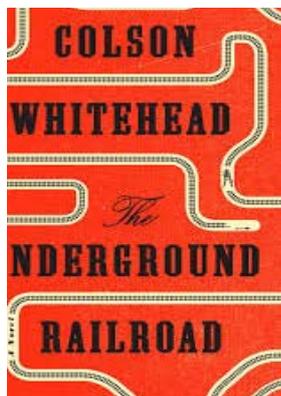




Book News From The Lane Bookshop

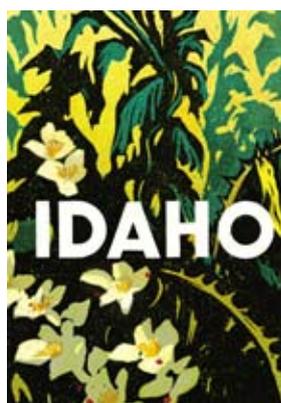
Autumn 2017



The Underground Railway by Colson Whitehead Paperback \$19.99

The Underground Railway is the winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. In Colson Whitehead's razor-sharp imagining of the antebellum South, the Underground Railroad has assumed the physical form of an underground rail system to transport slaves to freedom. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation. Caesar a slave recently arrived from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, and together they take the perilous decision to escape to the North.

At each stop, Cora encounters a different world recreating the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era. The Underground Railroad is at once the story of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a powerful meditation on history.

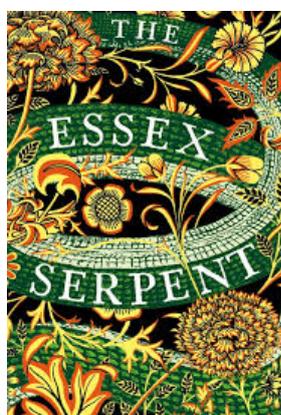


Idaho by Emily Ruskovich Paperback \$32.99

A stunning debut novel about love and forgiveness from O. Henry Literary Prize winning author Emily Ruskovich.

Ann and Wade have carved out a life for themselves from a rugged landscape in northern Idaho, where they are bound together by more than love. With her husband's memory fading, Ann attempts to piece together the truth of what happened to Wade's first wife, Jenny, and to their daughters.

The story is written in exquisite prose, told from multiple perspectives including those of Ann, Wade and his former wife Jenny. Gradually we learn of the mysterious and shocking act that fractured Wade and Jenny's lives. The novel deals entirely with the love and compassion that brought Ann and Wade together, and with the memories that reverberate through the lives of every character in Idaho. A stunning first novel indeed.



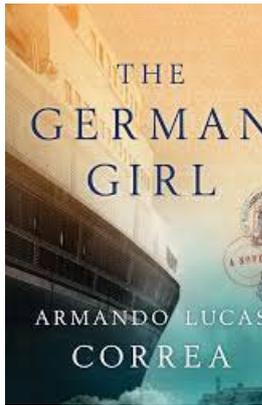
The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry Paperback \$19.99

Set in Victorian London and an Essex village in the 1890's, and enlivened by the debates on scientific and medical discovery which defined the era, The Essex Serpent has at its heart the story of two extraordinary people who fall for each other, but not in the usual way.

They are Cora Seaborne and Will Ransome. Cora is a well-to-do London widow who moves to the Essex parish of Aldwinter, and Will is the local vicar. They meet as their village is engulfed by rumours that the mythical Essex Serpent, once said to roam the marshes claiming human lives, has returned.

Cora, a keen amateur naturalist is enthralled, convinced the beast may be a real undiscovered species. Will sees his parishioners' agitation as a moral panic, a deviation from true faith. Although they can agree on absolutely nothing, as the seasons turn around them in this quiet corner of England, they find themselves inexorably drawn together and torn apart.

Told with exquisite grace and intelligence, this charming novel is most of all a celebration of love, and the many different guises it can take.



The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa Paperback \$29.99

Before everything changed, Hannah Rosenthal lived a charmed life. But now the streets of Berlin are draped in swastikas and Hannah is no longer welcome in the places she once considered home. A glimmer of hope appears in the shape of the St. Louis, a transatlantic liner that promises Jews safe passage to Cuba. The Rosentals sell everything to fund visas and tickets.

Seven decades later in New York, on her twelfth birthday Anna Rosen receives a package from Hannah, the great-aunt she never met but who raised her deceased father. Anna and her Mother travel to Cuba to meet Hannah and hear her story. Based on a true story, this wonderful novel gives voice to the joys and sorrows of generations of exiles, forever seeking a place called home.

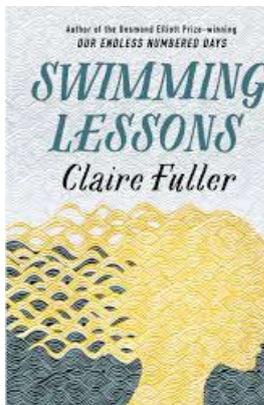


The Best Kind of People by Zoe Whittall Paperback \$29.99

What if someone you trusted was accused of the unthinkable?

George Woodbury, an affable teacher and beloved husband and father, is arrested for sexual impropriety at a prestigious prep school. His wife, Joan, vaults between denial and rage as the community she loved turns on her. Their daughter, Sadie, a popular over-achieving high school senior, becomes a social pariah. A local author tries to exploit their story, while an unlikely men's rights activist attempts to get Sadie inside their cause. With George locked up, how do the members of his family pick up the pieces and keep living their lives? How do they defend someone they love while wrestling with the possibility of his guilt?

With exquisite emotional precision, award-winning author Zoe Whittall explores issues of loyalty, truth, and the meaning of happiness through the lens of an all-American family on the brink of collapse.



Swimming Lessons by Claire Fuller Paperback \$32.99

Swimming Lessons tells the story of Ingrid Coleman who writes letters to her husband Gil, about the truth of their marriage, but decides not to send them. Instead she hides them within the thousands of books her husband collects. After she writes her final letter, Ingrid disappears from an English beach.

Twelve years later, her adult daughter, Flora comes home after Gil says he has spotted Ingrid through a bookshop window. Flora, who has existed in a limbo of hope and grief, imagination and fact, wants answers, but doesn't realise that what she's looking for is hidden in the books that surround her.

Claire Fuller's book *Our Endless Numbered Days* won the 2015 Desmond Elliott Prize for literature.



The Return by Hisham Matar Paperback \$24.99

Hisham Matar's *Return* is the 2017 Pulitzer Prize Winner for the Category of Biography. When Hisham Matar was a nineteen-year-old university student in England, his father was kidnapped. One of the Qaddafi regime's most prominent opponents in exile, he was held in a secret prison in Libya. Hisham would never see him again. But he never gave up hope that his father might still be alive. "Hope," as he writes, "is cunning and persistent."

Twenty-two years later, after the fall of Qaddafi, the prison cells are empty and there is no sign of Jaballa Matar. Hisham returns with his mother and wife to the homeland he never thought he'd go back to again. *The Return* is the story of what he found there. It is at once an exquisite meditation on history, politics, and art, a brilliant portrait of a nation and a people on the cusp of change, and a disquieting depiction of the brutal legacy of absolute power. Above all, it is a universal tale of loss and love and of one family's life. Hisham Matar asks the harrowing question: How does one go on living in the face of a loved one's uncertain fate?