

Escaping Into The Open Berg

As onetime classmates meet over the course of a weekend for their high school's fortieth reunion, they discover things that will irrevocably affect the rest of their lives. For newly divorced Dorothy Shauman, it is the possibility to finally attract the attention of the class heartthrob, Pete Decker. For the ever self-reliant, ever left-out Mary Alice Mayhew, it's a chance to re-examine a painful past. For Lester Heseenpfeffer, a veterinarian and widower, it is the hope of talking shop with a fellow vet - or at least that's what he tells himself. For Candy Armstrong, the class beauty, it's the hope of finding friendship before it is too late. As Dorothy, Mary Alice, Lester, Candy, and the other classmates converge for the reunion dinner, four decades melt away: Desires and personalities from their youth re-emerge, and new discoveries are made. For so much has happened to them all. And so much can still happen.

The much-anticipated republication of Ann Quin's masterpiece of post-war British fiction: caustic, thrilling, unforgettable.

A new rendition of the Christmas story follows a young couple, Mary and Joseph, who are planning to be married, only to be confronted by an unexpected pregnancy that for Mary is a miracle and for Joseph, a challenge to his faith in his wife and in God.

"Dear Martin, I'm sorry the note I left you was so abrupt. I just wanted you to know I was safe- I won't be back for a while. I'm on a trip. I needed all of a sudden to go, without saying where, because I don't know where. I

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know this is not like me. I know that,. But please believe me, I am safe and I am not crazy. I felt as though if I didn't do this I wouldn't be safe and I would be crazy- And can you believe this? I love you. Nan"Sometimes you have to leave your life behind for a while to see it and really live it freshly again. In this luminous, exquisitely written novel, a woman follows the pull of the moon to find her way home. Sometimes humorous, sometimes heartbreaking, always honest, *The Pull of the Moon* is a novel about the journey of one woman - and about the issues of the heart that transforms the lives of all women.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER Now with an additional story. Every now and then, right in the middle of an ordinary day, a woman kicks up her heels and commits a small act of liberation. What would you do if you could shed the "shoulds" and do, say—and eat—whatever you really desired? Go AWOL from Weight Watchers and spend an entire day eating every single thing you want? Start a dating service for people over fifty to reclaim the razzle-dazzle in your life—or your marriage? Seek comfort in the face of aging, look for love in the midst of loss, find friendship in the most surprising of places? In these beautiful, funny stories, Elizabeth Berg takes us into the heart of the lives of women who do all these things and more—confronting their true feelings, desires, and joys along the way.

Both autobiography and primer, *Escaping into the Open* is an inspiring, practical handbook on the joys and challenges of the writing life. Renowned author and writing instructor Elizabeth Berg interweaves the story of

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her own journey from working mother to bestselling novelist with encouraging advice on how to create stories that spring from the heart. Continually in print since its original 1999 publication, this invaluable resource is a true and constant friend to all writers, no matter their stage of development. With wit and honesty, Berg provides numerous exercises that will unleash individual creativity and utilize all five senses. Most important, she tells how to fire passion—emotion—into writing itself; to break through personal barriers and reach one's own outer limits and beyond.

Bit by bit, the ravages of age are eroding Marina's grip on the everyday. An elderly Russian woman now living in America, she cannot hold on to fresh memories—the details of her grown children's lives, the approaching wedding of her grandchild—yet her distant past is miraculously preserved in her mind's eye. Vivid images of her youth in war-torn Leningrad arise unbidden, carrying her back to the terrible fall of 1941, when she was a tour guide at the Hermitage Museum and the German army's approach signaled the beginning of what would be a long, torturous siege on the city. As the people braved starvation, bitter cold, and a relentless German onslaught, Marina joined other staff members in removing the museum's priceless masterpieces for safekeeping, leaving the frames hanging empty on the walls to symbolize the artworks' eventual return. As the Luftwaffe's bombs pounded the proud, stricken city, Marina built a personal Hermitage in her mind—a refuge that would stay buried deep within her, until she needed it once more. . . . Includes an excerpt from Debra Deans

The Mirrored World.

When Samantha Morrow's husband leaves her and her eleven-year-old son she is faced with the terrifying prospect of having to recreate her whole life. After a few faltering steps she starts to put the pieces into place. She opens her house to a series of lodgers who each in their eccentric way help her to see herself. She fends off her mother, whose idea of getting over a failed marriage is to get a pedicure and get out there dating. And she makes a friend, King, an MIT graduate turned handyman, who shows her that she has the ability to make her own future and her own happiness . . .

READERS LOVE CULT FOLLOWING 'The most important memoir of this year' 'One of the most moving, powerful and profound memoirs I have ever read' 'A gripping, moving book from a brilliant, brave writer . . . I devoured this book' 'Truly amazing... couldn't recommend it more' 'Totally blown away... dare I say it's way better than Educated by Tara Westover' Bexy Cameron was in her late twenties when the dark events of her past finally caught up with her. Bexy was born into the Children of God, one of the world's most notorious cults. She was 9 years old when she experienced her first exorcism, held in a secret commune deep in the British countryside. At 10, she was placed on Silence Restriction, forced to be silent for a whole year. Even from an early age, she knew what was happening was not right. At the age of 15, she escaped, leaving behind her parents and 11 siblings. Haunted by her past, Bexy set off on a road trip across America, embedding herself in the underbelly of religious cults, living with children who, like her, are born into the worlds their parents and cult leaders have created for them. It is a journey of meth cooks, monks, Jesus Freaks, soap-making Armageddonists, surveillance vans and finally, confronting her parents and

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herself. 'A brave and deeply moving story of fierce spirit' -
Dakota Johnson

After sending their men off to fight in the war, sisters Kitty and Louise Heaney join their flirtatious younger sister, Tish, in writing letters to servicemen overseas, in a study of life during World War II from the perspective of the young men on the battlefield and the women left behind on the home front.

Reader's Guide included. Reprint. 100,000 first printing.

A self-anointed spinster at fifty-one, Myra Lipinski is reasonably content with her quiet life, her dog, Frank, and her career as a visiting nurse. But everything changes when Chip Reardon, the golden boy she adored in high school, is assigned as her new patient. Choosing to forgo treatment for an incurable illness, Chip has returned to his New England hometown to spend what time he has left. Now, Myra and Chip find themselves engaged in a poignant redefinition of roles, and a complicated dance of memory, ambivalence, and longing.

Home Safe by Kate Denton released on Apr 24, 1990 is available now for purchase.

If you have ever stared at a page that remains stubbornly blank; if you have ever wondered why writers write, or whether good writers are born or made; if you are a novelist, playwright, poet, or journalist, or simply delight in the written word, *The Writer's Quote* book is for you. Whether you keep it in your office, on your coffee table, next to your keyboard or your bed, this rich compendium of over one thousand quotations will inspire, invigorate, and illuminate the often challenging, sometimes humorous, but always fascinating task of those who bring words to life. From William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway to Doris Lessing and Joyce Carol Oates, more than five hundred published writers put pen to paper on what the literary life is all about. Selections come from seasoned professionals as well as those just

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establishing their voice, and they represent a variety of nationalities and genres. The book is divided into three sections. The first part is devoted to the creative process, including thoughts on where writers get their ideas, the role of inspiration, what kind of people write, and where talent comes from. In part two, the subject shifts to writing as a craft. Here, authors ponder the creation of protagonists and points of view, the writing of dialogue, setting and description, creating plots, and the anatomy of style. The final third of the book deals with the challenges and rewards that come with the writing life. Subjects in this section include the economic realities of writing, classes, conferences, and workshops, dealing with rejection and bad reviews, writing habits and rituals, despair, alcohol, and suicide, and fame. Articulated with elegant metaphor, in straightforward prose, or with wry wit, the carefully selected and thoughtfully organized quotations come together to form a narrative that entertains, informs, and in the case of aspiring writers, shows the way to better writing. Jim Fisher is a professor emeritus at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of five nonfiction books, including *The Lindbergh Case* (Rutgers University Press) and *Ten Percent of Nothing*.

USA TODAY BESTSELLER * An uplifting novel about friendship, surprising revelations, and a second chance at love, from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Story of Arthur Truluv*. When a group of friends in Mason, Missouri, decide to start a monthly supper club, they get more than they bargained for. The plan for congenial evenings--talking, laughing, and sharing recipes, homemade food, and wine--abruptly changes course one night when one of the women reveals something startlingly intimate. The supper club then becomes Confession Club, and the women gather weekly to share not only dinners but embarrassing misdeeds, deep insecurities, and long-held regrets. They

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invite Iris Winters and Maddy Harris to join, and their timing couldn't be better. Iris is conflicted about her feelings for a charming but troubled man, and Maddy has come back home from New York to escape a problem too big to handle alone. The club offers exactly the kind of support they need to help them make some difficult decisions. The Confession Club is charming, heartwarming, and inspiring. And as in the previous books that take place in Mason, readers will find friendship, community, and kindness on full display. Advance praise for The Confession Club "[A] feel-good testament to taking risks, falling love, and reinvention . . . Berg effortlessly wraps her arms around this busy universe of quirky characters with heartbreaking secrets and unflagging faith. . . . Readers new to Berg's Mason will be dazzled by this bright and fascinating story, and fans will be cheering for the next volume."--Publishers Weekly

This is the third in a series of "Happy" books, compilations of Facebook posts. First two were Make Someone Happy and Still Happy.

From the author of "We Are All Welcome Here" comes her most ambitious work to date--a moving novel where unearthed truths force one seemingly ordinary family to reexamine their disparate lives and to ask themselves: Is it too late to mend the hurts of the past?

This carefully crafted ebook: "Winesburg, Ohio (A Group of Tales of Ohio Small-Town Life)" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. This ebook is a series of loosely linked short stories set in the fictional town of Winesburg, mostly written from late 1915 to early 1916. The stories are held together by George Willard, a resident to whom the community confide their personal stories and struggles. The townspeople are withdrawn and emotionally repressed

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and attempt in telling their stories to gain some sense of meaning and dignity in an otherwise desperate life. The work has received high critical acclaim and is considered one of the great American works of the 20th century.

Sherwood Anderson (1876 – 1941) was an American novelist and short story writer, known for subjective and self-revealing works. Anderson published several short story collections, novels, memoirs, books of essays, and a book of poetry. He may be most influential for his effect on the next generation of young writers, as he inspired William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, and Thomas Wolfe.

Throughout their history, the Guardian and the Observer have avidly reported the worlds of exploration and adventure travel. In the 19th century, they covered the British and European explorers who were trying to fill in the 'blanks on the map' - crossing deserts, racing to the poles, searching for the source of the Nile and trying to be the first to master the peaks of the Alps, and, later, the Himalaya. By the turn of the 20th century, interest turned to Everest, the 'third pole', to the deserts that needed to be conquered, and also to the new ways of exploring that opened up a whole new world of adventure - airships over the North Pole and Citroen driving across the Sahara in the 1920s, to name but two. In the post-war period, explorers upped the ante - who would be the first to row across the great oceans? Travel unsupported to the Poles? Climb Everest without oxygen? Add to this the vogue for recreating great voyages (the most famous being the Kon Tiki and Vinland expedition to Greenland) and soon the

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newspapers were brimming with tales of derring-do. This collection draws together a unique collection of first person accounts, news reports and - inevitably - obituaries that demonstrate the awe-inspiring lengths to which explorers and adventurers have gone to push back the boundaries of human endeavour. - Gordon Laing's doomed journey to Timbuctoo in 1828 - Captain Webb's epic swim across the English Channel in 1875 - Wilfrid Thesiger's 1940s crossing of the Rub' al Khali, - Aron Ralston's harrowing experience in 2003, when he amputated his lower right arm in order to free himself from a rockfall Capturing not only the adrenaline rush the adventurers feel when stepping out into the unknown but also the fear and trepidation that set in when things start to go wrong, Those Who Dared is an adventure anthology that will satisfy the yearnings of the hardened explorer and armchair traveller alike.

THE TRUE STORY THAT INSPIRED THE NETFLIX FILM THE RED SEA DIVING RESORT. 'Secret missions, brazen deceptions and thrilling, clandestine operations – Red Sea Spies has it all. But it has something more important, too – a genuine human mission that made a difference.' David Hoffman, author of The Billion Dollar Spy In the early 1980s on a remote part of the Sudanese coast, a new luxury holiday resort opened for business. Catering for divers, it attracted guests from around the world. Little did the holidaymakers know that the staff were undercover spies, working for the Mossad – the Israeli secret service. Providing a front for covert night-time activities, the holiday village allowed the agents to carry out an

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operation unlike any seen before. What began with one cryptic message pleading for help, turned into the secret evacuation of thousands of Ethiopian Jews who had been languishing in refugee camps, and the spiring of them to Israel. Written in collaboration with operatives involved in the mission, endorsed as the definitive account and including an afterword from the commander who went on to become the head of the Mossad, this is the complete, never-before-heard, gripping tale of a top-secret and often hazardous operation.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “Unforgettable . . . Truth rings forth clearly from every page. . . . One minute you’re laughing, the next you’re crying. . . . You’ll want to give a copy to every good woman friend you have.”—The Charlotte Observer What do you say when you know you don’t have forever? Ruth has been Ann’s closest friend for years—her confidante, her solace, her comic relief, her tutor in life’s mysterious ways. So when Ruth becomes ill, Ann is there for her without question. After all, it is Ruth who encouraged Ann to become who she is, Ruth whose rebellious, eccentric spirit provided the perfect counterpoint to Ann’s conventional, safe outlook. And so the friends go on as they always have . . . gossiping, consoling, and sharing intimate secrets—but with the knowledge that each shared evening could be their last. Acclaimed author Elizabeth Berg has created a searing novel about the strength and salvation of women’s friendships. Deeply moving and surprisingly funny, *Talk Before Sleep* is an intimate, uncensored portrait of love and loss, struggle and resilience. “Tender and irreverent by turns, [*Talk Before Sleep*] offers

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mature, intelligent and buoyant spirit, like a very good friend.”—Houston Post “Entertaining, finely crafted . . . Berg tackles serious issues with grace.”—San Francisco Chronicle

Making daily visits to the grave of his beloved late wife, Arthur forges unexpected relationships with a nosy neighbor and a troubled teen who dubs him "Truluv" before the trio discovers healing and family together. On the hot Texas army base she calls home, Katie spends the lazy days of her summer waiting: waiting to grow up; waiting for Dickie Mack to fall in love with her; waiting for her breasts to blossom; waiting for the beatings to stop. Since their mother died, Katie and her older sister, Diane, have struggled to understand their increasingly distant, often violent father. While Diane escapes into the arms of her boyfriend, Katie hides in her room or escapes to her best friend's house—until Katie's admiration for her strong-willed sister leads her on an adventure that transforms her life. Written with an unerring ability to capture the sadness of growth, the pain of change, the nearly visible vibrations that connect people, this beautiful novel by the bestselling author of *Open House* reminds us how wonderful—and wounding—a deeper understanding of life can be.

'THE PERFECT WEEKEND READ' heat, 5*review

Words are messy. Love is messier. A love story for book lovers that celebrates much more than romance. Meet Beatrix Babbage – 29-year-old dog-earer of books and accidental destroyer of weddings. After ruining her best friend's nuptials, Bea relocates to the other side of the country in search of a fresh start, including meeting new

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people, living life to the fullest and finally pulling off balayage. But after a few months, life is more stagnant than ever. Bea's job is dead-end. Her romantic life? Non-existent. And her only friends are her books, her barista and her cleaning lady. Then Bea stumbles across a second-hand novel inscribed with notes. Besotted with the poetic inscriptions, Bea is determined to find the author ... and finds herself entangled in one hell of a love quadrangle. Funny, poignant and insightful, *While You Were Reading* reveals the value of true friendship, that there's no such thing as perfection, and, most importantly, the power of not living in fiction, but still reading it – often! ~*~ Praise for *The Book Ninja* ~*~

'Sure to make you smile. Brimming with bookish banter'
'The Book Ninja was an absolutely delightful read, full of quirky bookish themes, sweet and yet flawed characters and, of course, a liberal dose of humour that left me giggling throughout. This book warmed my heart, and left me feeling all kinds of warm and fuzzies after I finished it.'
'If you're looking for a funny, light-hearted, book-nerdy read, pick this up ASAP'
'This was a delightful read that I became completely consumed by and finished in one sitting!'
'This was a lot of fun to read because it's so relatable and I loved the whole book aspect of it'
'I loved it, better than pizza and I look forward to seeing what Ali Berg and Michelle Kalus come up with next.'
'The perfect book to tackle a book-reading slump'
'It's wonderful to finally have a book to recommend for fans of *The Rosie Project*'

An exceptionally powerful novel exploring the themes of betrayal, guilt and memory against the background of the

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Holocaust. An international bestseller. For 15-year-old Michael Berg, a chance meeting with an older woman leads to far more than he ever imagined. The woman in question is Hanna, and before long they embark on a passionate, clandestine love affair which leaves Michael both euphoric and confused. For Hanna is not all she seems. Years later, as a law student observing a trial in Germany, Michael is shocked to realize that the person in the dock is Hanna. The woman he had loved is a criminal. Much about her behaviour during the trial does not make sense. But then suddenly, and terribly, it does - Hanna is not only obliged to answer for a horrible crime, she is also desperately concealing an even deeper secret. 'A tender, horrifying novel that shows blazingly well how the Holocaust should be dealt with in fiction' INDEPENDENT 'For generations to come, people will be reading and marvelling over Bernhard Schlink's The Reader' EVENING STANDARD 'Leaps national boundaries and speaks straight to the heart' NEW YORK TIMES

**Could you find your perfect man by looking at his book shelf? ** 'Frankie, think about it. Literature is your life. You've been trawling Tinder looking for well-read intellectuals, but it's not working. Let's shake things up! Just use your favourite books to find a man.' Frankie Rose is desperate for love. Or a relationship. Or just a date with a semi-normal person. It's not that she hasn't tried – Frankie is the queen of online dating. But she has had enough. With the help of her best friend and colleague Cat, Frankie decides to embark on the ultimate dating experiment. Inspired by her surroundings at The

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Little Brunswick Bookshop where she works, Frankie places her hope in her favourite books to find her the perfect man... Secretly planting copies on trains, trams and buses, Frankie hopes to find the man of her dreams through a mutual love of good books. The only flaw to the plan? That she may never get her books back! But that turns out to be the least of her worries... In between crazy dates and writing them up on her blog, Frankie stumbles upon her perfect man. There's just one problem...Frankie is strictly a Jane Austen kind of woman and Sunny is really into Young Adult. Seriously, obsessively into it... Can Frankie overcome her book snobbery for the man of her dreams? Or will she be left searching the trains for her modern-day Mr Darcy forever? ~*~ Hear what fans are saying about The Book Ninja ~*~ 'Sure to make you smile. Brimming with bookish banter' 'The Book Ninja was an absolutely delightful read, full of quirky bookish themes, sweet and yet flawed characters and, of course, a liberal dose of humour that left me giggling throughout. This book warmed my heart, and left me feeling all kinds of warm and fuzzies after I finished it.' 'If you're looking for a funny, light-hearted, book-nerdy read, pick this up ASAP' 'This was a delightful read that I became completely consumed by and finished in one sitting!' 'This was a lot of fun to read because it's so relatable and I loved the whole book aspect of it' 'I loved it, better than pizza and I look forward to seeing what Ali Berg and Michelle Kalus come up with next.' 'The perfect book to tackle a book-reading slump' 'It's wonderful to finally have a book to recommend for fans of The Rosie

Project'

A Woman Rediscovered Meaning In Life A Rich And Deeply Satisfying Novel By The Bestselling Author Of The Art Of Mending And Open House. When Betta Nolan S Husband Dies, She Honours A Promise She Made To Him To Move To A Small Town And Start A New Life. Without Minimizing Her Great Sorrow, She Nevertheless Attempts To Find Pleasure On A Daily Basis. The Year Of Pleasures Is About Deliberately Acknowledging The Solace Found In Ordinary Things: A Warm Bath, Good Food, The Beauty Of Nature, Music, Art Found In Museums And In Gardens. Above All, It Is About The Various Kindnesses People Can And Do Offer One Another. Betta S Journey From Grief To Joy Is An Inspiring Reminder Of What Is Available To Us All, Regardless Of Our Life Circumstances. It Suggests That No Matter Who We Lose, Life Can Still Give Bountifully To Those Who Will Receive.

ONE OF TIME'S 10 BEST FICTION BOOKS OF 2020.

Longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Prize. Named a Best Book of 2020 by NPR, Bustle, Good Housekeeping, the New York Public Library, Library Journal, Lit Hub, Electric Literature, and Tor.com "As enchanting as fairy tales, as mysterious as dreams, these exquisitely composed fictions are as urgent and original as any being written today." —Sigrid Nunez, author of The Friend, winner of the 2018 National Book Award for Fiction An urgent and unsettling collection of women on the verge from Laura van den Berg, author of The Third Hotel I Hold a Wolf by the Ears, Laura van den Berg's first story collection since her prizewinning book The Isle

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of Youth, draws readers into a world of wholly original, sideways ghost stories that linger in the mouth and the mind. Both timeless and urgent, these eleven stories confront misogyny, violence, and the impossible economics of America with van den Berg's trademark spiky humor and surreal eye. Moving from the peculiarities of Florida to liminal spaces of travel in Mexico City, Sicily, and Iceland, *I Hold a Wolf by the Ears* is uncannily attuned to our current moment, and to the fears we reveal to no one but ourselves. In "Lizards," a man mutes his wife's anxieties by giving her a LaCroix-like seltzer laced with sedatives. In the title story, a woman poses as her more successful sister during a botched Italian holiday, a choice that brings about strange and destructive consequences, while in "Karolina," a woman discovers her prickly ex-sister-in-law in the aftermath of an earthquake and is forced to face the truth about her violent brother. *I Hold a Wolf by the Ears* presents a collection of women on the verge, trying to grasp what's left of life: grieving, divorced, and hyperaware, searching, vulnerable, and unhinged, they exist in a world that deviates from our own only when you look too closely. With remarkable control and transcendent talent, van den Berg dissolves, in the words of the narrator of "Slumberland," "that border between magic and annihilation," and further establishes herself as a defining fiction writer of our time.

Timelike Infinity: the strange region at the end of time where the Xeelee, owners of the universe, are waiting... The second novel in Stephen Baxter's Xeelee sequence. First there were good times: humankind reached glorious

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heights, even immortality. Then there were bad times: Earth was occupied by the faceless, brutal Qax. Immortality drugs were confiscated, the human spirit crushed. Earth became a vast factory for alien foodstuffs. Into this new dark age appears the end of a tunnel through time. Made from exotic matter, it is humanity's greatest engineering project in the pre-Qax era, where the other end of the tunnel remains anchored near Jupiter. When a small group of humans in a makeshift craft outwit the Qax to escape to the past through the tunnel, it is not to warn the people of Earth against the Qax, who are sure to follow them. For these men and women from the future are themselves dangerous fanatics in pursuit of their own bizarre quantum grail. Michael Poole, architect of the tunnel, must boldly confront the consequences of his genius. The beloved New York Times bestselling author tells the poignant love story of caring for her parents in their final years in this beautifully written memoir. "I'll Be Seeing You moved me and broadened my understanding of the human condition."--Wally Lamb, author of I Know This Much Is True Elizabeth Berg's father was an Army veteran who was a tough man in every way but one: He showed a great deal of love and tenderness to his wife. Berg describes her parents' marriage as a romance that lasted for nearly seventy years; she grew up watching her father kiss her mother upon leaving home, and kiss her again the instant he came back. His idea of when he should spend time away from her was never. But then Berg's father developed Alzheimer's disease, and her parents were forced to leave the home they loved and

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move into a facility that could offer them help. It was time for the couple's children to offer, to the best of their abilities, practical advice, emotional support, and direction--to, in effect, parent the people who had for so long parented them. It was a hard transition, mitigated at least by flashes of humor and joy. The mix of emotions on everyone's part could make every day feel like walking through a minefield. Then came redemption. I'll Be Seeing You charts the passage from the anguish of loss to the understanding that even in the most fractious times, love can heal, transform, and lead to graceful--and grateful--acceptance.

THE STORY: This groundbreaking Obie-winning Off-Broadway smash also won multiple awards for its hit film adaptation. It tells the story of internationally ignored song stylist Hedwig Schmidt, a fourth-wall smashing East German rock 'n' roll godde

They are not like other rats. They work at night, in secret . . . Time is running out for Mrs Frisby. She must move her family of mice before the farmer destroys their home. But her youngest son, Timothy, is too ill to survive the move. Help comes in the unexpected form of a group of mysterious, super-intelligent rats. But the rats are in danger too, and little by little Mrs Frisby discovers their extraordinary past . . .

Stricken by polio, Paige Dunn, a woman of remarkable free spirit, beauty, and intelligence, continues to raise her daughter, Diana, with the help of her caretaker Peacie, in a novel about the power of love and the resilience of the human spirit, set against the backdrop of Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1964. Reader's Guide included. Reprint.

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125,000 first printing.

Helen Ames is drowning. Recently widowed and coping with loss and grief, her problems are compounded by a shocking discovery that her mild-mannered husband was apparently leading a double life. But at least he's left her financially secure... Or has he? Coming to terms with the fact that her retirement fund has been withdrawn without her knowing, Helen finds herself sinking even deeper. But with the help of Tessa - her beautiful, patient, twenty-seven-year-old daughter - and her host of straight-talking friends, she is forced to reassess what she knew about herself, being a mother, and what it really takes to make a home and a family.

'I can tell you how it happened. It's easy to say how it happened. He walked past a building, and a huge chunk of ice fell off the roof, and it hit him in the head. This is Chaplinesque, right? People start to laugh when I tell them-'As Jay Berman lingers in a coma, his young wife, Lainey, is the only one who believes he will recover. While he lies motionless, she hopes to reach him by offering reminders of the ordinary life they shared - sweet-smelling flowers, his softly textured shirt, spices from their kitchen. And throughout her ordeal, Lainey is sustained by her relationship with two very special women, each of whom teaches her about the enduring bond of friendship and the genuine power of hope. A tale based on the controversial life of mid-19th-century French novelist George Sand follows her separation from her husband and vibrant life in Paris, where she wore men's clothing and shared love affairs and friendships with famous intimates.

Patty Murphy is facing that pivotal point in a woman's life when her biological clock ticks as insistently as a beating heart. Will she find Mr Right and start a family? But Patty is in love - with a man who is not only attractive and financially

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sound, but sensitive and warmhearted. There's just one small problem: He is also gay. Against her better judgment, and pleas from family and friends, Patty refuses to give up on Ethan. Every man she dates ultimately leaves her aching for the gentle comfort and intimacy she shares with him. But even as she throws eligible bachelors to the wayside to spend yet another platonic night with Ethan, Patty longs more and more for the consolation of loving and being loved. In the meantime she must content herself with waiting - until the real thing comes along . . .

: Three women demonstrate the power of love and the importance of freedom in this unique new novel, which is about the resilience of the human spirit.

Authors at the dawn of the twenty-first century focus, predictably on topics that influence their society. Recurring with notable frequency in the writing of contemporary American authors are issues such as the environment, gender roles, terrorism and ecoterrorism, domestic abuse, religion and spirituality, technology, sexual and racial identities, the economy, the family and its construction, drug use and its social ramifications, and a resurgence in regionalism.

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