



NOVEMBER 2017 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Difficult Women

By Roxane Gay

“A ‘difficult woman’ has become shorthand for one who questions patriarchal power and who refuses to be defined by a standard of femininity. The women who populate Gay’s story collection are all difficult in their own ways—mothers, sisters, lovers, some married and some single, most of flesh and one of glass—yet they are all searching for understanding, for identity, and for ways to make sense of a sometimes nonsensical, cruel world. Some of Gay’s stories are graphic, some are allegorical, and all are important commentaries on being female in modern America.”

—Becky Gilmer, Bloomsbury Books, Ashland, OR



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The Fall Guy: A Novel

By James Lasdun

“*The Fall Guy* introduces its three main characters as they leave the hustle and bustle of New York City for a calm summer sojourn upstate, but things take a Lynchian turn when Charlie and Chloe’s guest, Charlie’s cousin Matthew, notices what appears to be duplicitous behavior within and outside their home. Lasdun does an incredible job of slowly ratcheting up the suspense, earning the reader’s trust with his spare, pitch-perfect language, and upending expectations on every page. Morally complex characters and sensuous prose are just a few of the rewards of Lasdun’s latest, and greatest, novel.”

—John Francisconi, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



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The Glass Universe

By Dava Sobel

“Spectrography is a way of studying stars by taking pictures that separate astral light into different wavelengths. The practice was pioneered by Dr. Henry Draper of the Harvard Observatory in the late 1800s, but the long and detailed work of interpreting the images and classifying the stars was done by a group of women. In this long overdue tribute to Harvard’s ‘human computers,’ Sobel, author of *Longitude*, brilliantly intertwines science, history, and biography, charting progress women have made in establishing themselves in a notoriously male-dominated field.”

—Laurie Greer, Politics & Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Washington, DC



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History of Wolves: A Novel

By Emily Fridlund

“A lonely teenager in rural northern Minnesota, Linda is desperate for connection and obsessed with both her enigmatic new neighbors and a classmate entangled in a scandalous relationship with a teacher. Narrating these seemingly disparate story threads is the adult Linda, who may have been villain, victim, or bystander in at least one tragedy. Debut author Fridlund weaves a complex, multilayered morality tale rich in metaphor and symbolism. This haunting, meticulously crafted novel is perfect for reading groups!”

—Sharon Flesher, Brilliant Books, Traverse City, MI



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Mister Monkey: A Novel

By Francine Prose

"I came to this book expecting to be entertained, and it is laugh-out-loud funny. But in the wise and observant ways of Prose, *Mister Monkey* is more than just a protracted joke. The story begins in the narrow spaces of a theater soon to be demolished for condos and widens as Prose shifts points of view from actor to costume designer to writer to waiter to Hindu deity and back to the stage. Adolescent rage, loneliness, divinity, the end of the world, the beginning of love, the way we fail to live up to our dreams for ourselves, and the unexpected victories that fill the spaces made by disappointment: these are the soul of this novel with an agile, monkey heart. This is one of my favorite novels of the year."

—Melanie McNair, Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville, NC



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The Mothers: A Novel

By Brit Bennett

"The 'mothers' of this book's title refers to the gaggle of elderly churchgoing women who comment on the congregation around them, especially the trio of Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey. But *The Mothers* is about more than that—it refers to the concept of motherhood, whether real, lost, aborted, adoptive, or conflicted. The three young people at the heart of this story are all flawed, but their portrayals are realistic. This is a book about the salvation that comes with self-acceptance and growth. An honest, modern, and triumphant book."

—Jamie Thomas, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL



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Perfect Little World: A Novel

By Kevin Wilson

"Izzy Poole is 18, pregnant with her erratic art teacher's baby, and without any family or money. Dr. Preston Grind is tragically widowed and estranged from his parents, who raised him using unconventional and unhealthy methods in the name of science. Dr. Grind invites Izzy and nine other couples also expecting their first child to join the Infinite Family Project, an experiment in communal parenting. This is a fascinating and touching exploration of what makes or breaks a family."

—Marisa Langlois, Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Springs, NY



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The Second Mrs. Hockaday: A Novel

By Susan Rivers

"When Major Gryffth Hockaday returns home after years fighting in the Civil War, he discovers that his wife had given birth to a child who later died under mysterious circumstances. Knowing he cannot be the father of the child, he has murder charges brought against his wife. The story of what happened unfold through letters and diary entries written by Placidia Hockaday and other family members, culminating in a shocking truth. Inspired by actual events, the characters and story that Rivers has created are truly memorable. A unique and fascinating read."

—Sherri Gallentine, Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA



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To Capture What We Cannot Keep: A Novel

By Beatrice Colin

“Societal constraints and expectations of the time impede the love affair of Cairiona Wallace and Émile Nougier from the moment they meet in a hot air balloon above the Champ de Mars in 1886. Émile’s ailing mother is pressuring him to marry and take over the family business even as he is facing both public and professional stress as co-designer of the Eiffel Tower. Cait is a young Scottish widow forced to work as a chaperone to a wealthy brother and sister. Cait’s and Émile’s paths cross and crisscross as Colin vividly captures La Belle Epoque in this quiet, atmospheric novel.”

—Jennifer Gwydir, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX



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Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother’s Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South

By Beth Macy

“In the early 20th century, Albino African American brothers are kidnapped by unscrupulous and racist circus managers who not only steal their earnings from their work as freak show performers, but tell their mother that they are dead. This occurs during the height of the Jim Crow South, when black lives didn’t matter and lynching was at its peak. Their mother’s persistent and heroic fight through legal channels to recoup her sons’ wages and achieve a better standard of living is at the heart of this true story, an inside look at the historical depths of American racism.”

—Joan Grenier, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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Who Watcheth: An Inspector Irene Huss Investigation

By Helene Tursten, Marlaine Delargy (Trans.)

“Tursten does not disappoint in the ninth installment of her impeccable Inspector Irene Huss Investigation series, moving it forward on a perfect note with Irene and her husband, Krister, beginning a new stage in their lives. One of the things I’ve always admired about this series, in addition to Irene’s strength and intelligence, is the normalcy of her life. I loved this book, but I was so busy racing through it to unravel the various threads that now I need to read it again and savor it. You will, too!”

—Eileen McGervey, One More Page Books, Arlington, VA



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The Whole Town’s Talking: A Novel

By Fannie Flagg

“This book will leave you nostalgic for simpler times and craving a homemade piece of pie! Flagg offers an absolutely lovely story about a small Missouri town from its founding in 1889 through the present and beyond, told through narrative, letters, and a gossip column. I will be recommending this charming and wonderful story to all readers!”

—Mary O’Malley, Anderson’s Bookshop, Naperville, IL



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