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### KEY=FICTION - GIADA JENNINGS

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### BLUEPRINTS FOR BUILDING BETTER GIRLS

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### FICTION

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*Simon and Schuster* A sequence of eight interlinked tales explores the common experiences that shape early adulthood and features an eclectic cast of female characters who navigate the pitfalls of the cultural landscape from the 1970s to the present.

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### WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BIRTH

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### AN ESSAY ON SHARING BIRTH STORIES

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*FSG Originals* It's an elemental, almost animalistic urge—the expectant mother's hunger for birth narratives. We are inundated with how-to guides and month-by-month pregnancy manuals when what we truly crave are artful, entertaining, unvarnished accounts of labor and delivery. We want to know what really happens—the good, the bad, and the ugly. In anticipation of the publication of *Labor Day: True Birth Stories* by Today's Best Women Writers, celebrated author Elissa Schappell brings us "What We Talk About When We Talk About Birth." In this frank, funny, and bittersweet essay she explores the phenomenon of sharing birth stories, reveals her reluctance to tell her own, and discovers that talking about childbirth—the joy, the fear, the pain—is as instinctual as the act itself. And if you love birth stories as much as we do, read thirty more essays like this one in *Labor Day: True Birth Stories* By Today's Best Women Writers, including Lan Samantha Chang, Julia Glass, Lauren Groff, Ann Hood, Danzy Senna, Dani Shapiro, and Cheryl Strayed.

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### THE FRIEND WHO GOT AWAY

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### TWENTY WOMEN'S TRUE LIFE TALES OF FRIENDSHIPS THAT BLEW UP, BURNED OUT OR FADED AWAY

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*Crown* Losing a friend can be as painful and as agonizing as a divorce or the end of a love affair, yet it is rarely written about or even discussed. **THE FRIEND WHO GOT AWAY** is the first book to address this near-universal experience, bringing together the brave, eloquent voices of writers like Francine Prose, Katie Roiphe, Dorothy Allison, Elizabeth Strout, Ann Hood, Diana Abu Jabar, Vivian Gornick, Helen Schulman, and many others. Some write of friends who have drifted away, others of sudden breakups that took them by surprise. Some even celebrate their liberation from unhealthy or destructive relationships. Yet at the heart of each story is the recognition of a loss that will never be forgotten. From stories about friendships that dissolved when one person revealed a hidden self or moved into a different world, to tales of relationships sabotaged by competition, personal ambition, or careless indifference, **THE FRIEND WHO GOT AWAY** casts new light on the meaning and nature of women's friendships. Katie Roiphe writes with regret about the period in her life when even close friends seemed expendable compared to men and sex. Mary Morris reveals how a loan led to the unraveling of a lifelong friendship. Vivian Gornick explores how intellectual differences eroded the bond between once inseparable companions. And two contributors, once best friends, tell both sides of the story that led to their painful breakup. Written especially for this anthology and touched with humor, sadness, and sometimes anger, these extraordinary pieces simultaneously evoke the uniqueness of each situation and illuminate the universal emotions evoked by the loss of a friend.

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### THE EDGE OF EDEN

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### A NOVEL

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*Soho Press* A British diplomat drags his wife and children to the Seychelles in 1960, but it is not a paradise for all: "Wonderful . . . A true page-turner" (Joan Silber). When her husband, Rupert is posted to the remote Seychelle Islands in the Indian Ocean, Penelope is less than thrilled. While her sun-kissed children run barefoot on the beach and become enraptured by the ancient magic, or grigri, in the tropical colonial outpost, Rupert falls under another kind of spell—cast by a local beauty who won't stop until she gets what she wants. Desperate to save her marriage, Penelope turns to black magic, exposing her family to the island's sinister underbelly. Soon, they will all find their lives forever changed, in a novel that is both a suspenseful psychological drama and "an amusingly poignant look at the British abroad in the spirit of Evelyn Waugh" (Publishers Weekly).

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### A SMALL THING TO WANT

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*Press 53* Twelve stories from Shuly Xóchitl Caywood in her debut story collection, *A Small Thing to Want*.

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### THE REST OF US

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### A NOVEL

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*Simon and Schuster* A gorgeous literary debut about second chances, New England Book Festival prize winner *The Rest of Us* is an indelible love story that explores the legacy of an affair between a young student and her older professor. As a college student, Terry fell madly and destructively in love with Rhinehart, her famous poetry professor—a relationship from which she never fully recovered. Now, fifteen years later, she is single, still living in the New York City walk-up she moved into after college, and languishing as a photographer's assistant, having long since abandoned her own art. When she stumbles on Rhinehart's obituary online, complete with litany of his many accomplishments, she finds herself taking stock of the ways she has not lived up to her youthful expectations—and surprisingly distraught at the thought of never seeing him again. And then, a few weeks later, she bumps into Rhinehart himself: very much alive, married, and Christmas shopping at Bloomingdale's. What ensues is an intense and beautiful friendship, an unexpected second act that inspires Terry to come to terms with the consequences of their past and the depth of her own aspirations—and to begin to grow again, as an artist and a woman. A captivating read to the last page, *The Rest of Us* explores those nagging questions that haunt us when we think of who we are, and who we might have been—a love letter to New York City and the struggles of its artists, and a sharp and stirring novel of the heart from a "promising new voice in fiction" (The Daily Beast).

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### THIS IS THE PLACE

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### WOMEN WRITING ABOUT HOME

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*Hachette UK* A thought-provoking collection of personal essays about home What makes a home? What do equality, safety, and politics have to do with it? And why is it so important to us to feel like we belong? In this collection, 30 women writers explore the theme in personal essays about neighbors, marriage, kids, sentimental objects, homelessness, domestic violence, solitude, immigration, gentrification, geography, and more. Contributors -- including Amanda Petrusich, Naomi Jackson, Jane Wong, and Jennifer Finney Boylan -- lend a diverse range of voices to this subject that remains at the core of our national conversations. Engaging, insightful, and full of hope, *This is the Place* will make you laugh, cry, and think hard about home, wherever you may find it. "This collection, encompassing a spectrum of races, ethnicities, religions, sexualities, political beliefs and classes, could not be timelier . . . open this book, hear its chorus of voices and remember that we are a nation of individuals, bound to each other by our humanity." -- The New York Times Book Review ". . . an honest portrait of the U.S., pieced together like an imperfect American quilt. We need more books like this." -- BUST

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### A LADDER TO THE SKY

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### A NOVEL

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*Hogarth* "A satire of writerly ambition wrapped in a psychological thriller . . . An homage to Patricia Highsmith, Oscar Wilde and Edgar Allan Poe, but its execution is entirely Boyne's own."—Ron Charles, *The Washington Post* **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE WASHINGTON POST AND MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE** Maurice Swift is handsome, charming, and hungry for fame. The one thing he doesn't have is talent—but he's not about to let a detail like that stand in his way. After all, a would-be writer can find stories anywhere. They don't need to be his own. Working as a waiter in a West Berlin hotel in 1988, Maurice engineers the perfect opportunity: a chance encounter with celebrated novelist Erich Ackermann. He quickly ingratiates himself with the powerful - but desperately lonely - older man, teasing out of Erich a terrible, long-held secret about his activities during the war. Perfect material for Maurice's first novel. Once Maurice has had a taste of literary fame, he knows he can stop at nothing in pursuit of that high. Moving from the Amalfi Coast, where he matches wits with Gore Vidal, to Manhattan and London, Maurice hones his talent for deceit and manipulation, preying on the talented and vulnerable in his cold-blooded climb to the top. But the higher he climbs, the further he has to fall. . . . Sweeping across the late twentieth century, *A Ladder to the Sky* is a fascinating portrait of a relentlessly immoral man, a tour de force of storytelling, and the next great novel from an acclaimed literary virtuoso. Praise for *A Ladder to the Sky* "Boyne's mastery of perspective, last seen in *The Heart's Invisible Furies*, works beautifully here. . . . Boyne understands that it's far more interesting and satisfying for a reader to see that narcissist in action than to be told a catchall phrase. Each step Maurice Swift takes skyward reveals a new layer of calumny he's willing to engage in, and the desperation behind it . . . so dark it seems almost impossible to enjoy reading *A Ladder to the Sky* as much as you definitely will enjoy reading it."—NPR "Delicious . . . spins out over several decades with thrilling

unpredictability, following Maurice as he masters the art of co-opting the stories of others in increasingly dubious ways. And while the book reads as a thriller with a body count that would make Highsmith proud, it is also an exploration of morality and art: Where is the line between inspiration and thievery? To whom does a story belong?"—Vanity Fair

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### THE UNAMERICANS: STORIES

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[W. W. Norton & Company](#) Traces the experiences of protagonists from a range of cultures, including a blacklisted Hollywood actor who struggles to connect with his son, and a dissenting gallery worker who begins smuggling and curating underground art.

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### MOTHER IN THE DARK

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#### A NOVEL

[Penguin](#) "Tender and unsparing, this is a novel to hold onto." —Crystal Hana Kim, author of *If You Leave Me* "A masterfully written novel, alive and lyrical, a hypnotic rendering of the mess and the tenderness of family life." —Claire Lombardo, author of *The Most Fun We Ever Had* A novel about family secrets and a volatile relationship between a mother and her daughters. When Anna's sister calls with an urgent message, Anna doesn't return the call. She knows it's about their mother. Growing up in working class Boston in an Italian American family, Anna's childhood was sparse but comfortable—filled with homemade pasta sauce and a close-knit neighborhood. Anna and her sisters are devoted to their mother, orbiting her like the sun, trying to keep up with her loving but mercurial nature as she bounces between tenderness and bitterness. When their father gets a new job outside the city, the family is tossed unceremoniously into a middle-class suburban existence. Anna's mother is suddenly adrift, and the darkness lurking inside her expands until it threatens to explode. Her daughters, trapped with her in the new house, isolated, must do everything they can to keep her from unraveling. Alternating between childhood and Anna's twenties, when she receives a shattering call about her mother that threatens to blow up her own precariously constructed life in New York, *Mother in the Dark* asks whether we can ever really go back home when the idea of home is so unstable. Whether we can escape that instability or accept that our personalities are built around the defenses we put up. Maiuri is a master at revealing the fragile horrors of domestic family life and how the traumas of the past shape the present and generations of women. A story about sisterhood, the complications of class, and the chains of inheritance between mothers and daughters, *Mother in the Dark* delivers an unvarnished portrayal of a young woman consumed by her past and a family teetering on the edge of a knife.

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#### USE ME

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#### FICTION

[Harper Collins](#) The exquisitely artful fiction debut of *Vanity Fair* columnist Elissa Schappell is a novel told in ten stories that resonate with the most profound experiences in the life of a young woman -- friendship and rivalry, the love for a man, the birth of a child, and the death of a father.

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### WOLF SEASON

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[Bellevue Literary Press](#) National Reading Group Month "Great Group Reads" selection "[Helen Benedict] has emerged as one of our most thoughtful and provocative writers of war literature." —David Abrams, author of *Fobbit and Brave Deeds*, at the *Quivering Pen* "No one writes with more authority or cool-eyed compassion about the experience of women in war both on and off the battlefield than Helen Benedict. . . . *Wolf Season* is more than a novel for our times; it should be required reading." —Elissa Schappell, author of *Use Me* and *Blueprints for Building Better Girls* "Fierce and vivid and full of hope, this story of trauma and resilience, of love and family, of mutual aid and solidarity in the aftermath of a brutal war is nothing short of magic. . . . To read these pages is to be transported to a world beyond hype and propaganda to see the human cost of war up close. This is not a novel that allows you to walk away unchanged." —Cara Hoffman, author of *Be Safe I Love You* and *Running* "A novel of love, loss, and survival, *Wolf Season* delves into the complexities and murk of the after-war with blazing clarity. You will come to treasure these characters for their strengths and foibles alike. Helen Benedict has delivered yet again, and contemporary war literature is much the better for it." —Matt Gallagher, author of *Kaboom: Embracing the Suck in a Savage Little War* and *Youngblood* After a hurricane devastates a small town in upstate New York, the lives of three women and their young children are irrevocably changed. Rin, an Iraq War veteran, tries to protect her blind daughter and the three wolves under her care. Naema, a widowed doctor who fled Iraq with her wounded son, faces life-threatening injuries and confusion about her feelings for Louis, a veteran and widower harboring his own secrets and guilt. Beth, who is raising a troubled son, waits out her marine husband's deployment in Afghanistan, equally afraid of him coming home and of him never returning at all. As they struggle to maintain their humanity and find hope, their war-torn lives collide in a way that will affect their entire community. Helen Benedict is the author of seven novels, including *Sand Queen*, a *Publishers Weekly* "Best Contemporary War Novel"; five works of nonfiction, including *The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq*; and the play *The Lonely Soldier Monologues*. She lives in New York.

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### BIRDS OF A LESSER PARADISE

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#### STORIES

[Simon and Schuster](#) Presents a collection of stories focusing on the moments when bonds with nature become evident, including the story of a mother and son attempting to reclaim an African gray parrot and of a population control activist who longs to have a baby.

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#### PRECIOUS OBJECTS

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#### A STORY OF DIAMONDS, FAMILY, AND A WAY OF LIFE

[Simon and Schuster](#) In the middle of New York City lies a neighborhood where all secrets are valuable, all assets are liquid, and all deals are sealed with a blessing rather than a contract. Welcome to the diamond district. Ninety percent of all diamonds that enter America pass through these few blocks, but the inner workings of this mysterious world are known only to the people who inhabit it. In *Precious Objects*, twenty-six-year-old journalist Alicia Oltuski, the daughter and granddaughter of diamond dealers, seamlessly blends family narrative with literary reportage to reveal the fascinating secrets of the diamond industry and its madcap characters: an Elvis-impersonating dealer, a duo of diamond-detective brothers, and her own eccentric father. With insight and drama, Oltuski limns her family's diamond-paved move from communist Siberia to a displaced persons camp in post-World War II Germany to New York's diamond district, exploring the connections among Jews and the industry, the gem and its lore, and the exotic citizens of this secluded world. Entertaining and illuminating, *Precious Objects* offers an insider's look at the history, business, and society behind one of the world's most coveted natural resources, providing an unforgettable backstage pass to an extraordinary and timeless show.

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#### THE ADULTS

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#### A NOVEL

[Simon and Schuster](#) Now available in paperback, "Tom Perrotta meets Curtis Sittenfeld in this razor-sharp debut by Alison Espach, who weaves a wry, devastatingly perceptive coming-of-age tale set in Connecticut's affluent suburbs" (*Marie Claire*). In her ruefully funny and wickedly perceptive debut novel, Alison Espach deftly dissects matters of the heart and captures the lives of children and adults as they come to terms with life, death, and love. At the center of this affluent suburban universe is Emily Vidal, a smart and snarky teenager, who gets involved in a suspect relationship with one of the adults after witnessing a suicide in her neighborhood. Among the cast of unforgettable characters is Emily's father, whose fiftieth birthday party has the adults descending upon the Vidal's patio; her mother, who has orchestrated the elaborate party even though she and her husband are getting a divorce; and an assortment of eccentric neighbors, high school teachers, and teenagers who teem with anxiety and sexuality and an unbridled desire to be noticed, and ultimately loved. An irresistible chronicle of a modern young woman's struggle to grow up, *The Adults* lays bare—in perfect pitch—a world where an adult and a child can so dangerously be mistaken for the same exact thing.

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#### THE LONELY SOLDIER

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#### THE PRIVATE WAR OF WOMEN SERVING IN IRAQ

[Beacon Press](#) *The Lonely Soldier*--the inspiration for the documentary *The Invisible War*--vividly tells the stories of five women who fought in Iraq between 2003 and 2006--and of the challenges they faced while fighting a war painfully alone. More American women have fought and died in Iraq than in any war since World War Two, yet as soldiers they are still painfully alone. In Iraq, only one in ten troops is a woman, and she often serves in a unit with few other women or none at all. This isolation, along with the military's deep-seated hostility toward women, causes problems that many female soldiers find as hard to cope with as war itself: degradation, sexual persecution by their comrades, and loneliness, instead of the camaraderie that every soldier depends on for comfort and survival. As one female soldier said, "I ended up waging my own war against an enemy dressed in the same uniform as mine." In *The Lonely Soldier*, Benedict tells the stories of five women who fought in Iraq between 2003 and 2006. She follows them from their childhoods to their enlistments, then takes them through their training, to war and home again, all the while setting the war's events in context. We meet Jen, white and from a working-class town in the heartland, who still shakes from her wartime traumas; Abbie, who rebelled against a household of liberal Democrats by enlisting in the National Guard; Mickiela, a Mexican American who grew up with a family entangled in L.A. gangs; Terris, an African American mother from D.C. whose childhood was torn by violence; and Eli PaintedCrow, who joined the military to follow Native American tradition and to escape a life of Faulknerian hardship. Between these stories, Benedict weaves those of the forty other Iraq War veterans she interviewed, illuminating the complex issues of war and misogyny, class, race, homophobia, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Each of these stories is unique, yet collectively they add up to a heartbreaking picture of the sacrifices women soldiers are making for this country. Benedict ends by showing how these women came to face the truth of war and by offering suggestions for how the military can improve conditions for female soldiers--including distributing women more evenly throughout units and rejecting male recruits with records of violence against women. Humanizing, urgent, and powerful, *The Lonely Soldier* is a clarion call for change.

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## BROWN GIRLS

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HarperCollins UK **ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED BOOKS OF 2022 IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, GUARDIAN, INDEPENDENT, GLAMOUR, STYLIST, INEWS, SUNDAY TIMES STYLE, LITERARY FRICTION PODCAST AND MORE.**

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## ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES

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### A MEMOIR

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Open Road + Grove/Atlantic **Rob Spillman**—the award-winning, charismatic cofounding editor of the legendary Tin House magazine—has devoted his life to the rebellious pursuit of artistic authenticity. Born in Germany to two driven musicians, his childhood was spent among the West Berlin cognoscenti, in a city two hundred miles behind the Iron Curtain. There, the Berlin Wall stood as a stark reminder of the split between East and West, between suppressed dreams and freedom of expression. After an unsettled youth moving between divorced parents in disparate cities, Spillman would eventually find his way into the literary world of New York City, only to abandon it to return to Berlin just months after the Wall came down. Twenty-five and newly married, Spillman and his wife, the writer Elissa Schappell, moved to the anarchic streets of East Berlin in search of the bohemian lifestyle of their idols. But Spillman soon discovered he was chasing the one thing that had always eluded him: a place, or person, to call home. In his intimate, entertaining, and heartfelt memoir, Spillman narrates a colorful, music-filled coming-of-age portrait of an artist's life that is also a cultural exploration of a shifting Berlin.

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### RECOVERY

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## HOW TO SURVIVE SEXUAL ASSAULT FOR WOMEN, MEN, TEENAGERS, AND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

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Columbia University Press **Recovery**

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### I AM NOT A SLUT

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## SLUT-SHAMING IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET

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Harper Perennial **The author of the groundbreaking work Slut!** explores the phenomenon of slut-shaming in the age of sexting, tweeting, and “liking.” She shows that the sexual double standard is more dangerous than ever before and offers wisdom and strategies for alleviating its destructive effects on young women's lives. Young women are encouraged to express themselves sexually. Yet when they do, they are derided as “sluts.” Caught in a double bind of mixed sexual messages, young women are confused. To fulfill the contradictory roles of being sexy but not slutty, they create an “experienced” identity on social media—even if they are not sexually active—while ironically referring to themselves and their friends as “sluts.” But this strategy can become a weapon used against young women in the hands of peers who circulate rumors and innuendo—elevating age-old slut-shaming to deadly levels, with suicide among bullied teenage girls becoming increasingly common. Now, Leora Tanenbaum revisits her influential work on sexual stereotyping to offer fresh insight into the digital and face-to-face worlds contemporary young women inhabit. She shares her new research, involving interviews with a wide range of teenage girls and young women from a variety of backgrounds as well as parents, educators, and academics. Tanenbaum analyzes the coping mechanisms young women currently use and points them in a new direction to eradicate slut-shaming for good.

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### THE SAILOR'S WIFE

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### A NOVEL

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Zoland Books, Incorporated **Joyce Perlman** is aimless and drifting after high school in a Miami suburb. By chance one night she meets a Greek merchant marine named Nikos, and for the first time realizes she “doesn't want to be a virgin anymore.” Against her parents' wishes, they marry, and he takes her back to his home on a remote Greek island. There he leaves her, rarely returning, for over two years. Joyce finds herself living the merciless life of a Greek peasant woman, at the command of people steeped in religion, misogyny, superstition, and their experience of war. Yet, she loves it. For the first time in her life, she feels she has a purpose. Then she meets Alex, a young Englishman with family on the island, and is forced to come to grips with everything she's turned her back on: modernity, education, freedom, and passion. *The Sailor's Wife* is an examination of the nature of freedom, and the struggle to balance duty and love.

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### BEAUTY

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Santa Fe Writers Project **Amy Wong** is an up-and-coming designer in the New York fashion industry; she is young, beautiful, and has it all. But she finds herself at odds with rival designers in a world rife with chauvinism and prejudice. In her personal life, she struggles with marriage and motherhood, finding that her choices often fall short of her traditional family's expectations. Derailed again and again, Amy must confront her own limitations to succeed as the designer and person she wants to be.

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### THE ARTISTS' AND WRITERS' COOKBOOK

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### A COLLECTION OF STORIES WITH RECIPES

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Inspired by a book from 1961, the original *Artists' & Writers' Cookbook* included brief anecdotes and recipes from the likes of Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Marianne Moore and Harper Lee. This new, illustrated version includes essays with recipes from Neil Gaiman, Joyce Carol Oates, Marina Abramovic, Nelson DeMille, T.C. Boyle, Ed Ruscha, Aimee Bender, Sanford Biggers, Alice Hoffman, Gregory Crewdson, Edwidge Danticat, John Currin, Paul Muldoon, Francesca Lia Block, Anthony Doerr, Heidi Julavits, Padgett Powell, Leanne Shapton, James Franco and many others.

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### THERE ONCE LIVED A GIRL WHO SEDUCED HER SISTER'S HUSBAND, AND HE HANGED HIMSELF

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### LOVE STORIES

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Penguin **Love stories, with a twist**, by Russia's preeminent contemporary fiction writer—the author of the prizewinning memoir about growing up in Stalinist Russia, *The Girl from the Metropol Hotel*—By turns sly and sweet, burlesque and heartbreaking, these realist fables of women looking for love are the stories that Ludmilla Petrushevskaya—who has been compared to Chekhov, Tolstoy, Beckett, Poe, Angela Carter, and even Stephen King—is best known for in Russia. Here are attempts at human connection, both depraved and sublime, by people across the life span: one-night stands in communal apartments, poignantly awkward couplings, office trysts, schoolgirl crushes, elopements, tentative courtships, and rampant infidelity, shot through with lurid violence, romantic illusion, and surprising tenderness. With the satirical eye of Cindy Sherman, Petrushevskaya blends macabre spectacle with transformative moments of grace and shows just why she is Russia's preeminent contemporary fiction writer.

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### THE WONDER BREAD SUMMER

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### A NOVEL

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Harper Collins “Picaresque, properly funny, unpredictable and altogether irrepressible.” —Nick Hornby, *The Believer* **Jessica Anya Blau**, author of *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties* and *Mary Jane*, delivers a darkly hilarious, heartbreaking coming-of-age novel with *The Wonder Bread Summer*. In *The Wonder Bread Summer*, loosely based on Alice in Wonderland, 20-year-old Allie Dodgson has adventures that rival those Alice had down the rabbit hole. Or those of Weeds' Nancy Botwin. Allison is working at a dress shop to help pay for college. The dress shop turns out to be a front for drug dealers. And Allison ends up on the run—with a Wonder Bread bag full of cocaine. With a hit man after her, Allison wants the help of her parents. But there's a problem: Her mom took off when Allison was eight; her dad moves so often Allison that doesn't even have his phone number.... Set in 1980s California, *The Wonder Bread Summer* is a wickedly funny and fresh caper that's sure to please fans of Christopher Moore, Carl Hiaasen, and Marcy Dermansky.

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### QUIET DELL

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### A NOVEL

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Simon and Schuster In 1931, Emily Thornhill, one of the few women in the Chicago press, covers the murders of Asta Eicher and her three children and, obsessed with finding out what happened to this beautiful family, allies herself with the man funding the investigation.

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### BAD ANGEL

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Plume Books Set in one of New York's toughest neighbourhoods, this is the hard-hitting and heartbreaking story of a Dominican-American teenage mother, Bianca Diaz, struggling to see past the hopelessness of her situation to make the right decisions for herself and her baby daughter..

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### PLAY IT AS IT LAYS

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### A NOVEL

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Open Road Media A “scathing novel!” of one woman's path of self-destruction in 1960s Hollywood—by the New York Times–bestselling author of *The White Album* (*The Washington Post Book World*). Spare, elegant, and terrifying, *Play It as It Lays* is the unforgettable story of a woman and a society come undone. Raised in the ghost town of Silver Wells,

Nevada, Maria Wyeth is an ex-model and the star of two films directed by her estranged husband, Carter Lang. But in the spiritual desert of 1960s Los Angeles, Maria has lost the plot of her own life. Her daughter, Kate, was born with an “aberrant chemical in her brain.” Her long-troubled marriage has slipped beyond repair, and her disastrous love affairs and strained friendships provide little comfort. Her only escape is to get in her car and drive the freeway—in the fast lane with the radio turned up high—until it runs out “somewhere no place at all where the flawless burning concrete just stopped.” But every ride to nowhere, every sleepless night numbed by pills and booze and sex, makes it harder for Maria to find the meaning in another day. Told with profound economy of style and a “vision as bleak and precise as Eliot’s in ‘The Wasteland,’” *Play It as It Lays* ruthlessly dissects the dark heart of the American dream (The New York Times). It is a searing masterpiece “from one of the very few writers of our time who approaches her terrible subject with absolute seriousness, with fear and humility and awe” (Joyce Carol Oates, The New York Times Book Review).

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#### H OF H PLAYBOOK

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Random House 'Fans of Anne Carson, rejoice!... Carson's depth of knowledge about Greek mythology coupled with her poetic sensibility and illustrations is sure to breathe new life into this oft-told story.' Lit Hub H of H Playbook is an explosion of thought, in drawings and language, about a Greek tragedy called Herakles by the 5th-century BC poet Euripides. In myth Herakles is an embodiment of manly violence who returns home after years of making war on enemies and monsters (his famous "Labours of Herakles") to find he cannot adapt himself to a life of peacetime domesticity. He goes berserk and murders his whole family. Suicide is his next idea. Amazingly, this does not happen. Due to the intervention of his friend Theseus, Herakles comes to believe he is not, after all, indelibly stained by his own crimes, nor is his life without value. It remains for the reader to judge this redemptive outcome. "I think there is no such thing as an innocent landscape," said Anselm Kiefer, painter of forests grown tall on bones.

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#### SIX DAYS IN ROME

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Hachette UK 'A stunning writer and a brilliant transporting experience' Lisa Taddeo, bestselling author of *Three Women* and *Animal* 'Sensorial as hell... An ode to funky wine labels, good taste, and true inspiration, Francesca Giacco has penned a stunningly cool and stylish debut' Paul Beatty, Man Booker Prize winning author of *The Sellout* 'If Sally Rooney and Frances Mayes co-wrote a novel in an Airbnb near the Spanish Steps, it might read something like *Six Days in Rome*' David Ebershoff, bestselling author of *The Danish Girl* -- Emilia, an artist, arrives in Rome alone. What was supposed to be a romantic trip has, with the sudden end of her relationship, become a solitary one. Six days lie ahead. She wanders the streets, surrendering herself to the music, food and beauty of the city. But when she meets John, an American living out a seemingly idyllic existence in Rome, their instant connection challenges how she sees her past, her family and herself. As their intimacy deepens, can Emilia begin to imagine life anew? Visceral, decadent and deeply evocative, *Six Days in Rome* is a novel about reckoning with complex pasts and choices made - and finding what you didn't know you were looking for.

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#### WILD PETS

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Faber & Faber 'Smart and funny... Wild Pets is an instant set text of the emerging canon of millennial fiction.' Guardian 'A wickedly funny and emotionally complex novel.' Jenny Offill, author of *Weather* and Dept. of Speculation 'An impressive, cumulatively powerful first outing.' Daily Mail 'A ripe and excellent debut... funny and smart and human and true.' Andrew O'Hagan, author of *Mayflies* *Wild Pets* follows Iris, Ezra and Nance in the years after university. They fall in and out of bed with each other, reread *The Art of War*, grieve the closing of Fabric and write book proposals on the history of salt, while submerging their nights in drink and drugs. Confronting adulthood with high wit and low behaviour against contemporary political and social turmoil, these young men and women seem to have everything going for them. So why are they still swimming desperately against the tide? A bold, honest novel, *Wild Pets* is about the fragility of mental health, power imbalances in friendship and sex, and creative ambition fused with destruction - and the lingering power of first loves.

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#### PIZZA GIRL

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HarperCollins UK Named a *Vogue*, *Esquire*, NPR, *Marie Claire*, and *Refinery29* Best Book of the Year. Perfect for fans of *Normal People* and *Fleabag* Great inventiveness, unflinching intelligence and empathy, and best of all a rare and shimmering wit' Richard Ford

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#### THIS COULD HURT

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HarperCollins "Periodically a writer captures the pattern of comedy and tragedy that peppers office life like alternating colors of carpet squares. . . . As smart as Medoff's critique of corporate inanity is, it's tempered by compassion for these people, who are ultimately tender with each other, too. . . . Medoff finds plenty of hurt—but strains of hope, too." —Ron Charles, *The Washington Post* The acclaimed and deeply felt novel that illuminates the pivotal role of work in our lives. Rosa Guerrero beat the odds as she rose to the top of the corporate world. An attractive woman of a certain age, the longtime chief of human resources at Ellery Consumer Research is still a formidable presence, even if her most vital days are behind her. A leader who wields power with grace and discretion, she has earned the devotion and loyalty of her staff. No one admires Rosa more than her doting lieutenant Leo Smalls, a benefits vice president whose whole world is Ellery. While Rosa is consumed with trying to address the needs of her staff within the ever-constricting limits of the company's bottom line, her associate director, Rob Hirsch, a middle-aged, happily married father of two, finds himself drawing closer to his "work wife," Lucy Bender, an enterprising single woman searching for something—a romance, a promotion—to fill the vacuum in her personal life. For Kenny Verville, a senior manager with an MBA, Ellery is a temporary stepping-stone to bigger and better places—that is, if his high-powered wife has her way. Compelling, flawed, and heartbreakingly human, these men and women scheme, fall in and out of love, and nurture dreams big and small. As their individual circumstances shift, one thing remains constant—Rosa, the sun around whom they all orbit. When her world begins to crumble, the implications for everyone are profound, and Leo, Rob, Lucy, and Kenny find themselves changed in ways beyond their reckoning. Jillian Medoff explores the inner workings of an American company in all its brilliant, insane, comforting, and terrifying glory. Authentic, razor-sharp, and achingly funny, *This Could Hurt* is a novel about work, loneliness, love, and loyalty; about sudden reversals and unexpected windfalls; a novel about life.

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#### KNITTING YARNS: WRITERS ON KNITTING

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W. W. Norton & Company This collection of essays from over twenty different authors, including Elizabeth Berg, Ann Patchett, Andre Dubus III and Sue Grafton, describes their passion for knitting, recalling their triumphs and disasters in their craft projects and lives. 30,000 first printing.

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#### PERENNIALS

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##### A NOVEL

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Random House "This highly anticipated coming-of-age novel . . . delivers the perfect sunny trifecta: summer camp drama, growing pains, and the enduring power of female friendships."—Redbook At what point does childhood end and adulthood begin? Mandy Berman's evocative debut novel captures, through the lens of summer camp both the thrill and pain of growing up. Rachel Rivkin and Fiona Larkin used to treasure their summers together as campers at Camp Marigold. Now, reunited as counselors after their first year of college, their relationship is more complicated. Rebellious Rachel, a street-smart city kid raised by a single mother, has been losing patience with her best friend's insecurities; Fiona, the middle child of a not-so-perfect suburban family, envies Rachel's popularity with their campers and fellow counselors. For the first time, the two friends start keeping secrets from each other. Through them, as well as from the perspectives of their fellow counselors, their campers, and their mothers, we witness the tensions of the turbulent summer build to a tragic event, which forces Rachel and Fiona to confront their pasts—and the adults they're becoming. A seductive blast of nostalgia, a striking portrait of adolescent longing, and a tribute to female friendship, *Perennials* will speak to everyone who still remembers that bittersweet moment when innocence is lost forever. Praise for *Perennials* "Berman is at her most insightful when exploring the awkward unfurling of female adolescence. . . . *Perennials* is a sharp meditation on the changing female body, and the ways in which such changes are often involuntary and unwanted. . . . [She] skillfully captures the details and rituals of camp."—J. Courtney Sullivan, *The New York Times Book Review* "Berman's command of prose is astounding. The more you read, the more difficult it is to believe that this is a debut novel. . . . Charged with hope, longing, an unexpected sensuality, and a bruised tenderness, *Perennials* is a book you should most definitely put near the top of your reading list."—Pop Dust "Snappy and irresistible, *Perennials* takes readers back to summer camp, where her characters' first friendships and treasons play out in sharp dialogue and playful, generous prose."—Kristopher Jansma, author of *Why We Came to the City*

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#### INSIDE MADELEINE

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Soho PressInc *Inside Madeleine* is a powerful, daring new collection about the curious, complicated relationships girls have with their bodies, with other girls and with boys. This eagerly awaited collection seethes with alienation, lust and rage. It's even more daring and accomplished than Bomer's first collection, which Jonathan Franzen described as 'like being attacked by a rabid dog - and feeling grateful for it. This is some of the rawest and most urgent writing I can remember encountering'.

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#### THE REST OF US

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##### A NOVEL

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Simon and Schuster Years after an affair with her college professor compelled her to abandon her own art, Terry, who believed her ex had died, unexpectedly runs into him and pursues a healing friendship that renews her creative ambitions.

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#### FUNGIPEDIA

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##### A BRIEF COMPENDIUM OF MUSHROOM LORE

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Princeton University Press An illustrated mini-encyclopedia of fungal lore, from John Cage and Terrence McKenna to mushroom sex and fairy rings. With more than 180 entries, this collection will transport both general readers and specialists into the remarkable universe of fungi.

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**THE BEST OF ROALD DAHL**

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[Penguin UK](#) Twenty wickedly anarchic tales from the master of the unpredictable, chosen from his bestsellers *Over to You*, *Someone Like You*, *Kiss Kiss* and *Switch Bitch*. Stylish, outrageous and haunting, they explore the sinister side of the human psyche with unexpected outcomes. There's the wife who serves up a murderous new dish to her husband, the gambler who collects little fingers from losers, the sound machine that can hear grass scream, and the night-time seduction that has macabre consequences, to name a few.

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**THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE**

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[Viking Childrens Books](#) When seventeen-year-old Madge, a bi-racial girl living in a small Pennsylvania town populated by bigots, decides to change the world for the better, she starts by "adopting" a four-year-old boy she finds abandoned in New York City.