



FEBRUARY '16

The Swans of Fifth Avenue: A Novel

By Melanie Benjamin

"Are you interested in the lifestyles of the rich and famous? Arrange your hair and makeup, darlings, and get ready to dish about the dirty little secrets in 1950s high society. Truman Capote collected 'swans'—rich and glamorous women who floated through life pampered and indulged. This fictionalized account of the meteoric rise and very public fall of Capote, entwined with his deep friendship with Babe Paley and his ultimate betrayal of her and the rest of the swans, will slake your thirst for gossipy, breezy, scandalous details. Take off your wrap, pour a highball, and enjoy!"

—Cindy Pauldine, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY



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FEBRUARY '16

Be Frank With Me: A Novel

By Julia Claiborne Johnson

"When reclusive novelist Mimi Banning loses her fortune and must quickly write a second novel, her publisher sends a young publicist to oversee the efforts and make sure their huge investment is secure. Alice Whitley arrives and is put to work as a caregiver to Mimi's eccentric nine-year-old son, Frank. Frank is a diamond in the rough, and as Alice gets to know him and the mysterious characters in his life, she becomes all-consumed with discovering his paternity. *Be Frank With Me* is captivating, irresistible, moving, heartbreaking, and utterly unputdownable."

—Bess Bleyaert, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI



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The Yid: A Novel

By Paul Goldberg

"When Solomon Levinson escapes arrest in the final days of Joseph Stalin's regime, he embarks on a quixotic attempt to kill the leader of the Soviet Union. Along with Friederich Lewis, an African American who has left Omaha for the Soviet Union, and a ragtag crew of Soviet dissenters, Levinson races to thwart a monstrous plan to unleash a second Holocaust against the Jews of Russia. *The Yid* is a very serious farce, a philosophical novel larded with pitch black comedy. Fans of *City of Thieves* and *Absurdistan* will love Goldberg's ambitious new novel."

—David Enygart, Common Good Books, Saint Paul, MN



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Breaking Wild: A Novel

By Diane Les Becquets

"In the spectacular and unforgiving wilderness of northwestern Colorado, elk-hunter Amy Raye Latour goes missing in a snowstorm at the beginning of winter. A search-and-rescue operation is organized and ranger Pru Hathaway and her rescue dog go to look for the missing woman. With alternating chapters focusing on each woman, Les Becquets spins a thrilling story about two strong and mysterious female characters whose resourcefulness and determination help them tackle incredible adversity. An extraordinary adventure story!"

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



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Orphan X: A Novel

By Gregg Hurwitz

"The U.S. government secretly trained a group of orphaned children to be lethal assassins when they grew up. Evan, one of these children and now a grown man, has left the program and disappeared, resurfacing only to help those in desperate need. It is through this work that one of his enemies has found him, but which enemy? Filled with lots of twists and turns and neat techno gadgets, *Orphan X* takes you on a roller coaster ride that will leave you breathless and waiting for the next installment of the Nowhere Man."

—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



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The Portable Veblen: A Novel

By Elizabeth McKenzie

"This story of an engaged couple trying to navigate crazy family dynamics, betrayal, and professional dilemmas on their way to getting married is one of the funniest, most unique novels I've ever read. If you simply list the story's elements—a hippy commune, a combat field-medicine controversy, screaming snails, a devious pharmaceutical exec, a long-dead social theorist, the world's greatest hypochondriac, and a main character who believes a squirrel is following her around California trying to tell her something – you would think that there is just no way it could all come together, but it absolutely does, and ingeniously so. A terrific book!"

—Rico Lange, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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FEBRUARY '16

The Forgetting Time: A Novel

By Sharon Guskin

"Psychologist Dr. Jerry Anderson is literally losing his mind—aphasia is taking away his memory and his ability to communicate – when he is introduced to the severe behavior problems of four-year-old Noah. From the few clues, it seems Noah has lived a previous life. Anderson fights to keep his lucidity long enough to complete this final investigation of his career, trying to make sense of this young boy while also attempting to make sense of his own life. A compelling, dynamic, and intriguing debut novel."

—Allen Murphey, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH



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FEBRUARY '16

All the Birds in the Sky

By Charlie Jane Anders

"*All the Birds in the Sky* reads like an instant classic. In tackling big questions about what is really important in life and how we are all connected, the novel soars through magic and science, good and evil, and all the shades in between; through the struggles of children against clueless parents, teachers, and spiteful kids; and through the struggles of adults against a heedless society, all with a love story at its heart. Deep, dark, funny, and wonderful!"

—Sara Hinckley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA



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FEBRUARY '16

The Things We Keep: A Novel

By Sally Hepworth

"Anna Forster is facing everyone's worst nightmare—early onset Alzheimer's disease. Anna may not remember the people she meets, but readers will not forget Anna. With startling insight and intense compassion, Hepworth creates a character who watches her intellectual world implode while at the same time, experiencing a new romance.

The Things We Keep is a love story and a tribute to life, a rare gem that shows that what the heart knows cannot be forgotten. Bravo!"

—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN



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FEBRUARY '16

The Arrangement: A Novel

By Ashley Warlick

"Ostensibly the story of M.F.K. Fisher and the years when she honed her skills as America's first food essayist, *The Arrangement* is actually a story about the fragility of relationships. As Fisher grows in renown, her marriage crumbles and she boldly takes a lover who represents everything antithetical to her husband—his best friend. This is a sensual novel in every sense of the word, and the reader experiences all the excitement of both food and sexuality as Fisher becomes a more independent woman and discovers her writing abilities. What a woman! What a novel!"

—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



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Sweetgirl: A Novel

By Travis Mulhauser

"When her addict mother goes missing, Percy James is determined to find her before a winter storm descends upon their rural Michigan town. When Percy arrives at the drug dealer's house, the smells and clutter don't surprise her, but the discovery of a screaming infant does. Percy grabs the child and sets out to find help for her, no matter what the cost. Determined to save this little girl, Percy takes risks she never thought she could assume, and through the journey she finds she can save herself as well. Fans of Ron Rash will fall in love with Percy in Mulhauser's debut!"

—Teresa Steele, Old Firehouse Books, Fort Collins, CO



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Georgia: A Novel of Georgia O'Keeffe

By Dawn Tripp

"*Georgia* is as stunningly beautiful as the artwork that inspired it. With amazing insight, Tripp captures the personal and artistic relationships between two difficult, brilliant, and complex people: the artist Georgia O'Keeffe and her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz. This is an incredible read from beginning to end, a book that begs to be discussed!"

—Vicky Titcomb, Titcomb's Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA



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FEBRUARY '16

My Father, the Pornographer: A Memoir

By Chris Offutt

"This fascinating memoir of Offutt's difficult relationship with his father is complicated by the realization that his father was a prolific writer of pornography. Author Andrew Offutt was known as a science fiction writer, but, with his death, his son discovers that his family's income was due to the astounding abundance of writing in this other genre. As he catalogs his father's library of writings, drawings, and more, Offutt tries to understand the man that kept his family walking on eggshells. Difficult to read at times, but complex, intriguing, and hard to put down."

—Nona Camuel, CoffeeTree Books, Morehead, KY



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FEBRUARY '16

Sudden Death: A Novel

By Álvaro Enrigue

"*Sudden Death* is one of the most audacious, smart, and original books you will read this year. It is a literary triptych—part history lesson, part tennis match, and part hypermodern adventure. Daring and visceral with a cast that includes Thomas Cromwell, Mary Magdalene, Aztec emperors and more, the limits of the novel in Enrigue's hands seem boundless. No other author is taking chances like this with such gratifying results."

—Mark Haber, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX



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FEBRUARY '16

The Flood Girls: A Novel

By Richard Fifiel

"Rachel Flood moves back home to a rural anywhere town: Quinn, Montana. In Quinn, dirty bars breed dirty people, and Rachel struggles to find kindness in a place that kindness seems to have abandoned. These are the '90s, and these are the women—crude and unapologetic—who carry Fifiel's debut to its shocking, though perhaps necessary, end with the harsh winds that slam across Montana's eastern prairie. Booze, softball, western wildlife, bar fights—and the clothes! The music!"

—Lauren Korn, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT



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FEBRUARY '16

In Other Words

By Jhumpa Lahiri, Ann Goldstein (Trans.)

"Lahiri traces the origins, tribulations, and tiny victories that have fueled her decades-long courtship with the Italian language in a bilingual memoir that reads more like an intimate diary. The chapters and short stories offer a vivid timeline of Lahiri's turbulent relationship with language, bouncing around from English to Bengali during her childhood, immersing herself in the Italian culture by moving her family overseas, and finally attempting to write a book in a new voice. *In Other Words* is much more than an attempt at self-reflection and reinvention—it's a mastery."

—Carly Lenz, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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FEBRUARY '16

Missing Pieces: A Novel

By Heather Gudenkauf

"Gudenkauf once again weaves her magic, drawing readers into her latest work. *Missing Pieces* is a story of dark family secrets that have multiplied over the years, eroding the trust and love between husbands and wives, siblings, parents, and children. Gudenkauf uses deliberate pacing, skillful character development, and even the old nursery rhyme 'Three Blind Mice' to bring this thriller to a perfect, stunning ending."

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, The Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



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FEBRUARY '16

The Ramblers: A Novel

By Aiden Donnelley Rowley

"This charming book is an homage to families – both the ones we are born with and the ones we create. It follows three characters in their early 30s who are trying to take the next steps toward growing up, deciding who they really are, and what they really want to do with the rest of their lives. They are closely linked and surrounded by family members who are in turns supportive, destructive, and ultimately loving. As members of New York's privileged, they are free to explore their options while enjoying the best the city has to offer. You will laugh, cry, and cheer these characters on as they come to terms with both their past and their future."

—Ann Carlson, Waterfront Books, Georgetown, SC



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FEBRUARY '16

The Queen of the Night: A Novel

By Alexander Chee

"This historical novel about an opera singer is as grand and theatrical as opera itself. It is the story of a legendary soprano who looks back at her past to solve a mystery, but it is also a story of an artist and the road she takes to become one. Chee attempts the seemingly impossible—to describe a soprano voice with words—and he succeeds brilliantly, creating a tale that is vivid, intricate, and rich. Throw in cameos by figures like Verdi and George Sand, fascinating details about royal fashions, 19th century Paris, theater, and a circus, and the result is a perfect novel."

—Anton Bogomazov, Politics & Prose, Washington, DC



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FEBRUARY '16

The Unfinished World: And Other Stories

By Amber Sparks

"The beautiful stories in Sparks' debut collection have an ephemeral quality that is difficult to categorize. Comparisons can be made to Haruki Murakami or George Saunders, but the writing is honestly unlike anything I have ever read. The otherworldliness of these stories will transport you beyond the minutiae of your everyday life and alter the way you look at the world."

—Shawn Donley, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



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