

## Music For Torching Am Homes

DryThe End Of AliceThey Called Her Styrene, Etc.Caribou IslandUnderstanding Men's PassagesHere They ComeThe Music of Your LifeAppendix AStructural Functions in MusicLos AngelesManchild in the Promised LandMay We Be ForgivenUse MeAll Families are PsychoticThe Boy Who Fell Out of the SkySucceeding PostmodernismEncyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their WorkHouse Under SnowChildren Playing Before a Statue of HerculesRachel WhitereadThe Book of Other PeopleSwamplandia!Bad MarieThe Safety Of ObjectsEncyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their WorksThis Book Will Save Your LifeMusic for TorchingIn a Country of MothersA Blind Man Can See How Much I Love YouLittle ChildrenIn a Country of MothersJackThe Safety of ObjectsA Reader's Book of Days: True Tales from the Lives and Works of Writers for Every Day of the YearShopgirlThings You Should KnowThe Mistress's DaughterHarperCollins College Outline Music TheoryEric FischINever Mind Nirvana

### Dry

On the day that A. M. Homes was born in 1961, she was given up for adoption. Her birth parents were a twenty-two year old woman and an older married man with whom she was having an affair. Thirty years later, out of the blue, Homes was contacted by a lawyer on behalf of her birth mother, and they began to correspond; her biological father contacted her soon after. These two individuals and their effect on the adult Homes are strange and unexpected, and the story spirals into something utterly raw and hilarious, heartbreaking and absurd. Along the way, Homes describes the clash between her childhood fantasies of her birth parents and the disappointing reality. She writes about the experience of experiencing biological resemblance for the first time (in 'My Father's Ass') and the addictiveness of the genealogical research she embarks on. She reflects on the significance of DNA testing and having two mothers and two fathers and unearths profound truths about her family and herself. Finally, she writes movingly about her own baby daughter and the way she has recently helped to mend Homes' fractured life.

### The End Of Alice

“Dazzling.... Vann knows the darkness but he writes from the compassionate light of art. This is an essential book.”  
—Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain* “Exceptional....An unflinching portrait of bad faith and bad dreams.” —Ron Rash, author of *Burning Bright* Set against the backdrop of Alaska’s unforgiving wilderness, *Caribou Island* is David Vann’s dark and captivating tale of a marriage pulled apart by rage and regret. With this eagerly anticipated debut novel, a masterful follow-up to his internationally bestselling short fiction

anthology, Legend of a Suicide, Vann takes up the mantle of Louise Erdrich, Marilyn Robinson, and Rick Moody, delivering a powerfully wrought, enthrallingly emotional narrative of struggle and isolation.

### **They Called Her Styrene, Etc.**

Tom Perrotta's thirty-ish parents of young children are a varied and surprising bunch. There's Todd, the handsome stay-at-home dad dubbed "The Prom King" by the moms of the playground; Sarah, a lapsed feminist with a bisexual past, who seems to have stumbled into a traditional marriage; Richard, Sarah's husband, who has found himself more and more involved with a fantasy life on the internet than with the flesh and blood in his own house; and Mary Ann, who thinks she has it all figured out, down to scheduling a weekly roll in the hay with her husband, every Tuesday at 9pm. They all raise their kids in the kind of sleepy American suburb where nothing ever seems to happen—at least until one eventful summer, when a convicted child molester moves back to town, and two restless parents begin an affair that goes further than either of them could have imagined. Unexpectedly suspenseful, but written with all the fluency and dark humor of Perrotta's previous novels, *Little Children* exposes the adult dramas unfolding amidst the swingsets and slides of an ordinary American playground.

### **Caribou Island**

Presents an alphabetical reference guide detailing the lives and works of authors associated with the English-language fiction of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

### **Understanding Men's Passages**

Traces the author's experiences as a first-generation African American raised in the Northern ghettos of Harlem in the mid-20th century, an upbringing marked by violence, drugs and devastating urban disadvantages.

### **Here They Come**

Elementary Acoustics and the Properties of Sound, Music Notation, Intervals and Scales, Chords, Symbolization, Expression Marks and Foreign-Language Terms, Tonality and Key Feeling, Melody Writing, Four-Part Vocal Texture (SATB), Chord Connection, Chord Choice, Harmonizing a Melody, Nonharmonic Tones, Seventh and Ninth Chords, Altered Chords and Chromaticism, Solving Figured Bass, Analysis and Score Reading, Foreign-Language Names for Orchestral Instruments, Range and Transposition of Orchestral Instruments, Homophonic Forms. Also includes Illustrations, Diagrams, Review

Questions, Exercises, Bibliography, and Full Index.

### **The Music of Your Life**

A stellar host of writers explore the cornerstone of fiction writing: character. The Book of Other People is about character. Twenty-five or so outstanding writers have been asked by Zadie Smith to make up a fictional character. By any measure, creating character is at the heart of the fictional enterprise, and this book concentrates on writers who share a talent for making something recognizably human out of words (and, in the case of the graphic novelists, pictures). But the purpose of the book is variety: straight "realism"-if such a thing exists-is not the point. There are as many ways to create character as there are writers, and this anthology features a rich assortment of exceptional examples. The writers featured in The Book of Other People include: Aleksandar Hemon Nick Hornby Hari Kunzru Toby Litt David Mitchell George Saunders Colm Tóibín Chris Ware, and more. Read Zadie Smith's newest novel, Swing Time. From the Trade Paperback edition.

### **Appendix A**

Artwork by Rachel Whiteread.

### **Structural Functions in Music**

David Dornstein was twenty-five years old, with dreams of becoming a great writer, when he boarded Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21, 1988. Thirty-eight minutes after takeoff, a terrorist bomb ripped the plane apart over Lockerbie, Scotland. Almost a decade later, Ken Dornstein set out to solve the riddle of his older brother's life, using the notebooks and manuscripts that David left behind. In the process, he also began to create a new life of his own. The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky is the unforgettable story of one man's search for the truth about his brother--and himself.

### **Los Angeles**

Collection of 200 of Eric Fischl's beach-inspired works including paintings, photographs, watercolors, charcoals with a short story by American novelist A. M. Homes.

### **Manchild in the Promised Land**

A New York Times Notable Book "Haunting, disturbing, often radiantly intense, these protean stories change shape as if

they are made of fire. They are on the side of things lost, they are pushed by the emergency of our lives--yet in the dazzle of their language there is a wonderful stillness, and consolation." — Andrea Barrett In this stunningly original collection, A. M. Homes writes with terrifying compassion about the things that matter most. Homes's distinctive narrative illuminates our dreams and desires, our memories and losses, and demonstrates how extraordinary the ordinary can be. With uncanny emotional accuracy, wit, and empathy, Homes takes us places we recognize but would rather not go alone.

### **May We Be Forgiven**

The exquisitely artful fiction debut of Vanity Fair columnist Elissa Schappell is a novel told in ten stories that resonate with the most profound experiences in the life of a young woman -- friendship and rivalry, the love for a man, the birth of a child, and the death of a father.

### **Use Me**

Winner of the 2013 Women's Prize for Fiction—A darkly comic novel of twenty-first-century domestic life by a writer who is always “compelling, devastating, and furiously good” (Zadie Smith) Harold Silver has spent a lifetime watching his younger brother, George, a taller, smarter, and more successful high-flying TV executive, acquire a covetable wife, two kids, and a beautiful home in the suburbs of New York City. But Harry, a historian and Nixon scholar, also knows George has a murderous temper, and when George loses control the result is an act of violence so shocking that both brothers are hurled into entirely new lives in which they both must seek absolution. Harry finds himself suddenly playing parent to his brother’s two adolescent children, tumbling down the rabbit hole of Internet sex, dealing with aging parents who move through time like travelers on a fantastic voyage. As Harry builds a twenty-first-century family created by choice rather than biology, we become all the more aware of the ways in which our history, both personal and political, can become our destiny and either compel us to repeat our errors or be the catalyst for change. *May We Be Forgiven* is an unnerving, funny tale of unexpected intimacies and of how one deeply fractured family might begin to put itself back together.

### **All Families are Psychotic**

As A.M. Homes's incendiary novel unfolds, the Kodacolor hues of the good life become nearly hallucinogenic. Laying bare the foundations of a marriage, flash frozen in the anxious entropy of a suburban subdivision, Paul and Elaine spin the quiet terrors of family life into a fantastical frenzy that careens out of control. From a strange and hilarious encounter with a Stepford Wife neighbor to an ill-conceived plan for a tattoo, to a sexy cop who shows up at all the wrong moments, to a housecleaning team in space suits, a mistress calling on a cell phone, and a hostage situation at a school, A.M. Homes

creates characters so outrageously flawed and deeply human that they are entirely believable.

### **The Boy Who Fell Out of the Sky**

A brilliant investigation into musical structure through a systematic exploration of tonality, melody, harmony, texture, and rhythm. Discusses early madrigals and Gregorian chants through Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms to Ravel, Bartok, and Berg."

### **Succeeding Postmodernism**

"Hip deep in music, Never Mind Nirvana is a telling inside view that perfectly captures the rhythms and sights of late-nineties Seattle." — Peter Buck, guitarist of R.E.M. Pete Tyler is at a crossroads. Eight years ago he dropped out of a seminal Seattle grunge band to try his hand at a more grown-up calling. Now he's thirty-six ("almost forty!"), a deputy prosecutor (a suit), still hanging out at the same clubs he played ten years ago (the ones that haven't shut down), and still dating the same kind of girls (except now they tell him how much their older sisters loved his band). Pete decides it's time to get married—he just doesn't know to whom. Possibilities include Beth, his first love, who has disappeared; Winter, his on-and-off stripper girl-friend, who has been living the grunge life too long; and Esme', a Sub Pop A&R executive who has some life decisions of her own to make. When a date-rape case lands on his desk—the accused is a local rocker Pete's age, the accuser an eighteen-year-old from the scene—Pete finds his past and present facing him from both sides of the aisle, and he finally has to decide where he stands. Pete Tyler is a cooler version of Everyguy, and Never Mind Nirvana is a hilarious and unexpectedly moving story of a man with one foot stuck in adolescence and the other planted in adulthood. Richly textured with references to classic rock and the music of Seattle's legendary alternative rock scene, it is also a fascinating, bittersweet riff on a particularly American zeitgeist.

### **Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work**

The surreal City of Angels is a unique amalgam of past and present, tradition and revolution, dreamscape and reality. Whether in history books or on the silver screen, the Los Angeles landscape has long served as an ever-shifting backdrop against which countless American anxieties and aspirations play out. New York-based novelist and short-story writer A. M. Homes distills the elusive, quixotic splendor of this most beguiling of great American cities. She checks us into the famed hotel Chateau Marmont and uses life at this iconic landmark as a multifaceted prism through which to view and experience Los Angeles culture, past and present. Built in the 1920s, the Chateau Marmont is where the famous and infamous have always come to stay— for a few days or months at a time—and sometimes, to die.

## **House Under Snow**

Presents a collection of surreal short stories that explore the murky underworld of the emotions, with tales of an abducted boy, a teenager who is seduced by his sister's doll, and a child kept alive by machines.

## **Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules**

Text by A.M. Homes.

## **Rachel Whiteread**

American artist Ed Ruscha began making prints and drawings consisting of one word on an often monochromatic, abstract background in the late 1950s. Since then the exploration of language-based imagery has become a hallmark of his work. Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1937, Ruscha moved to Los Angeles in 1956, excited by the newness, mobility and freedom represented by the Southern California landscape. Pulling elements from the visual language of the commercial world, he has made hundreds of 'word' prints, drawings and paintings that exhibit an interplay between bold letters and atmospheric backgrounds. This book reproduces 575 'word' works by Ruscha. Arranged by the artist, these images become a sort of novel without an obvious plot, a series of words with an implied narrative.

## **The Book of Other People**

Thirteen-year-old Ava Bigtree has lived her entire life at Swamplandia!, her family's island home and gator-wrestling theme park in the Florida Everglades. But when illness fells Ava's mother, the park's indomitable headliner, the family is plunged into chaos; her father withdraws, her sister falls in love with a spooky character known as the Dredgeman, and her brilliant big brother, Kiwi, defects to a rival park called The World of Darkness. As Ava sets out on a mission through the magical swamps to save them all, we are drawn into a lush and bravely imagined debut that takes us to the shimmering edge of reality.

## **Swamplandia!**

While critics collect around the question of what comes "after postmodernism," this book asks something different about recent American fiction: what if we are seeing not the end of postmodernism but its belated success? Succeeding Postmodernism examines how novels by DeLillo, Wallace, Danielewski, Foer and others conceptualize threats to individuals

and communities posed by a poststructural culture of mediation and simulation, and possible ways of resisting the disaffected solipsism bred by that culture. Ultimately it finds that twenty-first century American fiction sets aside the postmodern problem of how language does or does not mean in order to raise the reassuringly retro question of what it can and does mean: it finds that novels today offer language as solution to the problem of language. Thus it suggests a new way of reading "antihumanist" late postmodern fiction, and a framework for understanding postmodern and twenty-first century fiction as participating in a long and newly enlivened tradition of humanism and realism in literature.

### **Bad Marie**

The stories in *The Safety of Objects* are both bizarre and believable, very funny but also frightening and sad. A girl's blonde Barbie doll seduces her teenage brother in an intense episode of erotic obsession; a couple go off the rails and smoke crack while their children are staying with their grandmother; and a lawyer seeks revenge on his boss by urinating into his potted plant every evening.

### **The Safety Of Objects**

"Reading Marcy Dermansky's *Bad Marie* is like spending a rainy afternoon in a smaller, older movie theater watching a charming French movie with a woman (or a man) you've just met on the street and already like far too much. It's sinful in all the right ways, delicate, seditious, and deliciously evil." — Frederick Barthelme "Dermansky excels at depicting extreme emotional states and how we rationalize them." —Village Voice From the critically-acclaimed author of *Twins*, Marcy Dermansky, comes a highly original novel of Manhattan, Paris, and Mexico; of love and motherhood; and of life on the lam. Fans of Heather O'Neill (*Lullabies for Little Criminals*) and A.M. Homes (*Music for Torching*) will revel in the wicked delights of *Bad Marie*.

### **Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Works**

For Claire Roth, an established psychotherapist with an adoring husband and children, her new patient - Jody Goodman, a witty and attractive young filmmaker - is a welcome diversion from her predictable life. Jody, successful, yet uncertain, is disarmed by Claire's interest and approval. Gradually, the boundaries between friendship and family, between love and compulsion, start to blur - especially when one of them starts to believe fanatically that some things simply cannot be coincidences, and that what they share, in fact, is the deepest bond of all. *In a Country of Mothers* is a transfixing psychological thriller, and with it *A.M. Homes* forces us to confront our own judgements about sanity, danger and desire.

## **This Book Will Save Your Life**

For Claire Roth, an established psychotherapist with an adoring husband and children, the lines between friendship and family, between love and compulsion, begin to lose their focus when she meets a new patient.

## **Music for Torching**

A witty and addictively readable day-by-day literary companion. At once a love letter to literature and a charming guide to the books most worth reading, *A Reader's Book of Days* features bite-size accounts of events in the lives of great authors for every day of the year. Here is Marcel Proust starting *In Search of Lost Time* and Virginia Woolf scribbling in the margin of her own writing, "Is it nonsense, or is it brilliance?" Fictional events that take place within beloved books are also included: the birth of Harry Potter's enemy Draco Malfoy, the blood-soaked prom in Stephen King's *Carrie*. *A Reader's Book of Days* is filled with memorable and surprising tales from the lives and works of Martin Amis, Jane Austen, James Baldwin, Roberto Bolano, the Brontë sisters, Junot Díaz, Philip K. Dick, Charles Dickens, Joan Didion, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Keats, Hilary Mantel, Haruki Murakami, Flannery O'Connor, Orhan Pamuk, George Plimpton, Marilynne Robinson, W. G. Sebald, Dr. Seuss, Zadie Smith, Susan Sontag, Hunter S. Thompson, Leo Tolstoy, David Foster Wallace, and many more. The book also notes the days on which famous authors were born and died; it includes lists of recommended reading for every month of the year as well as snippets from book reviews as they appeared across literary history; and throughout there are wry illustrations by acclaimed artist Joanna Neborsky. Brimming with nearly 2,000 stories, *A Reader's Book of Days* will have readers of every stripe reaching for their favorite books and discovering new ones.

## **In a Country of Mothers**

*Encyclopedia of Contemporary Writers and Their Work* is an invaluable guide to the work of English-language fiction writers born since 1960. Coverage includes some of the most vital and appealing writers working today, such as Chang-rae Lee, Michael Chabon, Zadie Smith, and Dave Eggers. Containing more than 200 entries written by literary scholars, this resource provides a comprehensive overview of the best writers and works of the current English-Speaking literary world.

## **A Blind Man Can See How Much I Love You**

One of our country's most acclaimed and beloved entertainers, Steve Martin has written a novella that is unexpectedly perceptive about relationships and life. Martin is profoundly wise when it comes to the inner workings of the human 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.

### **Little Children**

Fifteen-year-old Jack's confused feelings for his father, who left him and his mother four years earlier, are further complicated when he finds that his father is gay.

### **In a Country of Mothers**

From the 2013 Orange Prize-winning author of *May We Be Forgiven*. Only a work of such searing, meticulously controlled brilliance could provoke such a wide range of visceral responses. Here is the incredible story of an imprisoned pedophile who is drawn into an erotically charged correspondence with a nineteen-year-old suburban coed. As the two reveal—and revel in—their obsessive desires, Homes creates in *The End of Alice* a novel that is part romance, part horror story, at once unnerving and seductive.

### **Jack**

'When apple-picking season ended, I got a job in a packing plant and gravitated towards short stories, which I could read during my break and reflect upon for the remainder of my shift. A good one would take me out of myself and then stuff me back in, oversized, now, and uneasy with the fit . . . Once, before leaving on vacation, I copied an entire page from an Alice Munro story and left it in my typewriter, hoping a burglar might come upon it and mistake her words for my own. That an intruder would spend his valuable time reading, that he might be impressed by the description of a crooked face, was something I did not question, as I believed, and still do, that stories can save you'.

### **The Safety of Objects**

Psychosis: any form of severe mental disorder in which the individual's contact with reality becomes highly distorted. Douglas Coupland, the author whom Tom Wolfe calls "one of the freshest, most exciting voices of the novel today," delivers

his tenth book in ten years of writing, with *All Families Are Psychotic*. Coupland recently has been compared to Jack Kerouac and F. Scott Fitzgerald, yet he is a man firmly grounded in the current era. The novel is a sizzling and sharp-witted entertainment that resounds with eternal human yearnings. In the opening pages, 65-year-old Janet Drummond checks the clock in her cheap motel room near Cape Canaveral, takes her prescription pills and does a rapid tally of the whereabouts of her three children: Wade, the eldest, in and out of jail and still radiating "the glint"; suicidal Bryan, whose girlfriend, the vowel-free Shw, is pregnant; and Sarah, the family's shining light, an astronaut preparing to be launched into space as the star of a shuttle mission. They will all arrive in Orlando today - along with Janet's ex-husband Ted and his new trophy wife - setting the stage for the most disastrous family reunion in the history of fiction. Florida may never recover from their version of fun in the sun. The last time the family got together, there was gunplay and an ensuing series of HIV infections. Now, what should be a celebration turns instead into a series of mishaps and complications that place the family members in constant peril. When the reformed Wade attempts to help his dad out of a financial jam and pay off his own bills at the fertility clinic, his plan spins quickly out of control. Adultery, hostage-taking, a letter purloined from Princess Diana's coffin, heart attacks at Disney World, bankruptcy, addiction and black-market negotiations - Coupland piles on one deft, comic plot twist after another, leaving you reaching for your seat belt. When the crash comes, it is surprisingly sweet. Janet contemplates her family, and where it all went wrong. "People are pretty forgiving when it comes to other people's family. The only family that ever horrifies you is your own." During the writing, Coupland described the book as being about "the horrible things that families do to each other and how it makes them strong." He commented: "Families who are really good to each other, I've noticed, tend to dissipate, so I wonder how awful a family would have to be to stick together." Coupland's first novel, *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, became a cultural phenomenon, affixing a buzzword and a vocabulary to a generation and going on to sell over a million copies. The novels that followed were all bestsellers, and his work has continued to show a fascination with the digital, brand-conscious, media-dense culture of contemporary North American society, leading some to peg him as "an up-to-the-minute cultural reference engine." Meanwhile, his deeper interests in how human beings function in this spiritual vacuum have become increasingly apparent. For example, the character Wade contemplates his father: "What would the world have to offer Ted Drummond, and the men like him, a man whose usefulness to the culture had vanished somewhere around the time of Windows 95? Golf? Gold? Twenty-four hour stock readouts?" Janet, on the other hand, nears a kind of peace with life: "Time erases both the best and the worst of us." *All Families Are Psychotic* shows Coupland being just as concerned for the grown-ups as for the kids. From the Trade Paperback edition.

## **A Reader's Book of Days: True Tales from the Lives and Works of Writers for Every Day of the Year**

A novel by an acclaimed American poet, *House Under Snow* is a story of mothers and daughters, of sexual identity, of a

family slowly disintegrating after the premature death of its patriarch. Anna Crane, soon to be married, reflects back on her childhood in Ohio during the 1960s and '70s with her two sisters and her charismatic, self-destructing mother. Evoking the claustrophobia of small-town life, Anna's first passionate love affair with a troubled boy who works as a groom and trainer at a horse track, and her mother's endless stream of suitors and a failed marriage, the novel races toward a chilling conclusion when Anna is betrayed by the two most important figures in her young life. Not since Alice McDermott's *That Night* has there been such a telling portrait of first love. And not since Mona Simpson's *Anywhere But Here* have we witnessed the destructive, seductive nature of a mother who insists on competing with her children. An unforgettable tale of the power and vulnerability of sex and family, history and the past, *House Under Snow* is a lyrical and brilliant fictional debut.

### **Shopgirl**

To her landmark studies, *Passages* and *New Passages*, the author adds another New York Times best-seller that leads men through the manifold changes and opportunities life brings after forty. Reprint.

### **Things You Should Know**

With a voice that is both sophisticated and deeply Southern, first-time author John Rowell evokes the memory of the great Truman Capote in this wonderful collection of short stories, peopled with unforgettable, endearing characters and filled with wry insights. Drawn from the emotional well of a young man who grew up in love with the glittery, glamorous world of music and movies and theater -- far removed from his own more prosaic life in North Carolina -- and informed with honesty and compassion, the seven short stories that comprise *The Music of Your Life* mark the impressive debut of a remarkably gifted writer. Compulsively readable and always accessible, each story takes the reader into the mind and heart of its central character, whether a young boy suffering from Lawrence Welk damage and teetering precariously on the edge of puberty ("The Music of Your Life") or a not-so-young-anymore man for whom fantasy and reality have become a terrifying blur and who finds himself slipping over the edge toward total meltdown ("Wildlife of Coastal Carolina"). Nostalgia plays a part in these stories as a somewhat jaded New York film critic looks back on his life and the movies that shaped him ("Spectators in Love"), and an aging flower-shop owner ruefully assesses the love he found and lost when, as an eighteen-year-old, he embarked on a Hollywood career that never soared but did include one particularly memorable appearance on the *I Love Lucy* television show ("Who Loves You?"). Sex and sexual identity are also major factors in these stories, as a choir director finds one of his altos trying to play matchmaker for him with a recent divorcée ("Saviors"), and a group of forty-something men find themselves in the awkward company of a lusty bunch of twenty-somethings ("Delegates") and reflect on how surely they were never that age. These stories, along with "The Mother-of-the-Groom and I," a wonderfully wry look at a failed New York actor who has come home for his brother's wedding and who is given the task of helping his

mother find the proper dress for the event, all create entire worlds within which the characters live and struggle to find their way. Funny, touching, serious, and tender, these are tales sure to appeal to anyone who has ever known the awkwardness of being "different," and while life is often harsh for the stories' characters, the bold determination with which they persevere offers inspiration to all. Crafted with affecting sincerity, *The Music of Your Life* marks the beginning of what is certain to be an extraordinary career.

### **The Mistress's Daughter**

"I can imagine both Jane Austen and Raymond Carver pouring over this masterly novel" of a girl's coming-of-age in 1970s New York (Frank McCourt). From the National Endowment for the Arts Award-winning author of the New York Times Notable Book, *The Sea of Trees*, comes the "shockingly funny" (*Vanity Fair*), "wholly un sentimental but peculiarly hopeful portrait of family love and growing up scarred but sturdy" (*LA Weekly*). Splitting time between her off-kilter family in a garbage-strewn apartment and a lonely hot dog vendor who trades Hershey bars for questionable favors, the pragmatic and absolutely fearless thirteen-year-old Smitty stands firmly grounded in a city that is stifling, violent, unpredictable, and full of life. It's not easy to stay balanced. Not with two precocious sisters, a pothead brother, a depressed but steel-willed mother, an infirm grandmother, and an idler dad who's vanished with his appallingly stupid mistress. Now, with dark humor, deadpan resilience, and a quiet sense of the surreal, Smitty recounts a remarkable chain of events that will make this the most transcendent year of her young life. In *Here They Come*, the PEN New England Award-winning Yannick Murphy "flawlessly captures a child's-eye view of a battered society and a battered family" (*Los Angeles Times*), "creating a world as magical and harrowing as the struggle to come to grips with maturity" (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review).

### **HarperCollins College Outline Music Theory**

The Tenth Anniversary Edition of the New York Times bestselling book that has sold over half a million copies in paperback. "I was addicted to "Bewitched" as a kid. I worshipped Darren Stevens the First. When he'd come home from work and Samantha would say, 'Darren, would you like me to fix you a drink?' He'd always rest his briefcase on the table below the mirror in the foyer, wipe his forehead with a monogrammed handkerchief and say, 'Better make it a double.'" (from Chapter Two) You may not know it, but you've met Augusten Burroughs. You've seen him on the street, in bars, on the subway, at restaurants: a twentysomething guy, nice suit, works in advertising. Regular. Ordinary. But when the ordinary person had two drinks, Augusten was circling the drain by having twelve; when the ordinary person went home at midnight, Augusten never went home at all. Loud, distracting ties, automated wake-up calls and cologne on the tongue could only hide so much for so long. At the request (well, it wasn't really a request) of his employers, Augusten lands in rehab, where his dreams of group therapy with Robert Downey Jr. are immediately dashed by grim reality of fluorescent lighting and paper hospital

slippers. But when Augusten is forced to examine himself, something actually starts to click and that's when he finds himself in the worst trouble of all. Because when his thirty days are up, he has to return to his same drunken Manhattan life—and live it sober. What follows is a memoir that's as moving as it is funny, as heartbreaking as it is true. Dry is the story of love, loss, and Starbucks as a Higher Power.

### **Eric Fischl**

Disconnected from the outside world until a health scare and a sink hole in his yard force him to forge new relationships, middle-aged everyman Richard Novak finds his life changed by a doughnut shop owner, a kidnapped woman, a counterculture icon, and others. Reprint. 75,000 first printing.

### **Never Mind Nirvana**

Amy Bloom was nominated for a National Book Award for her first collection, *Come to Me*, and her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Story*, *Antaeus*, and other magazines, and in *The Best American Short Stories* and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*. In her new collection, she enhances her reputation as a true artist of the form. Here are characters confronted with tragedy, perplexed by emotions, and challenged to endure whatever modern life may have in store. A loving mother accompanies her daughter in her journey to become a man, and discovers a new, hopeful love. A stepmother and stepson meet again after fifteen years and a devastating mistake, and rediscover their familial affection for each other. And in "The Story," a widow bent on seducing another woman's husband constructs and deconstructs her story until she has "made the best and happiest ending" possible "in this world." From the Trade Paperback edition.

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