



NOVEMBER 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Fire Sermon: A Novel

By Jamie Quatro

(Grove Press, 9780802128980, \$16)

"I'm presently gobsmacked by and head-over-heels in love with Jamie Quatro's *Fire Sermon*, a gorgeous, searing first novel that takes on themes of grace, God, desire, truth, and family. Told in an array of tenses and forms that range from poetry to e-mail (and everything in between), *Fire Sermon* takes great risks stylistically, as well as topically, leaving nothing stable in its wake. It is unsparing and uncompromising, singular, innervating, and strong, and it is a deeply, wonderfully stirring work of art."

—Will Walton, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



Green: A Novel

By Sam Graham-Felsen

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780399591167, \$17)

"Please read *Green*. You will fall in love with Graham-Felsen's David from his first utterances on page one of this original, thought-provoking twist on an important subject—race relations. Thank God David has such a great voice and there are so many humorous moments, or else I may have felt extremely sad about his experiences of being such an outsider. A truly memorable moment-in-time novel and a great read."

—Sue Roegge, Chapter2Books, Hudson, WI



Happiness: A Memoir: The Crooked Little Road to Semi-Ever After

By Heather Harpham

(Picador, 9781250301147, \$18)

"Heather Harpham's beautiful memoir is a deeply moving testament to love, commitment, and happiness. It might be difficult to find happiness while parenting a sick child alone, but Harpham's honesty about her struggles and fears allows us to connect to this story and see the beauty and happiness she finds. We watch in awe as she digs deep to do the difficult work, allows herself to be vulnerable as she seeks support, and practices patience in the face of anger. Harpham has found the happiness in moments, and her skillful prose will make your heart burst as you feel that happiness with her."

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



Heart Spring Mountain: A Novel

By Robin MacArthur

(Ecco, 9780062444431, \$16.99)

"Following her splendid 2016 short story collection, *Half Wild* (an Indies Introduce selection), Robin MacArthur's first novel revisits rural Vermont and uses a mixture of lyrical and earthy prose to explore three generations of a family riddled by secrets and burdens of the past. This area of the country, previously overlooked by literature,

proves to be rich ground that, while isolated, cannot avoid intrusions from the outside world in the form of man-made and natural disasters. The focus is on an extended family that can trace its roots back to Puritan ancestors but struggles against poverty, the unforgiving environment, and the lure of drugs. *Heart Spring Mountain* will introduce you to a host of memorable characters engaged in human folly and saved by redemptive love."

—Joe Strebels, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL



Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker

By Gregory Maguire

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062684370, \$16.99)

"This origin story of the Nutcracker's creator blurs the lines of fantasy. In it, we are treated to the best commentary on mythology, whether Greek or Germanic. Resurrected from death at a young age, Dirk Drosselmeier returns to the living with a gift from the great god Pan. As he grows older, Dirk remains young at heart and becomes a master figurine and toy maker. Maguire's gift at fleshing out characters of beloved and classic tales is so evident in *Hiddensee* that it will keep you reading at all costs."

—TJ Byrnes, Oblong Books and Music, Millerton, NY



The Mitford Murders: A Mystery

By Jessica Fellowes

(Minotaur Books, 9781250170798, \$16.99)

"I am not the main mystery reader in my household, but I loved *The Mitford Murders*. With perfect timing for all things Great Britain, Jessica Fellowes definitely deserves her uncle Julian's blessing to place the real-life Mitfords in a fictional *Downton Abbey*-like setting. It absolutely kept me guessing and satisfied all my English cravings. Well, at least until the royal wedding in May!"

—Sue Roegge, Chapter2Books, Hudson, WI



Signal Loss

By Garry Disher

(Soho Crime, 9781616959753, \$15.95)

"Set in Australia, the seventh in Disher's Challis and Destry series is just as action-packed and exciting as the previous books. Meth kingpins, hit men, and a serial rapist are the villains of this installment, and the Australian location adds interest and flavor."

—Susan Taylor, The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY



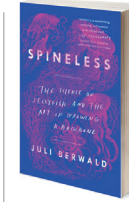
Sometimes I Lie: A Novel

By Alice Feeney

(Flatiron Books, 9781250144850, \$16.99)

"I feel messed up after finishing this, which is what I look for in a thriller. The twists and turns are dizzying, leading to an ending you won't see coming. Amber is recovering from a car crash, and since she's not quite out of her coma, we get to see flashbacks of her life and the events that brought her to where she is today. Everything—her radio job, her writer husband, and her perfect sister, Claire—is not what it seems. But then, neither is Amber. A perfect thriller to discuss and deconstruct with your book club!"

—Kate Towery, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA



Spineless: The Science of Jellyfish and the Art of Growing a Backbone

By Juli Berwald

(Riverhead Books, 9780735211285, \$16)

"Reading *Spineless* made me think of Nabokov's butterflies: The subject is distant to the extent that it feels almost extraterrestrial, but the author's passion is contagious. The complexity, the evolution, and the mystery of the organism grows on you, and, suddenly, you're excited about... well, jellyfish! *Spineless* gives climate change a story, and with it some much needed empathy."

—Sarah Reif, Kramerbooks, Washington, DC



Strangers in Budapest: A Novel

By Jessica Keener

(Algonquin Books, 9781616208646, \$15.95)

"With the fall of the communist regime, Budapest let in the light of new ideas and new people. Into this world of new opportunity move Americans Annie and Will. They are excited to create a new life together when then they meet mysterious, dangerous Edward. Will's instincts warn him to stay away from this new

acquaintance, but Annie is compelled to help him. As she and Will go deeper into the darkness of this stranger's plan for revenge against his daughter's supposed murderer, the tension becomes almost unbearable. Make no mistake—*Strangers in Budapest* is a tight, well-written thrill of a story you will not forget."

—Linda Bond, Auntie's Bookstore, Spokane, WA



White Houses: A Novel

By Amy Bloom

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812985696, \$17)

"Lorena Hickok, the most prominent female reporter in America, meets Eleanor Roosevelt in 1932 while reporting on Franklin Roosevelt's first presidential campaign. Almost immediately, Hick and Eleanor connect passionately and deeply, and Hick moves into the White House as 'First Friend.' The story of their bond is told with art and grace and a bit of intrigue by the wise and gifted Amy Bloom. A love story and historical novel, based on a true romance and unabashedly sensual, *White Houses* is extraordinary."

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



The Wine Lover's Daughter: A Memoir

By Anne Fadiman

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 9780374537944, \$16)

"I loved this memoir! The reader does not need to care about wine or know who Anne Fadiman is or Clifton Fadiman was. This is a book about family and how the differences between us can be one of the many things that actually draw us together. It is also about the life of a man who became a literary critic, editor, and radio host and was also the author's beloved father. Anne Fadiman has a fine writer with an ability to bring life to a variety of subjects, as has been shown in her previous essays and memoirs. One of the best memoirs to arrive on our scene in quite a while."

—Penny McConnel, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT