

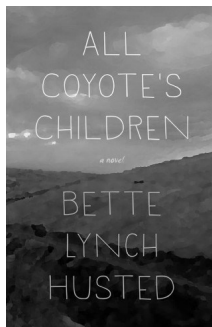
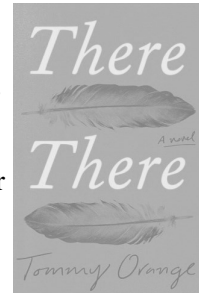
BOOKMARKS

Spring 2018 Newsletter ~ The Bookloft ~ Your hometown source for books and more ~ Enterprise, Oregon

It's almost Summer. The kids are out of school. The garden is planted. It's time to hit that hammock and indulge in some good reading. I recently read some really amazing books. While they are not all what you'd consider beach reads, they were good enough to inspire me to generate this newsletter to let you know about them.

THERE THERE by Tommy Orange

"Astonishing!" says the blurb on the cover of this book. Of course, book blurbs are meant to sing the praises of the book you are holding in your hand. But in this case, it is the word that came to my mind as I was reading it. This debut novel is indeed an exceptional read. Like Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kitteridge*, the book is a series of chapters looking into the lives of a handful of people living in the same place. In this case, it is Oakland California and the characters are Native American, or partially Native or those married to Natives. The boundaries of identity are blurred. Violence and beauty, heroism and despair, memories and loss, all these also both blur and come into exquisite focus in these characters. The title of the book comes from a Gertrude Stein quote about there being "no there there" referring to the place where she grew up as it felt to her upon her return years later. In the "there" of this novel, the Indians who live in the city have a kind of invisibility. One doesn't think about Oakland as a hub of Native American community. As we get a glimpse into their lives, we can see the ever present weight of their collective past, sometimes more obviously, sometimes less. But still there. Good choices, bad choices, human choices are made. These choices add their own weight to the unfolding stories. As the novel progresses, each of the characters in the book moves towards one place, the upcoming Big Oakland Powwow, and one moment, where their lives will intersect in different and unexpected ways. The book is powerfully written and as it built toward its climactic ending, I found myself pausing, both to catch a breath, and because I didn't want the book to end. 25.95

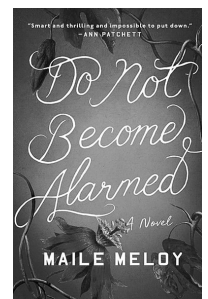


ALL COYOTE'S CHILDREN by Betty Lynch Husted

Set on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, this first novel by essayist Husted is a powerful look at history and identity. Jack, Annie and their son Riley spend their summers on Jack's father's ranch helping him out during their break from their academic lives in Portland. They are a happy family and come to treasure their time in Eastern Oregon. But within a matter of months, their lives fall apart and then it is just Annie and Riley who move permanently to the remote ranch. As they struggle to deal with their losses, create new lives, and build fragile new relationships, the history of their family threatens to overwhelm them. But they come to realize the strengths to be found in the bonds they are making with their new community and they learn to redefine family. Though both tragic and poignant, this novel is also full of love and redemption. Husted chose a local setting for her story and her depiction of the beauty and historical heritage of the area amplifies the meaningfulness of this novel. 18.95

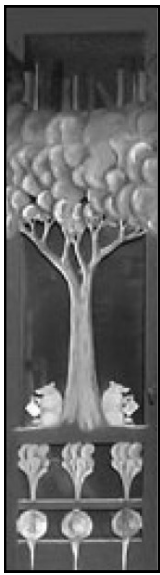
DO NOT BECOME ALARMED by Maile Meloy

Two families from LA decide to spend the Christmas holidays on a cruise to Central America. With all the amenities of the giant ship at their disposal, what could go wrong? As it turns out, more things than you could imagine. But fortunately for us, the author *does* imagine them and the resulting story is a roller-coaster ride of one disaster after another. I picked this book up to read and literally could not stop reading until I reached the end. But this is not just another page turner. As the series of events unfold, the families are forced to reconsider their ideas about themselves, both collectively and individually. Their strengths and weaknesses, either obvious or underlying, all come to the surface and everyone emerges at the end of the experience completely changed. Expectations based on race, culture, nationality and privilege all come under our scrutiny as the story unfolds and we are left with a true sense of the impartiality of fate and how fleeting and flimsy our efforts at staying safe can be. 16.00



HEARTSEEKER by Melinda Beatty

I loved spending time in the world created by this author. Only Fallow lives with her family in a small village tending the family's orchard. From a young age she knew she was somehow different from the rest of the family, but manages to lead a normal happy life. Until her power to see lies is discovered by the king and Only is forced to move to his castle. There she is embroiled in the treachery and power grabbing that lies in the heart of the kingdom. Can Only and her power to see the truth help save the kingdom? You'll just have to dive into this creatively crafted middle reader book to find out. 16.99



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Recently out in paperback

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON by David Grann

The multiple murders of Osage Indians in the 1920s is one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history and was instrumental in the birth of the FBI.

HILLBILLY ELEGY by J.D. Vance

A memoir of the author's experience as a part of a culture in crisis – that of poor, white Americans and how the dream of upward mobility really feels

THE STRANGER IN THE WOODS by Michael Finkel

The extraordinary story of the last true hermit who disappeared into the Maine woods in 1986 and lived there for the next twenty-seven years

AMERICAN KINGPIN by Nick Bolton

The epic hunt for the criminal mastermind behind the Silk Road website where all kinds of illegal items could be purchased

THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER by Karen Dionne

A fictional account of a woman who was the product of an abduction. Her mother was kidnapped as a teenager and held captive in a remote area of Michigan's upper peninsula. Twenty years later, the woman's secret is about to be discovered when her father is released from prison and threatens her family.

EXIT WEST by Mohsin Hamid

In an unnamed Middle Eastern country, two young people meet and start a relationship. As the situation in their city deteriorates, mysterious portals open up allowing for escape to various other cities around the world. A most interesting look at refugees and at the course of a relationship.



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