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The Nickel Boys New York Review of Books

A novel of love. homelessness, and They were learning to be fearless In the garden, there were Something for a three flamingos. Not real flamingos, First, there were but real emblems, real gateways to a time when life was two families.

impossibly good. mascots, symbols of hope. boy to confide in. the flamingos. And then there were

Sherry and Leslie and their daughters, Rae and Pauline - and Eve and her son Daniel. Sherry loves her husband. Leslie. She also loves Eve It couldn't have been and the biga happier summer. hearted, and is, But then Eve left and everything went grey. Now Daniel is all grown-book full of wild up and broken. And when he turns Apex Hides up at Sherry's door, it's almost as if they've all come home again. But there's still one missing. Where is Eve? And what. exactly, is her story? FLAMINGO is a novel about the

power of love, welcome and acceptance. It's a celebration of kindness, of tenderness. Set in 2018 and the 80s. it's a song for the broken-hearted ultimately, a novel grown from gratitude, and a hope. the Hurt Penguin From the repurposed rubble of salvagepunk to undead hordes banging on shopping mall

zones to teeming plagued cities, Combined and Uneven Apocalypse grapples with the apocalyptic fantasies of our collapsing era. Moving through the films, political tendencies. and recurrent crises of late capitalism, Evan Calder Williams paints a black toned portrait of the dream and nightmare images of a

doors, from

empty waste

global order gone very, very wrong. Situating itself in the defaulting financial markets of the present, Combined and Uneven Apocalypse glances back toward a messy history of zombies, car wrecks. tidal waves, extinction, trash heaps, labour, pandemics, wolves, cannibalism, and general nastiness that populate the underside of our cultural

imagination. Every age may dream the end of the world to follow, but these scattered nightmare figures are a skewed refraction of the normal hell of capitalism. The apocalypse isn''t something that will happen one day: it''s just the slow unveiling of the catastrophe we''ve been living through for centuries. Against any

fantasies of progress, return, or re conciliation, Williams launches a loathing critique of the bleak present and offers a graveside smile for our necessary battles to come. The Distance Home Anchor Ms. Hempel Chronicles is a "deeply affecting" (Los Angeles Times) novel of a devoted young teacher finding her way Ms. Beatrice Hempel. teacher of seventh grade, is new—new to teaching, new to the school, newly

engaged, and newly bereft of her idiosyncratic father. Grappling awkwardly with her newness, she struggles to figure out the extraordinary what is expected of her in life and at work. Is it acceptable to introduce swear words into the English curriculum, enlist students to write their own report cards, or bring up personal experiences while teaching a sexeducation class? Sarah Shun-lien Bynum finds characters at their most vulnerable, then SIMPLE "A deeply explores those precarious moments in sharp, graceful prose. From this most innovative of young writers comes

another journey down the rabbit hole to the wonderland of after World War II. middle school, memory, daydreaming, and business of growing up. She Came to Slay Anchor "[Paula] Saunders skillfully illuminates how time heals certain wounds while deepening others. . . . A mediation of the violence of American ambition."—The New York Times Book **Review NAMED** ONE OF THE BEST **BOOKS OF THE** YEAR BY REAL involving portrait of the American postwar family" (Jennifer Egan) about sibling rivalry, dark secrets, and a young girl's struggle with

freedom and artistic desire In the years the bleak yet beautiful plains of South Dakota still embody all the contradictions—the ruggedness and the promise—of the old frontier. This is a place where you can eat strawberries from wild vines, where lightning reveals a boundless horizon. where descendants of white settlers and native Indians continue to collide. and where, for most, there are limited options. René shares a home, a family, and a passion for dance with her older brother, Leon. Yet for all they have in common, their lives are on remarkably different paths. In contrast to René, a born spitfire, Leon is a gentle soul.

The only boy in their ballet class. Leon silently endures often brutal teasing. Meanwhile, René excels at everything she touches, basking in the delighted gaze of their father, whom Leon seems to disappoint no matter how hard he tries. As the years pass, René and Leon's parents fight with increasing frequency-and ferocity. Their father—a cattle broker—spends more time on the road, his sporadic homecomings both yearned for and dreaded by the children. And as René author's and Leon grow up, they grow apart. They grasp whatever they can to stay afloat—a word of praise, a grandmother's outstretched hand, the ages . . . one of the seductive attention of best books I've read

a stranger—as René works to save herself. crossing the border into a larger, more hopeful world, while Leon embarks on a path of despair and self-destruction. Tender, searing, and unforgettable, The Distance Home is a profoundly American story spanning decades—a tale of haves and have-nots. of how our ideas of winning and losing, success and failure. lead us inevitably into various problems with of The empathy and caring for one another. It's a portrait of beauty and brutality in which the compassionate narration allows us to sympathize, in turn, with everyone involved. "A riveting family saga for the

in years."—Mary Karr "Saunders' debut is an exquisite, searing portrait of family and of people coping with whatever life throws at them while trying to keep close to one another."-Booklist (starred review) Sarahland Waveland Press This New York Times Notable Book from the two-time Pulitzer Prizewinning author Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys is a brisk, comic tour de force about identity, history, and the adhesive bandage industry. The town of

Winthrop has decided it needs a new name. The resident software millionaire wants new and subtler to call it New Prospera; the mayor wants to return to the original choice of the founding black settlers: and the town 's aristocracy sees Unlimited no reason to change the name NATIONAL at all. What they need, they realize, is a nomenclature consultant. And, it turns out, the consultant needs Railroad and them. But in a culture overwhelmed by marketing, the name is everything and

our hero's efforts may result in not just a new name for the town but a truth about it as well. Look for Colson Whitehead 's bestselling new novel, Harlem Shuffle! Coconut Catapult BESTSELLER time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Underground The Nickel Boys: A pandemic has devastated the planet, sorting humanity into

two types: the uninfected and the infected, the living and the living dead. • "One of the best books of the year." —Esquire After the worst of the plague is over, armed forces stationed in Chinatown 's Fort Wonton have successfully reclaimed the island south of From the two- Canal Street—aka Zone One. Mark Spitz is a member of one of the threeperson civilian sweeper units tasked with clearing lower Manhattan of the remaining feral zombies. Zone

One unfolds over shambling glory. three surreal days in which Spitz is occupied new novel, with the mundane mission of straggler removal, the rigors of Post-**Apocalyptic** Stress Disorder (PASD), and the impossible task of coming to terms with a fallen world. And and sumptuously then things start to go terribly wrong... At once a chilling horror story and a literary novel by a contemporary master, Zone One is a dazzling portrait of modern civilization in all its wretched,

Look for Colson Whitehead 's Crook Manifesto. coming soon! Flamingo Anchor From the bestselling, twotime Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys, a novel that is "funny and wise written" (Jonathan Franzen. The New York Times Book Review). Colson Whitehead 's triumphant novel is on one level a multifaceted retelling of the story of John Henry, the black steel-driver who

died outracing a machine designed to replace him. On another level it 's the story of a disaffected. middle-aged black iournalist on a mission to set a record for junketeering who attends the annual John Henry Days festival. It is also a high-velocity thrill ride through the tunnel where American legend gives way to American pop culture, replete with p. r. flacks, stamp collectors, blues men, and tu rn-of-the-century song pluggers. John Henry Days is an acrobatic, intellectually dazzling, and laugh-out-loud funny book that will be read and

talked about for years to come. Look for Colson Whitehead 's new novel, Crook Manifesto, coming soon! Elements of Fiction Little, Brown The renowned novelist and author of This Year You Write a Novel shares a "compact but insight-rich " guide to fiction writing (Publishers Weekly). In his essential writing guide, This Year You Write Your Novel, Walter Mosley supplied aspiring writers with the basic tools to write a novel in one year. In this

complementary follow up, Mosley guides the writer through the elements of not just any fiction writing, but the kind of writing that transcends convention and truly stands out. For writers who want to approach the genius of Melville. Dickens, or Twain. The Elements of Fiction is a must-examples that read. Mosley demonstrates how to master fiction 's most essential elements: character and char-acter development,

plot and story, voice and narrative, context and description, and more. The result is a vivid depiction of the writing process. from the blank page to the first draft to rewriting, and rewriting again. Throughout, The Elements of Fiction is enriched by brilliant demonstrative Mosley himself has written here for the first time. What Are You Going Through Courier Corporation "One of the

cleverest, most accessibly indepth film books released this year . . . a smart-ass novelist exploring a cheesy-cheeky '80s sci-fi flick, "-Hartford Advocate Deep Focus is a series of film books with paranoid satire in a fresh approach. Take the smartest, liveliest associational writers in contemporary letters and let them loose on the human masks off most vital and popular corners of overlords of cinema history: midnight movies, the New Hollywood of the sixties and seventies, film noir, screwball comedies. international cult classics, and more Live provides a . . . Kicking off the series is

Jonathan Lethem's take on subversive They Live, John Carpenter's 1988 Sag Harbor classic amalgam of deliberate Bmovie, sci-fi, horror, anti-Yuppie agitprop. Lethem exfoliates Carpenter's a series of penetrating, freeforays into the context of a story that peels the the ghoulish capitalism. Taking into consideration classic Hollywood cinema and science fiction—as well as popular music and contemporary art and theory—They wholly original perspective on

classic. Random House WINNER OF THE 2021 TORONTO **BOOK AWARD** NOMINATED FOR THE 2022 **EVERGREEN** AWARD From the internationally bestselling and Gillershortlisted author of The Disappeared, an astounding, poetic novel about war and loss, suffering and courage, and the strength of

Carpenter's

women through war—and to it all. It 's been reconnect with eleven years since Gota has seen Kosmos. yet she still finds herself fantasizing about their intimate year together in Paris. Now it 's introduces Gota women and 1999 and. working as a journalist, she hears about a film festival in Sarajevo, where she knows Kosmos will be with his theatre company. She takes the assignment to investigate the fallout of the Bosnian

the love of her life. But when they are reunited, she finds a man, and a country, altered beyond recognition. Kosmos to Edina, the woman he has always loved. While Gota treads the precarious terrain of her evolving connection to Kosmos, she and Edina forge forever. an unexpected bond. A lawyer and a force to be reckoned with, Edina

exposes the sexual violence that she and thousands of others survived in the war. Before long, Gota finds her life entwined with the community of travels with them to The Hague to confront their abusers. The events she covers-and the stories she hears—will change her life Written in Kim Echlin's masterfully luminescent prose, Speak,

Silence weaves together the experiences of a resilient sisterhood and tells the story of the real-life trial that would come to shape history. In a he art-wrenching tale of suffering and loss and a beautiful illustration of power and love, books complicate Echlin explores overarching what it means to speak out against the very people who would do anything to silence you. The Contemporary African American

Novel Citadel Press An inviting point of entrance into the truth seeking. genre defying novels of the award-winning author In 2020 Colson Whitehead became the youngest recipient of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. Although Whitehead's widely divergent categorization, Derek C. Maus argues that they are linked by their skepticism toward the ostensible wisdom inherited from past generations and the various forms of "stories" that

transmit it. Whitehead, best known for his Pulitzer Prize winning novel The Underground Railroad, bids readers to accompany him on challenging, often open-ended literary excursions designed to reexamine—and frequently defy—accepted notions of truth. Understanding Colson Whitehead unravels the parallel structures found within Whitehead's books from his 1999 debut The Intuitionist through 2019's The Nickel Boys, for which he won his second Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. By first

imitating and then Whitehead's violating their conventions. Whitehead attempts to transcend the limits of the formulas of the genres in which he seems to write. Whitehead similarly tests subject matter, again imitating and then satirizing apocalypse, the various forms of conventional wisdom as a means of calling out unexamined. ignored, or malevolent aspects of American culture, themselves, In-Although it is only addition to one of many subjects that Whitehead addresses, race is traditions, often central to his work. It serves as a prime toward other example of

his readers into revisiting their meanings and values. By upending the literary formulas of the detective novel, the heroic folktale, the coming-of-age story, the zombie slave narrative. and historical fiction. Whitehead reveals the flaws and shortcomings by which Americans have defined evoking such explicitly literary storytelling Whitehead also directs attention interrelated

historical and attempt to prompt cultural processes that influence how race, class. assumptions about gender, education, social status, and other categories of identity determine what an individual supposedly can and cannot do. The Colossus of New York Groundwood Books Ltd "Queer, dirty, insightful, and so funny" (Andrea Lawlor), this coyly revolutionary debut story collection imagines new origins and futures for its cast of unforgettable p

rotagonists--al most all of whom are named Sarah. NAMED A MOST ANTICIPATED traditional BOOK OF 2021 stories have BY THE MILLIONS * OPRAH MAGAZINE * LAMBDA LITERARY * **ELECTRIC** LITERATURE * REFINERY29 * COSMO * THE ADVOCATE * AIMA * **PAPERBACK** PARIS * WRITE OR DIE Jewish college TRIBE * READS RAINBOW In Sarahland, Sam pursuit of an

Cohen brilliantly and often hilariously explores the ways in which failed us, both demanding and thrillingly providing for its cast of Sarahs new origin stories, new ways to love the planet and those inhabiting it, and new possibilities for life itself. In one story, a consents to a form-life in

MRS degree and is swept into a culture of normalized sexual violence. Another reveals a version of Sarah finding pleasure--and a new set of problems--by playing dead for a wealthy necrophiliac. A Buffy-loving Sarah uses fan fiction to work through romantic obsession. As the collection progresses, Sarah passively Cohen explodes this search for self, insisting that we have

more to resist and repair than our own personal narratives. Readers witness as the ever-evolving "Sarah" gets recast: as a bible-era trans woman, an aging lesbian literally growing roots, a being who transcends the earth as we know it. While Cohen presents a world that will clearly someday end, "Sarah" will continue. In each Sarah's refusal to adhere to a

single narrative, promise, and the she potentially builds a better home for us all. a place to live that demands no fixity of self, no plague of consumerism. no bodily compromise, a place called Sarahland The Letter Home Anchor In a dazzlingly original work of nonfiction, the two time Pulitzer-Prize winning author of The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys recreates the exuberance. the chaos, the

heartbreak of New York. Here is a literary love song that will entrance anyone who has lived in—or spent time-in the greatest of American cities A masterful evocation of the city that never sleeps, The Colossus of New York captures the city 's inner and outer landscapes in a series of vignettes, meditations, and personal memories. Colson Whitehead conveys with almost uncanny immediacy the

feelings and thoughts of longtime residents and of newcomers who dream of making it their home; of those who have conquered its challenges; and of those who struggle against its cruelties. Whitehead's style is as multilayered and commuting. The multifarious as New York itself: Switching from third person, to first person, to second person, he weaves individual voices into a jazzy musical composition that directly to you, perfectly reflects the way we experience

the city. There is Colossus of New a funny, knowing York is a riff on what it feels like to arrive in New York for the first Ambitious in time; a lyrical meditation on how the city is transformed by an unexpected rain shower: and York and the a wrv look at the ideal ferocious battle that is plaintive notes dispossessed resound in one passage, while another captures coming soon! those magical moments when the city seems to be talking inviting you to become one with PEOPLE. AND its rhythms. The O, THE OPRAH

remarkable portrait of life in the big city. scope, gemlike in its details, it is at once an unparalleled tribute to New introduction to one of the most exciting writers working today. of the lonely and Look for Colson Whitehead 's new novel. Crook Manifesto. **Abundance** Farrar, Straus and Giroux NAMED A BEST BOOK OF 2020 BY NPR.

MAGAZINE A **NEW YORK** TIMES CRITICS ' TOP **BOOK OF 2020** NATIONAL **BESTSELLER** " As good as Theencounters she

meaning of life and death, and the value of companionship A themselves and woman describes a series of

common need: the urge to talk about to have an audience to their experiences. The narrator

Friend, if not better." —The New York Times ordinary course " Impossible to put down . . . leavened with wit and tenderness." —People "I was unsure how to dazed by the novel 's grace." guests, a —The New

selling, National

Award – winning

voice to a story

author of The

Friend brings

her singular

about the

Book

has with various people in the of her life: an ex as a passive she runs into by chance at a public forum, an Airbnb owner interact with her her into an stranger who Yorker The New seeks help

elderly mother,

terminal cancer.

In each of these

woman finds a

a friend of her

youth now

people the

orchestrates this chorus of voices for the most part listener, until one of them makes an extraordinary request, drawing intense and transformative experience of her own. In What Are You Going Through, Nunez brings hospitalized with wisdom, humor, and insight to a novel about human connection and

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York Times – bestcomforting his

the changing nature of relationships in our times. A surprising story about empathy and the unusual ways one person can help another through hardship, her book offers a moving and provocative portrait of the way we live now. Colson Whitehead Anchor Firsthand accounts of escapes from slavery in the American South include narratives by Frederick Douglass,

Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman as well murdered in as lesserknown travelers of the village of Underground Railroad Bower Lodge Penguin 'Compelling . . . this is a fable for the times ahead that feels essential' Irish Times 'Stunning, insightful, deeply humane prose . . . Fisher indicts all of us yet still offers hope that we may change the ending of this story'

Olivia Sudjic A young man is found brutally the middle of the snowed-in Wivenhoe. Over his body stands another man, axe in hand. The gathered villagers must deal with the consequences of an act that no-one tried to stop. WIVENHOE is a haunting novel set in an alternate present, in a world that is slowly waking up to the fact that it is living

through an environmental disaster. Taking place over twentyfour hours and told through the voices of a mother and her adult son, we see how one small community reacts to social Candlewick breakdown and Press isolation. Samuel Fisher imagines a world, not unlike our own. struck down and on the edge embrace aging of survival. Tense. poignant, and set against a dramatic landscape,

WIVENHOE asks the question: if society as we know it is lost, what would we strive to save? At what point will we admit complicity in our own destruction? The Intuitionist women's hair The beloved New York Times columnist "inspires women to and look at it with a new sense of hope" in this lively, fascinating, eye-opening

look at women and aging in America (Parade Magazine). "You're not getting older, you're getting better," or so promised the famous 1970's ad -- for dve. Americans have always had a complicated relationship with aging: embrace it, deny it, defer it -- and women have been on the front lines of the battle. willingly or not. In her lively social history

of American women and aging, acclaimed New York Times columnist Gail Collins illustrates the ways in which age is an arbitrary concept that has swung back celebrated, to and forth over the centuries. From Plymouth president, Rock (when a woman was considered marriageable if "civil and under fifty years of age"), to a few generations later, when they were quietly retired to elderdom

once they had passed the optimum age for reproduction, to recent decades when freedom from striving in the workplace and caretaking at home is often the first female nominee for American attitudes towards age have been a moving target. Gail Collins gives women reason to expect the best of their golden vears. The Noble Hustle

Dialogue Books This debut novel by the two time Pulitzer Prizewinning author of The Underground Railroad and The Nickel Boys wowed critics and readers everywhere and marked the debut of an important American writer. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS 's The Great American Read. It is a time of calamity in a major metropolitan city's Department of Elevator Inspectors, and Lila Mae Watson. the first black female elevator inspector in the history of the department, is at the center of it.

There are two warring factions within the department: the Empiricists, who work by the book and dutifully check for striations on the winch cable and such: and the Intuitionists, who are simply able to Intuitionism's enter the elevator founder. James cab in question, meditate, and intuit any defects. stir. The Lila Mae is an Intuitionist and, it just so happens, has the highest accuracy rate in the entire department. But when an elevator in a new city building goes into total freefall on Lila Mae's watch. chaos ensues. It's nineteenth an election year in century. When the Elevator Guild, and the

good-old-boy Empiricists would crash, she than to assign the in the search for blame to an Intuitionist, But Lila Mae is never wrong. The sudden appearance of excerpts from the forever. Look for lost notebooks of Fulton, has also caused quite a notebooks describe Fulton's work on the "black box." a perfect elevator that could reinvent the city as radically as the interpretive first passenger elevator did when than 150 novels patented by Elisha written by Otis in the Lila Mae goes underground to

investigate the love nothing more becomes involved the portions of the notebooks that are still missing and uncovers a secret that will change her life Colson Whitehead 's new novel. Crook Manifesto, coming soon! Wivenhoe Anchor In 1987 Bernard W. Bell published "The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition", a comprehensive history of more African Americans from 1853 to 1983. This is a sequel and companion to

the earlier work, expanding the coverage to 2001. Zone One National Geographic **Books** "Bessie Head' short stories have an extraordinary simplicity and breadth of vision." heralded a review in The Tribune after publication of Head 's first collection of short stories. The Collector of Treasures. Regarded today as one of Africa's bestknown woman writers in English, Head draws on the

rich oral tradition of southern Africa and masterfully applies storytelling's language and Simagery. Carefully sequenced, the anthology gives special focus to village people from independen ce-era Botswana and the status. position, and plight of African women.