

#### **Blood Will Out** The True Story of a Murder, a Mystery, and a Masquerade, by Walter Kirn

"More memoir than true crime tell-all, Blood Will Out parses the convoluted relationship between writer Kirn and his Rockefeller friend, Clark, who turns out not to be a Rockefeller at all; instead, he's a serial impostor, a murderous sociopath, and a con man of the highest order. Kirn unflinchingly reveals his own ambition, desperation, and fixation with wealth and social status that derail his shrewd writer's instinct and allow him to be bamboozled, even as Clark's mask slips. *Blood Will Out* sounds an alarm about the way our own flaws compel us to see what we most desire to see and the grave danger that might put us in."



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-Susan Gusho, Watermark Books and Café, Wichita, KS

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# **Euphoria** A Novel, by Lily King

"Loosely based on Margaret Mead's time in Papua New Guinea, this engaging, insightful novel features three young anthropologists in the 1930s who studied the remote, primitive Sepik River tribes. *Euphoria* is about cutting-edge research and revolutionary ideas, but inevitably it is also about the complications within the scholars' relationships when societal norms are stripped away, and love, greed, jealousy, and control are left unfettered. King's novel offers a unique view into these rich and complicated characters."

-Katie McDougall, Parnassus Books, Nashville, TN



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# The Garden of Burning Sand by Corban Addison

"This is a captivating thriller that combines page-turning suspense with a social conscience. In contemporary Zambia, an American lawyer who is seeking justice fights entrenched power as well as her own family demons when her father, an influential senator, becomes a candidate for president. Addison's tale is a fantastic read for literary novel lovers and thriller readers alike, as it provides both suspense and the exploration of important global issues in a credible and convincing style."

-Ed Conklin, Chaucer's Books, Santa Barbara, CA





### Gemini A Novel, by Carol Cassella

"A medical mystery, a love story, and a novel of depth and complexity-Cassella manages all of this in *Gemini*. Jane Doe is transferred late at night into the care of ICU doctor Charlotte Reese. Jane may have been dropped on the hospital doorstep with a thick pile of papers detailing everything that can go wrong with her after a hit-and-run accident, but the crucial detail of her identity is missing, and with it the people who would speak for her while she dwells in a coma. Full of suspense, heartbreak, insight, and a gripping, unexpected ending, *Gemini* is a pleasure to read."

-Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



### I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You A Novel, by Courtney Maum

"Sometimes a book's characters grab you by the heart and make you ache with understanding and anticipation. You will laugh, wince, and relate as Maum's debut plunges you into a visceral experience with her characters that is both familiar and agonizing. Love, trust, and creative expression are explored as a French lawyer and a British artist grapple with whether love can be rebuilt after betrayal. Gripping!"



-Jesica Sweedler DeHart, BookPeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID

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### Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor

"Why are we so quick to light the night, to focus only on the positive, and to dismiss discomfort? When is the last time you noticed darkness within you, took a moment to figure out its source, and then let it be? Taylor set out to do just that in her new memoir. She wanted to learn how our culture has lost its balance by demonizing darkness and how she might regain equilibrium. Taylor watched the moon rise, explored a cave, and delved into the writings of those who had already embraced the shadows to remind us that even in the dark, we can find strength."

-Hannah Johnson-Breimeier, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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### Life Drawing A Novel, by Robin Black

"In their late 40s and childless, Owen and Augusta move to an isolated farm house to pursue their art—he as a writer, she as a painter. When Alison, a divorcée escaping her own demons, unexpectedly moves in next door, the fault lines in all of their lives threaten to break open to reveal layer upon layer of grief, loss, and love. Black is a master storyteller. Her prose is distilled, and again and again she offers a phrase or a sentence that captures a whole life. An extraordinary novel."

-Sheila Daley, Barrett Bookstore, Darien, CT





## Mind of Winter A Novel, by Laura Kasischke

"On a snowy Christmas morning in a Detroit suburb, Holly Judge asks her daughter Tatiana to help her prepare dinner for their guests while her husband drives to the airport to get his parents. Holly reflects on the circumstances of Tatiana's adoption but her recollections become more and more confusing as the day progresses and she feels that 'something has followed them from Russia.' Kasischke has accomplished a remarkable feat in writing a highly suspenseful novel with very little action and whose heart-wrenching conclusion will haunt you long after you finish reading."

-Pierre Camy, Schuler Books & Music, Grand Rapids, MI

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# **The Plover** A Novel, by Brian Doyle

"A solitary sea journey for an epically disillusioned man named Declan O'Donnell evolves into a rousing adventure tale in Doyle's The Plover. O'Donnell's small boat becomes the refuge of a number of unexpected—and largely unwelcome—passengers, all of them anxious to leave their former lives bobbing in the ship's wake. Lyrical and literate, this novel is as much a love story dedicated to the sea as it is an exciting and ultimately moving human drama."

-Alden Graves, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT





# **Ruin Falls** A Novel, by Jenny Milchman

"In *Ruin Falls* Milchman continues her theme of women facing the worst that life can hand them and yet finding a way to overcome these challenges. Liz is looking forward to taking a rare family vacation to see her husband Paul's parents and letting their two children get to know their grandparents. Paul has never been an easy man to live with, but Liz loves him and tries zealously to bridge the gap between Paul's rigorous beliefs and her children's happiness. When both children go missing from their hotel room in the middle of the night, Liz has no idea who might have taken them, nor does she realize the depth of her own courage that it will take to find out. A wonderful, high-octane read!"

-Linda Dewberry, Whodunit? Books, Olympia, WA



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#### The Secret of Raven Point A Novel, by Jennifer Vanderbes

"This story of a young woman's tour of duty as a WWII Army nurse is remarkable. Headed for a career in science, Juliet veers toward nursing in an effort to find her brother who is missing in action in Italy. Hope, love in many variations, stories of soldiers, doctors, nurses and support staff, the wounded and dying, civilians and officers – it's all as messy as war and also splendid, heroic, and prosaic. Readers will be drawn in by the characters and deeply moved by the telling of their stories. Books as special as this make my job as a bookseller a joy!"

-Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

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### Troika A Novel, by Adam Pelzman

"Troika, the three, is a mesmerizing tale of the relationship of three people: Julian, Perla, and Sophie, and how their lives intersect. Pelzman poignantly portrays each character and intimately engages the reader in their personal lives. The connections of these three and the surprises that result make for an unforgettable reading experience. This book is hard to put down. I loved it!"

-Stephanie Crowe, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL





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