



OCTOBER '13  
**NOW IN PAPERBACK**

## Accelerated

**A Novel, by Bronwen Hruska**

"What starts off as a send-up of overscheduled, gifted children and the Rambo parents and elite schools that create them quickly turns into a tale of a huge pharmaceutical conspiracy. When Sean reluctantly caves in to the pressure that New York City's most prestigious school exerts on him to start medicating his son, Toby, for seemingly nonexistent issues, there are disastrous consequences. A fast-paced read covering a topic about which every reader should be concerned."

—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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## Because I Said So

**The Truth Behind the Myths, Tales, and Warnings Every Generation Passes Down to Its Kids, by Ken Jennings**

"Did your mom ever tell you not to swallow your gum because it would stay in your stomach for seven years? Ever wonder if that was true? In his new book, Jennings, the witty, charming Jeopardy! champ, gets to the bottom of the old wives' tales your parents told you and uncovers the truth. If you've got kids, read this so you can lie informatively, and if you don't have kids, read this so you can undermine your friends who do!"

—Flannery Fitch, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



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## Consider the Fork

**A History of How We Cook and Eat, by Bee Wilson**

"Interest in the evolution of human food culture has always been popular. In Consider the Fork, Wilson invites readers to examine this evolution in a new light. She discusses the transformation of kitchen tools and utensils throughout human existence as well as the implications these transformations have on how humans cook and eat. Wilson's air of curiosity and amusement makes for an enjoyable read; pots and pans have never been more interesting, and the intermingling of anthropology, history, and sociology is certain to spark further thought next time a spork or a blender is encountered."

—Lucy Beeching, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



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## In Sunlight and in Shadow

**A Novel, by Mark Helprin**

"This magnificent, sweeping story, set in post-WWII Manhattan, took my breath away. I was torn between racing along the swift river of the narrative and needing to pause to drink in luminous sentences and searing paragraphs. The author feeds the soul of the reader as he describes the depths of mind, heart, and spirit of characters whose lives have been shaped by the war, the culture, and the city. A deeply romantic and supremely intelligent novel."

—Karen Frank, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



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## It's Fine by Me

A Novel, by Per Petterson, Don Bartlett (trans.)

"This is a dark, brooding novel with a fine, thin, persistent theme of hope that life's better possibilities are just around the corner, waiting for Arvid Jansen (Norway's Holden Caulfield) to believe in them and in himself. A nuanced observation of the pain and disappointments of growing up from one bright and bruised young man's point of view, this is a book about the ordinary yet crushing losses we all incur and the decisions we make to pick ourselves up and continue forward. Petterson is a master at a kind of understated power, and this novel is well worth the reading."

—Linda Milleman, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

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## Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore

A Novel, by Robin Sloan

"Booksellers and book lovers alike will adore charming Mr. Penumbra. I now want to keep a log of our bookshop's customers by Mr. Penumbra's criteria: 'You must keep precise records of all purchases. Time. Amount. The customer's appearance. His state of mind. How he asks for the book. How he receives it. Does he appear to be injured. Is he wearing a sprig of rosemary on his hat. And so on.' Wonderful!"

—Andrea Aquino, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

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## Mrs. Queen Takes the Train

A Novel, by William Kuhn

"The Queen has tried to stay up to date, practicing yoga and learning to surf the Internet, but decades of pomp and circumstance have taken their toll and Her Majesty needs a break. She sets off alone—well-disguised in a skull-motif hoodie—on a train to Scotland, only to be pursued by a motley crew of royal attendants determined to bring her home before she creates a royal scandal. This debut novel is thoroughly fresh and charming."

—Jody Misner Chwatun, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

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## The Obituary Writer

A Novel, by Ann Hood

"Vivien, who suffered an incredible loss in the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, helps others cope with their grief by making their lost loved ones come alive on the page. Claire, a young wife and mother in suburban Washington, D.C., who is caught up in the excitement of the 1960 Kennedy inauguration, wants 'more' but she's not quite sure 'more' of what. Theirs are compelling lives of love and loss, romance and friendship, marriage and motherhood, promises made and unreasonable hopes kept alive, and the mystery that is their connection. Literary mystery, love story, and historical fiction—all beautifully told with expertly drawn characters make this one great novel!"

—Judy Crosby, Island Books, Middletown, RI

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**The Round House**  
A Novel, by Louise Erdrich

"When 13-year-old Joe's world is shattered by a horrific crime perpetrated against his mother, he seeks to right the wrong. Erdrich masterfully lets the reader experience this period in Joe's life through his eyes. His world is drawn with sure strokes, and his family and their traditions and his friends and their exploits are convincing and real. Erdrich offers a view of life on an Ojibwe reservation as alternately rich in culture and disheartening in its injustice, poverty, and disrespect. A mesmerizing book."

—Jenny Lyons, The King's English Bookstore, Salt Lake City, UT



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**Schroder**  
A Novel, by Amity Gaige

"This deeply layered novel about an embattled father reclaiming his only joy drew me in with the intense beauty of its language and the doomed journey of its unreliable narrator. In Erik Schroder, Gaige gives us a character who should repel but whom I loved for his humanity and the way he expressed his love for his daughter and she, her love for him. *Schroder* takes the reader into the arrested heart of a foreigner whose need to appear American is ultimately his undoing. That we care about him is a testament to Gaige's skill and compassion."

—Vicki DeArmon, Copperfield's Books, Sebastopol, CA



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**Truth in Advertising**  
A Novel, by John Kenney

"This funny first novel is an accomplished mix of snark and pathos. Finbar Dolan is nearly 40 and has little to show for it. He is ambivalent about his Madison Avenue advertising job, has a failed engagement behind him, and is emotionally distant from his fragmented and dysfunctional family. What he does have, however, are loyal friends, a good heart, and a razor-sharp wit. This book will not only have you laughing out loud but will also leave you keenly sympathetic to Fin's plight."

—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI



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**The Twelve Tribes of Hattie**  
A Novel, by Ayana Mathis

"Hattie came of age in a state and time when a white man could take anything he wanted from a black man, including his life. Like many others, she fled north with her mother and sister, seeking safety and the chance for a better life. Hattie is just 15 when life teaches her these lessons, and 16 when her twin babies die in her arms. This is the story of a woman's strength and determination and the story of a nation as it wrestles with the oppression of blacks and their striving to achieve equality in a world that judged them solely by the color of their skin."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books & Music, Sunriver, OR



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