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# Crooked Letter Tom Franklin

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Chase Us St. Martin's  
Press  
In a country ruled by  
fear, no one is innocent.  
Stalin's Soviet Union is  
an official paradise,  
where citizens live free

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from crime and fear only one thing: the all-powerful state. Defending this system is idealistic security officer Leo Demidov, a war hero who believes in the iron fist of the law. But when a murderer starts to kill at will and Leo dares to investigate, the State's obedient servant finds himself demoted and exiled. Now, with only his wife at his side, Leo must fight to uncover shocking truths about a

killer-and a country where "crime" doesn't exist.

How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe (Enhanced Edition) Simon and Schuster

Presents an anthology of short fiction focusing on the gritty side of life in the South.

**Passage to Juneau** Soho Press

Saturated in Southern ambiance and written in the vein of other literary bestsellers like Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* and Tom Franklin's *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter*, Julie

Cantrell's New York Times bestselling *Into the Free* that will sweep you away long after the novel ends. In Depression-era Mississippi, Millie Reynolds longs to escape the madness that marks her world. With an abusive father and a "nothing mama," she struggles to find a place where she really belongs. For answers, Millie turns to the Gypsies who caravan through town each spring. The travelers lead Millie to a key that unlocks generations of shocking family secrets. When tragedy strikes, the

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mysterious contents of the box give Millie the tools she needs to break her family's longstanding cycle of madness and abuse. Through it all, Millie experiences the thrill of first love while fighting to trust the God she believes has abandoned her. With the power of forgiveness, can she finally make her way into the free? Millie is just a girl. But she's the only one strong enough to break the family cycle. "Gritty, compelling, and beautifully told, *Into the Free* will take you into a coming-of-age

story filled with heartrending hardship and luminous hope. Julie Cantrell is a writer to watch!" —Lisa Wingate, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours* "Readers will fall in love with Millie Reynolds, girl with one eye on the heavens and the other on the savages that occupy our world . . . a searing tale of heartache, faith, forgiveness, and doubt set amid gypsies, angels, addicts, asylums, roughnecks, and rodeo hands." —Neil White, author of *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* "A lyrical, moving,

haunting, wise, brutal, warmhearted, and ultimately freeing and inspiring coming-of-age tale told with poetic honesty. . . . *Into the Free* swept me up and swept me along." —Jennifer Niven, bestselling author of *The Ice Master* *New York Times* bestseller *Can* be read as a stand-alone novel, although the story continues in *When Mountains Move* Book length: approximately 90,000 words Includes a reader's guide, author interview, and discussion questions for book clubs [Child 44](#) Anchor Canada

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It's 1911 and the townsfolk of Old Texas, Alabama, have had enough. Every Saturday night for a year, E. O. Smonk has been destroying property, killing livestock, seducing women, cheating and beating men, all from behind the twin barrels of his Winchester 45-70 caliber over-and-under rifle. Syphilitic, consumptive, gouty, and goitered—an expert with explosives and knives—Smonk hates horses, goats, and the Irish, and it's high time he was stopped. But capturing old Smonk won't be easy—and putting him on trial

could have shocking and disastrous consequences, considering the terrible secret the citizens of Old Texas are hiding.

### **The Lock Artist**

Pegasus Crime  
Thanks to Ugly Betty, we're finally ready to read a love story about a couple that isn't sleek, slick, tucked, pulled or plastic.

### **Dancing Naked at the Edge of Dawn**

Knopf  
A stunning debut reminiscent of the

beloved novels of John Hart and Tom Franklin, *A Land More Kind Than Home* is a mesmerizing literary thriller about the bond between two brothers and the evil they face in a small western North Carolina town. For a curious boy like Jess Hall, growing up in Marshall means trouble when your mother catches you spying on grown-

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ups. Adventurous andworld and Jess's. well. Told by three  
precocious, Jess is It's a wrenching resonant and  
enormously event that thrusts evocative  
protective of his Jess into an characters—Jess;  
older brother, adulthood for which Adelaide Lyle, the  
Christopher, a mute he's not prepared. town midwife and  
whom everyone calls While there is much moral conscience;  
Stump. Though their about the world and Clem Barefield,  
mother has warned that still confuses a sheriff with his  
them not to snoop, him, he now knows own painful past—A  
Stump can't help that a new Land More Kind Than  
sneaking a look at understanding can Home is a haunting  
something he's not bring not only a tale of courage in  
supposed to—an act growing danger and the face of cruelty  
that will have evil—but also the and the power of  
catastrophic possibility of love to overcome  
repercussions, freedom and the darkness that  
shattering both his deliverance as lives in us all.

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These are masterful portrayals, written with assurance and truth, and they show us the extraordinary promise of this remarkable first novel.

*Easy Beauty* Harper Collins

Jack Butler's *Jujitsu for Christ*—originally published in 1986—follows the adventures of Roger Wing, a white, born-again Christian and karate instructor who

opens a martial arts studio in downtown Jackson, Mississippi, during the tensest years of the civil rights era. Ambivalent about his religion and his region, he befriends the Gandys, an African American family—parents A. L. and Snower Mae, teenaged son T. J., daughter Eleanor Roosevelt, and youngest son Marcus—who has moved to Jackson from the Delta in hopes of greater opportunity for their children. As the political heat rises,

Roger and the Gandys find their lives intersecting in unexpected ways. Their often-hilarious interactions are told against the backdrop of Mississippi's racial trauma—Governor Ross Barnett's "I Love Mississippi" speech at the 1962 Ole Miss-Kentucky football game in Jackson; the riots at the University of Mississippi over James Meredith's admission; the fieldwork of Medgar Evers, the NAACP, and various activist

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organizations; and the lingering aura of Emmett Till's lynching. Drawing not only on William Faulkner's gothic-modernist Yoknapatawpha County but also on Edgar Rice Burroughs's high-adventure Martian pulps, Jujitsu for Christ powerfully illuminates vexed questions of racial identity and American history, revealing complexities and subtleties too often overlooked. It is a remarkable novel about the civil rights era, and how our memories of that era continue to shape our political landscape and to resonate in contemporary conversations about southern identity. But, mostly, it's very funny, in a mode that's experimental, playful, sexy, and disturbing all at once. Butler offers a new foreword to the novel. Brannon Costello, a scholar of contemporary southern literature and fan of Butler's work, writes an afterword that situates the novel in its historical context and in the southern literary canon.

**My Diary from the Edge of the World**  
Bantam  
A 2021 Hugo Award Finalist! A 2021 Locus Award Finalist! A 2020 ALA Booklist Top 10 SF/F Pick! A Booklist Editor's Choice Pick! Book Riot's Best Books of 2020 So Far! Named a Best of 2020 Pick for NPR |

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NYPL | Booklist | Bustle | Den of Geek In Upright Women Wanted, award-winning author Sarah Gailey reinvents the pulp Western with an explicitly antifascist, near-future story of queer identity. "That girl's got more wrong notions than a barn owl's got mean looks." Esther is a stowaway. She's

hidden herself away in the Librarian's book wagon in an attempt to escape the marriage her father has arranged for her—a marriage to the man who was previously engaged to her best friend. Her best friend who she was in love with. Her best friend who was just executed for possession of resistance propaganda. The

future American Southwest is full of bandits, fascists, and queer librarian spies on horseback trying to do the right thing. Praise for Upright Women Wanted "A good old-fashioned horse opera for the 22nd century. Gunslinger librarians of the apocalypse are on a mission to spread public health, decency, and the



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revolution."—Charles Stross "A dazzling neo-western adventure. . . . Gailey's gorgeous writing and authentic characters make this slim volume a pure delight."—Publisher's Weekly, starred review At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management

Software (DRM) applied.  
100 Most Popular Contemporary Mystery Authors Harper Collins  
The editors present a collection of the best mystery writing culled from a variety of sources.  
Grit Lit Bloomsbury Publishing USA  
Winner of the 2021 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Fiction A searing debut novel that follows three

generations—fractured by murder, seeking redemption—in fictional Pitchlynn, Mississippi. An Iraq War veteran turned small-town homemaker, Colleen works hard to keep her deployment behind her—until pregnancy brings her buried trauma to the surface. She hides her mounting anxiety from her husband, Derby, who is in turn preoccupied with the retrial of his father, Hare Hobbs,

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for a decades-old, civil rights-era murder. Colleen and Derby's community, including the descendants of the murder victim, still grapple with the fallout; corrections officer Doc and his wife, Jessica, have built their life in the shadow of this violent act. As a media frenzy builds, questions of Hare's guilt—and of the townfolks' potential complicity in the

crime—only magnify the ever-present tensions of class and race, tied always to the land and who can call it their own. At the center of these lingering questions is Wallis House, an antebellum estate that has recently passed to new hands. A brick-and-mortar representation of a town trying to erase its past, Wallis House is both the jewel of a gentrifying 2010s

Pitchlynn, and the scene of the 1964 murder itself. When fresh violence erupts on the property grounds, the battle between old Pitchlynn and new, between memorial site and moving on, forces a reckoning and irreparable loss. Some Go Home twists together personal and collective history, binding north Mississippi to northside Chicago, in a richly textured,

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explosive depiction of both the American South and our larger cultural legacy.

**A Land More Kind Than Home**

Random House

This enhanced eBook includes video, audio, photographic, and linked content, as well as a bonus short story. Hear TAMMY talk. Learn the origins of Minor Universe 31. See the TM-31. Take

a trip in it. Photos and illustrations appear as hyperlinked endnotes. Video and audio are embedded directly in text. \*Video and audio may not play on all readers. Check your user manual for details. National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award winner Charles Yu delivers his debut novel, a razor-sharp, ridiculously

funny, and utterly touching story of a son searching for his father . . . through quantum space-time. Minor Universe 31 is a vast story-space on the outskirts of fiction, where paradox fluctuates like the stock market, lonely sexbots beckon failed protagonists, and time travel is serious business.

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Every day, people get into time machines and try to do the one thing they should never do: change the past. That's where Charles Yu, time travel technician-part counselor, part gadget repair man-steps in. He helps save people from themselves. Literally. When he's not taking client calls or consoling his boss, Ed, a nonexistent Phil, who could really use an upgrade, Yu visits his mother (stuck in a one-hour cycle of time, she makes dinner over and over and over) and searches for his father, who invented time travel and then vanished. Accompanied by TAMMY, an operating system with low self-esteem, and but ontologically valid dog, Yu sets out, and back, and beyond, in order to find the one day where he and his father can meet in memory. He learns that the key may be found in a book he got from his future self. It's called *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*, and he's the author. And

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somewhere inside it is the information that could help him—in fact it may even save his life. Wildly new and adventurous, Yu's debut is certain to send shock waves of wonder through literary space-time.

*Northernmost* PONS  
Told in diary form by an irresistible heroine, this "heartfelt, bittersweet, and ever-so-clever coming-of-

age fantasy" (School Library Journal, starred review) named one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of the Year from the New York Times bestselling author of the *May Bird* trilogy sparkles with science, myth, magic, and the strange beauty of the everyday marvels we sometimes forget to notice. Spirited, restless Gracie Lockwood has lived in Cliffden, Maine, her whole life. She's a typical girl in an atypical world: one where sasquatches

helped to win the Civil War, where dragons glide over Route 1 on their way south for the winter (sometimes burning down a T.J. Maxx or an Applebee's along the way), where giants hide in caves near LA and mermaids hunt along the beaches, and where Dark Clouds come for people when they die. To Gracie it's all pretty ho-hum...until a Cloud comes looking for her little brother Sam, turning her small-town life upside down. Determined to protect Sam against

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all odds, her parents pack the family into a used Winnebago and set out on an epic search for a safe place that most people say doesn't exist: The Extraordinary World. It's rumored to lie at the ends of the earth, and no one has ever made it there and lived to tell the tale. To reach it, the Lockwoods will have to learn to believe in each other—and to trust that the world holds more possibilities than they've ever imagined. Forty Days and Forty

Nights Ecco Press

The bestselling, award-winning author of *Bad Land* takes us along the Inside Passage, 1,000 miles of often treacherous water, which he navigates solo in a 35-foot sailboat, offering captivating discourses on art, philosophy, and navigation and an unsparing narrative of personal loss. "A work of great beauty and inexhaustible fervor." —The Washington Post Book World With the same rigorous observation (natural

and social), invigorating stylishness, and encyclopedic learning that he brought to his National Book Award-winning *Bad Land*, Jonathan Raban conducts readers along the Inside Passage from Seattle to Juneau. But *Passage to Juneau* also traverses a gulf of centuries and cultures: the immeasurable divide between the Northwest's Indians and its first European explorers—between its embattled fishermen and loggers and its

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pampered new class.  
**Crooked** Lake Union  
Publishing  
An Edgar Award winner,  
Tom Franklin's  
Poachers collects ten  
stunning, bleak tales  
set in the woodlands,  
swamps and chemical  
plants along the  
Alabama River. Staking  
his claim as a fresh,  
original Southern  
voice, Tom Franklin's  
lyric, deceptively  
simple prose conjures  
a world where the  
default setting is  
violence, a world of  
hunting and fishing,  
gambling and losing,

drinking and poaching—a occasionally wax  
world most of us have sentimental about life  
never seen. In the in the impoverished  
chilling title novella, South, Franklin's style  
three wild boys is often as laconic and  
confront a mythic game simply spoken as his  
warden as mysterious characters' dialogue,  
and deadly as the river sometimes close to  
they haunt. And, as a Hemingway, but more  
weathered, hand-painted often akin to Denis  
sign reads: "Jesus is Johnson or Raymond  
not coming." This Carver in its resonant  
terrain isn't pretty, ordinariness."  
isn't for the weak of —Publishers Weekly  
heart, but in these Everyone Knows How  
deperate, lost people, Much I Love You  
Franklin somehow finds Hachette UK  
the moments of grace Finalist for the  
that make them what Pulitzer Prize in  
they so abundantly are: Memoir or  
human. "While he may Autobiography A New

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York Times Notable Book groundbreaking memoir rare congenital  
of 2022 \* Vulture's #1 about disability, condition called sacral  
Memoir of 2022 \* A motherhood, and the agenesis which affects  
Washington Post, Los search for a new way of both her stature and  
Angeles Times, USA seeing and being seen. gait, her pain is  
TODAY, Time, BuzzFeed, "I am in a bar in physical. But there is  
Publishers Weekly, Brooklyn, listening to also the pain of being  
Booklist, and New York two men, my friends, judged and pitied for  
Public Library Best discuss whether my life her appearance, of  
Book of the Year \* One is worth living." So being dismissed as  
of Oprah Daily's 33 begins Chloé Cooper "less than." The way  
Memoirs That Changed a Jones's bold, revealing she has been seen—or  
Generation From Chloé account of moving not seen—has informed  
Cooper Jones—Pulitzer through the world in a her lens on the world  
Prize finalist, body that looks her entire life. She  
philosophy professor, different than most. resisted this reality  
Whiting Creative Jones learned early on by excelling  
Nonfiction Grant to factor "pain academically and  
recipient—an calculations" into retreating to "the  
"exquisite" (Oprah every plan, every neutral room in her  
Daily) and situation. Born with a mind" until it passed.



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But after unexpectedly Killing Fields of Phnom eyes.  
becoming a mother (in Penh, Jones weaves **Some Go Home** Univ.  
violation of unspoken memory, observation, Press of Mississippi  
social taboos about the experience, and "FORTY DAYS AND FORTY  
disabled body), aesthetic philosophy to NIGHTS is a  
something in her probe the myths contemporary thriller  
shifts, and Jones sets underlying our set in the  
off on a journey across standards of beauty and Mississippi River  
the globe, reclaiming desirability and Delta. Thirty-nine  
the spaces she'd been interrogates her own days of torrential  
denied, and denied complicity in upholding rain have swollen the  
herself. From the bars those myths. "Bold, river to the brink.  
and domestic spaces of honest, and superbly Clementine Price-a  
her life in Brooklyn to well-written" (Andre young US Army Corps  
sculpture gardens in Aciman, author of Call of Engineers officer  
Rome; from film Me By Your Name) Easy born on a farm in the  
festivals in Utah to a Beauty is the rare flood-plain of the  
Beyoncé concert in memoir that has the Arkansas Delta-is  
Milan; from a tennis power to make you see battling to protect  
tournament in the world, and your  
California to the place in it, with new

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the people and  
homeland she loves  
from a catastrophic  
flood when she  
discovers that a  
richly funded  
domestic terrorist-  
hiding in plain sight  
in a beloved  
megachurch-has  
weaponized the  
natural disaster to  
inundate America's  
heartland. His plan  
to cleave the United  
States in half and  
found his own all-  
white nation is  
already in motion.

Clementine has only  
hours to mobilize a  
make-shift army,  
engineer a strategy  
to turn nature's  
overwhelming force  
back onto the enemy,  
stop civil war, and  
save millions from  
drowning"--

**Red Dirt** Thomas  
Nelson

The long-awaited  
follow-up to 2011's  
Slash & Burn. In a  
small Lao village, a  
very strange thing  
has happened. A woman  
was shot and killed

in her bed during a  
burglary; she was  
given a funeral and  
everyone in the  
village saw her body  
burned. Then, three  
days later, she was  
back in her house as  
if she'd never been  
dead at all. But now  
she's clairvoyant,  
and can speak to the  
dead. That's why the  
long-dead brother of  
a Lao general has  
enlisted her to help  
his brother uncover  
his remains, which  
have been lost at the

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bottom of a river for reason?is her hunch fighter, their  
many years. Lao right? What is the struggles to define  
national coroner Dr. group really digging themselves, and the  
Siri Paiboun and his for at the bottom of loud cry of home"--  
wife, Madame Daeng, this remote river on *Rules for Lying* Knopf  
are sent along to the Thai border? What Suspecting that  
supervise the war secrets are being something is amiss  
excavation. It could covered up? with their father's  
be a kind of relaxing *Into the Free* burial, teenager  
vacation for them, Tordotcom Kenneth Tyler and his  
maybe, except Siri is "As Alex and Elana sister Corrie venture  
obsessed with the try to make their to his gravesite and  
pretty undead home among the make a horrific  
medium's special academics and young discovery: their  
abilities, and Madame leftists in El Paso father, a whiskey  
Daeng might be a and Juárez, they are bootlegger, was not  
little jealous. She pulled from each actually buried in the  
doesn't trust the other by an affair casket they bought for  
woman for some with a lucha libre him. Worse, they learn  
that the undertaker,  
Fenton Breece, has

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been grotesquely  
manipulating the dead.  
Armed with  
incriminating  
photographs, Tyler  
becomes obsessed with  
bringing the perverse  
undertaker to justice.  
But first, he must  
outrun Granville  
Sutter, a local  
strongman and convicted  
murderer hired by  
Fenton to destroy the  
evidence. With his  
poetic, haunting prose,  
William Gay rewrites  
the rules of the gothic  
fairytale while  
exploring the classic  
Southern themes of good

and evil.  
Smonk National  
Geographic Books  
"The classic trifecta  
of talent, heart, and  
a bone-deep sense of  
storytelling...A  
masterful  
performance, deftly  
rendered and deeply  
satisfying. For days  
on end, I woke with  
this story on my  
mind." -David  
Wroblewski A powerful  
and resonant novel  
from the critically  
acclaimed author of  
Smonk and Hell at the

Breech, Crooked  
Letter, Crooked  
Letter tells the  
riveting story of two  
boyhood friends, torn  
apart by  
circumstance, who are  
brought together  
again by a terrible  
crime in a small  
Mississippi town. An  
extraordinary novel  
that seamlessly  
blends elements of  
crime and Southern  
literary fiction,  
Crooked Letter,  
Crooked Letter is a  
must for readers of

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Larry Brown, Pete tragedy struck: Larry lives a solitary  
Dexter, Ron Rash, and took a girl on a date existence, never able  
Dennis Lehane. In the to a drive-in movie, to rise above the  
late 1970s, Larry Ott and she was never whispers of  
and Silas "32" Jones heard from again. She suspicion. Silas has  
were boyhood pals. was never found and returned as a  
Their worlds were as Larry never constable. He and  
different as night confessed, but all Larry have no reason  
and day: Larry, the eyes rested on him as to cross paths until  
child of lower-middle-the culprit. The another girl  
class white parents, incident shook the disappears and Larry  
and Silas, the son of county—and perhaps is blamed again. And  
a poor, single black Silas most of all. now the two men who  
mother. Yet for a few His friendship with once called each  
months the boys Larry was broken, and other friend are  
stepped outside of then Silas left town. forced to confront  
their circumstances More than twenty the past they've  
and shared a special years have passed. buried and ignored  
bond. But then Larry, a mechanic, for decades.