A magnificent and ambitiously conceived portrait of contemporary life, by a genius of realism

Nine men. Each of them at a different stage in life, each of them away from home, and each of them striving—in the suburbs of Prague, in an overdeveloped Alpine village, beside a Belgian motorway, in a dingy Cyprus hotel—to understand what it means to be alive, here and now. Tracing a dramatic arc from the spring of youth to the winter of old age, the ostensibly separate narratives of All That Man Is aggregate into a picture of a single shared existence, a picture that interrogates the state of modern manhood while bringing to life, unforgottably, the physical and emotional terrain of an increasingly globalized Europe. And so these nine lives form an ingenious and new kind of novel, in which David Szalay expertly plots a dark predicament for the twenty-first-century man.

Dark and disturbing, but also often wickedly comic, All That Man Is is notable for the acute psychological penetration Szalay brings to bear on his characters, from the working-class ex-grunt to the pompous college student, the middle-aged loser to the Russian oligarch. Steadily and mercilessly, as this brilliantly conceived book progresses, the protagonist at the center of each chapter is older than the last one, it gets colder out, and All That Man Is gathers exquisite power. Szalay is a writer of supreme gifts—a master of a new kind of realism that vibrates with detail, intelligence, relevance, and devastating pathos.

PRAISE

Praise for Spring

"A writer with the whole range of talents . . . Outstanding." —The Sunday Times (London)

"A lyrical precise writer, deftly capturing the hyperawareness that often stands in for real communication between couples . . . Irresistible to watch." —O, The Oprah Magazine

"[Szalay] draws his main characters with subtly devastating insight." —The Boston Globe

David Szalay is the author of London and the South-East, which won the Betty Trask Prize and the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize; The Innocent; and Spring. In 2013 he was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists. He lives in Budapest.
The Art of Waiting

On Fertility, Medicine, and Motherhood

Belle Boggs

A brilliant exploration of the natural, medical, psychological, and political facets of fertility

When Belle Boggs's "The Art of Waiting" was published in Orion in 2012, it went viral, leading to republication in Harper's Magazine, an interview on NPR's The Diane Rehm Show, and a spot at the intersection of "highbrow" and "brilliant" in New York magazine's "Approval Matrix."

In that heartbreaking essay, Boggs eloquently recounts her realization that she might never be able to conceive. She searches the apparently fertile world around her--the emergence of thirteen-year cicadas, the birth of eaglets near her rural home, and an unusual gorilla pregnancy at a local zoo--for signs that she is not alone. Boggs also explores other aspects of fertility and infertility: the way longing for a child plays out in the classic Coen brothers film Raising Arizona; the depiction of childlessness in literature, from Macbeth to Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?; the financial and legal complications that accompany alternative means of family making; the private and public expressions of iconic writers grappling with motherhood and fertility. She reports, with great empathy, complex stories of couples who adopted domestically and from overseas, LGBT couples considering assisted reproduction and surrogacy, and women and men reflecting on childless or child-free lives.

In The Art of Waiting, Boggs deftly distills her time of waiting into an expansive contemplation of fertility, choice, and the many possible roads to making a life a...

PRAISE

"Boggs takes her readers on a bittersweet elliptical journey from cicadas, to humans, to monkeys and back again... An honest confrontation with what it means to be an infertile woman today... Ultimately Boggs's essay is one of hope and optimism in the face of disappointed expectations." --Citation for the William Hazlitt Essay Prize

Belle Boggs is the author of Mattaponi Queen. Her stories and essays have appeared in The Paris Review, Ecotone, Slate, and many other publications. She teaches in the MFA program at North Carolina State University.
Sleeping on Jupiter

A Novel

Anuradha Roy

Long-listed for the Man Booker Prize, a novel about violence, love, and religion in modern India

On a train bound for the seaside town of Jarmuli, known for its temples, three elderly women meet a young documentary filmmaker named Nomi, whose braided hair, tattoos, and foreign air set her apart. At a brief stop en route, the women witness a sudden assault on Nomi that leaves her stranded as the train pulls away.

Later in Jarmuli, among pilgrims, priests, and ashrams, the women disembark only to find that Nomi has managed to arrive on her own. What is someone like her, clearly not a worshipper, doing in this remote place? Over the next five days, the women live out their long-planned dream of a holiday together; their temple guide pursues a forbidden love; and Nomi is joined by a photographer to scout locations for a documentary. As their lives overlap and collide, Nomi's past comes into focus, and the serene surface of the town is punctured by violence and abuse as Jarmuli is revealed as a place with a long, dark history that transforms all who encounter it. A haunting, vibrant novel that was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize and the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and short-listed for the Hindu Literary Prize, Anuradha Roy's Sleeping on Jupiter is a brilliantly told story of contemporary India from an internationally acclaimed writer.

PRAISE

"Anuradha Roy's poetic work of luminous prose deserves a wide readership in India and beyond." --The Independent

"[Roy] holds her story in a fine balance, scrupulously turning from one perspective to another in order to show the often yawning gap between how we imagine ourselves and how others see us." --The Times Literary Supplement

Anuradha Roy is the author of The Folded Earth, which won the Economist Crossword Prize, and An Atlas of Impossible Longing, which was named a best book of the year by The Washington Post and The Seattle Times. She lives in Ranikhet, India.
Thrill Me

Essays on Fiction

Benjamin Percy

Bold new essays on how to craft a thrilling read--in any genre--from the bestselling author of The Dead Lands

Anyone familiar with the meteoric rise of Benjamin Percy's career will surely have noticed a certain shift: After writing two short-story collections and a literary novel, he delivered the werewolf thriller Red Moon and the postapocalyptic epic The Dead Lands. Now, in his first book of nonfiction, Percy challenges the notion that literary and genre fiction are somehow mutually exclusive. The title essay is an ode to the kinds of books that make many readers fall in love with fiction: science fiction, fantasy, mysteries, horror, from J.R.R. Tolkien to Anne Rice, Ursula K. Le Guin to Stephen King. Percy's own academic experience banished many of these writers in the name of what is "literary" and what is "genre." Then he discovered Michael Chabon, Aimee Bender, Cormac McCarthy, Margaret Atwood, and others who employ techniques of genre fiction while remaining literary writers. In fifteen essays on the craft of fiction, Percy looks to disparate sources such as Jaws, Blood Meridian, and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo to discover how contemporary writers engage issues of plot, suspense, momentum, and the speculative, as well as character, setting, and dialogue. An urgent and entertaining missive on craft, Thrill Me brims with Percy's distinctive blend of anecdotes, advice, and close reading, all in the service of one dictum: Thrill the reader.

PRAISE

Praise for The Dead Lands

"The Dead Lands is a case of wonderful writing and compulsive reading. You will not come across a finer work of sustained imagination this year." --Stephen King

"A great read no matter how you approach it." --NPR

"A magnificent and cleverly crafted futuristic thriller." --Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Benjamin Percy is the author of three novels, most recently The Dead Lands, as well as two books of short stories. His honors include an NEA Fellowship, the Whiting Writers' Award, two Pushcart Prizes, and the Plimpton Prize.
BORDERS

ROY JACOBSEN

"A great novel, filled with surprise, heartbreak, and magic."
—The Times Literary Supplement (UK)

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Borders

A Novel

Roy Jacobsen; Translated from the Norwegian by Don Bartlett and Don Shaw

A sweeping novel of World War II, set in the Ardennes, from the acclaimed author of Child Wonder

The Ardennes, a forested, mountainous borderland that spans France, Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg, was crucial to Hitler's invasion of France and host to the Battle of the Bulge. In a small valley among these borders lives Robert, born of an affair between an American GI and the Belgian nurse who rescued him. In his father's absence, Robert finds a mentor in Markus Hebel, who has faked blindness ever since serving as a Wehrmacht radio operator in Russia. Markus, in turn, confides his secret to Robert—and then he tells the story of his own son, whose fanatical loyalty to Hitler left him trapped during the siege of Stalingrad. In Borders, Roy Jacobsen brilliantly layers these stories of impossible choices between familial love and national identity, culminating in a nuanced, probing novel of shifting wartime loyalties.

Praise for Child Wonder

"More obviously artful than To Kill a Mockingbird, Child Wonder is as powerful and more contemporarily relevant." --Booklist

"An exquisite exploration of childhood, a topic Jacobsen addresses with refreshing unsentimentality . . . The kind of novel that never leaves you." --The Times Literary Supplement

Roy Jacobsen is one of the most celebrated and influential contemporary writers in Norway. Child Wonder was awarded the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and The Burnt-Out Town of Miracles was short-listed for the International Dublin IMPAC Literary Award.
The Needle's Eye

Passing through Youth

Fanny Howe

A meditation on time, violence, and chance by "one of America's most dazzling poets" (O, The Oprah Magazine)

Fanny Howe's The Needle's Eye: Passing through Youth is a sequence of essays, short tales, and lyrics that are intertwined by an inner visual logic. The book contains filmic images that subvert the usual narrative chronology; it is focused on the theme of youth, doomed or saved. A fourteenth-century folktale of two boys who set out to find happiness, the story of Francis and Clare with their revolutionary visions, the Tsarnaev brothers of Boston, the poet George Oppen and the philosopher Simone Weil, two strangers who loved but remain strange, and the wild-child Brigid of Ireland: all these emerge "from multiple directions, but always finally from the eye at the end." As the philosopher Richard Kearney writes, "Howe's ruminations and aesthetics are those of the fragmentary, but are unified by world thinkers like Arendt, Weil, Agamben, and Yeats." The Needle's Eye is a brilliant and deeply felt exploration of faith and terror, coincidence and perception, by a literary artist of profound moral intelligence, "recognized as one of the country's least compromising yet most readable experimentalist writers" (The Boston Globe).

PRAISE

Praise for Fanny Howe

"[Howe's] religious musings can be enthralling, as when she writes her own Gospels, fables of faith in which, for instance, she finds herself walking beside St. Francis as a boy . . . The real triumph of her art . . . offers glimpses of the unseeable shards of the unsayable." --The New York Times Book Review

Fanny Howe's previous book of poetry, Second Childhood, was a finalist for the National Book Award, and her fiction was recently honored as a finalist for the Man Booker International Prize. She lives in Massachusetts.
Cabo de Gata
A Novel
Eugen Ruge; Translated from the German by Anthea Bell

A witty, philosophical novel by the author of the internationally bestselling In Times of Fading Light

Sometimes a cat comes into your life when you least expect it.

An unnamed writer finds himself in Cabo de Gata, a sleepy, worn-down Andalusian fishing village. He's left behind his life in Berlin, which it turns out wasn't much—an ex-girlfriend, a neighborhood that had become too trendy for his taste. Surrounded by a desolate landscape that is scoured by surprisingly cold winds (not at all what he expected of southern Spain), he faces his daily failures: to connect with the innkeeper or any of the townsfolk, who all seem to be hiding something; to learn Spanish; to keep warm; to write. At last he succeeds in making an unlikely connection with one of the village's many feral cats. Does the cat have a message for him? And will their tenuous relationship be enough to turn his life around?

With sharp intelligence and wry humor, Eugen Ruge's Cabo de Gata proposes the biggest questions and illustrates how achieving happiness sometimes means giving oneself up to the foreign and the unknown.

PRAISE
Praise for In Times of Fading Light

"A pulsing, vibrant, thrillingly alive work, full of formal inventiveness, remarkable empathy, and, above all, mordant and insightful wit." --The New York Times

"A shrewd and very knowing novel, slippery with the truth and packed tight with compressed tension." --Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

In 2011, Eugen Ruge came to international acclaim when he won the German Book Prize for In Times of Fading Light, his debut novel, which went on to be translated into more than twenty languages. He lives in Berlin.
Blackacre
Poems
Monica Youn

The brilliant new collection by Monica Youn following *Ignatz*, a finalist for the National Book Award

*the trees all planted in the same month after the same fire*

*each thick around*
*as a man’s wrist*

*meticulously spaced grids cutting the sunshine*

*into panels into planks*
*and crossbeams of light*

*an incandescent architecture that is the home that was promised you*

--from "Whiteacre"

First coined in 1628, the term "blackacre" is a legal fiction, a hypothetical estate. It is also a password among lawyers marking one's initiation into a centuries-old tradition of legal indoctrination. Monica Youn's fascinating, multifaceted new collection, *Blackacre*, uses the term to suggest landscape, legacy, what is allotted to each of us—a tract of land, a work of art, a heritage, a body, a destiny. What are the limits of the imagination's ability to transform what is given? On any particular acre, can we plant a garden? Found a city? Unearth a treasure? Build a home? Youn brings her lawyerly intelligence and lyric gifts to bear on questions of fertility and barrenness as she attempts to understand her own desire—her own struggle—to conceive a child. Where the shape-making mind encounters unalterable fact, *Blackacre* explores new territories of art, meaning, and feeling.

PRAISE

Praise for Monica Youn

"No poet of Youn's generation has made more demands on herself—and none has done more in her art." --Stephen Burt

"I found this incredible collection [Barter] disconcerting in its spectatorship, and breathtaking in its beauty." --Claudia Rankine

Monica Youn is the author of two previous poetry collections, *Barter* and *Ignatz*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. A former lawyer, she teaches at Princeton University and in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College.
There Now

Poems

Eamon Grennan

"Few poets are as generous as Eamon Grennan in the sheer volume of delight his poems convey." --Billy Collins

... there goes the sudden shriek
of the blackbird... all alive inside the inhuman
breath-pattern of the wind trawling every last leaf
and blade of grass and flinging rain like velvet pebbles
onto the skylight: nothing but parables in every bristling inch
of the out-of-sight unspoken never-to-be-known pure
sense-startling untranslatable there of the world as we find it.

--from "World Word"

In these short poems full of patient listening, looking, and responding, Eamon Grennan presents a world of brilliantly excavated moments: watching a flight of oystercatchers off a Connemara strand or the laden stall of a fish market in Manhattan; listening to the silence in an empty room or the beat of his partner's heart; pondering violence in the Middle East or the tenuous, endangered nature of even "the fairest / order in the world." Grennan's philosophic gaze manages to allow the ordinary facts of life to take on their own luminous glow. It is the sort of light he finds in some of his favorite painters--Cézanne, Bonnard, Renoir, the Dutch masters--light that is inside things and drawn out to our attention. There Now is a celebration of the momentary recognition of transcendence, all the more precious for being momentary.

PRAISE

"Grennan's style [in There Now] is so distinctively textured, one perception following another, that readers will feel as if they are at his shoulder... And there is also... the clear sense that the process itself, the act of writing, opens the world in intimate, surprising, and revealing ways." --The Irish Times

Bestiary
Poems

Donika Kelly; Selected and with an Introduction by Nikky Finney

Donika Kelly’s fierce debut collection, winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize

I thought myself lion and serpent. Thought myself body enough for two, for we. Found comfort in never being lonely.

What burst from my back, from my bones, what lived along the ridge from crown to crown, from mane to forked tongue beneath the skin. What clamor we made in the birthing. What hiss and rumble at the splitting, at the horns and beard, at the glottal bleat. What bridges our back.

What strong neck, what bright eye. What menagerie are we. What we've made of ourselves.

--from "Love Poem: Chimera"

Across this remarkable first book are encounters with animals, legendary beasts, and mythological monsters--half human and half something else. Donika Kelly's Bestiary is a catalogue of creatures--from the whale and ostrich to the pegasus and chimera to the centaur and griffin. Among them too are poems of love, self-discovery, and travel, from "Out West" to "Back East." Lurking in the middle of this powerful and multifaceted collection is a wrenching sequence that wonders just who or what is the real monster inside this life of survival and reflection. Selected and with an introduction by the National Book Award winner Nikky Finney, Bestiary questions what makes us human, what makes us whole.

Donika Kelly is a poet and a scholar, and is currently a lecturer in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program at the University of California, Davis. Her poems have appeared in Hayden's Ferry Review, Indiana Review, and West Branch.
The Pinch

A Novel

Steve Stern

Now in paperback and "brimming with wondrous surprises . . . There's magic in The Pinch" (The Boston Globe)

Steve Stern's prodigious imagination finds a wondrous home in the Pinch, a once-thriving Jewish community in Memphis. The Pinch revolves around a single enchanted day containing years, during which the antics of a group of Jewish mystics threaten to ravage the life of general store proprietor Pinchas Pin with miracles, and his nephew Muni's ardor for an alluring tightrope walker collides with his passion for chronicling the wonders of North Main Street. Their stories, gleaned by a hapless bookseller from a fabulist history book, transform the fate of the neighborhood. Now in paperback, The Pinch is a sparkling reminder that Steve Stern is one of our most talented and inimitable storytellers.

"[A] big, rangy, saturated, antic new novel, a Pynchonian tragicomedy . . . Stern, an ebullient maestro of words and mayhem, wonder and conscience, orchestrates a cacophonous, whirling, gritty, tender, time-warping saga that encompasses a cavalcade of horror, stubborn love, cosmic slapstick, burlesque humor, and a scattering of miracles." --Booklist (starred review)

"Weird and wonderful . . . [The Pinch is] a backdrop to Stern's poignant and antic drama, a playground on which his exuberant, larger-than-life characters can run wild . . . The Pinch is composed of . . . perfectly calibrated moments, all of which pulse with a dynamic inventiveness." --Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

PRAISE

"Stern's gift, seen stronger here than ever before, gives us a weird, wacky, mythologized Memphis . . . A reading of this celebratory novel, or others like it, might serve to put life and time in perspective. Want to try it? Just turn on the Klezmer music and turn the pages: It's work, it's pleasure, it's magic." --Alan Cheuse, NPR

Steve Stern is the author of several novels and collections of stories, including The Book of Mischief, The Frozen Rabbi, and The Wedding Jester, for which he won the National Jewish Book Award. He teaches at Skidmore College in upstate New York.
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