

“A Long Petal of the Sea” by Isabel Allende

315 pp, fiction

Isabel Allende's new novel follows two refugees from the Spanish Civil War, whose mock marriage as they flee to Chile gradually deepens into real love, set against a backdrop of war and upheaval

The Book of Unknown Americans

By Cristina Henríquez

304pp, fiction

When fifteen-year-old Maribel Rivera sustains a terrible injury, the Riveras leave behind a comfortable life in Mexico and risk everything to come to the United States so that Maribel can have the care she needs. Once they arrive, it's not long before Maribel attracts the attention of Mayor Toro, the son of one of their new neighbors, who sees a kindred spirit in this beautiful, damaged outsider. Their love story sets in motion events that will have profound repercussions for everyone involved. Here Henríquez seamlessly interweaves the story of these star-crossed lovers, and of the Rivera and Toro families, with the testimonials of men and women who have come to the United States from all over Latin America. *The Book of Unknown Americans* is a stunning novel of hopes and dreams, guilt and love—a book that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American.

Perfect Little World

by Kevin Wilson

352pp, fiction

When Isabelle Poole meets Dr. Preston Grind, she's fresh out of high school, pregnant with her art teacher's baby, and totally on her own. Izzy knows she can be a good mother but without any money or relatives to help, she's left searching. Dr. Grind, an awkwardly charming child psychologist, has spent his life studying family, even after tragedy struck his own. Now, with the help of an eccentric billionaire, he has the chance to create a "perfect little world"—to study what would happen when ten children are raised collectively, without knowing who their biological parents are. He calls it The Infinite Family Project and he wants Izzy and her son to join. This attempt at a utopian ideal starts off promising, but soon the gentle equilibrium among the families disintegrates: unspoken resentments between the couples begin to fester; the project's funding becomes tenuous; and Izzy's growing feelings for Dr. Grind make her question her participation in this strange experiment in the first place. Written with the same compassion and charm that won over legions of readers with *The Family Fang*, Kevin Wilson shows us with grace and humor that the best families are the ones we make for ourselves.

In Cold Blood

Truman Capote

416pp, non-fiction

The most famous true crime novel of all time and one of the first non-fiction novels ever written; *In Cold Blood* is the bestseller that haunted its author long after he finished writing it. On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by blasts from a shotgun held a few inches from their faces.

There was no apparent motive for the crime, and there were almost no clues. As Truman Capote reconstructs the murder and the investigation that led to the capture, trial, and execution of the killers, he generates both mesmerizing suspense and astonishing empathy. In *Cold Blood* is a work that transcends its moment, yielding poignant insights into the nature of American violence.

The Last Days Of Ellis Island by Gaelle Josse.

Nonfiction , 208 pages.

In November of 1954 the Immigration Inspection Station of Ellis Island will close forever. John Mitchell, an officer of the Bureau of Immigration, is guardian and last resident of the island. As Mitchell thinks back over 45 years as gatekeeper to America and its promise of a better life he recalls his brief marriage to a beloved wife, Liz, and is troubled by memories of a transgression with Nella, an immigrant from Sardinia. Told in diary form, this is a story of responsibility, love, fidelity and remorse.

The Good Daughter: A Memoir Of My Mother's Life by Jasmin Darznik

Nonfiction 332 pages

Jasmin Darznik came to America from Iran when she was three years old. She grew up knowing little of her family's history. When she was in her early twenties, on a day shortly after her father's death, Jasmin was helping her mother move: a photograph fell from a stack of old letters. The girl in the picture was her mother, she was wearing a wedding veil. Jasmin had never seen the man at her side.

Jasmin's mother, Lili, refused to talk about the photo. A few months later, Jasmin received from her mother the first of ten cassette tapes which told the wrenching story of her family's true origins in Iran. Lili's marriage at thirteen, a history of abuse and neglect and a daughter she was forced to abandon in order to escape that life. The final tape revealed that Jasmin's sister, Sara -the Good Daughter- was still living in Iran.

In this beautifully written memoir, the author weaves the stories of three generations of Iranian women into a unique tale of one family's struggle for freedom and understanding.

The Room On Rue Amelie by Kristin Hammill

Fiction, 416 pages

Set in Nazi occupied Paris during WWII. The lives of three people unexpectedly cross paths. Ruby, the American, marries a dashing Frenchman but the marriage becomes bitter and Marcel, her husband, becomes secretive and distant. Marcel is killed and Ruby discovers he was a member of the French resistance. She becomes determined to take his place. Ruby becomes involved in hiding Allied soldiers, but her skills are put to the test when she begins to conceal her twelve-year-old neighbor, Charlotte, whose family was taken by the Gestapo.

As the German net tightens around Paris, no one is safe.