



JUNE '15
NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Bees

A Novel, by Laline Paull

"This book is completely amazing. Paull uses real bee behavior as the basis for a tale of complex hive society, complete with a religion, a caste system, and threats from the outside world. The heroine, Flora 717, is an abnormally large and intelligent bee. Her size and strength give her opportunities to work at a variety of jobs, and as she begins to uncover the dark secrets of the hive, Flora makes a decision that could change the future of her entire hive. Well-crafted and filled with intrigue and action, this is a brilliant, thought-provoking, and completely original debut that does for bees what Richard Adams did for rabbits in *Watership Down*."

—Flannery Fitch, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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JUNE '15
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The Book of Life

A Novel, by Deborah Harkness

"It's finally here, the book all Harkness' fans have been waiting for! Matthew and Diana have returned to the future and things have changed, as have they. Surprising twists and turns make this a delightful conclusion to the All Souls trilogy. While Harkness ties up loose ends, her complex characters leave enough room for her to return to this world should she wish to. With history, genetics, and morality all playing out, this is the very best in escapist fantasy for all readers!"

—Marika McCoola, Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Springs, NY



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Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands

A Novel, by Chris Bohjalian

"A very contemporary and controversial subject helps make this novel scarily real. The narrator is Emily, the 14-year-old daughter of parents who both work at a nuclear power plant in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The plant melts down, both parents are killed, and there are questions about their responsibility for the disaster. Experiencing guilt by association, Emily goes on the run and ends up homeless in Burlington. She befriends a nine-year-old boy who is also on the run along with other loners looking to survive. Fast-paced, gritty, and believable, this is a novel perfect for book club discussions."

—Liza Bernard, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT



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The Glass Kitchen

A Novel of Sisters, by Linda Francis Lee

"*The Glass Kitchen* is a charming story of sisters, cooking, and starting over. Portia moves to New York City to be with her sisters after a humiliating divorce from a rising political star in Texas. Like her beloved grandmother, Portia is gifted with 'The Knowing'—an ability to 'see' a meal that she must cook, even though she does not know who the meal is for or what the circumstances might be. This is a warm and magical tale of love, family, and forgiveness—with some delicious recipes included!"

—Patricia Worth, River Reader, Lexington, MO



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In the Kingdom of Ice

**The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette,
by Hampton Sides**

"Sides tells more than a fateful story of exploration, he brings to life an entire era of discovery and the passions that drove it. We meet a wild newspaper magnate who, in addition to racing carriages at midnight in the nude, exiled himself to France after drunkenly urinating in his then-fiancée's grand piano; an obsessive German cartographer who staunchly believed in a warm, open polar sea at the North Pole; and a strong-willed captain who fell madly in love with the impossible, glaciated grandeur of Earth above the 80th parallel. The meeting of these three eccentric minds led to the voyage of the USS Jeannette, and Sides tells the ship's tragic story well in cinematic prose with a keen sense of his characters and their changing world."

—Michael Wallenfels, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

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The Miniaturist

A Novel, by Jessie Burton

"When 18-year-old Nella Oortman arrives in Amsterdam in 1686 as the wife of a rich merchant trader, she finds herself living in a city that glitters with wealth and sharing a beautiful home that holds dark secrets with a distant husband and his sharp-tongued sister. When her husband gives Nella a perfect replica of their home as a wedding present, she employs a miniaturist to furnish the cabinet-sized piece but those creations bring about eerie and unexpected events. This is a beautiful and intriguing tale, highly recommended for fans of both historical fiction and suspense."

—Carol Hicks, The Bookshelf, Truckee, CA

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JUNE '15 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Next Life Might Be Kinder

A Novel, by Howard Norman

"Norman's new novel has the elements that make all of his previous novels so superb: the elegant writing, an omnipresent sense of place, an exploration of love, and the tension of a quiet center punctuated by bursts of violence. The story of Sam Lattimore in the aftermath of his beloved wife's murder is erotically charged, mysterious, and haunting. You shouldn't miss it."

—Carole Horne, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA

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JUNE '15 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Nora Webster

A Novel, by Colm Tóibín

"This quiet but beautifully constructed novel of grief is the tale of an Irish woman caught between looking after her own emotional well-being and that of her four young children in the wake of her husband's death. Her relatives and community mean well, but they trespass almost as often as they support. Like Nora's own missteps, those of outsiders are also forgivable. Tóibín's work gets deeper and richer with each new book. I'm already looking forward to his next."

—Susan Scott, Secret Garden Bookshop, Seattle, WA

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Painted Horses

A Novel, by Malcolm Brooks

"Brooks sweeps post-WWII American prosperity, ancient native traditions, and the rush to tame the still-wild West together in a novel driven by diverse and deeply realized characters that come together in a heart-pounding story. Catherine Lemay is a talented young archeologist defying the traditions of a 'man's world' by accepting the challenge to explore a Montana canyon slated for flooding for hydroelectric power. What she discovers is beauty, history, threats, and John H – a former mustanger, Army veteran, and enigmatic canyon dweller. Far from her comfortable New York home, Catherine embraces Montana's stark conditions and with John H uncovers both secrets of the region and truths within herself. A breathtaking debut!"

—Cheryl McKeon, Book Passage, San Francisco, CA

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JUNE '15 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Station Eleven

A Novel, by Emily St. John Mandel

"This is a harrowing and wonderful book—blunt and elegant, wise and frightening, and utterly plausible at every turn. The characters are complicated, but their stories, short or long, are always deeply engaging. We—our species—always find ways, little by little, not just to survive but also to reestablish a sense of place, of community, and of compassion. Unsensational yet deeply moving, *Station Eleven* is a terrific achievement."

—John Christensen, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI

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JUNE '15 NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Vacationers

A Novel, by Emma Straub

"Straub's latest is a smart, delicious read. Each perfectly crafted character reveals the anxieties, missteps, and misfortunes we all face as we journey through each phase of life. Using alternating voices, Straub expertly reveals the flawed dynamics among families, the affairs and untruths that pull us apart, and the bonds that keep us together. *The Vacationers* is one of those unforgettable books that make you laugh at yourself, reflect on past decisions, and hug those you love."

—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL

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We Are Not Ourselves

A Novel, by Matthew Thomas

"Suspenseful, full of heartwarming moments of lightness and love intertwined with dark moments of foreboding, this is the story of a marriage, a family, and the struggle to attain the American Dream. Most of all, it is the story of Eileen Leary, the daughter of Irish immigrants, and her unwavering strength, love, loyalty, and hopes for herself, her husband, Ed, and their son, Connell. The novel spans from 1951 to 2011 and is set primarily in New York, but the unexpected tragedy that befalls the Learys could happen in any town in any country. Immensely moving and thought-provoking!"

—Maria Roden, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA

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