



MAY 2020 NOW IN PAPERBACK



Ask Again, Yes: A Novel

By Mary Beth Keane
(Scribner, 9781982106997, \$17)

"Ask Again, Yes is a compelling, heartbreaking, yet ultimately hopeful novel. Mary Beth Keane is incredibly talented; she does not sugar coat, instead giving readers a compulsively readable family drama. I did not expect to become so completely engrossed in these characters' stories—two families whose lives become inextricably

linked by young love and personal tragedy. Their myriad mistakes and attempts to atone beautifully demonstrate the power and grace found in forgiveness."

—Anderson McKean, Page and Palette, Fairhope, AL



The Binding: A Novel

By Bridget Collins

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062838100, \$17.99)

"An absolutely gorgeous novel! Collins writes Emmett in such a way that readers will experience his confusion and frustration and then have it unknotted simultaneously as his tale unfolds. The three parts of the novel are brilliantly ordered to deliver a powerful tale that will tear your heart to pieces slowly and, in one spectacular scene, mend it completely with hope and love. Do Binders provide healing and comfort, or are they wicked magicians determined to leave you empty? What are you willing to risk for someone you love?"

—Angela Shores, Adventure Bound Books, Morganton, NC



Cat Person and Other Stories

By Kristen Roupenian

(Gallery/Scout Press, 9781982101640, \$16)

"I was completely enthralled with Kristen Roupenian's 'Cat Person' story in the New Yorker and couldn't wait to pick up her collection. Like 'Cat Person,' each story pushes boundaries, holding a magnifying glass up to social norms and what our society accepts. The writing is fantastic, and the cadence of each story is strikingly unique. This book will delight fans of Roupenian's viral story and will start many more conversations in its wake."

—Courtney Flynn, Trident Booksellers & Café, Boston, MA



Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen

By Mary Norris

(W. W. Norton & Company, 9780393357868, \$15.95)

"What a pleasure to again spend a few hours with Mary Norris. The author of *Between You & Me* is back with a second book, and this time her subject is all things Greek—the language, the people, the mythology, and the culture. *Greek to Me* recounts Norris' experiences

learning Greek and traveling the country while putting her new skills to the test. As in her first book, Norris is excellent company, spinning tales and charming readers. Blending memoir, history, and travel, all topped off with heaps of wordy nerdiness, *Greek to Me* is a joy to read."

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



The Guest Book: A Novel

By Sarah Blake

(Flatiron Books, 9781250110275, \$17.99)

"I began *The Guest Book* expecting an excellent family saga set, in part, on an island in Maine. The magic of the family home is palpable as three generations build loyalty, identity, and memories there. But what I read was far, far more. This is a history of our country's evolution through matters of race, class, and politics, and it relates compellingly to our current struggles with those topics as the characters grapple with the underpinnings of privilege, familial love, and morality. Sarah Blake has written a stunning and complex novel that lingers in your mind long after the last page."

—Dana Brigham, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA



The Islanders: A Novel

By Meg Mitchell Moore

(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062840073, \$16.99)

"In *The Islanders*, Moore tells a wonderful tale of forgiveness and love woven into the beautiful backdrop of Block Island, Rhode Island. A disgraced author must hit bottom before he can start to forgive himself and find his way back to life. A local shop owner must deal with the changes that have taken place in her life, including her daughter leaving home and some new competition that threatens her livelihood. Well-written with sharply drawn characters, this is more than a beach read but just as enjoyable."

—Robert Angell, Spring Street Bookstore, Newport, RI



Rough Magic: Riding the World's Loneliest Horse Race

By Lara Prior-Palmer

(Catapult, 9781948226981, \$16.95)

"Lara Prior-Palmer's journey in the Mongol Derby is one of excitement, pain, and profound inner dialogue. There was not a moment in this fast-paced memoir where my attention wavered. Prior-Palmer weaves a coming-of-age tale with expert grace and worldly knowledge alongside an intensely riveting competition against herself and the land. *Rough Magic* is a fantastically written and introspective memoir worthy of great praise."

—Travis McGuire, Skylark Bookshop, Columbia, MO



Rules for Visiting: A Novel

By Jessica Francis Kane

(Penguin Books, 9780525559245, \$17)

"A skillful writer can show how things that seem unrelated are actually intertwined. In this way, Kane quietly reminds us that friendships and plants may be deeply rooted but need tending to bloom completely, that words matter, that going back to their roots may change how we think about what we say, and that a quiet life can be a full one. This gentle book grows on you (the puns just keep coming), but it is a refreshing change from the stresses of our digital age or the angst of so many recent books about contemporary life. Entertaining and erudite, I highly recommend this book."

—Ann Carlson, Waterfront Books, Georgetown, SC



The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna: A Novel

By Juliet Grames

(Ecco, 9780062862839, \$17.99)

"Stella Fortuna: With a name like this, she should not be subjected to so many near-death accidents. Is she unlucky or cursed? Juliet Grames does a masterful job of parsing out Stella's story, from growing up in an isolated mountain village to immigrating to America and navigating the perils of a patriarchal society along the way. This story explores familial bonds, discontentment, betrayal, and the damage of keeping secrets. Readers, get comfortable because you will not want to put this book down. I loved Stella."

—Patricia Moody, Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington Depot, CT



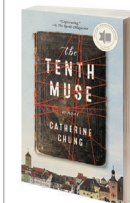
Southern Lady Code: Essays

By Helen Ellis

(Anchor, 9780525562924, \$15.95)

"I had forgotten how to laugh, but after opening this book and starting to read, I couldn't help myself—it just came bubbling up. What a wonderful thing it is to hold in your hands something that has the power to make one erupt with hoots and howls. Helen Ellis is a treasure and a gift from the gods; she tells it like it is in Southern lady speak and we love her all the more for the joy she has given us."

—Beth Reynolds, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT



The Tenth Muse: A Novel

By Catherine Chung

(Ecco, 9780062574084, \$16.99)

Catherine Chung's female protagonist is a mathematician, and it is thrilling to have a woman scientist who is a complex character in an even more complex novel. In trying to solve a math riddle, she ends up exploring the riddle of her own childhood, which is inextricably linked to one of the darkest episodes in human history. Catherine Chung has woven a rich tapestry mixing present and past, ambition, identity, and gender issues. A beautiful book."

—Francoise Brodsky, Shakespeare & Co., New York, NY



Trust Exercise: A Novel

By Susan Choi

(Holt Paperbacks, 9781250231260, \$15.99)

"Set inside the acting program of an elite high school, Choi's novel seems to consider every major preoccupation of our moment—class, gender, sexuality, race, power, predation, authenticity, 'genius'—with language that's both uproarious and frothing with vital rage. To describe the plot in any detail, though, would reveal too much of *Trust Exercise*'s inventive, audacious form. Best let this novel sink into your bones with as few spoilers as possible before its final scene seizes your heart. And it will seize your heart. Trust me."

—Samuel Krowchenko, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI