



AUGUST '13
NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Bartender's Tale

A Novel, by Ivan Doig

"Always one of the West's best storytellers, Doig has achieved here the perfect fictional mix: winning, believable characters; an intricate, timely, and surprising plot; and a Montana setting that pivots between the early days of JFK in the 1960s and the 1930s of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I frequently fall in love with books, but *The Bartender's Tale* is no mere infatuation! The love I feel for it will last a lifetime."

—Betsy Burton, The King's English Bookshop, Salt Lake City, UT



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Battleborn

Stories, by Claire Vaye Watkins

"This extraordinary debut collection is the short story form at its finest. Linked by setting, in the tradition of Annie Proulx, these 10 brave tales create a new mythology of the American West. From the desperate gold rush of the 49ers, to a tragic experience in a casino hotel, to the small, safe world a heartbroken woman creates in her bathtub, the writing is impeccable, the characters complex, and the stories full of heart and humanity. Do not miss this book!"

—Alise Hamilton, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA



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The Beautiful Mystery

A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel, by Louise Penny

"An isolated and cloistered monastery has produced a CD of Gregorian Chants which catapults the monastery into unanticipated and unwanted fame. Then the choirmaster is murdered. Chief Inspector Gamache and Inspector Beauvoir find discord among the monks whose singing is in exquisite unison. And discord among themselves. This mystery is a classic closed circle whodunit, gracefully written, with gentle humor and with insight into the human flaws of both the detectives and their suspects."

—Annie Crane, Lift Bridge Book Shop, Brockport, NY



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Brain on Fire

My Month of Madness, by Susannah Cahalan

"A young reporter's near-death experience started with what seemed to be a bedbug bite, followed by an out-of-character migraine. Cahalan forgot a pitch meeting. She snooped on her boyfriend's email. Beloved newspaper clippings were tossed. Garbage piled up in her apartment. And then the seizures began. This compelling story of one woman's descent into madness and the equally horrifying journey of her family to find suitable help works both as a great literary memoir as well as a well-reported medical mystery. You might say the result is *Girl*, Interrupted with a dash of *The Hot Zone* and a sprinkling of *The Exorcist*!"

—Daniel Goldin, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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Dear Life

Stories, by Alice Munro

'Nothing changes really about love.' This is the last line of the second story in this collection and it sums up a lot of what makes Alice Munro's writing a gift to the world. Aching real people in ordinary situations are illuminated by her words as an elusive shock of recognition grabs the reader. The four selections at the end are marvelous autobiographical sketches, with the last concealing the line from which the title is taken: 'Just after my mother had grabbed me up, as she said, for dear life.'

—Karen Frank, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



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Elsewhere

A Memoir, by Richard Russo

"This is a heartfelt and intimate portrait of Russo's relationship with his troubled mother and his coming to terms with what he could—or could not—have done differently, starting when he was a young boy and his parent's marriage failed. In the late 1960s anxiety, depression, and obsessive compulsive disorder were not often diagnosed or treated, and effective coping strategies were not taught to families. Insightful and painful in turns, this is a real life tale from one of our best storytellers."

—Liza Bernard, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT



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Ghostman

A Novel, by Roger Hobbs

"Jack, both brilliant and cunning, has made it to the top of the gangster ranks. Extremely wealthy, equipped with the most modern technological tools and constantly changing addresses and even his physical appearance, Jack is like a living ghost. An old partner in crime to whom he is indebted calls on Jack to clean up the mess from a seemingly well-organized heist gone bad. Not trusting his former partner, hunted by an extremely dangerous mobster, and chased by the FBI, Jack needs all of his tricks to keep his ghost-like existence intact. Smart and captivating from beginning to end, a stellar debut!"

—Jean-Paul Adriaansen, Water Street Books, Exeter, NH



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Heads in Beds

**A Reckless Memoir of Hotels, Hustles, and So-Called Hospitality,
by Jacob Tomsky**

"Here is the authentic voice of the Front Desk Agent: funny, experienced, profane, and able to tell a good story or two. Tomsky shares his story of beginning as a parking valet and rising to the heights of the front desk, with a horrifying detour through the housekeeping department along the way. This book is packed with characters, anecdotes, celebrities, and useful information for any hotel guest. Heads in Beds does for hotel workers what Anthony Bourdain's *Kitchen Confidential* did for restaurant workers. It should be an instant classic!"

—Mary Muller, Market Block Books, Troy, NY



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Life Among Giants

A Novel, by Bill Roorbach

"Roorbach has given readers a totally unique family saga that is infused with love, sex, and murder. This is the kind of story that takes you on a journey from the very first page and races right along to the unforgettable conclusion. I was drawn in by the characters, both sympathetic and despicable. This is a great book to recommend to everyone.

—Barbara Kelly, Portland Bookstore, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME



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Me Before You

A Novel, by Jojo Moyes

"Moyes is a superb storyteller who weaves different perspectives seamlessly and without pause. Wheelchair-bound Will and his caregiver, Lou, embark on six months of an intricate and intimate relationship, with each finding a new kind of life for themselves and yielding little by little to one another. Told with aplomb and tenacity, Me Before You is haunting and fulfilling, a true love story."

—Charity McMaster, Schuler Books & Music, Grand Rapids, MI



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The Other Woman

by Hank Phillippi Ryan

"Political scandals, power plays, and deception —the twists and turns in this first of a new series will leave you gasping and wanting more. Jane Ryland, a rising young reporter, is scarred from the fallout of protecting a source, but she still delves into the biggest story gripping Boston: Who is killing young women and leaving them under bridges, and why? And just who is the 'other woman?' Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity award-winner Ryan's writing is compelling, and her insight into the characters creates a gripping page-turner that will leave you eager for the next chapter in the life of Jane Ryland."

—Joan Lang, Front Street Book Shop, Scituate, MA



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The Stockholm Octavo

A Novel, by Karen Engelmann

"Emil Larsson, a mid-level bureaucrat in late 18th century Stockholm, is drawn into a web of intrigue and magic when Mrs. Sparrow, the proprietress of his favorite gambling den, insists on reading his cards because he is a 'Seeker' who must find his 'Eight' to ensure a positive outcome in an event of historical importance. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy this sumptuous novel and appreciate the expertly explored Scandinavian setting."

—Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY



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