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*Frog Mo Yan*

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### GEMMA ANTONY

**Dream of Ding Village** Penguin

During China's collectivist era in the late 1950s, a rural work team building an important floodgate receives a strange new recruit: Hei-hai, a skinny, silent and almost feral boy. Assigned to assist the blacksmith at the worksite forge, Hei-hai proves superhumanly indifferent to pain or suffering and yet, eerily sensitive to the natural world. As the worksite becomes a backdrop to jealousy and strife, Hei-hai's eyes search for wonders that only he understands. One day, he finds all that he has been seeking embodied in the most mundane and unexpected way: a radish.

*A Novel* Springer

A novel of epic proportions, gargantuan appetites, & surrealistic fantasies, *The Republic of Wine* is as daring as it is controversial.

**A Novel** Penguin Group Australia

During the 1937 attack on Nanjing, American missionary and women's college dean Minnie Vautrin decides to remain at her school during a Japanese attack that renders the school a refugee center for ten thousand women and children.

*Frog* Two Dollar Radio

This landmark literary anthology of poems, stories, and literary essays about abortion, *Choice Words: Writers on Abortion*, is a powerful collection of timely pieces on the struggle to defend reproductive rights. Twenty years in the making, this book spans continents and centuries; the manuscript includes Audre Lorde, Margaret Atwood, Lucille Clifton, Amy Tan, Gloria Steinem, Ursula Le Guin, Gwendolyn Brooks, Joyce Carol Oates, Gloria Naylor, Dorothy Parker, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Anne Sexton, Ntozake Shange, Sholeh Wolpe, Ai, Jean Rhys, Mahogany L. Browne, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Frank O'Hara, Vi Khi Nao, Sharon Olds, Judith Arcana, Alice Walker, Lucille Clifton, Molly Peacock, Carol Muske-Dukes, Mo Yan, Leslie Marmon Silko, Bobbie Louise Hawkins, Kathy Acker, Langston Hughes, Sharon Doubiago, and numerous other classic and contemporary writers including voices from Canada, France, China, India, Iran, Ireland, Kenya, and Pakistan.

**Big Breasts and Wide Hips** Macmillan

The new book from the critically acclaimed author of *The Wives* and ?Sophia Tolstoy sheds light on one of the strangest and most unusual relationships in literary history—which has been steeped in secrecy for more than a century. On the snowy morning of February 8, 1897, the Petersburg secret police were following Tolstoy's every move. At sixty-nine, Russia's most celebrated writer was being treated like a major criminal. Prominent Russians were always watched, but Tolstoy earned particular scrutiny. Over a decade earlier, when his advocacy on behalf of oppressed minorities angered the Orthodox Church and the Tsar, he was placed under permanent police surveillance. Although Tolstoy was wearing his peasant garb, people on the streets had no trouble recognizing him from his portraits. He was often seen in the company of his chief disciple, Vladimir

Chertkov. A man of striking appearance, twenty-five years younger, Chertkov commanded attention. His photographs with Tolstoy show him towering over the writer, but who exactly was this imposing man? Close to the Tsars and to the chief of the secret police, Chertkov represented the very things Tolstoy had renounced—class privilege, unlimited power, and wealth. Yet, Chertkov fascinated and attracted Tolstoy. He became the writer's closest confidant, even reading his daily diary, and by the end of Tolstoy's life, Chertkov had established complete control over the writer and his legacy. Tolstoy's full exchange with Chertkov comprises more than 2,000 letters, making him the writer's largest correspondent. The Russian archives have suppressed much of this communication as well as Chertkov's papers for more than a century. The product of ground-breaking archival research, Tolstoy's False Disciple promises to be a revelatory portrait of the two men and their three-decade-long clandestine relationship.

**Penguin Specials** Haymarket Books

Tracking ideas of the child in Chinese society across the twentieth century, Kate Foster places fictional children within the story of the nation in a study of tropes and themes which range from images of strength and purity to the murderous and amoral.

*The Untold Story of Lin Zhao, a Martyr in Mao's China* Routledge

Stripped of his possessions and executed as a result of Mao's Land Reform Movement in 1948, benevolent landowner Ximen Nao finds himself endlessly tortured in Hell before he is systematically reborn on Earth as each of the animals in the Chinese zodiac.

**Response and Resilience** Penguin Books

"In *Change*, China's foremost novelist Mo Yan personalizes the social and political changes in his country over the past few decades in a novella disguised as autobiography (or vice versa). Unlike most historical narratives from China, which are pegged to political events, *Change* is a representative of 'people's history', a bottom-up rather than top-down view of a country in flux. By moving back and forth in time and focusing on small events and everyday people, the author breathes life into history by describing the effects of larger-than-life events on the average citizen."--*Endless Love: Wife, You Are So Sweet* Simon and Schuster

Jintong, his mother, and his eight sisters struggle to survive through the major crises of twentieth century China, which include civil war, invasion by the Japanese, the cultural revolution, and communist rule in the new China.

*The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* Springer Nature

The staggering story of the most important Chinese political dissident of the Mao era, a devout Christian who was imprisoned, tortured, and executed by the regime Blood Letters tells the astonishing tale of Lin Zhao, a poet and journalist arrested by the authorities in 1960 and executed eight years later, at the height of the Cultural Revolution. The only Chinese citizen known to have openly and steadfastly opposed communism under Mao, she rooted her dissent in her Christian faith -- and expressed it in long, prophetic writings done in her own blood, and at times on her clothes and on cloth torn from her bedsheets. Miraculously, Lin Zhao's prison writings survived, though they have only recently come to light. Drawing on these works and others from the years before her arrest, as well as interviews with her friends, her classmates, and other former political prisoners, Lian Xi paints an indelible portrait of courage and faith in the face of unrelenting evil.

*A Novel* Arcade Publishing

[In this novel by the 2012 Nobel Laureate in Literature], "a benign old monk listens to a prospective novice's tale of depravity, violence and carnivorous excess while a nice little family drama--in which nearly everyone dies--unfurls ... As his dual narratives merge and feather into one another, each informing and illuminating the other, Mo Yan probes the character and lifestyle of modern China."--Publisher's description.

*A Novel* Skyhorse Publishing Inc.

From one of world literature's most courageous voices, a novel about the human cost of China's one-child policy through the lens of one rural family on the run from its reach Far away from the Chinese economic miracle, from the bright lights of Beijing and Shanghai, is a vast rural hinterland, where life goes on much as it has for generations, with one extraordinary difference: "normal" parents are permitted by the state to have only a single child. The Dark Road is the story of one such "normal" family—Meili, a young peasant woman; her husband, Kongzi, a village schoolteacher; and their daughter, Nannan. Kongzi is, according to family myth, a direct lineal descendant of Confucius, and he is haunted by the imperative to carry on the family name by having a son. And so Meili becomes pregnant again without state permission, and when local family planning officials launch a new wave of crackdowns, the family makes the radical decision to leave its village and set out on a small, rickety houseboat down the Yangtze River. Theirs is a dark road, and tragedy awaits them, and horror, but also the fierce beauty born of courageous resistance to injustice and inhumanity. The Dark Road is a haunting and indelible portrait of the tragedies befalling women and families at the hands of China's one-child policy and of the human spirit's capacity to endure even the most brutal cruelty. While Ma Jian wrote *The Dark Road*, he traveled through the rural backwaters of southwestern China to see how the state enforced the one-child policy far from the outside world's prying eyes. He met local women who had been seized from their homes and forced to undergo abortions or sterilization in the policy's name; and on the Yangtze River, he lived among fugitive couples who had gone on the run so they could have more children, that most fundamental of human rights. Like all of Ma Jian's novels, *The Dark Road* is also a celebration of the life force, of the often comically stubborn resilience of man's most basic instincts.

*Shifu, You'll Do Anything for a Laugh* Vintage

In Saudi Arabia today a classic confrontation between Islamic fundamentalism and modernism has brought the Saudi banking system virtually to a state of paralysis. The debate is between those upholding the traditional Islamic prohibition against charging interest on loans and those who wish to see a modern banking system capable of generating credit to support economic development. Drawing on personal experience, interviews, and unpublished primary sources, Peter Wilson tells a dramatic story of powerful personalities, clashing cultures, and often mysterious institutions with a journalists' eye for the telling anecdote as well as for the statistical evidence.

**Radish** Basic Books

The acclaimed novel of love and resistance during late 1930s China by Mo Yan, winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Literature Spanning three generations, this novel of family and myth is told through a series of flashbacks that depict events of staggering horror set against a landscape of gemlike beauty, as the Chinese battle both Japanese invaders and each other in the turbulent 1930s. A legend in China, where it won major literary

awards and inspired an Oscar-nominated film directed by Zhang Yimou, *Red Sorghum* is a book in which fable and history collide to produce fiction that is entirely new—and unforgettable.

*The Dark Road* HarperCollins Australia

An ABA "Indie Next List" pick for November 2021. "A debut that is as thoughtful as it is explosive." —BuzzFeed "Innovative, emotionally resonant, and deeply affecting." —Kirkus, Starred "It's a stunner." —Publishers Weekly, Starred In 1913, a Russian ballet incited a riot in Paris at the new Théâtre de Champs-Élysées. "Only a Russian could do that," says Aleksandr Ivanovich. "Only a Russian could make the whole world go mad." A century later, in November 2013, thousands of Ukrainian citizens gathered at Independence Square in Kyiv to protest then-President Yanukovich's failure to sign a referendum with the European Union, opting instead to forge a closer alliance with President Vladimir Putin and Russia. The peaceful protests turned violent when military police shot live ammunition into the crowd, killing over a hundred civilians. *I Will Die in a Foreign Land* follows four individuals over the course of a volatile Ukrainian winter, as their lives are forever changed by the Euromaidan protests. Katya is an Ukrainian-American doctor stationed at a makeshift medical clinic in St. Michael's Monastery; Misha is an engineer originally from Pripyat, who has lived in Kyiv since his wife's death; Slava is a fiery young activist whose past hardships steel her determination in the face of persecution; and Aleksandr Ivanovich, a former KGB agent, who climbs atop a burned-out police bus at Independence Square and plays the piano. As Katya, Misha, Slava, and Aleksandr's lives become intertwined, they each seek their own solace during an especially tumultuous and violent period. The story is also told by a chorus of voices that incorporates folklore and narrates a turbulent Slavic history. While unfolding an especially moving story of quiet beauty and love in a time of terror, *I Will Die in a Foreign Land* is an ambitious, intimate, and haunting portrait of human perseverance and empathy.

*A Novel* Skyhorse Publishing, Inc.

In line for the top politic position of the Shanghai Police Department, Chief Inspector Chen Cao is drawn into the investigation of a major party member's son, whose suspicious suicide in the face of corruption charges forces Chen to make a difficult choice. By the author of *Years of Red Dust*.

*Lily Daw and the Three Ladies* Open Road + Grove/Atlantic

This powerful novel by Mo Yan—one of contemporary China's most famous and prolific writers—is both a stirring love story and an unsparing critique of political corruption during the final years of the Qing Dynasty, China's last imperial epoch. *Sandalwood Death* is set during the Boxer Rebellion (1898–1901)—an anti-imperialist struggle waged by North China's farmers and craftsmen in opposition to Western influence. Against a broad historical canvas, the novel centers on the interplay between its female protagonist, Sun Meiniang, and the three paternal figures in her life. One of these men is her biological father, Sun Bing, an opera virtuoso and a leader of the Boxer Rebellion. As the bitter events surrounding the revolt unfold, we watch Sun Bing march toward his cruel fate, the gruesome "sandalwood punishment," whose purpose, as in crucifixions, is to keep the condemned individual alive in mind-numbing pain as long as possible. Filled with the sensual imagery and lacerating expressions for which Mo Yan is so celebrated, *Sandalwood Death* brilliantly exhibits a range of artistic styles, from stylized arias and poetry to the antiquated idiom of late Imperial China to contemporary prose. Its starkly beautiful language is here masterfully rendered into English by renowned translator Howard Goldblatt.

*The Song of Everlasting Sorrow* Skyhorse Publishing, Inc.

A NEW YORK TIMES TOP BOOK OF 2015 WASHINGTON POST NOTABLE BOOK The author of *Red Sorghum* and China's most revered and controversial novelist returns with his first major publication since winning the Nobel Prize In 2012, the Nobel committee confirmed Mo Yan's position as one of the greatest and most important writers of our time. In his much-anticipated new novel, Mo Yan chronicles the sweeping history of modern China through the lens of the nation's controversial one-child policy. Frog opens with a playwright nicknamed Tadpole who plans to write about his aunt. In her youth, Gugu—the beautiful daughter of a famous doctor and staunch Communist—is revered for her skill as a midwife. But when her lover defects, Gugu's own loyalty to the Party is questioned. She decides to prove her allegiance by strictly enforcing the one-child policy, keeping tabs on the number of children in the village, and performing abortions on women as many as eight months pregnant. In sharply personal prose, Mo Yan depicts a world of desperate families, illegal surrogates, forced abortions, and the guilt of those who must enforce the policy. At once illuminating and devastating, it shines a light into the heart of communist China.

*The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden* Penguin

Powerful and lean, *Eleven Days* is an astonishing first novel full of suspense that addresses our most basic questions about war as it tells of the love between a mother and her son. When the story opens on May 11, 2011, Sara's son, Jason, has been missing for nine days from a Special Operations Forces mission on the same night as the Bin Laden raid. Smart, young, and bohemian, Sara had dreams of an Ivy League university for Jason that were not out of reach, followed by a job on the Hill where there were connections through his father. The events of 9/11 changed Jason's mind and Sara accepted that, steeping herself in all things military to better understand her son's days, while she works as a freelance editor for Washington policy makers and wonks. Now she knows nothing more about Jason's fate than the crowds of well-wishers and media camped out in the driveway in front of her small farmhouse in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, waiting to hear news. In a series of flashbacks we learn about Jason's dashing absentee father, a man who said he was a writer but whose career seemed to involve being in faraway places. And through letters Jason writes home from his training and early missions, we get a picture of a strong, compassionate leader who is wise beyond his years and modest about his abilities. Those exceptional abilities will give Jason the chance to participate in a wholly different level of assignment, the most important and dangerous of his career. At the end Sara will find herself on an unexpected journey full of surprise. This is a haunting narrative about a mother's bond with her son; about life choices; about the military, war, and service to one's country. Lea Carpenter, a dazzling new talent with the kind of strong and distinctive voice that comes along all too rarely, has given us a thrilling and unforgettable story. This eBook edition includes a Reading Group Guide.

*Change* University of Oklahoma Press

Officially censored upon its Chinese publication, and the subject of a bitter lawsuit between author and publisher, *Dream of Ding Village* is Chinese novelist Yan Lianke's most important novel to date. Set in a poor village in Henan province, it is a deeply moving and beautifully written account of a blood-selling ring in contemporary China. Based on a real-life blood-selling scandal in eastern China, *Dream of Ding Village* is the result of three years of undercover work by Yan Lianke, who worked as an assistant to a well-known Beijing anthropologist in an effort to study a small village decimated

by HIV/AIDS as a result of unregulated blood selling. Whole villages were wiped out with no responsibility taken or reparations paid. Dream of Ding

Village focuses on one family, destroyed when one son rises to the top of the Party pile as he exploits the situation, while another son is infected and dies. The result is a passionate and steely critique of the rate at which China is developing and what happens to those who get in the way.