



MARCH 2017 NOW IN PAPERBACK



The Atomic Weight of Love: A Novel

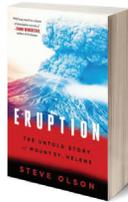
By Elizabeth J. Church

(Algonquin Books, 9781616206901, \$15.95)

"As America braces for entrance into WWII, Meri, an intelligent young woman, falls for an ambitious scientist. Aspiring to be a 'good wife,' she abandons her own academic pursuits in ornithology to follow him to Los Alamos, but the years that follow are filled with dashed hopes and compromises. Filled with sharp,

poignant prose, the novel mimics the birds Meri studies, following her as she struggles to find her wings, let go, and take flight. Church gives readers a thoughtful and thought-provoking examination of the sacrifices women make in life and the courage needed for them to soar on their own."

—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL



Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens

By Steve Olson

(W.W. Norton, 9780393353587, \$16.95)

"Eruption is everything a nonfiction book should be: Marvelous storytelling mixed with a great cast of characters, fascinating science, and little-known history. Anyone with even a passing interest in the

Pacific Northwest or volcanoes will love this book. I read it in three long, satisfying gulps, and, like all great books, its stories linger in the mind long after you've read the last page."

—Tom Campbell, The Regulator Bookshop, Durham, NC



Everyone Brave is Forgiven

By Chris Cleave

(Simon & Schuster, 9781501124389, \$16)

"Everyone Brave Is Forgiven, is storytelling at its finest. Ranging from the decimated streets of London after the Nazi blitz in WWII to the barren island of Malta under siege, Cleave's mastery is to introduce readers to characters in the midst of chaos who bring humanity to the sordid landscape of war. A book that will leave you

both laughing and crying on the same page, *Everyone Brave Is Forgiven* reminds readers about the power of the novel in telling the fascinating stories of everyday people living in extraordinary times."

—Casey Protti, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



The Gun

By Fuminori Nakamura, Allison Markin Powell (Trans.)

(Soho Crime, 9781616957681, \$14.95)

"Alienation and obsession are dissected in this unsettling, spare novel. When a listless college student happens upon a dead man during a nighttime walk and inexplicably picks up the pistol lying by the body, he finds his tedious reality taking on new meaning through the possibilities of an object that was designed to kill.

Concealing his fetish from classmates, lovers, and—most importantly—the police. This award-winning noir, translated from Japanese, is an unflinching, dark story of one man's expanding consciousness—and threat."

—Cindy Pauldine, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY



Heat and Light: A Novel

By Jennifer Haigh

(Ecco, 9780061763496, \$14.99)

"In this new novel, Haigh once again unleashes the sweep of historical forces as out-of-state companies look to drill for natural gas deposits. There is hope among residents that the future will be brighter, but there is also risk that they will just end up victims of greed and further environmental ruin. This is a big, issue

oriented book, but its success is found in the brilliance with which Haigh crafts her characters and makes their lives a vehicle for looking at the moral, political, environmental, and economic questions about fracking."

—Anmiryam Budner, Main Point Books, Bryn Mawr, PA



I'm Thinking of Ending Things: A Novel

By Iain Reid

(Gallery/Scout Press, 9781501126949, \$14.99, available March 21)

"With his debut novel, Reid sets an extremely high bar for all future psychological thrillers. The entire story takes place in little over 24 hours as Jake and his girlfriend travel to meet and have dinner with his parents. Narrated by the unnamed girlfriend, something

unsettling surfaces early and builds with the passage of every page. Readers will become riveted, reading faster and faster as the 'unsettling' becomes frightening, and then terrifying. Recommended for all who enjoy a good mind-twisting scare!"

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, The Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



Lab Girl

By Hope Jahren

(Vintage, 9781101873724, \$16)

"This book has it all: nature, love, science, drama, heartbreak, joy, and plenty of dirt. Not since Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* have I read such a rich and compelling nonfiction narrative. *Lab Girl* is the story of Jahren's life in science, and her writing on the wonders of nature will renew your sense of awe. But more than

that, it is an exploration of friendship, mental illness, parenthood, and the messiness of life. The only flaw—these pages fly by too quickly, leaving you wondering what you could possibly read next that will be just as good."

—Pete Mulvihill, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA



Lilac Girls: A Novel

By Martha Hall Kelly

(Ballantine Books, 9781101883082, \$17)

"Lilac Girls is a powerful and moving debut told through the voices of three women during World War II. Caroline is a New York socialite working at the French consulate and sending care packages to French orphans. Kasia, a young Polish girl, is arrested for helping the underground resistance and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Herta is the only female German surgeon stationed at Ravensbrück. The way these three women's lives intersect both during and after the war will grip you and tug at your heartstrings. I would recommend this to anyone who loved Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*."

—Melissa Law, Island Bookstore, Corolla, NC



Most Wanted

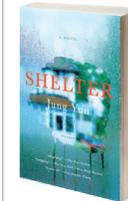
By Lisa Scottoline

(St. Martin's Griffin, 978125001048, \$15.99)

"An infertile couple decides to use a sperm donor to create the perfect family they have always wanted. When the wife sees a picture of a man who looks very similar to their donor on the evening news, the story is set in motion. Could their donor be a serial killer? Christine will stop at nothing to find out who the

biological father is, even if it means the end of her marriage. This latest novel of suspense from the bestselling Scottoline is fast-paced and will keep readers guessing until the end!"

—Sarah Harmuth Letke, Redberry Books, Cable, WI



Shelter: A Novel

By Jung Yun

(Picador, 9781250118097, \$16)

"Shelter is the perfect example of that extraordinary kind of story that careens down a path toward a conclusion that feels somehow both completely surprising and totally inevitable. Kyung Cho is a young father whose anxiety over present financial concerns couples with damage from past traumas to inhabit every breath he takes. His

precarious equilibrium is shattered when his parents are the victims of a cruel act of violence and he is called upon to react with a compassion and forgiveness that he may not possess. This novel is a dark and moving portrait of a family and what it ultimately means to love."

—Mary Cotton, Newtonville Books, Newton Centre, MA



The Summer Before the War: A Novel

By Helen Simonson

(Random House, 9780812983203, \$17)

"Witty, engaging, elegiac, and tragic—with this tale Simonson has once again captured our hearts. Set in an East Sussex village in the summer before the tragedy of the First World War, Simonson's latest details a battle of wills between Agatha, Lady North, and the mayor's wife over the new Latin master—a woman! Beatrice Nash

arrives to her new post, charming everyone including the reader. Since readers know the horrors that lie ahead for England's young men, the story becomes more poignant as they move closer to their destinies. I loved it!"

—Valerie Koehler, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX



What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours: Stories

By Helen Oyeyemi

(Riverhead Books, 9781594634642, \$16)

"There is magic in Helen Oyeyemi's writing. There is magic in the settings, which shift between the conventional and the fantastic as readers devotedly follow her characters down any path they please. There is magic in the tales themselves, as readers recognize a situation only to have it bloom into a flower they have

never imagined before, full of beauty or of dread. And, most certainly, there is magic in such breathtaking prose and unimaginable characters. This is a captivating story collection, filled with both fairy tale whimsy and dark, complicated mystery. Highly recommended!"

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA