

The Orphanmaster A Novel Of Early Manhattan

[#The Orphanmaster](#) [#early Manhattan novel](#) [#historical fiction New York](#) [#17th century New York](#) [#colonial America mystery](#)

Discover 'The Orphanmaster,' a compelling historical fiction novel set in the vibrant, yet perilous, early Manhattan. This gripping story immerses readers in the intricate world of 17th-century New York, perfect for fans of colonial America mysteries and rich historical narratives.

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The Orphanmaster

From a debut novelist, a gripping historical thriller and rousing love story set in seventeenth-century Manhattan. It's 1663 in the tiny, hardscrabble Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, now present-day southern Manhattan. Orphan children are going missing, and among those looking into the mysterious state of affairs are a quick-witted twenty-two-year-old trader, Blandine von Couvering, herself an orphan, and a dashing British spy named Edward Drummond. Suspects abound, including the governor's wealthy nephew, a green-eyed aristocrat with decadent tastes; an Algonquin trapper who may be possessed by a demon that turns people into cannibals; and the colony's own corrupt and conflicted orphanmaster. Both the search for the killer and Edward and Blandine's newfound romance are endangered, however, when Blandine is accused of being a witch and Edward is sentenced to hang for espionage. Meanwhile, war looms as the English king plans to wrest control of the colony. Jean Zimmerman brings New Amsterdam and its surrounding wilderness alive for modern-day readers with exacting period detail. Lively, fast paced, and full of colorful characters, The Orphanmaster is a dramatic page-turner that will appeal to fans of Hilary Mantel and Geraldine Brooks.

Love, Fiercely

Documents the Gilded Age love story of an heiress who fought for women's rights and an architect, tracing their upbringings, their pursuits, and their advocacy efforts on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised.

The Orphan Master's Son

The son of an influential father who runs an orphan work camp, Pak Jun Do rises to prominence using instinctive talents and eventually becomes a professional kidnapper and romantic rival to Kim Jong Il. Citizens of our beloved Democratic Republic of North Korea! Imagine the life of an orphan boy plucked from nowhere to be trained as a tunnel assassin, a kidnapper, a spy. He has no father but the State, no sweetheart but Sun Moon, the greatest opera star who ever lived, whose face is tattooed on his chest. Imagine he lives in our very own country, a model of exemplary Communism. A nation that is

the envy of the world, especially the Americans. Where the only stories people need to hear are those blasting out of loudspeakers to the glory of our dear Leader, Kim Jong il. Citizens! Who is this individual? What is his story? Pak Jun Do is his name: wrestler of sharks, envoy to Texan barbecues, imposter extraordinaire, whose tale has only come to light through the talents and stamina of our most patriotic interrogators.

Savage Girl

"An over-the-top romp through 1870s America . . . compulsively readable." —Oprah.com Jean Zimmerman's spectacular follow-up to *The Orphanmaster* has it all: Gilded Age romance, robber baron excess, detective story suspense, and a compelling female protagonist whom readers will fall in love with. In 1875, the Delegates, an outlandishly wealthy Manhattan couple on a tour of the American West, seek out a sideshow attraction called "Savage Girl." Her handlers avow that the wild, seemingly mute Bronwyn has been raised by wolves. Presented with the perfect blank slate to explore the power of civilized nurture, the Delegates take her back east to be introduced into high society. Cleaned up, Bronwyn is blazingly smart and darkly beautiful; as she takes steps toward her grand debut, a series of suitors find her irresistible—and begin to turn up murdered.

The Savage Girl

In the wake of her sister Ivy's widely publicized suicide attempt, Ursula Van Urden arrives in the metropolis of Middle City with hopes of starting her own life anew. In an attempt to understand the events leading up to her sister's breakdown, Ursula meets Ivy's mysterious boyfriend, Chas Lacouture, and joins his trendspotting firm, Tomorrow, Ltd. Armed with only a sketch pad and the mandate to "find the future," she begins an odyssey into the strangely intoxicating world of trendspotting where one lesson prevails: At the heart of every product lies a paradox, and when cultivated successfully, it yields untold riches. As Ivy's delusions grow stronger and more apocalyptic, Ursula's observations of a filthy, rodent-eating homeless girl -- an urban savage -- lead to an elaborate advertising scheme gone awry that has unexpected consequences.

The Women of the House

A portrait of an ambitious seventeenth-century woman merchant documents how Margaret Hardenbroeck Philipse built a trading empire in New Amsterdam while managing a home that included her five children, describing how she and her female descendants transformed her storeroom into the Philipse Manor Hall and enjoyed prestige until the Revolution. Reprint.

The Alienist

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A TNT ORIGINAL SERIES • "A first-rate tale of crime and punishment that will keep readers guessing until the final pages."—*Entertainment Weekly* "Caleb Carr's rich period thriller takes us back to the moment in history when the modern idea of the serial killer became available to us."—*The Detroit News* When *The Alienist* was first published in 1994, it was a major phenomenon, spending six months on the *New York Times* bestseller list, receiving critical acclaim, and selling millions of copies. This modern classic continues to be a touchstone of historical suspense fiction for readers everywhere. The year is 1896. The city is New York. Newspaper reporter John Schuyler Moore is summoned by his friend Dr. Laszlo Kreizler—a psychologist, or "alienist"—to view the horribly mutilated body of an adolescent boy abandoned on the unfinished Williamsburg Bridge. From there the two embark on a revolutionary effort in criminology: creating a psychological profile of the perpetrator based on the details of his crimes. Their dangerous quest takes them into the tortured past and twisted mind of a murderer who will kill again before their hunt is over. Fast-paced and riveting, infused with historical detail, *The Alienist* conjures up Gilded Age New York, with its tenements and mansions, corrupt cops and flamboyant gangsters, shining opera houses and seamy gin mills. It is an age in which questioning society's belief that all killers are born, not made, could have unexpected and fatal consequences. Praise for *The Alienist* "[A] delicious premise . . . Its settings and characterizations are much more sophisticated than the run-of-the-mill thrillers that line the shelves in bookstores."—*The Washington Post Book World* "Mesmerizing."—*Detroit Free Press* "The method of the hunt and the disparate team of hunters lift the tale beyond the level of a good thriller—way beyond. . . . A remarkable combination of historical novel and psychological thriller."—*The Buffalo News* "Engrossing."—*Newsweek* "Gripping, atmospheric . . . intelligent and entertaining."—*USA Today*

“A high-spirited, charged-up and unfailingly smart thriller.”—Los Angeles Times “Keeps readers turning pages well past their bedtime.”—San Francisco Chronicle

Chang and Eng

This stunning novel combines fiction with astonishing fact to tell the story of history's most famous conjoined twins. Born in Siam in 1811—on a squalid houseboat on the Mekong River—Chang and Eng Bunker were international celebrities before the age of twenty. Touring the world's stages as a circus act, they settled in the American South just prior to the Civil War. They eventually married two sisters from North Carolina, fathering twenty-one children between them, and lived for more than six decades never more than seven inches apart, attached at the chest by a small band of skin and cartilage. Woven from the fabric of fact, myth, and imagination, Strauss's narrative gives poignant, articulate voice to these legendary brothers, and humanizes the freakish legend that grew up around them. Sweeping from the Far East and the court of the King of Siam to the shared intimacy of their lives in America, Chang and Eng rescues one of the nineteenth century's most fabled human oddities from the sideshow of history, drawing from their extraordinary lives a novel of exceptional power and beauty.

A Working Theory of Love

A Working Theory of Love by Scott Hutchins is a recklessly witty, outrageously honest novel about sex, love and artificial intelligence. 'Tremendous, big, clever. Every once in a while a novel comes along and speaks to a generation ... has much to say about what it means to live, love and lose in the twenty-first century' Guardian Silicon Valley: home of online start-ups, couture coffee, sexual meditation, and the future. In its midst, Neill Bassett is helping to build the world's first artificial intelligence - a computer that talks, thinks, lies, and if all goes to plan, feels bad about it too. But when the experiment swerves in an unexpected direction, Neill is forced to confront a few buried feelings of his own - for his ex-wife, for his dead father, for his twenty-first-century life, and for a very twenty-first-century woman called Rachel, who might just hold the answer to it all... 'Electrifying. Clever, funny and very entertaining' The New York Times 'Worthy of Chuck Palahniuk ... Hutchins's satirical take on 21st-century existence is sharply observed' Independent 'Touching and extremely funny, Neill Bassett is a disenchanted bachelor for the Noughties generation. Brilliantly achieved' GQ 'Inventive, intelligent, hilarious. One of the pleasures here is Hutchins' terrific grasp of the zeitgeist' San Francisco Chronicle 'Terrific. Throughout, Hutchins hits that sweet spot where humour and melancholy comfortably coexist' Entertainment Weekly 'Mixes the everyman likeability of Nick Hornby with a splash of the offbeat intellect of Douglas Coupland' Metro Scott Hutchins teaches at Stanford University, California. His work has appeared in StoryQuarterly, The Rumpus, The New York Times and Esquire. This is his first novel.

My Holiday in North Korea

“You remember Eat, Pray, Love and Under the Tuscan Sun? Yeah, this really isn't like those. It's better” (San Francisco Chronicle). Most people want out of North Korea. Wendy Simmons wanted in. In My Holiday in North Korea: The Funniest/Worst Place on Earth, Wendy shares a glimpse of North Korea as it's never been seen before. Even though it's the scariest place on Earth, somehow Wendy forgot to check her sense of humor at the border. But Wendy's initial amusement and bewilderment soon turned to frustration and growing paranoia. Before long, she learned the essential conundrum of “tourism” in North Korea: Travel is truly a love affair. But, just like love, it's a two-way street. And North Korea deprives you of all this. They want you to fall in love with the singular vision of the country they're willing to show you and nothing more. Through poignant, laugh-out-loud essays and ninety-two never-before-published color photographs of North Korea, Wendy chronicles one of the strangest vacations ever. Along the way, she bares all while undergoing an inner journey as convoluted as the country itself. “Much of the humor and poignancy comes from the absurdity of a fun-loving free spirit taking a vacation that's more rigidly scripted and controlled than a presidential motorcade . . . Simmons' photos—including an eerie image of a classroom full of schoolgirls playing accordions—further illustrate the bizarre nature of a country that, whether for good or bad, has been carefully controlled for generations.” —San Francisco Chronicle “An irresistible read . . . A rare and fascinating look at the tourist's North Korea in a work that is humorous, appalling, and very sad. A highly recommended and revealing glimpse into a secretive land.” —Library Journal

Tailspin

A definitive work of feminist scholarship and military history, this sweeping narrative about women with the "right stuff" chronicles the scandal that rocked the Navy and changed the fate of women in combat as it tells the bigger, untold story of women at war. 8 pages of photos.

The Daughters of Mars

In what is perhaps "the best novel of his career" (*The Spectator*), the acclaimed author of *Schindler's List* tells the unforgettable story of two sisters whose lives are transformed by the cataclysm of the first world war. In 1915, Naomi and Sally Durance, two spirited Australian sisters, join the war effort as nurses, escaping the confines of their father's farm and carrying a guilty secret with them. Amid the carnage, the sisters' tenuous bond strengthens as they bravely face extreme danger and hostility—sometimes from their own side. There is great humor and compassion, too, and the inspiring example of the incredible women they serve alongside. In France, each meets an exceptional man, the kind for whom she might relinquish her newfound independence—if only they all survive. At once vast in scope and extraordinarily intimate, *The Daughters of Mars* is a remarkable novel about suffering and transcendence, despair and triumph, and the simple acts of decency that make us human even in a world gone mad.

The UnAmericans: Stories

Traces the experiences of protagonists from a range of cultures, including a blacklisted Hollywood actor who struggles to connect with his son, and a dissenting gallery worker who begins smuggling and curating underground art.

The Flamethrowers

Arriving in New York to pursue a creative career in the raucous 1970s art scene, Reno joins a group of dreamers and raconteurs before falling in love with the estranged son of an Italian motorcycle scion and succumbing to a radical social movement in 1977 Italy. By the National Book Award-nominated author of *Telex* from Cuba.

The Interestings

Discover the generation-defining American novel from the author of *The Wife* Whatever became of the most talented people you once knew? On a warm summer night in 1974, six teenagers play at being cool. They smoke pot, drink vodka, share their dreams and vow always to be interesting. Decades later, aspiring actress Jules has resigned herself to a more practical occupation; Cathy has stopped dancing; Jonah has laid down his guitar and Goodman has disappeared. Only Ethan and Ash, now married, have remained true to their adolescent dreams and have become shockingly successful too. As the group's fortunes tilt precipitously, their friendships are put under the ultimate strain. 'A truly great novel about friendship, and how it deepens and changes over the years' David Sedaris, author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day*

The Transcriptionist

"Haunting and provocative . . . Rowland's writing is compelling and masterful." —Delia Ephron, author of *The Lion Is In Once*, there were many transcriptionists at the *Record*, a behemoth New York City newspaper, but new technology has put most of them out of work. So now Lena, the last transcriptionist, sits alone in a room--a human conduit, silently turning reporters' recorded stories into print--until the day she encounters a story so shocking that it shatters the reverie that has become her life. This exquisite novel, written by an author who spent more than a decade as a transcriptionist at the *New York Times*, asks probing questions about journalism and ethics, about the decline of the newspaper and the failure of language. It is also the story of a woman's effort to establish her place in an increasingly alien and alienating world. "The *Transcriptionist* is suffused with prescient insight into journalism, ethics, and alienation . . . A thought provoking, original work." —*New York Journal of Books* "Rowland seems that rare thing, the naturally gifted novelist . . . [She] deftly maps a very specific kind of urban loneliness, the inner ache of the intelligent, damaged soul who prefers the company of ideas and words to that of people . . . That urge--to make words holy--is at the heart of this novel's strange, sad beauty." —*The Washington Post* "The *Transcriptionist* holds many pleasures . . . [and] can be read through many lenses . . . Rowland plays with the notions of truth and reliability . . . Sharp and affecting." —*The New York Times Book Review* "A strange, mesmerizing novel . . . about the decline of newspapers and the subsequent

loss of humanity—and yes, these are related.” —Booklist, starred review “Ambitious and fascinating . . . Disturbing and powerful.” —Library Journal “Entering the city Rowland creates, with its tightly strung dialogue and soulful, lonely citizens, is a memorable experience.” —The Boston Globe “Unforgettable. Written with such delight, compassion, and humanity it’s newsworthy.”—Alex Gilvarry, author of *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant*

Made from Scratch

A stunning celebration and reappraisal of the importance of “women’s work,” *Made from Scratch* addresses the tug that many Americans feel between our professional and private lives. In this stunning celebration and reappraisal of the importance of “women’s work,” acclaimed journalist Jean Zimmerman poignantly addresses the tug that many Americans of the twenty-first century feel between our professional and private lives. With sharp wit and intelligence, she offers evidence that in the current domestic vacuum, we still long for a richer home life -- a paradox visible in the Martha Stewart phenomenon, in the continuing popularity of women’s service magazines such as *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Family Circle*, and *Ladies’ Home Journal* -- whose combined circulation of over 17 million is nearly twice the combined circulation of *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News & World Report* -- and the booming business of restorations, where onlookers get a hands-on view of domestic life as it flourished in past centuries. This book is about the ways home traditions passed from one generation to the next -- baking a birthday cake from scratch, cherishing family heirlooms, or discovering the satisfaction of piecing a quilt -- sustain our souls, especially in our ever more processed, synthetic world, where we buy “homemade” goods and fail to see the irony in that. *Made from Scratch* tells the story of the unsung heroines of the hearth, investigating the history of female domesticity and charting its cultural changes over centuries. Zimmerman traces the lives of her own family’s homemakers -- from her tiny but indomitable grandmother, who managed a farm, strangled chickens with her bare hands, and sewed all the family clothing, to her mother, who rejected her country upbringing yet kept a fastidious suburban home where the gender divide stayed firmly in place, to her own experiences as a wife and mother weaned on the Women’s Movement of the 1970s, with its emphatic view that housework was a dirty word and that the domestic sphere was to be fled rather than cherished. In this book Zimmerman questions the unexamined trade-off we have made in a shockingly brief time span, as we’ve “progressed” from home-raised chickens to frozen TV dinners to McNuggets from the food court at the mall. What is lost when we no longer engage, as individuals and as a community, in the ancient rituals of food, craft, and shelter?

A Kim Jong-Il Production

A Kim Jong-Il Production by Paul Fischer - love, films and kidnapping in North Korea, the world’s wildest regime Before becoming the world’s most notorious dictator, Kim Jong-Il ran North Korea’s film industry. He directed every film made in the country but knew they were nothing compared to Hollywood. Then he hit on the perfect solution: order the kidnapping of South Korea’s most famous actress and her ex-husband, the country’s most acclaimed director. In a jaw-dropping mission the couple were kidnapped, held hostage and then ‘employed’ to make films for the Dear Leader, including a remake of *Godzilla*. They gained Kim’s trust - but could they escape? A non-fiction thriller with a plot so jaw-dropping even Hollywood couldn’t make it up, this extraordinary book will be enjoyed by fans of *Argo* and *Nothing to Envy*. ‘A story almost too wild to believe . . . Unputdownable’ Benjamin Wallace, author of New York Times bestseller *The Billionaire’s Vinegar* Paul Fischer is a film producer and writer. Born in Saudi Arabia and raised in France, he studied Social Sciences at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris and Film at the University of Southern California and the New York Film Academy. He has worked as an independent film producer in London for the past seven years; his first feature, the documentary *Radioman*, won the Grand Jury Prize at the Doc NYC festival. A Kim Jong-Il Production is his first book.

American Kompromat

****THE INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**** *Kompromat* n.—Russian for “compromising information” This is a story about the dirty secrets of the most powerful people in the world—including Donald Trump. It is based on exclusive interviews with dozens of high-level sources—intelligence officers in the CIA, FBI, and the KGB, thousands of pages of FBI investigations, police investigations, and news articles in English, Russian, and Ukrainian. *American Kompromat* shows that from Trump to Jeffrey Epstein, *kompromat* was used in operations far more sinister than the public could ever imagine.

Among them, the book addresses what may be the single most important unanswered question of the entire Trump era: Is Donald Trump a Russian asset? The answer, American Kompromat says, is yes, and it supports that conclusion backs with the first richly detailed narrative on how the KGB allegedly first “spotted” Trump as a potential asset, how they cultivated him as an asset, arranged his first trip to Moscow, and pumped him full of KGB talking points that were published in three of America’s most prestigious newspapers. Among its many revelations, American Kompromat reports for the first time that: • According to Yuri Shvets, a former major in the KGB, Trump first did business over forty years ago with a Manhattan electronics store co-owned by a Soviet émigré who Shvets believes was working with the KGB. Trump’s decision to do business there triggered protocols through which the Soviet spy agency began efforts to cultivate Trump as an asset, thus launching a decades-long “relationship” of mutual benefit to Russia and Trump, from real estate to real power. • Trump’s invitation to Moscow in 1987 was billed as a preliminary scouting trip for a hotel, but according to Shvets, was actually initiated by a high-level KGB official, General Ivan Gromakov. These sorts of trips were usually arranged for ‘deep development,’ recruitment, or for a meeting with the KGB handlers, even if the potential asset was unaware of it. • Before Trump’s first trip to Moscow, he met with Natalia Dubinina, who worked at the United Nations library in a vital position usually reserved as a cover for KGB operatives. And many more...

Super Sad True Love Story

Lenny's from a different century, he totally loves books (or printed bound media artifacts, as they are now known), but even more than books, Lenny loves Eunice Park. When riots break out in New York's Central Park, Lenny vows to convince his fickle new love that in a time without standards, there is value in being a real human being.

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In Order To Live

'I am most grateful for two things: that I was born in North Korea, and that I escaped from North Korea.' Yeonmi Park was not dreaming of freedom when she escaped from North Korea. She didn't even know what it meant to be free. All she knew was that she was running for her life, that if she and her family stayed behind they would die - from starvation, or disease, or even execution. This book is the story of Park's struggle to survive in the darkest, most repressive country on earth; her harrowing escape through China's underworld of smugglers and human traffickers; and then her escape from China across the Gobi desert to Mongolia, with only the stars to guide her way, and from there to South Korea and at last to freedom; and finally her emergence as a leading human rights activist - all before her 21st birthday. 'Clear-eyed and devastating' Observer

Bring Up the Bodies (The Wolf Hall Trilogy, Book 2)

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2012 Winner of the 2012 Costa Book of the Year Shortlisted for the 2013 Women's Prize for Fiction 'Simply exceptional...I envy anyone who hasn't yet read it' Daily Mail 'A gripping story of tumbling fury and terror' Independent on Sunday

Eat the Document

An ambitious and powerful story about idealism, passion, and sacrifice, Eat the Document shifts between the underground movement of the 1970s and the echoes and consequences of that movement in the 1990s. A National Book Award finalist, Eat the Document is a riveting portrait of two eras and one of the most provocative and compelling novels of recent years.

The Worlds We Think We Know

Stories that follow the lives of Jewish characters from the Midwest to the Middle East and beyond: “A profound debut from a writer of great talent.” —Adam Johnson, New York Times—bestselling author of The Orphan Master’s Son The characters of The Worlds We Think We Know are swept up by forces beyond their control: war, adulthood, family—and their own emotions, as powerful as the sandstorm that gusts through these stories. In Ohio, a college student cruelly enlists the help of the boy who loves her to attract the attention of her own crush. In Israel, a young American woman visits an uncommunicative

Holocaust survivor and falls in love with a soldier. And from an unnamed Eastern European country, a woman haunts the husband who left her behind for a new life in New York City. *The Worlds We Think We Know* is a dazzling fiction debut—fiercely funny and entirely original. “Outstanding . . . Set in locales including present-day Jerusalem, the permafrost region of Russia and the streets of Manhattan, Rosenfeld’s best stories focus not only on loss, but on its aftermath: living in the presence of absence.” —Haaretz “Funny and poignant . . . The lush melancholy of this collection is bolstered by the characters’ deep intelligence and wit . . . Jewish history is shredded through with displacement, and many of Rosenfeld’s characters are caught in the position of a having a long cultural history and no sense of home.” —Electric Literature

The Orphan Keeper

Seven-year-old Chellamuthu's life--and his destiny--is forever changed when he is kidnapped from his village in Southern India and sold to the Lincoln Home for Homeless Children. His family is desperate to find him, and Chellamuthu anxiously tells th

The Secrets We Kept

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice—inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to infiltrate the hearts and minds of Soviet Russia, not with propaganda, but with the greatest love story of the twentieth century: *Doctor Zhivago* • **A HELLO SUNSHINE x REESE WITHERSPOON BOOK CLUB PICK** At the height of the Cold War, Irina, a young Russian-American secretary, is plucked from the CIA typing pool and given the assignment of a lifetime. Her mission: to help smuggle *Doctor Zhivago* into the USSR, where it is banned, and enable Boris Pasternak’s magnum opus to make its way into print around the world. Mentoring Irina is the glamorous Sally Forrester: a seasoned spy who has honed her gift for deceit, using her magnetism and charm to pry secrets out of powerful men. Under Sally’s tutelage, Irina learns how to invisibly ferry classified documents—and discovers deeply buried truths about herself. *The Secrets We Kept* combines a legendary literary love story—the decades-long affair between Pasternak and his mistress and muse, Olga Ivinskaya, who inspired *Zhivago*’s heroine, Lara—with a narrative about two women empowered to lead lives of extraordinary intrigue and risk. Told with soaring emotional intensity and captivating historical detail, this is an unforgettable debut: a celebration of the powerful belief that a work of art can change the world.

We Are Now Beginning Our Descent

“[A] sharply observed meditation on modern war . . . as far from Tom Clancy’s entertainments as a vintage Mini Cooper is from a snarling Hummer” (Alex Berenson, *The New York Times Book Review*). James Meek’s masterful historical novel, *The People’s Act of Love*, received accolades around the world, earning Meek comparisons to Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Conrad, and Greene. *We Are Now Beginning Our Descent* is a tour de force of storytelling, furthering his reputation as one of the most exciting and original young novelists writing today. Adam Kellas, a British journalist, would-be thriller novelist, and failed lover meets Astrid Walsh, a self-possessed, hard-charging reporter while the two are covering allied military operations in the Afghan mountains. After sharing one passionate night in a watchtower near a defunct airfield, Astrid disappears from Adam’s life. A year later, following a disastrous dinner party in London during which he destroys his few remaining friendships, Adam receives a short, beseeching email and hastily embarks on a transatlantic journey to a small town near the Chesapeake Bay where he believes Astrid waits for him. He envisions the fresh start his new life with Astrid might offer, unaware that she may be harboring unsettling secrets of her own. A passionate, incisive novel, *We Are Now Beginning Our Descent* lays bare the entwined hypocrisies, foibles, and desires of our age, and is a testament to the obsessive pull of love. “I am full of admiration for Meek’s precise and lyrical prose, for his mapping of the political landscapes through which his characters drift and for his evocation of the strange, torn geometries of the life in the global news stream.” —*The Washington Post*

The Early History of the Jews in New York, 1654-1664

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The Kite Runner

Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later, a friendship grows between Mariam and a local teenager, Laila, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. When the Taliban take over, life becomes a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear. Yet love can move a person to act in unexpected ways, and lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism.

Hearts Under Fire

Ten years ago, Maxwell you-can-just-call-me Clark thought he would spend his life as a military man. But his world turned into a nightmare when a suicide bomber destroyed Clark's career. It's been a long road to recovery, but now Clark finally has peace. His bar, Glow, is the place to be in the city of New Amsterdam; Lucian Gray, the son of the mayor, employs Clark as a confidential information man; and Clark's side venture as part-owner of a BDSM club is quite the profitable release. Clark's life is a good one, so long as no one gets too close. Then a man walks into Glow who will forever change Clark's rules and reality. Thinking Professor Daniel Germain is just another handsome face ripe for Clark's kind of good time, Clark puts on his smoothest moves. When the professor turns him down, Clark goes on the hunt, and what he discovers shows him that even the deepest wounds can be healed by submitting to love.

Mona At Sea

BUZZFEED'S "BEST BOOKS OF JUNE" FROLIC'S "UNDER THE RADAR" SELECTED JUNE READS
Mona is a Millennial perfectionist who fails upwards in the midst of the 2008 economic crisis. Despite her potential, and her top-of-her-class college degree, Mona finds herself unemployed, living with her parents, and adrift in life and love. Mona's the sort who says exactly the right thing at absolutely the wrong moments, seeing the world through a cynic's eyes. In the financial and social malaise of the early 2000s, Mona walks a knife's edge as she faces down unemployment, underemployment, the complexities of adult relationships, and the downward spiral of her parents' shattering marriage. The more Mona craves perfection and order, the more she is forced to see that it is never attainable. Mona's journey asks the question: When we find what gives our life meaning, will we be ready for it?

The Grass Widow's Tale

When Bunty Felse's husband is called away to London on urgent police business, Bunty feels depressed alone in the house. So she goes to the pub, where a chance meeting with a distraught stranger leads to a terrifying situation.

The Dress Lodger

A New York Times Notable Book from the author of *A Stolen Tongue*: A tale of crime and survival in nineteenth-century England "as unsettling as it is brilliant" (The Washington Post Book World). In Sunderland, England, a city quarantined by the cholera epidemic of 1831, a defiant, fifteen-year-old beauty in an elegant blue dress sells her body to feed her only love: a fragile baby boy. When the surgeon Henry Chiver offers Gustine a different kind of work, she hopes to finally change her terrible circumstances. But Chiver was recently implicated in the famous case of Burke and Hare, who

murdered beggars and sold their corpses for medical research. And soon, Gustine's own efforts to secure cadavers for Chiver's anatomy school will threaten the very things she's working so hard to protect . . . "Reminiscent of *Wuthering Heights* . . . or the novels of Dickens . . . An even better book than Holman's first, with prose that's more limber and vivid—and with, appropriately, even more heart." —The New York Times Book Review "As unsettling as it is brilliant. Holman attempts Herculean feats of plot and character, and the resulting novel is seamlessly crafted." —The Washington Post Book World "Holman seduces you. Her prose, tart, racy and somber, will sing in your soul a long while." —Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes* "Holman's style is risky and direct . . . with unflinching emotional precision. This dazzlingly researched epic is an uncommon read." —Publisher Weekly, starred review

A Map of Betrayal

A Christian Science Monitor Best Book of the Year From the award-winning author of *Waiting and War Trash*: a riveting tale of espionage and conflicted loyalties that spans half a century in the entwined histories of two countries—China and the United States—and two families. When Lilian Shang, born and raised in America, discovers her father's diary after the death of her parents, she is shocked by the secrets it contains. She knew that her father, Gary, convicted decades ago of being a mole in the CIA, was the most important Chinese spy ever caught. But his diary, an astonishing chronicle of his journey as a Communist intelligence agent, reveals the pain and longing that his double life entailed—and point to a hidden second family that he'd left behind in China. As Lilian follows her father's trail back into the Chinese provinces, she begins to grasp the extent of his dilemma: he is a man torn between loyalty to his motherland and the love he came to feel for his adopted country. She sees how his sense of duty distorted his life, and as she starts to understand that Gary too had been betrayed, Lilian finds that it is up to her to prevent his tragedy from endangering yet another generation of Shangs. A stunning portrait of a multinational family and an unflinching inquiry into the meaning of citizenship, patriotism, and home, *A Map of Betrayal* is a spy novel that only Ha Jin could write.

City of Dreams

A sweeping epic of two families—one Dutch, one English—from the time when New Amsterdam was a raw and rowdy settlement, to the triumph of the Revolution, when New York became a new nation's city of dreams. In 1661, Lucas Turner, a barber surgeon, and his sister, Sally, an apothecary, stagger off a small wooden ship after eleven weeks at sea. Bound to each other by blood and necessity, they aim to make a fresh start in the rough and rowdy Dutch settlement of Nieuw Amsterdam; but soon lust, betrayal, and murder will make them mortal enemies. In their struggle to survive in the New World, Lucas and Sally make choices that will burden their descendants with a legacy of secrets and retribution, and create a heritage that sets cousin against cousin, physician against surgeon, and, ultimately, patriot against Tory. In what will be the greatest city in the New World, the fortunes of these two families are inextricably entwined by blood and fire in an unforgettable American saga of pride and ambition, love and hate, and the becoming of the dream that is New York City.

The Testament of Mary

SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE 2013 "A heartfelt, powerful work." The Wall Street Journal "Lovely, understated and powerfully sad, *The Testament of Mary* finally gives the mother of Jesus a chance to speak." NPR In a voice that is both tender and filled with rage, *The Testament of Mary* tells the story of a cataclysmic event which led to an overpowering grief. For Mary, her son has been lost to the world, and now, living in exile and in fear, she tries to piece together the memories of the events that led to her son's brutal death. To her he was a vulnerable figure, surrounded by men who could not be trusted, living in a time of turmoil and change. As her life and her suffering begin to acquire the resonance of myth, Mary struggles to break the silence surrounding what she knows to have happened. In her effort to tell the truth in all its gnarled complexity, she slowly emerges as a figure of immense moral stature as well as a woman from history rendered now as fully human. MORE PRAISE FOR THE TESTAMENT OF MARY "Toibin is at his lyrical best in *The Testament of Mary*, a beautiful and daring work ... it takes its power from the surprises of its language, its almost shocking characterization, its austere refusal of consolation." The New York Times Book Review "Dramatic and poetic ... A powerful, devastating story." The Washington Post "A slim, grave, exquisitely emotional book ... *The Testament of Mary* is a spellbinding, surprisingly reverent book." Entertainment Weekly "[A] monumental achievement ... equally powerful and poignant whether it's read by one who espouses or eschews the New Testament ... A tender, soul-rending exploration of a mother's mourning; a searing,

stunning work." The Independent "The Testament of Mary is an important and persuasive book: Toibin's weary Mary, sceptical and grudging, reads as far more true and real than the saintly perpetual virgin of legend. And Toibin is a wonderful writer: as ever, his lyrical and moving prose is the real miracle." Naomi Alderman, Observer

Song of a Captive Bird

LOS ANGELES TIMES BESTSELLER • A spellbinding debut novel about the trailblazing Iranian poet Forugh Farrokhzad, who defied society's expectations to find her voice and her destiny "A complex and beautiful rendering of [a] vanished country and its scattered people, a reminder of the power and purpose of art, and an ode to female creativity under a patriarchy that repeatedly tries to snuff it out."—The New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice) All through her childhood in Tehran, Forugh Farrokhzad is told that Persian daughters should be quiet and modest. She is taught only to obey, but she always finds ways to rebel—gossiping with her sister among the fragrant roses of her mother's walled garden, venturing to the forbidden rooftop to roughhouse with her three brothers, writing poems to impress her strict, disapproving father, and sneaking out to flirt with a teenage paramour over café glacé. During the summer of 1950, Forugh's passion for poetry takes flight—and tradition seeks to clip her wings. Forced into a suffocating marriage, Forugh runs away and falls into an affair that fuels her desire to write and to achieve freedom and independence. Forugh's poems are considered both scandalous and brilliant; she is heralded by some as a national treasure, vilified by others as a demon influenced by the West. She perseveres, finding love with a notorious filmmaker and living by her own rules—at enormous cost. But the power of her writing only grows stronger amid the upheaval of the Iranian revolution. Inspired by Forugh Farrokhzad's verse, letters, films, and interviews—and including original translations of her poems—this haunting novel uses the lens of fiction to capture the tenacity, spirit, and conflicting desires of a brave woman who represents the birth of feminism in Iran—and who continues to inspire generations of women around the world. Praise for *Song of a Captive Bird* "If poetry is emotion rendered incendiary, then Forugh Farrokhzad was made of fire. . . . *Song of a Captive Bird* is an unsparing account of the necessity and consequences of speaking out."—BookPage "Sometimes, simply choosing whom to love is a political act."—Vogue "Forugh Farrokhzad's short life brimmed with controversy and rebellion This feminist icon inspired Darznik's imaginative debut."—Ms.

Laura & Emma

"Masterly deftness, funny sentence by funny sentence...a moving and intricately braided story of two mothers."—JONATHAN FRANZEN, *The Guardian* This "beguiling, addictive read" (People, Book of the Week) and Belletrist Book Club pick about a blue-blooded single mother raising her daughter in rarefied New York City is a "carefully observed family story [that] rings true to life" (The New York Times Book Review). Laura hails from the Upper East Side of Manhattan, born into old money, drifting aimlessly into her early thirties. One weekend in 1981 she meets a man. The two sleep together. He vanishes. And Laura realizes she's pregnant. Enter: Emma. "Unputdownable" (Library Journal) and "wryly observed" (Vogue), *Laura & Emma* follows Laura as she raises Emma in New York City over the next fifteen years. With wit and compassion, Kate Greathead explores the many flaws and quirks that make us human. Laura's story hosts a cast of effervescent and original characters, including her eccentric mother, who informs her society friends and Emma herself that she was fathered by a Swedish sperm donor; her brother, whose childhood stutter reappears in the presence of their forbidding father; an exceptionally kind male pediatrician; and her overbearing best friend, whose life has followed the Park Avenue script in every way except for childbearing. "Kate Greathead's debut novel gamely takes on class conflict, single motherhood, and the discreet pretension of the 1980s Upper East Side" (New York magazine) and is a "layered story about mothers and daughters and identity" (Entertainment Weekly). Told in vignettes whose every "restrained and understated sentence has been polished to glittering brightness" (Vox), *Laura & Emma* is "an incisive comedy of manners about class divides and the 'burdens' of being born privileged" (Esquire) and "a thoughtful novel of trying to find oneself despite an assigned place in the world" (Publishers Weekly).