



SEPTEMBER '16

Commonwealth: A Novel

By Ann Patchett

"Patchett leaves behind the exotic locales and intricate plots of *State of Wonder* and *Bel Canto* for an even darker and more difficult place to navigate—the interior of a blended family over the course of several decades. While more domestic than many of her previous novels, *Commonwealth* offers plenty of intrigue and surprises as Patchett explores the interaction of a group of children forced into each other's lives because of their parents' impulsive choices. With keen insight, tears of both sorrow and joy, and some real—if dark—humor, Patchett pulls readers into this complex family's world, and we are eager for every detail."

—John Christensen, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI



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SEPTEMBER '16

Mischling: A Novel

By Affinity Konar

"Sisters Stasha and Pearl are accustomed to the imaginative interior life they share as twins, but in Josef Mengele's 'Zoo' at Auschwitz they must find refuge in that life in order to survive. Readers descend into the violence and despair of the Holocaust as experienced through the eyes of the twins but are protected by an innocence that is also urbane and by a sardonic playfulness that does not shy from horrors but transforms them into fortitude and resilience. Konar has achieved the unlikely—*Mischling* simultaneously haunts and inspires."

—Kelly Pickerill, Lemuria Bookstore, Jackson, MS



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SEPTEMBER '16

A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel

By Amor Towles

"Through Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov's ordinary encounters and activities within the bounds of the four walls of post-revolutionary Moscow's Metropol Hotel, where he is under house arrest, Towles deftly guides readers across a century of Russian history, from the Bolshevik uprising to the dawn of the nuclear age under Krushchev. Grandiloquent language and drama reminiscent of Tolstoy gradually give way to action and tradecraft suggestive of *le Carré* in this lovely and entertaining tale of one man's determination to maintain his dignity and passion for life, even after being stripped of his title, belongings, and freedom. Reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* is pure pleasure!"

—Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT



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SEPTEMBER '16

The Underground Railroad: A Novel

By Colson Whitehead

"Whitehead's new novel is much more than the story of a runaway slave, Cora, who fights her way to the North; it is also a phantasmagorical look at race in America. In this instance the railroad is literal—a train roaring through tunnels constructed like a subway, leading Cora to several unlikely destinations. Like the travels of Gulliver, each of Cora's stops on the railroad is a different version of America, displaying the varied ways in which Americans view race and manifest destiny. With exquisite prose, Colson digs deep into the troubled heart of America, exposing prejudice, tolerance, hatred, violence, and love as readers stop at each distinct station. Cora is a hero for the ages, and Whitehead is a writer who can guide us, like a station master, into the light. This is a fantastic novel."

—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



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SEPTEMBER '16

The Nix: A Novel

By Nathan Hill

"Hill's debut is remarkable because it does both the little things and the big things right. It is an intimate novel of identity and loss, the story of a boy abandoned and the man now trying to recover. It also paints a vivid portrait of America and its politics from the 1960s to the present. *The Nix* overflows with unforgettable characters, but none more clearly rendered than Samuel Andersen-Anderson and his mother, Faye, both bewildered by life and struggling to repair the rift between them. From intimate whispers to American news cycles, this astounding novel of reclamation is guaranteed to sweep readers off their feet."

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



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SEPTEMBER '16

Leave Me: A Novel

By Gayle Forman

"Filled with poignant, heartwarming insights into the incessant demands of marriage and motherhood, *Leave Me* brilliantly shows readers that sometimes you really do have to run away from it all in order to discover what really matters. In her adult debut, Forman provides a frank and moving story about losing and finding yourself by embracing the power of forgiveness, the inevitability of growth, and the stubbornness of love."

—Anderson McKean, Page and Palette, Fairhope, AL



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A Great Reckoning: A Novel

By Louise Penny

"There is something rotten at the Sûreté academy, and the now-retired Chief Inspector Armand Gamache has been brought in to clean it up. In the meantime, a strange map has been found in Three Pines. Old friends, new characters, murder, and history combine in another irresistible tale from Penny, whose writing is always compassionate, funny, and literate. This latest in the series is not to be missed."

—Kathy Magruder, Pageturners Bookstore, Indianola, IA



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SEPTEMBER '16

Darktown: A Novel

By Thomas Mullen

"*Darktown* is a knockout novelization of the history of Atlanta's first black police officers, who were appointed in 1948. Deftly merging social history with crime fiction, the story follows two of the new recruits as they secretly investigate the murder of a young black woman. It is a mission fraught with danger as the black officers come up against bigoted white officers and the insidious racism of an Atlanta still under Jim Crow. Mullen spins an immersive tale out of this friction, and it is his willingness to engage with this time period and to let its ugly realities shape and inform the course of the investigation that elevates this novel from a standard procedural."

—Nneoma Amadi-Obi, Politics & Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Washington, DC



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The Gentleman: A Novel

By Forrest Leo

"Fast-paced, funny, and extremely enjoyable, *The Gentleman* has fantastic elements and intriguing characters tied together with smart dialogue and timing reminiscent of a Baz Luhrman film. Badly behaved Victorian ladies, indolent poets, an exasperated editor, intrepid British adventurers, steampunk inventors, omniscient butlers, a genteel Devil, and a number of cunning plans combine to make this debut novel exciting and amusing."

—Jennifer Richter, Inkwood Books, Haddonfield, NJ



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SEPTEMBER '16



Little Nothing: A Novel

By Marisa Silver

"Silver turns the oral tradition into fine literature with *Little Nothing*, a masterful work of fairy tale and folklore. Pavla, a dwarf born in Eastern Europe in the early 20th century, is a survivor who magically adapts time and again in order to overcome cruelty. Danilo loves her and is obsessed only with protecting her. This is a story of the power of transformation and the gift of finding the love we need, if not the love we seek."

—Maureen Stinger, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA



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SEPTEMBER '16



The Risen: A Novel

By Ron Rash

"The most overused cliché in the book business is 'page-turner,' so I will ask indulgence when I declare that *The Risen* by Ron Rash is a page-turner in the truest sense of the phrase. *The Risen* explores a young boy's coming of age, sibling rivalry, a decades-old mystery, and extreme life choices. It is an exciting read for all who appreciate literature at its finest."

—Jake Reiss, Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL



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**Lady Cop Makes Trouble:
A Kopp Sisters Novel**

By Amy Stewart

"Stewart's follow-up to *Girl Waits With Gun* is equally fascinating. Based on the life of Constance Kopp, the first female deputy sheriff in New Jersey, this tale takes readers from rural New Jersey to the mean streets of New York City in 1915. With grit, smarts, and utter determination, Constance tracks a convict who escaped her custody. Despite the astounding restrictions on a woman's life in the early 20th century, Constance takes every risk to capture her suspect. Complemented by the historical notes that Stewart provides, *Lady Cop* is both informative and loads of fun."

—Kathy Kirby, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



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SEPTEMBER '16

Razor Girl: A Novel

By Carl Hiaasen

"Welcome back to Southern Florida! In the land of flimflam artists, illegal substances, and scantily clad women, disgraced detective Andrew Yancy is just trying to get his job back. Merry Mansfield, master of the car crash scam, insinuates herself into Yancy's life with brazen confidence. As it turns out, he needs her more than he could ever anticipate. Reality TV stars, redneck kidnapers, mobsters, and corrupt developers cross paths throughout this novel in hilarious, nonstop action. Hiaasen is at the top of his game with quirky characters, rapid-fire banter, and Wodehouse-like plotting."

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



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SEPTEMBER '16

The Art of Waiting: On Fertility, Medicine, and Motherhood

By Belle Boggs

"Boggs tackles a variety of challenging topics throughout this cohesive collection of essays. With a knowledgeable, considerate, and honest mind, Boggs is somehow able to transform the clinical and sedate language of infertility treatments into a beautiful song of hope and transformation. The metaphors Boggs finds for her travails sing, and the patient quality of her narration stuns. The candidness of her voice, combined with her ability to find the perfect words to sum up data, studies, statistics, and personal experience, make *The Art of Waiting* a gift for all readers."

—John Francisconi, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



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SEPTEMBER '16

A Whole Life: A Novel

By Robert Seethaler, Charlotte Collins (Trans.)

"Andreas Egger lived his whole life with nature as his most trusted companion. When humans, war, and debilitating events threatened him, he quietly climbed mountains, bathed in icy streams, watched the sun streak its intense color into the sky, and then put his head down and forged ahead. He lived eight decades, mostly alone, and faced death and privation with heroism, stoicism, and a depth of character rarely seen in the 'modern' 20th century. In this short novel, Seethaler has poetically created a character and a way of looking at the natural world that readers will never forget."

—Gayle Shanks, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



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SEPTEMBER '16

The Fortunes: A Novel

By Peter Ho Davies

"At a time of talk about building walls and isolationism, Davies offers a look at American history through the lives of a group of people who have helped to forge this nation—Chinese-Americans. Davies presents characters for whom the American dream is as elusive or as real as it would be to any others. Set in the California Gold Rush, 1930s Hollywood, and the present day, Davies' tale is artfully told with passion and conviction, and readers will empathize fully with each generation of 'outsiders.'"

—Jessie Martin, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI



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SEPTEMBER '16

Loner: A Novel

By Teddy Wayne

"David Federman, a gifted student who is both socially awkward and emotionally immature, is trying to find his place as a Harvard freshman. Enter the beautiful and sophisticated Veronica Wells, and David is hopelessly, obsessively in love for the first time. Suffice it to say this is not a match made in heaven, and it ends badly for everyone when David starts stalking Veronica and violates the school's honor code—the first steps down a slippery slope towards a violent and tragic ending. David is by turns sympathetic and repellent, and *Loner* is a complex portrayal of alienation, gender politics, and class at the highest echelons of American academic life."

—Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT



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SEPTEMBER '16

Pancakes in Paris: Living the American Dream in France

By Craig Carlson

"Pancakes and Paris make for a winning combination in this charming memoir. Readers will cheer for Carlson as he follows his dream of opening a restaurant in another country. He faces many challenges, but perseveres until he reaches his goal. Thanks to Carlson it is now possible to get hearty pancakes and other treats at Breakfast in America, the first American-style diner in Paris. This is a perfect read for armchair travelers or for Francophiles planning their next trip to the City of Lights."

—Elizabeth Merritt, Titcomb's Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA



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The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World

By Peter Wohlleben

"*The Hidden Life of Trees* reads like a 250-page epiphany. Wohlleben knows trees inside and out, and his revelatory examination of the inner lives of forests provides evidence of what many sensitive nature-lovers long suspected: that trees form friendships, sustain one another, and should be viewed as more than a natural resource. This is the kind of writing that can profoundly affect the way we live on this planet."

—Stephen Sparks, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA



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SEPTEMBER '16

A House Without Windows: A Novel

By Nadia Hashimi

"Hashimi sets her layered and suspenseful novel at the crossroads of tradition and modernity in present-day Afghanistan. Her nuanced and well-paced tale tells the story of Zeba, who is accused of murdering her husband. In the Chil Mahtab prison, where Zeba awaits her trial and sentencing, she comes to know a colorful cast of female inmates, many of whom are ordinary women who have been snared in various traps of family honor and have been cast away by their families and by society. This is a compassionately written and moving page-turner."

—Marya Johnston, Out West Books, Grand Junction, CO



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