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## Blame Michelle Huneven

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Disorientation Macmillan

Sexy, surprising, and subversively wise, *Babyji* is the story of Anamika Sharma, a spirited student growing up in Delhi. At school she is an ace at quantum physics. At home she sneaks off to her parents' scooter garage to read the *Kamasutra*. Before long she has seduced an elegant older divorcée and the family servant, and has caught the eye of a classmate coveted by all the boys. With the world of adulthood dancing before her, Anamika confronts questions that would test someone twice her age. Ebullient, unfettered, and introducing one of the most charming heroines in contemporary fiction, *Babyji* is irresistible.

King Hereafter Vintage

Paula Priamos' detective noir memoir investigates a daughter's love for a father who drinks, hustles, and rages through life.

If You're Not Yet Like Me Penguin

*Jamesland*, the buoyant second novel by Michelle Huneven, critically acclaimed author of *Round Rock*, is a witty, sophisticated, and deeply humane comedy of unlikely redemption. When thirty-three-year-old Alice Black discovers a deer in her dining room after fighting with her boyfriend, she wonders if she's going crazy. Pete Ross, forty-six, knows he's crazy. He's wrecked his marriage, slashed his wrists, and done time in a psychiatric institution, and now he's being cared for by his mother, who's a nun. Forty-five-year-old Helen Harland, a spirited Unitarian Universalist minister, is being driven crazy by her hostile church administration. Living in Los Feliz, California, the three meet at Helen's Wednesday midweek services. Though initially incompatible, the sheer force of Helen's idiosyncratic ministering (her "variety show of religious experience") – paired with Alice's illustrious ancestor William James – proves to be a catalyst for friendship and a kind of transcendence. Generous and compassionate, Michelle Huneven delivers a joyful new novel about love, faith, and a few wayward souls waiting for life to begin.

Everyone Knows How Much I Love You Picador

A wonderfully provocative and appealing novel, from the much-loved author of *Anywhere But Here* and *A Regular Guy*, her first in ten years. It tells the story of two women whose lives entwine and unfold behind the glittery surface of Hollywood. Claire, a

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composer and a new mother, comes to LA so her husband can follow his passion for writing television comedy. Suddenly the marriage—once a genuine 50/50 arrangement—changes, with Paul working long hours and Claire left at home with a baby, William, whom she adores but has no idea how to care for. Lola, a fifty-two-year-old mother of five who is working in America to pay for her own children's higher education back in the Philippines, becomes their nanny. Lola stabilizes the rocky household and soon other parents try to lure her away. What she sacrifices to stay with Claire and "Williamo" remains her own closely guarded secret. In a novel that turns satirical and heartbreaking, where mothers' modern ideas are given practical overhauls by nannies, we meet Lola's vast network of fellow caregivers, each with her own story to tell. We see the upstairs competition for the best nanny and the downstairs competition for the best deal, and are forced to ask whether it is possible to buy love for our children and what that transaction costs us all. We look into two contemporary marriages—one in America and one in the Philippines—and witness their endangerment, despite the best of intentions. My Hollywood is a tender, witty, and resonant novel that provides the profound pleasures readers have come to expect from Mona Simpson, here writing at the height of her powers.

100 Sideways Miles Picador

"A dark, crooked beauty that fulfills all the promise of *White Oleander* and confirms that Janet Fitch is an artist of the very highest order."  
--Los Angeles Times Book Review  
Josie Tyrell, art model, runaway, and denizen of LA's rock scene finds a chance at real love with Michael

Faraday, a Harvard dropout and son of a renowned pianist. But when she receives a call from the coroner, asking her to identify her lover's body, her bright dreams all turn to black. As Josie struggles to understand Michael's death and to hold onto the world they shared, she is both attracted to and repelled by his pianist mother, Meredith, who blames Josie for her son's torment. Soon the two women are drawn into a twisted relationship that reflects equal parts distrust and blind need. With the luxurious prose and fever pitch intensity that are her hallmarks, Janet Fitch weaves a spellbinding tale of love, betrayal, and the possibility of transcendence. "Lushly written, dramatically plotted. . . Fitch's Los Angeles is so real it breathes." --Atlantic Monthly "There is nothing less than a stellar sentence in this novel. Fitch's emotional honesty recalls the work of Joyce Carol Oates, her strychnine sentences the prose of Paula Fox." --Cleveland Plain Dealer "A page-turning psychodrama. . . Fitch's prose penetrates the inner lives of [her characters] with immediacy and bite." --Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Fitch wonderfully captures the abrasive appeal of punk music, the bohemian, sometimes squalid lifestyle, the performers, the drugs, the alienation. This is crackling fresh stuff you don't read every day." --USA Today "In dysfunctional family narratives, Fitch is to fiction what Eugene O'Neill is to drama." --Chicago Sun-Times "Riveting. . . An uncommonly accomplished page-turner." --Elle Nevada Pantheon

SIXTEEN LITERARY LUMINARIES ON THE CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT OF BEING CHILDLESS BY CHOICE, COLLECTED IN ONE FASCINATING ANTHOLOGY One of the main topics of cultural conversation during the last decade was the supposed "fertility crisis," and whether modern women could figure out a way to have it all—a successful, demanding career and the required 2.3 children—before their biological clock stopped ticking. Now,

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however, conversation has turned to whether it's necessary to have it all (see Anne-Marie Slaughter) or, perhaps more controversial, whether children are really a requirement for a fulfilling life. The idea that some women and men prefer not to have children is often met with sharp criticism and incredulity by the public and mainstream media. In this provocative and controversial collection of essays, curated by writer Meghan Daum, sixteen acclaimed writers explain why they have chosen to eschew parenthood. Contributors include Lionel Shriver, Sigrid Nunez, Kate Christensen, Elliott Holt, Geoff Dyer, and Tim Kreider, among others, who will give a unique perspective on the overwhelming cultural pressure of parenthood. *Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed* makes a thoughtful and passionate case for why parenthood is not the only path in life, taking our parent-centric, kid-fixated, baby-bump-patrolling culture to task in the process. What emerges is a more nuanced, diverse view of what it means to live a full, satisfying life.

#### Marlena Sarah Crichton Books

Finn Easton, sixteen and epileptic, struggles to feel like more than just a character in his father's cult-classic novels with the help of his best friend, Cade Hernandez, and first love, Julia, until Julia moves away.

#### The Privileges Algonquin Books

Michelle Huneven, Richard Russo once wrote, is "a writer of extraordinary and thrilling talent." That talent explodes with her third book, *Blame*, a spellbinding novel of guilt and love, family and shame, sobriety and the lack of it, and the moral ambiguities that ensnare us all. The story: Patsy MacLemoore, a history professor in her late twenties with a brand-new Ph.D. from Berkeley and a wild streak, wakes up in jail—yet again—after another epic alcoholic blackout. "Okay, what'd I do?" she asks her lawyer and jailers. "I really don't remember." She adds, jokingly: "Did I kill someone?" In fact, two Jehovah's Witnesses, a mother and daughter, are

dead, run over in Patsy's driveway. Patsy, who was driving with a revoked license, will spend the rest of her life—in prison, getting sober, finding a new community (and a husband) in AA—trying to atone for this unpardonable act. Then, decades later, another unimaginable piece of information turns up. For the reader, it is an electrifying moment, a joyous, fall-off-the-couch-with-surprise moment. For Patsy, it is more complicated. Blame must be reapportioned, her life reassessed. What does it mean that her life has been based on wrong assumptions? What can she cleave to? What must be relinquished? When Huneven's first novel, *Round Rock*, was published, Valerie Miner, in the Los Angeles Times Book Review, celebrated Huneven's "moral nerve, sharp wit and uncommon generosity." The same spirit electrifies *Blame*. The novel crackles with life—and, like life, can leave you breathless.

#### Paint It Black Vintage

An occult Nazi program is threatened by a philosopher's letter to a friend in this "stunning work, full of mystery and strange tenderness" (Dan Chaon). In the waning days of World War II, Nazi Germany is coming apart at the seams. Yet the death machine continues to churn. The Third Reich's obsession with the astral plane has led to the formation of an underground compound of scribes—translators charged with answering letters addressed to concentration camp inmates who are most likely dead. Into this covert compound comes a letter written by eminent philosopher Martin Heidegger to his optometrist, a prisoner of Auschwitz. Goebbels himself has demanded a response. But the mere presence of Heidegger's words—one simple letter in a place filled with letters—sparks a series of events that will ultimately threaten the safety of the entire compound. With this debut novel that is part thriller and part meditation on how the dead are remembered—and with threads of Heidegger's philosophy woven throughout—Thaisa Frank deftly reconstructs the landscape of Nazi Germany in "a spellbinding, innovative, intellectually compelling tour – de – force" (Michelle Huneven).  
Heidegger's Glasses Simon and Schuster

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FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE CHICAGO TRIBUNE FAVORITE FICTION OF THE YEAR O, THE OPRAH MAGAZINE TEN TERRIFIC READS OF THE YEAR A WASHINGTON POST BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR A KANSAS CITY STAR 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR Patsy MacLemoore, a twenty-eight-year-old history professor with a brand-new Ph.D. and a wild streak, wakes up in jail—yet again—after another epic alcoholic blackout. This time, though, a mother and daughter are dead, run over in Patsy's driveway. Patsy will the next decades of her life atoning for this unpardonable act. She goes to prison, sobers up, marries a much older man she meets in AA, and makes ongoing amends to her victims' family. Then, another piece of news turns up, casting her crime, and her life, in a different and unexpected light. Brilliant, morally complex, and often funny, *Blame* is a breathtaking story of contrition and what it takes to rebuild a life from the bottom up. Tokyo Ueno Station Harper Collins

We first met Avery in two of the stories featured in Dana Johnson's award – winning collection *Break Any Woman Down*. As a young girl, she and her family escape the violent streets of Los Angeles to a more gentrified existence in suburban West Covina. This average life, filled with school, trips to 7 – Eleven to gawk at Tiger Beat magazine, and family outings to Dodger Stadium, is soon interrupted by a past she cannot escape, personified in the guise of her violent cousin Keith. When Keith moves in with her family, he triggers a series of events that will follow Avery throughout her life: to her studies at USC, to her burgeoning career as a painter and artist, and into her relationship with a wealthy Italian who sequesters her in his glass – walled house in the Hollywood Hills. The past will intrude upon Avery's first gallery show, proving her mother's adage: Every goodbye aint gone. The dual – narrative of *Elsewhere, California* illustrates the complicated history of African Americans across the rolling basin of Los Angeles. *Leaving Tinkertown* Europa Editions  
Second in the *Old Filth* trilogy. “ An astute, subtle depiction of marriage . . . absolutely

wonderful ” (The Washington Post). Acclaimed as Jane Gardam ’ s masterpiece, *Old Filth* is a lyrical novel that recalls the fully lived life of Sir Edward Feathers. The *Man in the Wooden Hat* is the history of his marriage told from the perspective of his wife, Betty, a character as vivid and enchanting as *Filth* himself. They met in Hong Kong after the war. Betty had spent the duration in a Japanese internment camp. *Filth* was already a successful barrister, handsome, fast becoming rich, in need of a wife but unaccustomed to romance. A perfect English couple of the late 1940s. As a portrait of a marriage, with all the bittersweet secrets and surprising fulfillment of the fifty-year union of two remarkable people, *The Man in the Wooden Hat* is a triumph. Fiction of a very high order from a great novelist working at the pinnacle of her considerable power, it will be read and loved and recommended by all the many thousands of readers who found its predecessor, *Old Filth*, so compelling and thoroughly satisfying. “ Funny and affecting . . . It ’ s remarkable. ” —The New York Times Book Review “ The latest occasion to celebrate Gardam . . . [a] superb novel. ” —Maureen Corrigan, NPR “ Told with quintessentially British humor . . . Gardam ’ s prose is witty and precise. ” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) “ It ’ s magnificent. . . . Funny, intelligent and immensely moving. ” —Kirkus Reviews

*Blame* MCD x FSG Originals

A Simon & Schuster eBook. Simon & Schuster has a great book for every reader.

*Elsewhere, California* Penguin

Working on her uninspiring dissertation in her parent's shabby 1980s Sierras home, economics PhD candidate Cressida Hartley is drawn into the drama of the local mountain community before falling victim to her own perilous reasoning. By the award-winning author of *Blame*. 30,000 first printing.

[Heading Out to Wonderful](#) Prospect Park Books

A New York Times Best Seller A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Betty Weissmann has just been dumped by her husband of forty-eight years. Exiled from her

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elegant New York apartment by her husband's mistress, she and her two middle-aged daughters, Miranda and Annie, regroup in a run-down Westport, Connecticut, beach cottage. In Schine's playful and devoted homage to Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, the impulsive sister is Miranda, a literary agent entangled in a series of scandals, and the more pragmatic sister is Annie, a library director, who feels compelled to move in and watch over her capricious mother and sister. Schine's witty, wonderful novel *The Three Weissmanns of Westport* "is simply full of pleasure: the pleasure of reading, the pleasure of Austen, and the pleasure that the characters so rightly and humorously pursue....An absolute triumph" (*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*).

*The Man in the Wooden Hat* HMH

A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month"

Selection With hardly any notice, foolish and plain housekeeper Johanna flees her employer and sets off to find the man she's fallen in love with. Little does she know that her correspondence with him has been a complete fabrication, a cruel teenager's idea of a practical joke. So, who will Johanna find when she steps off her train with the household furniture in tow? Alice Munro is the universally celebrated master of the contemporary short story, the Chekhov of our time. Nowhere are her powers better on display than in this exquisitely crafted story exploring the wonderful and unexpected places where love, or the illusion of it, can lead. This selection is the title story of Munro's acclaimed collection, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* and the basis of the 2013 film, *Hateship Loveship*. An ebook short.

*Saint Everywhere* Catapult

From the author of *Refuge*, a magical novel about a young Iranian woman lifted from grief by her powerful imagination and love of Western culture. Growing up in a small rice-farming village in 1980s Iran, eleven-year-old Saba Hafezi and her twin sister,

Mahtab, are captivated by America. They keep lists of English words and collect illegal *Life* magazines, television shows, and rock music. So when her mother and sister disappear, leaving Saba and her father alone in Iran, Saba is certain that they have moved to America without her. But her parents have taught her that "all fate is written in the blood," and that twins will live the same life, even if separated by land and sea. As she grows up in the warmth and community of her local village, falls in and out of love, and struggles with the limited possibilities in post-revolutionary Iran, Saba envisions that there is another way for her story to unfold. Somewhere, it must be that her sister is living the Western version of this life. And where Saba's world has all the grit and brutality of real life under the new Islamic regime, her sister's experience gives her a freedom and control that Saba can only dream of. Filled with a colorful cast of characters and presented in a bewitching voice that mingles the rhythms of Eastern storytelling with modern Western prose, *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea* is a tale about memory and the importance of controlling one's own fate.

*The Three Weissmanns of Westport* Penguin

In this "tale of toxic friendship at its most riveting" (*People*), a young woman finds herself inexorably drawn to repeating the worst mistakes of her past. "Masterly, mendacious, and a total thrill ride . . . Not since a certain Mr. Ripley have I been so consumed in another's covetous desires." —Justin Torres, bestselling author of *We the Animals* At age thirty, Rose is fierce and smart, both self-aware and singularly blind to her power over others. After moving to New York, she is unexpectedly swallowed up by her past when she reunites with Lacie, the former best friend she betrayed in high school. Captivated once again by her old friend's strange charisma, Rose convinces Lacie to let her move in, and the two fall into an intense, uneasy friendship. While tutoring the offspring of Manhattan's wealthy elite, Rose works on a novel she keeps secret—because it stars Lacie and details the

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betrayal that almost turned deadly. But the difference between fiction and fact, past and present, begins to blur, and Rose soon finds herself increasingly drawn to Lacie ' s boyfriend, exerting a sexual power she barely understands she possesses, and playing a risky game that threatens to repeat the worst moments of her and Lacie ' s lives. Sharp-witted and wickedly addictive, *Everyone Knows How Much I Love You* is a uniquely dark entry into the canon of psychologically rich novels of friendship, compulsive behavior, and the dangerous reverberations of our actions, both large and small.

#### Louisa Meets Bear Vintage

“ For anyone who wants to understand how the African economy really works, *The Bright Continent* is a good place to start ” (Reuters). Dayo Olopade knew from personal experience that Western news reports on conflict, disease, and poverty obscure the true story of modern Africa. And so she crossed sub-Saharan Africa to document how ordinary people deal with their daily challenges. She found what cable news ignores: a continent of ambitious reformers and young social entrepreneurs driven by *kanju*—creativity born of African difficulty. It ' s a trait found in pioneers like Kenneth Nnebue, who turned cheap VHS tapes into the multimillion-dollar film industry Nollywood. Or Ushahidi, a technology collective that crowdsources citizen activism and disaster relief. A shining counterpoint to conventional wisdom, *The Bright Continent* rewrites Africa ' s challenges as opportunities to innovate, and celebrates a history of doing more with less as a powerful model for the rest of the world. “ [An] upbeat study of development in Africa . . . The book is written more in wonder at African ingenuity than in anger at foreign incomprehension. ” —The New Yorker “ A hopeful narrative about a continent on the rise. ”

—The New York Times Book Review

#### Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed UNM

#### Press

Linked stories exploring the dark heart of the American family: “ Electrifying, daring . . . sure to appeal to fans of Karen Russell and Lorrie Moore ” (Booklist, starred review). A St. Louis Post-Dispatch Best Book of the Year The Bowmans are declining Texas gentry, heirs to an airline fortune, surrounded by a patriarch ' s stuffed trophies and lost dreams. They will each be haunted by the past as they strive to escape its force. The Fosters are diplomats ' kids who might as well be orphans. Jill and Maizie grow up privileged amid poverty, powerless to change the lives of those around them and uncertain whether they have the ability to change their own. The Guzmans have moved between Colombia and the United States, each generation seeking opportunity for the next, only to find that the American dream can be as crushing as it is elusive. From the tense territory of a sagging, grand porch in Texas to a gated community in Thailand to a lonely apartment in nondescript suburbia, these wry, dark stories unwind the lives of three families as they navigate the ever-shifting landscapes of the American middle class. “ No one is safe, Parker reminds us, especially within the family circle—but one ' s chosen family can also offer salvation. . . . The stories, like the mounted heads in the Bowmans ' trophy room, rivet the gaze, demand that readers recognize themselves in those glassy eyes—and then become disconcertingly alive. ” —The New York Times Book Review