

American Ghost Janis Owens

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The Asylum John Harwood 2013 After waking up in a small asylum in England with no memory of the past several weeks, Georgia Ferrars learns that her family believes she is an imposter in this gothic thriller from the author of The Ghost Writer.

The Bone Yard Jefferson Bass 2011-11-24 'If you like Kathy Reichs, you'll like Jefferson Bass' The Times. Early summer brings warm weather to the Body Farm in East Tennessee, but Dr Bill Brockton's about to get more heat than he's bargained for. A former student who's now an agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement seeks his help in identifying a partial skull found in the woods in rural Florida. The victim appears to have been a young male who died from lethal blows to the head. While leading a search for the remaining bones, Brockton and his graduate assistant Miranda Lovelady find a series of shallow graves on the overgrown grounds of a shuttered reform school for boys. According to local lore, the school's poor, troubled students understood that one wrong move could land them in their own plot in the de facto cemetery. As Brockton and his team close in on the truth, they find skeletons in some surprisingly prominent closets... and learn that the ghosts of the past are ever present.

Awol in North Africa 2016

Florida Cracker Cookbook, The: Recipes & Stories from Cabin to Condo Joy Sheffield Harris 2019 From a one-story cabin in the piney woods of the Panhandle to a high-rise condo along the glistening waterways, Cracker cooking in Florida has evolved with our tastes and times. When supplies were limited and the workday arduous, black coffee with leftover cornbread might serve as breakfast. Today's bounty and life's relative ease bring mornings with lattes and biscotti, biscuits and sausage gravy. What's on the plate has changed, but our heritage infuses who we are. As we follow the path laid out by gastronomic pioneers, this culinary quest, guided by sixth-generation Cracker Joy Sheffield Harris, will whet your appetite with recipes and sumptuous reflections. Pull up a chair and dig in.

In an Instant Suzanne Redfearn 2021-02 Life is over in an instant for sixteen-year-old Finn Miller when a devastating car accident tumbles her and ten others over the side of a mountain. Suspended between worlds, she watches helplessly as those she loves struggle to survive.

The Cracker Kitchen Janis Owens 2009-02-10 Though our roots are in the Colonial South, we Crackers are essentially just another American fusion culture, and our table and our stories are constantly expanding -- nearly as fast as our waistslines. We aren't ashamed of either, and we're always delighted with the prospect of company: someone to feed and make laugh, to listen to our hundred thousand stories of food and family and our long American past. Crackers, rednecks, hillbillies, and country boys have long been the brunt of many jokes, yet this old Southern culture is a rich and vibrant part of Amer-ican history. In The Cracker Kitchen, Janis Owens traces the root of the word Cracker back to its origins in Shakespeare's Elizabethan England -- when it meant braggart or big shot -- through its proliferation in America, where it became a derogatory term to describe poor and working-class Southerners. This compelling anthropological exploration peels back the historic misconceptions connected with the word to reveal a breed of proud, fiercely independent Americans with a deep love of their families, their country, their stories, and, most important, their food. With 150 recipes from over twenty different seasonal menus, The Cracker Kitchen offers a full year's worth of eating and rejoicing: from spring's Easter Dinner -- which includes recipes for Easter Ham, Green Bean Bundles, and, of course, Cracklin' Cornbread -- to summer's Fish Frys, fall's Tailgate Parties, and winter's In Celebration of Soul, honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Recounted in Owens's delightful and hilarious voice, the family legends accompanying each of these menus leap off the page. We meet Uncle Kelly, the Prince of the Funny Funeral Story, who has family and friends howling with laughter at otherwise solemn occasions. We spend a morning with Janis and her friends at a Christmas Cookie Brunch as they bake delectable gifts for everyone on their holiday lists. And Janis's own father donates his famous fundamentalist biscuit recipe; truly a foretaste of glory divine. The Cracker Kitchen is a charming, irresistible celebration of family, storytelling, and good old-fashioned eating sure to appeal to anyone with an appreciation of Americana.

Love, Theodosia Lori Anne Goldstein 2021-11-02 A Romeo & Juliet tale for Hamilton! fans. In post-American Revolution New York City, Theodosia Burr, a scholar with the skills of a socialite, is all about charming the right people on behalf of her father—Senator Aaron Burr, who is determined to win the office of president in the pivotal election of 1800. Meanwhile, Philip Hamilton, the rakish son of Alexander Hamilton, is all about being charming on behalf of his libido. When the two first meet, it seems the ongoing feud between their politically opposed fathers may be hereditary. But soon, Theodosia and Philip must choose between love and family, desire and loyalty, and preserving the legacy their flawed fathers fought for or creating their own. Love, Theodosia is a smart, funny, swoony take on a fiercely intelligent woman with feminist ideas ahead of her time who has long-deserved center stage. A refreshing spin on the Hamiltonian era and the characters we have grown to know and love. It's also a heartbreaking romance of two star-crossed lovers, an achingly bittersweet “what if.” Despite their fathers' bitter rivalry, Theodosia and Philip are drawn to each other and, in what unrolls like a Jane Austen novel of manners, we find ourselves entangled in the world of Hamilton and Burr once again as these heirs of famous enemies are driven together despite every reason not to be.

Kind One Laird Hunt 2016-05-05 "An unforgettable tale of slavery in the American South Once I lived in a place where demons dwelled. I was one of them. Ginny lives on her husband's pig farm ninety miles from nowhere. Far from the paradise she was promised, this is a bleak place and her husband, Linus, a cruel master. His girls, Cleome and Zinnia, are Ginny's only friends, but when Linus' attentions turn to them, Ginny is torn. When Linus dies, things change for everyone. They helped me, but I never helped them."

Hidden in Plain Sight Janis Owens 2021-05-27 Hidden in Plain Sight: A History of the Newberry Mass Lynching of 1916 is a fast-paced narrative history of a 1916 mass lynching in North Florida, where six members of a tight-knit Black family were killed by a white mob of the "best men" in the district. The lynching garnered brief, nationwide attention, including an investigation by the NAACP and condemnation by W. E. B. Dubois, before it was buried in a vow of silence that endured for nearly a hundred years. With an abundance of citation and uncommon insight, Hidden in Plain Sight: A History of the Newberry Mass Lynching of 1916 draws a portrait of a struggling, turn-of-the-century farming town and the families, Black and white, who were pitched headlong into a weekend of bloodlust and revenge that would change the town forever. With a scope of a hundred years, the story that begins in anguish unexpectedly ends in recent steps to reconciliation and remembrance.

The Claude Neal Lynching Dale A. Cox 2012 The 1934 lynching of an African American farm laborer named Claude Neal was part of an unprecedented outbreak of violence. It has been called the "last public spectacle" lynching in U.S. history. In the first new book on the incident in thirty years, writer and historian Dale Cox unveils a wealth of new information including never before published information from men involved in the actual lynching, statements from eyewitnesses, new documentation and much more. Critically acclaimed, this book is a must for any student of Southern history or the 1930s. Claude Neal was a Florida farm laborer accused of murdering a young woman named Lola Cannady. Despite the best efforts of law enforcement to protect him, he was taken from jail by force, tortured and murdered. His body was then hanged from a tree in Marianna, the county seat of Jackson County, Florida. The lynching sparked rioting and forced Florida's governor to order National Guard troops to occupy Marianna. The Claude Neal Lynching has been hailed by critics, including Southern novelist Janis Owens, for breaking new ground on the topic and for adding dramatically to what is known of the brutal events of 1934.

The Place of Peace and Crickets Tricia Booker 2017-03-18 Literary Nonfiction. Memoir. When journalist Tricia Booker and her husband had trouble conceiving, they followed the well-worn footsteps of couples exploring in-vitro fertilization. Two years and thousands of dollars later, they decided to have a long fulfilling life—without children. Instead, they became immersed in the world of international adoption. Their first child, born in Vietnam, introduced them to a poor but loving orphanage where infants slept with their caretakers. Then came Guatemala, a beautiful, impoverished country where Booker's two younger children lived in tiny cribs with little human interaction. In candid, raw prose, Booker tells the story of her family, including her son's diagnosis of Anxious-Attachment Disorder, the service dog she trained to help him, and her and her husband's chaotic attempts to simplify their lives in order to heal their son.

One of Ours Willa Cather 2015-08-16 An American Farm Boy In Search Of Meaning "Life was so short that it meant nothing at all unless it were continually reinforced by something that endured; unless the shadows of individual existence came and went against a background that held together." - Willa Cather, One of Ours Claude tries to escapes from his family firm grasp who want him pious and working at their family farm in Nebraska. He marries in his attempt to escape only to realize that his wife is not interested at all in him. That's when another opportunity arises: going overseas and fight for the American army in World War One. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for e-readers with a linked table of contents. This eBook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes

The Strange Case of the Dutch Painter Timothy Miller 2022-02-01 Paris, 1890. When Sherlock Holmes finds himself chasing an art dealer through the streets of Paris, he’s certain he’s smoked out one of the principals of a cunning forgery ring responsible for the theft of some of the Louvre’s greatest masterpieces. But for once, Holmes is dead wrong. He doesn’t know that the dealer, Theo Van Gogh, is rushing to the side of his brother, who lies dying of a gunshot wound in Auvers. He doesn’t know that the dealer’s brother is a penniless misfit artist named Vincent, known to few and mourned by even fewer. Officialdom pronounces the death a suicide, but a few minutes at the scene convinces Holmes it was murder. And he’s bulldog-determined to discover why a penniless painter who harmed no one had to be killed—and who killed him. Who could profit from Vincent’s death? How is the murder entwined with his own forgery investigation? Holmes must retrace the last months of Vincent’s life, testing his mettle against men like the brutal Paul Gauguin and the secretive Toulouse-Lautrec, all the while searching for the girl Olympia, whom Vincent named with his dying breath. She can provide the truth, but can anyone provide the proof? From the madhouse of St. Remy to the rooftops of Paris, Holmes hunts a killer—while the killer hunts him.

Unconventional Warfare (Special Forces, Book 1) Chris Lynch 2018-11-27 Discover the secret missions behind America's greatest conflicts. Danny Manion has been fighting his entire life. Sometimes with his fists. Sometimes with his words. But when his actions finally land him in real trouble, he can't fight the judge who offers him a choice: jail... or the army. Turns out there's a perfect place for him in the US military: the Studies and Observation Group (SOG), an elite volunteer-only task force comprised of US Air Force Commandos, Army Green Berets, Navy SEALs, and even a CIA agent or two. With the SOG's focus on covert action and psychological warfare, Danny is guaranteed an unusual tour of duty, and a hugely dangerous one. Fortunately, the very same qualities that got him in trouble at home make him a natural-born commando in a secret war. Even if almost nobody knows he's there. National Book Award finalist Chris Lynch begins a new, explosive fiction series based on the real-life, top-secret history of US black ops.

The Wednesday Sisters Meg Waite Clayton 2008-06-17 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Friendship, loyalty, and love lie at the heart of this beautifully written, poignant, and sweeping novel of five women who, over the course of four decades, come to redefine what it means to be family. “This generous and inventive book is a delight to read, an evocation of the power of friendship to sustain, encourage, and embolden us. Join the sisterhood!”—Karen Joy Fowler, author of The Jane Austen Book Club For thirty-five years, Frankie, Linda, Kath, Brett, and Ally have met every Wednesday at the park near their homes in Palo Alto, California. Defined when they first meet by what their husbands do, the young homemakers and mothers are far removed from the Summer of Love that has enveloped most of the Bay Area in 1967. These “Wednesday Sisters” seem to have little in common: Frankie is a timid transplant from Chicago, brutally blunt Linda is a remarkable athlete, Kath is a Kentucky debutante, quiet Ally has a secret, and quirky, ultra-intelligent Brett wears little white gloves with her miniskirts. But they are bonded by a shared love of both literature—Fitzgerald, Eliot, Austen, du Maurier, Plath, and Dickens—and the Miss America Pageant, which they watch together every year. As the years roll on and their children grow, the quintet forms a writers circle to express their hopes and dreams through poems, stories, and, eventually, books. Along the way, they experience history in the making: Vietnam, the race for the moon, and a women’s movement that challenges everything they have ever thought about themselves, while at the same time supporting one another through changes in their personal lives brought on by infidelity, longing, illness, failure, and success. Humorous and moving, The Wednesday Sisters is a literary feast for book lovers that earns a place among those popular works that honor the joyful, mysterious, unbreakable bonds between friends.

My Brother Michael Janis Owens 2005 Winner of the Chatauqua South Award for Fiction Now in paperback ? Includes a Reader's Guide ?Owens? fine writing and the ring of her natural voice will carry readers along like a tale told on a porch on a sultry Southern night. ? Publishers Weekly Out of the shotgun houses and deep, shaded porches of a West Florida mill town comes this extraordinary novel of love and redemption. Gabriel Catts recounts his lifelong love for his brother's wife, Myra ? whose own demons threaten to overwhelm all three of them. The story told in My Brother Michael is retold in Myra Sims, Janis Owens? second novel, from Myra's point of view. See page 45.

Where All Light Tends to Go David Joy 2015-03-03 A Finalist for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel “Remarkable . . . This isn't your ordinary coming-of-age novel, but with his bone-cutting insights into these men and the region that bred them, Joy makes it an extraordinarily intimate experience.”—Marilyn Stasio, The New York Times Book Review "Lyrical, propulsive, dark and compelling. Joy knows well the grit and gravel of his world, the soul and blemishes of the place."—Daniel Woodrell In the country-noir tradition of Winter's Bone meets 'Breaking Bad,' a savage and beautiful story of a young man seeking redemption. The area surrounding Cashiers, North Carolina, is home to people of all kinds, but the world that Jacob McNeely lives in is crueler than most. His father runs a methodically organized meth ring, with local authorities on the dime to turn a blind eye to his dealings. Having dropped out of high school and cut himself off from his peers, Jacob has been working for this father for years, all on the promise that his payday will come eventually. The only joy he finds comes from reuniting with Maggie, his first love, and a girl clearly bound for bigger and better things than their hardscrabble town. Jacob has always been resigned to play the cards that were dealt him, but when a fatal mistake changes everything, he's faced with a choice: stay and appease his father, or leave the mountains with the girl he loves. In a place where blood is thicker than water and hope takes a back seat to fate, Jacob wonders if he can muster the strength to rise above the only life he's ever known.

Paper Towns John Green 2013 Special edition slipcase edition of John Green's Paper Towns, with pop-up paper town. From the bestselling author of The Fault in our Stars. Quentin Jacobsen has always loved Margo Roth Spiegelman, for Margo (and her adventures) are the stuff of legend at their high school. So when she one day climbs through his window and summons him on an all-night road trip of revenge he cannot help but follow. But the next day Margo doesn't come to school and a week later she is still missing. Q soon learns that there are clues in her disappearance . . . and they are for him. But as he gets deeper into the mystery - culminating in another awesome road trip across America - he becomes less sure of who and what he is looking for. Masterfully written by John Green, this is a thoughtful, insightful and hilarious coming-of-age story.

The Hellfire Club Jake Tapper 2018-04-24 A young Congressman stumbles on the powerful political underworld of 1950's D.C. in this "potent thriller" (David Baldacci) and New York Times bestseller from CNN correspondent Jake Tapper. Charlie Marder is an unlikely Congressman. Thrust into office by his family ties after his predecessor died mysteriously, Charlie is struggling to navigate the dangerous waters of 1950s Washington, DC, alongside his young wife Margaret, a zoologist with ambitions of her own. Amid the swirl of glamorous and powerful political leaders and deal makers, a mysterious fatal car accident thrusts Charlie and Margaret into an underworld of backroom deals, secret societies, and a plot that could change the course of history. When Charlie discovers a conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of governance, he has to fight not only for his principles and his newfound political career...but for his life.

American Ghost Janis Owens 2013-03-12 Twelve years earlier, Jolie Hoyt and Sam Lense, a young anthropology student, had fallen in love, but tragedy struck when Sam began investigating the dark racial history of Jolie's hometown, and now they must try to come to terms with the past.

The Shipping News Annie Proulx 2008-01-01 Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Annie Proulx's The Shipping News is a vigorous, darkly comic, and at times magical portrait of the contemporary North American family. Quoyle, a third-rate newspaper hack, with a "head shaped like a crenshaw, no neck, reddish hair...features as bunched as kissed fingertips," is wrenched violently out of his workaday life when his two-timing wife meets her just desserts. An aunt convinces Quoyle and his two emotionally disturbed daughters to return with her to the starkly beautiful coastal landscape of their ancestral home in Newfoundland. Here, on desolate Quoyle's Point, in a house empty except for a few mementos of the family's unsavory past, the battered members of three generations try to cobble up new lives. Newfoundland is a country of coast and cove where the mercury rarely rises above seventy degrees, the local culinary delicacy is cod cheeks, and it's easier to travel by boat and snowmobile than on anything with wheels. In this harsh place of cruel storms, a collapsing fishery, and chronic unemployment, the aunt sets up as a yacht upholsterer in nearby Killick-Claw, and Quoyle finds a job reporting the shipping news for the local weekly, the Gammy Bird (a paper that specializes in sexual-abuse stories and grisly photos of car accidents). As

the long winter closes its jaws of ice, each of the Quoyles confronts private demons, reels from catastrophe to minor triumph—in the company of the obsequious Mavis Bangs; Diddy Shovel the strongman; drowned Herald Prowse; cane-twirling Beety; Nutbeem, who steals foreign news from the radio; a demented cousin the aunt refuses to recognize; the much-zippered Alvin Yark; silent Wavey; and old Billy Pretty, with his bag of secrets. By the time of the spring storms Quoyle has learned how to gut cod, to escape from a pickle jar, and to tie a true lover’s knot.

Coming of Age in Mississippi Anne Moody 2011-09-07 The unforgettable memoir of a woman at the front lines of the civil rights movement—a harrowing account of black life in the rural South and a powerful affirmation of one person’s ability to affect change. “Anne Moody’s autobiography is an eloquent, moving testimonial to her courage.”—Chicago Tribune Born to a poor couple who were tenant farmers on a plantation in Mississippi, Anne Moody lived through some of the most dangerous days of the pre-civil rights era in the South. The week before she began high school came the news of Emmet Till’s lynching. Before then, she had “know the fear of hunger, hell, and the Devil. But now there was . . . the fear of being killed just because I was black.” In that moment was born the passion for freedom and justice that would change her life. A straight-A student who realized her dream of going to college when she won a basketball scholarship, she finally dared to join the NAACP in her junior year. Through the NAACP and later through CORE and SNCC, she experienced firsthand the demonstrations and sit-ins that were the mainstay of the civil rights movement—and the arrests and jailings, the shotguns, fire hoses, police dogs, billy clubs, and deadly force that were used to destroy it. A deeply personal story but also a portrait of a turning point in our nation’s destiny, this autobiography lets us see history in the making, through the eyes of one of the footsoldiers in the civil rights movement. Praise for Coming of Age in Mississippi “A history of our time, seen from the bottom up, through the eyes of someone who decided for herself that things had to be changed . . . a timely reminder that we cannot now relax.”—Senator Edward Kennedy, The New York Times Book Review “Something is new here . . . rural southern black life begins to speak. It hits the page like a natural force, crude and undeniable and, against all principles of beauty, beautiful.”—The Nation “Engrossing, sensitive, beautiful . . . so candid, so honest, and so touching, as to make it virtually impossible to put down.”—San Francisco Sun-Reporter

The Abstainer Ian McGuire 2020-09-17 ‘Truly terrific’ Richard Ford ‘Dickens for the twenty-first century’ Roddy Doyle ‘A powerful, gripping tale’ Sunday Times A man hanging on by a thread. A city about to snap. From the acclaimed author of The North Water comes an epic story of revenge and obsession. Manchester, 1867 Two men, haunted by their pasts. Driven by the need for justice. Blood begets blood. In a fight for life and legacy. Stephen Doyle arrives in Manchester from New York. He is an Irish-American veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Fenians, a secret society intent on ending British rule in Ireland, by any means necessary. Now he has come to seek vengeance. James O’Connor has fled grief and drink in Dublin for a sober start in Manchester as Head Constable. His mission is to discover and thwart the Fenians’ plans. When his long-lost nephew arrives on his doorstep, he never could have foreseen how this would imperil his fragile new life – or how his and Doyle’s fates would come to be intertwined. The rebels will be hanged at dawn, and their brotherhood is already plotting revenge. Praise for The North Water, longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2016 ‘Brilliant, fast-paced, gripping. A tour de force of narrative tension and a masterful reconstruction of a lost world’ Hilary Mantel ‘Utterly convincing and compelling. . . A startling achievement’ Martin Amis ‘Riveting and darkly brilliant. . . McGuire has an extraordinary talent’ Colm Toibin ‘Has exceptional power and energy’ Sunday Times ‘A stunning novel that snares the reader from the outset and keeps the tightest grip until the bitter end’ Financial Times ‘A vivid read, full of twists, turns, period detail and strong characters’ The Times ‘Terrific – McGuire’s use of the pitiless, fearsomely beautiful Arctic landscape as a theatre for enduring questions is inspired’ Daily Mail ‘McGuire has a sure and unwavering touch. . . a writer of exceptional craft and confidence’ Irish Times

Tell Me a Story Cassandra King Conroy 2019-10-29 “Tell Me A Story is breathtakingly tender, heartbreakingly true. . .The best memoir I’ve read.” — Mary Alice Monroe, New York Times bestselling author of The Beach House Reunion Bestselling author Cassandra King Conroy considers her life and the man she shared it with, paying tribute to her husband, Pat Conroy, the legendary figure of modern Southern literature. Cassandra King was leading a quiet life as a professor, divorced “Sunday wife” of a preacher, and debut novelist when she met Pat Conroy. Their friendship bloomed into a tentative, long-distance relationship. Pat and Cassandra ultimately married, ending Pat’s long commutes from coastal South Carolina to her native Alabama. It was a union that would last eighteen years, until the beloved literary icon’s death from pancreatic cancer in 2016. In this poignant, intimate memoir, the woman he called King Ray looks back at her love affair with a natural-born storyteller whose lust for life was fueled by a passion for literature, food, and the Carolina Lowcountry that was his home. As she reflects on their relationship and the eighteen years they spent together, cut short by Pat’s passing at seventy, Cassandra reveals how the marshlands of the South Carolina Lowcountry ultimately cast their spell on her, too, and how she came to understand the convivial, generous, funny, and wounded flesh-and-blood man beneath the legend—her husband, the original Prince of Tides.

Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend Matthew Dicks 2012-08-21 Imaginary friend Budo narrates this heartwarming story of love, loyalty, and the power of the imagination—the perfect read for anyone who has ever had a friend . . . real or otherwise Budo is lucky as imaginary friends go. He’s been alive for more than five years, which is positively ancient in the world of imaginary friends. But Budo feels his age, and thinks constantly of the day when eight-year-old Max Delaney will stop believing in him. When that happens, Budo will disappear. Max is different from other children. Some people say that he has Asperger’s Syndrome, but most just say he’s “on the spectrum.” None of this matters to Budo, who loves Max and is charged with protecting him from the class bully, from awkward situations in the cafeteria, and even in the bathroom stalls. But he can’t protect Max from Mrs. Patterson, the woman who works with Max in the Learning Center and who believes that she alone is qualified to care for this young boy. When Mrs. Patterson does the unthinkable and kidnaps Max, it is up to Budo and a team of imaginary friends to save him—and Budo must ultimately decide which is more important: Max’s happiness or Budo’s very existence. Narrated by Budo, a character with a unique ability to have a foot in many worlds—imaginary, real, child, and adult—Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend touches on the truths of life, love, and friendship as it races to a heartwarming . . . and heartbreaking conclusion.

Scars of Sweet Paradise Alice Echols 2000-02-15 Janis Joplin was the skyrocket chick of the sixties, the woman who broke into the boys’ club of rock and out of the stifling good-girl femininity of postwar America. With her incredible wall-of-sound vocals, Joplin was the voice of a generation, and when she OD’d on heroin in October 1970, a generation’s dreams crashed and burned with her. Alice Echols pushes past the legary Joplin-the red-hot mama of her own invention-as well as the familiar portrait of the screwed-up star victimized by the era she symbolized, to examine the roots of Joplin’s muscianship and explore a generation’s experiment with high-risk living and the terrible price it exacted. A deeply affecting biography of one of America’s most brilliant and tormented stars, Scars of Sweet Paradise is also a vivid and incisive cultural history of an era that changed the world for us all.

Slow Way Home Michael Morris 2009-04-07 On the surface, Brandon Willard seems like your average eight-year-old boy. He loves his mama, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and G. I. Joe. But Brandon’s life is anything but typical. Wise beyond his years, Brandon understands he’s the only one in this world he can count on. It’s an outlook that serves him well the day his mama leaves him behind at the Raleigh bus station and sets off to Canada with “her destiny” -- the latest man that she hopes will bring her happiness. The day his mother leaves, Brandon takes the first step toward shaping his own destiny. Soon he sends himself spending pleasant days playing with his cousins on his grandparents’ farm and trying to forget the past. In the safety of that place, Brandon finally is able to trust the love of an adult to help iron out the wiry places until his nerves are as steady as any other boy’s. But when Sophie Willard shows up a year later with a determined look in her eye and a new man in tow, Brandon’s grandparents ignore a judge’s ruling and flee the state with Brandon. Creating a new life and identity in a small Florida town, Brandon meets the people who will fill him with self-worth and self-respect. He slowly becomes involved with “God’s Hospital,” a church run by the gregarious Sister Delores, a woman who is committed to a life of service for all members of the community, black and white, regardless of some townfolk’s disapproval.

The Book of Secrets M.G. Vassanji 2015-12-29 In 1988, a retired schoolteacher named Pius Fernandes receives an old diary found in the back room of an East African shop. Written in 1913 by a British colonial administrator, the diary captivates Fernandes, who begins to research the coded history he encounters in its terse, laconic entries. What he uncovers is a story of forbidden liaisons and simmering vengeance, family secrets and cultural exiles--a story that leads him on an investigative journey through his own past and Africa’s.

American Ghost Janis Owens 2012-10-09 JOLIE HOYT IS A GOOD SOUTHERN GIRL living in Hendrix, a small Florida Panhandle town. The daughter of a Pentecostal preacher who sells insurance on the side, and the best friend of a lively beauty who moves to the big city to pursue a career in interior design, Jolie is all too aware of her family’s closet full of secrets and long-held distrust of outsiders. Nevertheless, she throws caution to the wind when she meets Sam Lense, a Jewish anthropology student from Miami, who is in town to study the ethnic makeup of the region. Jolie and Sam fall recklessly in love and dream of beginning a life together, far away from Jolie’s buried past. But their affair ends abruptly when Sam is discovered to have pried too deeply into Hendrix’s dark racial history and he becomes the latest victim in a long tradition of small-town violence. Twelve years later, when a black businessman from Memphis returns to Hendrix to do right by his father’s memory, Jolie and Sam are brought together again. They are forced to revisit the unresolved issues of their young love and finally shed light on the ugly history of Jolie’s hometown. A complex and compulsively readable Southern saga, continuing in the tradition established by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and brought into the new millennium by writers like Karen Russell and Kathryn Stockett, American Ghost was inspired by Janis Owens’s extensive research on a real lynching that occurred in 1934 in Marianna, Florida. American Ghost is a richly woven exploration of how the events of our past haunt our present.

Provinces of Night William Gay 2009-09-09 It’s 1952, and E.F. Bloodworth is finally coming home to Ackerman’s Field, Tennessee. Itinerant banjo picker and volatile vagrant, he’s been gone ever since he gunned down a deputy thirty years before. Two of his sons won’t be home to greet him: Warren lives a life of alcoholic philandering down in Alabama, and Boyd has gone to Detroit in vengeful pursuit of his wife and the peddler she ran off with. His third son, Brady, is still home, but he’s an addled soothsayer given to voodoo and bent on doing whatever it takes to keep E.F. from seeing the wife he abandoned. Only Fleming, E.F.’s grandson, is pleased with the old man’s homecoming, but Fleming’s life is soon to careen down an unpredictable path hewn by the beautiful Raven Lee Halfacre. In the great Southern tradition of Faulkner, Styron, and Cormac McCarthy, William Gay wields a prose as evocative and lush as the haunted and humid world it depicts. Provinces of Night is a tale redolent of violence and redemption—a whiskey-scented, knife-scared novel whose indelible finale is not an ending nearly so much as it is an apotheosis.

Annie Laura’s Gift Milinda Jay 2021-03 ANNIE LAURA’S GIFT is an elegantly written, immersively moving novel. --Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize winning author of A GOOD SCENT FROM A STRANGE MOUNTAIN. Based on a true story, beautiful, tenacious Annie Laura Brock, an immigrant in the rural South of the late 1880s fights for her dream: a home in America for herself and her young siblings. She is certain that in America, anything is possible for those who work hard and believe. Despite prejudice and abuse at the hands of rich, powerful townspeople, and the loss of both her parents, Annie Laura perseveres. With the help of her friend, Morris, she carves a farm from the stubborn Florida piney woods. But darkness descends when Morris is forced from the town by his greedy half-siblings. Small-town culture is not kind when Annie Laura, the victim of rape, brings an illegitimate child into the world, and shunning takes on an entirely new and sinister meaning.

The Schooling of Claybird Catts Janis Owens 2009-10-13 To be perfectly honest, the day my father died really wasn’t the worst day of my life. When his beloved father, Michael, dies, Claybird Catts finds solace in the company of his close-knit family -- his mysterious and beautiful mother, Myra; his lovable, know-it-all sister, Missy; his newly grown-up brother, Simon; and his devoted grandmother, Cissie. Devastated by his loss, but secure in their love, Claybird feels as though life could almost go on as usual in their small, sleepy Southern hometown. Until Uncle Gabe comes back. A stranger to Claybird, Uncle Gabe is a brilliant academic who disappeared twenty years ago. Despite the deep mystery that surrounds him, Gabe’s humor and intellect shine, and he quickly positions himself in the role of the Catts family’s patriarch, filling the role of Claybird’s dead father. Gabe and Claybird become coconspirators and best friends, until a slip of the tongue unveils the real history of their relationship, a heart-wrenching revelation that turns Claybird’s world upside down.

Swimming with Serpents Sharman Burson Ramsey 2012 Star-crossed lovers, Cade Kincaid and Lyssa Rendel, meet as children traveling with a pack train into Creek country. Both are of mixed blood. Ten years later the two marry only to be immediately separated by the Creek War. They must survive the Massacre at Fort Mims, ensuing Creek War and the brutality of the time to reunite. Savannah Jack, the cruellest and most frightening of all the villains of the age, captures Lyssa Rendel, Pushmataha’s adopted daughter. Lyssa valiantly draws Savannah Jack from the glade where the children she has rescued and nursed back to health are secluded after the murderous Red Stick attack and vicious depredations committed on the nearly 500 inhabitants of the one acre stockade built around the once gracious plantation home of Samuel Mims. Cade knows Savannah Jack well. He was himself captured by this blood-thirsty Creek years ago when he was associated with William Augustus Bowles who sought to set himself up as the Emperor of the Creek nation upon the death of Alexander McGillivray. The compelling stories of the individuals caught up in the seismic forces of conflicting cultures conveys a human drama of war weaving a tale the theme of which is as applicable today as it was 200 years ago when this pivotal event occurred, August 30th, 1813. “If war is the will of God, a judgment upon evil, why must the innocents perish?” From the recesses of time . . . from the infancy of our new nation . . . veterans of that Revolution fought another war. The voices of those forgotten people cried out to have their lives remembered. This is their story.

Famous All Over Town Bernie Schein 2014-09-16 This sweeping comic novel examines the public and private upheavals of life in a small Southern town from the Civil Rights era to the new millennium. Famous All Over Town, the first novel from Southern storyteller Bernie Schein, is a comically candid multi-generational account of two Jews, a lowcountry native and a Northern transplant. Their lives interweave through the momentous events of a sleepy coastal hamlet based on Schein’s native Beaufort, South Carolina. Schein’s cast includes Southern Jewish lawyer Murray Gold and his foil, displaced New York psychiatrist Bert Levy. There’s also an emotionally scarred drill sergeant and his alluringly unconventional wife; a corrupt sheriff and his violent son; an African American madam and her two brilliant children; a fallen Southern belle; a transvestite Vietnam veteran; and many others. With their conflicted identities, burgeoning ambitions, and romantic entanglements, they live through the turbulent 1960s into the 1990s, confronting the ramifications of the civil rights era, Vietnam, Watergate, and—closer to home—a deadly version of the infamous Ribbon Creek incident. Foreword by Janis Owens.

Myra Sims Janis Owens 2013-11-22 Readers received a refreshing introduction to the Sims and Catts families in Owens’ first novel, My Brother Michael, narrated by the inimitable Gabriel Catts. Here to tell her side is Myra Sims, the apex of a love triangle that includes Gabe and his brother, Michael. Myra’s fresh perspective will bring new insight to a story of incest, adultery, and hard-won love among the denizens of Magnolia Hill, a Florida Panhandle mill town. We follow Myra from her violent childhood and entrancement with Gabe’s snap-eyed genius, through her marriage to the older and more stable Michael, to her breakdown and renewal as she battles the demons from her childhood that haunt all three of them. In the end, you will, as both Gabe and Myra do, love Michael.

Man in the Blue Moon Michael Morris 2012-08-17 “He’s a gambler at best. A con artist at worst,” her aunt had said of the handlebar-mustached man who snatched Ella Wallace away from her dreams of studying art in France. Eighteen years later, that man has disappeared, leaving Ella alone and struggling to support her three sons. While the world is embroiled in World War I, Ella fights her own personal battle to keep the mystical Florida land that has been in her family for generations from the hands of an unscrupulous banker. When a mysterious man arrives at Ella’s door in an unconventional way, he convinces her he can help her avoid foreclosure, and a tenuous trust begins. But as the fight for Ella’s land intensifies, it becomes evident that things are not as they appear. Hypocrisy and murder soon shake the coastal town of Apalachicola and jeopardize Ella’s family.

Bloodstains Jeff Mudgett 2017-04-25 This story set in Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., San Francisco, New York, and London in the summer of 1888 is based on the true story of and facts uncovered by the author’s investigation of the life of his great-great grandfather, Herman Webster Mudgett, aka H.H. Holmes. Don’t Quit Your Day Job Sonny Brewer 2010-11-01 P. J. O’Rourke said, “Creative writing teachers should be purged until every last instructor who has uttered the words ‘Write what you know’ is confined to a labor camp. . . The blind guy with the funny little harp who composed The Iliad, how much combat do you think he saw?” Like O’Rourke, William Faulkner had his own take on the Other Commandment for writers, the one that goes, “Thou shalt not quit thy day job”. Faulkner, who won the 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature, had, twenty-five years before, worked at the post office in his hometown of Oxford, Mississippi. Mr Faulkner was known to say, “One of the saddest things is that the only thing a man can do for eight hours, is work. You can’t eat eight hours a day, nor drink for eight hours a day, nor make love for eight hours”. He must have been determined to give something else (writing, we may assume, perhaps a glass of whisky on the side) a whirl when he tendered his resignation to the postmaster. “I reckon I’ll be at the beck and call of folks with money all my life”, he said, “but thank God I won’t ever again have to be at the beck and call of every son of a bitch who’s got two cents to buy a stamp.” The authors in this book have tried their hands at some of the same jobs you have held, or still keep. They’ve worked on the railroad, busted rocks with a sledgehammer, fought fires, wiped tables, soldiered and carpentered and spied, delivered pizzas, lacquered boat paddles, counted heads for the church, sold underwear, and delivered the mail. They’ve driven garbage trucks. And like William Faulkner before them they have quit those day jobs. And like Faulkner they write. They tell good tales. If you wonder what work preceded their efforts to produce a great pile of books, if you would like to know how they made the transition to, as William Gay said, “clocking in at the culture factory”, then this is the book you’ve been waiting for...

Snarf Attack, Underoodle, and the Secret of Life Mary Amato 2017-09-05 Riot Brother Rule Number One: Make something exciting happen every day. It’s no easy task, but Wilbur and Orville Riot are up to the challenge. Whether it’s catching a bank robber, finding hidden treasure while cleaning the house, or overthrowing a wicked king, the Riot brothers are clever, resourceful, and just plain funny. They sing songs, make up games, and always come out on top in the end... in spite of a few bumps along the way. The inventive, energetic brothers have a warm sibling relationship (even when they’re trying to make each other snarf milk out of their noses), and though they get called into the Principal’s office now and then, the trouble they make is always in good fun. Plus, she’s their mom, so she always gives them a ride home. Not a bad end to an exciting day. The short chapters make great bedtime reads—though beware! You might be tempted to stay up all night playing Underoodle or the Frying-Pan Game. With lots of puns and just the right amount of gross-out humor, this updated edition contains three stories about the Riot Brothers, plus lists, lists, and more lists—including the Riot Brother Rules, all their games, and the extra-special Riot Brother Top Ten List of Important Things To Be Able To Do With Your Face... plus, a preview of Riot Brothers #2: Drooling and Dangerous.

Black Dahlia & White Rose Joyce Carol Oates 2012-09-11 “A mesmerizing storyteller who seems almost unnaturally able to enter the tormented inner lives of her characters.” —Denver Post Black Dahlia & White Rose is a brilliant collection of short fiction from National Book Award winner and New York Times bestselling author Joyce Carol Oates, one of the most acclaimed writers of our time. These stores, at once lyrical and unsettling, shine with the author’s trademark fascination with finding the unpredictable amidst the prosaic—from her imaginative recreation of friendship between two tragically doomed young women (Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Short), to the tale of an infidelity as deeply human as it is otherworldly. Black Dahlia & White Rose is a major offering from one of the most important artists in contemporary American literature; a superb collection that showcases Joyce Carol Oates’s ferocious energy and darkly imaginative storytelling power.

