



NOVEMBER '13
NOW IN PAPERBACK

Astray
by **Emma Donoghue**

"The short story is the most demanding of arts, and it takes a brilliant practitioner to succeed. Donoghue meets the description with this collection examining immigrants and the dispossessed through the centuries. Lives filled with hope, fear, uncertainty, and desperation are portrayed succinctly, with precise language that tells the stories of those who have dared or been forced to uproot their normal existence."

—Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI



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The Black Box
by **Michael Connelly**

"Detective Harry Bosch is haunted by the memory of a beautiful young Danish photojournalist murdered during the riots following the Rodney King verdict. The killing was never solved and is forgotten by all but Bosh. Despite the reluctance of his bosses to reopen the case because they fear that focusing on the killing of the blond when there were so many other victims of color will inflame the community, Bosch is determined to find the 'black box' that will pull all the clues together. This is classic Connolly. I couldn't put it down."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR



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The Boy in the Snow
An **Edie Kiglatuck Mystery**, by **M.J. McGrath**

"Highly recommended for fans of Dana Stabenow's Kate Shugak series, this follow-up to McGrath's debut, *White Heat*, offers a view of the life of Inuits in Alaska. Half-Inuit Edie Kiglatuk is another strong heroine who has a troubled past but tries to do what she can to make things right. I look forward to learning more about what drives her in future books in this series."

—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



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Chanel Bonfire
A **Memoir**, by **Wendy Lawless**

"Lawless has written a compelling, engaging, sometimes funny, and at times shocking tale of her childhood. Her mother, Georgann Rea, was a narcissist of the highest order, and Wendy and her younger sister suffered terrible emotional deprivation at her hands. From a very young age, when her mother attempts suicide for the first time, Wendy struggles to protect her sister and herself from a woman who lived a life of decadence, alcoholism, adultery, and lies. Lawless ultimately makes peace with herself and learns to live on her own terms, a process remarkably recounted in this searing memoir."

—Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT



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The Death of Bees

A Novel, by Lisa O'Donnell

"Beginning with two children who bury their parents in their garden, *The Death of Bees* had me hooked from page one. Streetwise teen Marnie and her younger, socially awkward, violin prodigy sister find their parents dead and attempt to cover up their deaths to avoid foster care, with both help and hindrance from some surprising sources. This lively, suspenseful, and darkly hilarious tale transfixed me from gruesome start to wonderfully satisfying finish."

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schulers Book & Music, Okemos, MI



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The Dinner

A Novel, by Herman Koch

"In this brilliant novel, two brothers and their wives meet for dinner in an upscale restaurant. Structured around the courses of the meal and narrated by Paul, what starts out in the first section —Aperitif— as a hilarious riff on the pretentious meal that he is reluctantly sharing with his brother, Serge, takes on an increasingly ominous tone as the reason for the meeting gradually unfolds. Psychologically taut and beautifully constructed, this tale hooks the reader from the first page to the hair-raising conclusion. A literary page-turner that explores the lengths to which families will go to protect their own."

—Sheila Daley, Barrett Bookstore, Darien, CT



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The House Girl

A Novel, by Tara Conklin

"Lina, a young, ambitious New York attorney in 2004, never knew her mother. Josephine, a young house slave in 1852, never knew her child. More than a century apart, their lives connect in unexpected ways. Corporate law offices, art museums, antebellum homes, and the Underground Railroad provide the setting for a story filled with secrets, betrayals, and love. Does the 'House Girl' title apply to both women? The paths of these strong women will have the reader marveling at the layers Conklin has created to tell their intertwined stories."

—Beverly Bauer, Redberry Books, Cable, WI



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Life After Life

A Novel, by Jill McCorkle

"Let yourself be drawn into the world of Pine Haven Estates in Fulton, North Carolina, and treat yourself to a cast of characters so rich that you will be bereft every time the point of view changes, only to find yourself enchanted anew. Pine Haven Estates is a retirement community, where life and death are inevitable companions. Its inhabitants and the people who care for and about them are at the center of this story that examines the cycle of life. McCorkle's first novel in 17 years depicts a community well worth visiting and offers a wonderfully satisfying reading experience."

—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA



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The Lost Art of Mixing

A Novel, by Erica Bauermeister

"This is the poignant and often hilarious sequel to *The School of Essential Ingredients*. Cooking classes brought the characters together in the first book and entwined their stories with one another as effectively as the ingredients they were learning to blend. In this book, new characters are introduced and the resultant 'mixing' of their lives with the original characters gives the reader further insights into their personalities and circumstances. Happily, the threads of this story also lend themselves to future volumes."

—Melanie Mayberry, Cornerstone Cottage, Hampton, IA

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Magnificence

A Novel, by Lydia Millet

"Susan is a serial adulterer whose life is shattered by her husband's sudden death. As she struggles to maintain a healthy relationship with her grown, paraplegic daughter, she unexpectedly inherits a mansion from a distant relative. The novel explores the many forms that loss can take—a loved one's death when it is too late to make amends; a daughter's loss of a life filled with possibilities if not for her accident; the slow deterioration of personality in the elderly with dementia; and the loss of animals in the wild to extinction. At once funny and touching."

—Karen Vail, Titcomb's Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA

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May We Be Forgiven

A Novel, by A.M. Homes

"Homes' latest darkly comic novel is more poignant and moving than it appears at first glimpse, and the rudderless, hapless Nixon scholar Harold Silver's year in the wilderness is more eye-opening than he can at first admit to himself. As Harry grows and grieves in his own way over the course of the insanity-laced year, we are happily along for the ride, unquestioningly loving the person he becomes. A truly remarkable feat of storytelling that both pulsates with the underlying ache of loss and manages to crack a couple of your ribs when you laugh too hard."

—Seth Marko, UCSD Bookstore, San Diego, CA

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Thomas Jefferson

The Art of Power, by Jon Meacham

"Meacham's engaging biography reveals the extraordinary skills of this uniquely gifted and driven man as well as his heart and soul. In a moving epilogue, Meacham explains Jefferson's unabated appeal: 'He endures because we can see in him all the varied and wondrous possibilities of the human experience—the thirst for knowledge, the capacity to create, the love of family and friends, the hunger for accomplishment, the applause of the world, the marshaling of power, the bending of others to one's own vision.' Jefferson's story has never been more perfectly told."

—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA

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