



APRIL 2016 NOW IN PAPERBACK

Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen

By Mary Norris

"I was feeling pretty smug about my word skills until I learned something right there on page 26 of *Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*. I have been mispronouncing 'elegiac.' Even so, I didn't begrudge Norris for taking me on a delightful tour of the offices of The New Yorker, the history of Noah Webster and his dictionary descendents, the city of Cleveland, and the hyphen in *Moby-Dick*. *Between You and Me* is a sprightly—not 'spritely,' thank you—gambol in the fields of grammar, and I enjoyed every step."

—David Enyeart, Common Good Books, St. Paul, MN



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Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania

By Erik Larson

"With the taut storytelling form that is Larson's trademark, *Dead Wake* recounts the tragedy of the sinking of the passenger ocean liner *Lusitania*. The torpedoing of a passenger liner by a German submarine shocked and horrified the world and served to mobilize American popular opinion in favor of entering World War I. Larson carefully sets the stage for the tragedy, and with dramatic effect recreates the tension of the chase, the horror of the attack, and the tragic aftermath."

—Jon Grand, The Bookstall at Chestnut Court, Winnetka, IL



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I Am Radar: A Novel

By Reif Larsen

"*I Am Radar* revolves around questions of art, creation, love, heartbreak, performance, war, and regeneration. Sounds like heady stuff, and it is, but on an immensely readable level that culminates in a puzzling yet delightful climax. As Radar navigates his way through life as a black child, a white man, and a white/black man, he discovers that art can be perception and science can be art. *I Am Radar* may also be the best book about personal definitions of art in our time, as well as how art can affect and change a person. I cannot recommend it highly enough!"

—Bill Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA



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Luckiest Girl Alive: A Novel

By Jessica Knoll

"Ani FaNelli has worked hard to become the girl who succeeded. She has the right job, the right clothes, the right address, and even Mr. Right. It doesn't matter that it only works on the surface; the appearance is what will protect you when the truth comes out. Knoll has created a distinctly fierce and driven main character whose past is defined by a particularly modern kind of tragedy. The details are slowly revealed as Ani maneuvers her way up through the lingering trauma of this devastating teenage experience. Knoll explores whether that which does not kill us might make us stronger, and if the scars can ever fade away."

—Kerry Spaulding, University Book Store, Mill Creek, WA



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Medicine Walk: A Novel

By Richard Wagamese

"Nature versus nurture is an age-old controversy. Does a boy become the man he is because of his genes or his upbringing? Franklin Starlight is a 16-year-old Ojibway boy who was raised by a man who is not his father and is not Indian. He teaches Franklin self-reliance, the value of hard work, and integrity. Eldon, Franklin's real father, is an alcoholic who he has rarely seen. Now Eldon is dying, and he wants Franklin to accompany him into the back country to help him die and be buried in the warrior way. This is a flawlessly written novel about the stories that make us who we are."

—Sharon K. Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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So You've Been Publicly Shamed

By Jon Ronson

"This book both fascinated and terrified me with its insights into the increasing outrage to be found on social media and how careers and even lives can be quickly ruined by public forums. Ronson takes the concept further, exploring the history of public shaming, the nature of crowd 'madness,' why some people are unaffected by the process while others are devastated, and how Google searches make it hard to recover from the trauma. Not only will I recommend this book, but I will also ask people to come back and tell me what they think about the questions that are raised. This is a dialogue that needs to happen!"

—Ann Carlson, Waterfront Books, Georgetown, SC



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