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## The Bird Artist Howard Norman

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Devotion Vintage  
National Book Award  
finalist Howard Norman  
delivers another  
“provocative . . .  
haunting” \* novel, this  
time set in a Vermont  
village and featuring a  
missing child, a newly

married private detective,  
and a highly relatable  
ghost. \*Janet Maslin, New  
York Times Simon  
Inescort is no longer  
bodily present in his  
marriage. It ’ s been  
several months since he  
keeled over the rail of a

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Nova Scotia—bound ferry, am I to call myself now, a portrait of two  
a massive heart attack to revenant? ” He spends marriages—one in its  
blame. Simon's widow, time replaying his afterlife, one new and  
Lorca Pell, has sold their marriage in his own mind, erotically charged—and of  
farmhouse to newlyweds as if in poignant reel-to- the Vermont village life  
Zachary and Muriel—after reel, while also engaging that sustains and remakes  
revealing that the deed in occasionally intimate them.  
contains a “ghost clause,” observation of the new Dancing Lessons for the  
an actual legal clause, not homeowners. But soon Advanced in Age St.  
unheard of in Vermont, the crisis of a missing Martin's Press  
allowing for child, a local eleven-year- One of our country's most  
reimbursement if a old, threatens the tenuous acclaimed and beloved  
recently purchased home domestic equilibrium, as entertainers, Steve Martin  
turns out to be haunted. the weight of the case has written a novella that is  
In fact, Simon finds falls to Zachary, a rookie unexpectedly perceptive  
himself still at home: private detective with the about relationships and life.  
“Every waking moment, Green Mountain Agency. Martin is profoundly wise  
I'm astonished I have any The Ghost Clause is a when it comes to the inner  
consciousness . . . What heartrending, affirming workings of the human

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heart. Mirabelle is the "shopgirl" of the title, a young woman, beautiful in a wallflowerish kind of way, who works behind the glove counter at Neiman Marcus "selling things that nobody buys anymore . . ." Slightly lost, slightly off-kilter, very shy, Mirabelle charms because of all that she is not: not glamorous, not aggressive, not self-aggrandizing. Still there is something about her that is irresistible. Mirabelle captures the attention of Ray Porter, a wealthy businessman almost twice

her age. As they tentatively embark on a relationship, they both struggle to decipher the language of love--with consequences that are both comic and heartbreaking. Filled with the kind of witty, discerning observations that have brought Steve Martin critical success, *Shopgirl* is a work of disarming tenderness. Most of What Follows is True New York Review of Books Filled with soulful humor and quiet pathos, Abby Bardi's boldly drawn first novel marks the debut of a joyfully talented chronicler of the quest for

connection in contemporary life. Mary Fred Anderson, raised in an isolated fundamentalist sect whose primary obsessions seem to involve an imminent Apocalypse and the propagation of the name "Fred," is hardly your average fifteen-year-old. She has never watched TV, been to a supermarket, or even read much of anything beyond the inscrutable dogma laid out by the prophet Fred. But this is all before Mary Fred's whole world tilts irrevocably on its axis: before her brothers, Fred and Freddie, take sick and pass on to the place the Reverend Thigpen calls "the World Beyond"; before Mama

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and Papa are escorted from the Fredian Outpost in police vans; and Mary Fred herself is uprooted and placed in foster care with the Cullison family. It is here, at Alice Cullison's suburban home outside Washington, D.C., where everything really changes -- for all parties involved. Mary Fred's new guardian, Alice, is a large-hearted librarian who, several years after her divorce, can't seem to shake her grief and loneliness. Meanwhile, Alice's daughter Heather, also known as Puffin, buries any hint of her own adolescent loneliness beneath an impenetrable armor

of caustic sarcasm, studied apathy, and technicolor hair. And the enigmatic Uncle Roy is Alice's perennially jobless and intensely private brother. As Mary Fred struggles to adjust to the oddities of this alien world, from sordid daytime television and processed food to aromatherapy and transsexuality, she gradually begins to have an unmistakable influence on the lives of her housemates. But when a horrifying act of violence shakes the foundations of Mary Fred's fragile new family, she finds herself forced to confront, painfully, the very nature of the way she was raised. With a knack

for laying bare the absurdities of daily life, Abby Bardi captures, with grace and authority, all the ambivalence and emotional uncertainty at the heart of these quirky characters' awakenings. [Kiss in the Hotel Joseph Conrad and Other Stories](#) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Howard Norman's *The Bird Artist*, the first book of his Canadian trilogy, begins in 1911. Its narrator, Fabian Vas is a bird artist: He draws and paints the birds of Witless Bay, his remote Newfoundland coastal village home. In the first paragraph of his tale Fabian reveals that he has murdered the village lighthouse keeper, Botho August. Later, he

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confesses who and what drove him to his crime--a measured, profoundly engrossing story of passion, betrayal, guilt, and redemption between men and women. *The Bird Artist* is a 1994 National Book Award Finalist for Fiction.

**What Is Left the Daughter**

National Geographic Books  
A rich portrait, set during World War II, of the seductions of danger and the vagaries of identity follows DeFoe Russett, a

Nova Scotia museum guard, who steals a painting special to Imogen Linny, caretaker of the Jewish cemetery. Reprint. 35,000 first printing. Tour.

**The Bird Artist**  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
Selling his life story to a filmmaker known for the stylized violence portrayed in his work in the aftermath of his sensual wife's

murder, Sam develops a cat-and-mouse relationship with the filmmaker and begins experiencing wrenching hallucinations. Penguin UK  
When Peter Duvett accepts a position as assistant to elusive portraitist Vienna Linn, his life is forever changed as he follows him on a macabre trek across Canada photographing grisly accidents for a private collector,

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a journey that leads to his employer's wife, who introduces him to the dark world of "spirit pictures"-photographs in which the faces of the long-dead mysteriously appear along with other horrifying images. Reprint. 35,000 first printing.

**Shopgirl** Gateway In the mid-1990s, two monks struggling to follow the fifteen-hundred-year-old traditions of

Christian monasticism find themselves in conflict with the U.S. Department of Energy as they protect their tiny hermitage from a proposed nuclear-waste dump.

*Unsolaced* Random House Puckoon is Spike Milligan's classic slapstick novel, reissued for the first time since it was published in 1963. 'Pops with the erratic brilliance of

a careless match in a box of fireworks' Daily Mail In 1924 the Boundary Commission is tasked with creating the new official division between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Through incompetence, dereliction of duty and sheer perversity, the border ends up running through the middle of the small town of Puckoon. Houses are divided from outhouses,

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husbands separated from wives, bars are cut off from their patrons, churches sundered from graveyards. And in the middle of it all is poor Dan Milligan, our feckless protagonist, who is taunted and manipulated by everyone (including the sadistic author) to try and make some sense of this mess . . . 'Bursts at the seams with superb comic characters involved in unbelievably likely troubles on the Irish border' Observer 'Our first comic philosopher' Eddie Izzard Spike Milligan was one of the greatest and most influential comedians of the twentieth century. Born in India in 1918, he served in the Royal Artillery during WWII in North Africa and Italy. At the end of the war, he forged a career as a jazz musician, sketch-show writer and performer, before joining forces with Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe to form the legendary Goon Show. Until his death in 2002, he had success as on stage and screen and as the author of over eighty books of fiction, memoir, poetry, plays, cartoons and children's stories. *Puckoon* Macmillan "In the vein of *The Lovely Bones* and *The Little Friend*, *Ghosts of the Missing* follows

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the mysterious disappearance of a twelve-year-old girl during a town parade and the reverberations of this tragedy throughout the town"--  
*The Haunting of L.*  
HMH  
Master storyteller Howard Norman draws on more than 30 years of visiting Nova Scotia for this remarkable "book of selective memories." Combining stories, folklore, memoir, nature, poetry, and expository prose, the

chapters of *My Famous Evening* offers a delightful, witty, and as intersecting facets of characteristic quirky take on a reminiscence; there are certain refrains, region. Read the curious and beguiling themes, and story of Marlais preoccupations and I Quire, a young woman placed birds into as who scandalously left many of the book's her home in Nova nooks and crannies as Scotia in 1923 to possible." His goal: travel to New York in to portray the an ill-fated attempt emotional dimensions to attend a public of his experience. reading by Joseph Illustrated with Conrad. Enjoy the photographs from delightful "Birder's Norman's own Notebook," a collection, this book collection of stories



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about the Mi'kmaq cultural hero, Glooskap, and an account of Leon Trotsky's 1915 visit to Halifax, after a year in exile in New York, 'on his way to the October Revolution.' For Norman, Nova Scotia is a place that provides a deep calm but also a 'sudden noir of the heart.' From the Hardcover edition.  
*My Darling Detective*  
North Point Press

The creators of *The Girl Who Dreamed Only* Geese provide an illustrated collection of folktales from around the world, all of which have a bird as a main character. *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel*  
Christ Hachette Books  
"In all creative writing, the question of what is true and what is real are two very different considerations. Figuring out how to dance between them is a murky business." In

*Most of What Follows Is True*, Michael Crummey examines the complex relationship between fact and fiction, between the "real world" and the stories we tell to explain it. Drawing on his own experience appropriating historical characters to fictional ends, he brings forward important questions about how writers use history and real-life figures to animate fictional stories. Is

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there a limit to the liberties a writer can take? Is there a point at which a fictionalized history becomes a false history? What responsibilities do writers have to their readers, and to the historical and cultural materials they exploit as sources? Crummey offers thoughtful, witty views on the deep and timely conversation around appropriation.

The Book of Fred New York, N.Y. : Penguin Books  
Born a boy and a girl but raised as a boy, Wayne or "Annabel" struggles with his identity growing up in a small Canadian town and seeks freedom by moving to the city.

American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell  
Harper Collins  
Examines the lives

of a cast of characters confronted by loneliness and obsession, including a Japanese woman who walks the beach everyday in search of white pelicans while her chauffeur falls in love with a zoologist.

**Between Heaven and Earth** Macmillan  
A memoir details the haunting and redemptive events of the author's life,

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covering such topics as Bay in search of woolly mammoths and lost his way. By turns startling, tragic, and comical, these inimitable narratives tell the history of the Arctic and capture the collision of cultures precipitated by the arrival of a hapless stranger in a strange land. Norman himself was then a stranger in a strange land, but he was not alone. In Churchill he encountered Helen Tanizaki, an Anglo-Japanese woman embarked on a similar project--to translate the tales into Japanese. An extraordinary linguist and an exact and compelling friend, Tanizaki became Norman's guide through the characters, stories, and customs he was coming to know, and a remarkable intimacy sprang up between them--all the more intense because it was to be fleeting; Tanizaki was fatally ill. Through a series of overlapping panels of reality and memory, Howard Norman's In Fond

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Remembrance of Me  
recaptures with vivid  
immediacy a brief but  
life-shifting encounter  
and the earthy, robust  
stories that occasioned  
it.

*The Marsh Queen* Simon  
and Schuster

The Bird

Artist Farrar, Straus  
and Giroux

*My Famous Evening*

The Bird Artist

While fishing in an  
Irish salmon stream  
one rainy morning,  
Father Declan de  
Loughry ponders the

recent deathbed  
confession of his  
parishioner Kevin  
Dennehy. It seems  
Dennehy and his  
wife, Enda, had  
been quietly living  
a lie for fifty  
years. Yet the  
gravity of their  
deception doesn't  
become clear to the  
good father until  
Enda shares the  
full tale of her  
suffering, finally  
confiding "the all  
of it." Jeannette

Haien's exquisite,  
awardwinning first  
novel is a  
deceptively simple  
story that  
resonates with the  
power of a modern-  
day myth—an  
unforgettable  
narrative of  
transgression,  
empathy, and,  
ultimately,  
absolution.

The Bird Artist  
Houghton Mifflin  
Harcourt  
The time is the

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1950s, and the place catch to pay for it. the cusp of  
is Canada's                      Adelaide, however,                      cataclysmic change.  
Atlantic coast at                      has other dreams.                      Caught between his  
the edge of the                      She longs to escape                      desire to please  
great Newfoundland                      the sea, the fish,                      his wife and his  
fishing banks.                      and the stultifying                      strongly  
Sylvanus Now is a                      community, but her                      independent nature,  
young fisherman of                      need of refuge from                      Sylvanus must  
great charm and                      her own troubled                      decide what path  
strength. His                      family leads her to                      his future will  
youthful desires                      Sylvanus and life                      take.  
are simple: he                      in the neighbouring  
wants a suit to                      outport. Set  
lure a girl—the                      against the love  
fine-boned beauty                      story of Addie and  
Adelaide—and he                      Sylvanus is the  
knows exactly how                      sea, the Great  
much fish he has to                      Mother that is on