



JUNE '16

The Girls: A Novel

By Emma Cline

"Evie Boyd is a lonely 14-year-old adjusting to her parents' recent divorce and an emotional break with her childhood best friend. She encounters a wild and enchanting group of girls and is immediately drawn into their world of reckless abandon. Seduced by their thrilling, cult-like family hidden in the California hills, Evie finds herself pulled into events that will lead to unspeakable violence. Cline's captivating prose strips bare the deep desires and vulnerability of teenage Evie as she struggles for acceptance. *The Girls* is an enthralling and haunting novel that will linger with readers long after the last page."

—Tarah Jennings, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD



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Before the Fall: A Novel

By Noah Hawley

"When a private plane plunges into the ocean off Martha's Vineyard, the media and the government want answers. The two survivors—a middle-aged artist along for the ride and the 4-year-old son of a prominent and powerful family – have little to say. *Before the Fall* takes the reader on a thrilling ride through the past lives of the other passengers and the aftermath of the crash. As the deepest secrets of the wealthy and those who surround them surface, no one is safe. A brilliant and relentless thriller."

—Geoffrey Jennings, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS



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Homegoing: A Novel

By Yaa Gyasi

"*Homegoing* is an epic narrative that is sure to become a treasured staple. Two sisters in Ghana are marked by fiery tragedy: one is married off to an English slave trader, and the other is sold to be a slave in America. The story follows their descendants generation by generation. *Homegoing* will break your heart over and over, impress you with the resilience of the human spirit and the amazing power of forgiveness, and leave you optimistic and in awe."

—Nichole McCown, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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Modern Lovers

By Emma Straub

"Set in trendy Brooklyn, Straub's latest novel follows the lives of former bandmates Zoe, Elizabeth, and Andrew and their teenage children, Ruby and Harry. When Ruby and Harry begin a relationship, their parents are forced to face and reveal long-buried tensions and secrets. Straub's spot-on depictions of middle-age suburban life and teenage angst are alternatively searing and hilarious. This book is the ultimate literary beach read!"

—Alexis Jason-Mathews, Politics & Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Washington, DC



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Smoke: A Novel

By Dan Vyleta

"Imagine a world where every dark thought you possessed was revealed by a wisp of smoke. And what if a portion of society could hide their darkness, while others were forever stained by their sins? Set in an alternative England, this tale reveals what really lies behind this sinful soot through the eyes of three teenagers who begin to question all they have been told. *Smoke* is a brilliant combination of fantasy and historical fiction, where layers of mystery and glimmers of truth will keep readers feverishly turning pages until the very end."

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



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Lily and the Octopus: A Novel

By Steven Rowley

"*Lily and the Octopus* is a profound book about all the important things in life—love, how to let go, how important it is to live in the moment, and how one big love can lead to another. And Lily, dear Lily, is at the center—a smart, movie-loving dog who would never pass up the chance at some good ice cream, tofurkey dinner, or beaming her unconditional love at her human companion, Ted. Told with humor, compassion, and a quirky sense of life's possibilities, *Lily and the Octopus* will hold you by the heart long after the final page is turned."

—Pam Cady, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



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The Fireman: A Novel

By Joe Hill

"A pandemic called Dragonscale has infected civilization and threatens to end it. The contagion spreads quickly and people are spontaneously combusting. Harper Grayson is a nurse struggling to save those who are infected. When she contracts Dragonscale, Harper is rescued by an enigmatic man known only as The Fireman, who takes her to a camp populated by those who have learned to control their disease. Longtime fans of Hill and his father, Stephen King, will enjoy the homage to King's masterpiece *The Stand*, while new readers will appreciate Hill's work on its own merit."

—Sharon K. Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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Wintering: A Novel

By Peter Geye

"It is tempting to inhale *Wintering* in a great rush because it is such a suspenseful, wild, and dangerous survival story. That would be a mistake. Geye magically conveys the starkness, beauty, and despair of the northern Minnesota borderlands in prose that deserves to be savored. He gives us characters with deep, complex interior lives, who struggle with secrets, love, and damaged relationships. A powerful father-son story and a landscape revealed in breathtaking detail make this a novel to read with care and wonder."

—Tripp Ryder, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN



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Grief Is the Thing With Feathers: A Novel

By Max Porter

"This novel in verse begins with the death of a wife and mother told through the eyes of her husband, her two sons, and, unexpectedly, a crow. Crow—one part trickster-god, one part guardian, and wholly unpredictable—descends upon this fractured family to watch over them in their grief and guide them back to the land of the living. Porter's phrases and descriptions startled me with their clarity, and undid me with their simple and unexpected poignancy."

—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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The After Party: A Novel

By Anton DiSclafani

"The real star of *The After Party* is the novel's setting: 1950s Texas, where wealthy housewives and Junior League debutantes rule the social landscape. At the center is Joan Fortier, an unconventional bachelorette who is not content to sit on the sidelines—or to stay in Houston. Joan's attitude causes conflict with her childhood best friend, CeCe Buchanan, and their relationship falters, exposing insecurities in both women. Fans of DiSclafani's first novel, *The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls*, will not be disappointed by this well-written, engaging new work."

—Annie B. Jones, The Bookshelf, Thomasville, GA



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I'm Thinking of Ending Things: A Novel

By Iain Reid

"With his debut novel, Reid sets an extremely high bar for all future psychological thrillers. The entire story takes place in little over 24 hours as Jake and his girlfriend travel to meet and have dinner with his parents. Narrated by the unnamed girlfriend, something unsettling surfaces early and builds with the passage of every page. Readers will become riveted, reading faster and faster as the 'unsettling' becomes frightening, and then terrifying. Recommended for all who enjoy a good mind-twisting scare!"

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



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JUNE '16

My Best Friend's Exorcism: A Novel

By Grady Hendrix

"Abby and Gretchen are the best of friends. They have navigated through all the adolescent pros and cons that came with growing up in the late '80s: zits, big hair, getting the nod from senior class heartthrob Tommy Cox, and—demonic possession? Written in Hendrix's unique, darkly comedic, and slightly twisted voice, *My Best Friend's Exorcism* is that quirky and satiating page-turner that fans of Horrorstor have been salivating for."

—Angelo Santini, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI



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The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper: A Novel

By Phaedra Patrick

"Arthur Pepper has finally gotten around to cleaning out his deceased wife's clothes when he comes across her charm bracelet. He doesn't remember seeing it before, and the charms pique his curiosity about the life his wife led before they met. Thus begins an adventure that will have Arthur learning to embrace life more fully and becoming more present in the lives of those he cares about. Grab a seat and get lost in this charming read with characters you will cheer on, laugh with, and perhaps shed a tear for."

—Lisa Fabiano, An Unlikely Story, Plainville, MA



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The Insides: A Novel

By Jeremy P. Bushnell

"With wildly inventive ideas, compelling suspense, and surprising emotional depth, *The Insides* captured my attention and imagination right from the start. Bushnell is a playful and adventurous writer, coloring outside the lines of genre, breaking the real world open and building his own between the cracks. In a feat of literary street magic, he blends the ordinary and the surreal together into a harmony that feels perfectly right and true even as it disorients the senses. The result is a quirky paradox of a novel: fierce yet tender, lighthearted yet severe, weird yet natural."

—Jason Foose, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



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Goodnight, Beautiful Women

By Anna Noyes

"These interconnected stories set in Maine and around the Northeast coast announce a startling new writer of strong literary fiction. Noyes' women yearn, stumble, get back up, make terrible mistakes, strive, keep dark secrets, take off, come back again, and fumble toward love. An extraordinarily raw voice that will remind readers of Rebecca Lee and Elizabeth Strout."

—Melanie Fleischman, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI



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Marrow Island

By Alexis M. Smith

"After an earthquake destroyed the oil refinery on Marrow Island and killed her father, Lucie Bowen left. Twenty years later, she returns to the Puget Sound and discovers her friend Kate is now living on this toxic island with members of 'The Colony.' Set in the Pacific Northwest, *Marrow Island* is a mystery/thriller that encompasses communal living, natural and man-made disasters, and what can happen when we tinker with the ecosystem and try to play a larger role."

—Tracy Taylor, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



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JUNE '16

The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks

By Terry Tempest Williams

"Terry Tempest Williams' latest book, published for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, is personal, political, and profound. Her examination of 12 national parks is much more than a guide to the history and landscape of those places. It is a guide to the heart and soul of the entire National Park system, whose depth is exceeded only by its beauty."

—Chuck Robinson, Village Books, Bellingham, WA



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Dinner With Edward: A Story of an Unexpected Friendship

By Isabel Vincent

"*Dinner With Edward* is the charming story of the author's friendship with her friend's widower father. Vincent does a wonderful job evoking the sensuous details of the meals they shared, but this is more than just a foodie memoir: it is an exploration of the nature of friendship, aging, loss, and how we define our identities as the world changes around us. Despite the sadness of some of its topics, *Dinner With Edward* is ultimately a warm, feel-good story."

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



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JUNE '16

The View From the Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction

By Neil Gaiman

"I must be one of the few people to love Neil Gaiman most for his nonfiction. Over the years, I've scoured the shelves and online for his speeches, his introductions, his forewords, even his tweets and blog posts, so this book is a thing of wonder. Filled to bursting with his humor, wisdom, and hope, all articulated in the thoughtful, generous prose we know and love, *The View From the Cheap Seats* will keep you company, give you solace, and help you think deeper, smile harder, and breathe easier."

—Serena Longo, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA



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The Weekenders: A Novel

By Mary Kay Andrews

"This book is perfectly named. The title describes the characters in the story and also recommends it be read during a relaxing weekend on the beach, by the pool, or curled up on the couch at home. True to her roots, Andrews serves up a mystery complete with a dead body and lots of secrets, many of which don't get revealed until the very end. And to add a touch of urgency, there's a hurricane. What could be better?"

—Rona Brinlee, The BookMark, Neptune Beach, FL



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