



JUNE 2020 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Bunny: A Novel

By Mona Awad

(Penguin Books, 9780525559757, \$17)

"Mona Awad tells a harrowing story of a writer trying to overcome her writer's block while simultaneously refusing to look deeper into herself or acknowledge her own needs or desires. This lack of self-knowledge leads her to a friendship with a group of young MFA students who are always 'workshopping'...with disastrous consequences.

The writing feels cinematic at times, moody and illustrative. Home, identity, love (both romantic and platonic), inner (and outer) demons, and academic elitism all play a part in this spectacle of creation and destruction. Awad creates a kind of magic that changes with the wind, a contemporary Prometheus tale."

—Katrina Feraco, The Toadstool Bookshop, Keene, NH



Evvie Drake Starts Over: A Novel

By Linda Holmes

(Ballantine Books, 9780525619260, \$17)

"Evvie Drake is young and newly widowed, but no one knows that on the day her husband died, she had finally worked up the nerve to leave him. Dean Tenney is a major league baseball pitcher who has inexplicably lost the talent that made him a star. When Dean moves to Evvie's small town to escape the humiliating sports headlines, their friendship proves to be just what both of them need. This is an absolute treasure of a novel—big-hearted, funny, sweet, and utterly satisfying. I cannot wait to sell this charming gem."

—Emilie Sommer, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC



Family of Origin: A Novel

By CJ Hauser

(Anchor, 9780525565390, \$16)

"CJ Hauser has written a completely original novel featuring an eccentric cast of characters who distract themselves from the ignorance and squalor of the past, their failures and fears, and all the warning signs of imminent end times. It's also about a duck with joie de vivre. A comedy of maladaptive manners, *Family of Origin*

is hard to pin down and even harder to put down. Hauser's uncommonly funny and moving novel transported me out of my day-to-day life while letting me see the world as it is but also anew."

—John Francisconi, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



The Family Upstairs: A Novel

By Lisa Jewell

(Atria Books, 9781501190117, \$17)

"Just having children does not make you a parent, and that truth is apparent in the pages of this book. A wealthy family in London seems to have everything—a great home, private schools, mentions in the press—but it is somehow not enough. Once you open the door to the unknown, can it really ever be closed? The influence of the charismatic egotist is told with flawless accuracy and stark images. In these situations, the children suffer the most; they are powerless and easy prey. This book details an unfolding family crisis where abuse can take many forms. Hard to put down and with several huge twists, *The Family Upstairs* will satisfy even the most discriminating fan. Lisa Jewell has exceeded all expectations!"

—Jackie Willey, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



In West Mills: A Novel

By De'Shawn Charles Winslow

(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635575286, \$16)

"*In West Mills* is a beautiful and cohesive debut. Reminiscent of Janie Crawford in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Winslow has written the character of Knot Centre, a woman who speaks her mind—for better or for worse—and who is passionate, intelligent, and stubborn to a fault. The events of the novel take place

from the 1940s to the 1980s, allowing readers to watch as fateful decisions and their consequences play out for the city's citizens. In such a small town, secrets weigh heavy and threaten to tear people apart, but Winslow's writing is exuberant and full of life. His characters are never fully taken under by their sorrows—a rarity in literature today."

—Margaret Leonard, Dotters Books, Eau Claire, WI



Inland: A Novel

By Tea Obreht

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812982756, \$18)

"Man, I could live my whole life inside this novel and be perfectly happy. Tea Obreht is the real thing. *Inland* has the stern gorgeousness of *Blood Meridian*, the cinematic perfection of *Station Eleven*, the fantasia-like atmosphere of *Cloud Atlas*, and the deep-heartedness of *The Winter Soldier*. This is the sort of novel that makes people want to get up and soldier on. I really loved this book."

—Erica Eisdorfer, Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, NC



Leading Men: A Novel

By Christopher Castellani

(Penguin Books, 9780525559078, \$17)

"Make yourself an Aperol Spritz (or an entire pitcher) and find a comfortable chair because you're going to spend the afternoon reading *Leading Men* by Christopher Castellani. Tennessee Williams was a genius—charming, brilliant, and powerful—but he was hell to live with and even harder to love, a challenge

even for the man who loved him best, Frank Merlo. Castellani's fourth novel brings to life not only their fraught relationship, but also the gritty glamour of their time. It's a rich and gorgeous party whose guests include Truman Capote, Luchino Visconti, and you. Fortunately, you have that Aperol Spritz. Salut!"

—Michael Barnard, Rakestraw Books, Danville, CA



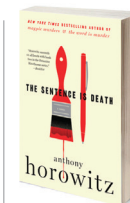
Once More We Saw Stars: A Memoir of Life and Love After Unimaginable Loss

By Jayson Greene

(Vintage, 780525435341, \$16)

"Some memoirs transcend the author's experience and become universal—I always thought of those as the good ones. Then I read Jayson Greene's memoir of loss and grief and was forced to confront the fullness of his individual humanity in a way I hadn't experienced before. Grief is distinctly personal and Greene's story of the death of his two-year-old child is simply unfathomable to me, yet his honesty and willingness to sit in the fearfulness of this new life resonated deeply. *Once More We Saw Stars* is a wonderfully written memoir that connects on the most basic human level."

—Michelle Cavalier, Cavalier House Books, Denham Springs, LA



The Sentence Is Death: A Novel

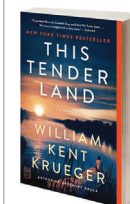
By Anthony Horowitz

(Harper Perennial, 9780062676849, \$16.99)

"I really love this series by Anthony Horowitz. The mystery behind the murders is so expertly plotted and layered that you could make a case for any suspect. In this book, a divorce lawyer is found dead in his home after being beaten over the head with a VERY expensive bottle of wine, and the number 182 is painted on his wall.

When Private Investigator Daniel Hawthorne drives onto the set of Horowitz's TV show shoot, Horowitz has no choice but to follow his lead and write about the case. As always, I'm anxiously awaiting the next in this series."

—Nichole Cousins, Still North Books & Bar, Hanover, NH



This Tender Land: A Novel

By William Kent Krueger

(Atria Books, 9781476749303, \$17)

"The work of a master storyteller about the making of a young storyteller, *This Tender Land* is a coming-of-age novel for the ages. It begins in an isolated Dickensian boarding school in Minnesota during the early years of the Depression, then morphs into the story of four runaways in a canoe à la *Huckleberry Finn*. On the run

from their school headmistress and the law, they encounter other wanderers and escapes from life as they canoe towards St. Louis to find their only known relative and a possible home. Odie, his brother Albert, their schoolmate Mose, and newly orphaned Emmy are unforgettable characters in an unforgiving era. Epic, thrilling, and beautifully written, this is storytelling at its very best."

—Renee Barker, The Bookstore of Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn, IL



The Whisper Man: A Novel

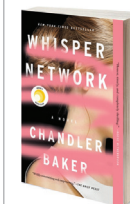
By Alex North

(Celadon Books, 9781250318008, \$16.99)

"A creepy, sinister, can't-put-it-down story of a town that survives and then relives the crimes of a child serial killer. For those who love psychological thrillers (with the absence of gore but plenty of plot twists and turns), *The Whisper Man* is a grand ride into the minds of those who kill and those who are victims. You'll find

yourself looking over your shoulder when reading this book. Don't stand too close to an open window..."

—Helen Gregory, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO



Whisper Network: A Novel

By Chandler Baker

(Flatiron Books, 9781250205360, \$16.99)

"It was inevitable that, with the #MeToo movement sweeping America, someone would pen a novel encompassing the realities of working women in our country. What I wasn't prepared for, however, was the degree to which I'd become involved in *Whisper Network*, racing home to finish it because I loved the story. I haven't felt this strength of solidarity with other women since the march in D.C. I closed this book with a resounding, 'Oh, hell yes!'"

—Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI