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# Firefly Cloak Sheri Reynolds

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The Whisper of the

River Crown  
Archetype  
For years, Dale  
Brown has  
interviewed  
American writers,  
listening

particularly for what  
they have to say  
about "wrestling  
with the sacred" in  
their writing. In this  
book, a follow-up  
to his earlier

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collection, Of Fiction and Faith, Brown gives readers the opportunity to listen in on his thoughtful conversations with ten contemporary writers. While many of these authors shy away from being labeled "Christian" writers, they all have much truth to tell through their work as they struggle with expressing both faith and doubt. The conversations recorded here offer a fresh dialogue on the power of art to sustain faith in unexpected ways. Interviews with: Eleanor Taylor Bland,

David James Duncan, Terence Faherty, Ernest Gaines, Philip Gulley, Ron Hansen, Silas House, Jan Karon, Sheri Reynolds, Lee Smith. The Book of Polly Penguin The acclaimed bestseller -- a selection of Oprah's Book Club -- that brings vividly to life the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC, circa 1925, and a community reeling from a young girl's tragic death. When five-year-old Clara Bynum drowns in the

Potomac River under a seemingly haunted rock outcropping known locally as the Three Sisters, the community must reconcile themselves to the bitter tragedy. Clarke powerful charts the fallout from Clara's death on the people she has left behind: her parents, Alice and Willie Bynum, torn between the old world of their rural North Carolina home and the new world of the city; the friends and relatives of the Bynum

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family in the Georgetown neighborhood they now call home; and, most especially, Clara's sister, ten-year-old Johnnie Mae, who is thrust into adolescence and must come to terms with the terrible and confused emotions stirred by her sister's death. This highly accomplished debut novel reverberates with ideas, impassioned lyricism, and poignant historical detail as it captures an essential and moving portrait

of the Washington, DC community. I Am Smoke Penguin Myrtle T. Cribb, a special-needs teacher from Virginia's Eastern Shore, is captive in a dysfunctional marriage. Tired of living up to her husband's and everyone else's standards, Myrtle impulsively heads to wherever the road will take her. But soon she gets a surprise of her own: an unlikely stowaway on her journey, Hellcat, the local drunk. The journey forces Myrtle to evaluate her

marriage, her priorities, and her own prejudices, and compels her to share her hard-earned insights with other women who feel some dissatisfaction in their lives. *A Ship Called Hope* Three Rivers Press Badly burned in a household accident when she was a child, Finch Nobles grows into a courageous and feisty loner who eschews the pity of her hometown and

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discovers that she can hear the voices of the people buried in her father's cemetery. Finally, when she speaks to them, they answer, telling their stories in a remarkable chorus of regrets, exp la-nations, and insights. A Gracious Plenty is like an extraordinary amalgam of Steinbeck

and Faulkner, Spoon River Anthology and Our Town. It is a reading experience that you will not soon forget. From the Trade Paperback edition. **Becky Macmillan** In a stunning work of insight and hope, New York Times bestselling author Wally Lamb once again reveals his unmatched talent for finding humanity in the lost and lonely and celebrates the transforming

power of the written word. For several years, Lamb has taught writing to a group of women prisoners at York Correctional Institution in Connecticut. In this unforgettable collection, the women of York describe in their own words how they were imprisoned by abuse, rejection, and their own self-destructive impulses long before they entered the criminal justice system. Yet these are powerful stories of hope and healing, told by writers who have

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left victimhood behind. In his moving introduction, Lamb describes the incredible journey of expression and self-awareness the women took through their writing and shares how they challenged him as a teacher and as a fellow author.

**Couldn't Keep It to Myself** is a true testament to the process of finding oneself and working toward a better day.

### **The Lost Painting**

Bywater Books  
When eight-year-old Tessa Lee and her brother, Travis, are abandoned in a campground by their

desperate mother and her boyfriend of the moment, they are left with only two things: a phone number written in Magic Marker on Travis's back and their mother's favorite housecoat, which she leaves wrapped around her sleeping children. This housecoat, painted with tiny fireflies, becomes totemic for Tessa Lee, providing a connection to her past and to the beautiful mother she lost. Seven years later, when word arrives that her mother has been spotted working at a tourist trap on a seaside boardwalk not far from where Tessa Lee lives, she sets off on a dangerous journey to try to recover what has been taken from her. Steeped in the rich

Southern atmosphere for which Sheri Reynolds has long been hailed, *Firefly Cloak* is a vivid coming-of-age novel of family, loss, and redemption. Also available as a Random House Large Print edition and as an eBook

### **River, Cross My Heart** Penguin

"In this debut collection of short fiction from one of science fiction and fantasy's most notable new writers, Yoon Ha Lee often integrates tropes of science fiction with elements of myth to create tales that are both wonderfully fresh and deeply ancient. No matter what the theme, her wide variety of stories are strikingly original and always indelible"--P. [4] of

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cover.

The Lazarus Child

Harper Collins

Ninah Huff, the

teenage

granddaughter of

the founder of an

isolated religious

community,

causes

controversy when

she is discovered

to be pregnant

with what she

claims is a holy

child

*Twelve Years a Slave*

Crown

Two unforgettable

characters, Jack

Ernest Stokes, known

as Blinking Jack, and

his wife, Ruby Pitt

Woodrow Stokes, tell

the story of their

years together. Jack

was forty and Ruby

only twenty when

they were married.

For twenty-five years

they lived together,

man and wife, until

Ruby died of lung

cancer. A LITERARY

GUILD AND

DOUBLEDAY

BOOK CLUB

selection.

*Firefly Cloak*

Princeton

University Press

In her third book,

Butters presents a

practical yet

whimsical primer to

outdoor pursuits,

from digging up a

tree swing to

foraging for wild

edibles and

backpacking with

kids. Full-color

photographs

throughout.

The Shame of the

Nation Little, Brown

Penned by an award-

winning writer, this

Gothic tale of greed,

corruption, and

revenge is set against

the backdrop of the

1930s wilderness and

America's burgeoning

environmental

movement.

*Night in the*

*Lonesome*

*October* Clarkson

Potter

For readers of

*Saving CeeCee*

*Honeycutt*,

Joshilyn Jackson,

and Fannie Flagg,

with a touch of

Terms of

Endearment A

laugh-out-loud

funny yet poignant

novel about a

daughter

determined not

only to keep her

mother among the

living but to find

out the secrets of

her long-buried

past Willow

Havens is ten

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years old and obsessed with the fear that her mother will die. Her mother, Polly, is a cantankerous, take-no-prisoners Southern woman who lives to shoot varmints, drink margaritas, and antagonize the neighbors--and she sticks out like a sore thumb among the young, modern mothers of their small conventional Texas town. She was in her late fifties when Willow was born, so Willow knows she's here by accident, a late-life afterthought. Willow's father died before she

was born, her much older brother and sister are long grown and gone and failing elsewhere: it's just her and her bigger-than-life mom, Polly. Willow is desperately hungry for clues to the family life that preceded her, and Polly has her own secrets that she won't reveal. Why did she leave her hometown of Bethel, Louisiana, fifty years ago and vow never to return after a mysterious and terrible incident? Who is Garland Jones, her long-ago suitor who possibly killed a

man? And will Polly be able to outrun The Bear, the illness that finally puts her on a collision course with her closely guarded past and a final trip back to Bethel that will end with them, like Huck Finn, riding a river raft back home? THE BOOK OF POLLY has a kick like the best hot sauce, and a great blend of humor and sadness, pathos and hilarity. This is a bittersweet novel about the grip of love in a truly quirky family and you'll come to know one of the

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most unforgettable mother-daughter duos you've ever met.

Conservation of Shadows Harper

Collins

From the author of *The Whisper of the River* and *Epiphany*. In this coming-of-age story, Porter Osbourne Jr. is a precocious, sensitive, and rambunctious boy trying to make it through adolescence during the Depression. On a red-clay farm in Georgia, he learns all there is to know about cotton-chopping, hog-killing, watermelon-thumping, and mule-handling. School provides a quick course in practical joking, schoolboy crushes, athletic glory, and clandestine sex. But it is Porter's

family-- his genteel, patient mother, his swarm of cousins, his snuff-dipping grandmother, and, most of all, his beloved though flawed father--who teaches Porter the painful truths about growing up strong enough to run with the horsemen. "The writing is elegant, reflective, and amused. Mr. Sams is a storyteller sure of his audience . . . gifted with perfect timing."--The New York Times Book Review "Remarkable both for its humor and its sustained and detailed picture of a mischievous Southern farmboy's life during the Great Depression."--The Washington Post  
**The Hum and the Shiver** Readme

Publishing

The story of a middle class family man who is suddenly put out of his job and has no redundancy money. Unable to afford to live in London, the whole family moves to Suffolk, where his wife finds a job and he slowly falls apart.

*Conversations with American Writers* Sphere

*Firefly Cloak* is the powerfully vivid coming-of-age story of Tessa Lee, who, after being abandoned by her mother, sets off on a risky journey to discover what she has lost. When eight-year-old



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Tessa Lee and her brother, Travis, are abandoned in a campground by their desperate mother and her boyfriend of the moment, they are left with only two things: a phone number written in Magic Marker on Travis's back and their mother's favorite housecoat, which she leaves wrapped around her sleeping children. This housecoat, painted with tiny fireflies, becomes totemic for Tessa Lee, providing a connection to her past and to the beautiful mother she lost. Seven

years later, when word arrives that her mother has been spotted working at a tourist trap on a seaside boardwalk not far from where Tessa Lee lives, she sets off on a dangerous journey to try to recover what has been taken from her. Steeped in the rich Southern atmosphere for which Sheri Reynolds has long been hailed, **Firefly Cloak** is a vivid coming-of-age novel of family, loss, and redemption. **Firefly Cloak** Turner A New York

Times Notable Book and the March 2001 selection of Oprah's Book Club® ! Icy Sparks is the sad, funny and transcendent tale of a young girl growing up in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky during the 1950's. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's beautifully written first novel revolves around Icy Sparks, an unforgettable heroine in the tradition of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Will Tread in *Cold Sassy Tree*. At the age of ten, Icy, a bright, curious

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child orphaned as a ultimately hilarious created by a writer.  
baby but raised by and heartwarming Called willful by  
adoring journey, from her her teachers and  
grandparents, first spasms to her "Frog Child" by  
begins to have self-acceptance as her schoolmates,  
strange a young woman. she is exiled from  
experiences. Try as Curious about life the schoolroom  
she might, her beyond the hills, and sent to a  
"secrets"—verbal talented, and children’s asylum  
croaks, groans, and energetic, Icy where it is hoped  
physical learns to cut that the roots of  
spasms—keep through all her mysterious  
afflicting her. As barriers—physical, behavior can be  
an adult, she will mental, and discovered. Here  
find out she has spiritual—in order Icy learns about  
Tourette’s to find community difference—her  
Syndrome, a rare and acceptance. own and those who  
neurological Along her journey, are even more  
disorder, but for Icy faces the jeers scarred than she.  
years her behavior of her classmates Yet, it isn’t until  
is the source of as well as the Icy returns home  
mystery, malevolence of her that she really  
confusion, and often-ignorant teac begins to flower,  
deep humiliation. hers—including especially through  
Narrated by a Mrs. Stilton, one her friendship with  
grown up Icy, the of the most evil the eccentric and  
book chronicles a fourth grade obese Miss Emily,  
difficult, but teachers ever who knows first-

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hand how it feels to be an outcast in this tightly knit Appalachian community. Under Miss Emily's tutelage, Icy learns about life's struggles and rewards, survives her first comical and heartbreaking misadventure with romance, discovers the healing power of her voice when she sings, and ultimately—takes her first steps back into the world. Gwyn Hyman Rubio's *Icy Sparks* is a fresh, original, and completely redeeming novel about learning to overcome others'

ignorance and celebrate the differences that make each of us unique. *Why Do Men Fall Asleep After Sex?* Penguin Books In this hilarious, adventure-filled fantasy set in a city where almost everyone can fly, a girl discovers she has a newfound power: she can become invisible. She soon teams up with a belligerent boy to figure out who and what she is. *The Wall and the Wing* Random House Grace's son, Jack, is a miracle; a

three year old, fighting a mysterious and deadly disease doctors predicted would kill him as a baby. The family's world is upended when a friend of the family lets it slip: there has been an investigation. Grace has been accused of Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, the strange psychological disorder whereby seemingly good mothers purposely fake or exacerbate their child's illnesses to get attention. As a result, Grace begins to suspect every doctor and

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nurse that has ever taken care of Jack, every friend and acquaintance, even her husband. Who has accused her, and why? *The Life You Longed For* is gripping, suspenseful, and the definition of a page-turner - readers will want to skip to the end to figure out if the accusations are true. By mixing this controversial topic with endearing characters and a delicately layered plot, Maribeth Fischer has established herself as a voice to be reckoned with among today's

finest women writers. *Couldn't Keep It to Myself* by House Publishers and Cadent Publishing is the bittersweet and very funny story of a young man's journey to adulthood that the *Nashville Banner* called "Americana at its best." Young Porter Osborne, Jr., leaves his rural Georgia home in 1938 to meet the world at Willingham University, armed with the knowledge that he has been "Raised Right" in the best

Baptist tradition. What happens over the next four years will challenge the things he holds infallible: his faith, his heritage, and his parents' omniscience. As we follow Porter's college career, full of outrageous pranks and ribald humor, we sense a quiet, constant flow toward maturity. Peppered with memorable characters and resonant with details of place and time, *The Whisper of the River* is filled with the richness of spirit that makes great fiction. "Wry, incisive, delicately

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structured, emotionally complex, and hilarious." -- Atlanta Magazine

*The Sweet In-between* Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

A #1 New York Times bestseller by Kim Edwards, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* is a brilliantly crafted novel of parallel lives, familial secrets, and the redemptive power of love

Kim Edwards's stunning novel begins on a winter night in 1964 in Lexington, Kentucky, when a blizzard forces Dr. David Henry to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly

healthy, but the doctor immediately recognizes that his daughter has Down syndrome.

Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. He asks his nurse, Caroline, to take the baby away to an institution and never to reveal the secret. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child herself. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century—in which these two families, ignorant of each other, are yet bound by the fateful decision made that

winter night long ago. A family drama, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* explores every mother's silent fear: What would happen if you lost your child and she grew up without you? It is also an astonishing tale of love and how the mysterious ties that hold a family together help us survive the heartache that occurs when long-buried secrets are finally uncovered.