



FEBRUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK

4 3 2 1: A Novel

By Paul Auster

"I celebrate whenever there's something new by Paul Auster. I wasn't prepared, though, for just how moved, awed, and astonished I found myself while immersed in his inventive and grand novel *4 3 2 1*. About a life lived fully, about possibility in love and finding a path to take that's the right one, this is a large novel in all respects, but, most importantly, in spirit."

—Mitchell Kaplan, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



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FEBRUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK

American War: A Novel

By Omar El Akkad

"Omar El Akkad has delivered a stunning debut. He imagines a world in a not-too-distant future where Americans are at war with each other once again. The characters in this story are fully developed and individual, yet their histories—their stories—extend into the histories of all those displaced and affected by the forces of war. The title, *American War*, is a shape-shifter. At once, it means that America is again at war, but at times reflects the ways in which the true, actual wars that America has perpetrated on Earth have affected the lives of millions of people. This will be one of the most discussed books of the year, and I cannot wait to put it in the hands of all readers looking to be changed."

—Matt Keliher, SubText Books, St. Paul, MN



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Beartown: A Novel

By Fredrik Backman

"After a family tragedy, former NHL player Peter Andersson moves his family back to Beartown, where he's gotten a job as general manager for the local hockey club. Beartown is on its way back up, riding the heels of its most successful junior team in years. On the cusp of that victory, news breaks of a crime that shakes the community to its core. When the worst happens, who do you stand by—your team, your community, your family? In *Beartown*, Backman shows us, once again, that human beings are anything but predictable."

—Julia Turner, Itinerant Literate Books, N. Charleston, SC



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The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying

By Nina Riggs

"This uplifting and affirming book will alter readers' views about books on death. Nina Riggs' memoir shares the story of both her ongoing battle against cancer and her mother's valiant fight against the same disease. Both women face the realities of their situation with wonderful humor and candor. Readers will find themselves laughing out loud and sharing passages with other book lovers. As a cancer survivor myself, I felt that I was reading the 'bright book' of the season. The hope, spirit, and determination exhibited in these pages will provide inspiration to all, whether dealing with this disease or not."

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



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FEBRUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Lincoln in the Bardo: A Novel

By George Saunders

“Saunders’ first novel has a steep entry curve. It’s not a novel that reveals itself quickly and easily, but if you give it your attention, if you burrow deep into the book, you’ll be eminently rewarded. There is a richness and depth of humanity here. There is the strange and wonderful. There is love and grief and mystery all brought together in the story of Abraham Lincoln’s dead son, the Civil War, and what may happen to us all after we leave the mortal coil. It’s a beautiful and moving book that will stay with you for a long, long while.”

—Jason Vanhee, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



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A Piece of the World: A Novel

By Christina Baker Kline

“*A Piece of the World* is a beautifully rendered novel about the life of Christina Olson, the inspiration for Andrew Wyeth’s painting *Christina’s World*. Moving between Christina’s childhood and her long-term relationship with Wyeth during her middle years, *A Piece of the World* captures the internal struggles of a young woman living with a physically debilitating disease in rural Maine. Baker Kline does a masterful job of giving us insight into a fiercely independent woman who has suffered so many disappointments but still manages to create a fulfilling life for herself and inspire those around her with her strength.”

—Phyllis Spinale, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



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A Separation: A Novel

By Katie Kitamura

“We all have a secret self, parts of our personalities that are unknowable, even to the people closest to us. In *A Separation*, Kitamura stays largely inside the narrator’s head, musing on a great many things: the muddled truth that can exist between married couples, the precise pain of infidelity, the myriad tiny betrayals we commit every day. Her prose is perfect, spare and beautiful, and her observations are spot-on. Some of her sentences were so good they startled me out of the story, which might sound like a bad thing, but it really isn’t. It just meant I spent a little longer with this book.”

—Lauren Peugh, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ



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The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit

By Michael Finkel

“This is the fascinating true story of Christopher Knight, who lived in the Maine woods for 27 years and survived by stealing supplies from vacation cabins while living in extreme conditions to avoid detection. After more than 1,000 burglaries, he was finally caught and partially reintegrated into society. His story is told together with the history of hermits and those who have sought solitude in order to have insight. Chris defies psychological profiling, and it’s amazing Finkel was even able to interview him to write this book. This level of solitude would drive most people insane, but for Chris, it seems like an almost pure contemplative state.”

—Todd Miller, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI



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Sycamore: A Novel

By Bryn Chancellor

"Eighteen years after high school junior Jess Winters vanished from Sycamore, Arizona, human bones are found near where Jess was last seen alive. Everyone in the small community, from family to friends to teachers, was profoundly affected by the unsolved mystery. Told from multiple points of view, this deeply moving story explores the events that led to Jess' disappearance and slowly reveals the mistakes, secrets, and regrets, but also the humanity and the good, that reside in each of the characters. Heart-wrenching and compassionate in the manner of Kent Haruf's stories, this is a flawless first novel."

—Pierre Camy, Schuler Books, Grand Rapids, MI

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FEBRUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley: A Novel

By Hannah Tinti

"Hannah Tinti has accomplished something rare in *The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley*: she has written a book too exciting to put down, but too well written to race through or, heaven forbid, skim. Her novel, however, is more than just a treat for those of us who love literary thrillers; it is also a provocative exploration of violence and the extremes to which men and women will go to defend those they love. Because Tinti is so good at what she does, it is virtually impossible for us, her readers, not to become complicit in the mayhem and to be left wondering, in the end, what we would do in her characters' places."

—Ezra Goldstein, Community Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY

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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. 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. 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."

—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA

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FEBRUARY 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK

White Tears: A Novel

By Hari Kunzru

"An unsettling, grungy, gorgeous tale of white appropriations of black culture, legacy, and memory, of the harrowing effects of racism through the years, of a haunting that resonates through generations through a blues song that should have been stamped on vinyl, that maybe was but never was. This is a story of the costs of a lack of reparations, of money and power and powerlessness, all tied up in the viscerally kinetic prose of an author writing about obsession. Beautiful, ugly, indelible writing makes this a book I won't soon forget."

—Gretchen Treu, A Room of One's Own Bookstore, Madison, WI

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