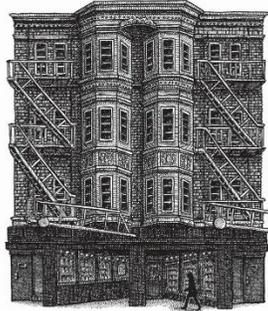


UNABRIDGED BOOKSTORE



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MARCH NEWSLETTER

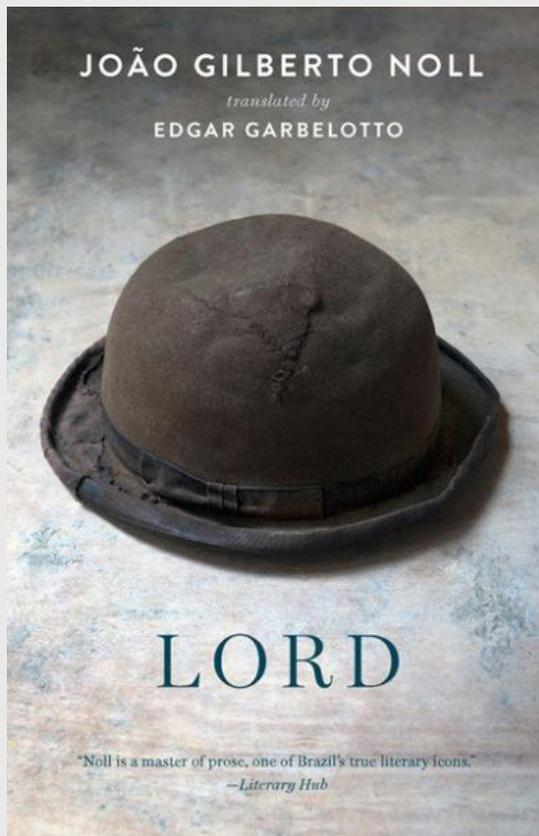


Welcome to our shiny new newsletter! We've streamlined our design, but all of your favorite old content is still here. Scroll down for our events listings, book club selection, and staff reviews. See you soon!

Unabridged Bookstore | unabridgedbookstore@gmail.com | 773.883.9119 | [Website](#)

See what's happening on our social sites:

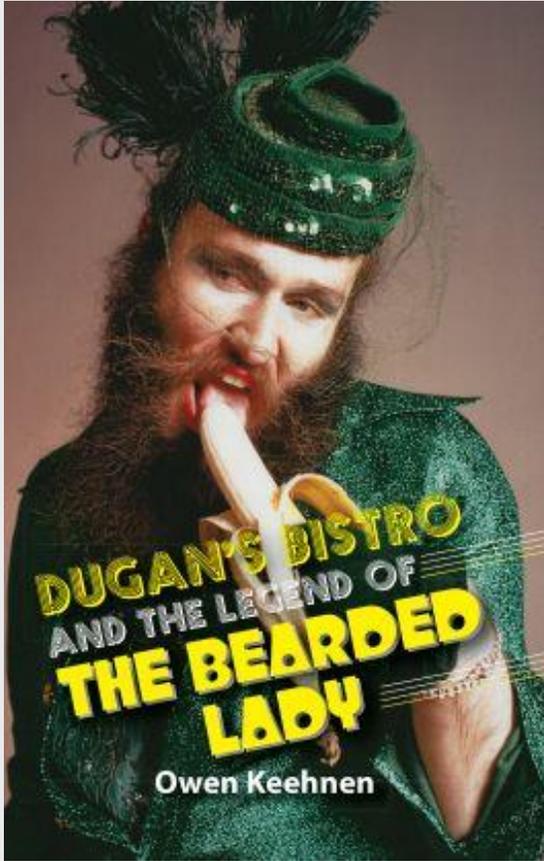
EVENTS



Translator Edgar Garbelotto will join Susan Harris in conversation at the shop on Monday, March 4th at 7PM.

In João Gilberto Noll's disquieting and surreal *Lord*, an unnamed narrator (all we know is that he is a middle-aged Brazilian author of 7 books, determined to stay in London, although exactly why he is there remains a mystery) maintains a continuous, internal monologue of self-contemplation, seeming to question the very nature of his personhood and identity, all the while wandering London's streets experiencing surreal, sexual encounters. Is this all a chimera? A feverish nightmare? An extreme attempt to reinvent oneself? Is it about the disorienting experience of migration? João Gilberto Noll is a hero of Brazilian literature, and translator Edgar Garbelotto is a local author and friend of Unabridged; if you're looking for something slightly unsettling, in the vein of Kafka's *The Trial* or *The Metamorphosis*, with dreamlike prose and an original, experimental style, check out *Lord*! Ed loved and highly recommends!

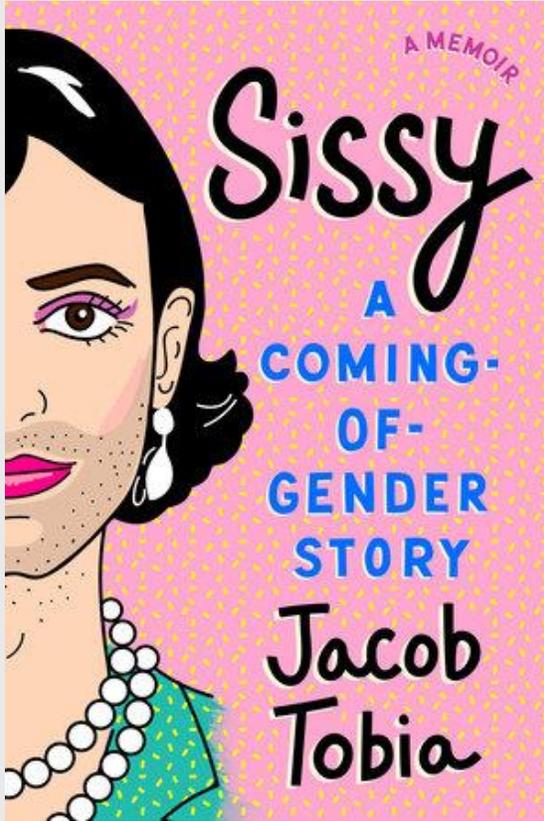
In paperback, fiction, 13.95; **And Other Stories.**



Owen Keehnen will present *Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady* at the shop on Thursday, March 7th at 7PM.

BEFORE STUDIO 54... Dugan's Bistro was the hottest gay disco in Chicago. From 1973-1982, the sign above the door and on the club's matchbooks read: "Dugan's Bistro, the Home of the Bearded Lady." A Chicago nightlife phenomenon, the Bearded Lady was a unique celebrity who, for over a decade, was covered regularly in gay newspapers and magazines, gossip columns of the Chicago Tribune and Sun Times, and several national and international publications. Despite his fame, much of BL's life has remained a mystery, until now. *Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady* is a folklore-bio of the Disco Era - a time and place that were key in the evolution of Chicago's LGBT community. The Bearded Lady's story is a gateway to the decadent nightlife and exuberance of a "lost" generation - and what happened after the party ended.

In paperback, non-fiction, 17.00; Outtales.



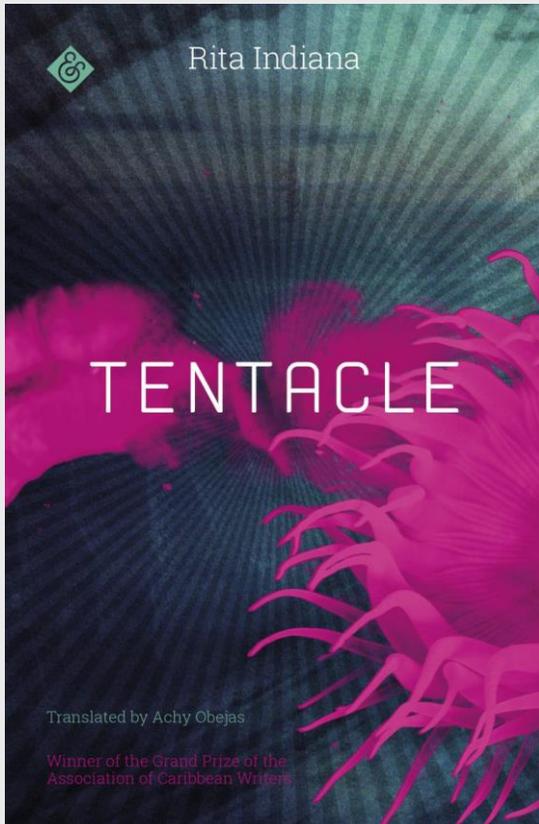
Unabridged will sell books for Jacob Tobia on Tuesday, March 12th at 7PM at the WeWork space on 515 N. State Street. Tickets for this event may be purchased [here](#) .

A heart-wrenching, eye-opening, and giggle-inducing memoir about what it's like to grow up not sure if you're (a) a boy, (b) a girl, (c) something in between, or (d) all of the above.

“When the political reality facing this country seems dark, we need shinier, sparklier thinkers in the public eye. With a signature style matched only by their wit, Jacob fits that bill perfectly.” —Alan Cumming

In hardcover, non-fiction, 26.00; G.P. Putnam's Sons.

BOOK CLUB SELECTION



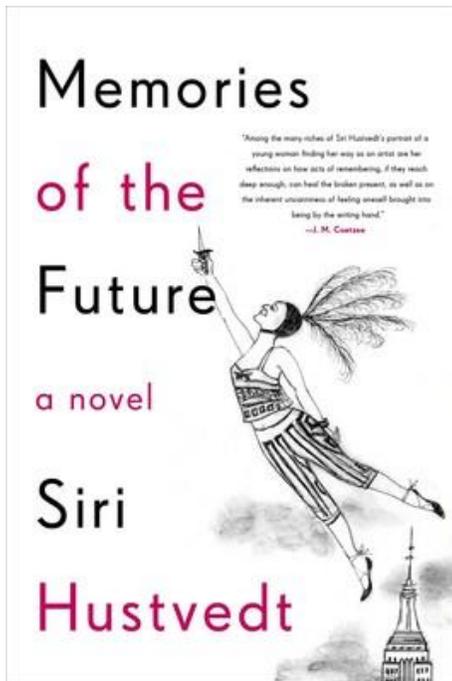
Our book club will meet to discuss *Tentacle* on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7PM. Copies are available for purchase at our front counter.

"Plucked from her life on the streets of post-apocalyptic Santo Domingo, young maid Acilde Figueroa finds herself at the heart of a Santería prophecy: only she can travel back in time and save the ocean – and humanity – from disaster. But first she must become the man she always was – with the help of a sacred anemone.

Tentacle is an electric novel with a big appetite and a brave vision, plunging headfirst into questions of climate change, technology, Yoruba ritual, queer politics, poverty, sex, colonialism and contemporary art. Bursting with punk energy and lyricism, it's a restless, addictive trip: *The Tempest* meets the telenovela." - & Other Stories

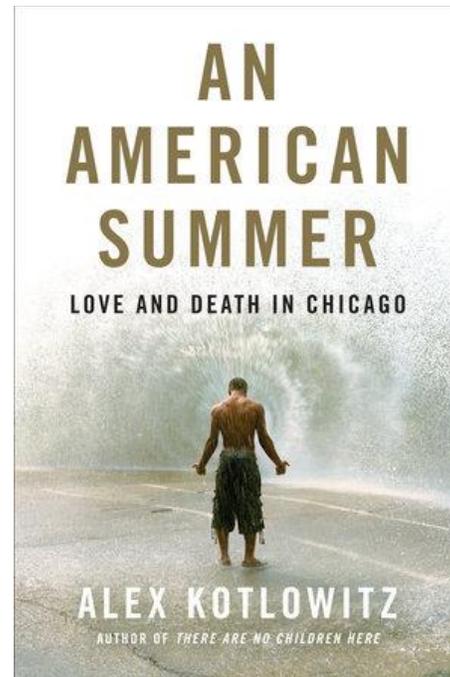
In paperback, fiction, 13.95; And Other Stories.

STAFF PICKS



Available March 19th!

For me, reading *Memories of the Future* was an exhilarating experience. I've never marked up a novel so much while reading it, noting and underlining all my favorite passages and quotes, and when I finished the novel, writing “**AWESOME!**” at the bottom of the final page, I felt like I was soaring as high as the woman in the final drawing! It is a portrait of the artist as a young woman, and is about time and memory and art and writing and, central to our current American moment, about women's rage; in the 1970's, a young, Midwestern woman—a writer, but part poet, philosopher and urban adventurer, seeking adventure on a grand scale and wanting to soak up life and all its experience—moves to New York City to write her first novel. I am in awe of Siri Hustvedt the writer—her deft plotting, melodious prose, luscious sentences and complex narrative structure (here she shifts effortlessly back and forth between past and present, first person and third person, author-as-narrator, author-as-subject, and as a character in her own novel, her current-self addresses her former-self (as well as the reader directly), exploring the complex, philosophical nuances of time and memory and point-of-



Available March 5th!

Kotlowitz has been writing about Chicago for decades, and this is perhaps his most intimate and powerful work to date. Exploring one specific time in Chicago -the summer of 2013- Kotlowitz unveils a series of completely immersive, heart-wrenching portraits of those affected by Chicago gun violence. Here, pervasive poverty and systemic racism often blur the lines between offender and victim, and the book raises important questions about community, gang culture, and privilege. This is the Chicago that most Chicagoans don't know (or choose to ignore), yet Kotlowitz proves that it is as much a part of the fabric of the city as a Cubs game at Wrigley Field. Complicated, brutal, illuminating, and urgent, this is investigative journalism at its very best, a masterful work that is sure to inspire action. The writing may be Kotlowitz, but the voices contained within the book belong to those affected most by gun violence, and these voices cannot be ignored. Shane recommends.

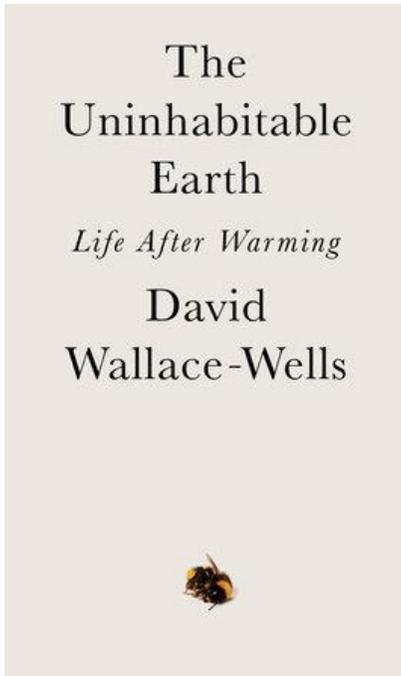
In hardcover, non-fiction, 27.95; Nan A. Talese.

view, while continuing to engage the reader with the fascinating plot line of the novel.) This metafictional investigation of the mutating self is playful, layered and suspenseful, pure storytelling magic. **ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!**

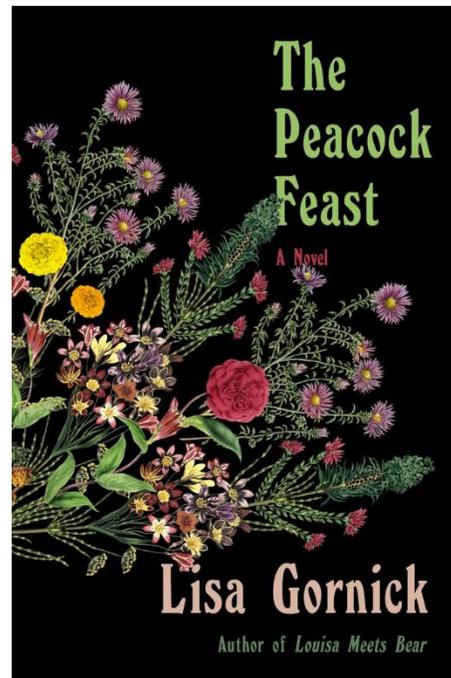
(Katharine also insists that you read this book and everything else Siri Hustvedt has ever written.)

In hardcover, fiction, 27.00; Simon and Schuster .

The
Uninhabitable
Earth
Life After Warming
David
Wallace-Wells



A closely argued look at what is a turning point in human existence, *The Uninhabitable Earth* is a meticulously documented, white-knuckled tour through the cascading catastrophes that will soon engulf our warming planet due to climate change. If you weren't already alarmed, Wallace-Wells sounds the clarion call--the frightening, inconceivably catastrophic projections he presents are meant to alarm us, and like *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Silent Spring* before it, there is an immediacy and urgency to his call for action ("you can't halfway your way to a



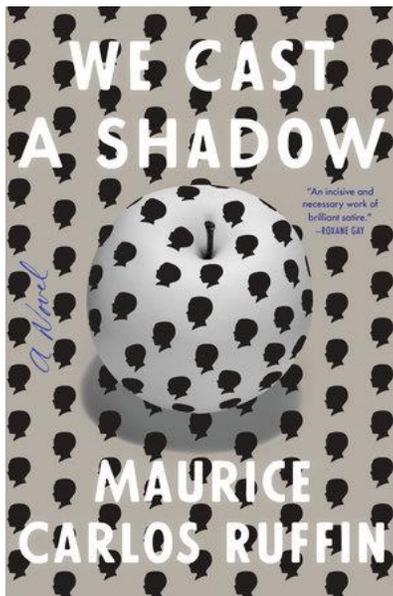
As delicate and ornate as the floral arrangements its story hinges upon, *The Peacock Feast* is a historical fiction enthusiast's dream. Crossing generations and class divisions, this tale of buried trauma opens on an explosive instant in 1916 that fractures the lives of a working-class Irish family employed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Nearly a century later, 101-year-old Prudence and her estranged great-niece Grace piece together the forgotten tragedy, uncovering and healing old wounds in the process. Meticulously researched and assembled, I

solution to a crisis this large”). I especially loved section 3 (The Climate Kaleidoscope), and his ideas on climate justice, imperious industrial capitalism, the politics of consumption and how we tell the “story” of climate change. An urgent, necessary book. ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!

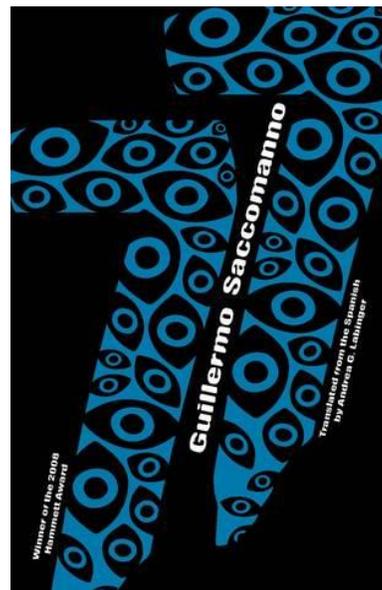
In hardcover, non-fiction, 27.00; Tim Duggan Books .

was instantly engrossed by this intricate tale of redemption and regret. Katharine recommends!

In hardcover, fiction, 26.00; Sarah Crichton Books/FSG.



Set in the near future, the dystopic world of Ruffin’s *We Cast a Shadow* promises those born in a black body the complete freedom from the burdens and dangers of racism through “demelanization,” a process where one can pay to undergo a series of treatments to become Caucasian. Ruffin takes the very real quandary facing people of color in a racist society who must frequently choose between self-respect and advancement, dignity and survival, and turned it into a modern-day horror story. Using SciFi/Horror/Comedy to create social satire can be tricky, as an author risks either trivializing a serious subject or coming off as too didactic, but Ruffin manages to avoid these pitfalls and instead exposes the crushing toll that racism has on families. A tale this provocative would have to be



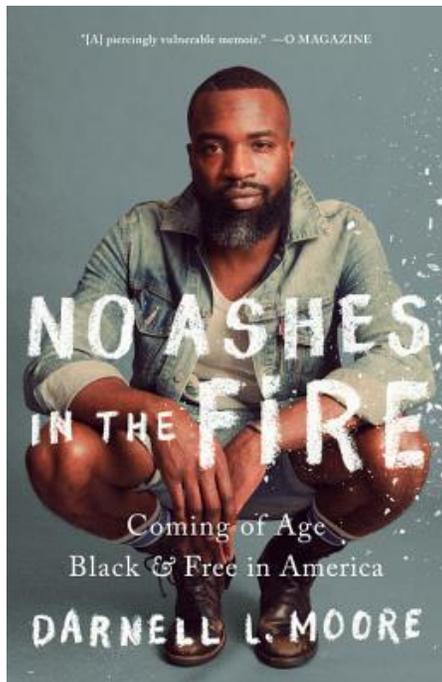
It helps to know a little about the Videla dictatorship in Argentina during the “Dirty War” in the late 70s, to give this work some historical context before diving in to its noir-ish, claustrophobic world of paranoia and oppression. Avoiding detection in a terrorist government state mirrors the clandestine world of homosexuality in the 70s, and Gómez, a gay teacher, is constantly forced to choose between his own safety, his desires, and helping those who have “disappeared.” When terror permeates everything, and you must choose to forget much of what you see and know just to go on, surviving while maintaining a shred of humanity is the ultimate form of resistance. A brutal rumination on courage, complacency, and allegiance, 77 could read like a dystopian tale for those of us privileged enough to live a

written with a lot of intellect and even more heart, and in that Ruffin has masterfully succeeded. This is a ruthless, devastating work of political art, as essential and urgent as any nonfiction work on the subject, but perhaps even more compulsively readable and thought provoking. Shane recommends!

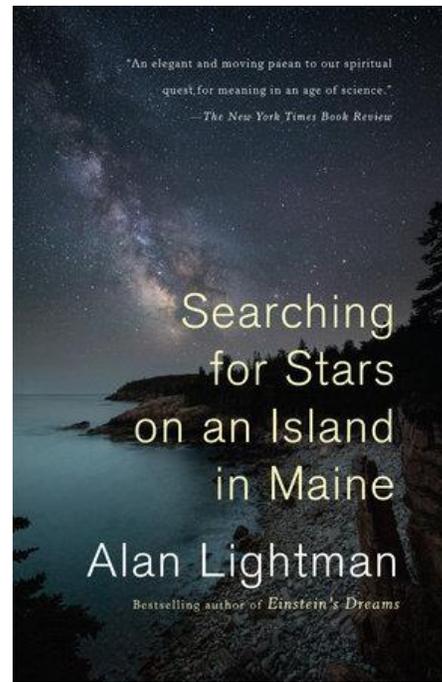
In hardcover, fiction, 27.00; One World .

life free of tyranny and government oppression, but this work of historical fiction instead serves as both a painful reminder of the past and an urgent warning for the future. Shane recommends.

In paperback, fiction, 14.95; Open Letter Books.



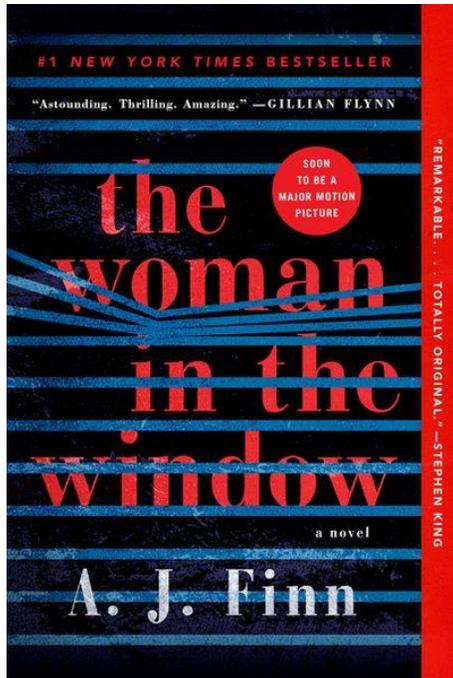
Maybe it is Moore's modesty that makes him believe his story isn't unique. It is true that his tale of poverty, discrimination, struggle and heartache is unfortunately shared by many. But his story of survival and triumph is not only unique, it is a significant contribution to the voices of Americans who are often left unheard. Moore's ability to reconcile seemingly disparate human elements make this book a model of intersectionality, and his candid and sharp dialogue keep things fresh, engaging, and relevant. Bursting with tenderness and heart, Moore transcends his own story to deftly explore our culture in a way that is redemptive and inspiring. Shane recommends.



I was really captivated by this thoughtful, fascinating book. Alan Lightman (famed physicist and author of bestseller *Einstein's Dreams*) meditates on a variety of thought-provoking topics that test the bounds of science and religion. He also reflects on the search for meaning and discovery and where humankind's future may be leading. All this while spending time in his idyllic island home (in Maine, of course!). This would be a great gift for the inquisitive soul! Tim recommends!

In paperback, non-fiction, 15.95; Vintage.

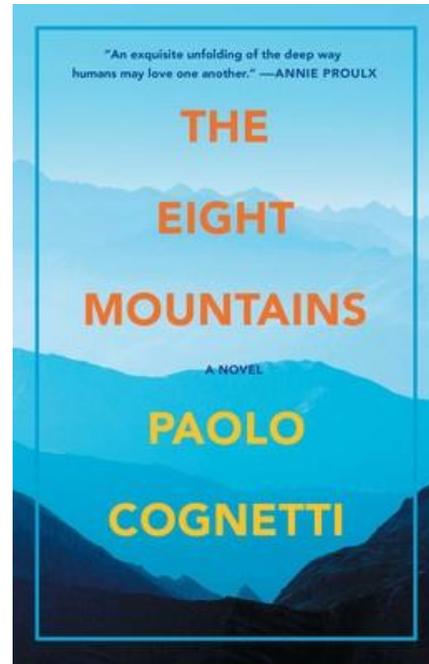
In paperback, non-fiction, 16.99; Bold Type Books.



Available in paperback on March 5th!

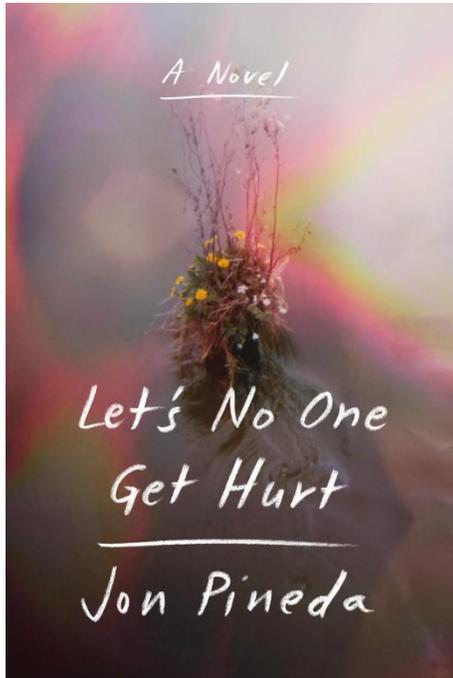
Fans of the genre, rejoice! *The Woman in the Window* is a well-executed and thoroughly enjoyable suspense novel that delivers on the thrills with the best of them. Anna is a woman haunted by her past. She suffers from agoraphobia, and has a drug and alcohol problem too. From a window in her home, Anna witnesses a murder. Or does she? Great plot, solid characters, claustrophobic atmosphere, and thrills to spare. Terrific for a train or a plane or at night. Owen recommends.

In paperback, fiction, 16.99; William Morrow & Company.



Set in Milan and the Italian Alps, and winner of Italy’s prestigious Premio Strega Award for best novel, *The Eight Mountains* is about the friendship between two young Italian boys from different backgrounds and how their incredibly strong connection evolves, changes and challenges them later in life. It is not so much a page-turner but a novel that draws you in, and with its intimate, first-person voice and simple, but evocative, language, it has a bucolic, nostalgic feel. Describing “the way in which a place can be a custodian of our history,” the novel’s reflections on mountaineering, homebuilding and the outdoors—mountains, glaciers, alpine meadows—are beautiful and astonishing, a moving meditation of man living in nature, with mountains as refuge, and the rhythms of life measured by the seasons. ED LOVED AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDS!

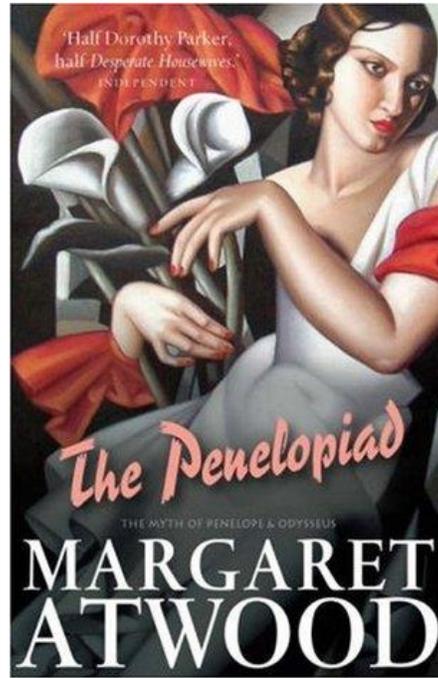
In paperback, fiction, 16.00; Washington Square Press.



Available in paperback on March 12th!

I loved this gem of a novel, and got caught up with 15-year-old Pearl's coming-of-age story. Squatting with her father (a disgraced professor) and two of his friends (Dox and Fritter - great characters), in a deteriorating boathouse. She learns some hard lessons when she befriends "Main Boy," a rich teen whose father happens to own the land that she's squatting in. While the first half of the book is a slow build that fleshes out these wonderful characters, the story really picks up in the second half - and by then I was hooked! Described by some as a southern Gothic, Pearl is more than a successor to the wily Huckleberry Finn, she has an awareness to life's sadness that makes her unique and so very memorable. Tim recommends!

In paperback, fiction, 17.00; Picador USA.



****Featured Backlist****

Did you love *Circe* ?

Try *The Penelopiad* next!

Find it on our Staff Picks shelf.

I have no idea why this book has mostly been forgotten when people talk about Atwood and her work. It's a delightfully strange book, in the point of view of Penelope, wife of Odysseus, as we finally get her perspective of what happened when her husband was away for two decades, and when he returned, murdering both her suitors, and, more heinously, her handmaidens. Subversive and wry, Atwood seems determined to bring some justice to the needlessly slain, making this love a long time coming, way overdue! Tim recommends!

In paperback, fiction, 15.00; Canongate US.