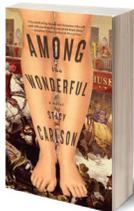




OCTOBER '12

NOW IN PAPERBACK



Among the Wonderful

A Novel, by Stacy Carlson

(Steerforth Press, 9781586422011, \$19.95)

"Among the Wonderful is an historical novel rich with images of 1840s Manhattan and the exhibits—both living and preserved—that populate P. T. Barnum's American Museum. Outwardly freakish but inwardly just like you and me, the living, breathing, feeling human characters Stacy Carlson has created remind us

of our common humanity. Ana Swift, one of Barnum's human exhibits, draws us into this world of hawkers and gawkers and voyeurs with uncommon intelligence, heart, and grace. A remarkably beautiful story with characters that will stay with you long after the last page is turned. This is a book you will want to read again."

—Susan Morgan, The Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock, VT



The Angel Esmeralda

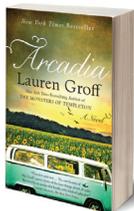
Nine Stories, by Don DeLillo

(Scribner, 9781451659092, \$15)

"This is the book DeLillo fans have been waiting for—his first collection of short stories written between 1979 and 2011. In these stories, DeLillo takes global themes and ideas, the conflicts we often don't want to acknowledge, and makes them human. The subjects are true and resonant: a jogger who witnesses a kidnapping, an elderly

nun working in poverty-stricken New York, an astronaut looking down on a war-ravaged Earth. Each story is textured in DeLillo's precise, startling voice, one that can shout and whisper at the same time."

—Michael Karpus, Books & Books, Bal Harbour, FL



Arcadia

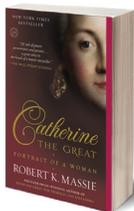
A Novel, by Lauren Groff

(Voice, 9781401341909, \$15.99)

"I am left almost speechless by the beauty and raw reality of this book. The story is centered around a boy named Bit—nicknamed for his small size. Groff splits the narrative into two parts: in the first, we watch Bit grow up in a utopian wooded commune in the early '70s; in the next part, Bit is an adult, a father raising his

own child in New York City. Groff's wonderful use of language brings us into Bit's world—the intimacy, wonder, confusion, worry, and unwavering hope he holds as a child and the struggle, shattering grief, and quiet determined bravery he develops as a man. Stunning!"

—Geoffrey Jennings, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS



Catherine the Great

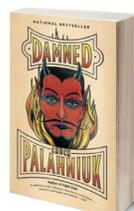
Portrait of a Woman, by Robert K. Massie

(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780345408778, \$20)

"This is an admiring biography of the minor German princess who, through cleverness, audacity, and ambition, deposed her incompetent husband, a grandson of Peter the Great, to become Empress of Russia. An 'enlightened' autocrat, Catherine did not succeed at all she attempted, but

Massie argues persuasively that she truly earned the title bestowed upon her by the Russian people. What a woman, what a book!"

—Arlene Cook, Watermark Book Company, Anacortes, WA



Damned

by Chuck Palahniuk

(Anchor, 9780307476531, \$14.95)

"Palahniuk has penned another fun, oddly breezy read, considering it's set among the damned hordes of hell. Thirteen-year-old narrator Madison, the sassy, cynical offspring of a world-famous, self-absorbed actress and a billionaire, has been rather inexplicably sent to hell after dying of a marijuana overdose.

Teaming up with a teen-movie superfecta of side characters, Madison must find her true place in the overall scheme of things, while praying all along that it's not an eternity of telemarketing."

—Whitney Spotts, Schuler Books & Music, Lansing, MI



A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty

A Novel, by Joshilyn Jackson

(Grand Central Publishing, 9780446582360, \$14.99)

"The Slocumb women have the curse of having to deal with bad men and early motherhood. Mother Liza and grandmother Jenny are doing everything in their power to make sure that 15-year-old Mosey doesn't find herself in the same predicament. Jenny unearths human bones while digging in the backyard, and with Liza too

ill to explain them, Mosey decides to take it upon herself to find the answers to her family's secrets and end the curse once and for all."

—Morgan Kiedrowski, Next Chapter Bookshop, Mequon, WI



The Kitchen Counter Cooking School

How a Few Simple Lessons Transformed Nine Culinary Novices into Fearless Home Cooks, by Kathleen Flinn

(Penguin, 9780143122173, \$16)

"Flinn's love of cooking led her to study at Le Cordon Bleu and her first book, *The Sharper Your Knife, the Less You Cry*. After helping a clueless cook shop for healthy food at the

supermarket, Flinn realized that most Americans are lost when it comes to feeding themselves and their families. She began a project to transform the cooking and buying habits of nine volunteers through cooking lessons. This is a fascinating study of the reliance of Americans on pre-packaged food and the importance of cooking for health and nourishment."

—Avery Dickey, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL



The Odds

A Love Story, by Stewart O'Nan

(Penguin, 9780143122272, \$14)

"Art and Marion Fowler are at the end of their rope, with their marriage, careers, and finances unraveling at an alarming rate. A last hurrah, a Valentine's Day weekend at a posh gambling resort on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls—which they can ill afford—will determine their future. Anyone in a long relationship will

both nod and cringe as O'Nan subtly and brilliantly lays out Art and Marion's frailties, strengths, foibles, and deep affection. Both suspenseful and sweet, I loved this gem of a novel."

—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO



Remembering the Music, Forgetting the Words

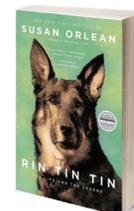
Travels With Mom in the Land of Dementia, by Kate Whouley

(Beacon Press, 9780807003312, \$16)

"Kate Whouley recounts her mother's journey into Alzheimer's with heart-wrenching honesty and heart-warming compassion. The book explores the complex relationship of mother and child, the nature of friendship, and the world of aging and dementia.

Ultimately, it is about what it means to be a caring human being. It made me laugh. It made me cry. It touched me deeply. I loved this book."

—Chuck Robinson, Village Books, Bellingham, WA



Rin Tin Tin

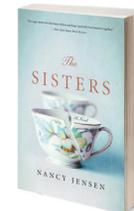
The Life and the Legend, by Susan Orlean

(Simon & Schuster, 9781439190142, \$16)

"This is the story of a young man whose fateful journey collides with that of a battlefield puppy, setting into motion an extraordinary tale of devotion. Orlean unfolds a riveting account of the history of both the German shepherd, whose breed exemplifies the good-natured qualities that have made dog and human relationships

unparalleled in society, and of early American movie making. The result is a wonderful odyssey beautifully depicting loyalty and friendship in a remarkable history lesson and an entertaining read."

—Meagan Bruce, Watermark Books & Café, Wichita, KS



The Sisters

A Novel, by Nancy Jensen

(St. Martin's Griffin, 9780312548414, \$14.99)

"This is a powerful story of family through three generations, beginning with two sisters from a small town in Kentucky. In 1927, a tragedy and a misunderstanding separate them when they are both in their teens. We follow their stories and those of their daughters up to 2007. Jensen shows us that strong women are able to use lives cobbled

together out of fear and pain as building blocks to create something resembling happiness, or at least stability. A page-turner with characters that remain with the reader long after the book is closed."

—Marian Nielsen, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA



When She Woke

A Novel, by Hillary Jordan

(Algonquin, 9781616201937, \$14.95)

"Inspired by *The Scarlet Letter*, this is a stunning, suspenseful, and scary look at what happens to Hannah Payne when she is arrested and convicted of having an abortion in a futuristic America. Her punishment is to become a 'chrome,' a criminal whose skin color is genetically altered to reflect her crime. Hannah

becomes a Red for the crime of murder, and she further complicates her situation by refusing to name the father of her unborn child. Once chromed, she is released and must survive as best she can. Her navigation through the perils of a hostile society launches Hannah on a journey of self-discovery and makes readers question the consequences of politicizing the personal."

—Erica Caldwell, Present Tense, Batavia, NY