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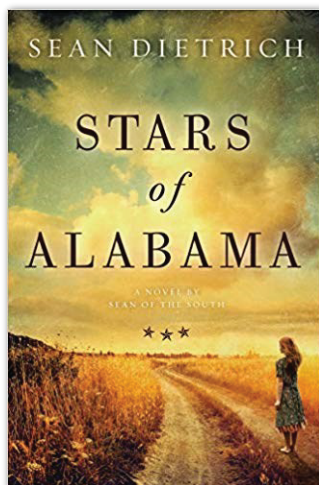
LOVE THE GONE DEAD? THEN TRY...

RECOMMENDED NEXT READS

A slow-burn thriller set in the sweltering South of the Mississippi Delta, *The Gone Dead* reveals themes of history, racism, family legacy, and coming-of-age via heading back home. Here we've narrowed a wide river of books into thematic shortlists. Pick the topic you'd like to explore most and read across the row from there! View the full collection here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/6576>

SOUTHERN ROOTS

From the Mississippi Delta setting of *The Gone Dead* over to the Carolinas and down to Georgia, here's fiction rooted in the South—from mystery to history and more!



STARS OF ALABAMA

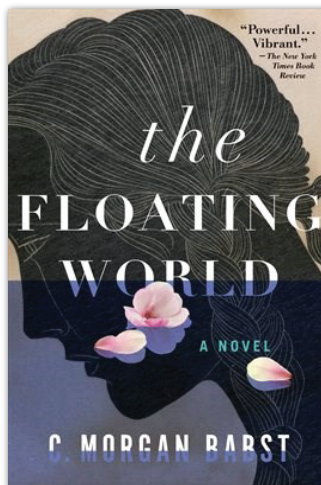
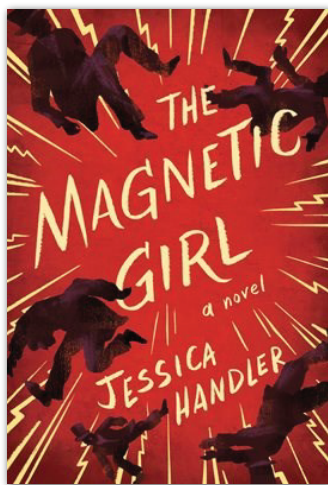
"Set during the Dust Bowl, this pleasing, ambitious epic from Dietrich (*Sean of the South*) brings together unlikely allies all escaping dire situations...Though filled with preachers declaring judgment and prophecies of the end-time, Dietrich's hopeful tale illuminates the small rays of faith that shine even in dark times." — *Publishers Weekly*

THE MAGNETIC GIRL

The Magnetic Girl made a splash with its spring debut—earning a spot on *WSJ's* Ten Books You'll Want to Read, an Indie Next Pick, and a Spring Okra Pick from the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance.

Set in rural north Georgia two decades after the Civil War, thirteen-year-old Lulu Hurst reaches high into her father's bookshelf and pulls out an obscure book, *The Truth of Mesmeric Influence*, and soon begins to "captivate" her friends and family, controlling their thoughts and actions for brief moments at a time.

Squarely in the realm of Emma Donoghue's *The Wonder* and Leslie Parry's *Church of Marvels*, *The Magnetic Girl* is a unique portrait of a forgotten period in history.



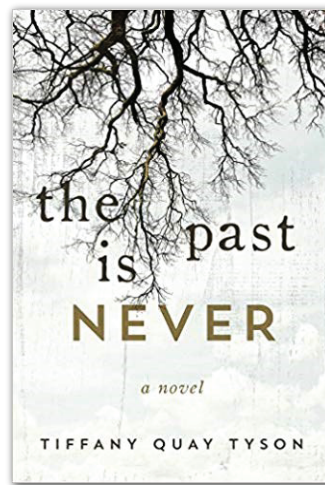
THE FLOATING WORLD

C. Morgan Babst's haunting, lyrical novel is the Katrina story that needed to be told. Written by a New Orleans native who herself says that after Katrina, "if you were blind, suddenly you saw," this debut is bathed in the sights, sounds, and smells of New Orleans. This profound saga of the Creole Boisdorés family is about what we choose to salvage in a world that destroys everything we hold most dear, and what we can possibly build out of what remains.

THE PAST IS NEVER

"You hold in your hands *Stranger Things* but with a satisfying ending...Tyson penetrates your imagination with characters and places so real they feel like your own suppressed memories." — Carrie La Seur, award-winning author of *The Home Place*

Siblings Bert, Willet, and Pansy know better than to go swimming at the old rock quarry. According to their father, it's the Devil's place. But Mississippi Delta summer days are scorching hot and they can't resist the dark, bottomless water. Until the day six-year-old Pansy vanishes. Not drowned, not lost...simply gone.



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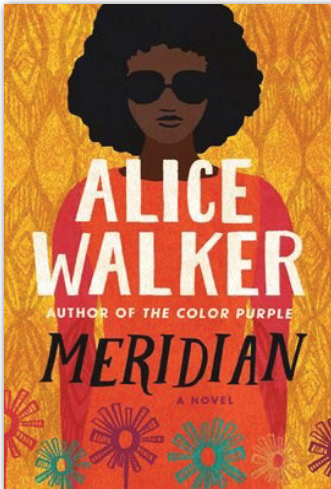


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LOVE THE GONE DEAD? THEN TRY...

HISTORICAL FICTION & THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Follow fictional characters who—similar to Billie's father—fought alongside real-life heroes in ways big and small toward equality for all.



MERIDIAN

"A classic novel of both feminism and the Civil Rights movement...by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Color Purple*." —Ms.

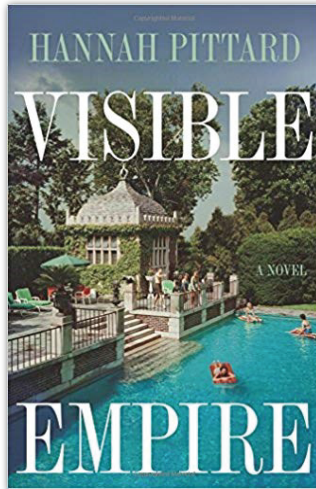
As she approaches the end of her teen years, Meridian Hill has already married, divorced, and given birth to a son. She's looking for a second chance, and at a small college outside Atlanta in the early 1960s, Meridian discovers the civil rights movement. So fully does the cause guide her life that she's willing to sacrifice virtually anything to help transform the conditions of a people whose subjugation she shares.

Meridian draws from Walker's own experiences working alongside some of the heroes of the civil rights movement.

VISIBLE EMPIRE

The phones begin to ring: disaster has struck. Chateau de Sully, a Boeing 707 chartered to ferry home more than one hundred of Atlanta's most prominent citizens from a European jaunt, crashed shortly after takeoff. Overnight, Atlanta changes. Left behind are children, spouses, lovers, and friends faced with renegotiating their lives— with 1960s hedonism and the urgency of the civil rights movement at the city's doorstep.

Captivating and ambitious—and inspired by true events—this is a story of race, class, power, privilege, and, ultimately, of promise and hope.



ONE NIGHT IN GEORGIA

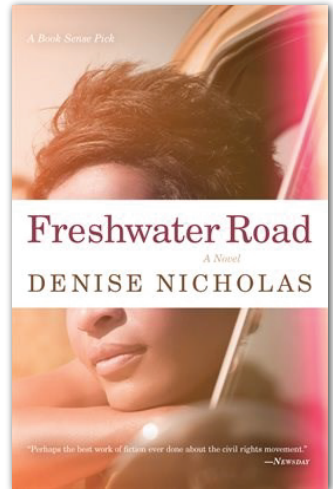
Set in the summer of 1968, a provocative and devastating novel of individual lives caught in the grips of violent history—a timely story that reverberates with the power of Alice Walker's *Meridian* and Ntozake Shange's *Betsey Browne*.

At the end of a sweltering summer shaped by the tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bobby Kennedy, race riots, political protests, and the birth of black power, three coeds from New York City pack into a new Ford Fairlane convertible, bound for Atlanta and their last year at Spelman College. It is the beginning of a journey that will change their lives irrevocably.

FRESHWATER ROAD

"Surely the best work of fiction about the civil rights movement since Ernest J. Gaines's *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*." —*The Washington Post*

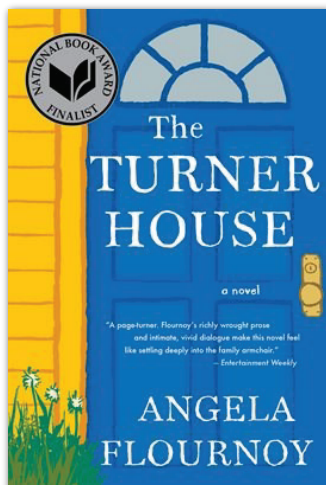
When University of Michigan sophomore Celeste Tyree travels to Mississippi to volunteer her efforts in Freedom Summer, she's assigned to register voters in Pineyville, a small town best known for a notorious lynching. Celeste finds friendships, but also those threatened by her and the change that her presence in the South represents. By summer's end, Celeste learns there are no easy answers to the questions that preoccupy her—about violence and nonviolence, about race and identity, and about the strength of love and family bonds.



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THIS OLD HOUSE

In some stories, the setting is as much a character as any of the people, with a personality all its own. That's especially true when the characters have or form a strong emotional reaction to it, as in these novels below.



THE TURNER HOUSE

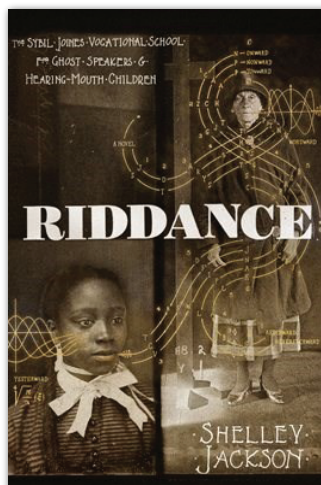
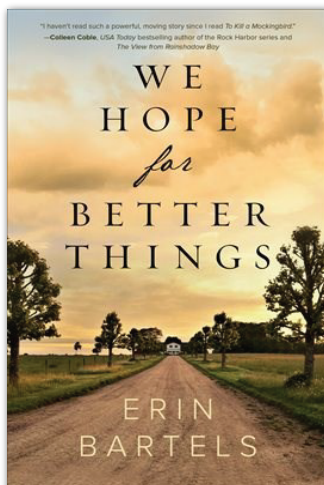
National Book Award Finalist

The Turners have lived on Yarrow Street for over fifty years. Their house has seen thirteen children grown and gone—and some returned; it has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. The house still stands despite abandoned lots, an embattled city, and the inevitable shift outward to the suburbs. But now, as ailing matriarch Viola finds herself forced to leave her home and move in with her eldest son, the family discovers that the house is worth just a tenth of its mortgage. The Turner children are called home to decide its fate and to reckon with how each of their pasts haunts—and shapes—their family's future.

WE HOPE FOR BETTER THINGS

When *Detroit Free Press* reporter Elizabeth Balsam meets James Rich, his strange request—that she look up a relative she didn't know she had in order to deliver an old camera and a box of photos—seems like it isn't worth her time. But when she loses her job to a botched investigation, she suddenly has nothing but time.

At her great-aunt's 150-year-old farmhouse, Elizabeth uncovers a series of mysterious items, locked doors, and hidden graves. As she searches for answers, the remarkable stories of two women who lived in this very house emerge as testaments to love, resilience, and courage in the face of war, racism, and misunderstanding. And as Elizabeth soon discovers, the past is never as past as we might like to think.



RIDDANCE

This first new novel in twelve years from *Half Life* author Shelley Jackson is a disquieting investigation into life after death. Eleven-year-old Jane Grandison, tormented by her stutter, sits in the back seat of a car, letter in hand inviting her to study at the Sybil Joines Vocational School for Ghost Speakers & Hearing-Mouth Children. Founded in 1890 by Headmistress Joines, the residential school—at first glance—is a sanctuary for children seeking to cure their speech impediments. Inspired by her haunted childhood, the Headmistress has other ideas. Pioneering the field of necrophysics, she harnesses her students' "gift"; via their stutters, they are able to channel voices from the land of the dead. When a student disappears, things chance for the school...attracting attention from parents and police alike.

THE MEMORY HOUSE

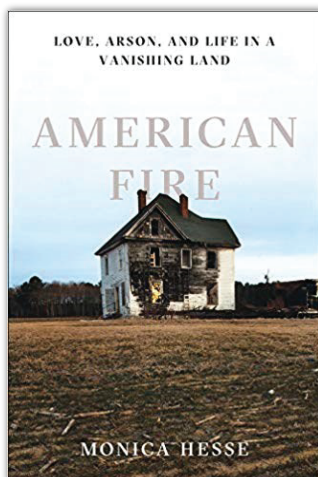
When Beck Holiday lost her father in the North Tower on 9/11, she also lost her memories of him. Eighteen years later, she's a tough NYC cop with a damaging secret, suspended for misconduct, and struggling to get her life in order. Meanwhile, a mysterious letter arrives informing her she's inherited a house along Florida's northern coast. Decades earlier, widow Everleigh Applegate lives an uneventful life with her widowed mother after a tornado ripped through Texas, and destroyed her new, young married life. When she runs into old high school friend Don Callahan, she begins to yearn for change.

Fifty years separate the women but through the powers of love and faith, they each find healing in a beautiful Victorian known affectionately as the Memory House.

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TRUE SOUTH

The South has a deep, rich history and is full of incredible true stories. From creatives to crimes and nature to nurture, this roundup has something for every reader.



AMERICAN FIRE

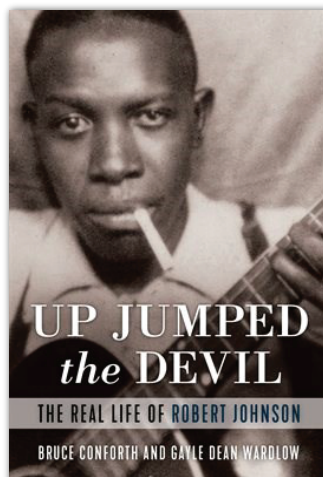
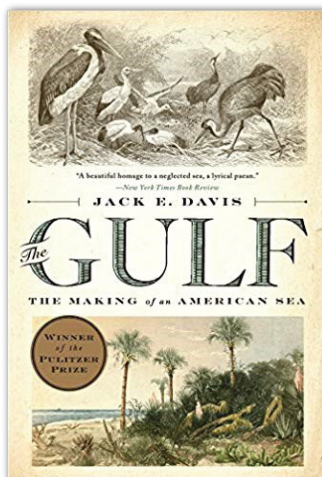
A New York Times Book Review Notable Book

The arsons started on a cold November midnight and didn't stop for months. Night after night, the people of Accomack County waited to see which building would burn next, regarding each other first with compassion, and later suspicion. Vigilante groups sprang up; volunteer firefighters slept at stations. The arsonist targeted abandoned buildings, but local police were stretched too thin to surveil them all. Accomack was desolate—hundreds of abandoned buildings, burning by the dozen.

Reporter Monica Hesse spent years investigating, emerging with portraits of the arsonist couple. Tracing their relationship from true love to crime spree, Hesse conjures the once-thriving coastal community, decimated by a tough economy and rising suspicions as the culprits remained at large. Weaving in the history of arson in the United States, *American Fire* recreates the anguished nights this quiet county lit up in flames, evoking a microcosm of rural America.

THE GULF

Winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for History. Rich in vivid, previously untold stories, *The Gulf* tells the larger narrative of the American Sea—from the sportfish that brought the earliest tourists to Gulf shores to Hollywood's engagement with the first offshore oil wells—as it inspired and empowered, sometimes to its own detriment, the ethnically diverse groups of a growing nation. Davis's pageant of historical characters is vast, nor does the author neglect colorfully idiosyncratic individuals. Ultimately, Davis reminds us that amidst the ruin, beauty awaits its return. Sensitive to the imminent effects of climate change, and the difficult task of rectifying grievous assaults of recent centuries, *The Gulf* suggests how a careful examination of a single region's history can inform the country's path ahead.



UP JUMPED THE DEVIL

"This in-depth portrait of Johnson's life and times will be mighty hard to improve upon." —Kirkus Reviews

The myth: Robert Johnson allegedly sold his soul at the crossroads in exchange for his incredible talent, leading to his tragic death at age 27. This single notion can be recited by everyone who has ever heard of him, but the actual story of his life remains unknown. *Up Jumped the Devil* is the result of over 50 years of interviews and research. In this definitive biography, authors Gayle Dean Wardlow and Bruce Conforth rely on every available resource to relieve every myth that ever surrounded Johnson—telling a very human and tragic story of a real person.

FLIGHT PATH

In the months leading up to the birth of her first child, Hannah Palmer discovers that all three of her childhood houses have been wiped out by the expansion of Atlanta's airport. Uprooting her promising publishing career in Brooklyn, Palmer embarks on a quest to determine the fate of her lost homes—and the greater community erased by unchecked Southern progress. From the ruins of kudzu-covered, airport-owned ghost towns to carefully preserved cemeteries wedged between the runways, along the way, Palmer becomes an amateur detective, an urban historian, and a mother. In the tradition of John Jeremiah Sullivan and Leslie Jamison, Palmer unearths startling narratives about race, power, and place that continue to shape American cities.