



# MAY 2017 NOW IN PAPERBACK



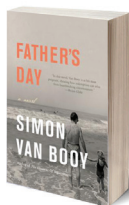
## Commonwealth: A Novel

By Ann Patchett

(Harper Perennial, 9780062491831, \$16.99)  
“Patchett leaves behind the exotic locales and intricate plots of *State of Wonder* and *Bel Canto* for an even darker and more difficult place to navigate—the interior of a blended family over the course of several decades. While more domestic than many of her previous novels, *Commonwealth* offers plenty of intrigue and surprises

as Patchett explores the interaction of a group of children forced into each other's lives because of their parents' impulsive choices. With keen insight, tears of both sorrow and joy, and some real—if dark—humor, Patchett pulls readers into this complex family's world, and we are eager for every detail.”

—John Christensen, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI



## Father's Day: A Novel

By Simon Van Booy

(Harper Perennial, 9780062408952, \$15.99)

“Van Booy's delicate touch is turned to the relationship between orphaned Harvey and her uncle, Jason, a man no one could expect to be the right choice as guardian. Van Booy uses the plot structure of a series of Father's Day gifts given to Jason from the now adult Harvey to reveal more than either of them realized about the life

they have shared as adoptive father and daughter, as well as the heart-breaking truth of how they came to be a part of each other's lives. *Father's Day* is Van Booy at his most poignant, showing how redemption can arise from heartbreaking circumstances.”

—Don Luckham, The Toadstool Bookshop, Keene, NH



## The Girls: A Novel

By Emma Cline

(Random House, 9780812988024, \$17)

“Evie Boyd is a lonely 14-year-old adjusting to her parents' recent divorce and an emotional break with her childhood best friend. She encounters a wild and enchanting group of girls and is immediately drawn into their world of reckless abandon. Seduced by their thrilling, cult-like family hidden in the California hills,

Evie finds herself pulled into events that will lead to unspeakable violence. Cline's captivating prose strips bare the deep desires and vulnerability of teenage Evie as she struggles for acceptance. *The Girls* is an enthralling and haunting novel that will linger with readers long after the last page.”

—Tarah Jennings, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD



## Half Wild: Stories

By Robin MacArthur

(Ecco, 9780062444400, \$14.99)

“While the inhabitants of these interconnected stories all live in a tight-knit community in rural Vermont, *Half Wild* is anything but provincial. True, these characters belong to the place they come from, but, first and foremost, they belong to each other.”

—Sam Kaas, Village Books, Bellingham, WA



## Homegoing: A Novel

By Yaa Gyasi

(Vintage, 9781101971062, \$16)

“*Homegoing* is an epic narrative that is sure to become a treasured staple. Two sisters in Ghana are marked by fiery tragedy: one is married off to an English slave trader, and the other is sold to be a slave in America. The story follows their descendants generation by generation. *Homegoing* will break your heart over and

over, impress you with the resilience of the human spirit and the amazing power of forgiveness, and leave you optimistic and in awe.”

—Nichole McCown, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



## LaRose: A Novel

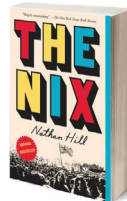
By Louise Erdrich

(Harper Perennial, 9780062277039, \$15.99)

“When a hunting accident results in the death of his neighbor's son, Landreaux Iron follows native tradition and offers his own son, LaRose, to the bereaved family. Thus begins a powerful story of anger, love, hurt, and joy among a group of families and neighbors living in a small community in the North Dakota hinterland. Erdrich's

luminous prose captures each character's struggle to overcome their worst impulses – whether it's a handicapped man's long-nurtured quest for revenge, or the pain of a mother withholding love from her daughter – and reaches into the distant past to reveal the story of the young boy's namesake, the original LaRose. Muted on the surface, but with a heart that beats strong, Erdrich's latest novel is a book to be treasured.”

—Peter Sherman, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



## The Nix: A Novel

By Nathan Hill

(Vintage, 9781101970348, \$17)

“Hill's debut is remarkable because it does both the little things and the big things right. It is an intimate novel of identity and loss, the story of a boy abandoned and the man now trying to recover. It also paints a vivid portrait of America and its politics from the 1960s to the present. *The Nix* overflows with unforgettable characters, but

none more clearly rendered than Samuel Andersen-Anderson and his mother, Faye, both bewildered by life and struggling to repair the rift between them. From intimate whispers to American news cycles, this astounding novel of reclamation is guaranteed to sweep readers off their feet.”

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



## The One-in-a-Million Boy: A Novel

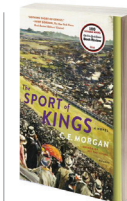
By Monica Wood

(Mariner Books, 9780544947214, \$14.99)

“Despite its themes of loss, love, and aging, *The One-in-a-Million Boy* is a hopeful novel. Musician and mostly absent dad Quinn Porter honors his dead son's Boy Scout agreement to help 104-year-old Ona Vitkus. As Quinn and Ona get to know each other, Quinn begins to understand his son—and in some

ways, himself—for the first time. Heartfelt and charming!”

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



## The Sport of Kings: A Novel

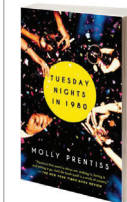
By C. E. Morgan

(Picador, 9781250131843, \$18)

“Horse racing and breeding, evolution, race, love, family dynamics, and America's historical past are a few of the subjects and issues that Morgan bravely, confidently, and intelligently explores with a poetic and lyrical sensibility. The result is a gorgeous and engaging novel that is sobering, important, and unforgettable. Morgan

combines some of the intense power of the landscape-as-mindscape of Thomas Wolfe, the dramaturgy and myth-mining of Eugene O'Neill, the deep focus and rigor of Richard Powers, the transcendent beauty of Vollmann's best prose, and the strong spiritual commitment of Marilynne Robinson. *The Sport of Kings* unfolds dramatically into an exquisite work of classic American literature.”

—Ed Conklin, Chaucer's Books, Santa Barbara, CA



## Tuesday Nights in 1980: A Novel

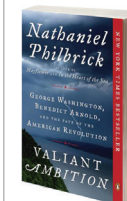
By Molly Prentiss

(Gallery/Scout Press, 9781501121050, \$16)

“A synesthetic art critic rises to prominence by capturing the je ne sais quoi of great new paintings in terms of sound, aura, and taste. A young painter escapes war in his native Argentina to bring his unusual portraits to New York. A wide-eyed farm girl leaves home for the gritty

promise of the big city, destined to become a muse of the art scene. The web between these characters becomes increasingly tangled as 1980 progresses in all its dark glamour. Prentiss captures raw ambition, startled joy, and aching tragedy equally well to produce a thought-provoking, originally textured novel that both transports and awes.”

—Michael Best, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



## Valiant Ambition

By Nathaniel Philbrick

(Penguin Books, 9780143110194, \$18)

“History buffs will welcome this serious and interesting salvaging of the American Revolution from the mists of legend and folklore. This book is also a reminder that the messy, often disturbing politics of our own time are not unique, that idealism conflicts with power struggles, that both war and building a nation can have destructive consequences, and that both revolutionaries and traitors can galvanize a movement. Complex, controversial, and important.”

—Susan Thurin, Bookends on Main, Menomonie, WI



## The Versions of Us: A Novel

By Laura Barnett

(Mariner Books, 9780544947276, \$15.99)

“This is a lovely debut that swept me along with the story of two people destined to be together after one chance meeting in college. From there, Barnett presents three different versions of their story, and readers see the next decades played out through the couple's eyes. Each story is different, yet features the same players, and each does not turn out as expected. This is a thoughtful and touching novel about love, expectations, and forgiveness.”

—Kelly Estep, Carmichael's Bookstore, Louisville, KY