

NEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JANUARY 2019

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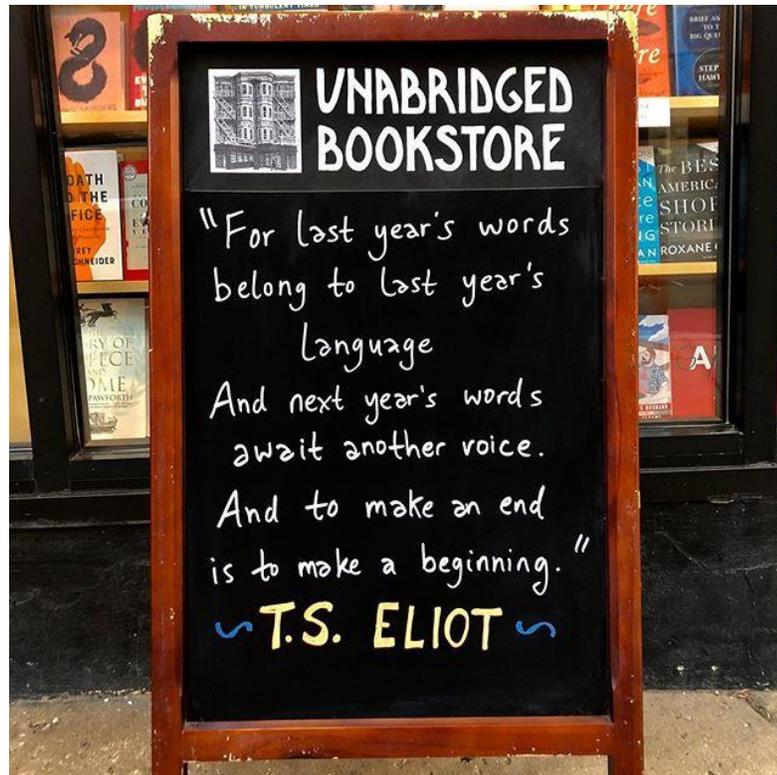
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Happy New Year, book lovers. We are thrilled to report that 2018 was **our** busiest year since we opened our doors in 1980. Thank you to all of you who chose to shop locally and independently this year. Indie businesses all over Chicago are flourishing with your support, lending our city the exuberance and diversity that defines its character.



Let's break another record this year, shall we? For those of you new to the shop (or for those old hands who simply wish to brush up), here's a short FAQ about Unabridged:

- How long have you been open? Our doors first opened on November 1st, 1980. Ed Devereux, who owns and operates Unabridged to this day, opened the shop as an LGBTQ specialty bookstore. Over the years we've evolved into a full-service independent bookstore, but our sizeable collection of LGBTQ titles remains an invaluable resource for the queer community in Chicago.
- Do you buy or sell used books? We do not. Unabridged exclusively sells new books and remainders. Our award-winning sale book section is filled with thousands of remaindered titles priced from \$5.99 - \$9.99. We receive new shipments of remainders every week.
- Do you sell books for children? We do! Unabridged employs two children's book buyers who expertly curate our kids section. The section is expansive and includes a YA section for LGBTQ youth.
- Do you have a book club? We have one, the Lakeview Lit Syndicate, which (with rare exceptions) meets on the first Tuesday of every month. January's selection is Natalia Ginzburg's *Family Lexicon*, which we'll meet to discuss on Tuesday, February 5th at 7PM. Our book club is free and open to the public! Those who wish to participate on social media are encouraged to do so using the hash tag #litsyndicate.
- Do you host events? We do! Though we have yet to announce any of our events for 2019, we have a few doozies in the works. We announce the month's events in this newsletter, but the keen may peruse our full events calendar at unabridgedbookstore.com/events.
- Do you have a membership program? We don't have a membership program *per se*, but customers who shop using their Unabridged tote bag receive 10% off their purchases. Totes cost \$14.99 and are available

for purchase at our front counter. Our limited edition 2019 design by the amazing Alexa Viscius is available now.



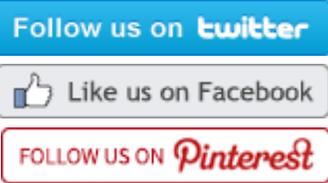
Have other questions? Swing by the shop and ask away! You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter (@unabridgedbooks), and Instagram (@unabridgedbookstore).

Simply looking for a new book? Scroll down to peruse our latest recommendations. See you soon!

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We're always eager to hear how we can be the best neighborhood bookstore we can be. We're super nice and very approachable and LOVE talking about books. Pick your favorite technology to contact us or stop by today!

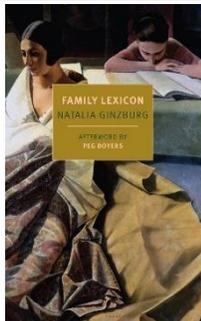
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This month's newest titles are picked, as always, from the fevered minds of the employees at Unabridged. Comments always appreciated. Email the store at unabridged@unabridgedbookstore.com or call us at 773.883.9119.

IN-STORE EVENTS

JANUARY'S BOOK CLUB SELECTION



Family Lexicon by Natalia Ginzburg

"An Italian family, sizable, with its routines and rituals, crazes, pet phrases, and stories, doubtful, comical, indispensable, comes to life in the pages of Natalia Ginzburg's *Family Lexicon*. Giuseppe Levi, the father, is a scientist, consumed by his work and a mania for hiking-when he isn't provoked into angry remonstrance by someone misspeaking or misbehaving or wearing the wrong thing. Giuseppe is Jewish, married to Lidia, a Catholic, though neither is religious; they live in the industrial city of Turin where, as the years pass, their children find ways of their own to medicine, marriage, literature, politics. It is all very ordinary, except that the background to the story is Mussolini's Italy in its steady downward descent to race law and world war. The Levis are, among other things, unshakeable anti-fascists. That will complicate their lives.

Family Lexicon is about a family and language-and about storytelling not only as a form of survival but also as an instrument of deception and domination. The book takes the shape of a novel, yet everything is true. 'Every time that I have found myself inventing something in accordance with my old habits as a novelist, I have felt impelled at once to destroy

[it],' Ginzburg tells us at the start. 'The places, events, and people are all real.'" - New York Review of Books

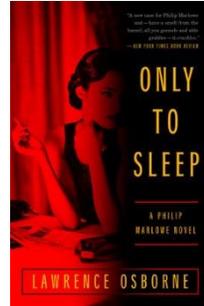
Our book club will meet to discuss *Family Lexicon* on Tuesday, February 5th at 7PM. Join us!

In paperback, fiction, 14.95; NYRB Classics.

NEW FICTION

ONLY TO SLEEP by Lawrence Osborne

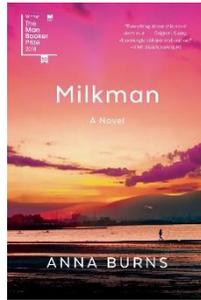
I've loved Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe books in the past, so I was thrilled, if a bit skeptical, when I heard that Lawrence Osborne was going to resurrect the legendary detective. Fortunately, by aging the character (he's in his early seventies) and setting this book in the eighties, Lawrence not only successfully brings back Marlowe but also gives us a compelling new take. It reminds me of Altman's controversial adaptation of "The Long Goodbye," where the director sets the film in the '70s (but doesn't age the detective). IN a more cynical era, 1940s "white night" Marlowe is often in over his head. In *Only To Sleep*, Marlowe is hardly ineffectual, but there's still that tension of a man out of his time, in this case, running out of time. The writing is full of Marlowe's wry wit, but also some really beautiful sad lines and images. A grand return!



Tim recommends!

In hardcover, fiction, 26.00; Hogarth Press.

MILKMAN by Anna Burns



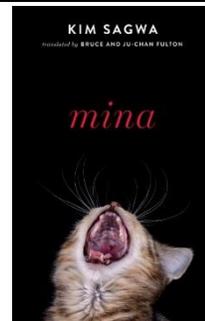
Milkman is not an imagined, future dystopia, but the very real world of Northern Ireland during "The Troubles"-ingeniously and brilliantly written without ever mentioning the words Troubles, IRA, Ireland, British, Protestant, Catholic. The story is ingeniously and brilliantly told as one long, interior monologue by the unnamed protagonist, an 18-year-old girl navigating and coming-of-age-in an insular, claustrophobic, paranoid, rumour-filled world, all the while dealing with a paramilitary stalker (ingeniously and brilliantly, no names are used in the book, just "milkman," "maybe-boyfriend," "third-brother-in-law," etc.) It is Burns' meandering, stream-of-consciousness style that makes reading *Milkman* such a wonderfully immersive experience-it can seem maddening at first, with its long, extended sentences filled with commas and clauses (which I love!!,) but jump right in and the story flows effortlessly (again, brilliant and ingenious.) The novel brilliantly and ingeniously explores the themes of borders and barriers and the dreaded other, the power of gossip and the power of history, and the whole idea of how power is used, both in a personal and societal sense. What's also extraordinary is the comic unfolding of the otherwise devastatingly serious plot (the narrator confounds the community by one of her quirks, "reading-while-walking") and the density and tightness of the plotting behind the narrator's apparent rambling. **POWERFUL** and **EXTRAORDINARY**, one of my favorite novels of the year!

ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!!

In paperback, fiction, 16.00; Graywolf Press.

MINA by Kim Sagwa

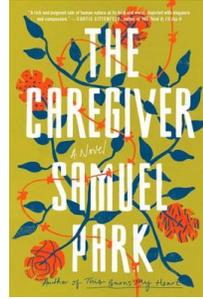
An unsettling distillation of cultural criticism and black rom-com, *Mina* is not a book for the faint of heart. Sixteen year old Crystal moves through her life at a manic pace, at once cramming for school, drinking and eating sweets to excess, flitting from romance to romance without care for her paramours, and obsessing over her best friend (and nemesis?), the eponymous Mina. Over the course of the novel Crystal gradually loses her grip on reality, with devastating results. *Mina* is a compelling portrait of the freneticism and self-absorption of contemporary teenage life. Reader, I was shocked.



Katharine recommends.

In paperback, fiction, 14.95; Two Lines Press.

THE CAREGIVER by Samuel Park



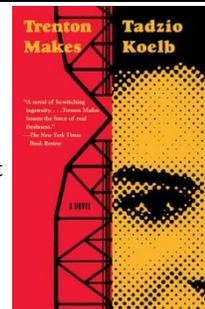
In prose that rings clear and true, from the poor streets of Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to the posh city of Bel Air, California, *The Caregiver* is a beautiful testament to Samuel Park's extraordinary talents as a storyteller. The story of Mara, her mother Ana, and Kathryn, who Mara cares for, is a vivid and profound portrayal of 3 women that asks us to consider who we really are as children, as parents, as immigrants. The novel is both a page-turner and a lyrical examination of the heart, filled with elegance and compassion and life, and beyond the affecting pages of the novel, Samuel Park's own tragic death from stomach cancer in April, 2017, at the age of 41, is an added somber factor in reflecting on the novel's power and intensity (Park was born in Brazil, but lived here in Chicago and taught at Columbia College.)

ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!

In hardcover, fiction, 26.00; Simon & Schuster.

TRENTON MAKES by Tadzio Koelb

Available in paperback on January 15th!



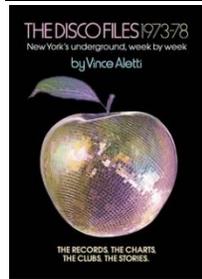
Trenton Makes is an ambitious first novel about what it means to be a man, what it means to BECOME a man-in 1952, post-WWII America, and in 1971, the Vietnam War era (specifically in Trenton, NJ, once a great manufacturing hub, which still has a sign on its bridge, "Trenton Makes, the World Takes.") It is a journey across gender, a piercing tragedy of a life lived as an impostor, about how our bodies define us, about the "the chains of family and history" and what a son owes a father. The book's two halves (1952 and 1971) form a cohesive whole and take the whole riff of a woman living as

a man farther than I've ever seen. The language is sharp, the story harrowing-ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!

In paperback, fiction, 16.95; Anchor Books.

NEW NON-FICTION

DISCO FILES by Vince Aletti



Cultural critic Vince Aletti wrote a weekly disco column for **RECORD WORLD** magazine from 1974-1978, during disco's formative years up until it exploded into the mainstream. His disco writings were collected in 2009, but the book soon went out of print (and was fetching hundreds of dollars online). Thankfully, the good people at D.A.P. have reprinted all his disco writings, and the result is a veritable treasure trove of disco wonder and ecstasy. Also included are other writings/interviews with Aletti (including his 1973 article for *Rolling Stone*, considered to be the first piece on the genre). It's a marvel to read something this detailed, written in real time, about a music genre and subsequent culture that progressed from underground clubs and small private parties to briefly take over the world. The sheer joy of Aletti is infectious, and his knowledge is astounding. This is an absolute must for disco aficionados and dance music nerds.

Shane recommends!

In paperback, non-fiction, 35.00; Distributed Art Publishers (DAP).
