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# The Echo Maker Richard Powers

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Richard Powers*

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## The Echo Maker

### **A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

Winner of the National Book Award From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* and the Oprah's Book Club selection *Bewilderment* comes Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker*, a powerful novel about family and loss. "Wise and elegant . . . The mysteries unfold so organically and stealthily that you are unaware of his machinations until they come to stunning fruition . . . Powers accomplishes something magnificent." —Colson Whitehead, *The New York Times Book Review* On a winter night on a remote Nebraska road, twenty-seven-year-old Mark Schluter has a near-fatal car accident. His older sister, Karin, returns reluctantly to their hometown to

nurse Mark back from a traumatic head injury. But when Mark emerges from a coma, he believes that this woman—who looks, acts, and sounds just like his sister—is really an imposter. When Karin contacts the famous cognitive neurologist Gerald Weber for help, he diagnoses Mark as having Capgras syndrome. The mysterious nature of the disease, combined with the strange circumstances surrounding Mark's accident, threatens to change all of their lives beyond recognition. In *The Echo Maker*, Richard Powers proves himself to be one of our boldest and most entertaining novelists.

**The Echo Maker** *Random House*

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory*, an intense, thrilling novel

about a near fatal accident and its devastating consequences. On a winter night, Mark Schluter's truck turns over in a near-fatal accident. His sister, Karin, returns reluctantly to their hometown to look after him. But when he finally awakes from his coma, Mark believes that Karin – who looks, acts, and sounds just like his sister – is really an identical impostor. Shattered by her brother's behaviour, Karin contacts neuroscientist Dr Gerald Weber. But what Weber discovers in Mark begins to undermine even his own sense of self. Meanwhile, Mark, armed only with a note left by an anonymous witness, attempts to learn what really happened. The truth of that evening will change the lives of all three beyond recognition. Winner of the National Book Award for Fiction 'A



psychological thriller, a flawed love story, a study of authenticity in emotions, a commentary on America's relations with itself and the world, humanity and ecology... undoubtedly magnificent' The Times

**The Echo Maker** *Random House*

On a remote Nebraska road, 27-year-old Mark Schluter flips his truck in a near-fatal accident. His older sister Karin returns reluctantly to their hometown to nurse Mark back from a traumatic head injury. When he emerges from a protracted coma, Mark believes that this woman--who looks, acts, and sounds just like his sister--is really an identical impostor.

**Orfeo** *Harper Collins*

The author of the National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Echo Maker*, Richard Powers "may well be one of the smartest novelists now writing" (LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK REVIEW) Seventy-year-old avant-garde composer Peter Els opens the door one evening to find the police on his doorstep. His home DIY microbiology lab--the latest experiment in his lifelong attempt to extract music from rich patterns beyond the ear's ability to hear--has come to the attention of Homeland Security. Panicked by the raid on his house, Els turns fugitive, waiting for the evidence to clear him and for the alarm surrounding his activities to blow over. His days in hiding provoke memories of a turbulent century of musical turf wars and cause Els to reflect on a life spent

chasing after transcendent sounds to the bewilderment of an indifferent public. As the national hysteria for safety erupts again in the face of this latest threat, Els--the "Bioterrorist Bach"--feeling the noose around him tighten, embarks on a cross-country trip to visit the people in his past who have most shaped his failed musical journey. Through the help of these people--his ex-wife, his daughter and his long-time artistic collaborator--Els comes up with a plan to turn this disastrous collision with the security state into one last, resonant artwork that might reach an audience beyond his wildest dreams. Inspired by Steve Kurtz, the bio-artist wrongly arrested for terrorism by the FBI, Orfeo probes the boundary between stifling safety and reckless, releasing danger. It explores

the varieties of human hunger, in particular the desire to hear more and to make meaning where there is none. Finally, the book is a meditation on that most endangered and priceless of human resources: attention.

**Bewilderment: A Novel** *W. W. Norton & Company*

AN OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB SELECTION An Instant New York Times Bestseller A New York Times Notable Book of 2021 Shortlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize and Longlisted for the 2021 National Book Award for Fiction A Best Book/Best Novel of 2021 at NPR, Newsweek, The Boston Globe, Audible, Goodreads, Christian Science Monitor, Library Journal, Garden & Gun Magazine, and many more A heartrending new novel from the Pulitzer

Prize-winning and #1 New York Times best-selling author of *The Overstory*. The astrobiologist Theo Byrne searches for life throughout the cosmos while single-handedly raising his unusual nine-year-old, Robin, following the death of his wife. Robin is a warm, kind boy who spends hours painting elaborate pictures of endangered animals. He's also about to be expelled from third grade for smashing his friend in the face. As his son grows more troubled, Theo hopes to keep him off psychoactive drugs. He learns of an experimental neurofeedback treatment to bolster Robin's emotional control, one that involves training the boy on the recorded patterns of his mother's brain... With its soaring descriptions of the natural world, its tantalizing vision of life beyond, and its

account of a father and son's ferocious love, *Bewilderment* marks Richard Powers's most intimate and moving novel. At its heart lies the question: How can we tell our children the truth about this beautiful, imperiled planet?

## **Galatea 2.2**

### **A Novel** *Macmillan*

The protagonist, a Humanist-in-Residence at the center for Advanced Scientific Research, gets involved with a project to train a machine to pass a comprehensive exam in English literature--and with the degree candidate against whom the machine is competing. Reprint.

### **The Gold Bug Variations** *HarperCollins*

National Bestseller National Book Critics Circle Award Nominee From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* and the forthcoming *Bewilderment*, a magnificent double love story of two young couples separated by a distance of twenty-five years. “The most lavishly ambitious American novel since *Gravity’s Rainbow* . . . An outright marvel.” —Washington Post Stuart Ressler, a brilliant young molecular biologist, sets out in 1957 to crack the genetic code. His efforts are sidetracked by other, more intractable codes—social, moral, musical, spiritual—and he falls in love with a member of his research team. Years later, another young man and woman team up to investigate a different scientific mystery: Why did the eminently promising Ressler suddenly

disappear from the world of science? Strand by strand, these two love stories twist about each other in a double helix of desire. The critically acclaimed third novel from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Powers, *The Gold Bug Variations* is an intellectual tour-de-force that probes the meaning of love, science, music, and art.

### **Plowing the Dark**

#### **A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

A dazzling new novel by the author of *Galatea 2.2* and *Gain* In a digital laboratory on the shores of Puget Sound, a band of virtual-reality researchers races to complete the Cavern, an empty white room that can become a jungle, a painting, or a vast Byzantine cathedral.

In a war-torn Mediterranean city, an American is held hostage, chained to a radiator in another empty white room. What can possibly join these two remote places? Only the shared imagination, a room that these people unwittingly build in common, where they are all about to meet. Adie Klarpol, a skilled but disillusioned artist, comes back to life, revived by the thrill of working with cutting-edge technology. Against the collapse of Cold War empires and the fall of the Berlin Wall, she retreats dangerously into the cyber-realities she has been hired to create. On the other side of the globe, Taimur Martin, an English teacher recovering from a failed love affair, is picked up off the streets in Beirut by Islamic fundamentalists and held in solitary captivity. A mesmerizing

fiction that explores the imagination's power to both destroy and save, *Plowing the Dark* recasts the rules of the novel and stands as Richard Powers's most daring work to date.

### **Generosity**

#### **An Enhancement** *Macmillan*

Intrigued by an Algerian woman whose blissful demeanor contrasts with the horrific environment of her home country, Chicago teacher Russell Stone brings her to the attention of others who become equally entranced. By the National Book Award-winning author of *The Echo Maker*. Reprint. A New York Times Editor's Choice.

#### **The Overstory: A Novel** *W. W. Norton*

### *& Company*

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction  
Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize New  
York Times Bestseller A New York Times  
Notable Book and a Washington Post,  
Time, Oprah Magazine, Newsweek,  
Chicago Tribune, and Kirkus Reviews  
Best Book of 2018 "The best novel ever  
written about trees, and really just one  
of the best novels, period." —Ann  
Patchett The Overstory, winner of the  
2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a  
sweeping, impassioned work of activism  
and resistance that is also a stunning  
evocation of—and paean to—the natural  
world. From the roots to the crown and  
back to the seeds, Richard Powers's  
twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings  
of interlocking fables that range from  
antebellum New York to the late

twentieth-century Timber Wars of the  
Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a  
world alongside ours—vast, slow,  
interconnected, resourceful,  
magnificently inventive, and almost  
invisible to us. This is the story of a  
handful of people who learn how to see  
that world and who are drawn up into its  
unfolding catastrophe.

### **The Time of Our Singing**

#### **A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of  
The Overstory and the Oprah's Book  
Club selection Bewilderment comes  
Richard Powers's magnificent,  
multifaceted novel, The Time of Our  
Singing, about a supremely gifted—and  
divided—family, set against the

backdrop of postwar America. On Easter day, 1939, at Marian Anderson's epochal concert on the Washington Mall, David Strom, a German Jewish émigré scientist, meets Delia Daley, a young Philadelphia Negro studying to be a singer. Their mutual love of music draws them together, and--against all odds and better judgment--they marry. They vow to raise their children beyond time, beyond identity, steeped in song. But their three children must survive America's brutal here and now. Jonah, Joseph, and Ruth grow up during the Civil Rights era, come of age in the violent 1960s, and live out adulthood in the racially retrenched late century. Jonah, the eldest, "whose voice could make heads of state repent," follows a life in his parents' beloved classical

music. Ruth, the youngest, chooses a militant activism and repudiates the white culture her brother represents. Joseph, the middle child and the narrator of this generational tale, struggles to remain connected to them both. *The Time of Our Singing* is a story of self-invention, allegiance, race, cultural ownership, the compromised power of music, and the tangled loops of time that rewrite all belonging.

**Operation Wandering Soul**  
*HarperCollins*

National Book Award Finalist From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* and the forthcoming *Bewilderment*, an exquisitely rendered novel set in the pediatrics ward of a public hospital that examines the power,

joy, and anguish of storytelling. “If you have children or will have children, if you know children or can remember being a child, dare to read *Operation Wandering Soul*. . . [it] is bedtime reading for the future.” —USA Today In the pediatrics ward of a public hospital in the heart of Los Angeles, a group of sick children is gathering. Surrogate parents to this band of stray kids, resident Richard Kraft and therapist Linda Espera are charged with keeping the group alive on make-believe alone. Determined to give hope where there is none, the adults spin a desperate anthology of stories that promise restoration and escape. But the inevitable is foreshadowed in the faces they’ve grown to love, and ultimately Richard and Linda must return to forgotten chapters in their own lives in

order to make sense of the conclusion drawing near.

### **Galatea 2.2** *Macmillan*

Richard Powers, a Humanist-in-Residence at the Center for Advanced Scientific Research, gets involved with a project to train a machine to pass a comprehensive exam in English literature--and with the degree candidate against whom the machine is competing. 25,000 first printing.

### **The Powers of Fiction**

### **In Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker***

### **Prisoner's Dilemma** *HarperCollins*

The magnificent second novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The*



Overstory and the forthcoming Bewilderment. “Accomplished . . . mature and assured. . . . A major American novelist.”— New Republic Something is wrong with Eddie Hobson, Sr., father of four, sometime history teacher, quiz master, black humorist, and virtuoso invalid. His recurring fainting spells have worsened, and given his ingrained aversion to doctors, his worried family tries to discover the nature of his sickness. Meanwhile, in private, Eddie puts the finishing touches on a secret project he calls Hobbstown, a place that he promises will save him, the world, and everything that’s in it. A dazzling novel of compassion and imagination, Prisoner’s Dilemma is a story of the power of individual experience.

### **The Echo Maker**

On a winter night on a remote road in Nebraska, twenty-seven-year-old Mark Schluter's truck turns over in a near fatal accident. His older sister, Karin, his only close relative, returns reluctantly to their hometown to nurse Mark back from a traumatic he

### **Wolf Play** *Bloomsbury Publishing*

What if I said I am not what you think you see? A southpaw boxer is on the verge of their pro debut when their wife signs the adoption papers for a Korean boy. The boy's original adoptive father was all set to hand him over to a new home... until he realizes the boy would have no “dad.” Caught in the middle, the child launches himself in a lone wolf's journey of finding a pack he can call his

own. *Wolf Play* is a mischievous and affecting new play about the families we choose and unchoose. It is published in Methuen Drama's *Lost Plays* series, celebrating new plays that had productions postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the global shutdown of theatre spaces.

### **Gain Arrow**

From the bestselling author of *The Overstory*, a visionary novel about the failings of the American dream. From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* and *Bewilderment*, a visionary novel about the failings of the American dream. 'It's not possible for powers to write an uninteresting book' Margaret Atwood In *Lacewood*, Illinois, Laura Bodey, a divorced mother of two and

real estate agent, plunges into a new existence when she learns that she has cancer. This same small town is home to *Clare & Company*, a soap manufacturer begun by three brothers in nineteenth-century Boston. Over the course of more than a century, it transforms into a powerful international corporation. *Clare & Company's* stunning growth reflects America's kaleidoscopic history, yet for Laura and her family, this wild success has profound and lasting consequences. 'Penetrating and splendidly written... Dazzling' *New York Times*

### **Gain**

**A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

Gain braids together two stories on very different scales. In one, Laura Body,

divorced mother of two and a real-estate agent in the small town of Lacewood, Illinois, plunges into a new existence when she learns that she has ovarian cancer. In the other, *Clare & Company*, a soap manufacturer begun by three brothers in nineteenth-century Boston, grows over the course of a century and a half into an international consumer products conglomerate based in Laura's hometown. Clare's stunning growth reflects the kaleidoscopic history of America; Laura Body's life is changed forever by Clare. The novel's stunning conclusion reveals the countless invisible connections between the largest enterprises and the smallest lives.

### **Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker* and the Trauma of Survival**

In this study, Cathy Caruth's innovative description of trauma as a crisis of survival in works such as "Traumatic Departures: Survival and History in Freud" and *Unclaimed Experience* (1996) is applied to the story of Mark Schluter's traumatic experience in Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker* (2006). Theoretically, Caruth's description owes much to Freud's classic accounts of trauma in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (1920) and *Moses and Monotheism* (1939). In particular, Caruth capitalizes in on Freud's reference to the experience of awakening from traumatic unconsciousness as an "another fright" in the second section of *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (Freud 11). For Caruth, the content of this second fright is the unwitting continuance of life in the face

of near death experience. The narrative of Richard Powers's *The Echo Maker* originates in such a second fright experience. Brought close to death through a violent truck accident in the novel's introduction, Mark Schluter awakens later in the novel into a life that he no longer recognizes as his own. In particular, Capgras syndrome, a neurological condition brought on by the crash, makes it impossible for him to recognize his sister Karin as kin. Mark eventually regains recognition of his sister but tellingly only after a secondary traumatic experience involving an unsuccessful suicide attempt. In the novel's fourth section, Powers refers to Mark after his secondary trauma as "Mark Three" (Powers 414). Building upon this suggestion, this study

separates *The Echo Maker's* Mark character into three distinct parts in light of his two most notably traumatic experiences: the crash and the suicide attempt. Using Freud's *Moses and Monotheism* as a structural guide, this thesis serializes Mark Schluter character in an attempt to better understand the traumatic content of his experiences before and after these traumatic experiences. Using Caruth's description of trauma as a crisis of survival, this study characterizes this content as Mark's inability to conceptualize his own survival. Mark's passage through a series of selves constitutes implicitly a repetition of the incomprehensibility of Mark's initial survival of the crash. Paradoxically, these repetitions bring with them other incomprehensible

circumstances and so only further complicate the incomprehensibility of the original event as opposed to leading to greater understanding. Powers's novel therefore involves the depiction of trauma as a force that writes its own history only through the further displacement of the traumatic subject from the original traumatic event. Although at the novel's conclusion Mark Three appears to have recovered from Capgras syndrome, this thesis suggests in agreement with Herman and Vervaeck in "Capturing Capgras: The Echo Maker by Richard Powers" (2009) that Powers's denial of an internal focalization for Mark Three in the novel's final section casts a shadow of uncertainty over the actuality of Mark's recovery. Instead, traumatic experience in the novel's final section

merely shifts its locus, finding a new home in the lives of Dr. Weber, Mark's consulting neurologist, and Barbara Gillespie, Mark's attending nurse. In *The Echo Maker*, trauma can only resolve itself through repetition, demonstrating at the heart of trauma's reiterative process a paradoxically social trajectory.

### **Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance** *Atlantic Books*

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Overstory* \_\_\_\_\_ Rosenthal Award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Special Citation, PEN Hemingway Award \_\_\_\_\_ In the spring of 1914, renowned photographer August Sander took a photograph of three young men on their way to a country

dance. This haunting image, capturing the last moments of innocence on the brink of World War I, provides the central focus of Powers' brilliant and compelling first novel. As the fate of the three farmers is chronicled, two contemporary stories unfold. The young narrator becomes obsessed with the photo, while Peter Mays, a computer writer in Boston, discovers he has a personal link with it. The three stories connect in a stunning way and provide a mystery that spans a century of brutality and progress. 'Nothing less than brilliant' John Updike

### **Explorations of Consciousness in Contemporary Fiction** *BRILL*

Explorations of Consciousness in Contemporary Fiction is a collection of essays examining the potential of the

contemporary English-language novel to represent and inquire into various aspects of the human mind.

### **Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction**

**Environment and Affect** *Columbia University Press*

The 1970s brought a new understanding of the biological and intellectual impact of environmental crises on human beings, and as efforts to prevent ecological and human degradation aligned, a new literature of sickness emerged. "Ecosickness fiction" imaginatively rethinks the link between ecological and bodily endangerment and uses affect and the sick body to bring readers to environmental consciousness.

Tracing the development of ecosickness through a compelling archive of modern U.S. novels and memoirs, this study demonstrates the mode's crucial role in shaping thematic content and formal and affective literary strategies. Examining works by David Foster Wallace, Richard Powers, Leslie Marmon Silko, Marge Piercy, Jan Zita Grover, and David Wojnarowicz, Heather Houser shows how these authors unite experiences of environmental and somatic damage through narrative affects that draw attention to ecological phenomena, organize perception, and convert knowledge into ethics. Traversing contemporary cultural studies, ecocriticism, affect studies, and literature and medicine, Houser juxtaposes ecosickness fiction against

new forms of environmentalism and technoscientific innovations such as regenerative medicine and alternative ecosystems. Ecosickness in Contemporary U.S. Fiction recasts recent narrative as a laboratory in which affective and perceptual changes both support and challenge political projects.

### **The Great Fire**

#### **A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

The Great Fire is the winner of the 2003 National Book Award for Fiction. A great writer's sweeping story of men and women struggling to reclaim their lives in the aftermath of world conflict The Great Fire is Shirley Hazzard's first novel since *The Transit of Venus*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in

1981. The conflagration of her title is the Second World War. In war-torn Asia and stricken Europe, men and women, still young but veterans of harsh experience, must reinvent their lives and expectations, and learn, from their past, to dream again. Some will fulfill their destinies, others will falter. At the center of the story, Aldred Leith, a brave and brilliant soldier, finds that survival and worldly achievement are not enough. Helen Driscoll, a young girl living in occupied Japan and tending her dying brother, falls in love, and in the process discovers herself. In the looming shadow of world enmities resumed, and of Asia's coming centrality in world affairs, a man and a woman seek to recover self-reliance, balance, and tenderness, struggling to reclaim their humanity.

## Three Junes

**A novel** *Anchor*

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • An astonishing novel that traces the lives of a Scottish family over a decade as they confront the joys and longings, fulfillments and betrayals of love in all its guises. In June of 1989 Paul McLeod, a newspaper publisher and recent widower, travels to Greece, where he falls for a young American artist and reflects on the complicated truth about his marriage.... Six years later, again in June, Paul's death draws his three grown sons and their families back to their ancestral home. Fenno, the eldest, a wry, introspective gay man, narrates the events of this unforeseen reunion. Far



from his straitlaced expatriate life as a bookseller in Greenwich Village, Fenno is stunned by a series of revelations that threaten his carefully crafted defenses.... Four years farther on, in yet another June, a chance meeting on the Long Island shore brings Fenno together with Fern Olitsky, the artist who once captivated his father. Now pregnant, Fern must weigh her guilt about the past against her wishes for the future and decide what family means to her. In prose rich with compassion and wit, *Three Junes* paints a haunting portrait of love's redemptive powers.

### **Secrets of Creativity**

**What Neuroscience, the Arts, and Our Minds Reveal** *Oxford University*

*Press*

*Secrets of Creativity: What Neuroscience, the Arts, and Our Minds Reveal* draws on insights from leading neuroscientists and scholars in the humanities and the arts to probe creativity in its many contexts, in the everyday mind, the exceptional mind, the scientific mind, the artistic mind, and the pathological mind. Components of creativity are specified with respect to types of memory, forms of intelligence, modes of experience, and kinds of emotion. Authors in this volume take on the challenge of showing how creativity can be characterized behaviorally, cognitively, and neurophysiologically. The complementary perspectives of the authors add to the richness of these findings. Neuroscientists describe the

functioning of the brain and its circuitry in creative acts of scientific discovery or aesthetic production. Humanists from the fields of literature, art, and music give analyses of creativity in major literary works, musical compositions, and works of visual art.

**Madeleine Is Sleeping** *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

When a girl falls into a deep and impenetrable sleep, the borders between her provincial French village and the peculiar, beguiling realm of her dreams begin to disappear: A fat woman sprouts delicate wings and takes flight; a failed photographer stumbles into the role of pornographer; a beautiful young wife grows to resemble her husband's viol. And in their midst travels Madeleine, the

dreamer, who is trying to make sense of her own metamorphosis as she leaves home, joins a gypsy circus, and falls into an unexpected triangle of desire and love. *Madeleine Is Sleeping* received jubilant critical acclaim and was honored with a National Book Award nomination. Part fairy tale, part coming-of-age story, this "dream of a book" (Michael Cunningham) is an adventure in the discovery of art, sexuality, community, and the self.

**The Birds of Heaven**

**Travels with Cranes** *Macmillan*

The naturalist and explorer shares his love affair with the crane through his many illustrations focusing on the great bird, along with fascinating text about

the creature's place in history, myth, and the natural world. 25,000 first printing.

### **A New Literary History of America**

*Harvard University Press*

America is a nation making itself up as it goes along—A story of discovery and invention unfolding in speeches and images, letters and poetry, unprecedented feats of scholarship and imagination. In these myriad, multiform, endlessly changing expressions of the American experience, the authors and editors of this volume find a new American history. In more than two hundred original essays, *A New Literary History of America* brings together the nation's many voices. From the first conception of a New World in the sixteenth century to the latest re-

envisioning of that world in cartoons, television, science fiction, and hip hop, the book gives us a new, kaleidoscopic view of what "Made in America" means. Literature, music, film, art, history, science, philosophy, political rhetoric—cultural creations of every kind appear in relation to each other, and to the time and place that give them shape. The meeting of minds is extraordinary as T. J. Clark writes on Jackson Pollock, Paul Muldoon on Carl Sandburg, Camille Paglia on Tennessee Williams, Sarah Vowell on Grant Wood's *American Gothic*, Walter Mosley on hard-boiled detective fiction, Jonathan Lethem on Thomas Edison, Gerald Early on Tarzan, Bharati Mukherjee on *The Scarlet Letter*, Gish Jen on *Catcher in the Rye*, and Ishmael Reed on *Huckleberry*

Finn. From Anne Bradstreet and John Winthrop to Philip Roth and Toni Morrison, from Alexander Graham Bell and Stephen Foster to Alcoholics Anonymous, Life, Chuck Berry, Alfred Hitchcock, and Ronald Reagan, this is America singing, celebrating itself, and becoming something altogether different, plural, singular, new. Please visit [www.newliteraryhistory.com](http://www.newliteraryhistory.com) for more information.

## **The Time of Our Singing**

### **A Novel** *Macmillan*

Follows the marriage of David Strom, a German Jewish emigre scientist, and Della Daley, an African American singer, as they, along with their extraordinarily gifted children, struggle to overcome the

racial injustices of the 1960s.

### **Gold Bug Variations** *Harper Collins*

A national bestseller, voted by Time as the #1 novel of 1991, selected as one of the "Best Books of 1991" by Publishers Weekly, and nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award--a magnificent story that probes the meaning of love, science, music, and art, by the brilliant author of *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance*.

### **Barkskins**

### **A Novel** *Simon and Schuster*

"Magnificent." (Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See*) From Annie Proulx, the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning author of *The*

Shipping News and “Brokeback Mountain” comes her masterwork: an epic, dazzling, violent, marvelously dramatic novel about the destruction of the world’s forests. In the late seventeenth century, two penniless young Frenchmen, René Sel and Charles Duquet, arrive in Canada, then known as New France. Bound to a feudal lord, a seigneur, for three years in exchange for land, they become woodcutters—barkskins. Sel suffers extraordinary hardship, oppressed by the forest he is charged with clearing. He is forced to marry a Mi’kmaw woman, and their descendants live trapped between two hostile cultures. Duquet, crafty and ruthless, runs away from the seigneur, becomes a fur trader, then sets up a timber business. Proulx tells

the stories of the descendants of Sel and Duquet over three hundred years—their travels across North America, to Europe, China and New Zealand under stunningly brutal conditions—the revenge of rivals, accidents, pestilence and cultural annihilation. Again and again, they seize what they can of a presumed infinite resource, leaving the modern-day characters face-to-face with possible ecological collapse. Proulx’s inimitable genius is her creation of characters who are so vivid—in their greed, lust, vengefulness or their compassion and hope—that we follow them with fierce attention. Annie Proulx is one of the most formidable and compelling American writers, and Barkskins is her greatest novel, a superb marriage of history and imagination.

**Prisoner's Dilemma** *Harper Collins*

Something is wrong with Eddie Hobson Sr., father of four, sometime history teacher, quiz master, black humorist and virtuoso invalid. His recurring fainting spells have worsened, and with his ingrained aversion to doctors, his worried family tries to discover the nature of his sickness. Meanwhile, in private, Eddie puts the finishing touches on a secret project he calls Hobbstown, a place that he promises will save him, the world and everything that's in it. A dazzling novel of compassion and imagination, *Prisoner's Dilemma* is a story of the power of invalid experience.

**A Detective's Complaint**

**A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

"In Shimon Adaf's Lost Detective Trilogy, what begins as conventional mystery becomes by degrees a brilliant deconstruction not just of genre but of our own search for meaning. Both profound and compulsively readable, these books demand to be devoured." —Lavie Tidhar, author of *By Force Alone*

In *A Detective's Complaint*, the sequel to *One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset*, Elish Ben Zaken has traded working as a private investigator for writing detective novels based on unsolved cases from the past. He appears to live an ordinary writer's life: meeting with his agent, attending literary conferences. But all is not quite right with Elish, who cannot escape his past so easily, especially when his sister's daughter, Tahel, a teenager and an aspiring sleuth herself,

calls on him for help. Tahel has uncovered a mystery: a young woman boarded a bus in Beersheva on a Thursday evening and stepped off in Sderot, close to the Gaza border, on Sunday evening. A bus ride that should have lasted an hour instead took three days, and the young woman remembers none of it. To assist Tahel—and, he tells himself, to conduct research for his next novel—Elish moves back to Sderot, where he grew up. His sister, Yaffa, has moved her family from Tel Aviv to a new lakeside development there; the property came cheap, despite the attractive setting, and there are murmurs that the developer fled the country before it was completed. Some of the houses still stand empty, and Tahel keeps waking up at night to find

her mother staring out at the lake, convinced she is being watched. Now, in the summer of 2014, Sderot lies near the center of the Gaza-Israel conflict, and sirens and missile strikes are part of the town's daily reality—as are violent clashes between anti-war protestors and those who oppose them. In this pressurized environment, Elish must grapple with the deep wounds of history, both personal and political, and the human need for answers in a world that offers few.

## Intersections

### **Essays on Richard Powers** *Dalkey Archive Press*

Since his first novel was published in 1985, Richard Powers has assembled a

body of work whose intellectual breadth and imaginative energy bears comparison with that of any writer working today. *Intersections: Essays on Richard Powers* pays tribute to that achievement by collecting seventeen essays--written by leading literary critics, philosophers, and a novelist--each of which offers important insights into Powers's narrative craft and the intellectual grids that underlie his work. Powers's novels are distinguished by both their multiple narrative forms and their sophisticated synthesis of diverse fields of knowledge; to attempt to adequately address this range, the contributors to this volume mix their study of Powers's narrative innovations with eclectic interdisciplinary perspectives, which range from

photography and systems theory, to ecocriticism and neuroscience. The volume concludes with an essay by Powers himself, that explores his philosophy of the novel.

### **Genie Byliner Fiction**

### **Nevada**

#### **A Novel MCD x FSG Originals**

One of Vogue's Best Books of 2022 So Far, BuzzFeed's Summer Books You Won't Be Able To Put Down, Book Riot's Best Summer Reads for 2022, and Dazed's Queer Books to Read in 2022 "[Nevada] is defiant, terse, not quite cynical, sometimes flip, addressed to people who think they know. It is, if you like, punk rock." —The New Yorker



"Nevada is a book that changed my life: it shaped both my worldview and personhood, making me the writer I am. And it did so by the oldest of methods, by telling a wise, hilarious, and gripping story." —Torrey Peters, author of *Detransition, Baby* A beloved and blistering cult classic and finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Fiction finally back in print, *Nevada* follows a disaffected trans woman as she embarks on a cross-country road trip. Maria Griffiths is almost thirty and works at a used bookstore in New York City while trying to stay true to her punk values. She's in love with her bike but not with her girlfriend, Steph. She takes random pills and drinks more than is good for her, but doesn't inject anything except, when she remembers, estrogen,

because she's trans. Everything is mostly fine until Maria and Steph break up, sending Maria into a tailspin, and then onto a cross-country trek in the car she steals from Steph. She ends up in the backwater town of Star City, Nevada, where she meets James, who is probably but not certainly trans, and who reminds Maria of her younger self. As Maria finds herself in the awkward position of trans role model, she realizes that she could become James's savior—or his downfall. One of the most beloved cult novels of our time and a landmark of trans literature, Imogen Binnie's *Nevada* is a blistering, heartfelt, and evergreen coming-of-age story, and a punk-smeared excavation of marginalized life under capitalism. Guided by an instantly memorable, terminally self-aware

protagonist—and back in print featuring a new afterword by the author—Nevada is the great American road novel flipped on its head for a new generation.

## **Lying Awake**

### **A Novel** *Vintage*

Mark Salzman's *Lying Awake* is a finely wrought gem that plumbs the depths of one woman's soul, and in so doing raises salient questions about the power-and price-of faith. Sister John's cloistered life of peace and prayer has been electrified by ever more frequent visions of God's radiance, leading her toward a deep religious ecstasy. Her life and writings have become examples of devotion. Yet her visions are accompanied by shattering headaches that compel Sister

John to seek medical help. When her doctor tells her an illness may be responsible for her gift, Sister John faces a wrenching choice: to risk her intimate glimpses of the divine in favor of a cure, or to continue her visions with the knowledge that they might be false-and might even cost her her life.

## **Cross-Step Waltz**

### **A Dancer's Guide** *Redowa Press*

*Cross-Step Waltz* is one of the newest social dance forms, spreading quickly because it's easy to learn yet endlessly innovative, satisfying for both beginners and the most experienced dancers. It rotates and travels like the original waltz, but the addition of the cross-step opens up a wide range of playful yet

gracefully flowing variations. In this comprehensive dancer's guide to Cross-Step Waltz, you will learn: ● How to dance more than 250 variations of Cross-Step Waltz, including basics, turns, grapevines, pivots, Tango-inspired figures, variations in cradle and shadow position, and ways to conclude a dance with flair. ● How to become a better dance partner, whether you dance as a Lead, a Follow, or both. ● How to dance more musically, and how to create your own Cross-Step Waltz variations. ● How to dance Cross-Step Waltz to a wide variety of music, and how to transition between Cross-Step Waltz and other dances. ● Finally, in a series of essays by our students, you'll learn how dancing Cross-Step Waltz can change your life! In addition to being fully described in

writing, each of the 250+ variations is illustrated by a demo video on a companion website.

### **One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset**

#### **A Novel** *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*

"In Shimon Adaf's Lost Detective Trilogy, what begins as conventional mystery becomes by degrees a brilliant deconstruction not just of genre but of our own search for meaning. Both profound and compulsively readable, these books demand to be devoured." —Lavie Tidhar At age thirty, Elish Ben Zaken has found himself in a life he never imagined. As a university student, Elish was an esteemed rock-music critic for local newspapers; now, disenchanted

with an increasingly commercialized music scene, he has joined a private investigation agency where he is content to be a “clerk of small human sins”—a finder of stolen cars and wayward husbands. But when a disconcertingly amiable detective asks him to look into the suicide of an infamous philosophy professor—and the police file contains an unexpected allusion to Dalia Shushan, a celebrated young rock singer whose recent murder remains unsolved—Elish’s natural curiosity is piqued. And when violence begins to dog the steps of his investigation, he knows that dangerous secrets are at hand. Haunted by the ghost of Dalia, a true artist with a transformative voice whose

dark brilliance Elish was one of the first to recognize, he must face the long-buried trauma of his own past in order to unravel the intertwining threads of two lives, and their ends. In *Elish*, Shimon Adaf has created an unforgettable protagonist. A former philosophy student with a questing mind, born to Moroccan parents and raised in an outlying town, he is an eternal outsider in cosmopolitan Tel Aviv. Equally, *One Mile and Two Days Before Sunset* is a detective novel unlike any other: an incisive portrait of a man and a city, and a meditation on disappointment, on striving for beauty and for intensity of experience, and on the futile desire to truly know another person.