



APRIL 2020

NOW IN PAPERBACK

City of Girls: A Novel

By Elizabeth Gilbert

"*City of Girls* is a champagne cocktail, a tonic for anything that ails you, and the summer read you can't miss! Vivian Morris, an upper-class, 19-year-old college dropout, finds herself in the chaotic New York City theater world of the 1940s. What ensues is a story full of sex, glamour, and witty one-liners that spans decades. All those who led a heedless youth or wish they had will fall for this book about growing into the person you've always wanted to be. Gilbert has written a glittering piece of fiction that subtly delivers wisdom about the nature of human connection and leaves the reader braver, freer, and, at least for the moment, happier."

—Caroline McGregor, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



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Disappearing Earth: A Novel

By Julia Phillips

"Julia Phillips is an author to watch. She beautifully transports us to a region of the world that I had never heard of and now can't stop thinking about. The stories of the women there—their family dynamics, their hopes and fears, the economic and cultural divide of various communities—tell a moving story about this place in a moment in time, but ultimately about the universal struggle of women living with the expectations placed on them. A remarkable debut."

—Casey Coonerty, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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The End of the End of the Earth: Essays

By Jonathan Franzen

"Franzen reports on the state of the environment from Africa to Antarctica and questions his role as a privileged Westerner in a world of vast inequality. Using birds as his moral compass, Franzen evokes the deep joy they bring and delivers heartbreaking accounts of ruined habitats, wanton slaughter of songbirds, and the devastating toll of industrial fishing on seabirds. No less tragic are the stories of impoverished people who live among these birds, and Franzen questions the ethics of worrying about avian suffering in the midst of so much human suffering. Ultimately as hopeful as it is anguished, Franzen's book takes biodiversity as its guiding principle: there's no one way to save the world, just as there's no single set of rules governing how to live in it."

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



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The Gone Dead: A Novel

By Chanelle Benz

"Billie James travels to the Mississippi Delta from Philly for the first time since her father's mysterious death, some 30 years before. Although she was there that night, she has no recollection of the events that occurred, but learns later that she went missing afterwards. This new detail causes her to start digging into what really happened, which gets her into trouble with people who want the past to remain buried. An emotional and tense novel about racism, justice, family, and the truth, Benz's debut has so much edge to it that I could not stop reading!"

—Carl Kranz, Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA



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The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage and a Girl Saved by Bees

By Meredith May

"I loved this perfect memoir so much that I read it twice and already know that it will be one of my favorites of the year. Meredith May learns to withstand pain, loss, and grief through the lessons her beloved grandfather teaches her. After her mother moves the family away from her father and shuts down emotionally, Grandpa shows May and her brother love, patience, and understanding using honeybees as an example of how to survive and thrive in a confusing world. I cannot wait to put this moving, emotionally compelling memoir into many hands this spring!"

—Diane Grumhaus, Lake Forest Book Store, Lake Forest, IL



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I Miss You When I Blink: Essays

By Mary Laura Philpott

"Mary Laura Philpott writes about today's American woman in her marvelously frank and witty book of essays. Women of all ages will nod their heads when reading about the decision to have babies (or not), the pitfalls of volunteering, the difficulty of getting a cat out from under the bed, the reward of crossing things off 'the list,' the challenge of finding time for relaxation, and, above all, the acceleration of time as we age. Philpott shares pivotal moments from her life in such a relatable way that, through both laughter and tears, readers will exclaim, 'Yes, yes, this is ME!' Don't miss this gem!"

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



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Lost and Wanted : A Novel

By Nell Freudenberger

"Helen is a successful physicist and a single mother, but when her best friend, Charlie, dies, she must confront the limitations of love and science. As in her previous novel, *The Newlyweds*, Freudenberger writes with understated authority about grief, motherhood, and coming to terms with the decisions you make throughout your life. Everyone in Helen's orbit is touched by Charlie's death, and their grief is as mysterious as the scientific questions Helen grapples with in her work. This is a powerfully beautiful novel."

—Tyler Goodson, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



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Miracle Creek: A Novel

By Angie Kim

"*Miracle Creek* is a courtroom drama with impeccable pacing, an original plot, and stellar writing. It's also a remarkably empathetic book, exploring the ripple effects of causality and the urgent need to do right by each other in big and small ways, recognizing that even the best of us will fail once in a while. It is a lovely reminder that even when doing the right thing feels like swimming upstream, we never know what harm may be prevented and what good might come from our actions. A great read that deserves broad success."

—Sara Hinckley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA



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Mrs. Everything: A Novel

By Jennifer Weiner

"Mrs. Everything is a magnificent look at the myriad societal changes for women that occurred in a short span of decades, wrapped up in a compelling novel of two sisters. While I've loved reading all of Jennifer Weiner's work over the years, I believe THIS is her legacy novel—the book that will be read generations from now! It filled my heart."

—Caitlin Duggart, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA



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Opposite of Always

By Justin A. Reynolds

"Was there ever one moment in your life that you'd want to do over? How about four or five chances? That's what Jack gets: multiple chances to have the girl of his dreams and his friends happy and healthy, but he needs every chance he can get. This debut is a must-read for fans of John Green or anyone who wants a wonderful love story with hilarity, honesty, and one of the best friendship trifectas I've ever read."

—Nichole Cousins, White Birch Books, North Conway, NH



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SHOUT

By Laurie Halse Anderson

"Laurie Halse Anderson invites readers not to speak but to shout in her new poetry memoir, a long-awaited follow-up to her bestselling YA novel *Speak*, which centers around a survivor of sexual assault. In *SHOUT*, Anderson shares memories from her young adulthood when she herself was raped and how she found the strength to keep going. Between autobiographical poems lie fierce rants about rape culture and censorship, as well as love letters and encouragement to survivors of sexual assault. *SHOUT* is a fist raised to the sky, arriving on the heels of #MeToo and urging readers to never be silenced. A must-read."

—Mary Wahlmeier, Raven Book Store, Lawrence, KS



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XL

By Scott Brown

"Growing up is tough, no matter what! But it doesn't make it any easier if you are a boy and barely five feet tall going into high school. You just want to be normal, average, and have a friend or two. Will Daughy has a stepbrother, who is also his best friend, and Monica, a girl he secretly loves. But Will is not average. He doesn't feel normal. Until he starts to grow. And grow. And grow. And soon Will is towering over everyone. And here begins another set of problems. *XL* is a fun and fascinating story about growing up—literally."

—Marilyn Robbins, BookBar, Denver, CO



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