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Today coanchor Al Roker presents an entertaining guide to achieving a life of happiness and success through the power of "yes!" These days, the road to success can feel jampacked with scheduling, networking, nonstop hustle, and flat-out absurdity. And no one knows that better than Al Roker—beloved cohost of The Today Show, weatherperson extraordinaire, and the man we all secretly wish we could turn to for wisdom and wisecracks in our everyday lives. From his college days as a polyester suit-clad weather forecaster in Syracuse to battling and buttering up the "Butter Man" during the legendary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Al has learned worthwhile lessons over a long, successful career. And now, for the first time, Al is ready to unleash savvy advice on how to embrace happiness and the power of saying "yes," alongside a host of humorous tips and tricks about how to succeed in life. In *You Look So Much Better in Person*, Al teaches us how we can weather the storm of life, no matter how torrential the downpour, and shares anecdotes from his own treasure trove of memories in the spotlight. And it hasn't always been easy—believe it or not, even Al has been yelled at by his boss, suffered an emotional breakdown at work, and been told he'd be better suited in another position. Within these pages, he looks back on his own career and shares valuable "Altruisms" that can be applied to our own endeavors, such as how to: Navigate the special hell that

is socializing Craft the perfect comeback line during a confrontation—and know when to use it Get up early and actually make the most of your time Cry at work without freaking people out And much, much more! Packed to the brim with cackle-inducing and cringeworthy behind-the-scenes insights and observations from over four decades in the media, this book reminds us all that long-term success in our personal lives and our careers is just within reach. You Look So Much Better in Person will leave you laughing out loud, inspired, and comforted during life's best and worst moments. Billy Bathgate is an urban Huck Finn who comes of age in New York City in the 1930s as the protege of Dutch Schultz, one of the most abominable gangsters of his time, but one of life's great teachers as well. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved. In Creekside, dedicated archaeologist Meg Harrington guides her students in a race against time to protect the legacy of the past before bulldozers rip it to shreds. The setting is a Kentucky pasture slated for development—the construction of the new Creekside subdivision. Once, that same beautiful stretch of land was home to three generations who experienced love, loss, and tragedy in their log cabin beside the creek. It was here during the late 18th century that Estelle Mullins struggled to build her home on the dangerous frontier. In Meg ' s 21st-century world of archaeology we read about excavation techniques, daily experiences at a dig, tight construction deadlines, the use of heavy equipment, report writing, artifact analysis, damage from looters and collectors, and the reality of site destruction in the path of modern development. The depiction of Estelle ' s frontier life includes Kentucky ' s early Euro-American settlement of the Cumberland Gap, encounters with Shawnee defending their land, Protestant fragmentation, the rise of religious fundamentalism, the immigrant stampede down the Ohio River, and the persistent issue of class-based land ownership. The two partially interwoven story lines link artifact and place, ancestors and descendants, the present and the past, and inspire us to explore the personal connections between them all in fresh and vital ways. Al Roker returns with his most tantalizing mystery to date—as celebrity chef turned sleuth Billy Blessing finds his plate full of danger and secrets from his long-buried past threaten to make a comeback. Before Billy Blessing was tapped to co-host the morning show Wake Up, America!, the celebrity chef lived a totally different life under a very different identity: as wily con man Billy Blanchard. Caught trying to run a scam on a shady Detroit businessman, Billy did time for his crimes, and has successfully kept that part of his past covered up ever since. But when Eddie Patton, a nosy ex-cop with a long memory, tries to blackmail him, Billy may have to pay up or to see the embarrassing truth broadcast to the world. And when Patton winds up dead, it ' s just the first in a string of killings that has

America's most beloved TV host scrambling for clues and desperate to clear his name. Throw in a budding romance with a visiting movie star, and Billy Blessing may have finally gotten himself into one sticky situation even he can't talk his way out of. "Great fun! Al pulls back the curtain to reveal what really goes on when the cameras go off." —Harlan Coben "Great fun, full of nifty twists and turns." —Carl Hiaasen "An engaging performance . . . The Talk Show Murders has all the charm and depth of a network morning show. The characters are pithy and colorful." —Mystery Scene "As well-paced and thoughtfully prepared as an Alice Waters tasting menu." —Kirkus Reviews "For fans old and new, The Talk Show Murders is a book not to pass up." —The Philadelphia Tribune

"I am Majid al-Hanafi of Najd, I was not an honorable man." So goes this epic tale, written in the vein of the great Arab explorers and travel writers. Scribe and bookseller Mazid al-Hanafi journeys from his remote village in the Arabian Desert dreaming of grand libraries. His passion for books draws him into a secret society of book smugglers and to the great cultural capitals of the period—Baghdad, Jerusalem, Cairo, Kairouan, Granada, and Cordoba. He enters a dangerous new world of ideas and experiences the cultural diversity of the Islamic Golden Age, its various sects, philosophical schools, wars, and ways of life. Omaira Al-Khamis's vivid descriptions of time and place trace a route through ancient cities and cultures and immerse us in a distant era, one brought to life by her magical storytelling and one in which the intellectual debates and struggles that characterized the time continue to rage today"-- The author of the highly acclaimed The Yacoubian Building returns with a story of love, sex, friendship, hatred, and ambition set in Chicago, with a cast of American and Arab characters achingly human in their desires and needs. Egyptian and American lives collide on a college campus in post-9/11 Chicago, and crises of identity abound in this extraordinary and eagerly anticipated new novel from Alaa Al Aswany. Among the players are a sixties-style anti-establishment professor whose relationship with a younger African-American woman becomes a moving target for intolerance; a veiled PhD candidate whose belief in the principles of her traditional upbringing is shaken by her exposure to American society; an émigré whose fervent desire to embrace his American identity is tested when he is faced with the issue of his daughter's "honor"; an Egyptian informant who spouts religious doctrines while hankering after money and power; and a dissident student poet who comes to America to finance his literary aspirations but whose experience in Chicago turns out to be more than he bargained for. Populated by a cast of intriguing, true-to-life characters, Chicago offers an illuminating portrait of America—a complex, often contradictory land in which triumph and

failure, opportunity and oppression, licentiousness and tender love, small dramas and big dreams, coexist. Beautifully rendered, *Chicago* is a powerfully engrossing novel of culture and individuality from one of the most original voices in contemporary world literature. NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A second American Civil War, a devastating plague, and one family caught deep in the middle—this gripping debut novel asks what might happen if America were to turn its most devastating policies and deadly weapons upon itself. From the author of *What Strange Paradise* "Powerful ... as haunting a postapocalyptic universe as Cormac McCarthy [created] in *The Road*." —The New York Times

Sarat Chestnut, born in Louisiana, is only six when the Second American Civil War breaks out in 2074. But even she knows that oil is outlawed, that Louisiana is half underwater, and that unmanned drones fill the sky. When her father is killed and her family is forced into Camp Patience for displaced persons, she begins to grow up shaped by her particular time and place. But not everyone at Camp Patience is who they claim to be. Eventually Sarat is befriended by a mysterious functionary, under whose influence she is turned into a deadly instrument of war. The decisions that she makes will have tremendous consequences not just for Sarat but for her family and her country, rippling through generations of strangers and kin alike. A New York Times Notable Book! From the acclaimed author of *Tender* and *Gone for Good* comes a hilarious and wise novel about a growing boy, his starstruck aunt, and the changing South of the 1960s. Now a major motion picture from Tristar, starring Melanie Griffith and Antonio Banderas, who also directed. Nobody saw a thing. Or so they say...

Baywood police department detective A.L. McKittridge is no stranger to tough cases, but when five-year-old Emma Whitman disappears from her day care, there isn't a single shred of evidence to go on. Neither the grandmother who dropped her off, nor the teacher whose care she was supposed to be in, can account for the missing child. There are no witnesses. No trace of where she might have gone. There's only one thing A.L. and his partner, Rena Morgan, are sure of—somebody is lying. With the clock ticking, A.L. and Rena are under extreme pressure as they discover their instincts are correct: all is not as it seems. The Whitmans are a family with many secrets, and A.L. and Rena will have to race to untangle a growing web of lies if they're going to find the thread that leads them to Emma...before it's too late.

Trouble with her algebra homework leads Julie through a mysterious portal into the Land of Mathematics, where a zebra-like Imaginary Number and creatures representing Periodic Elements help her learn about math and chemistry in order to get home. The story of of the orphan boy Moon, begun in Watt Key's award-winning *Alabama Moon*, continues with *Dirt Road Home* After his

recapture, gutsy 14-year-old Hal Mitchell is sentenced to live at Hellenweiler, an institution that is more like a jail than the boys' home it's supposed to be. Hal could walk out in just a few months if he keeps out of trouble. But in a place like Hellenweiler, the more he tries to avoid the gangs and their violence, the stronger Hal's fellow inmates try to make him fail. This title has Common Core connections. "Key does a fabulous job of keeping his readers involved in the story and vested in the characters. Even reluctant readers will most likely find this one hard to put down." -- VOYA

Alamut takes place in 11th Century Persia, in the fortress of Alamut, where self-proclaimed prophet Hasan ibn Sabbah is setting up his mad but brilliant plan to rule the region with a handful of elite fighters who are to become his "living daggers." By creating a virtual paradise at Alamut, filled with beautiful women, lush gardens, wine and hashish, Sabbah is able to convince his young fighters that they can reach paradise if they follow his commands. With parallels to Osama bin Laden, Alamut tells the story of how Sabbah was able to instill fear into the ruling class by creating a small army of devotees who were willing to kill, and be killed, in order to achieve paradise. Believing in the supreme Ismaili motto " Nothing is true, everything is permitted, " Sabbah wanted to " experiment " with how far he could manipulate religious devotion for his own political gain through appealing to what he called the stupidity and gullibility of people and their passion for pleasure and selfish desires. The novel focuses on Sabbah as he unveils his plan to his inner circle, and on two of his young followers — the beautiful slave girl Halima, who has come to Alamut to join Sabbah's paradise on earth, and young ibn Tahir, Sabbah's most gifted fighter. As both Halima and ibn Tahir become disillusioned with Sabbah's vision, their lives take unexpected turns. Alamut was originally written in 1938 as an allegory to Mussolini's fascist state. In the 1960's it became a cult favorite throughout Tito's Yugoslavia, and in the 1990s, during the Balkan's War, it was read as an allegory of the region's strife and became a bestseller in Germany, France and Spain. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the book once again took on a new life, selling more than 20,000 copies in a new Slovenian edition, and being translated around the world in more than 19 languages. This edition, translated by Michael Biggins, is the first-ever English translation. The Phenomenal National Bestseller and Enduring Classic He is Oliver Barrett IV, a rich jock from a stuffy WASP family on his way to a Harvard degree and a career in law. She is Jenny Cavilleri, a wisecracking working-class beauty studying music at Radcliffe. Opposites in nearly every way, Oliver and Jenny immediately attract, sharing a love that defies everything ... yet will end too soon. Here is a love that will linger in your heart now and forever. "This is a Borzoi book published by Alfred A. Knopf"--Title page verso. Her name

is Al, not Alexandra! Al ' s real name is Alexandra, but she hates it. She has always considered herself a nonconformist—she is the only girl in the entire school who wears pigtails, and when all the other girls take the cooking and sewing class, Al wants to take shop. There ' s just one problem: Girls aren ' t allowed. Al is determined only to learn useful things, like making bookshelves. With the help of her new best friend, a seventh grader who lives down the hall from her, and their building ' s kind superintendent, Mr. Richards, she just might get her wish. From Senator Al Franken - #1 bestselling author and beloved SNL alum -- comes the story of an award-winning comedian who decided to run for office and then discovered why award-winning comedians tend not to do that. "Flips the classic born-in-a-shack rise to political office tale on its head. I skipped meals to read this book - also unusual - because every page was funny. It made me deliriously happy." -- Louise Erdrich, The New York Times This is a book about an unlikely campaign that had an even more improbable ending: the closest outcome in history and an unprecedented eight-month recount saga, which is pretty funny in retrospect. It's a book about what happens when the nation's foremost progressive satirist gets a chance to serve in the United States Senate and, defying the low expectations of the pundit class, actually turns out to be good at it. It's a book about our deeply polarized, frequently depressing, occasionally inspiring political culture, written from inside the belly of the beast. In this candid personal memoir, the honorable gentleman from Minnesota takes his army of loyal fans along with him from Saturday Night Live to the campaign trail, inside the halls of Congress, and behind the scenes of some of the most dramatic and/or hilarious moments of his new career in politics. Has Al Franken become a true Giant of the Senate? Franken asks readers to decide for themselves. When ER doctor Kale Bryant accepts a new position down the street from Hope Masterson's coffee shop, he begins to question every wall he's built around his heart. He wants her in a way he hasn't wanted anyone. But taking her won't come without consequences. -- Adapted from back cover. " There ' s not a better Southern author writing today than Lisa Patton. Funny, touching, and full of twists and turns. I couldn ' t have loved it more. " – Fannie Flagg, New York Times bestselling author of Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café Rush is recommended by... Atlanta Journal Constitution as a Southern Beach Book SouthernLiving.com as a 2018 Beach Read Deep South Magazine's Summer Reading List Southern Independent Bookseller's Alliance as a SUMMER 2018 OKRA PICK Modern Mrs. Darcy Fall Lineup Set in modern day Oxford, Mississippi, on the Ole Miss campus, bestselling author Lisa Patton ' s RUSH is a story about women—from both ends of the social ladder—discovering their voices and their empowerment.

Cali Watkins possesses all the qualities sororities are looking for in a potential new member. She ' s kind and intelligent, makes friends easily, even plans to someday run for governor. But her resume lacks a vital ingredient. Pedigree. Without family money Cali's chances of sorority membership are already thin, but she has an even bigger problem. If anyone discovers the dark family secrets she's hiding, she ' ll be dropped from Rush in an instant. When Lilith Whitmore, the well-heeled House Corp President of Alpha Delta Beta, one of the premiere sororities on campus, appoints recent empty-nester Wilda to the Rush Advisory Board, Wilda can hardly believe her luck. What ' s more, Lilith suggests their daughters, both incoming freshman, room together. What Wilda doesn ' t know is that it's all part of Lilith ' s plan to ensure her own daughter receives an Alpha Delt bid—no matter what. For twenty-five years, Miss Pearl—as her “ babies ” like to call her—has been housekeeper and a second mother to the Alpha Delt girls, even though it reminds her of a painful part of her past she ' ll never forget. When an opportunity for promotion arises, it seems a natural fit. But Lilith Whitmore slams her Prada heel down fast, crushing Miss Pearl ' s hopes of a better future. When Wilda and the girls find out, they devise a plan destined to change Alpha Delta Beta—and maybe the entire Greek system—forever. Achingly poignant, yet laugh-out-loud funny, RUSH takes a sharp nuanced look at a centuries-old tradition while exploring the complex, intimate relationships between mothers and daughters and female friends. Brimming with heart and hope for a better tomorrow, RUSH is an uplifting novel universal to us all. This winner of the 2019 Man Booker International Prize and national bestseller is “ an innovative reimagining of the family saga . . . Celestial Bodies is itself a treasure house: an intricately calibrated chaos of familial orbits and conjunctions, of the gravitational pull of secrets” (The New York Times Book Review). In the village of al-Awafi in Oman, we encounter three sisters: Mayya, who marries after a heartbreak; Asma, who marries from a sense of duty; and Khawla, who chooses to refuse all offers and await a reunion with the man she loves, who has emigrated to Canada. These three women and their families, their losses and loves, unspool beautifully against a backdrop of a rapidly changing Oman, a country evolving from a traditional, slave-owning society into its complex present. Through the sisters, we glimpse a society in all its degrees, from the very poorest of the local slave families to those making money through the advent of new wealth. The first novel originally written in Arabic to ever win the Man Booker International Prize, and the first book by a female Omani author to be translated into English, Celestial Bodies marks the arrival in the United States of a major international writer. This daring and dazzling debut shines a light on the unsung heroes of our communities: the carers. Jay is devoted to the

care of her teenage twins who view the world as differently as it views them. Frank is sweet, sensitive and bullied, while whip-smart Teddy needs an iPad to speak. With an absent husband and battling a nightmare bureaucracy, Jay leans heavily on Keep, her lifelong half-real friend. But in the corner of her eye lurks her mother, and a childhood Jay knows she can't ever outrun. Jay believes she is managing quite well, with a half-grip on this half-life of hers. That is, until Teddy starts to get sick, refusing to eat, while doctors refuse to listen, confounding everything Jay thought she knew about what lies ahead. *The Keepers* is an incredible and fiercely honest novel about the damage done by parents who can't love, the failures of a community that only claims to care, and the resilience of those whose stories mostly go untold. In this heartfelt tale about enduring hope amid the suffering of the Great Depression, Sean Dietrich—also known as Sean of the South—weaves together a tale featuring a cast of characters ranging from a child preacher, a teenage healer, and two migrant workers who give everything they have for their chosen family. When fifteen-year-old Marigold becomes pregnant during the Great Depression, she is rejected by her family and forced to fend for herself. She is arrested while trying to steal food and loses her baby in the forest, turning her whole world upside down. She's even more distraught upon discovering she has an inexplicable power to heal, making her a sought-after local legend. Meanwhile, middle-aged migrant workers Vern and Paul discover a violet-eyed baby abandoned in the woods and take it upon themselves to care for her. The men continue their search for work and soon pair up with a poverty-stricken widow, plus her two children, and the misfit family begins taking care of each other. As survival brings this chosen family together, a young boy finds himself without a friend to his name as the dust storms rage across Kansas. Fourteen-year-old Coot, a child preacher, is on the run from his abusive tent-revival pastor father with thousands of stolen dollars—and the only thing he's sure of is that Mobile, Alabama, is his destination. In a sweeping saga with a looming second world war, these stories intertwine in surprising ways, reminding us that when the dust clears, we can still see the stars. Stand-alone Southern historical fiction set during the Great Depression Book length: approximately 98,000 words Includes discussion questions for book clubs Also by Sean Dietrich: *The Incredible Winston Browne Bawdy*, joyous, messy, hysterically funny, and guaranteed to offend regardless of religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or profession *Between the Bridge and the River* is the debut novel by Craig Ferguson, host of CBS's *The Late Late Show*. Two childhood friends from Scotland and two illegitimate half-brothers from the American South suffer and enjoy all manner of bizarre experiences which, as it turns out, are somehow

interconnected and, surprisingly enough, meaningful. An eclectic cast of characters includes Carl Jung, Fatty Arbuckle, Virgil, Marat, Socrates, and Tony Randall. Love, greed, hope, revenge, organized religion, and Hollywood are alternately tickled and throttled. Impossible to summarize and impossible to stop reading, this is a romantic comic odyssey that actually delivers and rewards. There are planets not meant to be colonized by humans. For three decades they will sleep, while their great colonial starship transports them to what is believed to be the perfect world. Their ship is state-of-the-art and totally automatic, allowing the passengers to remain in suspended animation for most of the journey. When they wake, they expect to find a virgin planet, unspoiled by the hands of man - a world where they can pursue happiness in a safe and free environment. The naive colonists from Earth have a different reality to face.

Readers Favorites AL CLARK (Book One) Literary Review by Paul F.

Johnson Al Clark by Jonathan G. Meyer grabs the readers attention from the first page. One of my favorite genres is science fiction, above all, space opera. I found Al Clark to be space opera and more. I call it space adventure. The author has created a strong, believable set of characters, particularly the First Six. The story plot is strong and steady with several well designed twists, leaving a true space opera and space adventure fan expectantly waiting to turn the next page. I strongly recommend this book for those that enjoy good sci-fi. Good story. What the readers are saying:

Scifi as it was meant to be - Jennifer Seidler

I have a new (to me) author to add to my favorites - Lesley Wood

Scifi at its best, intrigue, robots, action, mystery, and very witty.

Loved it! - Montzalee Wittman

Good old fashioned sci-fi -

CenVillager

Reminds me a little of the Sci-Fi of days gone by - jcat-top

500 reviewer

Classic Space Opera at its best - K.G. Evans Jr.

Finally, A Great World Exploration Sci-Fi Book - GeneK6 Available in Digital, Paperback, and AudioBook Provides the first complete English translation of a central text in the Islamic philosophical tradition, with meticulously researched commentary and interpretation. Michael Hiebert's remarkable debut novel tells the riveting story of a small southern town haunted by tragedy, one brave woman's struggle to put a troubling mystery to rest--and its impact on the sensitive boy who comes of age in the midst of it all. . . Abe Teal wasn't even born when Ruby Mae Vickers went missing twelve years ago. Few people in Alvin, Alabama, talk about the months spent looking for her, or about how Ruby Mae's lifeless body was finally found beneath a willow tree. Even Abe's mom, Leah, Alvin's only detective, has avoided the subject. But now, another girl is missing. Fourteen-year-old Mary Ann Dailey took the bus home from school as usual, then simply vanished. Townsfolk comb the dense forests

and swampy creeks to no avail. Days later, Tiffany Michelle Yates disappears. Abe saw her only hours before, holding an ice cream cone and wearing a pink dress. Observant and smart, Abe watches his mother battle small-town bureaucracy and old resentments, desperate to find both girls and quietly frantic for her own children's safety. As the search takes on a terrifying urgency, Abe traverses the shifting ground between innocence and hard-won understanding, eager to know and yet fearing what will be revealed. *Dream with Little Angels* is by turns lyrical, heartbreaking, and shocking--a brilliantly plotted novel of literary suspense and of the dark shadows, painful secrets, and uncompromising courage in one small town. "One of the best books I've read in a long, long while." --Lisa Jackson, New York Times bestselling author

A 1980s small town Alabama shut-in fears for her life after a killer 's release in this crime thriller by the author of *Dream with Little Angels*. At twenty-two, Sylvie Carson has known a lifetime 's worth of trouble. When she was a child, her baby brother was shot to death by a man named Preacher Eli. Orphaned by her teens, Sylvie is now raising her own baby with no partner in sight. For all these reasons, Leah Teal, Alvin, Alabama 's only detective, tries to stay patient when Sylvie calls the station day and night, always with some new false alarm. But now Preacher Eli is out of prison and moving back to town. As far as the law is concerned—the old man has paid his dues—though Leah 's twelve-year-old son, Abe, vehemently disagrees. Between that and his relentless curiosity about the daddy he hardly knew, Abe's imagination is running in all directions lately. While Leah struggles with how much of the past to reveal to Abe, she 's also concerned about Sylvie 's mounting panic. Something in her gut tells her the girl might be a target after all. For as Leah knows well, there 's danger not just in the secrets others keep from us, but in the lies that corrupt from within. It's a hunch that will be tested soon enough, as tensions mount on both sides. Evoking the South with depth and grace, Michael Hiebert 's poignant, gripping novel captures the strength wrought by heartache and lost innocence—and the transformative power of forgiveness, whenever it comes . . . Praise for *Dream with Little Angels*

"Hiebert 's first novel courts comparison to the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but the book manages to soar as a moving achievement in its own right. In Hiebert 's hands, psychological insight and restrained lyricism combine to create a coming-of-age tale as devastating as it is indelible." —Publis

When Arlene Fleet heads up north for college, she makes three promises to God: She will never again lie, never fornicate, and never, ever go back to tiny Possett, Alabama. All He had to do in exchange was to just make sure that the body is never found . . . The undisputed king of pop-culture parody, "Weird Al" Yankovic has sold more comedy recordings than any other artist in history,

receiving three Grammy Awards (and 14 nominations) in the process. The man behind classics such as “ Eat It, ” “ Amish Paradise, ” and “ White & Nerdy ” performed in more than 100 cities throughout North America, Europe, and Australia in support of his latest (and, to date, highest-charting) album, *Alpocalypse*. At last the time has come for a comprehensive illustrated tribute to this icon of the American humor landscape. Covering more than three decades of hilarious songs, videos, concert performances, and his life story in words and pictures, and featuring an introduction, lists, tweets, and photo captions from Yankovic himself, *Weird Al: The Book* is the ultimate companion piece to an extraordinary career. “Al(exandra) the Great” and her friend face the ups and downs experienced by every open and sensitive young person trying to cope in New York City. New York Times bestselling author Mary Monroe returns to the Deep South Depression-era town of her scandalous *Mama Ruby* series, in this tale of a woman determined to have a respectable life - and she'll do anything to keep it... In this bewitching debut novel, a sensitive teen, newly arrived in Alabama, falls in love, questions his faith, and navigates a strange power. While his German parents don ’ t know what to make of a South pining for the past, shy Max thrives in the thick heat. Taken in by the football team, he learns how to catch a spiraling ball, how to point a gun, and how to hide his innermost secrets. Max already expects some of the raucous behavior of his new, American friends—like their insatiable hunger for the fried and cheesy, and their locker room talk about girls. But he doesn ’ t expect the comradery—or how quickly he would be welcomed into their world of basement beer drinking. In his new canvas pants and thickening muscles, Max feels like he ’ s “ playing dress-up. ” That is until he meets Pan, the school “ witch, ” in Physics class: “ Pan in his all black. Pan with his goth choker and the gel that made his hair go straight up. ” Suddenly, Max feels seen, and the pair embarks on a consuming relationship: Max tells Pan about his supernatural powers, and Pan tells Max about the snake poison initiations of the local church. The boys, however, aren ’ t sure whose past is darker, and what is more frightening—their true selves, or staying true in Alabama. Writing in verdant and visceral prose that builds to a shocking conclusion, Genevieve Hudson “ brilliantly reinvents the Southern Gothic, mapping queer love in a land where God, guns, and football are king ” (Leni Zumas, author of *Red Clocks*). *Boys of Alabama* becomes a nuanced portrait of masculinity, religion, immigration, and the adolescent pressures that require total conformity. Matt is six years old when he discovers that he is different from other children and other people. To most, Matt isn't considered a boy at all, but a beast, dirty and disgusting. But to El Patron, lord of a country called Opium, Matt is the guarantee of eternal life. El Patron loves Matt as he

loves himself - for Matt is himself. They share the exact same DNA. As Matt struggles to understand his existence and what that existence truly means, he is threatened by a host of sinister and manipulating characters, from El Patron's power-hungry family to the brain-deadened eejits and mindless slaves that toil Opium's poppy fields. Surrounded by a dangerous army of bodyguards, escape is the only chance Matt has to survive. But even escape is no guarantee of freedom... because Matt is marked by his difference in ways that he doesn't even suspect. A collection of stories from the author of *The Blue Book* and *What Becomes* includes tales of man who tries to sell his apartment without renovating the old kitchen and an exploration of the humorous possibilities of fake genitalia. 15,000 first printing. "So fresh and unsettling that it will enchant you from the first page and linger for days after reading...Its epic family saga style echoes that of Hala Alyan 's *Salt Houses* and *The Arsonists ' City*, Ayad Akhtar 's *Homeland Elegies*, and Min Jin Lee 's *Pachinko*." -- Los Angeles Review of Books

In 2013, Sara is a philosophy professor at Kuwait University, having returned to Kuwait from Berkeley in the wake of her mother 's sudden death eleven years earlier. Her main companions are her grandmother 's talking parrot, Bebe Mitu; the family cook, Aasif; and Maria, her childhood ayah and the one person who has always been there for her. Sara 's relationship with Kuwait is complicated; it is a country she always thought she would leave, and a country she recognizes less and less, and yet a certain inertia keeps her there. But when teaching Nietzsche in her Intro to Philosophy course leads to an accusation of blasphemy, which carries with it the threat of execution, Sara realizes she must reconcile her feelings and her place in the world once and for all. Interspersed with Sara 's narrative are the stories of her grandmothers: beautiful and stubborn Yasmine, who marries the son of the Pasha of Basra and lives to regret it, and Lulwa, born poor in the old town of Kuwait, swept off her feet to an estate in India by the son of a successful merchant family; and her two mothers: Noura, who dreams of building a life in America and helping to shape its Mid-East policies, and Maria, who leaves her own children behind in Pune to raise Sara and her brother Karim and, in so doing, transforms many lives. Ranging from the 1920s to the near present, *An Unlasting Home* traces Kuwait 's rise from a pearl-diving backwater to its reign as a thriving cosmopolitan city to the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion. At once intimate and sweeping, personal and political, it is an unforgettable epic and a spellbinding family saga. Boarding an ocean liner with her boyfriend Derek, Beth comes face-to-face with her past in the form of Arthur, an ex-lover, which conjures up the memories of their unsavory past, acting as spiritual mediums to fleece the innocent out of their hard-earned money. A 1980s smalltown Alabama cop and

mother attempts to solve a serial killer cold case in this crime thriller by the author of *Close to the Broken Hearted*. Detective Leah Teal is privy to most of the secrets in her hometown of Alvin, but there are always surprises to be had. Like the day she agrees to take her daughter, Caroline, to see a psychic for a reading. The psychic hones in on Leah instead, hinting at a string of gruesome killings and insisting that she intervene to prevent more deaths. When you go looking for trouble, you never know how much you 'll find. Sure enough, the psychic 's scant clues lead Leah to a cold case from six years ago, when a young woman was found shot to death, her eyelids sewn shut. As Leah digs deeper into old files, a second unsolved case surfaces with the same grisly pattern. While her shrewd young son, Abe, observes from the sidelines, Leah races to prevent another horrific murder, unaware of just how deep the roots of evil can go. Taut, suspenseful, and rich in Southern atmosphere, *A Thorn Among the Lilies* is a mesmerizing novel of loss and vengeance, and the lengths some will go to out of loyalty and love. " Engaging. . . Readers will keep guessing whodunit to the end. " —Publishers Weekly "Though billed as a "novel" and offered as fiction, this mini-book--by a wisely pseudonymous "well-known and established author"--is actually a collection of 13 long lyrics in the (sometimes vaguely narrative) punk-rock manner."--Kirkus. A myth-shattering view of the Islamic world's myriad scientific innovations and the role they played in sparking the European Renaissance. Many of the innovations that we think of as hallmarks of Western science had their roots in the Arab world of the middle ages, a period when much of Western Christendom lay in intellectual darkness. Jim al- Khalili, a leading British-Iraqi physicist, resurrects this lost chapter of history, and given current East-West tensions, his book could not be timelier. With transporting detail, al-Khalili places readers in the hothouses of the Arabic Enlightenment, shows how they led to Europe's cultural awakening, and poses the question: Why did the Islamic world enter its own dark age after such a dazzling flowering? How do the personal and political lives of Supreme Court justices affect their decisions? Al-Tounsi tells the gripping, behind-the-scenes story of judicial titans as they consider a landmark case involving the rights of detainees held in an overseas U.S. military base. As the controversial case, inspired by a true 2008 case addressing Guantanamo Bay, maneuvers through the minds and hands of nine fictional justices, Al-Tounsi explores how the personal life dramas, career rivalries and political sympathies of Justices Rodney Sykes, Sarah Kolmann, Killian Quinn and others, blend with their judicial philosophies to decide the most important legal cases of our time. For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings

an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't know or understand; he's become property of the government he has been avoiding all his life. As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness survival skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there. This title has Common Core connections. Alabama Moon is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

- [Boys Of Alabama](#)
- [The Blue Book](#)
- [Al Clark](#)
- [Dream With Little Angels](#)
- [A Girl Called Al](#)
- [Close To The Broken Hearted](#)
- [Al Tounsi](#)
- [Creekside](#)
- [A Thorn Among The Lilies](#)
- [Chicago](#)
- [Dirt Road Home](#)
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- [Gods In Alabama](#)
- [Weird Al](#)
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- [Billy Bathgate](#)
- [American War](#)
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- [Crazy In Alabama](#)
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- [The Republic Of False Truths](#)
- [Alabama Moon](#)
- [A Gebra Named Al](#)
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