

# Liars And Saints Maile Meloy

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**Music for Torching** A M. Homes 2009-10-13 A tour de force: A. M. Homes's unforgettable New Yorker story unfolds into a fiercely entertaining novel of marriage, family, and the American dream. In a tale that unfolds over the course of one week at the beginning of summer, A. M. Homes lays bare the foundations of marriage and family life at the end of the century—the American Dream gone dry. Flash frozen in the anxious entropy of suburban subdivision, Paul and Elaine (the couple featured in Homes's acclaimed first collection of stories, *The Safety of Objects*) have two boys and are obsessed with "making things good again." Alone--together--they spin the quiet terrors of family life into a fantastical frenzy that careens out of control: a Stepford-wife neighbor, an ill-conceived plan for a tattoo, a sexy town cop who shows up at all the wrong moments, an allergy-relief cleanup team in space suits, a hoard of contractors and repairmen, a mistress calling on the cell phone, and a hostage situation at the boys' school. With characters so flawed and outrageous they are entirely believable, *Music for Torching* is a surreal vision of a most familiar landscape.

**Saints** Orson Scott Card 2001-03-14 From the bestselling author of the *Ender Universe* series comes Orson Scott Card's epic historical novel *Saints* When ten-year-old Dinah Kirkham saw her father leave their Manchester home in the middle of the night, she basked when he would be back. "Soon," he replied. But he never came back. On that night in 1829, John Kirkham laid the foundation of his daughter's certainty that the only person Dinah could ever really trust was herself. From that day forward, Dinah worked to support her family, remaining devoted to their welfare even in the face of despair and grinding poverty. Then one day she heard a new message, a new purpose ignited in her heart, and new life opened up before her. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

**The Octopus Escapes** Maile Meloy 2021 "An octopus is taken from his undersea home to live in an aquarium, but he soon tires of captive life"--

**An Invisible Sign of My Own** Aimee Bender 2011-08-17 Aimee Bender's stunning debut collection, *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt*, proved her to be one of the freshest voices in American fiction. Now, in her first novel, she builds on that early promise. Mona Gray was ten when her father contracted a mysterious illness and she became a quitter, abandoning each of her talents just as pleasure became intense. The only thing she can't stop doing is math: She knocks on wood, adds her steps, and multiplies people in the park against one another. When Mona begins teaching math to second-graders, she finds a ready audience. But the difficult and wonderful facts of life keep intruding. She finds herself drawn to the new science teacher, who has an unnerving way of seeing through her intricately built façade. Bender brilliantly directs her characters, giving them unexpected emotional depth and setting them in a calamitous world, both fancifully surreal and startlingly familiar. **BONUS MATERIAL:** This edition includes an excerpt from Aimee Bender's *The Color Master*.

**Do Not Become Alarmed** Maile Meloy 2018-06-05 The moving and suspenseful new novel that Ann Patchett calls "smart and thrilling and impossible to put down... the book that every reader longs for." "This summer's undoubtable smash hit... an addictive, heart-palpitating story." --Marie Claire The sun is shining, the sea is blue, the children have disappeared. When Liv and Nora decide to take their husbands and children on a holiday cruise, everyone is thrilled. The adults are lulled by the ship's comfort and ease. The four children—ages six to eleven—love the nonstop buffet and their newfound independence. But when they all go ashore for an adventure in Central America, a series of minor misfortunes and miscalculations leads the families farther from the safety of the ship. One minute the children are there, and the next they're gone. The disintegration of the world the families knew—told from the perspectives of both the adults and the children—is both riveting and revealing. The parents, accustomed to security and control, turn on each other and blame themselves, while the seemingly helpless children discover resources they never knew they possessed. *Do Not Become Alarmed* is a story about the protective force of innocence and the limits of parental power, and an insightful look at privileged illusions of safety. Celebrated for her spare and moving fiction, Maile Meloy has written a gripping novel about how quickly what we count on can fall away, and the way a crisis shifts our perceptions of what matters most.

**This Is How It Ends** Kathleen MacMahon 2012-08-07 This is when it begins Fall, 2008. This is where it begins The coast of Dublin, Ireland. This is why it begins Bruno, an American, has come to Ireland to search for his roots. Addie, an out-of-work architect, is recovering from heartbreak while taking care of her infirm father. When their worlds collide, they experience a connection unlike any they've previously felt, but soon a tragedy will test them—and their newfound love—in ways they never imagined possible. This is how it ends . . . A story you will never forget.

**Crooked River Burning** Mark Winegardner 2021-11-23 In 1948 Cleveland was America's sixth largest city; by 1969 it was the twelfth. For Easterners, Cleveland is where the Midwest begins; for Westerners, it is where the East begins. In the summer of 1948, fourteen-year-old David Zielinsky can look forward to a job at the docks. Anne O'Connor, at twelve, is the apple of her political boss father's eye. David and Anne will meet—and fall in love—four years later, and for the next twenty years this pair will be reluctant star-crossed lovers in a troubled and turbulent country. A natural-born storyteller, Mark Winegardner spins an epic tale of those twenty years, artfully weaving such real-life Clevelanders as Eliot Ness, Alan Freed, and Carl Stokes into the tapestry. His narrative gifts may bring the fiction of E. L. Doctorow to some readers' minds, but Winegardner is very much his own man, and his observations of Cleveland are laced with a loving skepticism. His masterful saga of this conflicted city is a novel that speaks a memorable truth.

**A Family Daughter** Maile Meloy 2006 Maile Meloy's debut novel LIARS AND SAINTS captured the hearts of readers and critics alike. Now Meloy returns with a novel even more dazzling than her first. Brilliantly entertaining, *A FAMILY DAUGHTER* might also be the most insightful novel about families and love that you will read this year. It's 1979, and seven-year-old Abby, the youngest member of the close-knit Santerre family, is trapped indoors with the chicken pox during a heat wave. The events set in motion that summer will span decades and continents, change the Santerres forever, and surprise and amaze anyone who loved Meloy's LIARS AND SAINTS. A rich, full novel about passion and desire, fear and betrayal, *A FAMILY DAUGHTER* illuminates both the joys and complications of contemporary life, and the relationship between truth and fiction. For everyone who has yet to meet the Santerres, an unmatched pleasure awaits.

**All Families are Psychotic** Douglas Coupland 2010-01-08 Psychosis: any form of severe mental disorder in which the individual's contact with reality becomes highly distorted. Douglas Coupland, the author whom Tom Wolfe calls "one of the freshest, most exciting voices of the novel today," delivers his tenth book in ten years of writing, with *All Families Are Psychotic*. Coupland recently has been compared to Jack Kerouac and F. Scott Fitzgerald, yet he is a man firmly grounded in the current era. The novel is a sizzling and sharp-witted entertainment that resounds with eternal human yearnings. In the opening pages, 65-year-old Janet Drummond checks the clock in her cheap motel room near Cape Canaveral, takes her prescription pills and does a rapid tally of the whereabouts of her three children: Wade, the eldest, in and out of jail and still radiating "the glint"; suicidal Bryan, whose girlfriend, the vowel-free Shw, is pregnant; and Sarah, the family's shining light, an astronaut preparing to be launched into space as the star of a shuttle mission. They will all arrive in Orlando today - along with Janet's ex-husband Ted and his new trophy wife - setting the stage for the most disastrous family reunion in the history of fiction. Florida may never recover from their version of fun in the sun. The last time the family got together, there was gunplay and an ensuing series of HIV infections. Now, what should be a celebration turns instead into a series of mishaps and complications that place

the family members in constant peril. When the reformed Wade attempts to help his dad out of a financial jam and pay off his own bills at the fertility clinic, his plan spins quickly out of control. Adultery, hostage-taking, a letter purloined from Princess Diana's coffin, heart attacks at Disney World, bankruptcy, addiction and black-market negotiations - Coupland piles on one deft, comic plot twist after another, leaving you reaching for your seat belt. When the crash comes, it is surprisingly sweet. Janet contemplates her family, and where it all went wrong. "People are pretty forgiving when it comes to other people's family. The only family that ever horrifies you is your own." During the writing, Coupland described the book as being about "the horrible things that families do to each other and how it makes them strong." He commented: "Families who are really good to each other, I've noticed, tend to dissipate, so I wonder how awful a family would have to be to stick together." Coupland's first novel, *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, became a cultural phenomenon, affixing a buzzword and a vocabulary to a generation and going on to sell over a million copies. The novels that followed were all bestsellers, and his work has continued to show a fascination with the digital, brand-conscious, media-dense culture of contemporary North American society, leading some to peg him as "an up-to-the-minute cultural reference engine." Meanwhile, his deeper interests in how human beings function in this spiritual vacuum have become increasingly apparent. For example, the character Wade contemplates his father: "What would the world have to offer Ted Drummond, and the men like him, a man whose usefulness to the culture had vanished somewhere around the time of Windows 95? Golf? Gold? Twenty-four hour stock readouts?" Janet, on the other hand, nears a kind of peace with life: "Time erases both the best and the worst of us." *All Families Are Psychotic* shows Coupland being just as concerned for the grown-ups as for the kids.

**Picnic at Hanging Rock** Joan Lindsay 2017-10-03 \*Now a six-part TV series starring Natalie Dormer, from Amazon Prime\* A 50th-anniversary edition of the landmark novel about three "gone girls" that inspired the acclaimed 1975 film, featuring a foreword by Maile Meloy, author of *Do Not Become Alarmed* It was a cloudless summer day in the year 1900. Everyone at Appleyard College for Young Ladies agreed it was just right for a picnic at Hanging Rock. After lunch, a group of three girls climbed into the blaze of the afternoon sun, pressing on through the scrub into the shadows of the secluded volcanic outcropping. Farther, higher, until at last they disappeared. They never returned. . . . Mysterious and subtly erotic, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* inspired the iconic 1975 film of the same name by Peter Weir. A beguiling landmark of Australian literature, it stands with Shirley Jackson's *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, and Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* as a masterpiece of intrigue.

**Devotion** Maile Meloy 2015-04-28 From one of the most popular and acclaimed story writers of her generation, a single-volume short story from the author of 2017's *Do Not Become Alarmed*, a beautifully packaged palm-sized gift book. "That the yellow house was thrillingly affordable might have been a warning sign, if Eleanor had known how to read it. But she'd been desperate. She was sharing a room with her four-year-old daughter, Hattie, in her parents' house, and she had to get out." From the award-winning novelist and short story writer Maile Meloy, *Devotion: A Rat Story* is an exquisitely unsettling tale about a young single mother whose new home becomes a kind of nightmare she must resolve on her own. Eleanor is in such a rush to move away from her parents that she allows an imperious realtor to rush her to close on the too-good-to-be-true home without an inspection. Shortly after the house becomes legally hers—with every cent and all of her pride and future tied up in the property—the giant rats show themselves. In the yard, in the kitchen, on her daughter's bed. A walk around the block reveals a decrepit neighboring house where two elderly sisters are feeding and fostering thousands of unusual "pets." What has Eleanor done? What action can she possibly take now? In Meloy's characteristically clean, assured style, she captures the hopes and horrors of domestic life with an element of suspense that drives the reader feverishly to the end.

**A Family Daughter** Maile Meloy 2006-02-14 From the award-winning author of *Half in Love and Liars and Saints*, a riveting story of love, sex, secrets, guilt, and forgiveness. Maile Meloy's debut novel, *Liars and Saints*, captured the hearts of readers and critics alike. Now Meloy returns with a novel even more dazzling and unexpected than her first. Brilliantly entertaining, *A Family Daughter* might also be the most insightful novel about families and love that you will read this year. It's 1979, and seven-year-old Abby, the youngest member of the close-knit Santerre family, is trapped indoors with the chicken pox during a heat wave. The events set in motion that summer will span decades and continents, change the Santerres forever, and surprise and amaze anyone who loved Meloy's *Liars and Saints*. A rich, full novel about passion and desire, fear and betrayal, *A Family Daughter* illuminates both the joys and complications of contemporary life, and the relationship between truth and fiction. For everyone who has yet to meet the Santerres, an unmatched pleasure awaits.

**Liars and Saints** Maile Meloy 2005 With her first novel, "Liars and Saints," award-winning author Maile Meloy more than delivers on the promise of her highly acclaimed debut story collection, "Half in Love." This richly textured novel tells a story of sex and longing, love and loss, and of the deceit that can lie at the heart of family relationships. Set in California, "Liars and Saints" follows four generations of the Catholic Santerre family from World War II to the present. In a family driven as much by jealousy and propriety as by love, an unspoken tradition of deceit is passed from generation to generation. When tragedy shatters their precarious domestic lives, it takes astonishing courage and compassion to bring them back together. By turns funny and disturbing, irreverent and profound, "Liars and Saints" is a masterful display of Maile Meloy's prodigious gifts and of her penetrating insight into an extraordinary American family and into the nature of human love.

**Ten Years in the Tub** Nick Hornby 2016-04-12 "How often do you begin reading a book that makes you—immediately, urgently, desperately—want to read more books?" (Booklist). Nick Hornby has managed to write just such a book in this hilarious, insightful, and infectious volume. *Ten Years in the Tub* chronicles Hornby's journey through a decade's worth of books, as related in his wildly popular *Believer* column "Stuff I've Been Reading." *Ten Years in the Tub* is a one-way ticket into the mind of one of the most beloved contemporary writers on his favorite pastime, but it's also a meditation on what Celine Dion can teach us about ourselves, a warning about how John Updike can ruin our sex lives, and a recommendation for the way Body Shop Vanilla Shower Gel can add excitement to our days. This "decade-long addiction for many... makes standing in line at the bank a blessed interval for snorting another page." (the New York Times Book Review) **Language Arts** Stephanie Kallos 2015-06-09 A novel that is "utterly absorbing, and full of wit [with] a doozy of a twist . . . An all-around delight" (Maria Semple, author of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*). Charles Marlow teaches his high school English students that language will expand their worlds. But linguistic precision cannot help him connect with his autistic son, his ex-wife, or his college-bound daughter, who has just flown the nest. He's at the end of a road he's traveled on autopilot for years when a series of events forces him to think back on the lifetime of decisions and indecisions that have brought him to this point. With the help of an ambitious art student, an Italian-speaking nun, and the memory of a boy in a white suit who inscribed his childhood with both solace and sorrow, Charles may finally be able to rewrite the script of his life. From the national-bestselling author of *Broken for You*, *Language Arts* is an affecting tale of love, loss, and language—its powers and its perils.

**Cambridge [university]** 1837

**A Family Daughter** Maile Meloy 2006 A young woman from the Santerre clan accompanies her family to Argentina, where their lives become entwined with an uninhibited rich girl, an aging French playboy, a young Eastern European prostitute, and an orphaned child.

*Brothers* George Howe Colt 2014-05-06 Blends history and memoir in an account that in alternating chapters explores the author's quest to understand the impact of his brothers on his life and the complex relationships between iconic brothers, including the Thoreaus, the Van Goghs, and the Marxes.

**The Apprentices** Maile Meloy 2013-06-04 Two years have passed since Janie Scott last saw Benjamin Burrows, the mysterious apothecary's defiant son who stole her heart. On the other side of the world, Benjamin and his father are treating the sick and wounded in the war-torn jungles of Vietnam. But Benjamin has also been experimenting with a magical new formula that allows him to communicate with Janie across the globe. When Benjamin discovers that she's in trouble, he calls on their friend Pip for help. The three friends are thrown into a desperate chase around the world to find one another, while unraveling the mystery of what threatens them all. Acclaimed author Maile Meloy seamlessly weaves together magic and adventure in this breathtaking sequel with stunning illustrations by Ian Schoenherr.

*Picnic at Hanging Rock* Joan Lindsay 2014 In 1900, a class of young women from an exclusive private school go on an excursion to the isolated Hanging Rock, deep in the Australian bush. The excursion ends in tragedy when four girls and a teacher mysteriously vanish after climbing the rock. Only one girl returns, with no memory of what has become of the others . . . Co-founded by Jane and Glenn McGrath, the McGrath Foundation raises money to place McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia and to increase breast awareness in young women. The McGrath Foundation believes 150 of these specially trained nurses are needed to ensure that every family experiencing breast cancer has access to a breast care nurse, no matter where they live or their financial situation. McGrath Breast Care Nurses offer a unique service to families who can self-refer to this free support. Penguin is proud to donate \$1 from the original sale of each Pink Popular Penguin to help the McGrath Foundation realise their goal. To find out how you can make a difference visit [www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au](http://www.mcgrathfoundation.com.au)

*Breakable You* Brian Morton 2006 A fame-hungry novelist, his cast-aside former wife, and their sexually experimenting daughter find themselves further tested by an unexpected shared encounter with the past. By the author of *Starting Out in the Evening*. 50,000 first printing.

**The After-Room** Maile Meloy 2017-02-07 Sequel to: *The Apprentices & The Apothecary*.  
**Passion and Affect** Laurie Colwin 2014-11-18 The debut story collection from one of America's most beloved authors Laurie Colwin explores the mysteries of life and love with her signature blend of empathy, wisdom, and wit in these fourteen exquisite tales. In "Animal Behavior," an ornithologist and a doctoral student find their own mating habits to be just as inscrutable as those of their avian subjects. In "The Elite Viewer," when his wife travels to England to attend a seminar, Benno Moran searches for exotic ways to occupy his time. He discovers television, junk food, and Greenie Frenzel, a young woman with Technicolor hair and an appetite for cherry soda and mentholated cigarettes. "Children, Dogs, and Desperate Men" is the story of Elizabeth Bayard, a sensible music critic whose flirtation with a married cartographer is the latest in a series of romantic missteps as irrational as they are irresistible. The heroes and heroines of *Passion and Affect* are clever, naive, brave, delicate, and fickle. In other words, they are profoundly human, and their precisely observed, warmly intelligent stories capture nothing less than what it means to be alive in the modern world. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Laurie Colwin including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author's estate.

**The Apprentices** Maile Meloy 2014 Two years after parting from Benjamin, Janie reunites via magical communication to prevent a global catastrophe.

**A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian** Marina Lewycka 2006-03-28 Nominated for the Man Booker Prize "A charming comedy of eros... A ride that, despite the bumps and curves in the road, never feels anything less than jaunty." - Los Angeles Times With this wise, tender, and deeply funny novel, Marina Lewycka takes her place alongside Zadie Smith and Monica Ali as a writer who can capture the unchanging verities of family. When an elderly and newly widowed Ukrainian immigrant announces his intention to remarry, his daughters must set aside their longtime feud to thwart him. For their father's intended is a voluptuous old-country gold digger with a proclivity for green satin underwear and an appetite for the good life of the West. As the hostilities mount and family secrets spill out, *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian* combines sex, bitchiness, wit, and genuine warmth in its celebration of the pleasure of growing old disgracefully. *The Secret of Hanging Rock* Joan Lindsay 2021-10-01 Joan Lindsay's classic novel *Picnic at Hanging Rock* is a subtle blend of mysterious and sinister events set in a period of Australian social life drawn with loving nostalgia. The final chapter of the novel was removed at the request of her publishers, creating a mystery to which thousands have begged to know the solution. The missing chapter reveals what did happen to the schoolgirls who vanished from the Rock after a St Valentine's Day picnic in 1900, and holds commentaries by John Taylor, Yvonne Rousseau and Mudrooroo.

**The Pirate's Daughter** Margaret Cezair-Thompson 2007-10-01 "Back in America, little was known of my life in Jamaica," wrote Errol Flynn. In 1946, a storm-wrecked boat carrying Hollywood's most famous swashbuckler shored up on the coast of Jamaica, and the glamorous world of 1940's Hollywood converged with that of a small West Indian society. After a long and storied career on the silver screen, Errol Flynn spent much of the last years of his life on a small island off of Jamaica, throwing parties and sleeping with increasingly younger teenaged girls. Based on those years, *The Pirate's Daughter* is the story of Ida, a local girl who has an affair with Flynn that produces a daughter, May, who meets her father but once. Spanning two generations of women whose destinies become inextricably linked with the matinee idol's, this lively novel tells the provocative history of a vanished era, of uncommon kinships, compelling attachments, betrayal and atonement in a paradisaic, tropical setting. As adept with Jamaican vernacular as she is at revealing the internal machinations of a fading and bloated matinee idol, Margaret Cezair-Thompson weaves a saga of a mother and daughter finding their way in a nation struggling to rise to the challenge of independence.

**Liars and Saints** Maile Meloy 2007-11-01 A richly textured novel tells a story of sex and longing, love and loss, and of the deceit that can lie at the heart of family relationships. "Each chapter...has the seductive aura of a finely crafted story. Liars and Saints is instructive and bittersweet and yet somehow never nostalgic" (Los Angeles Times). Set in California, *Liars and Saints* follows four generations of the Catholic Santerre family from World War II to the present. In a family driven as much by jealousy and propriety as by love, an unspoken tradition of deceit is passed from generation to generation. When tragedy shatters their precarious domestic lives, it takes astonishing courage and compassion to bring them back together. By turns funny and disturbing, irreverent and profound, *Liars and Saints* is a masterful display of Maile Meloy's prodigious gifts and of her penetrating insight into an extraordinary American family and into the nature of human love. "Meloy may be the first great American realist of the twenty-first century: The Santerres aren't real but they feel like they are, and the reader will not soon forget them" (The Boston Globe).

*Blasphemy* Sherman Alexie 2012-10-02 Sherman Alexie's stature as a writer of stories, poems, and novels has soared over the course of his twenty-book, twenty-year career. His wide-ranging, acclaimed stories from the last two decades have established him as a star in contemporary American literature. A bold and irreverent observer of life among Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest, the daring, versatile, funny, and outrageous Alexie showcases all his talents in *Blasphemy*, where he unites twelve beloved classics with twelve new stories in one sweeping anthology for devoted fans and first-time readers. Included here are some of his most esteemed tales, including "What You Pawn I Will Redeem," "This is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona," "The Toughest Indian in the World," and his most recent, "War Dances." Alexie's twelve new stories are fresh and quintessential, about amateur and donkey basketball leagues, extreme hoarding, lethal wind turbines, marriage, and all species of contemporary warriors in America today. An indispensable collection of new and classic stories, *Blasphemy* reminds us, on every thrilling page, why Sherman Alexie is one of our greatest contemporary writers and a true master of the short story.

**The Fiction Editor, the Novel, and the Novelist** Thomas McCormack 1989

**Do Not Become Alarmed** Maile Meloy 2017-06-06

*My Body Is a Big Fat Temple* Alena Dillon 2021-10-12 *My Body Is a Big Fat Temple* is a memoir that charts the emotional journey of becoming a mother with humor and honesty, as well as investigating the natal shortcomings of our culture. It tracks Dillon, a writer in her thirties, as she debates having children, and then suffers a miscarriage, morning sickness, physical changes and impairments, anxiety, labor and delivery, breastfeeding, the "baby blues," the heartache of not loving her son

as she thinks she should, parenting during a plague, and finally blossoming into her new identity as a mother. This isn't the airbrushed billboard for motherhood women are too-often presented to preserve the sacred image of Madonna and Baby. Dillon prepares her readers for what to really expect--dry heaves, belly hair, dark nipples, crotch lightning, sweat, pain, delirium, lots of tears, and ultimately joy--so the odyssey is given its fair due. The cost of creating life is astronomical. It requires resilience and strength (and lots of bathroom breaks). But more importantly, these truths need to be shared in order to normalize them. With more stories like these, women with reservations for motherhood, and those in the midst of its fever dream, won't feel so alone. Pregnancy is a human imperative, endured by so many, and yet there is very little narrative nonfiction on the topic--I looked--which only makes the experience more isolating. The stories of women matter. The stories of mothers matter. Let's make ourselves heard.

**Half in Love** Maile Meloy 2009-12-01 Fourteen remarkable stories that combine strong Western settings with a subtle and distinct female voice. This critically celebrated debut collection marks the exciting beginning of prize-winner Meloy's promising career. Lean and controlled in their narration, abundant and moving in their effects, Maile Meloy's stories introduce a striking talent. Most are set in the modern American West, made vivid and unexpected in Meloy's unsentimental vision; others take us to Paris, wartime London, and Greece, with the same remarkable skill and intuition. In "Four Lean Hounds, ca. 1976," two couples face a complicated grief when one of the four dies. In "Ranch Girl," the college-bound daughter of a ranch foreman must choose which adult world she wants to occupy. In "A Stakes Horse," a woman confronts risk and loss at the racetrack and at home. And in "Aqua Boulevard"--winner of the 2001 Aga Khan Prize for Fiction--an elderly Parisian confronts his mortality. Meloy's command of her characters' voices is breathtaking; their fears and desires are deftly illuminated. Smart, surprising, and evocative, Meloy's brilliantly observed stories fully engage the mind and heart.

**The Fourth Child** Jessica Winter 2021-03-09 "A beautifully observed and thrillingly honest novel about the dark corners of family life and the long, complicated search for understanding and grace." -Jenny Offill, author of *Dept. of Speculation* and *Weather* "The Fourth Child is keen and beautiful and heartbreaking--an exploration of private guilt and unexpected obligation, of the intimate losses of power embedded in female adolescence, and of the fraught moments of glancing divinity that come with shouldering the burden of love." -Jia Tolentino, New York Times bestselling author of *Trick Mirror* "A remarkable family saga . . . The Fourth Child is a balm--a reminder that it is possible for art to provide a nuanced exploration of life itself." -Rumaan Alam, author of *Leave the World Behind* and *Rich and Pretty* The author of *Break in Case of Emergency* follows up her "extraordinary debut" (The Guardian) with a moving novel about motherhood and marriage, adolescence and bodily autonomy, family and love, religion and sexuality, and the delicate balance between the purity of faith and the messy reality of life. Book-smart, devoutly Catholic, and painfully unsure of herself, Jane becomes pregnant in high school; by her early twenties, she is raising three children in the suburbs of western New York State. In the fall of 1991, as her children are growing older and more independent, Jane is overcome by a spiritual and intellectual restlessness that leads her to become involved with a local pro-life group. Following the tenets of her beliefs, she also adopts a little girl from Eastern Europe. But Mirela is a difficult child. Deprived of a loving caregiver in infancy, she remains unattached to her new parents, no matter how much love Jane shows her. As Jane becomes consumed with chasing therapies that might help Mirela, her relationships with her family, especially her older daughter, Lauren, begin to fray. Feeling estranged from her mother and unsettled in her new high school, Lauren begins to discover the power of her own burgeoning creativity and sexuality--a journey that both echoes and departs from her mother's own adolescent experiences. But when Lauren is confronted with the limits of her youth and independence, Jane is thrown into an emotional crisis, forced to reconcile her principles and faith with her determination to keep her daughters safe. The Fourth Child is a piercing love story and a haunting portrayal of how love can shatter--or strengthen--our beliefs.

*Icebergs* Rebecca Johns 2008-12-11 In World War II Canada, Walt Dunmore and Al Clark are the only members of their bomber crew to survive a plane wreck on Newfoundland's Labrador coast--but now they must fight injuries and cold in the sub-zero wilderness. On the home front, in a small Canadian farming community, Walt's young wife Dottie struggles with her own battles: loneliness, worry, and an attraction to an itinerant farm worker. Only one man comes home alive from Labrador, but the lives of their two families remain forever entwined. Years later, when both families relocate to Chicago, questions of loyalty and bravery ensnare their children as they confront Vietnam and their own desires. One of them is left with a choice: revenge or sacrifice. The novel follows the characters into old age, when decades-old secrets illuminate the present and the past. Johns expertly interweaves multiple storylines, maintaining tight narrative tension and slowly revealing the stories that bind her characters together. An ambitious, lyrical debut that explores romantic love and deceit, death and survival, war and domesticity, marriage, parenthood, and aging, *Icebergs* explores how tragedies narrowly averted can alter the course of lives as drastically as those met head-on.

**Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It** Maile Meloy 2009-07-09 One of the New York Times 10 Best Books of 2009-- now adapted into the feature film *Certain Women*, starring Kristen Stewart-- award-winning writer Maile Meloy's short stories explore complex lives in an austere landscape with the clear-sightedness that first endeared her to readers. Don't miss her new novel, *Do Not Become Alarmed*. Meloy's first return to short stories since her critically acclaimed debut, *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It* is an extraordinary new work from one of the most promising writers of the last decade. Eleven unforgettable new stories demonstrate the emotional power and the clean, assured style that have earned Meloy praise from critics and devotion from readers. Propelled by a terrific instinct for storytelling, and concerned with the convolutions of modern love and the importance of place, this collection is about the battlefields--and fields of victory--that exist in seemingly harmless spaces, in kitchens and living rooms and cars. Set mostly in the American West, the stories feature small-town lawyers, ranchers, doctors, parents, and children, and explore the moral quandaries of love, family, and friendship. A ranch hand falls for a recent law school graduate who appears unexpectedly-- and reluctantly--in his remote Montana town. A young father opens his door to find his dead grandmother standing on the front step. Two women weigh love and betrayal during an early snow. Throughout the book, Meloy examines the tensions between having and wanting, as her characters try to keep hold of opposing forces in their lives: innocence and experience, risk and stability, fidelity and desire. Knowing, sly, and bittersweet, *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It* confirms Maile Meloy's singular literary talent. Her lean, controlled prose, full of insight and unexpected poignancy, is the perfect complement to her powerfully moving storytelling.

*Mercy House* Alena Dillon 2020-02-11 "Never underestimate the power of a group of women. Fierce, thoughtful and dramatic--this is a story of true courage." -Susan Wiggs, New York Times bestselling author She would stop at nothing to protect the women under her care. Inside a century-old row house in Brooklyn, renegade Sister Evelyn and her fellow nuns preside over a safe haven for the abused and abandoned. Gruff and indomitable on the surface, warm and wry underneath, little daunts Evelyn, until she receives word that Mercy House will be investigated by Bishop Hawkins, a man with whom she shares a dark history. In order to protect everything they've built, the nuns must conceal many of their methods, which are forbidden by the Catholic Church. Evelyn will go to great lengths to defend all that she loves. She confronts a gang member, defies the church, challenges her own beliefs, and faces her past. She is bolstered by the other nuns and the vibrant, diverse residents of the shelter--Lucia, Mei-Li, Desiree, Esther, and Katrina--whose differences are outweighed by what unites them: they've all been broken by men but are determined to rebuild. Amidst her fight, Evelyn discovers the extraordinary power of mercy and the grace it grants, not just to those who receive it, but to those strong enough to bestow it.

**The Apothecary** Maile Meloy 2011-10-04 It's 1952 and the Scott family has just moved from Los Angeles to London. Here, fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows - a fascinating boy who's not afraid to stand up to authority and dreams of becoming a spy. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's sacred book, the *Pharmacopoeia*, in order to find him, all while keeping it out of the

hands of their enemies - Russian spies in possession of nuclear weapons. Discovering and testing potions they never believed could exist, Janie and Benjamin embark on a dangerous race to save the apothecary and prevent impending disaster. Together with Ian Schoenherr's breathtaking illustrations, this is a truly stunning package from cover to cover.

Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It Maile Meloy 2010-07-06 One of the New York Times 10 Best Books of 2009-- now adapted into the feature film *Certain Women*, starring Kristen Stewart-- award-winning writer Maile Meloy's short stories explore complex lives in an austere landscape with the clear-sightedness that first endeared her to readers. Don't miss her new novel, *Do Not Become Alarmed*. Meloy's first return to short stories since her critically acclaimed debut, *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It* is an extraordinary new work from one of the most promising writers of the last decade. Eleven unforgettable new stories demonstrate the emotional power and the clean, assured style that have earned Meloy praise from critics and devotion from readers. Propelled by a terrific instinct for storytelling, and concerned with the convolutions of modern love and the importance of place, this collection is about the battlefields-and fields of victory-that exist in seemingly harmless spaces, in kitchens and living rooms and cars. Set mostly in the American West, the stories feature small-town lawyers, ranchers, doctors, parents, and children, and explore the moral quandaries of love, family, and friendship. A ranch hand falls for a recent law school graduate who appears unexpectedly- and reluctantly-in his remote Montana town. A young father opens his door to find his dead grandmother standing on the front step. Two

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**Songs for the Flames** Juan Gabriel Vasquez 2021-08-03 A new collection of electric, searing stories from award-winning, bestselling author Juan Gabriel Vásquez. The characters in *Songs for the Flames* are men and women touched by violence-sometimes directly, sometimes only in passing-but whose lives are changed forever, consumed by fire and by unexpected encounters and unyielding forces. A photographer becomes obsessed with the traumatic past that an elegant woman, a fellow guest staying at a countryside ranch, would rather leave behind. A military reunion forces a soldier to confront a troubling history, both personal and on a larger scale. And in a tour-de-force piece, the search for a book leads a writer to the fascinating story of why a woman is buried next to a graveyard, rather than in it-and the remarkable account of her journey from France to Colombia as a child orphan. Juan Gabriel Vásquez returns to stories with these nine morally complex tales, fresh proof of his narrative versatility and his profound understanding of the lives of others. There's a romantic wistfulness that combusts with the realities of dangerous histories, both personal and political, to throw these characters into the flames from which they either emerge purified, reborn, or burned and destroyed.