



MARCH '12

# NOW IN PAPERBACK



## The Beauty of Humanity Movement

**A Novel, by Camilla Gibb**

(Penguin, 9780143120605, \$16)

"A Vietnamese-American woman returns to the land of her birth to discover what she can about her dissident father who was last seen around the time of the fall of Saigon. Befriending an itinerant maker of food—a traditional noodle soup—who may have known

him, she slowly learns the fate of the dissidents while rediscovering the culture she was removed from as a child. This is a lovely and touching story that provides a moving portrait of the daily life of the Vietnamese people both during the war and now."

—Sheryl Coteleur, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA



## The Devotion of Suspect X

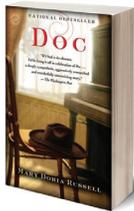
**A Novel, by Kiego Higashino**

(Minotaur, 9781250002693, \$14.99)

"A chess game or a battle of the brains? A bestseller in Japan, this is a mystery about the aftermath of an unintentional murder. Ishigami, a mathematician, is in love with one of the murderers. He is coaching her on how to deal with the police to avoid suspicion. His old friend, a physicist, is helping the detective on

the case. Two brilliant minds battle with each other—a fascinating game of cat and mouse. The ending has a twist that only increases the reader's pleasure. This is excellent!"

—Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM



## Doc

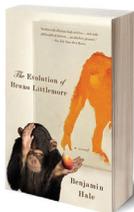
**A Novel, by Mary Doria Russell**

(Ballantine Books, 9780812980004, \$15)

"Lyrical, elegant, and compelling, romantic and relentless, *Doc* is the captivating story of John Henry Holliday, dentist, cardsharp, and tubercular gunfighter. Russell brings the Old West and her characters to rich and vivid life and paints a complex, charming portrait of a complicated individual. Forget about the O.K.

Corral, *Doc* is where the real action is!"

—Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



## The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore

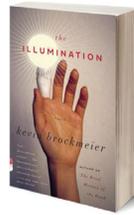
**A Novel, by Benjamin Hale**

(Twelve, 9780446571586, \$14.99)

"*The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore* is a serious novel that manages to transform an interspecies love story into a journey into language, humanity, life and death. It cleverly challenges the reader to explore ancient philosophical themes while

snaring a love story between a woman and a chimpanzee, which includes some very funny moments. The story leaves you thinking deeply about what it means to be human. Open the book—and your mind—and let Benjamin Hale take you away."

—Ed Conklin, Chaucer's Books, Santa Barbara, CA



## The Illumination

**A Novel, by Kevin Brockmeier**

(Vintage, 9780307387776, \$15)

"Brockmeier's latest novel weaves together disparate voices in a stunning meditation on pain and beauty. Like the best speculative fiction, it wields the paranormal to show us a very present truth. *The Illumination* is a reminder that, no matter how dramatically the world changes around us, people are and always will be people—and that there is a brightness in that, regardless of our failings."

—Jenn Northington, WORD, Brooklyn, NY



## The Pioneer Woman

**Black Heels to Tractor Wheels: A Love Story, by Ree Drummond**

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780061997174, \$14.99)

"*The Pioneer Woman* is at it again, but this time she's not dishing up recipes, rather she's giving us the juicy details of her courtship and her first year of marriage with her own 'Marlboro Man.' It's not your conventional fairy tale—Drummond

went from designer clothes and spa days to becoming the hard working wife of a cowboy on an isolated ranch. But through it all, it's still clear that she landed one major prince. She traded her glass slippers for cowboy boots—and she couldn't be happier."

—Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO



## Reading My Father

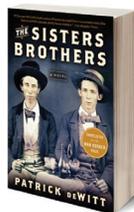
**A Memoir, by Alexandra Styron**

(Scribner, 9781416591818, \$15)

"On one hand, this is a tremendously affecting biography of William Styron, gorgeously written, dramatic, insightful, and compassionate. On the other, it is *Mad Men*, all skinny ties, nipped waists, scotch in the afternoon, and torrid love affairs. That the younger Styron has managed to both shed a

bright light on her father's career, from its rapid rise in the '50s to its dark decline as a result of profound depression, as well as to entertain with literary name-dropping and party tales is commendable. I loved it!"

—Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT



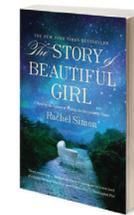
## The Sisters Brothers

**A Novel, by Patrick deWitt**

(Ecco, 9780062041289, \$14.99)

"This is a modern take on the Old West that is part classic Western, part Coen Brothers, part Homer's *Odyssey*, and part murder ballad. This wry, weird, and wonderful tale tells of hitmen Eli and Charlie Sisters as they meet funny and tragic characters on their journey to kill a man. Along the way, Eli examines both what has brought him to this point and the violent world around him. As with many adventures, that of the Sisters Brothers is really a quest to find some kind of home."

—Steven Salardino, Skylight Books, Los Angeles, CA



## The Story of Beautiful Girl

**A Novel, by Rachel Simon**

(Grand Central Publishing, 9780446574457, \$12)

"One stormy evening in the late 1960s, Martha opens her door to find a young couple from the nearby State School for the Incurable and Feeble Minded on her doorstep carrying a very new baby. Martha has time to feed and clothe them, and they have time to locate space in the attic in which to hide the baby before the

authorities appear. The man escapes, and as the young woman is led away, she leans into Martha and says, 'Hide her.' To her own astonishment, Martha agrees to keep the baby and in that moment readers give up their hearts to these four remarkable characters and the story of the next 40 years of their lives."

—Jeanne Regentin, Between the Covers, Harbor Springs, MI



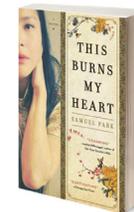
## The Storyteller of Marrakesh

**A Novel, by Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya**

(W.W. Norton, 9780393340617, \$15.95)

"Come sit around the circle as master storyteller Hassan beguiles his audience with the tale of two beautiful strangers who enchanted Marrakesh for a day—a day that left his brother Mustafa jailed for their murder. As Hassan draws you into his story, he turns the telling over to audience members, each of whom remembers something different about the strangers and that fateful day. Magical!"

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR



## This Burns My Heart

**A Novel, by Samuel Kwon**

(Simon & Schuster, 9781439199626, \$15)

"In South Korea in 1960, Soo-Ja Choi is a beautiful young woman from a well-to-do family. As the country is struggling to recover from a divisive war, Soo-Ja is exploring her options as a young adult. When her father does not allow her to accept a position studying to be a diplomat, he destroys her dreams. Over the next 15 years, she struggles with her life decisions, her new family, and a love she gave up before she understood the permanence of choice. A compulsive read, the novel is based on the life of Park's mother."

—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy Books, San Diego, CA



## When the Killing's Done

**A Novel, by T.C. Boyle**

(Penguin, 9780143120391, \$16)

"T.C. Boyle is so articulate and skillful at plotting that he has the reader turning the pages of this entertaining book at record pace. In an effort to restore the indigenous flora and fauna, scientists on the Channel Islands off the California coast are at work eliminating species that have been introduced to the islands. Meanwhile, an activist group attempts to stop the killing of any

creatures. Opening with a calamitous boating accident in which only one survivor washes ashore, this book doesn't let up detailing the often fatal effects of man vs. nature until the very last page."

—Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS