
The Word Exchange Alena Graedon

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My Reading Life Penguin

Through firsthand accounts, interviews with survivors and a gripping collection of vintage photographs, author Michael Skidgell attempts to make sense of one of Hartford's worst tragedies. Almost 7,000 fans eagerly packed into the Ringling Brothers big top on July 6, 1944. With a single careless act, an afternoon at the "Greatest Show on Earth" quickly became one of terror and tragedy as the paraffin-coated circus tent caught fire. Panicked crowds rushed for the few exits, but in minutes, the tent collapsed on those still struggling to escape below. A total of 168 lives were lost, many of them children, with many more injured

and forever scarred by the events. Hartford and the surrounding communities reeled in the aftermath as investigators searched for the source of the fire and the responsible parties.

Empire of Sin St. Martin's Press

Ema The Captive, César Aira's second novel, is perhaps closest in style to his popular *An Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter* and *The Hare*. In nineteenth-century Argentina, Ema, a delicate woman of indeterminate origins, is captured by soldiers and taken, along with her newborn babe, to live as a concubine in a crude fort on the very edges of civilization. The trip is appalling (deprivations and rapes prevail along the way), yet the real story commences once Ema arrives at the fort, where she takes on a succession of lovers among the soldiers and Indians, leading to a brave and grand entrepreneurial experiment. As is usual with Aira's work, the wonder of the book is in the details of customs, beauty, and language, and the curious,

perplexing reality of human nature.

Super Sad True Love Story Penguin

A New York Times Paperback Row Editor's Choice Combining the infectious narration of Nick Hornby's *Funny Girl*, the philosophical lyricism of Roberto Bolaño's *The Savage Detectives*, and the mesmerizing power of Anna North's *The Life and Death of Sophie Stark*, a breathtaking debut, brimming with youthful brio and irresistible humor, that chronicles a young man's friendship with a most peculiar artist. On a rooftop in Brooklyn on a spring night, a young intern and would-be writer, newly arrived from Copenhagen, meets the intriguing Ana Ivan. Clever and funny, with an air of mystery and melancholia, Ana is a performance artist, a mathematician, and a self-proclaimed time traveler. She is also bad luck, she confesses; she is from a cursed Romanian lineage. Before long, the intern finds himself seduced by Ana's entrancing stories—of her unlucky countrymen; of her parents' romance during the worst years of Nicolae Ceaucescu's dictatorship; of a Daylight Savings switchover gone horribly wrong. Ana also introduces him to her latest artistic endeavor. Following the astronomical rather than the Gregorian calendar, she is trying to alter her sense of time—an experiment that will lead her to live in complete darkness for one month. Descending into the blackness with Ana, the intern slowly loses touch with his own existence, entangling himself in the lives of Ana, her starry-eyed mother Maria, and her raging math-prodigy father Ciprian. Peeling back the layers of her past, he eventually discovers the perverse tragedy that has haunted Ana's family for decades and shaped her journey from the streets of Bucharest to the Atlas

Mountains of Morocco and finally to New York City. The Invention of Ana blurs the lines between narrative and memory, perception and reality, identity and authenticity. In his stunning debut novel, Mikkel Rosengaard illuminates the profound power of stories to alter the world around us—and the lives of the ones we love.

The Eighth Day Harper Collins

A new collection of stories—dazzling, poignant, wickedly funny, and highly addictive—by the internationally acclaimed writer whose work *The Times* (London) calls “dangerously close to perfection.” These thirteen stories brilliantly focus on aspects of contemporary living and unerringly capture a generation, a type, a social class, a pattern of behavior. They give us the small detail that reveals large secrets and summons up the inner stresses of our lives (“It is a blissful relief to turn to the coolness and clarity of Helen Simpson . . . She is, to my mind, the best short story writer now working in English” —Ed Crooks, *Financial Times*). Whether her subject is single women or wives in stages of midlife-ery, marriage or motherhood, youth, young love, homework, or history, Simpson writes near to the bone and close to the heart. In one story, a squirrel trapped

under a dustbin lid in the back garden vanishes, and a woman's marriage is revealed in the process . . . In another, a young woman on her way for an MRI reflects on new love, electromagnetism, and Sherlock Holmes, and afterward goes to a museum and finds herself wanting to escape into one of the paintings. And in the title story, two men on a flight from London to Chicago—one an elderly scientist, the other a businessman upgraded to first class—discuss climate change and what flying is doing to “our shrunken planet,” this while the “in-flight entertainment” shows the crop-duster scene from Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*. When a passenger in the seat across the aisle suddenly becomes ill and dies, the plane is forced to land in Goose Bay, Labrador, to the utter frustration of the two men. In the story's moment of reckoning, one of the men, furious at the delay, says to the other, “I don't care about you. You don't care about me. We don't care about him [the deceased passenger]. We all know how to put ourselves first, and that's what makes the world go round.” These darkly comic, brave, and, says *The Guardian*, “deeply unsentimental” stories brilliantly evoke life's truest

sensations—love, pain, joy, and grief—and give us, with precision and complex economy, a shrewd and painfully true glimpse into our dizzying 3-D age.

In-Flight Entertainment Columbia University Press

From bestselling author Gary Krist, a vibrant and immersive account of New Orleans' other civil war, at a time when commercialized vice, jazz culture, and endemic crime defined the battlegrounds of the Crescent City Empire of Sin re-creates the remarkable story of New Orleans' thirty-years war against itself, pitting the city's elite “better half” against its powerful and long-entrenched underworld of vice, perversity, and crime. This early-20th-century battle centers on one man: Tom Anderson, the undisputed czar of the city's Storyville vice district, who fights desperately to keep his empire intact as it faces onslaughts from all sides. Surrounding him are the stories of flamboyant prostitutes, crusading moral reformers, dissolute jazzmen, ruthless Mafiosi, venal politicians, and one extremely violent serial killer, all battling for primacy in a wild and wicked city unlike any other in the world.

Vampires in the Lemon Grove Ace Books

Edwer Thissell has to conduct a murder investigation on a planet where everyone wears masks and plays complicated musical instruments to denote their social status.

Big Machine Vintage

The critically acclaimed debut from Alex Gilvarry, a darkly comic love letter to New York, told through the eyes of Boy Hernandez: Filipino immigrant, glamour junkie, Guantánamo detainee. Alex Gilvarry's widely acclaimed first novel is the story of designer Boy Hernandez: Filipino immigrant, New York glamour junkie, Guantánamo detainee. Locked away indefinitely and accused of being linked to a terrorist plot, Boy prepares for the tribunal of his life with this intimate confession, a dazzling swirl of soirees, runways, and hipster romance that charts one small man's undying love for New York City and his pursuit of the big American dream—even as the present nightmare of detention chisels away at his vital wit and chutzpah. *A New York Times*

Editor's Choice, From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant unveils two of America's most illusory realms—high fashion and Homeland Security—in a funny, wise, and beguiling, and Kafkaesque tale for our strange times.

Desdemona and the Deep HarperCollins

From the author of the novel *Swamplandia!*—a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize—comes a magical and uniquely daring collection of stories that showcases the author's gifts at their inimitable best. Within these pages, a community of girls held captive in a Japanese silk factory slowly transmute into human silkworms and plot revolution; a group of boys stumble upon a mutilated scarecrow that bears an uncanny resemblance to a missing classmate that they used to torment; a family's disastrous quest for land in the American West has grave consequences; and in the marvelous title story, two vampires in a sun-drenched lemon grove try to slake their thirst for blood and come to terms with their immortal relationship. Named a Best Book of the Year by: The Boston Globe O, The Oprah Magazine Huffington Post The A.V. Club A Washington Post Notable Book An NPR Great Read of 2013

From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant Harper Collins Award-winning author C.S.E. Cooney indulges in luxurious, dizzying fantasy In *Desdemona and the Deep*, the spoiled daughter of a rich mining family must retrieve the tithe of men her father promised to the world below. On the surface, her world is rife with industrial pollution that ruins the health of poor factory workers while the idle rich indulge themselves in unheard-of luxury. Below are goblins, mysterious kingdoms, and an entirely different hierarchy. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The Invention of Ana Basic Books

In the dark streets of Corma exists a book that writes itself, a book that some would kill for... Black market courier Rowena Downshire is just trying to pay her

mother's freedom from debtor's prison when an urgent and unexpected delivery leads her face to face with a creature out of nightmares. Rowena escapes with her life, but the strange book she was ordered to deliver is stolen. The Alchemist knows things few men have lived to tell about, and when Rowena shows up on his doorstep, frightened and empty-handed, he knows better than to turn her away. What he discovers leads him to ask for help from the last man he wants to see—the former mercenary, Anselm Meteron. Across town, Reverend Phillip Chalmers awakes in a cell, bloodied and bruised, facing a creature twice his size. Translating the stolen book may be his only hope for survival; however, he soon realizes the book may be a fabled text written by the Creator Himself, tracking the nine human subjects of His Grand Experiment. In the wrong hands, it could mean the end of humanity. Rowena and her companions become the target of conspirators who seek to use the book for their own ends. But how can this unlikely team be sure who the enemy is when they can barely trust each other? And what will happen when the book reveals a secret no human was meant to know?

Granma Nineteen and the Soviet's Secret Biblioasis

Sweetbitter meets *The Firm* in this buzzy, page-turning debut novel about sex and power in the halls of corporate America. One of BuzzFeed's Most Anticipated Books of 2020, Cosmopolitan's Best Summer Reads of 2020, and the New York Post's 30 Best Summer Books Alex Vogel has always been a high achiever who lived her life by the book—star student and athlete in high school, prelaw whiz in college, Harvard Law School degree. Accepting a dream offer at the prestigious Manhattan law firm of Klasko & Fitch, she promises her sweet and supportive longtime boyfriend that the job won't change her. Yet Alex is seduced by the firm's money and energy . . . and by her cocksure male colleagues, who quickly take notice of the new girl. She's never felt so confident and powerful—even the innuendo-laced banter with clients feels fun. In the firm's most

profitable and competitive division, Mergers and Acquisitions, Alex works around the clock, racking up billable hours and entertaining clients late into the evening. While the job is punishing, it has its perks, like a weekend trip to Miami, a ride in a client's private jet, and more expense-account meals than she can count. But as her clients' expectations and demands on her increase, and Alex finds herself magnetically drawn to a handsome coworker despite her loving relationship at home, she begins to question everything—including herself. She knows the corporate world isn't black and white, and that to reach the top means playing by different rules. But who made those rules? And what if the system rigged so that women can't win, anyway? When something happens that reveals the dark reality of the firm, Alex comes to understand the ways women like her are told—explicitly and implicitly—how they need to behave to succeed in the workplace. Now, she can no longer stand by silently—even if doing what's right means putting everything on the line to expose the shocking truth.

The Word Exchange Random House

Winner of the Kobayashi Hideo Award, *The Fall of Language in the Age of English* lays bare the struggle to retain the brilliance of one's own language in this period of English-language dominance. Born in Tokyo but raised and educated in the United States, Minae Mizumura acknowledges the value of a universal language in the pursuit of knowledge yet also embraces the different ways of understanding offered by multiple tongues. She warns against losing this precious diversity. Universal languages have always played a pivotal role in advancing human societies, Mizumura shows, but in the globalized world of the Internet, English is fast becoming the sole common language of humanity. The process is unstoppable, and striving for total language equality is delusional—and yet, particular kinds of knowledge can be gained only through writings in specific languages. Mizumura calls these writings "texts" and their

ultimate form "literature." Only through literature and, more fundamentally, through the diverse languages that give birth to a variety of literatures, can we nurture and enrich humanity. Incorporating her own experiences as a writer and a lover of language and embedding a parallel history of Japanese, Mizumura offers an intimate look at the phenomena of individual and national expression.

The Flame Alphabet Pyr

The Edgar and Agatha Award-nominated novel from #1 New York Times bestseller Elizabeth George! On Whidbey Island, nothing is as it seems. Becca's ability to hear "whispers"—the thoughts of others—has put her at risk from her criminal stepfather. So Becca escapes to Whidbey Island, where she hopes to find safety. But when a terrible accident affects everyone on the island, Becca finds herself wrapped up in a complicated situation, and she isn't the only one with a secret. This compelling coming-of-age story, the first of an ongoing sequence of books set on Whidbey Island, has elements of mystery, the paranormal, and romance. "Blending mystery, family drama, teen angst and a dose of paranormal, this novel rises above many in the young adult genre." —USATODAY.com "George has hit the nail on the proverbial head with this action-packed, mysterious, and somewhat 'creepy' novel." —Suspense Magazine An Edgar Award Nominee An Agatha Award Nominee

The Nine Crown

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY People
· O: The Oprah Magazine · Financial Times · Kansas City Star
· BookPage · Kirkus Reviews · Publishers Weekly · Booklist
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "A stunner." —Justin Cronin
"It's never the disasters you see coming that finally come to pass—it's the ones you don't expect at all," says Julia, in this spellbinding novel of catastrophe and survival by a superb new

writer. Luminous, suspenseful, unforgettable, *The Age of Miracles* tells the haunting and beautiful story of Julia and her family as they struggle to live in a time of extraordinary change. On an ordinary Saturday in a California suburb, Julia awakes to discover that something has happened to the rotation of the earth. The days and nights are growing longer and longer; gravity is affected; the birds, the tides, human behavior, and cosmic rhythms are thrown into disarray. In a world that seems filled with danger and loss, Julia also must face surprising developments in herself, and in her personal world—divisions widening between her parents, strange behavior by her friends, the pain and vulnerability of first love, a growing sense of isolation, and a surprising, rebellious new strength. With crystalline prose and the indelible magic of a born storyteller, Karen Thompson Walker gives us a breathtaking portrait of people finding ways to go on in an ever-evolving world. “ Gripping drama . . . flawlessly written; it could be the most assured debut by an American writer since Jennifer Egan ’ s *Emerald City*. ” —The Denver Post “ Pure magnificence. ” —Nathan Englander “ Provides solace with its wisdom, compassion, and elegance. ” —Curtis Sittenfeld “ Riveting, heartbreaking, profoundly moving. ” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) Look for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more.

The Moon Moth Random House

Language is always changing. No one knows where it is going but the best way to future-cast is to look at the past. John Simpson animates for us a tradition of researching and editing, showing us both the technical lexicography needed to understand a word, and the careful poetry needed to construct its definition. He challenges both the idea that dictionaries are

definitive, and the notion that language is falling apart. With a sense of humour, an ability to laugh at bureaucracy and an inclination to question the status quo, John Simpson gives life to the colourful characters at the OED and to the English language itself. He splices his stories with entertaining and erudite diversions into the history and origin of words such as 'kangaroo', 'hot-dog', 'pommie', 'bicycle', not ignoring those swearwords often classed as 'Anglo-Saxon' ! The book will speak to anyone who uses a dictionary, 'word people', history lovers, students and parents.

Bradstreet Gate Macmillan

Can you drink a glass of balderdash? What do you call the part of a dog's back it can't scratch? And if, serendipitously, you find yourself in Serendip, then where exactly are you? The answers to all of these questions -- and a great many more -- can be found in the pages of the Oxford English Dictionary, the definitive record of the English language. And there is no better guide to the dictionary's many wonderments than the former chief editor of the OED, John Simpson. Simpson spent almost four decades of his life immersed in the intricacies of our language, and guides us through its history with charmingly laconic wit. In *The Word Detective*, an intensely personal memoir and a joyful celebration of English, he weaves a story of how words come into being (and sometimes disappear), how culture shapes the language we use, and how technology has transformed not only the way we speak and write but also how words are made. Throughout, he enlivens his narrative with lively excavations and investigations of individual words -- from deadline to online and back to 101 (yes, it's a word) -- all the while reminding us that the seemingly mundane words (can you name the four different meanings of ma?) are often the most interesting ones. But Simpson also reminds us of the limitations of language: spending his days in the OED's house of words, his family at home is forced to confront the challenges of wordlessness. A

brilliant and deeply humane expedition through the world of words, *The Word Detective* will delight and inspire any lover of language.

The Selected Works of T. S. Spivet Vintage

MURDER GOES VIRAL! Charlie and Sarah, two disaffected teens dealing with depression, meet in an online chatroom and soon hatch a plan to bring meaning to their lives by encouraging other despondent individuals to help eradicate the "scum of society", such as pedophiles and rapists who have escaped justice. Anyone determined to commit suicide is urged to first kill someone who "got away with it" before taking their own life. Why not, they ask, "take one with you?" The idea goes viral and things rapidly spiral out of control. As they develop feelings for each other, their worldwide followers begin to enact a very different version of their idea, perverting its original intent and threatening the thin line between civil society and criminal anarchy. Just as they find the hope of happiness together, Charlie and Sarah must deal with the monster they've created, a global epidemic of murder-suicide that threatens the very core of their humanity. *Take One With You* is a unique crime thriller/millennial love story that poses the question: If you knew you were going to die tomorrow, would you kill someone tonight? Someone who had done something terrible. Someone who deserved to die. If so, who would it be? If you wouldn't go that far, what about your neighbor? Your friend? Your enemy? Who draws the line? Who decides who lives and who dies? And what if we all began to take justice into our own hands?

[The Madwoman in the Volvo: My Year of Raging Hormones](#)

Penguin

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY SLATE

- Includes an exclusive conversation between Lev Grossman and Lauren Owen For fans of Anne Rice, *The Historian*, and *The Night Circus*, an astonishing debut, a novel of epic scope and suspense that

conjures up all the magic and menace of Victorian London 1892: James Norbury, a shy would-be poet newly down from Oxford, finds lodging with a charming young aristocrat. Through this new friendship, he is introduced to the drawing-rooms of high society and finds love in an unexpected quarter. Then, suddenly, he vanishes without a trace. Alarmed, his sister, Charlotte, sets out from their crumbling country estate determined to find him. In the sinister, labyrinthine London that greets her, she uncovers a hidden, supernatural city populated by unforgettable characters: a female rope walker turned vigilante, a street urchin with a deadly secret, and the chilling "Doctor Knife." But the answer to her brother's disappearance ultimately lies within the doors of the exclusive, secretive Aegolius Club, whose predatory members include the most ambitious, and most bloodthirsty, men in England. In her first novel, Lauren Owen has created a fantastical world that is both beguiling and terrifying. *The Quick* will establish her as one of fiction's most dazzling talents. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. "A suspenseful, gloriously atmospheric first novel, and a feast of gothic storytelling that is impossible to resist." —Kate Atkinson "A cracking good read . . . Owen takes the gothic conventions of the vampire novel in a refreshing new direction." —Deborah Harkness, author of *A Discovery of Witches* and *The Book of Life* "A good old-fashioned vampire novel . . . What fun." —The New York Times Book Review (Editor's Choice) "The Quick is that rare book that reviewers and readers live for: both plot- and character-driven, a stay-up-all-night reading romp. . . . This is elegant, witty, force-of-nature writing." —The Dallas Morning News "The book's energy, its

wide reach and rich detail make it a confident example of the ‘unputdownable’ novel.” —The Economist “A seamless blend of Victorian London and rich imagination.” —Tana French, author of *In the Woods* “A thrilling tale . . . This book will give you chills even on a hot day.” —Minneapolis Star Tribune “Stylishly sinister . . . will have you sleeping with the lights on.” —O: The Oprah Magazine “A sly and glittering addition to the literature of the macabre.” —Hilary Mantel, author of *Wolf Hall* “A big, sly bucketful of the most tremendous fun . . . [Owen] weaves what’s here with what’s beyond as easily as J. K. Rowling does.” —Slate “[An author of] prodigious gifts . . . Owen captures Dickens’ London with glee and produces a number of characters Dickens would be happy to call his own.” —Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

celebrity culture; it’s also a poignant portrait of one young artist’s coming of age” (Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*)—and an enduring yet timely portrait of the American dream gone awry. In his rave on the cover of *The New York Times Book Review*, Jess Walter praised Wayne’s writing for its “feats of unlikely virtuosity” and the boy at its center as “a being of true longing and depth, and . . . a devastating weapon of cultural criticism. . . You’d have to be made of triple platinum not to ache for Jonny Valentine.” With “assured prose and captivating storytelling” (*Oprah.com*’s *Book of the Week*), *The Love Song of Jonny Valentine* also showcases “one of the most complicated portrayals of the mother-son relationship since *Room*” (*BookPage*). Touring the country in a desperate attempt to save a career he’s not sure he even wants, Jonny is both driven by his mother’s ambition and haunted by his father’s absence, constantly searching for a familiar face among the crowds. Utterly convincing, whip-smart, yet endearingly vulnerable, with an “unforgettable” voice (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review), the eleven-year-old pop megastar sounds “like Holden Caulfield Jr. adrift in Access Hollywood hell” (*Rolling Stone*). Called “a showstopper” (*The Boston Globe*), “hugely entertaining” (*The Washington Post*), “heartbreakingly convincing” (*People*), “buoyant, smart, searing” (*Entertainment Weekly*), and “touching and unexpectedly suspenseful” (*The Wall Street Journal*), this extraordinary novel has been widely embraced as a literary masterpiece and the rare “satire with a heart” (*Library Journal*, starred review).

The Edge of Nowhere One World

Books, libraries, and newspapers have at last become things of the past. Now handheld Memes allow for constant communication and entertainment. They can even anticipate our needs, dialing the doctor before we know we’re sick, or prompting us with words we can’t recall. Yet a few dedicated wordsmiths are still laboring on the final print edition of the *North American Dictionary of the English Language*. But one evening, right before it’s released, Anana Johnson finds that the chief editor—her father—has vanished. In alternating points of view, Anana and her bookish colleague Bart follow their only clue, the word ALICE, down the proverbial rabbit hole, into subterranean passages, the stacks of the Mercantile Library, and secret meetings of an anti-Meme underground resistance, racing closer to the truth about Anana’s father’s disappearance, and discovering a frightening connection to the growing “word flu” pandemic.

The Age of Miracles Penguin

One of the most critically acclaimed books of the year, Whiting Award-winner Teddy Wayne’s second novel is “more than a scabrous sendup of American