

Fresh Lit!

New and Forthcoming Literary Fiction

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LibraryLinkNJ Webinar

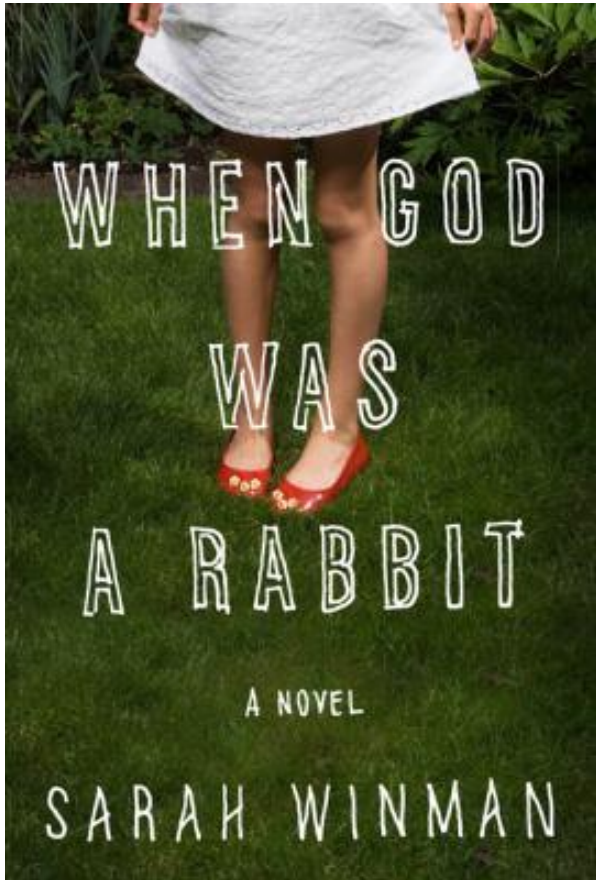
June 21, 2011

Books we'll talk about today— literary midlist fiction

- Recent, new, and forthcoming
- Starred reviews and strong reviews
- Some small presses
- First novels
- New novels by favorite authors
- Good for reading groups



When God Was a Rabbit by Sarah Winman

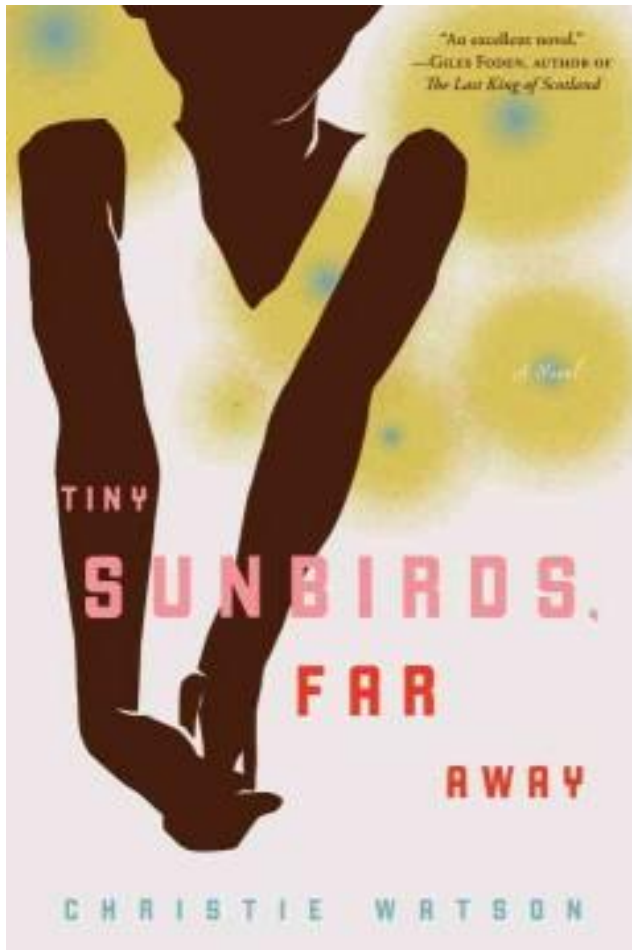


May 2011; Bloomsbury Press

Starred review in *Booklist*;
strong reviews in *PW*, *LJ*

Content/Appeal: coming of age story; family secrets; brothers and sisters; some fantastical elements

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson

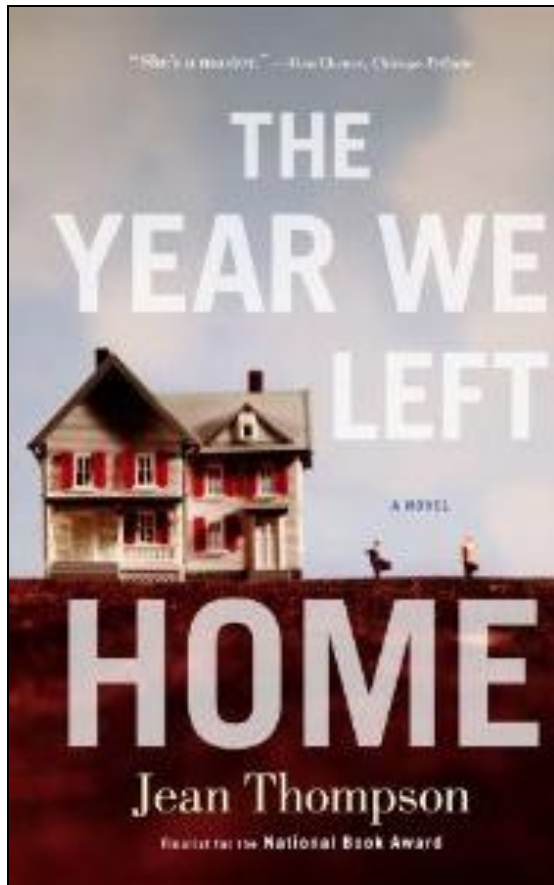


May 2011, Other Press
Starred review in *PW*

First novel

Content/Appeal: coming of age story; political and environmental concerns, African setting, YA interest—teenage narrator

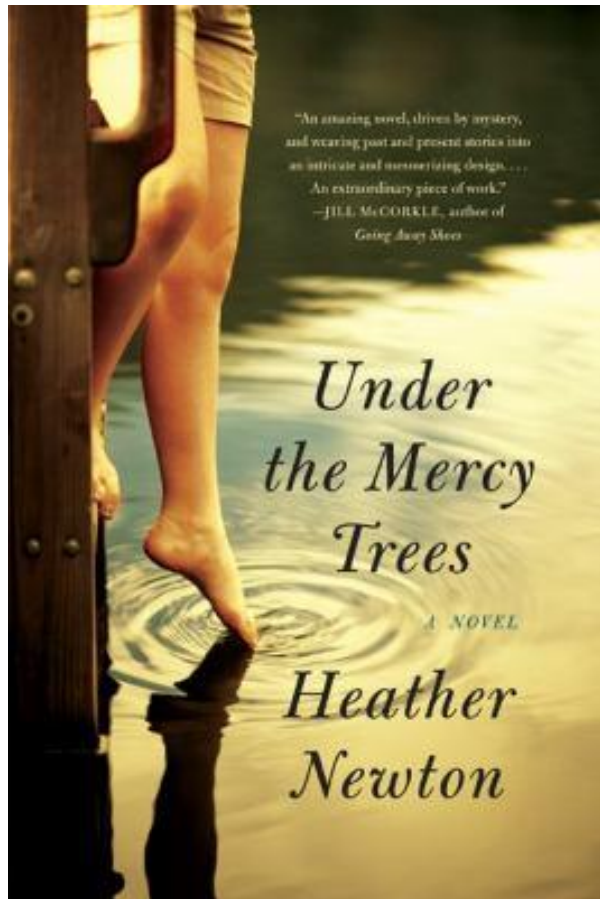
The Year We Left Home by Jean Thompson



May 2011; Simon & Schuster
Starred review in *Kirkus*

Content/Appeal: family sagas; Midwest setting; linked stories; multiple points of view; panoramic view of 1970s-2003

Under the Mercy Trees by Heather Newton



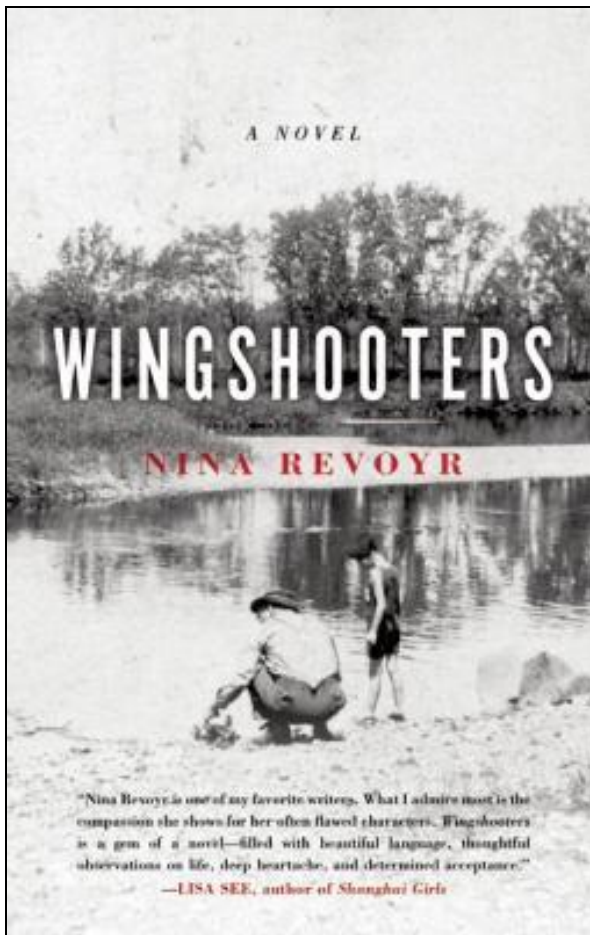
January 2011;
HarperPaperbacks

Starred review, *Booklist*

First novel

Content/Appeal: family secrets; multiple points of view; edgy tone; rural Southern setting; alcoholism

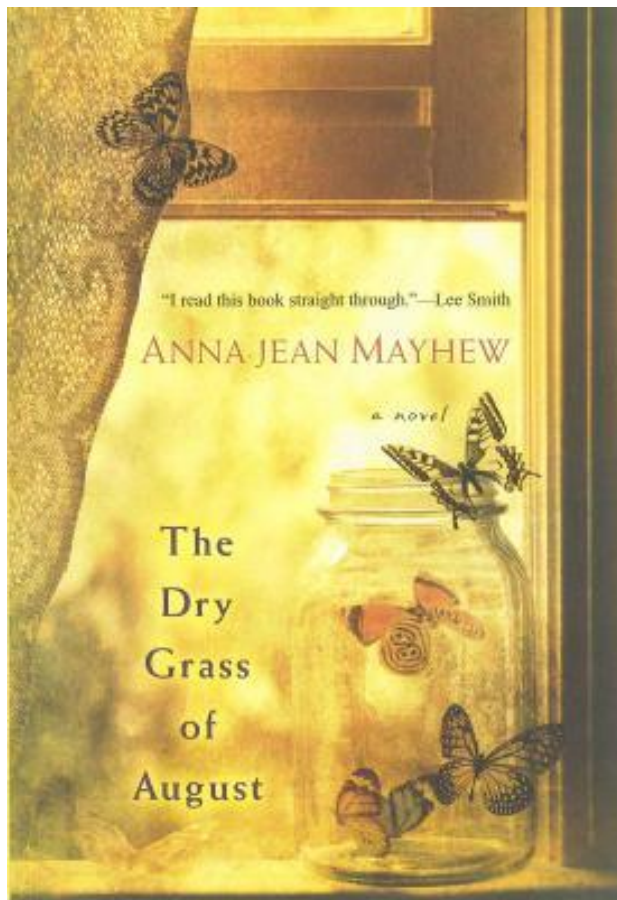
Wingshooters by Amanda Revoyr



March 2011; Akashic
Books
Starred reviews *Booklist*,
PW

Content/Appeal: coming
of age; edgy; small town;
race relations; YA
appeal—teenage narrator;
suitable for book groups

The Dry Grass of August by Anna Jean Mayhew

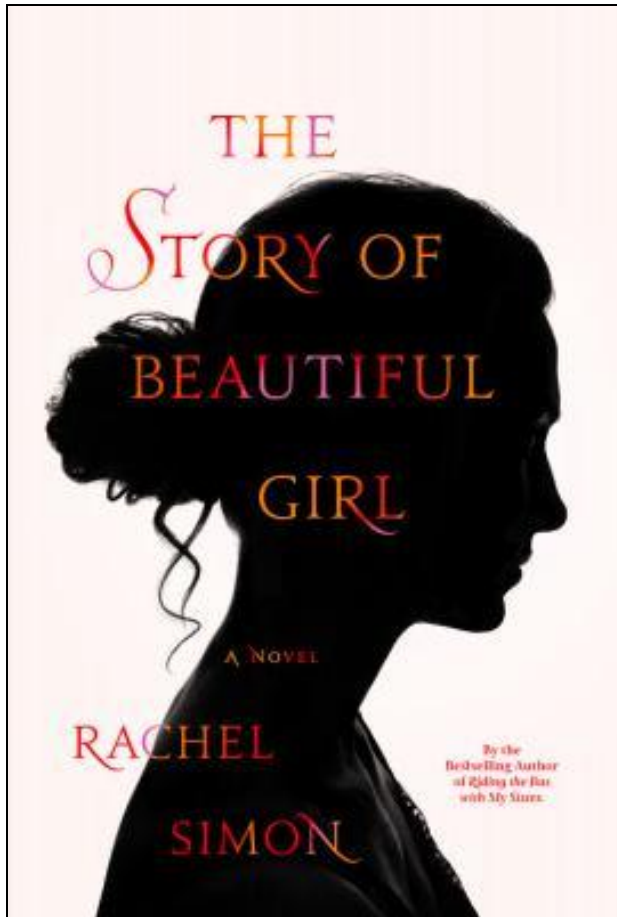


April 2011; Kensington
Strong reviews in *PW*,
Booklist

First novel (author is 71)

Content/Appeal: coming
of age story; race
relations in the 1950s;
Southern setting; YA
interest—teenage narrator

The Story of Beautiful Girl by Rachel Simon



May 2011; Grand Central
Strong reviews in *PW*, *LJ*,
Booklist

First novel (after two
memoirs)

Content/Appeal: social
issues, mental illness,
treatment of handicapped;
YA appeal

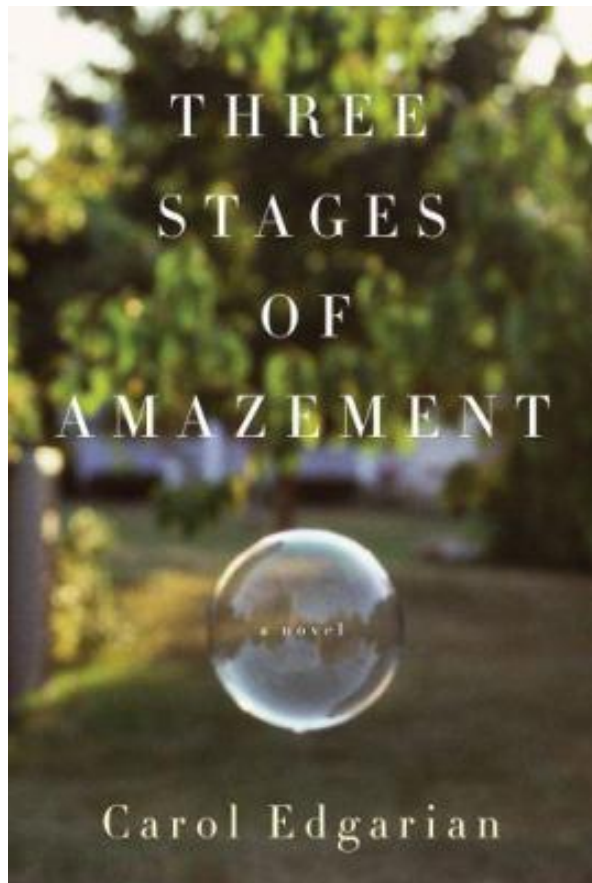
Left Neglected by Lisa Genova



January 2011; Simon & Schuster/Gallery
Strong reviews in *PW*, *LJ*,
Booklist

Content/Appeal: women's
lives; balancing work/family;
overcoming obstacles;
disabilities

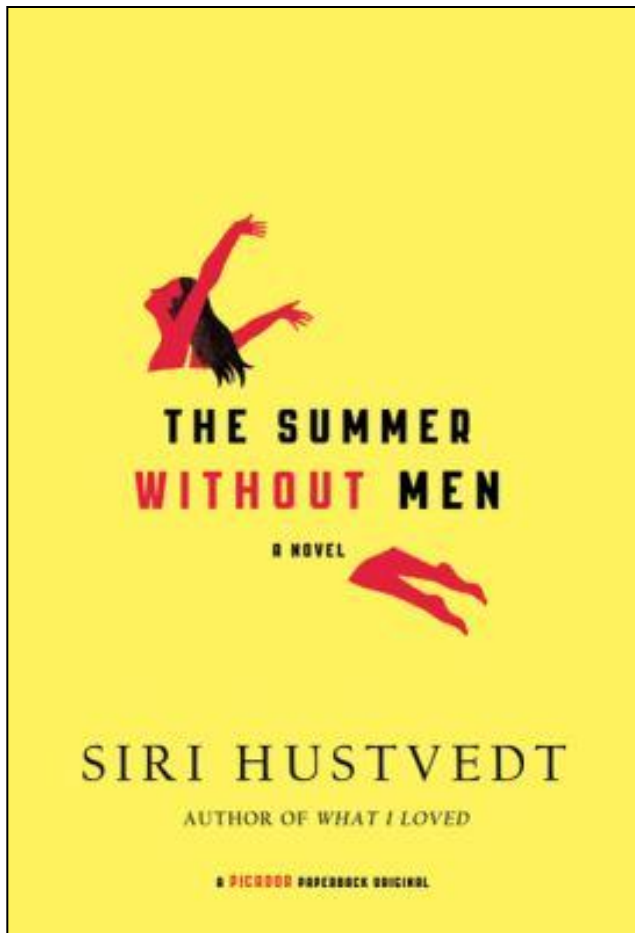
Three Stages of Amazement by Carol Edgarian



March 2011; Simon & Schuster
Starred review *LJ*; strong reviews in *PW*, *Kirkus*

Content/Appeal: domestic drama, family secrets, work/family issues; current financial issues impact characters' lives; well-paced

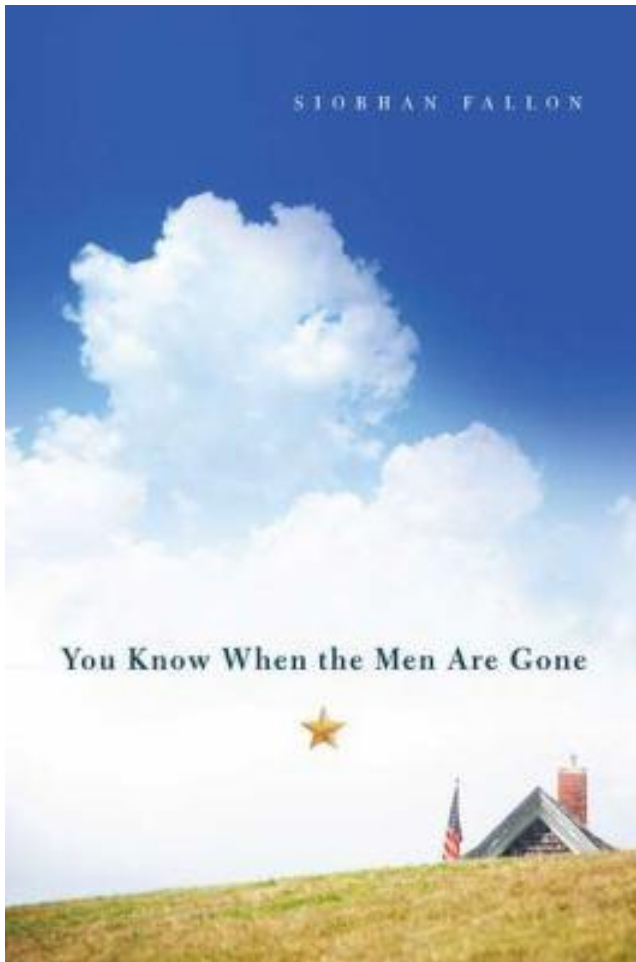
The Summer Without Men by Siri Hustvedt



April 2011; Picador
Starred review in *Booklist*

Content/Appeal:
sophisticated women's
fiction; stages of women's
lives; short books; book
groups

You Know When the Men are Gone by Siobhan Fallon

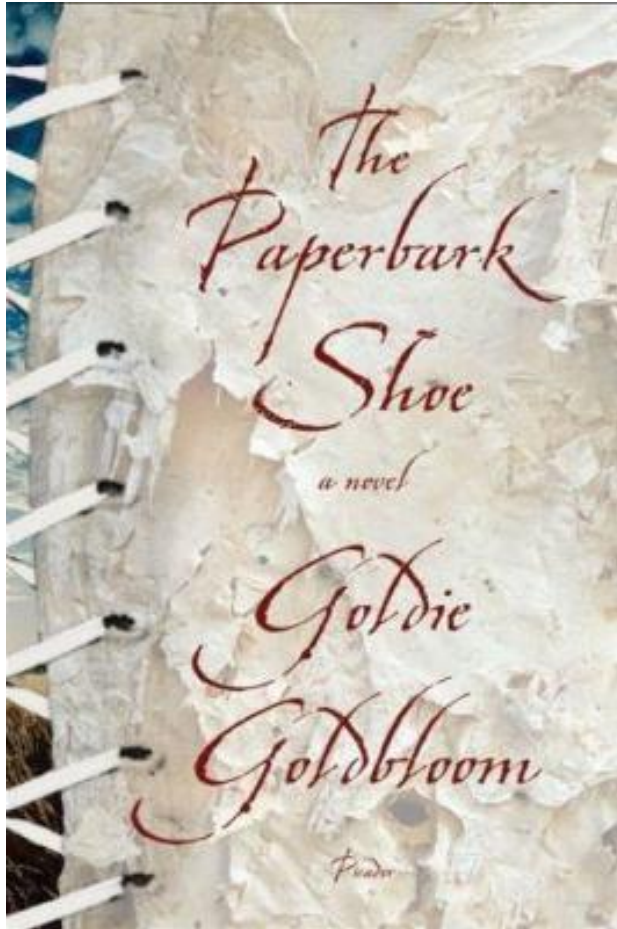


January 2011;
Penguin/Amy Einhorn
Starred reviews in *PW*, *LJ*

First novel

Content/Appeal: for readers of short stories and linked stories; effect of war on women's lives; spare prose style; book groups

The Paperbark Shoe by Goldie Goldbloom

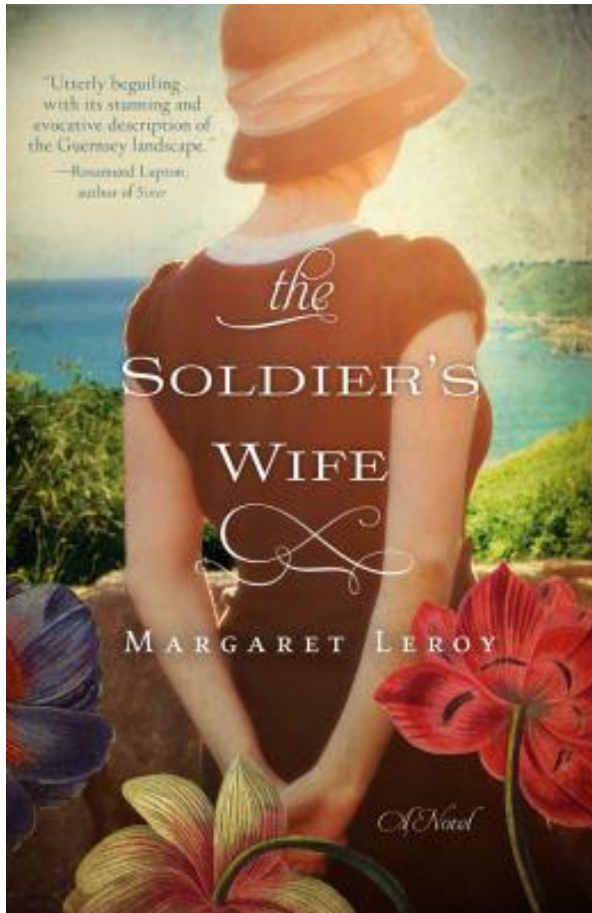


March 2011; Picador
Strong review in *Kirkus*

First novel

Content/Appeal: for readers who enjoy quirky characters & unusual settings; intense & emotional; Australian setting; marriage; disabilities

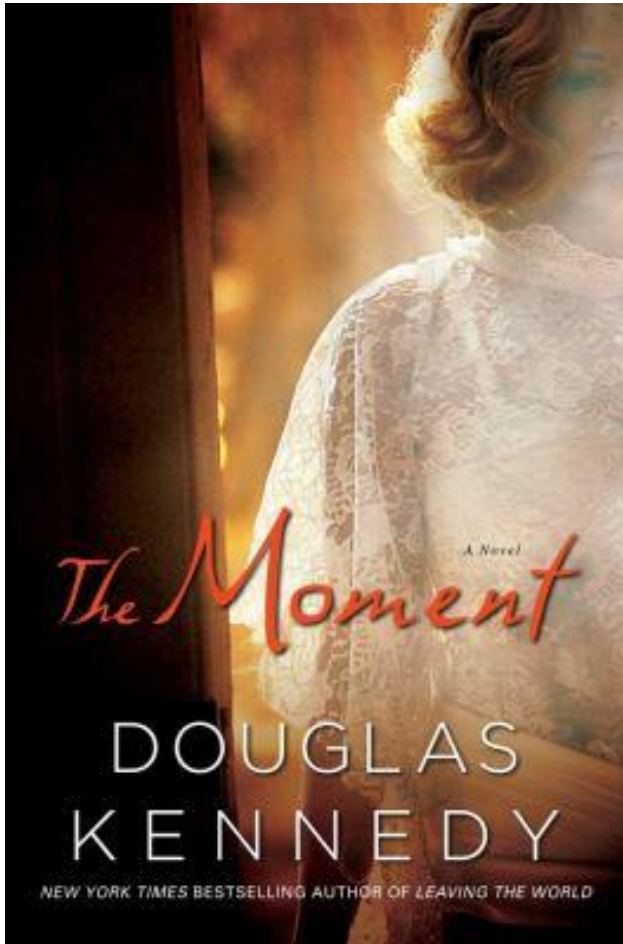
The Soldier's Wife by Margaret Leroy



July 2011; Hyperion/Voice
Strong reviews in *PW*,
Booklist, *Kirkus*

Content/Appeal: historical fiction with strong character development; women in wartime; stories with moral ambiguity; forbidden romance

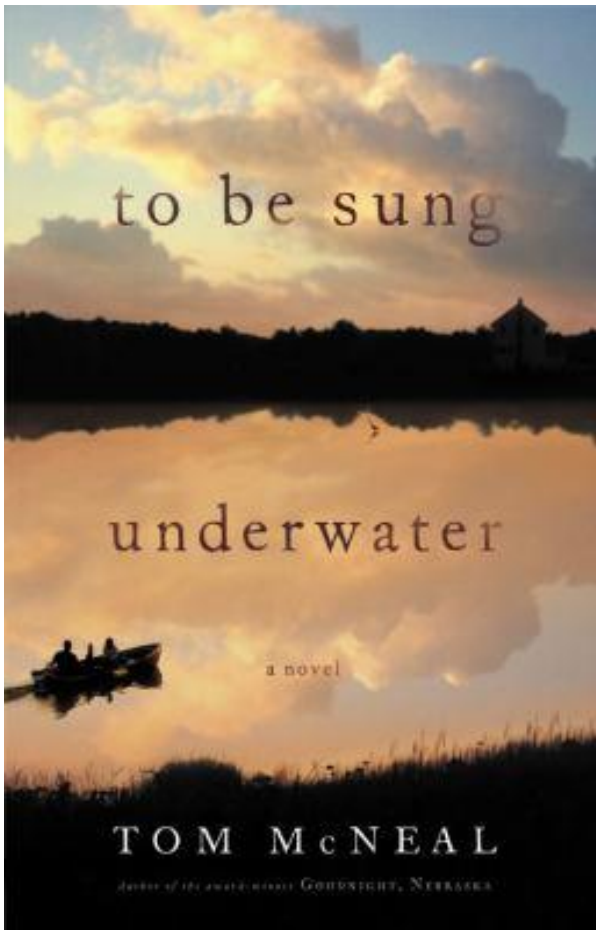
The Moment by Douglas Kennedy



May 2011; Simon & Schuster/Atria
Starred review in *LJ*; strong reviews in *PW*, *Booklist*

Content/Appeal: story of moral ambiguity and misplaced trust; almost a thriller; Berlin Cold War setting; romance from man's POV

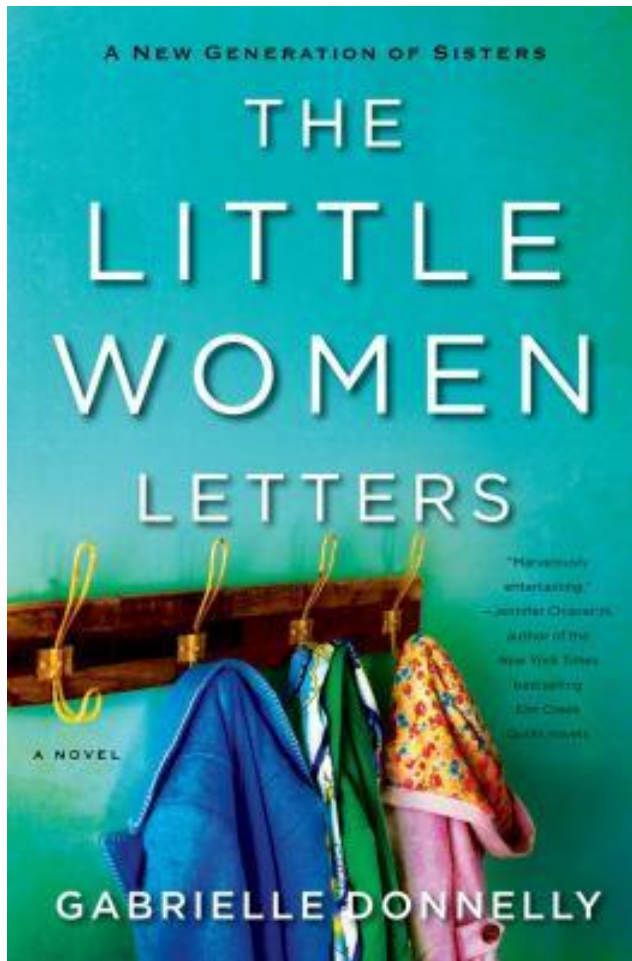
To Be Sung Underwater by Tom McNeal



June 2011; Little, Brown
Starred review in *Booklist*;
strong reviews in *PW*, *LJ*

Content/Appeal:
sympathetic characters;
humor; women's lives and
decisions; shifting
chronology; Midwest
setting

The Little Women Letters by Gabrielle Donnelly

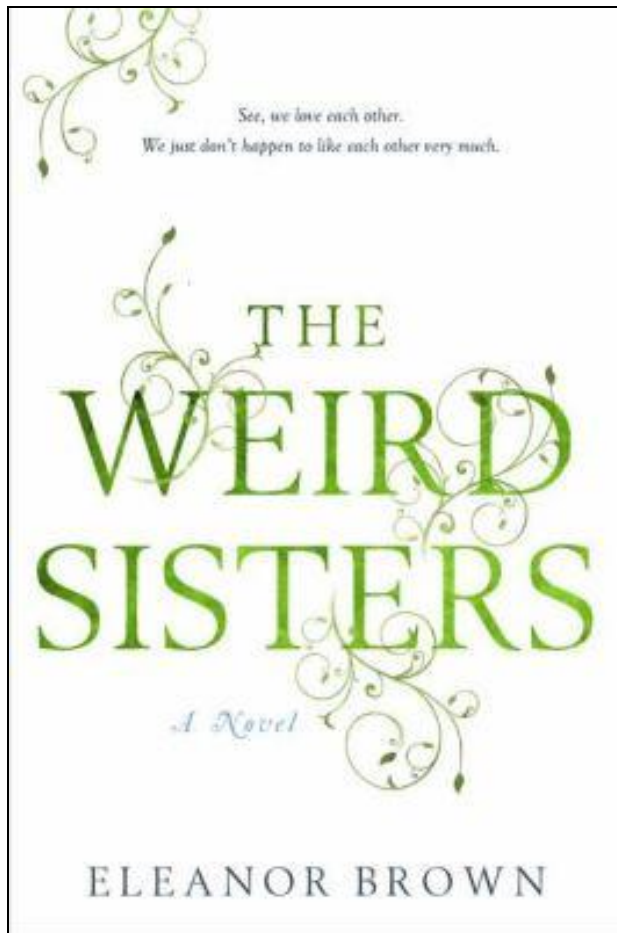


June 2011; S&S/Touchstone
Strong reviews in *PW*,
Booklist

First novel

Content/Appeal: modern
“takes” on the classics;
sisters; YA appeal; literary
chick lit

The Weird Sisters by Eleanor Brown



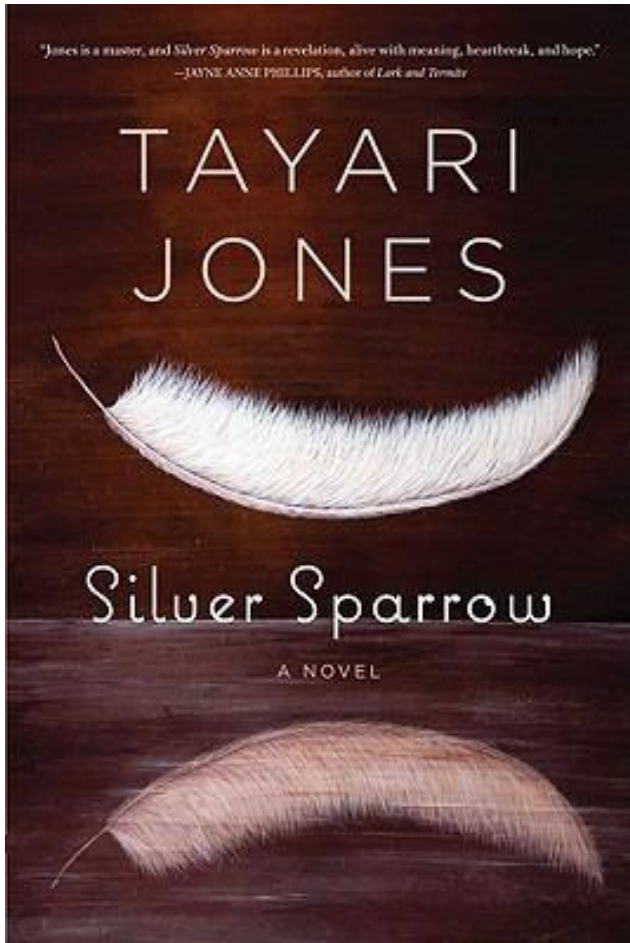
January 2011 Penguin/Amy
Einhorn

Starred review in *PW*; strong
reviews in *LJ*, *Booklist*

First novel

Content/Appeal: sisters,
Shakespearean references;
vivid characterization;
flashbacks; family secrets;
Midwest setting

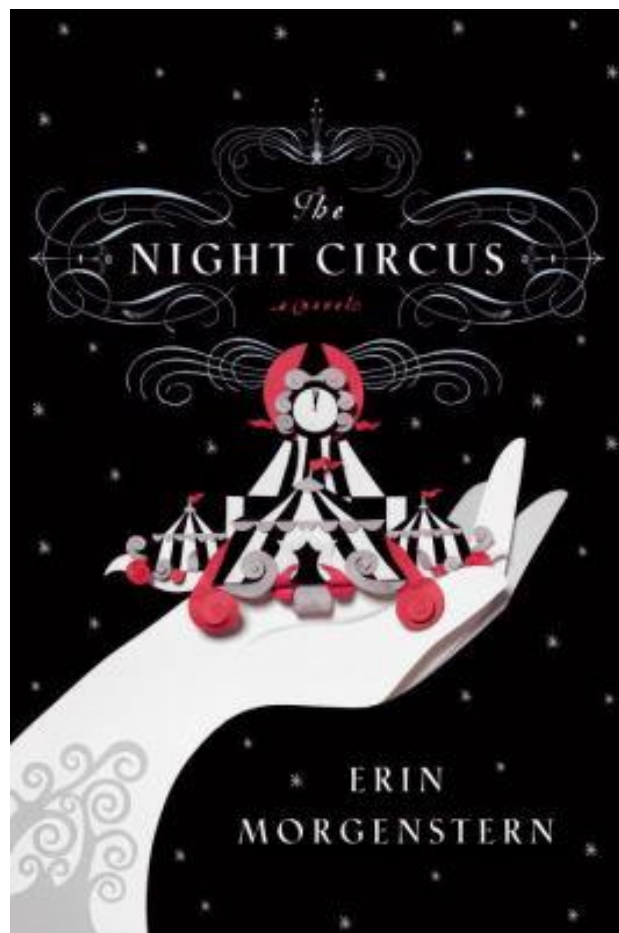
Silver Sparrow by Tayari Jones



May 2011; Algonquin
Books
Starred review *LJ*

Content/Appeal: sisters,
hidden families, African-
American families,
Southern fiction; coming
of age; 1980s Atlanta; YA
appeal—teenage narrator

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern

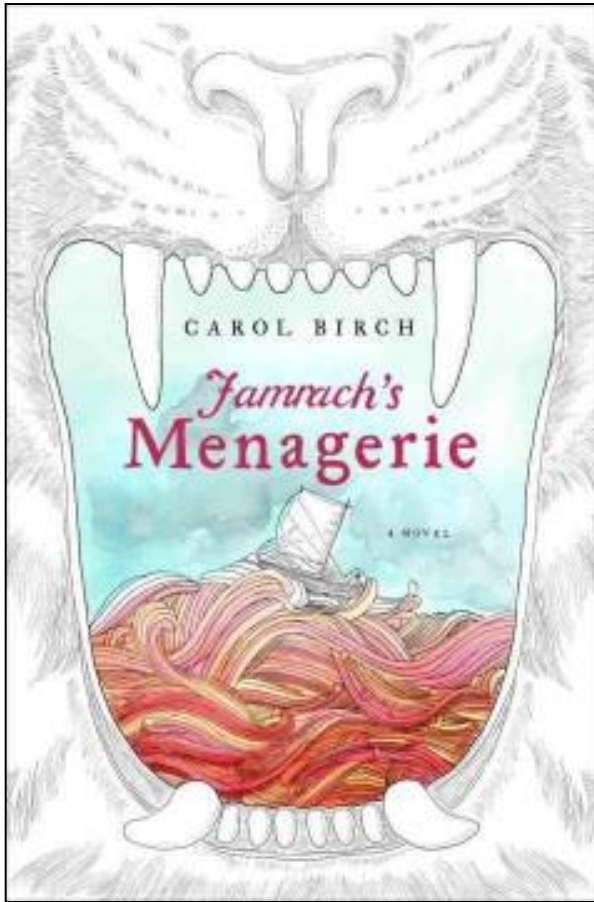


September 2011;
Doubleday/Knopf
Starred review in *PW*,
Booklist, *Kirkus*

First novel

Content/Appeal: magicians &
circuses; fantastical fable-like
elements; rivalry between 2
magicians from childhood;
dark tone

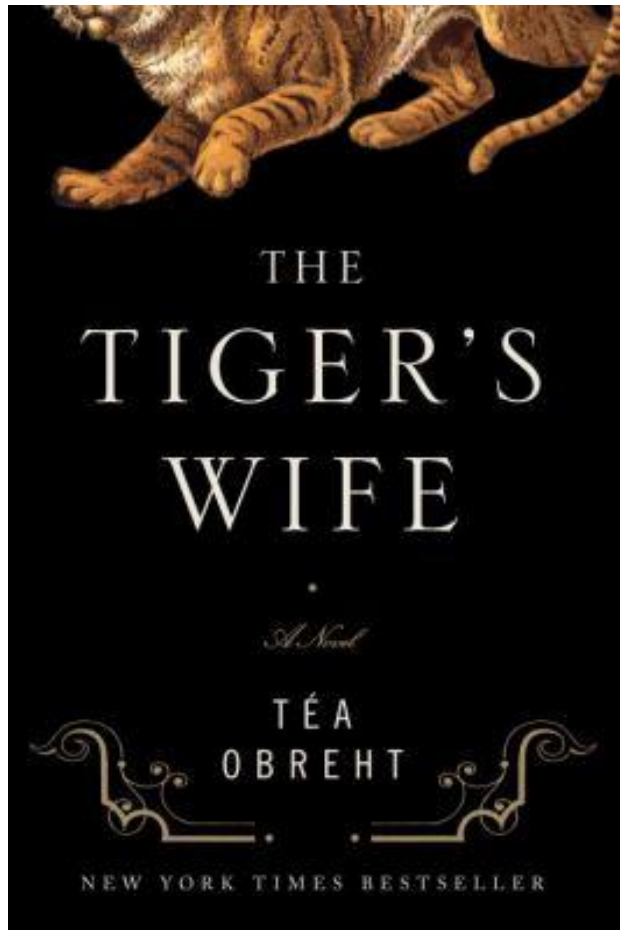
Jamrach's Menagerie by Carol Birch



June 2011; Doubleday
Starred reviews in
Booklist, Kirkus

Content/Appeal: 19th
century historical fiction
and adventure;
Dickensian; strong sense
of place; animals;
sea-faring story; dramatic
& descriptive writing

The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht

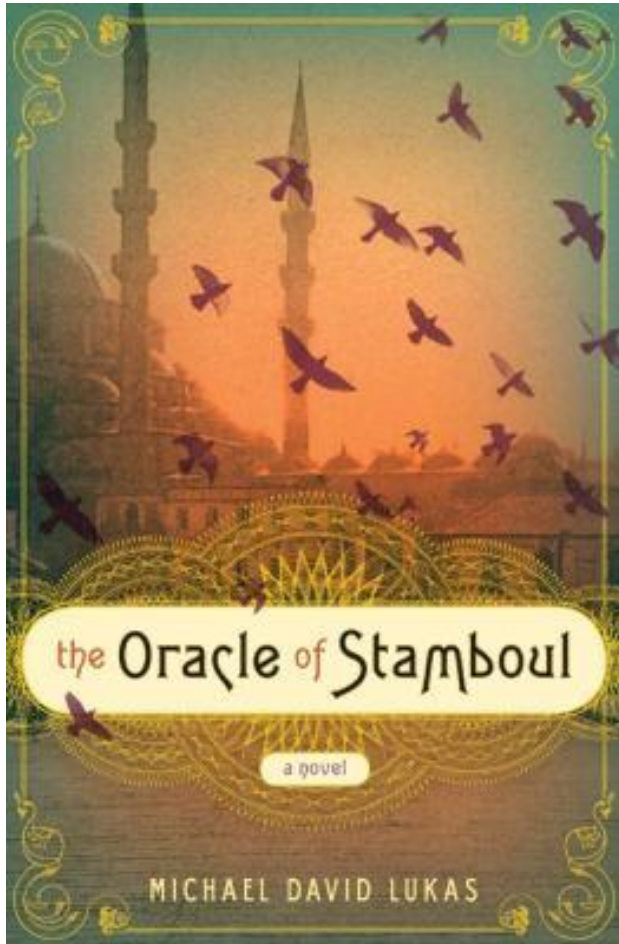


March 2011; Random House
Starred reviews in *PW*, *LJ*.
Booklist

Winner of the Orange Prize

Content/Appeal: mythical
elements; set in war-torn
Yugoslavia; relationship
between young doctor and
her grandfather

The Oracle of Stamboul by Michael David Lukas

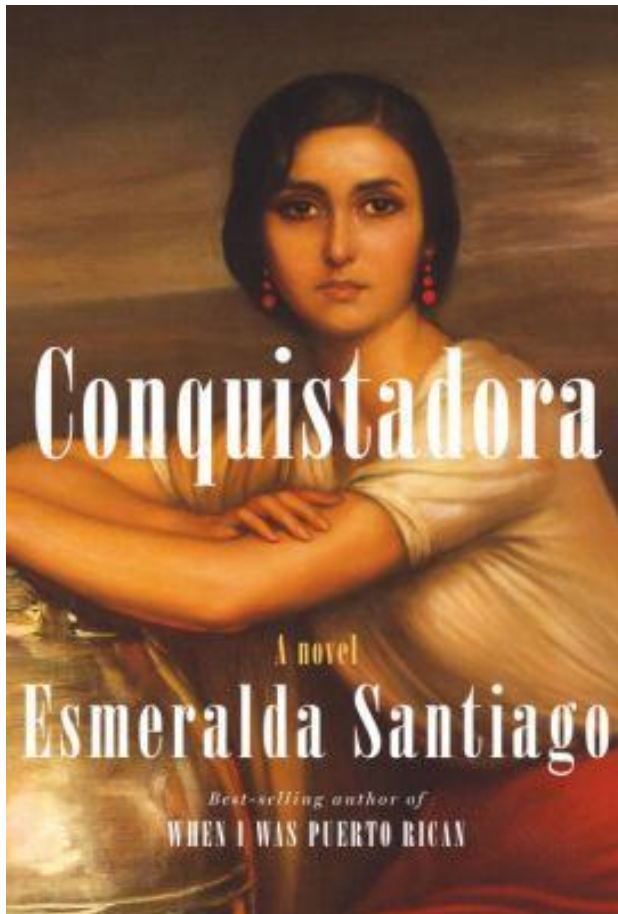


February 2011;
HarperCollins
Strong reviews in *LJ*, *Kirkus*

First novel

Content/Appeal: historical fiction with fantastic elements; 19th century Turkey; Jewish girl fulfills prophecy and becomes advisor to Ottoman Emperor; descriptive writing

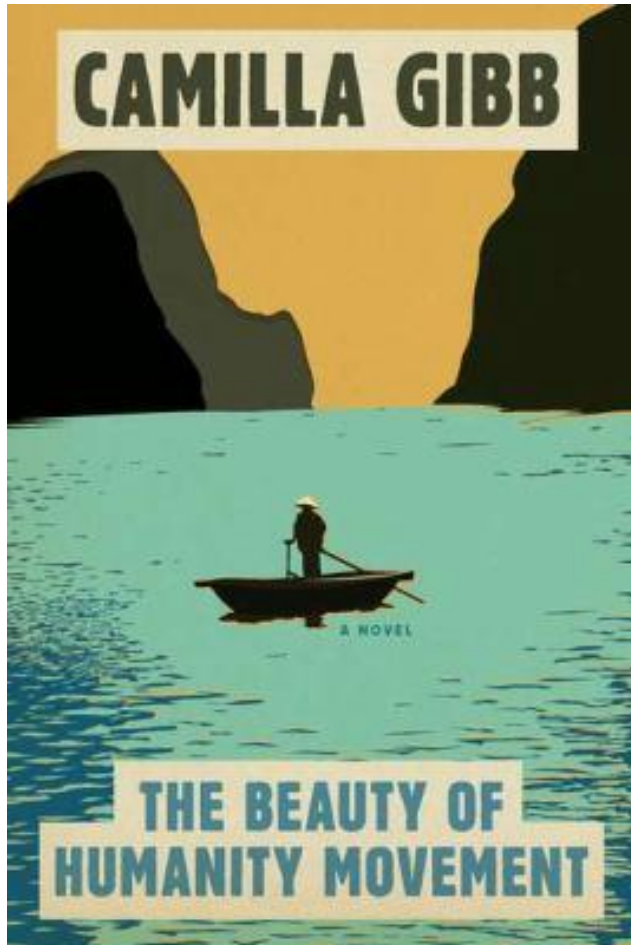
Conquistadora by Esmeralda Santiago



July 2011; Random/Knopf
Starred reviews in *Booklist*,
PW

Content/Appeal: historical
fiction with strong woman
main character; adventure,
well-researched panoramic
history of Puerto Rico; moral
ambiguity

The Beauty of Humanity Movement by Camilla Gibb

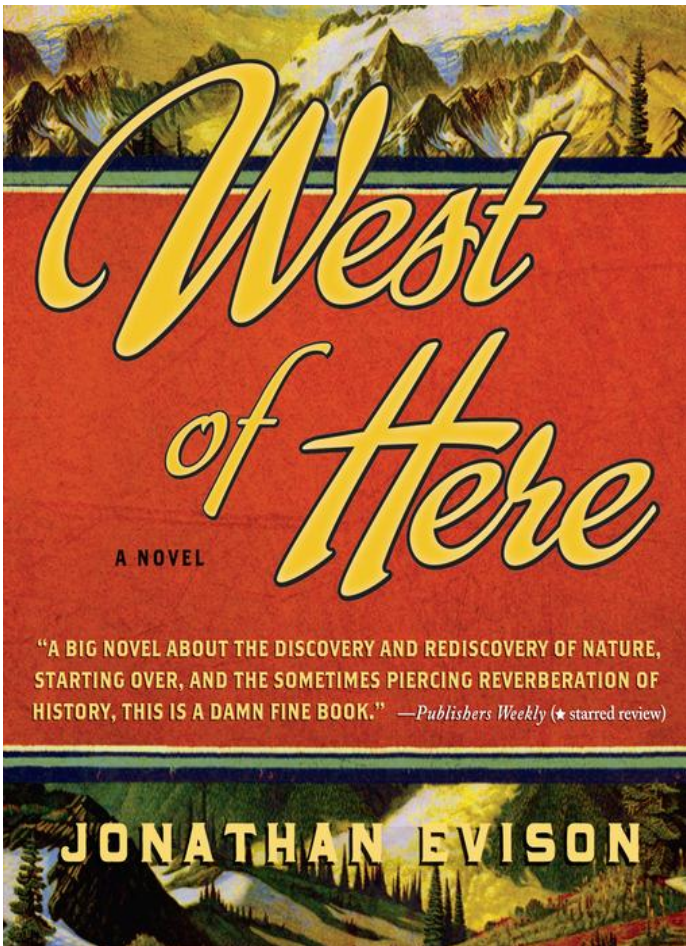


August 2011 Penguin Press

Positive review in *Booklist*

Content/Appeal: engaging characters; Vietnamese immigrant story; shifting chronology; Vietnamese history

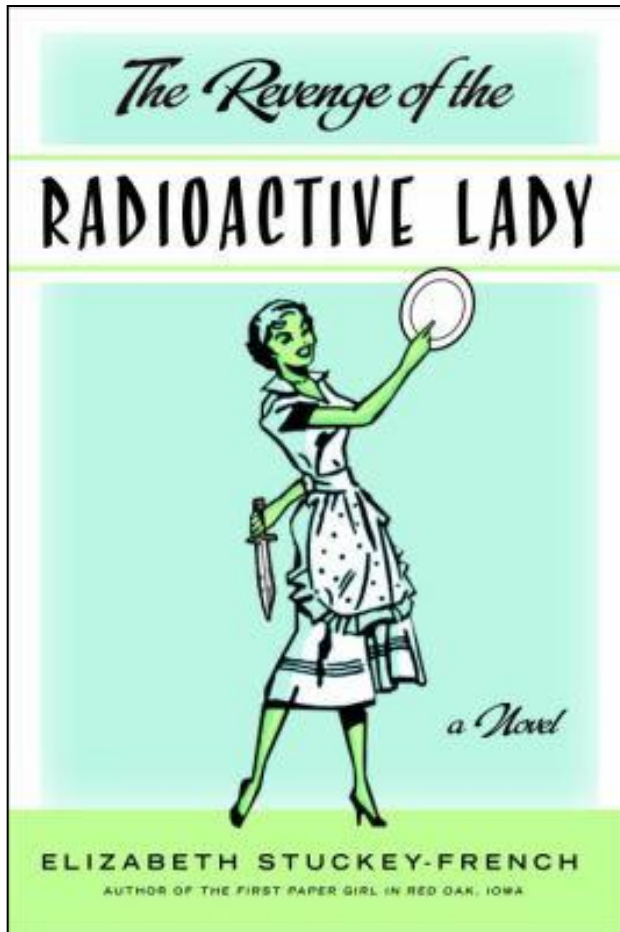
West of Here by Jonathan Evison



February 2011; Algonquin Books
Starred reviews: *Booklist*, *PW*, *LJ*

Content/Appeal: historical fiction, history of Olympic peninsula, shifting chronology, strong sense of place, large cast of characters

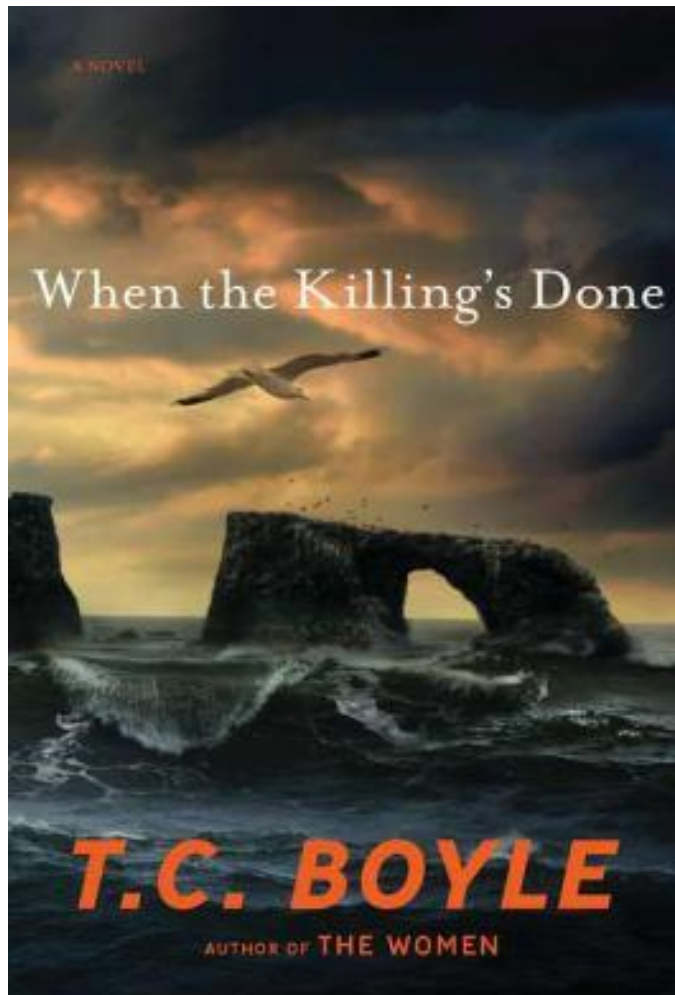
The Revenge of the Radioactive Lady by Elizabeth Stuckey-French



May 2011; Doubleday
Starred review in *PW*

Content/Appeal: satire
with a heart;
dark/absurdist humor;
unusual characters; issues
of government uses of
radiation in 1950s

When the Killing's Done by T.C. Boyle



February 2011;
Penguin/Viking
Starred reviews in *Booklist*,
PW, *Kirkus*

Content/Appeal:
environmental issues,
California setting, plot-
heavy, dense prose, black
humor, edgy, controversial--
will provoke discussion;
violence to animals may be
offensive to some

Keeping up...

Resources—mine and yours

- Publishing industry resources
- Blogs/Online newsletters
- Publishers' newsletters and resources
- Other suggestions...