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Forty Stories

This collection of pithy, brilliantly acerbic pieces is a companion to *Sixty Stories*, Barthelme's earlier retrospective volume. Barthelme spotlights the idiosyncratic, haughty, sometimes downright ludicrous behavior of human beings, but it is style rather than content which takes precedence.

You Can't Catch Me

Thirty-year-old Graham Finch spends his days trying to rehabilitate inmates and his nights trying to rehabilitate his heart--until a new coworker, his high school crush Drew Daniels, walks through the prison gates one hot summer morning. Drew is on the run from a painful past that's nearly crushed her faith in love. Together, they might have just what it takes to mend their hearts.

Life of David Hockney

A dying man brings his oldest friends together for one last beach blowout in this witty, heartfelt novel from the author of Last Couple Standing. At just thirty-five, reclusive billionaire Robbie Malcolm is a renowned financial prognosticator, a celebrated philanthropist, and a mathematical genius. Also, he's dying, which is a fact he's carefully concealing from the world. As he takes stock, Robbie realizes that his wealth means nothing if he can't help the people who matter most. So he invites his oldest friends--Blair, Cat, and Wade--to their beloved Fenwick Island on the coast of Delaware to share his secret and to reveal plans for each of them that he believes will change their lives forever. However, Robbie isn't the only one with secrets. The bonds the friends formed as teenagers still exist, but adulthood has brought a whole new set of complications, like unrequited loves, marriages on the

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brink, and so much unfulfilled potential. Robbie's plans may look good on paper, but are they any match for the utter disaster that is real life? As everything comes to light over a wild weekend full of surprises, Robbie learns there are still some things money can't buy, and a group of friends who thought their best years were behind them realize just how much they have to look forward to.

Slowhand

From the bestselling author of *Shout!*, comes the definitive biography of Eric Clapton, a Rock legend whose life story is as remarkable as his music, which transformed the sound of a generation. For half a century Eric Clapton has been acknowledged to be one of music's greatest virtuosos, the unrivalled master of an indispensable tool, the solid-body electric guitar. His career has spanned the history of rock, and often shaped it via the seminal bands with whom he's played: the Yardbirds, John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, Cream, Blind Faith, Derek and the Dominoes. Winner of 17 Grammys, the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame's only three-time inductee, he is an enduring influence on every other star soloist who ever wielded a pick. Now, with Clapton's consent and access to family members and close friends, rock music's foremost biographer returns to the heroic age of British rock and follows Clapton through his distinctive and scandalous childhood, early life of reckless rock 'n' roll excess, and twisting & turning struggle with addiction in the 60s and 70s. Readers will learn about his relationship with Pattie Boyd--wife of

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Clapton's own best friend George Harrison--the tragic death of his son, which inspired one of his most famous songs, "Tears in Heaven," and even the backstories of his most famed, and named, guitars. Packed with new information and critical insights, *Slowhand* finally reveals the complex character behind a living legend.

Last Couple Standing

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “Funny, heart-hammering, wise...An extremely beautiful book.” —The New York Times “A Book that should join those few that every literate person will have to read.” —The Boston Globe Abandoned by her wanderlusting husband, stoic Pearl raised her three children on her own. Now grown, the siblings are inextricably linked by their memories—some painful--which hold them together despite their differences. Hardened by life’s disappointments, wealthy, charismatic Cody has turned cruel and envious. Thrice-married Jenny is errant and passionate. And Ezra, the flawed saint of the family, who stayed at home to look after his mother, runs a restaurant where he cooks what other people are homesick for, stubbornly yearning for the perfect family he never had. Now gathered during a time of loss, they will reluctantly unlock the shared secrets of their past and discover if what binds them together is stronger than what tears them apart. Soulful and redemptive—full of heartbreak and hope—this portrait of a family will remind you why Anne Tyler is one of the most beloved writers working

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today. “[In Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant Tyler] has arrived at a new level of power.” —John Updike, *The New Yorker* “Marvelous, astringent, hilarious, [and] strewn with the banana peels of love.” —*Cosmopolitan*

Blackjack Insiders

In a zany parody of the confessional memoir, the Grim Reaper tells his own story in an "autobiography" that describes his suicide attempts, struggles with his sexuality, the addiction to life that nearly destroyed him, secrets about the afterlife, and feelings about Adam and Eve, Hitler, Elvis, and others he has encountered during his long career. Original. 20,000 first printing.

The Floating Feldmans

From the author of *Cash Out*, a hilarious novel about one working stiff's day of hooky—reminiscent of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* and *Office Space*—and the insanity that ensues. Rick Blanco walks out of meetings. He's a serial meeting ditcher. A walk-out artist. He's so good that no one seems to notice when he just gets up and walks out. A corporate illusionist of the covert kind, he learned his trade studying a former colleague, the master of meeting ditches, Bob Watson. Rick continues Bob's legacy, going for more frequent and longer ditches, building on the art with every

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boring corporate meeting. Now, Rick wants to pull off his most important Bob Watson yet—skipping out of work to see his young nephew before he moves with his parents to Argentina. But things soon get complicated. As Rick leaves the office, he's mistaken for the company's human resources executive Dick Rayborne, a man made famous in HR circles for creating the hot new labor practice of "consourcing"—like "outsourcing" but with convicted felons. Convinced that he is the scummy Dick Rayborne, two cons, and a granny they call Mama, force Rick into six hours of mayhem, complete with home break ins and emergency board of directors meetings. Along the way, Rick realizes he has the opportunity to pull off the most meaningful Bob Watson imaginable, and still give his nephew a hug goodbye. Refreshing, witty, and clever, *The Bob Watson* is a madcap tale of danger, adventure, and personal discovery.

All Together Now

For Avery Cullins—library archivist, former teenage runaway, and gay man from a small Southern town—"family" means a live-in boyfriend and a surly turtle. But when his father, a renowned nuclear physicist, commits suicide, Avery's decade-long estrangement from his mother, now hobbled following a stroke, comes to a skidding halt. With his boyfriend's help, Avery takes custody of his mother and the trio heads cross country in a rented U-Haul, back to an apartment in Cleveland and an uncertain future. Their journey soon becomes a pilgrimage into the past when

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Avery begins sifting through his mother's mementos. What emerges is a story of family, love, and loss as his parents made a home, lost a child, and tested the boundaries of marital love in the 1970s. Meanwhile, in today's uncertain social landscape, Avery must confront his own struggle with a mother who doesn't recognize him and a lover who seeks to claim him for his own.

Mandatory Release

Two outlaws of love (and literature) at large in their own Wild West. Ralph Crawford may be a talented short-story writer -- one of the best in the Bay Area, in America, in the 1970s; hell, in the whole English-speaking, late-middle-twentieth century -- but off the page he's only human. In fact, as his wife, Alice Ann, can attest, he's a mess: a jealous but faithless husband, an inveterate bouncer of checks, a plunderer of private misadventures for the sake of his fiction, and an often hapless drunk. When his (similarly human) buddy, Jim Stark -- a novelist burning with ambition, promise, and humiliation over his own failed marriage -- promises to deliver a cargo of incriminating letters to Ralph's latest paramour, a dark lady in Missoula named Lindsay Wolfe, the lives of all four are changed in ways none of them could predict. Careening across the western states during the twilight of the San Francisco underground, Chuck Kinder's already semi-legendary masterpiece, twenty-five years in the making, is a rueful, comic-tragic juggernaut of good and bad intentions gone awry, high seriousness and hard living, and the gradual,

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painful coming of age of two couples who have spent the best years of their lives raising bad judgment to an art. With affection and self-savaging wit, Kinder captures the siren song of the writerly vocation in all its squalor, destructiveness, and glory.

My Father's Wives

From Jay Asher, the bestselling author of THIRTEEN REASONS WHY - now a Netflix TV show - and Carolyn Mackey, comes a story of friendship, destiny, and finding love. What if you could see how your life would unfold just by clicking a button? It's 1996 and Facebook isn't even invented. Yet somehow, best friends Emma and Josh have discovered their profiles, fifteen years in the future ... and they're not sure they like what they see. The more Emma and Josh learn about their future lives, the more obsessed they become on changing the destiny that awaits them. But what if focusing on the future, means that you miss something that's right in front of you? ?

Not Dressed

A heartbreaking, funny, and honest look inside of a marriage falling apart and the lengths a couple would go to in order to fix it from the bestselling author of About a

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Boy and High Fidelity. Now a SundanceTV series starring Rosamund Pike and Chris O'Dowd! Tom and Louise meet in a pub before their couple's therapy appointment. Married for years, they thought they had a stable home life--until a recent incident pushed them to the brink. Going to therapy seemed like the perfect solution. But over drinks before their appointment, they begin to wonder: what if marriage is like a computer? What if you take it apart to see what's in there, but then you're left with a million pieces? Unfolding in the minutes before their weekly therapy sessions, the ten-chapter conversation that ensues is witty and moving, forcing them to look at their marriage--and, for the first time in a long time, at each other.

Truth in Advertising

“F. Scott Fitzgerald said that there are no second acts in American lives. I have no idea what that means but I believe that in quoting him I appear far more intelligent than I am. I don't know about second acts, but I do think we get second chances, fifth chances, eighteenth chances. Every day we get a fresh chance to live the way we want.” FINBAR DOLAN is lost and lonely. Except he doesn't know it. Despite escaping his blue-collar Boston upbringing to carve out a mildly successful career at a Madison Avenue ad agency, he's a bit of a mess and closing in on forty. He's recently called off a wedding. Now, a few days before Christmas, he's forced to cancel a long-postponed vacation in order to write, produce, and edit a Super Bowl commercial for his diaper account in record time. Fortunately, it gets worse. Fin

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learns that his long-estranged and once-abusive father has fallen ill. And that neither of his brothers or his sister intend to visit. It's a wake-up call for Fin to reevaluate the choices he's made, admit that he's falling for his coworker Phoebe, question the importance of diapers in his life, and finally tell the truth about his past. Truth in Advertising is debut novelist John Kenney's wickedly funny, honest, at times sardonic, and ultimately moving story about the absurdity of corporate life, the complications of love, and the meaning of family.

Domestic Violets

A family vacation dredges up a boatload of trouble in the next witty, insightful novel from the acclaimed author of *The Intermission*. "An irresistible drama filled with humor and heart-tugging emotion about family and what it means to belong. I absolutely adore Friedland's warm, witty writing!"—Emily Giffin, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *All We Ever Wanted Sink or Swim*. Or at least that's what Annette Feldman tells herself when she books a cruise for her entire family. It's been over a decade since the Feldman clan has spent more than twenty-four hours under the same roof, but Annette is determined to celebrate her seventieth birthday the right way. Just this once, they are going to behave like an actual family. Too bad her kids didn't get the memo. Between the troublesome family secrets, old sibling rivalries, and her two teenage grandkids, Annette's birthday vacation is looking more and more like the perfect storm. Adrift together on the

open seas, the Feldmans will each face the truths they've been ignoring—and learn that the people they once thought most likely to sink them are actually the ones who help them stay afloat.

Drinking Closer to Home

The co-host of ESPN's Mike and Mike follows up his New York Times bestseller *All You Could Ask For* with this poignant story of one man's search to understand himself, his marriage, and his father. Jonathan Sweetwater has been blessed with money, a fulfilling career, great kids and Claire, his smart, gorgeous, sophisticated wife. But there is one thing Jonathan never had: a relationship with his father. Percival Sweetwater III has been absent from his son's life since Jonathan was nine years old. A five-term U.S. senator, now dead, Percy was beloved by presidents, his constituents, and women alike, especially the five women who married him after Jonathan's mother. Jonathan hasn't thought about Percy or the hole he left in his life for years. Dedicated to Claire and his family, he's nothing like his serial monogamist father. But then Jonathan discovers evidence that everything in his marriage may not be as perfect as he thought. Hurt and uncertain what to do, he knows that the only way to move forward is to go back. On this quest for understanding—about himself, about manhood, about marriage—Jonathan decides to track down his father's five ex-wives. His journey will take him from cosmopolitan cities to the mile-high mountains to a tropical island—and ultimately

back to confront the one thing Jonathan has that his father never did: home.

Pax Americana

Struggling with his ex-wife's imminent marriage to a nice guy and his Princeton-bound daughter's unplanned pregnancy, a bewildered Silver tackles difficult family dynamics and refuses to undergo a life-saving operation. By the author of the best-selling *This Is Where I Leave You*. Reprint.

Lady Killer

Fourteen-year-old Jamie will never forget the summer of 1976. It's the summer when she has her first boyfriend, cute surfer Flip Jenkins; it's the summer when her two best friends get serious about sex, cigarettes, and tanning; it's the summer when her parents throw, yes, naked swim parties, leaving Jamie flushed with embarrassment. And it's the summer that forever changes the way Jamie sees the things that matter: family, friendship, love, and herself.

Joe Steele

For fans of Nick Hornby and Mike Gayle, a heartwarming and humorous tale of

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love, music, and the unexpected. Nick Forrester thought he would spend the rest of his life with his girlfriend, Lauren--until he proposed. Instead of engaged, he ends up humiliated and alone. Then he meets Alli Conwell, a socially awkward nineteen-year-old barista, and Nick has hope again. Alli is trying to make a name for herself as a singer/songwriter and might just be the next Taylor Swift. She's ambitious, talented, and determined to succeed on her own terms. But all is not what it seems. Alli has secrets about her life before moving to the city, and her innocence has left her unprepared for the temptations of Boston's indie music scene. As their relationship blossoms, so do the tensions created by the past she's trying to hide and the heartbreak he's trying to forget. Is Alli "The One" or just "Another One" who will break his heart?

A Student of Living Things

With clear, vivid prose, this meticulously researched novel draws an intimate, moving portrait of the most famous living English painter. Born in 1937 in a small town in the north of England, David Hockney had to fight to become an artist. After leaving his home in Bradford for the Royal College of Art in London, his career flourished, but he continued to struggle with a sense of not belonging, because of his homosexuality, which had yet to be decriminalized, and his inclination for a figurative style of art not sufficiently "contemporary" to be valued. Trips to New York and California--where he would live for many years and paint his iconic

swimming pools--introduced him to new scenes and new loves, beginning a journey that would take him through the fraught years of the AIDS epidemic. A compelling hybrid of novel and biography, *Life of David Hockney* offers an insightful overview of a painter whose art is as accessible as it is compelling, and whose passion to create has never been deterred by heartbreak or illness or loss.

How to Talk to a Widower

By the Thurber Prize-winner and author of the New York Times bestseller, *Love Poems for Married People*, *Talk to Me* is a wry yet tenderhearted novel for our age, and a sharp look at how one man's mistake can be what leads him back to his family--and to the man he used to be. It's a story that Ted Grayson has reported time and time again as a network TV anchor: the public downfall of those at the top. He just never imagined that it would happen to him. After a profanity-laced tirade is caught on camera, his reputation and career are destroyed, leaving him without a script for the first time in years. While American viewers may have loved and trusted Ted for decades, his family certainly didn't. At the time of his meltdown, Ted is estranged from his wife, Claire, and his adult daughter, Franny, a writer for a popular website. When Franny's boss suggests that she confront Ted in an interview, it may be the chance for Ted to take a hard look at how he got here, and to find his way back before it's too late. *Talk to Me* is a sharply observed, darkly funny, and ultimately warm story about a man who wakes up too late to the

mess he's made of his life and about our capacity for forgiveness and empathy.

The Bob Watson

“Riveting and startling....So raw and funny I wanted to read parts aloud to strangers.” —Dylan Landis, author of *Normal People Don't Live Like This* “Jessica Anya Blau...creates characters that have a lot more depth and more of a past than one often sees in fiction these days.... I found it impossible not to care about them—and equally impossible to forget them. Blau is a magnificent writer, and this is one special novel.” —Steve Yarbrough, author of *Safe from the Neighbors* From Jessica Anya Blau, critically-acclaimed author of *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties*, comes a new novel of California, growing up, and learning to love your insane family. Perfect for fans of Jess Walter, Kevin Wilson, and Michael Chabon, *Drinking Closer to Home* is a poignant and funny exploration of one family’s over-the-top eccentricities—a book Ron Tanner calls “heartfelt and hilarious.”

We're All Damaged

Mary and O’Neil frequently marveled at how, of all the lives they might have led, they had somehow found this one together. When they met at the Philadelphia high school where they’d come to teach, each had suffered a profound loss that

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had not healed. How likely was it that they could learn to trust, much less love, again? Justin Cronin's poignant debut traces the lives of Mary Olson and O'Neil Burke, two vulnerable young teachers who rediscover in each other a world alive with promise and hope. From the formative experiences of their early adulthood to marriage, parenthood, and beyond, this novel in stories illuminates the moments of grace that enable Mary and O'Neil to make peace with the deep emotional legacies that haunt them: the sudden, mysterious death of O'Neil's parents, Mary's long-ago decision to end a pregnancy, O'Neil's sister's battle with illness and a troubled marriage. Alive with magical nuance and unexpected encounters, Mary and O'Neil celebrates the uncommon in common lives, and the redemptive power of love.

Honeymooners

"Hysterical and often touching. . . . Domestic Violets is a fast, fun, hilarious read." —Jessica Anya Blau, critically-acclaimed author of *The Summer of Naked Swim Parties* and *Drinking Closer to Home* In the tradition of Jonathan Tropper and Tom Perrotta comes Matthew Norman's *Domestic Violets*—a darkly comic family drama about one man's improbable trials of love, loss, and ambition; of attraction, impotence, and infidelity; and of mid-life malaise, poorly-planned revenge, and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

The Summer of Naked Swim Parties

Dineo is the victim of an attack on the streets of Brighton, Sussex. A stranger, Sam, comes to his rescue. As their friendship develops, they discover that they were both present in the same town in apartheid South Africa when a racially motivated atrocity was committed 35 years ago. Dineo, in fear for his life, has harboured the identity of the main perpetrator of that crime ever since. With Sam's guidance they set out to track down the criminal across two continents. Will they find justice and closure or will they underestimate the manipulative talents of their sociopathic target

We're All Damaged: A Novel By Matthew Norman (Trivia-On-Books)

2034: Evangelical secret agents, fast food moguls, the voice of God in computer software, violence in the Bermuda Triangle! George W. Bush's foreign policy vindicated by a quick victory in Iraq, lucrative invasions of Egypt and Syria followed, bringing unparalleled prosperity to America and setting off thirty years of right-wing rule. But when a war in Iran goes bad--and the resulting cover-up goes worse--the democrats reclaim the presidency. This is the time of Pax Americana and its zealous anti-hero, government agent Tuck Squires. Reading the ironic

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silences between the lines of the thriller, and roaring like a jet engine, Pax Americana is a sacrilegious, conspiratorial monster; like a literary dogfight between Martin Amis and Robert Anton Wilson, loaded with prophecy, Baumeister's debut is an exorcism and an antidote for our era. 'Like an episode of Archer written by Kurt Vonnegut, Baumeister takes us into a hilarious and high-velocity world of espionage and global politics in this send-up of god, country, and the possibility of doing good in a world gone bad. It's fast-paced fun, watch out for paper cuts as the pages fly by.' -Shya Scanlon 'If there is to be an American peace, it's certainly not going to come on the pages of this lit match of a novel. Kurt Baumeister has fashioned exactly the old school pre- and post-Bond techno x-travaganza everyone bored with explorations of the louvre has been waiting for. Pax Americana is both dark satire and deeply satisfying, an adrenaline rush that runs through suspect politics, spirituality software, and the sacredly profane. It's a blast. Buy it now.'

-Sean Beaudoin

Batman and Philosophy

Mitch Lovett, a recently divorced father of two, wasn't looking for anything serious--but when he fooled around with an old friend, Dee Wynn, serious was what he got. Dee, a thirty-something partner at her architecture firm, has decided that Mitch will be hers, and nothing is going to stand in her way. But another old friend from college, Gail, has had her eye on Mitch as well--never mind the fact that she's

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married, to a jealous, abusive husband, Ed Strickland, who just happens to have received a new gun for his birthday. When Mitch and Gail consummate their long-standing attraction-recklessly following their heart's desires-they set into motion a series of events with ultimately tragic consequences for all involved. Set in Takoma Park (a close-knit liberal community that borders Washington, D.C.) among a group of college friends now raising families together, *Lady Killer* explores spousal abuse and the ways that both long-standing friendships and marriages can unravel when put to the test. Ultimately, both Mitch and Gail will have to decide who they really are and what they really want-both for themselves and their children.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY: Jeff Richards is a native Washingtonian who lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with his wife and two dogs. His first novel, *Open Country: A Civil War Novel in Stories*, was published in 2015 by Paycock Press. His fiction, essays, and cowboy poetry have appeared in over 27 publications including *Pinch*, *New South*, and *Southern Humanities Review* and five anthologies including *Tales Out of School* (Beacon Press) and *Higher Education* (Pearson), a college composition reader. He was the fiction editor and board member of the *washington review* and a college teacher for many years principally at George Washington University. He has worked as a dishwasher, door-to-door salesman, farm worker, wilderness counselor, newspaper carrier, radio reporter, and busboy. He has hitchhiked across the country five times, but that was a while back. He is a graduate of the Hollins Writing Program and the parent of two grown children who live in Colorado. His website is www.jeffrichardsauthor.com

AUTHOR HOME: Takoma Park, Maryland

This is where I Leave You

Trivia-on-Book: We're All Damaged by Matthew Norman Take the challenge yourself and share it with friends and family for a time of fun! Andy Carter is a content Midwesterner, but when his wife files for divorce, his life becomes a wreck. He loses his job and his best friend. He cuts his connections on all social media platforms. He flees to New York, and there, he lives in a small apartment and works as a bartender. He doesn't want to go back to Omaha, but his mother calls to tell him that his beloved grandfather is dying. Back home, he faces the people from his past and encounters other complications. We're All Damaged is Matthew Norman's second book, following Domestic Violets. It was first released as an ebook and, in its second day, became the most downloaded book on Amazon. You may have read the book, but not have liked it. You may have liked the book, but not be a fan. You may call yourself a fan, but few truly are. Are you a fan? Trivia-on-Books is an independently curated trivia quiz on the book for readers, students, and fans alike. Whether you're looking for new materials to the book or would like to take the challenge yourself and share it with your friends and family for a time of fun, Trivia-on-Books provides a unique approach to We're All Damaged by Matthew Norman that is both insightful and educational! Features You'll Find Inside: • 30 Multiple choice questions on the book, plots, characters and author • Insightful commentary to answer every question • Complementary quiz material for yourself or your reading group • Results provided with scores to determine "status"

Promising quality and value, come play your trivia of a favorite book!

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant

A couple determined not to end up like their divorced friends try a radical experiment—and get in way over their heads—in this hilarious, heartfelt novel from the author of *We're All Damaged*. “This warm and witty tale of a devoted couple willing to throw out that pesky ‘forsaking all others’ rule in order to stay together crackles with fierce energy and emotional truth.”—Judy Blundell, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The High Season* The Core Four have been friends since college: four men, four women, four couples. They got married around the same time, had kids around the same time, and now, fifteen years later, they’ve started getting divorced around the same time, too. With three of the Core Four unions crumbling to dust around them, Jessica and Mitch Butler take a long, hard look at their own marriage. Can it be saved? Or is divorce, like some fortysomething zombie virus, simply inescapable? To maximize their chance at immunity, Jessica and Mitch try something radical. Their friends’ divorces mostly had to do with sex—having it, not having it, wanting to have it with other people—so they decide to relax a few things. Terms are discussed, conditions are made, and together the Butlers embark on the great experiment of taking their otherwise happy, functional marriage and breaking some very serious rules. Jessica and Mitch are convinced they’ve hit upon the next evolution of marriage. But as lines are crossed and hot

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bartenders pursued, they each start to wonder if they've made a huge mistake. What follows is sexy, fun, painful, messy, and completely surprising to them both. Because sometimes doing something bad is the only way to get to the heart of what's really good.

State of the Union

Why doesn't Batman just kill the Joker and end everyone's misery? Can we hold the Joker morally responsible for his actions? Is Batman better than Superman? If everyone followed Batman's example, would Gotham be a better place? What is the Tao of the Bat? Batman is one of the most complex characters ever to appear in comic books, graphic novels, and on the big screen. What philosophical trials does this superhero confront in order to keep Gotham safe? Combing through seventy years of comic books, television shows, and movies, *Batman and Philosophy* explores how the Dark Knight grapples with ethical conundrums, moral responsibility, his identity crisis, the moral weight he carries to avenge his murdered parents, and much more. How does this caped crusader measure up against the teachings of Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Kierkegaard, and Lao Tzu?

Bushveld Sunset

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All refugees welcome in Australia! In 2023, Australia reversed its closed border policy and said to the world: 'Welcome! You are free to come to Australia, but you must spend the first seven years in the Temporary Citizenship Zone around the Ord River.' Seven years later, Ord City is a teeming Asian metropolis with 2.5 million people preparing for the First Wave – the first tranche of refugees gaining full citizenship – on Australia Day 2030. But mainstream Australia is passionately divided over Ord City, not least because of the risk of letting in terrorists, and dark political forces are bubbling to the surface. Agent Conan Tooley is sent up to Ord City to look into a routine gangland murder, but finds himself frustrated and confused by the questions that arise at every step. As the days to the First Wave count down, Conan encounters any number of people throwing up obstacles, including The Army of God (a Christian charity active in Ord City); a carload of young people travelling to Ord City for the Illumination Festival the night before the First Wave; and Asif, a deep cell terrorist with a deadly mission. There is also the Shadow Group – mysterious figures who seem to be pulling strings at high levels to achieve some hidden purpose. As the various subplots wind towards the explosive conclusion, the motives and values of all are profoundly challenged. Welcome to Ord City is a satirical crime thriller set against the backdrop of Australia's refugee policy and the malleable populism that characterises the Lucky Country in the C21.

Welcome To Ord City

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An unforgettable debut about a young woman's choice between the future she's always imagined and the people she's come to love. Charlotte, a gifted and superbly trained young musician, has been blindsided by a shocking betrayal in her promising career when she takes a babysitting job with the McLeans, a glamorous Upper East Side Manhattan family. At first, the nanny gig is just a way of tiding herself over until she has licked her wounds and figured out her next move as a composer in New York. But, as it turns out, Charlotte is naturally good with children and becomes as deeply fond of the two little boys as they are of her. When an unthinkable tragedy leaves the McLeans bereft, Charlotte is not the only one who realizes that she's the key to holding little George and Matty's world together. Suddenly, in addition to life's usual puzzles, such as sorting out which suitor is her best match, she finds herself with an impossible choice between her life-long dreams and the torn-apart family she's come to love. By turns hilarious, sexy, and wise, Caroline Angell's remarkable and generous debut is the story of a young woman's discovery of the things that matter most.

The Future of Us

“A resigned yet hopeful examination of grief with a side of human absurdity . . . warm and modestly knowing, with a wisecracking slacker hero.”—Kirkus Reviews
Doug Parker is a widower at age twenty-nine, and in his quiet town, that makes him the object of sympathy, curiosity, and in some cases even unbridled desire.

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But Doug has more urgent things on his mind, such as his sixteen-year-old stepson, Russ, a once-sweet kid who is now getting into increasingly serious trouble. As Doug starts dipping his toes into the shark-infested waters of the second-time-around dating scene, it isn't long before his new life is spinning hopelessly out of control, cutting a harrowing and often humorous swath of sexual missteps and escalating chaos across a suburban landscape. How to Talk to a Widower is a stunning novel of love, lust, and loss that USA Today hails as "hilarious but emotion-packed." Praise for How to Talk to a Widower "[A] winning tale about a man raising his stepson after his wife dies."—People "Part of Widower's charm is that there's no happily ever after, no Cinderella-catches-the-fella ending." —USA Today "A mixture of mourning and mockery . . . surprisingly moving."—Entertainment Weekly

Not Famous

"A mesmerizing, head-spinning--and sometimes madcap-hilarious--take of have and have-nots."--People (Book of the Week) NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY REAL SIMPLE AND KIRKUS REVIEWS * "In the smart, breezy, sweet spot between Meg Wolitzer and Elin Hilderbrand."--Entertainment Weekly No matter what the world throws her way, at least Ruthie Beamish has the house. Located by the sea in a quiet Long Island village, the house is her nest egg--the retirement account shared with her ex-husband, Mike, and the college fund for

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their teenage daughter, Jem. The catch? To afford the house, Ruthie must let it go during the best part of the year. It's Memorial Day weekend and the start of what Jem calls "the summer bummer": the family's annual exodus to make way for renters. This year, the Hamptons set has arrived. Adeline Clay is elegant and connected--and will never need to worry about money. Before long, she demonstrates an uncanny ability to help herself to Ruthie's life. Is Adeline just being her fabulous self, or is she out to take what she wants? When an eccentric billionaire, his wayward daughter, a coterie of social climbers, and Ruthie's old flame are thrown into the mix, the entire town finds itself on the verge of tumultuous change. But as Ruthie loses her grasp on her job, her home, and her family, she discovers a new talent for pushing back. By the end of one unhinged, unforgettable summer, nothing will be the same--least of all Ruthie. Praise for *The High Season* "Blundell knows the territory. . . . Her account of Ruthie's coming to grips with a career, a daughter and a community in flux is as touching as it is convincing."--*The Wall Street Journal* "A huge page-turner . . . so compelling . . . a classic beach read, but very smart, very intelligently written."--*Us Weekly*, Emily Giffin's Summer Reading Recommendations "An acid-laced domestic drama set during one golden summer on the moneyed, beachy North Fork of Long Island."--*The New York Times* "Judy Blundell wields words like an oyster knife in this shimmering story of art, money, and celebrity."--Helen Simonson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Summer Before the War* "A wry, often hilarious story of a woman trying to keep it together when everything is going so, so wrong."--*Real*

Simple

Mary and O'Neil

Andy Carter was happy. He had a solid job. He ran 5Ks for charity. He was living a nice, safe Midwestern existence. And then his wife left him for a handsome paramedic down the street. "We re All Damaged" begins after Andy has lost his job, ruined his best friend s wedding, and moved to New York City, where he lives in a tiny apartment with an angry cat named Jeter that isn t technically his. But before long he needs to go back to Omaha to say good-bye to his dying grandfather. Back home, Andy is confronted with his past, which includes his ex, his ex s new boyfriend, his right-wing talk-radio-host mother, his parents crumbling marriage, and his still-angry best friend. As if these old problems weren t enough, Andy encounters an entirely new complication: Daisy. She has fifteen tattoos, no job, and her own difficult past. But she claims she is the only person who can help Andy be happy again, if only she weren t hiding a huge secret that will mess things up even more. Andy Carter needs a second chance at life, and Daisy and the person Daisy pushes Andy to become may be his last chance to set things right. "

One Last Thing Before I Go

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A riveting new novel of suspense about a disgraced young journalist caught up in a grifter's game, and the trail of identically named victims she uncovers, from the instant bestselling author of *I'll Never Tell* and *The Good Liar*. Assumed identities. A con game. Unwitting victims. After being fired from her investigative journalism job for plagiarism, Jessica Williams is looking for a break from the constant press coverage. She decides to escape for a week to a resort in Mexico boasting no connections to the outside world. While waiting at the airport for her flight, she encounters a woman with the exact same name, who she dubs Jessica Two. Drawn together by the coincidence, they play a game of twenty questions to see what other similarities they share, and exchange contact information. A week later, Jessica returns home and discover that large cash withdrawals have been made from her bank account. Security footage from the bank confirms her suspicions—Jessica Two has stolen her money. She goes to the police, only to be told that the crime is a low priority. Frustrated, she meets up with a trusted old friend, Liam, who is an investigator. When the two Google "Jessica Williams," they get thousands of hits—Jessica was the most popular girl's name in 1990 and Williams is almost as ubiquitous as Smith. Convinced that this isn't the first time this scam has been run, Jessica is determined to catch the imposter, and writes a Facebook post hoping to chase down some of Jessica Two's other victims. When she gets a number of responses, she sets a plan in motion to catch the thief, encountering a string of identically named victims along the way. Then, the threatening messages start arriving. Filled with incredible twists and turns, You

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Can't Catch Me is a tantalizing, character-driven exploration of how far people will go to get revenge.

Talk to Me

New York Times bestselling author Harry Turtledove's thought-provoking forays into the past have produced such intriguing "what-if" novels as Ruled Britannia, Days of Infamy, and Opening Atlantis. Now "the maven of alternate history" (The San Diego Union-Tribune) envisions the election of a United States President whose political power will redefine what the nation is—and what it means to be American.... President Herbert Hoover has failed America. The Great Depression that rose from the ashes of the 1929 stock market crash still casts its dark shadow over the country. Despairing and desperate, the American people hope one of the potential Democratic candidates—New York governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and California congressman Joe Steele—can get the nation on the road to recovery. But fate snatches away one hope when a mansion fire claims the life of Roosevelt, leaving the Democratic party little choice but to nominate Steele, son of a Russian immigrant laborer who identifies more with the common man than with Washington D.C.'s wealthy power brokers. Achieving a landslide victory, President Joe Steele wastes no time pushing through Congress reforms that put citizens back to work. Anyone who gets in his way is getting in the way of America, and that includes the highest in the land. Joe Steele's critics may believe the government is

gaining too much control, but they tend to find themselves in work camps if they make too much noise about it. And most people welcome strong leadership, full employment, and an absence of complaining from the newspapers—especially as Hitler and Trotsky begin the kind of posturing that seems sure to drag America into war.

All the Time in the World

Sixteen-year-old Aggie Winchester couldn't care less about who's elected prom queen—even if it's her pregnant Goth-girl best friend, Sylvia Ness. Aggie's got bigger things to worry about, like whether or not her ex-boyfriend wants to get back together and whether her mom will survive cancer. But like it or not, Aggie soon finds herself in the middle of an unfolding prom scandal, largely because her mom, who is the school's principal, is rumored to have burned prom ballots so Sylvia won't be elected queen. Aggie's own investigation makes her wonder if the election could be dirty on both sides.

The High Season

Fans of Nick Hornby, Matthew Norman, and Jonathan Tropper will delight in this romantic comedy of how love goes wrong--and right--when you're a twenty-

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something still figuring out how to adult. Jake, an architectural designer pushing thirty, is stuck in a job he hates. He's spent the last two years overworked and underpaid in the dark basement of Burnham & Modine. He and his coworkers get through the day pulling pranks and gambling on how long interns will last. Lindsay loves her job as the producer for a talk radio show. She jumps at the chance for a better time slot, even though it means she and Jake are now working different hours. Worse, she expects Jake to teach her what he learns in a ballroom dancing class she can no longer attend just so they'll look good at his sister's wedding. Already hurt by Lindsay's prioritization of her career over their relationship, Jake feels betrayed when he accidentally discovers that to help pay the bills she's been moonlighting--as a nude model. Kaylee is Jake's new partner at dance class. She's a cute and free-spirited Trekkie geek who's trying to figure her life out after going from high school valedictorian to college dropout. Soon Jake and Kaylee are spending more time together off the dance floor than on it and the state of being 'not dressed' just might be contagious.

Death

This memoir relates the experiences of two pit bosses who perfected their card-counting skills then used their inside knowledge to win at 21 tables throughout the country.

American Fallout

Judd Foxman is thrown together with his dysfunctional family when his father dies, while at the same time coping with his wife's infidelity and the end of his marriage.

The Implosion of Aggie Winchester

The Frayn family of Washington, D.C., is coping pretty well with twenty-first century realities of life?snipers, bomb threats, natural disasters, etc. Then, in the moment it takes Claire Frayn to dig for her umbrella, her politically outspoken brother Steven is shot down right next to her on the library steps. Steven?s murder shatters the tightly knit Frayn family, and his sister Claire becomes determined to unravel the mystery of why her brother was killed. Searching for answers, Claire meets Victor, an enigmatic stranger who claims to know who killed Steven. Claire begins an unusual correspondence with the suspected assassin, but instead of uncovering the truth of her brother?s death, she finds herself drawn to this man, and increasingly apprehensive about cooperating with Victor?s plans to avenge Steven?s death. A gripping family drama with an unusual love story at its center, this is an intimate portrait of grief, the futility of revenge, and the miracle of forgiveness.

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