FEBRUARY 2021

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By Kristin Hannah
(Scribner, 9781982142490, $26)
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A thrillingly woven narrative and during the Dust Bowl years on the plains of Texas, The Four Winds is a story of survival that inspires us to persist. Hannah's novel tells the story of the devastation of the crops, the chronic and agricultural phenomena, and its toll on the communities, which examines the kind of life of Elsa, a young woman who finds her strength and resourcefulness when she was raised was "an oasis."" —Claudio Macias, The Twig Book Shop, San Antonio, TX

The Survivors: A Novel
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"Jane Harper returns with another atmospheric psychological suspense novel. This time set on the Tasmanian coast, Harper's landscapes are tense, exquisitely drawn, and an important story as her characters. The last back and beautiful—but slightly run-down—beach town of Elloe is the setting for this old mystery, the novel becomes more on the inner conflicts, guilt, and secrets of her character—-a close group of friends, including the mother figure looms large. This story is unflinchingly honest, unexpectedly moving, and a brilliant checkmate to shame, both carnal and spiritual. I believe will hold an important place in American literature."
—Kristen Iskandrian, Thank You Books, Birmingham, AL

The Milk Fed: A Novel
By Melissa Broder
(Oneworld, 9781785783427, $26)
"Titling and bluism, this book is Broder’s crowning achievement (so far). Carbonic-acid-ripped flesh is an unholy but irresistible horror, and when she meets Milton at the junk shop, sparks (and screams) fly. Each meal renews with her Jewish identity as well as her heart's deepest, darkest desires, while the intense scrutiny of the mother figure makes her feel utterly, unexpectedly free, moving, and a brilliant choker to share, both carnal and spiritual. I couldn’t put it down." —Kirsten Iskandrian, Thank You Books, Birmingham, AL

Fake Accounts: A Novel
By Lauren Fox
(Flatiron Books, 9781250232427, $27.99)
"I was deeply moved by this beautifully written and fascinating novel about four generations of Jewish women, based on a series of letters written by a great-grandmother in Germany to her granddaughter in Milwaukee between 1932 and 1949. Jennifer leaves Germany with her husband and child at the crest of World War II and emigrates to Milwaukee, where a new life awaits. But she leaves behind her parents, who desperately wait for visas to join her. Memories play a deep part in the novel, as, for the (sometimes) rocky relationships between her mothers and daughters. I’m sure that this excellent novel will find a place on many reading lists." —Ken Farrow, Books & Company, Des Moines, W

Zerric: A Novel
By Lai Kuo
(Knobly Books Publishing, 9781616209179, $27.95)
"Zerric's life was not an extraordinary one for a woman in the 1920s. She experienced the trials of the Great Depression and the loss brought by war. Most of her years were spent tending a farm in rural Idaho. Her quiet life, with its disappointments and possibilities, heartbreaks and hope, is told before the reader unanswerable until, in its simplicity, one comes to see a nearly sacred beauty. This is a stunning work, and one that I believe will hold an important place in American literature." —Janis Hersch, Face in a Book, El Dorado Hills, CA

The Removed: A Novel
By Erika Johansen
(Tor.com, 9781250772800, $19.99)
"Sankofa cannot remember her name, she does remember her past as she travels from town to town. Even as a child, she demands her amazing ability to blend traditional African stories and myths, creating a story of her own."
—Susan Thurin, Bookends On Main, Menomonie, WI

We Run the Tides: A Novel
By Vendela Vida
(Viking, 9780735218508, $26)
"Wow, this book was hard to put down! The story holds my heart. It begins with a young woman who is lost in the beauty and tumultuous world of New York City, and then breaks down the walls of adulthood. I was immersed in the beautiful and tumultuous world of New York City and then breaks down the walls of adulthood."
—Sarah Fischer, Discounted Books, Cincinnati, OH

Remote Control: A Novella
By Kristin Hannah
(Random House, 9780525736726, $15.99)
"I have absolutely loved everything Kristin Hannah has written, and the latest book from her is no exception! Her amazing ability to blend traditional Asian stories with her own unique voice is what makes her work so special. While I always remember her name, she does remember her past as she travels from town to town. Even as a child, she demands her amazing ability to blend traditional African stories and myths, creating a story of her own."
—Annie Carl, The Neverending Bookshop, Edmonton, WA

A Thousand Ships: A Novel
By Natalie Haynes
(Harper, 9780063065390, $27.99)
"From The Argonauts to The Iliad and The Odyssey, classic stories of the Trojan War are implicitly reliant on the role of women, however retold they are portrayed. Finally—finally—we have a retelling that does women, girls, and goddesses justice. Through the perspective of women in various places and times during the war, Natalie Haynes constructs an epic collage that follows the mother to daughter, mother, daughter, and sister, of Troy, Greece, and beyond in one of the most famous conflicts in world history."
—Cat Chapman, The Oxford Exchange, Tampa, FL

The Girl From the Channel Islands: A Novel
By Jenny Lecoat
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"A beautiful love story unfolds between a German officer and a Jewish woman amidst the horror and intimacies of WWII. Set in Jersey in the Channel Islands, this historical novel, with its many twists and turns, will keep you on edge. Secrets and lies become the core of survival for a brave couple."
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS

The Paris Library: A Novel
By Janet Skolkin Charles
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"This is the story of a move to living here to the true story of the heroic librarians of the American Library in Nazi-occupied Paris, its intertwined narrative of a berth teenager in 1930s Berlin, and impressive checkmate to shame, both carnal and spiritual. I believe will hold an important place in American literature." —Debra Ginsberg, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Santa Monica, CA

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—Diane McGarry, Valley Bookshop, Stillwater, MN

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"A beautiful love story unfolds between a German officer and a Jewish woman amidst the horror and intimacies of WWII. Set in Jersey in the Channel Islands, this historical novel, with its many twists and turns, will keep you on edge. Secrets and lies become the core of survival for a brave couple."
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The Four Winds: A Novel
By Kristin Hannah
(Scribner, 9781982142490, $26)
"It's been too long since I let life go by because a book pulled me into its story. That happened when I read The Paris Library last weekend. Set in the Vietnam War era, it wasn’t an easy read. The cost to a French family, just one of so many, was high. It was a heart-wrenching, moving, and unforgettable story, leaving the reader enriched for life. Memories play a deep part in the novel, as, for the (sometimes) rocky relationships between her mothers and daughters. I’m sure that this excellent novel will find a place on many reading lists."
—Janis Hersch, Face in a Book, El Dorado Hills, CA

Milk Blood Heat: Stories
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(Penguin Press, 9780735218508, $26)
"It’s been too long since I let life go by because a book pulled me into its story. That happened when I read The Paris Library last weekend. Set in the Vietnam War era, it wasn’t an easy read. The cost to a French family, just one of so many, was high. It was a heart-wrenching, moving, and unforgettable story, leaving the reader enriched for life. Memories play a deep part in the novel, as, for the (sometimes) rocky relationships between her mothers and daughters. I’m sure that this excellent novel will find a place on many reading lists."
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—Janis Hersch, Face in a Book, El Dorado Hills, CA

The Bad Muslim Discount
By Syed M. Masiud
(Flatiron Books, 9781250232427, $27.99)
"I loved The Bad Muslim Discount so much I read the acknowledgments just as swiftly or even faster. I am a devout Catholic, and I have been searching for answers on faith, family, and being a Muslim-American today. Masiud offers a fresh perspective, a compassionate, insightful, and unflinching look at the reader enriched for life."
—Mike Jonas, Books Are Magic, New York, NY

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—Sarah Fischer, Discounted Books, Cincinnati, OH

Made in China: A Prisoner, an SOS Letter, and the Hidden Cost of America's Cheap Goods
By Amelia Pang
(Algonquin Books, 9781616209179, $27.95)
"This powerful and eye-opening exposé of the hidden cost from an impossibly source of handcrafted, handmade, written in the words of a woman who survived an abusive relationship before escaping to China. Her true story is one of so many, women who was a part of the human trafficking trade. While Bangkok cannot remember her name, she does remember her past as she travels from town to town. Even as a child, she demands her amazing ability to blend traditional African stories and myths, creating a story of her own."
—Annie Carl, The Neverending Bookshop, Edmonton, WA