, Auntie's Bookstore, Spokane, WA



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History of a Pleasure Seeker

A Novel, by Richard Mason

"Set in Amsterdam during the Belle Epoque, *History of a Pleasure Seeker* follows Piet Bartol, the poor but cultured young tutor to a wealthy Dutch family. Piet is determined to drink life to the fullest, and this ambition alters not only his own life, but also the lives of those around him. Skillfully and evocatively rendered, this novel feels like its own guilty pleasure, redolent of lazy afternoons and late night liaisons."

—Stesha Brandon, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



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Lightning Rods

A Novel, by Helen DeWitt

"Joe, an out of work encyclopedia salesman, has a lot of ideas. Most are useless, but he stumbles upon a solution to the problem of sexual harassment and low productivity in the workplace. His unconventional idea is an immediate hit for corporate offices, but Joe is then forced to take on the stigma of being very successful at something that is revolting to most. Reminiscent of the writings of both Shteyngart and Palahniuk, *Lightning Rods* avoids pretention by being bizarrely funny and satisfyingly sardonic."

—Rachel Haisley, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT



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Running the Rift

A Novel, by Naomi Benaron

"Named for the Rwandan god of thunder, Jean Patrick Nkuba is destined for Olympic glory. Pushing his body up the misty hills of his village, he dreams not only of fame, but also of bringing peace to his country and equality to his Tutsi compatriots. When the floodwaters of hatred and war with the Hutu burst out over his homeland, Jean Patrick must run a different kind of race in order to survive. Both beautiful and heart-rending, horrific and hopeful, this novel carries a message that deserves to be widely read."

—Amanda Hurley, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL

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Three-Day Town

A Deborah Knott Mystery, by Margaret Maron

"In her latest Deborah Knott mystery, Maron injects an added spark by spiriting Deborah and her husband, Dwight, to a new locale—a delayed honeymoon in New York City. Circumstances, including a murder at their borrowed apartment, bring them in contact with Maron's detective from another series, Sigrid Harald, and introduce a new cast of fascinating personalities. I'm always glad to see a new mystery from Maron and look forward to more of both Knott and Harald!"

—Rosemary Pugliese, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC

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Sacre Bleu

A Comedy d'Art, by Christopher Moore

"Moore is easily the most humorous author around, but what is often missed in all the laughter is just how talented a writer he truly is. *Sacre Bleu* starts with the murder of Vincent van Gogh and as Lucien Lessard and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec try to track down the mysterious Colorman, Moore takes the reader on an informative tour through the Impressionist era. The research is exhaustive, the observations pungent, and the characters, both real and imagined, distinctive. Enjoy the read, but beware the wrath of Mere Lessard!"

—Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI

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The Wedding Quilt

An Elm Creek Quilts Novel, by Jennifer Chiaverini

"Written in Chiaverini's soft and gentle style, this latest in the series will appeal to quilters and non-quilters alike. Sarah has planned to make a quilt for her daughter as a wedding gift and has asked family and friends to sign blocks. Flashbacks take place as quilts, passions, traditions, struggles, and loves are remembered and shared."

—Cheryl Kroger, Chapters Books & Gifts, Seward, NE

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