



# AUGUST 2019 NOW IN PAPERBACK



## America for Beginners: A Novel

By Leah Franqui

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062668769, \$15.99)

"A poignant story that confronts cultural, racial, and gender stereotypes through three people who end up on a trip across the U.S. The story revolves around a Bengali widow of means whose gay son was disowned; a young Bangladeshi man who has a job as a tour agent; and a young, white American woman who aspires to be

an actress. Courage to face the unknown—whether it is a foreign country or questioning a previously held conviction—shapes the story and shows that we all have the potential to grow and change."

—Susan Bush, Island Bound Bookstore, Block Island, RI



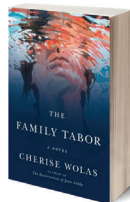
## An Absolutely Remarkable Thing: A Novel

By Hank Green

(Dutton, 9781524743468, \$16)

"This book is so much fun. When April May stumbles across the first 'Carl,' she initially thinks it's an art installation. It turns out these giant statues turned up overnight in major cities around the globe. Due to the viral video she made with her friend Andy, April May finds herself in the middle of a worldwide conversation and trying to manage her newfound celebrity status. Green is an excellent storyteller and has delivered a great coming-of-age/sci-fi debut novel."

—Jennifer Hill, Powell's Books, Portland, OR



## The Family Tabor: A Novel

By Cherise Wolas

(Flatiron Books, 9781250081476, \$18.99)

"When you have the most skillfully prepared, decadent dessert placed in front of you, do you plunge in and devour it? Or do you slowly savor it? This is the happy predicament I find myself in when approaching the work of Cherise Wolas. Harry Tabor, a 70-year-old Jewish man living in Palm Springs, is about to receive the 'Man of the Decade' award for a lifetime of service to refugees, and his seemingly perfect family is congregating to celebrate. In the span of less than two days, the story of their lives unravels and revelations occur. This brilliantly executed novel is filled with secrets, repressed memories, and unforgettable characters under a blazing California sun."

—Damita Nocton, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC



## From the Corner of the Oval: A Memoir

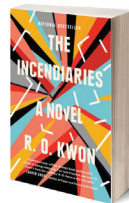
By Beck Dorey-Stein

(Spiegel & Grau, 9780525509141, \$17)

"A thoroughly enjoyable and interesting book that makes public service, working for POTUS, or a job in the White House seem like a worthy occupation. An insider's personal account, *From the Corner of the Oval* gives details about the president and numerous others, some identified and some disguised, as well as

the inevitable personal potholes that make the book a sort of novelization. By the way, who knew that 'stenographer' is still an active job title? Fans of *Madame Secretary*, political junkies of many stripes, and those longing for a return to a sense of normalcy in the White House will pick up this book with gratitude.

—Susan Thurin, Bookends on Main, Menomonie, WI



## The Incendiaries: A Novel

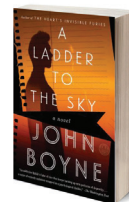
By R. O. Kwon

(Riverhead Books, 9780735213906, \$16)

"R.O. Kwon's debut knocked me sideways. *The Incendiaries* is a serious reckoning with the problem of fanaticism and the violence of blind devotion. The story of Will and Phoebe is told with an extraordinarily smart and soulful style. I was amazed at how perfectly Kwon's spare language fit her novel's expansive scope. A

stunning portrait of what faith can do and undo, *The Incendiaries* will delight and disturb. But, most of all, it will impress."

—John Francisconi, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



## A Ladder to the Sky: A Novel

By John Boyne

(Hogarth, 9781984823021, \$17)

"Maurice Swift is a man you won't soon forget: handsome and charming, but above all else ambitious. He dreams of being the greatest writer of his generation and has no qualms about using the people in his orbit and conning his way to the top of his field. John Boyne has given us a truly memorable character in Maurice,

but more than that, he's given us a novel with an ingenious structure and terrific dialogue that entertains the larger question of who can ever really own a story. This is a fantastic, thoughtful tale that even in its darkest moments is a thrill to read."

—Erika VanDam, RoscoeBooks, Chicago, IL



## The Lost Vintage: A Novel

By Ann Mah

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062823328, \$16.99)

"Reminiscent of *Sweetbitter* and *The Nightingale*, *The Lost Vintage* combines a coming-of-age romance with family and historical drama and a delicious tour of the wines and cheese of Burgundy, France. Switching between World War II and the present, Mah explores what can happen when families—and a nation—keep

secrets and fail to acknowledge the tragedies of the past. Part modern mystery and part historical novel, this book will have you turning pages in anticipation of discovering secret passages, missing journals, or those lost bottles of 1939 Côte d'Or white Burgundy."

—Ariel Jacobs, Solid State Books, Washington, DC



## Meet Me at the Museum: A Novel

By Anne Youngson

(Flatiron Books, 9781250295170, \$14.99)

"This charming novel is told entirely in correspondence between Tina, a woman of a certain age in England who is questioning her place in the world after her best friend's death, and Kristian, a Danish museum curator who is adrift after the death of his wife. As their correspondence evolves and their friendship develops,

they realize that the world may have more to offer than they initially thought. *Meet Me at the Museum* is sweet without being cloying, gentle without insulting the reader's intelligence, and a completely enjoyable read."

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books, Okemos, MI



## My Sister, the Serial Killer: A Novel

By Oyinkan Braithwaite

(Anchor, 9780525564201, \$14.95)

"*My Sister, the Serial Killer* is one of the best books to come along in quite a while—fast, funny, and completely engrossing. Oyinkan Braithwaite offers up a tale of Nigerian sisters Ayoola, a beautiful and sociopathic serial killer who destroys boyfriends, aware that all

they ever want her for is her appearance, and Korede, a nurse whose average looks leave her continually passed up in preference for Ayoola. Still, taciturn and devoted Korede works hard to cover up her charming sister's crimes. What will happen when they both fall for the same guy? At once a page-turner and a perversely righteous tale about the emptiness of physical beauty and the superficiality of being charmed by it, *My Sister, the Serial Killer* is entertaining, provoking, and utterly fascinating!"

—Sarah Sorensen, Bookbug, Kalamazoo, MI



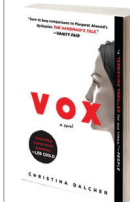
## The Third Hotel: A Novel

By Laura van den Berg

(Picador, 9781250214881, \$17)

"Laura van den Berg's *The Third Hotel* is sublime and unsettling, haunting and sophisticated. The Havana that serves as the backdrop for this story is as surreal, soaked in perspiration, and capitulated to ruin as the sense of loss that drives the novel. This is one not to be missed. A mesmerizing masterwork."

—David Gonzalez, Skylight Books, Los Angeles, CA



## Vox: A Novel

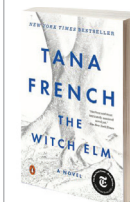
By Christina Dalcher

(Berkley, 9780440000815, \$16)

"This ambitious debut scared me so much that I started reading it in very small portions. In Dalcher's version of the future, women have lost all of their rights and are limited (via electronic handcuffs) to speaking only 100 words per day. Their entire purview has been relegated to the home and family, where even girls may not speak

more than their allotted words. Women cannot work, female representation in government has dropped precipitously, and the Bible Belt has become a bible corset as men have sought to reclaim their masculinity through dominance of women in all areas. While we are consumed with the unthinkable changes in the current political environment, this book reminds us to keep our eyes open and our voices heard."

—Terry Gilman, Creating Conversations, Redondo Beach, CA



## The Witch Elm: A Novel

By Tana French

(Penguin Books, 9780735224643, \$17)

"Reading Tana French means disappearing into another life for a while. Her stories aren't meant to be slick or flashy, but deliberate, intricate studies of characters and their motivations. *The Witch Elm* is no different, as it follows the unraveling of Toby starting the night he surprises two burglars in his apartment.

As you learn the secrets and weaknesses of Toby and his family, you begin to realize that while finding out what happened is enjoyable and surprising, finding out the how and the why is even better."

—Tyler Goodson, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA