



JULY 2020

NOW IN PAPERBACK

Chances Are...: A Novel

By Richard Russo

"This book reads like a literary mystery. Forty years ago, a woman disappeared while at a get-together at Martha's Vineyard. Now, the four friends who were with her have returned to the scene, still driven by a need to know what happened. This latest story by Richard Russo has all the elements that make him one of the most popular authors today: characters we can relate to, settings that we see in our dreams, and a story both perplexing and satisfying. Fans and new readers alike will enjoy diving in."

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



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The Confessions of Frannie Langton: A Novel

By Sara Collins

"Drawing on her experiences of growing up in the Cayman Islands, attending university in London, and practicing law, outstanding debut author Sara Collins has drawn a character one will not soon forget. Told with evocative language, Frannie Langton's confession is a life story not to be missed. Raised on a sugar plantation in Jamaica, then transported to a life of servitude in London, Frannie lives a life of twists and turns of love and betrayal that will both shock and intrigue you. I was as tense as she was waiting for the verdict to be handed down. Thank you, Sara Collins!"

—Mary Mollman, Booked, Evanston, IL



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The Editor: A Novel

By Steven Rowley

"Steven Rowley's new novel is exactly the balm I needed in today's climate. Focusing on a young writer who discovers that his editor is none other than Jackie Kennedy Onassis, the book explores both romantic and familial relationships in a humorous and touching manner. Although the writing is wickedly barbed and the zingers fly at the speed of a 1940s rom-com, *The Editor* is so much more. There is real heart in the writing as well as real love between the characters. It's a true delight and the kind of book people who loved *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* or *Less* will truly enjoy. Just be prepared with a box of tissues and your favorite cocktail (Jackie would suggest daiquiris)."

—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



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Exhalation: Stories

By Ted Chiang

"WOW. My first experience with Ted Chiang absolutely blew me out of the water. Each story left me with wide eyes and a racing mind, running to my husband to read a passage so we could both be knocked over with wonder. *Exhalation* filled me with so many questions about our collective past, present, and future, I'll be coming back to this book again and again trying to find the answers."

—Kasey Kane, Country Bookshelf, Bozeman, MT



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Lady in the Lake: A Novel

By Laura Lippman

"I continue to be in awe of Laura Lippman's ability to write novels that are so much more than mysteries. *Lady in the Lake* is, of course, a wonderful mystery with twists and turns and surprises—nothing is predictable. But it is also a beautiful character study and a sensitive look at the desire to have a meaningful life and how ambition can be motivating but also blinding. I loved the multiple voices in the novel—Laura's characters are never perfect and therefore come across as real people with real needs. I have no doubt that *Lady in the Lake* will be a huge success."

—Ann Berlin, The Ivy Bookshop, Baltimore, MD



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The Lager Queen of Minnesota: A Novel

By J. Ryan Stradal

"A Minnesota family grounded in farming, beer, and award-winning pies is split for decades when one of two sisters inherits the farm. Helen and Edith—whose stories author J. Ryan Stradal effectively weaves together—stop speaking, while one's fortunes soar and the other's plummet. When a woman of the next generation has a chance at success, she may also reunite the Calder family. Stradal brings the heartland to the page with warmth, humor, and plenty of hops-inspired lore."

—Cheryl McKeon, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



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The Last Train to London: A Novel

By Meg Waite Clayton

"Based on a real heroine of the Dutch resistance and scrupulously researched, *The Last Train to London* brings to vivid life the extraordinary bravery of one fiercely dedicated childless woman who is attempting to save the lives of literally thousands of innocent children as Hitler marshals his forces across Europe. By writing the Kindertransport story as a novel, Meg Waite Clayton captures the humanity of the young victims and the inhumanity of those who were 'just following orders' more than any biography could. A memorable addition to the literature of World War II and one that is eerily relevant to present-day migrant struggles the world over."

—Marion Abbott, Mrs. Dalloway's Literary & Garden Arts, Berkeley, CA



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NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Nickel Boys: A Novel

By Colson Whitehead

"With every book, Colson Whitehead proves his ever-growing genius. He's a master of the written word and truly one of the greatest living American novelists of our time. I didn't think it was possible for him to write something better than *Underground Railroad*, but he most certainly has—*The Nickel Boys* grabbed me at page one. It's a mystery and a thriller, a treatise on race and social injustice, and a literary masterpiece all rolled into one. Ellwood and Turner are characters that will stay with me forever. This should be mandatory reading in every classroom."

—Michelle Malonzo, Changing Hands, Tempe, AZ



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Say Say Say: A Novel

By Lila Savage

"Say Say Say is a small and subtle debut novel that packs an emotional wallop. Lila Savage's writing is so beautiful and vulnerable it's impossible to put down. This is the kind of novel that shines with such honesty and compassion you feel the need re-evaluate your life right along the main character, Ella. I eagerly await reading anything else Savage writes."

—Katerina Argyres, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA



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The Secrets We Kept: A Novel

By Lara Prescott

"This perfect historical novel is made of the most alluring ingredients. First, a divine and doomed love affair between Russian author Boris Pasternak and his muse and secretary, Olga Ivinskaya, a woman immortalized in Pasternak's epic novel *Doctor Zhivago*, which was banned in Russia for more than 30 years. Second, two American women typists working for CIA and their forbidden love story in the midst of the Cold War and the witch hunt against homosexuals. Lara Prescott brilliantly portrays how a timeless novel like *Doctor Zhivago* can change course of history. After I finished reading *The Secrets We Kept*, I pressed the book against my chest, as if I could hear the lovers' hearts still beating."

—Aggie Zivaljevic, Kepler's Books, Menlo Park, CA



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The Snakes: A Novel

By Sadie Jones

"Breathless. This novel left me absolutely breathless. I found beauty in the multiple layers of sadness and tragedy of the characters and felt a unique sense of closeness to the main character. Jones has delivered an enthralling tale of personal exploration, leading us through scenes full of deep and raw emotion that leave the reader unsure where to place their alliance. Superb!"

—Jennifer Morrow, Bards Alley, Vienna, VA



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Three Women

By Lisa Taddeo

"I can't recall the last time I've been reading a work of nonfiction and woken up excited purely by the fact that, today, I would get to read more. Compulsive and psychologically riveting, *Three Women* reads like a novel. I couldn't keep from dog-earing its pages each time Taddeo perfectly expressed something I'd felt but never had the words for. In Sloane, Maggie, and Lina, I recognized aspects of myself—namely the desire for connection and for love. When three women tell their uncensored truth, they can liberate a nation. I feel deeply grateful to Lisa Taddeo for giving us this gift of raw authenticity."

—Michaela Carter, Peregrine Book Company, Prescott, AZ



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