

The Adults: A Novel

By Caroline Hulse

"What a fun read! Put a copy into the stocking of every adult family member (and rejoice when they all go off to their separate corners to read quietly). Exes, step-parents, vacation hijinks, secrets, and screw-ups—this funny novel has all the right ingredients to entertain and cut the tension surrounding big family holidays."

-Mary Laura Philpott, Parnassus Books, Nashville, TN



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Bowlaway: A Novel

By Elizabeth McCracken

"At the turn of the 20th century, Bertha Truitt is found lying unconscious in a frosty New England cemetery with no explanation of how she arrived there and a past she is unwilling to talk about. In a bag by her side are a corset, a bowling ball, one candlepin, and I5 pounds of gold. Thus begins a story of love, bowling, and how Bertha Truitt would influence the town of Salford and its residents for generations to come. Elizabeth McCracken once again brings us superb storytelling that shows how our lives don't always follow a straight line to where we thought we might be going."

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

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Come With Me: A Novel

By Helen Schulman

"A gripping, expertly written story of love and fate, Helen Schulman's *Come With Me* resonates for all of us who are engaged in our modern, complex families; intrigued and confused by the technology in our lives; and curious enough to wonder how our lives might have turned out if we had made different choices."

-Linda Kass, Gramercy Books, Bexley, OH





The Dreamers: A Novel

By Karen Thompson Walker

"A strange virus invades a small university community, sending its victims into deep, seemingly endless sleep and infecting them with extremely powerful dreams. This backdrop provides a perfect scenario for examining the delicate, often unrecognized line between reality and perception. As the crisis deepens, the characters are caught up in a phantasmagorical world that challenges normal conceptions of existence. A thoughtful, provocative novel of strength and beauty."

-Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS





Family Trust: A Novel

By Kathy Wang

"Family Trust is a novel that I did not want to end. From the start, I was completely immersed in the Huang family dynamic, complicated as most families tend to be. In one sentence you feel real sympathy for a character, and in the next you are laughing out loud. It is a true gem. From the first pages, I was completely swept in to the lives of the Huang family. I have a feeling this will be my go-to hand-sell for the fall! Those who loved *The Nest* and *Crazy Rich Asians* will eat this right up! A very well-written, highly enjoyable read."

-Kaitlin Smith, Copperfield's Books, Sebastopol, CA

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The Far Field: A Novel

By Madhuri Vijay

"Few seasoned novelists—let alone a first-time novelist like Madhuri Vijay—are able to construct scene after scene with compelling interior drama, tension, and forward momentum, but you'll never want to stop reading as Vijay skillfully combines a personal journey and family mystery with a political examination of the Kashmiri-Indian troubles. Shalini, the narrator of this extraordinary work, has a mother who immediately belongs on any shortlist of literature's great characters. If I read a better novel in 2019, then 2019 will become my favorite year of the 21st century."

-Brian Lampkin, Scuppernong Books, Greensboro, NC

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Little Faith: A Novel

By Nickolas Butler

"I loved this story about friendship, family, and how faith influences life-changing decisions. Nickolas Butler beautifully captures the people, landscape, and seasons of northern Wisconsin over a I2-month period. The characters and their relationships to each other is what this book is really about. You will love or hate them, but you will feel part of this community when you finish."

-Susan Murphy, Pages Bookshop, Detroit, MI





November Road: A Thriller

By Lou Berney

"Lou Berney's engrossing novel *November Road* unfolds in the immediate aftermath of JFK's assassination, but the heady confusion and shock of that dark day play second fiddle to the stories of Frank Guidry and Charlotte Roy, two desperate individuals seeking to outrun the entanglements of their very different lives. Guidry, a once-trusted player for the Marcello mob, is a marked man fleeing for his life; Roy, a weary housewife, seeks better prospects for herself and her daughters, so she must escape from both her dead-end town and deadbeat husband. Told in sharp, cinematic prose, this novel explodes the boundaries of the typical crime novel and offers up something more literary, a finely tuned exploration of the will to change."

-Mike Wysock, The Book Stall, Winnetka, IL

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Queenie: A Novel

By Candice Carty-Williams

"Positively brilliant. I was completely blown away by this debut, in which 25-year-old Queenie Jenkins is navigating a lot. She recently went on break from a long-term relationship, she can't seem to find her stride at her job with a national newspaper, and she's constantly trying to figure out how to navigate the various components of her identity. The biggest question of all: Can't she be loved just because, without her blackness being seen as exotic or a caveat? Candice Carty-Williams' debut is a completely fresh voice that shines light on a literary perspective frequently overlooked—that of young, black women. An absolute must-read."

-Destinee Hodge, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

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Those Who Knew: A Novel

By Idra Novey

"This book packs a punch. While slender, every sentence, every word, is well-chosen and thought-provoking. However, as intellectually stimulating as it is, it's still accessible and enjoyable. Every chapter, though small, gives you a snapshot of who a character is and drives the plot along. I picked this book up on a whim and from the very first page I couldn't put it down. I can't recommend this book enough!"

-Erin Gold, Pages Bookshop, Detroit, MI

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Unsheltered: A Novel

By Barbara Kingsolver

"A brilliant novel set in two different centuries, eras when lies trumped truth and superstition overruled science. Kingsolver illustrates human resiliency with insight, humor, and compassion in this deeply satisfying novel. While showing the cost of leadership built on false promises and lies, it also illustrates the strength of the human spirit with characters who will not be broken by their times. Kingsolver's characters, including historical figures Mary Treat and Charles Landis, shine as they make their way through the maze of survival set before them. Great reading."

-Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books & Music, Sunriver, OR



The Weight of a Piano: A Novel

By Chris Cander

"A hulking black piano of Russian origin links the stories of two women: Katya, who must leave behind her beloved instrument when she immigrates to the U.S., and Clara, who is forced to sell her family heirloom when she loses her boyfriend and her home. The obsessive love each woman holds for the piano unfolds as the instrument journeys across continents. Chris Cander has crafted a novel of compelling beauty and characters who are complex, deeply flawed, and magnificently haunting. This will be a five-star beginning to any avid reader's 2019 book list."

-Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

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