

3 NOVELS

Ways to Hide in Winter by Sarah St. Vincent

Set in Pennsylvania's Blue Ridge Mountains, a woman befriends a mysterious foreigner—setting in motion this suspenseful, atmospheric, politically charged debut. Steeped in the rugged beauty of Northeast Pennsylvania, Sarah St. Vincent's *Ways to Hide in Winter* is a powerful story about violence and redemption, betrayal and empathy . . . and how we reconcile the unforgivable in those we love.

Hook: Beautiful, descriptive Pennsylvania setting; we're looking forward to welcoming St. Vincent to the Midtown Scholar for a reading and signing in 2019!

She Would Be King by Wayétu Moore

Wayétu Moore's powerful debut novel, *She Would Be King*, reimagines the dramatic story of Liberia's early years through three unforgettable characters who share an uncommon bond. Intermingling magical realism and history, Moore illuminates with radiant and exacting prose the tumultuous roots of a country inextricably bound to the United States.

Hook: Indie Next Pick, by a critically acclaimed new writer; we're delighted Moore will be visiting the Midtown Scholar for a reading and signing in 2019!

Circe by Madeline Miller

A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess Circe's story from the *Odyssey*. With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.

Hook: Highly recommended! Midtown Scholar's bestselling novel of 2018.

3 BIOGRAPHIES

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David Blight

The definitive, dramatic biography of the most important African American of the nineteenth century: Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave who became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era.

Hook: Drawing from new information from private collections, this is a landmark biography of Frederick Douglass.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Jane Sherron de Hart

The first full life—private, public, legal, philosophical—of the 107th Supreme Court Justice, one of the most profound and profoundly transformative legal minds of our time; a book fifteen years in work, written with the cooperation of Ruth Bader Ginsburg herself and based on many interviews with the justice, her husband, her children, her friends, and her associates.

Hook: Ginsburg content has never been more popular — here is the definitive biography of one of our country's most interesting justices.

Churchill: Walking with Destiny by Andrew Roberts

In this landmark biography of Winston Churchill based on extensive new material, the true genius of the man, statesman and leader can finally be fully seen and understood--by the bestselling, award-winning author of Napoleon and The Storm of War. We think of Churchill as a hero who saved civilization from the evils of Nazism and warned of the grave crimes of Soviet communism, but Roberts's masterwork reveals that he has as much to teach us about the challenges leaders face today--and the fundamental values of courage, tenacity, leadership and moral conviction.

Hook: great gift for World War Two history buffs and fans of political biographies.

3 BOOKS ON LIFE IN AMERICA

Becoming by Michelle Obama

The bestselling book-of-the-year.

Valley Forge by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin

December 1777. It is 18 months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and some 12,000 members of America's beleaguered Continental Army stagger into a small Pennsylvania encampment 23 miles northwest of British-occupied Philadelphia. The starving and half-naked force is reeling from a string of demoralizing defeats at the hands of King George III's army, and are barely equipped to survive the coming winter. Their commander in chief, the focused and forceful George Washington, is at the lowest ebb of his military career. The Continental Congress is in exile and the American Revolution appears to be lost. What follows is one of the most inspiring—and underappreciated—chapters in American history: the story of the Continental Army's six-month transformation in Valley Forge.

Hook: Regional interest, NYT bestselling authors

Presidents of War by Michael Beschloss

Ten years in the research and writing, *Presidents of War* is a fresh, magisterial, intimate look at a procession of American leaders as they took the nation into conflict and mobilized their country for victory. It brings us into the room as they make the most difficult decisions that face any President, at times sending hundreds of thousands of American men and women to their deaths. From James Madison and the War of 1812 to recent times, we see them struggling with Congress, the courts, the press, their own advisors and antiwar protesters.

Hook: Written by acclaimed Presidential Historian

A NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION

The Houseguest and Other Stories by Amparo Dávila, translated by Audrey Harris and Matthew Gleeson

Like those of Kafka, Poe, Leonora Carrington, or Shirley Jackson, Amparo Dávila's stories are terrifying, mesmerizing, and expertly crafted—you'll finish each one gasping for air. With acute psychological insight, Dávila follows her characters to the limits of desire, paranoia, insomnia, and fear. — "Each of these stories is equal parts Hitchcock film and razor blade: austere, immaculately crafted, profoundly unsettling, and capable of cutting you. ... I'm so grateful she's in translation." — Carmen Maria Machado

2 BOOKS OF POETRY

So Far, So Good by Ursula K. Le Guin

Legendary author Ursula K. Le Guin was lauded by millions for her ground-breaking science fiction novels, but she began as a poet, and wrote across genres for her entire career. In this clarifying and sublime collection—completed shortly before her death in 2018—Le Guin is unflinching in the face of mortality, and full of wonder for the mysteries beyond. Redolent of the lush natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, with rich sounds playfully echoing myth and nursery rhyme, Le Guin bookends a long, daring, and prolific career.

Hook: Final collection completed shortly before her death

The Carrying by Ada Limon

From National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist Ada Limón comes *The Carrying*—her most powerful collection yet. Vulnerable, tender, acute, these are serious poems, brave poems, exploring with honesty the ambiguous moment between the rapture of youth and the grace of acceptance. A daughter tends to aging parents. A woman struggles with infertility—and still Limón shows us, as ever, the persistence of hunger, love, and joy, the dizzying fullness of our too-short lives.

Hook: National Book Award Finalist and National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

5 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN OR TEENS

Imagine by Lauren Castillo and Juan Felipe Herrera (picture book)

A buoyant, breathtaking poem from Juan Felipe Herrera — brilliantly illustrated by Caldecott Honoree Lauren Castillo — speaks to every dreaming heart. Illustrated by Harrisburg's very own Lauren Castillo!

Hook: Local Illustrator, written by Former United States Poet Laureate

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi (teens & adults)

With five starred reviews, Tomi Adeyemi's West African-inspired fantasy debut, and instant #1 New York Times Bestseller, conjures a world of magic and danger, perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo and Sabaa Tahir.

Hook: New JK Rowling? #1 NYT Bestseller, first in a trilogy

Pride by Ibi Zoboi (teens & adults)

Pride and Prejudice gets remixed in this smart, funny, gorgeous retelling of the classic, starring all characters of color, from Ibi Zoboi, National Book Award finalist and author of *American Street*.

Hook: A Jane Austen redux for the modern era, recast with people of color, set in New York City

Dread Nation by Justina Ireland (teens)

At once provocative, terrifying, and darkly subversive, *Dread Nation* is Justina Ireland's stunning vision of an America both foreign and familiar—a country on the brink, at the explosive crossroads where race, humanity, and survival meet. Jane McKeene was born two days before the dead began to walk the battlefields of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—derailing the War Between the States and changing the nation forever. In this new America, safety for all depends on the work of a few, and laws like the Native and Negro Education Act require certain children attend combat schools to learn to put down the dead.

Hook: Acclaimed local author, Pennsylvania setting during civil war

Harry Potter: A History of Magic (all ages)

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in the US, readers everywhere are invited to explore the extraordinary subjects of the Hogwarts curriculum — Potions & Alchemy, Divination, Care of Magical Creatures, and more — and examine incredible historical artifacts, items from J.K. Rowling's personal archive, and stunning original artwork from Harry Potter series artists Mary GrandPré, Jim Kay, and Brian Selznick. Published in conjunction with the New-York Historical Society exhibition *Harry Potter: A History of Magic*, this complete catalogue of the over 150 artifacts on display gives readers an up-close look at magical treasures from all over the world.