



AUGUST 2020 NOW IN PAPERBACK

The Butterfly Girl: A Novel

By Rene Denfeld

"Rene Denfeld has done it again: written a mystery that sucks you in and thoroughly absorbs you until you're done. We pick up the story with Naomi Cottle, who has been searching for the sister she left behind when she escaped the clutches of their childhood kidnapper. Haunted by guilt, her search leads her back to her hometown, where a number of young girls have been murdered. By chance or by fate, she encounters Celia, a 12-year-old girl living on the streets who may be the key to everything—including finding her sister and a rapacious killer. Heart-wrenching, thought-provoking, and utterly unputdownable, this really should be the gold standard for mysteries."

—Destinee Hodge, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

Find out more about this book and others at WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG



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Cold Storage: A Novel

By David Koepp

"Meet Cordyceps Novus, a highly adaptable fungus that just wants one thing: to take over the world. After being contained underground for 40 years, conditions are finally perfect for a comeback. Several floors above, two young night-shift security guards decide to track down the source of the mysterious alarm below. David Koepp's debut novel is both terrifying and humorous—a thrilling combination. After getting an inside look at the growth and spread of this fungus, I will never look at a mushroom the same way again."

—Mary Salazar, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC

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Cape May: A Novel

By Chip Cheek

"This book is extraordinary. In a small, empty beachside town after the season ends, a couple on their ill-planned honeymoon, slowly awakening to all the ways they can disappoint each other, stumble across a Gatsby-ish household of worldly beautiful people who embrace them wholeheartedly. The days pass in a glorious gin-soaked daze; erotic tension charges every encounter. Chip writes like James Salter, with a sense of a humor and a fuller appreciation and understanding of female desire. Moving, so gorgeous, and absolutely brilliant."

—Mary Cotton, Newtonville Books, Newton Centre, MA

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A Cosmology of Monsters: A Novel

By Shaun Hammill

"When is the last time a horror novel was both scary and charming? *A Cosmology of Monsters* is that book! Riffing on themes from H.P. Lovecraft and Ray Bradbury, Hammill weaves a complex tale of lost cities, haunted Halloween attractions, and doorways to other worlds. I really enjoyed this literary horror story, which starts out as a love story (don't ALL good horror tales?) and grows progressively creepier. The book posits the questions: Who are the real monsters, and why do we love to be scared? Truly an uber-creepy yet delightful homage. I loved it."

—William Carl, An Unlikely Story, Plainville, MA

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The Deep: A Novella

By Rivers Solomon, Daveed Diggs, William Hutson, Jonathan Snipes

"Solomon is perfectly suited to expand the concept of a civilization of merfolk whose origins were born in the violence of pregnant African women sent to the depths from the vessels of white slave traders. *The Deep* focuses on Yetu, whose role as historian is to be individually burdened with six centuries of memories of all the wajinru (merfolk), and the consequences when she abdicates her responsibility. With shades of Hans Christian Andersen, Ursula Le Guin, and Lois Lowry, Solomon's short tome is, indeed, a deep read."

—Maryelizabeth Yturralde, Creating Conversations, Redondo Beach, CA

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The History of Living Forever: A Novel

By Jake Wolff

"This tale of the alchemy of immortality, of the quest for an elixir of life, is powerfully driven by a tension between the desire to transmute the nature of life versus a reductive drive to prolong it. The mutability of time and character suffuse the story, making 16-year-old Conrad's coming of age unexpectedly multi-layered and complex. If ever a book invited looking into the future, it is *The History of Living Forever*. I predict that it will have a long and glorious life."

—Kenny Brechner, Devaney, Doak & Garrett Booksellers, Farmington, ME

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Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead: A Novel

By Olga Tokarczuk, Antonia Lloyd-Jones (Transl.)

"Janina is an eccentric middle-aged woman who translates William Blake, studies astrology, and is acutely attuned to the wilderness around her in rural Poland. When hunters and poachers begin to be gruesomely murdered, Janina informs the police that the animals are responsible. As the bodies mount, so does her involvement with the mystery, although her status as a crank and possible madwoman ensures that she's ignored. This is an extraordinary and disturbing tale—a mystery that becomes more complex as the story continues, accompanied by Janina's often witty observations on man, nature, justice, and identity."

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

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How We Fight for Our Lives: A Memoir

By Saeed Jones

"Saeed Jones is supremely talented, so I expected his memoir to be great. I did NOT expect, however, to be left immobile in my chair after reading that final paragraph, processing the beauty of his words and those indelible sentences he's generous enough to share with us. *How We Fight for Our Lives* is a moving and intimate portrait of the writer growing up as a young, gay black man and trying to understand the complex realities of his identity. We also gain insight to Jones' relationship with his mother, a story that left me in pieces by the end. *How We Fight for Our Lives* is raw, difficult, and truthful, and completely stuffed with love."

—Eugenio Vela, BookPeople, Austin, TX

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The Starless Sea: A Novel

By Erin Morgenstern

"Rarely is a book such an absolute feast—for the senses, for the intellect, and, above all, for the soul. Morgenstern dazzles in her latest novel, an intricately wrought tale populated by lovers, mystery, and sumptuous magic. *The Starless Sea* is an ode to book lovers everywhere, reanimating the excitement as well as the pure possibility felt when reading books like Harry Potter or *The Lord of the Rings* for the first time. I am reminded of the famous C.S. Lewis quote, 'One day, you'll be old enough to read fairytales again.' When that day comes, *The Starless Sea* will be waiting for you."

—Laura Graveline, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX



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Stay and Fight: A Novel

By Madeline ffitch

"From the first page of this debut novel set deep in Appalachia, we know that *Stay and Fight* is aptly named, for the way it explores the constant struggle of its characters to stay where they are while fighting for a better existence. ffitch expertly shows us the romantic, albeit brutally raw, reality of living off the grid (on one's own terms, most importantly), a feat she somehow accomplishes in the most modestly ambitious way. *Stay and Fight* is fantastic."

—Caridad Cole, Community Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY



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Summerlings: A Novel

By Lisa Howorth

"On the surface, Lisa Howorth's coming-of-age story follows a group of young friends in a sleepy suburb just outside Washington, D.C., through long lazy summer days punctuated by childhood adventures. Into this setting, where WWII is still a fresh memory for many and the Cold War is heating up daily, she introduces an international cast of supporting characters whose back stories provide fascinating context and drama. By providing the details of the adults' lives as seen through the boys' eyes, Howorth creates a larger story while keeping her eight-year-old protagonists front and center. It's a perfect balance. I loved it!"

—Laurie Gillman, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC



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Underland: A Deep Time Journey

By Robert Macfarlane

"I don't think there is a square mile of ground on this planet where Robert Macfarlane couldn't dig up a new, wondrous story. *Underland* continues the tradition of profound storytelling, reflection, and, quite simply, gorgeous writing we have come to expect from him. Macfarlane's ventures into the underworlds of our planet, both mythical and literal, may amount to his finest work yet, and not just because these are the places that have captivated me most throughout my life. I feel fortunate to be living at the same time as him, knowing that as long as he is writing, there is something to look forward to."

—Chris La Tray, Fact & Fiction Downtown, Missoula, MT



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STAFF PICK!



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