

# Belletrista

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## New & Notable

Whether you are a seasoned reader of international literature or a reader just venturing out beyond your own literary shores, we know you will find our New and Notable section a book browser's paradise! Reading literature from around the world has a way of opening up one's perspective to create as vast a world within us as there is without. Here are more than **130** new or notable books we hope will bring the world to you. **Remember—depending on what country you are shopping in, these books might be sold under slightly different titles or ISBNs, in different formats or with different covers; or be published in different months. However, the author's name is always likely to be the same!** (a book published in another country may not always be available to your library or local bookstore, but individuals usually can purchase them from the publishers or other online resources)

**In this issue**, because of our delayed publication, we have broadened our selection of books to include those which may have been published anywhere from this past August through February of *next* year. We hope this helps you plan all your winter (or summer, depending on where you live) reading! Enjoy!

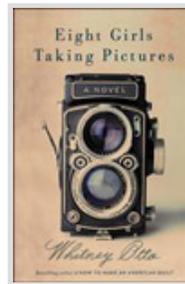
[Africa & the Middle East](#) | [European Region](#) | [Asia](#) | [Ireland & the UK](#) | [USA](#) | [Canada](#) | [Latin America & Caribbean](#) | [Australia & The Pacific Islands](#)

## USA



### **THE CUTTING SEASON** *Attica Locke*

Just after dawn, Caren walks the grounds of Belle Vie, the historic plantation house in Louisiana that she has managed for four years. Today she sees nothing unusual, apart from some ground that has been dug up by the fence bordering the sugar cane fields. Assuming an animal has been out after dark, she asks the gardener to tidy it up. Not long afterwards, he calls her to say it's something else. Something terrible. A dead body. At a distance, she missed her. The girl, the dirt



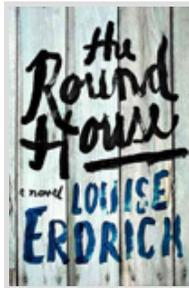
### **EIGHT GIRLS TAKING PICTURES: A NOVEL** *Whitney Otto*

A deeply affecting meditation on the lives of women artists, Whitney Otto's vivid novel explores the ambitions, passions, conflicts and desires of eight female photographers throughout the twentieth century. This spectacular cast of spirited, larger-than-life women offers wide-ranging insight about the times in which they lived. From San Francisco to New York, London, Berlin, Buenos Aires, and Rome, Otto spins a magical, romantic tale that creates a compelling

and the blood. Now she has police on site, an investigation in progress, and a member of staff no one can track down. And Caren keeps uncovering things she will wish she didn't know. As she's drawn into the dead girl's story, she makes shattering discoveries about the future of Belle Vie, the secrets of its past, and sees, more clearly than ever, that Belle Vie, its beauty, is not to be trusted.

A magnificent, sweeping story of the south, *The Cutting Season* brings history face-to-face with modern America, where Obama is president, but some things will never change. Attica Locke once again provides an unblinking commentary on politics, race, the law, family and love, all within a thriller every bit as gripping and tragic as her first novel, *Black Water Rising*.

Harper (US), hardcover, 9780061802058; Profile Books (UK), paperback, 9781846688034



**THE ROUND HOUSE**  
*Louise Erdrich*

One Sunday in the spring of 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. The details of the crime are slow to surface as Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to relive or reveal what happened, either to the police or to her husband, Bazil, and thirteen-year-old son, Joe. In one day, Joe's life is irrevocably transformed. He tries to heal his mother, but she will not leave her bed and slips into an abyss of solitude. Increasingly alone, Joe finds himself thrust prematurely into an adult world for which he is ill prepared. While his father, who is a tribal judge, endeavors to wrest justice from a situation that defies his efforts, Joe becomes frustrated with the official investigation and sets out with his trusted friends, Cappy, Zack, and Angus, to get some answers of his own. Their quest takes them first to the Round House, a sacred space and place of worship for the Ojibwe. And this is only the beginning.

Written with undeniable urgency, and illuminating the harsh realities of contemporary life in a community where Ojibwe and white live uneasily together, *The Round House* is a brilliant and entertaining novel, a masterpiece of literary fiction. Louise Erdrich embraces tragedy, the comic, a spirit world very much present in the lives of her all-too-human characters, and a tale of injustice that is, unfortunately, an authentic reflection of what happens in our own world today.

portrait of the history of feminism and of photography.

While their circumstances may differ, the tensions these women experience—from wanting a private life or a public life; passion or security; art or domesticity; children or creative freedom—are universal. Otto seamlessly weaves together eight breathtaking vignettes to form a moving and emotionally satisfying novel.

Scribner, hardcover, 9781451682694



**KISSED BY A FOX: AND OTHER STORIES OF FRIENDSHIP IN NATURE**  
*Priscilla Stuckey*

"Dissatisfaction with nature flows throughout Western civilization, as deep as its blood, as abiding as its bones. Convinced to the marrow that something is deeply wrong with nature, . . . the Western world tries to remake it into something better."

For Priscilla Stuckey, this is a fundamental and heartbreaking misconception: that nature can be fixed, exploited, or simply ignored. Modern societies try to bend nature to human will instead of engaging in give-and-take with a living, breathing land community. Using her personal experiences as the cornerstone, Stuckey explores the depth of relationship possible with the birch tree in our backyard, the nearby urban creek, the dog who settles on our bed each night. Drawing inspiration from sources as varied as ancient philosophers and contemporary biologists, Stuckey challenges readers to enact a different story of nature, one in which people and place are not separate, where other creatures respond to human need, and where humans and all others together create the world. With the eloquence of the great nature writers before her, Stuckey encourages us to open ourselves to the unlimited possibilities of a truly connected life.

Counterpoint, paperback, 9781582438122



**FRA KEELER**  
*Azareen Van Der Vliet Oloomi*

A man purchases a house, the house of Fra Keeler, moves in, and begins investigating the circumstances of the latter's death. Yet the investigation quickly turns inward, and the reality it seeks to unravel seems only to grow more strange, as the narrator pursues not leads but lines of thought, most often to hideous conclusions.

Harper, hardcover, 9780062065247;



## **FLIGHT BEHAVIOR**

**Barbara Kingsolver**

*Flight Behavior* transfixes from its opening scene, when a young woman's narrow experience of life is thrown wide with the force of a raging fire. In the lyrical language of her native Appalachia, Barbara Kingsolver bares the rich, tarnished humanity of her novel's inhabitants and unearths the modern complexities of rural existence. Characters and reader alike are quickly carried beyond familiar territory here, into the unsettled ground of science, faith, and everyday truces between reason and conviction. Dellarobia Turnbow is a restless farm wife who gave up her own plans when she accidentally became pregnant at seventeen. Now, after a decade of domestic disharmony on a failing farm, she has settled for permanent disappointment but seeks momentary escape through an obsessive flirtation with a younger man. As she hikes up a mountain road behind her house to a secret tryst, she encounters a shocking sight: a silent, forested valley filled with what looks like a lake of fire. She can only understand it as a cautionary miracle, but it sparks a raft of other explanations from scientists, religious leaders, and the media. The bewildering emergency draws rural farmers into unexpected acquaintance with urbane journalists, opportunists, sightseers, and a striking biologist with his own stake in the outcome. As the community lines up to judge the woman and her miracle, Dellarobia confronts her family, her church, her town, and a larger world, in a flight toward truth that could undo all she has ever believed.

*Flight Behavior* takes on one of the most contentious subjects of our time: climate change. With a deft and versatile empathy Kingsolver dissects the motives that drive denial and belief in a precarious world.

Harper (US), hardcover, 9780062124265; Faber and Faber (UK), paperback, 9780571290789

## **MAGNIFICENCE: A NOVEL**

**Lydia Millet**

This stunning novel introduces Susan Lindley, a woman adrift after her husband's death. Suddenly gifted her great uncle's Pasadena mansion, Susan decides to restore his extensive collection of preserved animals, tending to "the fur and feathers, the beaks, the bones and shimmering tails." Meanwhile, a menagerie

"Obsessive. Surreal. Darkly comic. Chilling." — Robert Coover.

Dorothy, A Publishing Project, paperback, 9780984469345



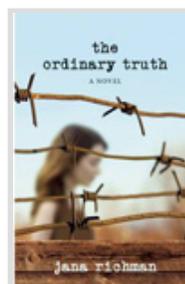
## **THE ART FORGER**

**B. A. Shapiro**

On March 18, 1990, thirteen works of art worth today over \$500 million were stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. It remains the largest unsolved art heist in history, and Claire Roth, a struggling young artist, is about to discover that there's more to this crime than meets the eye. Claire makes her living reproducing famous works of art for a popular online retailer. Desperate to improve her situation, she lets herself be lured into a Faustian bargain with Aiden Markel, a powerful gallery owner. She agrees to forge a painting—one of the Degas masterpieces stolen from the Gardner Museum—in exchange for a one-woman show in his renowned gallery. But when the long-missing Degas painting—the one that had been hanging for one hundred years at the Gardner—is delivered to Claire's studio, she begins to suspect that it may itself be a forgery. Claire's search for the truth about the painting's origins leads her into a labyrinth of deceit where secrets hidden since the late nineteenth century may be the only evidence that can now save her life.

B. A. Shapiro's razor-sharp writing and rich plot twists make *The Art Forger* an absorbing literary thriller that treats us to three centuries of forgers, art thieves, and obsessive collectors. It's a dazzling novel about seeing—and not seeing—the secrets that lie beneath the canvas. See our review of this book [here](#).

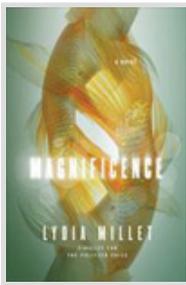
Algonquin Books, hardcover, 9781616201326



## **THE ORDINARY TRUTH**

**Jana Richman**

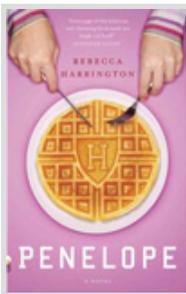
When Nell Jorgensen buried her husband, she buried a piece of herself—and more than one secret. Now, thirty-six years later, the rift between Nell and her daughter Kate threatens to implode as Kate, a water manager for the Nevada Water Authority, plans to pipe water from a huge aquifer that lies beneath the family ranch to thirsty Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Nell's granddaughter Cassie intends to unearth those old secrets and repair the resentments that grew in their place. Throughout the novel, sparse and beautiful



of uniquely damaged humans—including a cheating husband and a chorus of eccentric elderly women—joins her in residence.

Millet's "flawlessly beautiful" (*Salon*) prose creates a setting both humorous and wondrous as Susan defends her inheritance from freeloading relatives and explores the mansion's many mysterious spaces. Funny and heartbreaking, *Magnificence* is the story of a woman emerging from the sudden dissolution of her family. Millet's trademark themes—evolution and extinction, children and parenthood, loss and wonder—produce a rapturous final act to the critically acclaimed cycle of novels that began with *How the Dead Dream*.

W. W. Norton, hardcover, 9780393081701

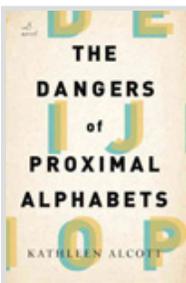


**PENELOPE**  
*Rebecca Harrington*

When Penelope O'Shaunessy, "an incoming freshman of average height and lank hair" steps into Harvard Yard for the first time she has lots of advice from her mother: "Don't be too enthusiastic, don't talk to people who seem to be getting annoyed, and for heaven's sake, stop playing Tetris on your phone at parties." Penelope needs this advice. She is the kind of girl who passes through much of her life with coffee spilled on her white shirt, who can't quite tell when people are joking, and who, inevitably, always says the wrong thing. But no amount of coaching will prepare Penelope for the people she meets at school.

Gloriously skewering the social hierarchy of college, *Penelope* is the brilliantly funny story of one of the most singular, memorable heroines in recent fiction.

Vintage (US), paperback, 9780307950314; Virago (UK), hardcover, 9781844089260 (January 2013)

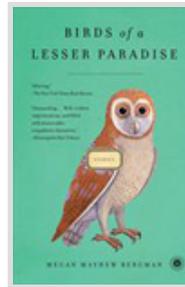


**THE DANGERS OF PROXIMAL ALPHABETS**  
*Kathleen Alcott*

An extraordinary debut novel that challenges the definition of family and explores the intricate ties that bind us together. Ida grew up with Jackson and James—where there was "I" there was a "J." She can't recall a time when she didn't have them around, whether in their early days camping out in the boys' room decorated with circus scenes or later drinking on rooftops as teenagers. While the world outside saw them as neighbors and friends, to each other the three formed a family unit—two brothers and a sister—not

landscapes surround an emotional wilderness of love, loss, and family.

Torrey House Press, paperback, 9781937226145



**BIRDS OF A LESSER PARADISE: STORIES**  
*Megan Mayhew Bergman*

Exploring the way our choices and relationships are shaped by the menace and beauty of the natural world, Megan Mayhew Bergman's powerful and heartwarming collection captures the surprising moments when the pull of our biology becomes evident, when love or fear collides with good sense, or when our attachment to an animal or wild place can't be denied.

In "Housewifely Arts," a single mother and her son drive hours to track down an African gray parrot that can mimic her deceased mother's voice. A population-control activist faces the ultimate conflict between her loyalty to the environment and her maternal desire in "Yesterday's Whales." And in the title story, a lonely naturalist allows an attractive stranger to lead her and her aging father on a hunt for an elusive woodpecker. As intelligent as they are moving, the stories in *Birds of a Lesser Paradise* are alive with emotion, wit, and insight into the impressive power that nature has over all of us.

Scribner, paperback, 9781451643367



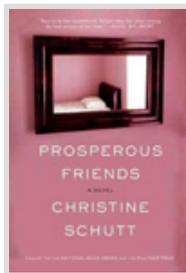
**FORGOTTEN: A NOVEL**  
*Catherine McKenzie*

Emma Tupper is a dedicated lawyer with a bright future. But when she takes a month-long leave of absence for the African dream vacation her mother never could, she ends up facing unexpected consequences. After she falls ill and spends six months trapped in a remote village thanks to a devastating earthquake, Emma returns home to discover that her friends, boyfriend, and colleagues thought she was dead and her life has moved on without her.

As she struggles to recreate her old life, throwing herself into solving a big case for a client, and trying to reclaim her beloved apartment from the handsome photographer who's taken over her lease, everyone around her thinks she should take the opportunity to change. But is she willing to sacrifice the job, relationships and everything else she worked so hard to build?

drawn from blood, but drawn from a deep need to fill a void in their single parent households. There's a relationship of communication without speaking, of understanding without judgment, of intimacy without rules and limits. But as the three of them mature and emotions become more complex, Ida and Jackson find themselves more than just siblings. When Jackson's somnambulism produces violent outbursts and James is hospitalized, Ida is paralyzed by the events that threaten to shatter her family and put it beyond her reach. Kathleen Alcott's striking debut, *The Dangers of Proximal Alphabets*, is an emotional, deeply layered love story that explores the dynamics of family when it defies bloodlines and societal conventions.

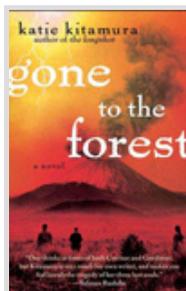
Other Press, paperback, 9781590515297



**PROSPEROUS FRIENDS**  
*Christine Schutt*

In her new novel, Schutt delivers a pitch-perfect, timeless and original work on the spectacle of love. *Prosperous Friends* follows the evolution of a young couple's marriage as it is challenged by the quandaries of longing and sexual self-discovery. The glamorous and gifted Ned Bourne and his pretty wife, Isabel, travel to London, New York, and Maine in hopes of realizing their artistic promise, but their quest for sexual fulfillment is less assured. Past lovers and new infatuations, doubt and indifference threaten to bankrupt the marriage. The Bournes' fantasies for their future finally give way to a deepened and mature perspective in the company of an older, celebrated artist, Clive Harris, and his wife, Dinah, a poet. With compassionate insight, Schutt explores the divide between those like Clive and Dinah who seem to prosper in love and those like Ned and Isabel who feel themselves condemned to yearn for it.

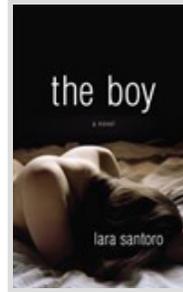
Grove Press (US), hardcover, 9780802120380



**GONE TO THE FOREST**  
*Katie Kitamura*

Set on a struggling farm in a colonial country teetering on the brink of civil war, *Gone to the Forest* is a tale of family drama and political turmoil in which fiery storytelling melds with daring, original prose. Since his mother's death, Tom and his father have fashioned a strained domestic peace, where everything is frozen under the old man's vicious control. But when a young woman named Carine arrives at the farm, the tension between the two men escalates to the breaking point.

William Morrow, paperback, 9780062115416



**THE BOY: A NOVEL**  
*Lara Santoro*

Once a free spirit who refused to be tied down, Anna is a forty-something single mother trying to put her life together after a bitter divorce. She crosses paths with a twenty-year-old neighbor who could not be more wrong for her—and her life suddenly has a new focus. She is drawn to his youth, his easy grace, and his freedom from the constraints that rule her existence. Though she resists temptation in every way she can, Anna is soon engaged in a reckless and obsessive affair. The consequences are life changing.

Provocative, headlong, and utterly compelling, *The Boy* is the story of a woman on the edge, torn between love and lust, desire and duty. Lara Santoro writes in fierce, unflinching prose about the dark side of passion, motherhood, and a woman's unthinkable rebellion.

Little, Brown; hardcover, 9780316206235 (January 2013)



**VICKY SWANKY IS A BEAUTY**  
*Diane Williams*

In *Vicky Swanky Is a Beauty*, Diane Williams lays bare the urgency and weariness that shape our lives in stories honed sharper than ever. With sentences auguring revelation and explosion, Williams' unsettling stories—a cryptic meeting between neighbors, a woman's sexual worries, a graveside discussion, a chimney on fire—are narrated with razor-sharp tongues and naked, uproarious irreverence.

These fifty stories hum with tension, each one so taut that it threatens to snap and send the whole thing sprawling—the mess and desire, the absurdity and hilarity, the bruises and bleeding, the blushes and disappointments and secrets. An audacious, unruly tour de force, *Vicky Swanky Is a Beauty* cements Diane Williams' position as one of the best practitioners of the short form in literature today.

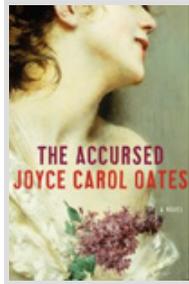
McSweeney's, paperback, 9781938073038 (October)

**WILD GIRLS: A NOVEL**  
*Mary Stewart Atwell*

Kate Riordan fears two things as she grows up in the small Appalachian town of Swan River: that she'll be a

Hailed by the "Boston Globe" as "a major talent," Kitamura shines in this powerful new novel.

Free Press (US), paperback, 9781451656640; The Clerkenwell Press, paperback, 9781846689239 (February 2013)



**THE ACCURSED**  
*Joyce Carol Oates*

An eerie, unforgettable story of power, loss, and family curses in early 20th century Princeton New Jersey, where soon-to-be commander-in-chief Woodrow Wilson is president of the University. On a nearby farm, Socialist author Upton Sinclair, enjoying the success of his novel *The Jungle*, has taken up residence with his family. This is a quiet, bookish community—elite, intellectual and indisputably privileged. But when a young bride is seduced and abducted from the altar by a dangerously compelling man, a horrifying chain of events is initiated—until it becomes apparent that the families of Princeton have been beset by a powerful curse. The Devil has come to this little town and not a soul will be spared. An utterly fresh work from Oates, *The Accursed* marks new territory for the masterful writer—narrated with her unmistakable psychological insight, it combines beautifully transporting historical detail with chilling fantastical elements to stunning effect.

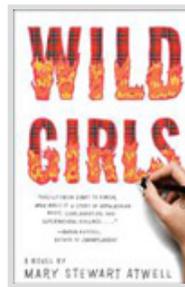
Ecco, hardcover, 9780062231703 (March 2013)



**MOTHERLESS CHILD**  
*Marianne Langner Zeitlin*

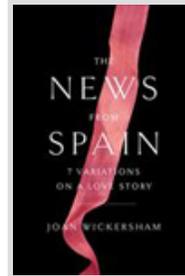
In her third novel, *Motherless Child*, Marianne Langner Zeitlin explores the world of classical music, where powerful managers can make—and break—the careers of aspiring artists. The book opens with Elizabeth Guaragna, under an assumed name, taking a job in the new agency of famed music impresario Alfred Rossiter, a man she was raised to despise. She wants to glimpse the man who had destroyed her father's piano career and family life years earlier, when he took Elizabeth's mother as his lover.

As Elizabeth is given opportunities to exercise her artistic judgment in her new job, she becomes involved in the business itself, despite her continuing misgivings. Soon she meets George Wentworth, who is writing a biography of Rossiter. Through him and the relationship they develop, she learns that the truth she is seeking is quite different from what she was raised to believe. When her fear of identifying her real



frustrated townie forever, or that she'll turn into one of the monstrous wild girls, fire starters who menace the community. Struggling to better her chances of escaping, Kate attends the posh Swan River Academy and finds herself divided between her hometown—and its dark history—and the realm of privilege and achievement at the Academy. Explosive friendships with Mason, a boy from the wrong side of town, and Willow, a wealthy and popular queen bee from school are slowly pulling her apart. Kate must decide who she is and where she belongs before she wakes up with cinders at her fingertips.

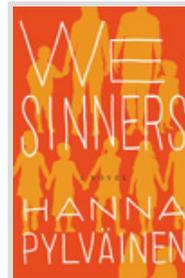
Scribner, hardcover, 9781451683271 (October)



**THE NEWS FROM SPAIN: SEVEN VARIATIONS ON A LOVE STORY**  
*Joan Wickersham*

In these seven beautifully wrought variations on a theme, a series of characters trace and retrace eternal yet ever-changing patterns of love and longing, connection and loss. The stories range over centuries and continents—from eighteenth-century Vienna, where Mozart and his librettist Da Ponte are collaborating on their operas, to America in the 1940s, where a love triangle unfolds among a doctor, a journalist, and the president's wife. A race-car driver's widow, a nursing-home resident and her daughter, a paralyzed dancer married to a famous choreographer—all feel the overwhelming force of passion and renunciation. With uncanny emotional exactitude, Wickersham shows how we never really know what's in someone else's heart, or in our own; how we continually try to explain others and to console ourselves; and how love, like storytelling, is ultimately a work of the imagination.

Knopf, hardcover, 9780307958884 (October)

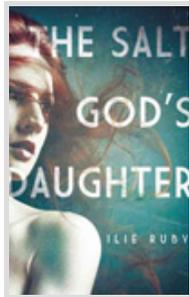


**WE SINNERS: A NOVEL**  
*Hanna Pylväinen*

The Rovaniemis and their nine children belong to a deeply traditional church (no drinking, no dancing, no TV) in modern-day Michigan. A normal family in many ways, the Rovaniemis struggle with sibling rivalry, parental expectations, and forming their own unique identities in such a large family. But when two of the children venture from the faith, the family fragments and a haunting question emerges: Do we believe for ourselves, or for each other? Each chapter is told from the distinctive point of view of a different Rovaniemi, drawing a nuanced, kaleidoscopic portrait

background to Rossiter threatens her own love of George, she must finally confront Rossiter and her own past, learning that there are no villains in the tale.

Zephyr Press, paperback, 9780983297055



**THE SALT GOD'S DAUGHTER**  
*Ilie Ruby*

Set in Long Beach, California, beginning in the 1970s, *The Salt God's Daughter* follows Ruthie and her sister, Dolly as they carve out a life in a place filled with natural beauty, meteorological myths, and exotic folklore. Raised by a mother drawn to the ocean and guided by the moons, their heritage is a mystery and their mother often absent, forcing the two girls to confront the social and sexual mores of the time on their own, caught in the riptide of a culture that alternately glorifies and demonizes female sexuality. Ruthie's daughter, Naida, is born into this conflicting landscape with a secret she tries to keep hidden, bullied and harassed by her peers as she seeks out the father she never knew. Woven with a traditional Scottish folktale and hints of Jewish mysticism, this novel examines how far we'll go to find our place in a world that is often hostile to those who are different.

Soft Skull Press, hardcover, 9781619020023



**TWO-PART INVENTIONS**  
*Lynne Sharon Schwartz*

*Two-Part Inventions* begins when Suzanne, a concert pianist, dies suddenly of a stroke in the New York City apartment she shares with her producer-husband Philip. Rather than mourn in peace, Philip becomes deeply paranoid: Their life is based on a fraud and the acclaimed music the couple created is about to be exposed. Philip had built a career for his wife by altering her recordings, taking a portion of a song here and there from recordings of other pianists. Synching the alterations seamlessly, he created flawless pieces of music, with Suzanne getting sole credit.

In this urban, psychological novel, author Lynne Sharon Schwartz brilliantly guides the reader through a flawed marriage and calculated career. Beginning with Suzanne's death and moving backward in time, Schwartz examines their life together and Suzanne's remarkable career, while contemplating the nature of truth, marriage, and the pursuit of perfection.

Counterpoint, hardcover, 9781619020153

of this unconventional family. The children who reject the church learn that freedom comes at the almost unbearable price of their close family ties, and those who stay struggle daily with the challenges of resisting the temptations of modern culture. With precision and potent detail, *We Sinners* follows each character on his or her journey of doubt, self-knowledge, acceptance, and, ultimately, survival.

Henry Holt and Co., hardcover, 9780805095333

