



JUNE 2018 NOW IN PAPERBACK



The Almost Sisters: A Novel

By Joshilyn Jackson

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062105721, \$15.99)
"Leia Birch is pretty much a rock star in the comic world, but her personal life has taken over the drama of her heroines, Violet and Violence. Leia is pregnant with a biracial child after too much tequila and a one-night stand at Comic-Con, her sister's perfect marriage is imploding, and it appears her sweet, proper Southern grandmother has been hiding all kinds of improper things, including advancing dementia. As always, Jackson is witty and charming, and her characters are so wonderfully drawn, it's hard to believe you don't actually know these people. *The Almost Sisters* is a hopeful book about our ability to preserve the dignity of one another while still helping them grow and change."

—Susan Thomas, CoffeeTree Books, Morehead, KY



Dragon Teeth: A Novel

By Michael Crichton

(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062473387, \$15.99)
"I worshipped Michael Crichton. I cried for two days when he died, in part because there would be no more novels. However, after all these years, *Dragon Teeth* is a true surprise, and a joyful one indeed! Although he's more associated with futuristic science, Mr. Crichton was a dab hand at the historic thriller, and this novel is deeply grounded in fact. At its heart are two feuding paleontologists, Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Marsh, participants in the late-1800s Bone Wars, a period of frenzied fossil discovery. Add to the mix a fictional Yale student, friendly and unfriendly Native Americans, a heap of varmints and scoundrels, and a lady or two, and you've got a rollicking good story!"

—Susan Tunis, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA



Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine: A Novel

By Gail Honeyman

(Penguin Books, 9780735220690, \$16)
"Eleanor Oliphant has quickly become one of my favorite fictional characters, and this novel one of my favorite books. Eleanor is completely original and the right kind of weird. Her life and her past, combined with such kindhearted characters, made for a compulsively readable, heartwarming story that I did not want to put down. I can't wait for this book to come out so many more can fall in love with Eleanor. Highly, highly recommended."

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

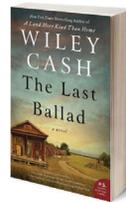


The History of Bees: A Novel

By Maja Lunde

(Touchstone, 9781501161384, \$16)
"Both heartbreaking and hopeful, *The History of Bees* by Maja Lunde looks from present day to the history and future of bees, pollination, and the effects of humankind on these vital insects. Told through the stories of three families of beekeepers and pollinators, Lunde beautifully weaves together separate stories into one epic novel that will hold the reader captive until the very last sentence."

—Mary O'Malley, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL

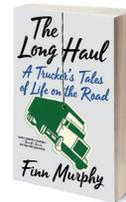


The Last Ballad: A Novel

By Wiley Cash

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062313126, \$15.99)
"Ella May has never had much of anything. She labors long hours in a textile mill in North Carolina trying to feed her four young children on nine dollars a week. When Ella sings one of her songs at a meeting of workers who are hoping to form a union, she finds herself something of a local celebrity. Written in beautifully evocative prose, this novel about bigotry and labor unrest in the 1930s exerts a powerful impact that pulls the reader into the vortex of the struggle for social justice. It deserves a place of honor in the canon of great Southern literature."

—Alden Graves, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



The Long Haul: A Trucker's Tales of Life on the Road

By Finn Murphy

(W. W. Norton & Company, 9780393355871, \$16.95)
"This memoir of a life spent driving trucks full of strangers' personal belongings across the country is the book I didn't know I needed. Finn Murphy writes engaging slice-of-life stories about his time as a long-haul truck driver while also showing the changes in the trucking industry and American life in the decades he's spent pulling thousands of pounds up mountains, through storms, and across plains. Trucking is a solitary life, but Murphy grabbed me like a friend and took me with him on his journey."

—Jamie Thomas, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL



Manhattan Beach: A Novel

By Jennifer Egan

(Scribner, 9781476716749, \$17)
"Jennifer Egan's *Manhattan Beach* captures a time and place on the verge of momentous change. Set in Brooklyn in the 1940s, the novel tells the story of Anna Kerrigan, a young woman who has dropped out of Brooklyn College to contribute what she can to the American war effort. Unsatisfied with her job of inspecting and measuring machine parts, she attempts to enter the male-only world of deep-sea diving. *Manhattan Beach* is rich and atmospheric, highlighting a period when gangs controlled the waterfront, jazz streamed from the doors of nightclubs, and the future for everyone was far from certain."

—Mark Laframboise, Politics and Prose, Washington, DC

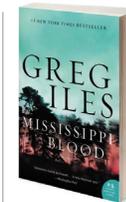


Meddling Kids: A Novel

By Edgar Cantero

(Anchor, 9781101974445, \$16.95)
"I have an abiding fondness for kooky premises executed well, and Edgar Cantero's *Meddling Kids* is as kooky as they come. In 1977, the tween members of the Blyton Summer Detective Club solved their last case and went their separate ways. Now it's 1990 and the man they sent to jail has been paroled. These former detectives have unfinished business, so one of them resolves to get the gang back together to find out the dark truth behind that final case. *Meddling Kids* is a pop-culture savvy, uproarious romp but also an action-packed horror-thriller. Highly recommended for fans of Christopher Moore and Ernest Cline, or anyone seeking a little laughter, nostalgia, or escapism."

—Susan Tunis, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA

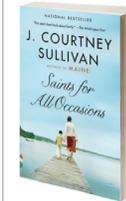


Mississippi Blood: A Novel

By Greg Iles

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062311160, \$17.99)
"*Mississippi Blood* is the culmination of the Natchez Trilogy, which follows characters who are trying to get to the bottom of brutal Civil Rights-era crimes. Penn Cage watches as the world around him calls into question everything he thinks he knows, including the moral fortitude of his father. Rippling with parallels to our everyday America, *Mississippi Blood* will, hopefully, push us all to recognize the truths about ourselves and our country."

—Veronica Brooks-Sigler, Octavia Books, New Orleans, LA

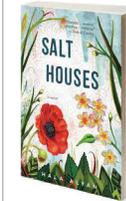


Saints for All Occasions: A Novel

By J. Courtney Sullivan

(Vintage, 9780307949806, \$16.95)
"*Saints for All Occasions* is a riveting story about family and the secrets they keep. Nora Rafferty receives some devastating news that sets in motion a slow reveal of a longstanding secret between Nora and her sister Theresa, who immigrated from a small Irish village to Boston in the 1950s. It is also the story of Nora's relationships with her own adult children and the secrets they hide from their mother and each other. Sullivan's writing is lovely, and she has brought to life characters who are stronger than they think."

—Woody Chichester, Buffalo Street Books, Ithaca, NY

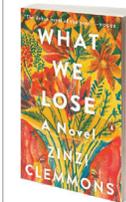


Salt Houses: A Novel

By Hala Alyan

(Mariner, 9781328915856, \$14.99)
"Accomplished poet Hala Alyan exceeds the brilliance of her excellent collections of poems in her moving, deeply felt, powerfully realized first novel, *Salt Houses*. I can't think of many writers who have so adeptly written of family relationships—here, spanning five generations, all against a vividly rendered backdrop of exile and migration. From Palestine to Jordan, Lebanon to Kuwait, Boston to New York, this is a story of people losing, finding, and making their way. *Salt Houses* gives voice, body, and love to people whose lives in this country tend, at most, to be featured anonymously in news accounts—and at that, in the negative. This is real life, beautifully written and graciously enlarging the sense of who we are."

—Rick Simonson, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



What We Lose: A Novel

By Zinzi Clemmons

(Penguin Books, 9780735221734, \$16)
"*What We Lose* is a quietly brilliant book detailing the way loss manifests itself in the life of its narrator, Thandi, and the reader, as Clemmons' writing shines back on you, too. The death of Thandi's mother brings about the loss of childhood innocence, her connection with her past, and her identity as a black woman. Clemmons' book is told in vignettes, stories and thoughts, with the narrative of this time in Thandi's life slowly swirling through it. It's as powerful a meditation on grief as I've ever read."

—Stefanie Schmidt, Water Street Bookstore, Exeter, NH