



FEBRUARY '14
NOW IN PAPERBACK

Benediction

A Novel, by Kent Haruf

"Any new novel by Haruf is cause for celebration, but for those of us who have been waiting patiently to reconnect with the Front Range of Colorado and its quirky inhabitants since reading Plainsong and Eventide, *Benediction* is the answer to our literary prayers. The main character is dying, but that doesn't set a tone of great remorse or regret for a life in its last stages on Earth. Instead, it becomes a reflection of a family, of the place where they live, of the forces that formed them and made them into the strange, angry, resourceful, and engaging people who they have become. Haruf is a wonderful writer!"

—Gayle Shanks, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



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Calling Me Home

A Novel, by Julie Kibler

"Two women, one old and white, one young and black, make a cross-country journey that will create a bond between them stronger than age or race. Isabelle, at the age of 17, falls in love with Robert, a year older, and a black man, whose mother and sister work for Isabelle's family. Their forbidden love will devastate their families, their own lives, and the lives of future generations. Dorrie, present-day Isabelle's hairdresser and friend, will learn about Isabelle's past while gaining help and insight into her own family problems. You will laugh and cry as you read this incredible story."

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



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A Constellation of Vital Phenomena

A Novel, by Anthony Marra

"In *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, Marra expertly balances the pain and suffering inflicted during the Chechen conflict with exquisite moments of loyalty, sacrifice, humility and enduring love. Marra intricately connects the lives of eight unforgettable characters in wholly unexpected ways, slowly revealing their collective past, present and future. But as their breathtaking stories compel you forward, slow down and savor the vivid imagery and lyrical prose on each and every page. Aptly named, Marra's debut is indeed phenomenal."

—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL



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Frances and Bernard

by Carlene Bauer

"The main characters in this lovely gem of a novel are loosely based on Flannery O'Connor and Robert Lowell. The story is told entirely in the form of letters -- not an easy feat, but Bauer makes it work beautifully. Frances and Bernard meet in the late 1950s at a writer's colony, and though they don't immediately click, Bernard sends Frances a letter that begins an intense philosophical, spiritual, and physical relationship. A true treat for readers!"

—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



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Ghana Must Go

A Novel, by Taiye Selasi

"Readers know when they are in the presence of something special and brilliant. It is a voice familiar and kind, a plot careful and unraveling, a set of characters whose hearts pound between the covers. Selasi delivers a powerful debut about family, race, and the nature of story in this contemporary novel, set in neighborhoods from Brookline, Massachusetts, to Lagos, Nigeria. A literary descendant of Zadie Smith and Arundhati Roy, Selasi is a new force in the global community of readers."

—Nicole Magistro, The Bookworm of Edwards, Edwards, CO

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The Hour of Peril

**The Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln Before the Civil War,
by Daniel Stashower**

"I didn't know that there had been a plot in 1861 to assassinate Abraham Lincoln during his train trip to his inauguration. What kept me reading was the cast of characters who foiled that plot—if it really existed. Stashower focused on Alan Pinkerton and his agents, including Kate Warne, the first female private detective. Although the eccentricities of the characters and the details of the plot rival the best fiction, the author's scholarship gives the book its readable weightiness. It's perfect for readers who love Eric Larson's work."

—Barbara Olic-Hamilton, Rediscovered Books, Boise, ID

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Kind of Kin

A Novel, by Rilla Askew

"The nature of this wonderful novel set in small-town Oklahoma is like its characters—raucous, messy, uncertain, and foolishly brave. After a surprise immigration raid on Mexicans that scoops up even some respected citizens, everyone struggles to understand and how to act. This is a large, kind-hearted story of less than perfect folks caught in a maelstrom while still trying to abide by their ethical and spiritual beliefs. Askew's story is a timely look at who is welcome into our lives and how we express compassion even when times are tough and language is a barrier."

—Sheryl Cotleur, Copperfield's Books, Sebastopol, CA

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The Love Song of Jonny Valentine

A Novel, by Teddy Wayne

"A bittersweet, frank, and funny take on modern celebrity, this novel introduces a young pop phenomenon whose career and every move is managed by his mother who has her own set of problems with drugs and men. Jonny who is haunted by the memory of his missing father, is both wise and appallingly naive as he deals with his newfound fame, the business of pop music, and the users and hangers-on of the celebrity world. A touching, funny, and moving view of stardom, sudden fame and success."

—Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

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The Painted Girls

A Novel, by Cathy Marie Buchanan

"At the end of the 19th century, Paris was the center of the world for all arts, and humanity struggled with massive changes in the very structure of society. Degas and Zola were players on this stage as were three sisters who aspired to the world of ballet. Based on historical figures and incidents, this novel delivers great atmosphere and fully realized characters who weave through the harsh yet rich tapestry of the times and tell a story of family, romance, degradation, and fulfillment."

—Karen Frank, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



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The Son

A Novel, by Philipp Meyer

"Epic yet intimate, Meyer's *The Son* is the best kind of historical fiction. Vivid characters and great storytelling bring to life a distant time and place, while the themes and issues explored are completely relevant to our time. The interwoven perspectives of the three generations of the McCullough family create a counterpoint as each comments on the others, their mores, and their expectations and how these change over time. This is what great literature should be: a page-turner with a serious moral purpose."

—Scott Kinberger, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA



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The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat

A Novel, by Edward Kelsey Moore

"Immerse yourself in the '60s and the lives of a trio of black women who lived a portion of their days at Earl's Diner, sharing stories, expressing both joy and sadness, talking about their loves and their pain. This is not an homage to African-American life as much as it is a revelation regarding the lives of these women and their neighborhood in an Indiana town. Sometimes the everyday people around us turn out to be the true heroes. Enjoy!"

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



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Whistling Past the Graveyard

A Novel, by Susan Crandall

"Fall in love with spunky Starla Claudelle, who runs away from a strict grandmother in 1963 Mississippi to find the mother she hasn't seen since she was three. As she journeys with a black woman named Eula, Starla has her eyes opened to larger issues of race and segregation. This wonderful novel will be devoured by book clubs and will cause every parent who finishes it to immediately find and hug their children."

—Jill Hendrix, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



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