



JUNE 2016

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Church of Marvels: A Novel

By Leslie Parry

"In this page-turner of a debut very little is what it first appears to be. Set in Coney Island and Manhattan at the end of the 19th century, *Church of Marvels* is populated with carnival folk and others living on the edge of society with either much to hide or much to discover. The characters are richly drawn and their circumstances exceptionally intriguing as they seek and find the complicated truths of their lives in the dark underbelly of New York."

—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO



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Circling the Sun: A Novel

By Paula McLain

"Reading *Circling the Sun* reminded me of the deep pleasure of solid storytelling: the vast landscape of colonial Kenya, complicated and compelling historical characters, love, suffering, and adventure combine to create a captivating narrative. McLain imagines the African childhood and early adulthood of real-life horse trainer and pioneering female aviator, Beryl Markham, as well as her social milieu which included Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, who, as Isak Dinesen, wrote *Out of Africa*. Markham lived a fascinating and uncompromising life filled with danger, ill-fated romance, and stunning bravery, and McLain does justice to her memory with this sensitive and beautifully written portrayal."

—Rhianna Walton, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



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Did You Ever Have a Family: A Novel

By Bill Clegg

"It has been some time since a book has affected me quite the way this novel has. I was struck by the authentic portrayal of characters that moved beyond the pages and made me see human beings in a whole new way. A tragedy of great proportion sets in motion an unraveling of lives, an examination of what people hold dear, and a recognition of how relationships with those closest are the most important facets of life. I really lived with these characters for the brief time I was reading this book. The writing is beautiful and the mystery at the heart of the book will keep readers riveted. This is the sort of work scholars are referring to when they explain why literature and the novel is so vitally important to our understanding of the human condition."

—Jenny Lyons, The Vermont Bookshop, Middlebury, VT



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NOW IN PAPERBACK

How to Start a Fire: A Novel

By Lisa Lutz

"*How to Start a Fire* integrates Lutz's trademark humor, quippy dialog, and quirky characters with a story of three college friends who meet in Santa Cruz in 1993. Readers will fall in love with these three women as they experience failed marriages, career decisions, and other significant life events. Those who are new to Lutz will gobble up this standalone entry and then race to their bookstore to begin reading about the Spellman family in her earlier bestselling series."

—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA



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Kitchens of the Great Midwest: A Novel

By J. Ryan Stradal

"In the story of Midwestern chef savant Eva Thorvald and the people—and foods—that touch her life, Stradal has created a picture of the American foodie revolution of the past 25 years and of its intersections with class, economics, family, and culture. Along with irresistible characters and stories, this is a novel about the potential that food and cooking offer for joy and empowerment, for snobbery and shame, and for identity and reinvention. Beautifully structured and affectionately and hilariously written, this is a novel that—like Thorvald's exclusive pop-up supper club—everyone is going to be talking about!"

—Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY



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The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey

By Rinker Buck

"Inspired by a family trip in a covered wagon in the 1950s, Rinker Buck and his brother Nick set out by wagon to discover what remains of the Oregon Trail between Missouri and Oregon. Along the way, readers learn about wagon design, mule heritage, and what pioneers needed to endure traveling west in the 19th century. This is also a moving personal story of brotherhood, endurance, and the kindness of strangers. Buck weaves fact, action, and reflection together into a page-turning delight that history buffs and fans of contemporary nonfiction will not want to miss."

—Dick Hermans, Oblong Books & Music, Millerton, NY

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NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Rocks: A Novel

By Peter Nichols

"This enchanting tale set against the backdrop of the beautiful Mediterranean is a bittersweet double love story told in reverse. *The Rocks* begins with a dramatic, shocking event and then moves backward in time to reveal the 60-year-old secret that caused the unraveling of a marriage and forever altered the lives of the two families involved. A page-turning family saga with a mystery at its core, this is the perfect book to usher in a summer of great reading!"

—Adrian Newell, Warwick's, La Jolla, CA



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Sevенеves: A Novel

By Neal Stephenson

"In this exciting and cerebral epic spanning 5,000 years, Stephenson explores the effects of a devastating catastrophe on the course of humanity. After the moon is shattered by an unknown agent, small groups of humans survive the ensuing holocaust—some by digging deep underground, others by seeking refuge in space. Millennia later, the separate branches of mankind converge, inexorably changed. I was completely consumed by this book, terrified and awed by Stephenson's vision of our future. This is essential science fiction."

—Emily Ring, Inklings Bookshop, Yakima, WA



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This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!: A Novel

By Jonathan Evison

"With *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!*, Evison has crafted an instant classic. Recently widowed 78-year-old Harriet embarks on an Alaskan cruise that proves to be the vehicle for her own self-discovery. As one shocking truth after another is revealed about Harriet's life, readers come to love this woman who is anything but perfect, and whose life is anything but ordinary. With an inventive, addictive structure and prose that surges with life, humor, and compassion, *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* is one to move to the very top of your reading list."

—Rob Dougherty, Clinton Book Shop, Clinton, NJ



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