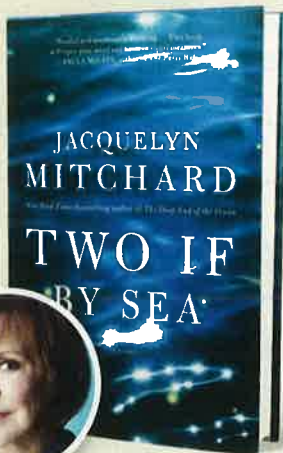
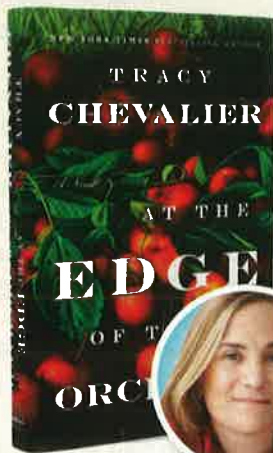


No. **12** The Best New Books
A southern writer's return to her roots, a pioneer family's odyssey and a tale of loss and redemption from Jacquelyn Mitchard EDITED BY KIM HUBBARD



Jacquelyn Mitchard
Two If by Sea

NOVEL After saving a 3-year-old in the aftermath of a tsunami that killed his pregnant wife, Frank Mercy heads to the Wisconsin farm where he was raised, taking the child with him. But the grief-stricken former cop soon realizes that the orphan, who turns out to have a miraculous gift, is being hunted. Suspenseful, otherworldly and nearly impossible to put down.



Tracy Chevalier
At the Edge of the Orchard

NOVEL Chevalier's excellently researched latest brings to life a seminal chapter in American history, reaching from the frontier swampland of Ohio to the seedy towns of California in the Gold Rush. Though Johnny Appleseed makes appearances, there's no dewy-eyed nostalgia here. A compelling look at what was lost and gained in the westward expansion.

Dimestore
A Writer's Life



BOOK OF THE WEEK



Lee Smith
Dimestore

MEMOIR Smith's upbringing in the Appalachian Mountains has long informed her work. Now the author of 13 novels and four story collections turns from fiction to autobiography, examining not only her origins as a writer but the small coal-mining Kentucky town of her youth, the culture of the South and the changes wrought by the passage of time. With restrained prose and charming humor, she illuminates a way of life that has all but disappeared and explores the impulse to bear witness that underpins the storyteller in all of us.

GREAT BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS



Abby Hanlon
Dory and the Real True Friend
In this kooky, heart-warming novel for new readers, the irrepressible Dory starts first grade—and bravely leaves her imaginary friend at home. (Ages 6-9)

Katrina Nannestad
When Mischief Came to Town
An early-20th-century orphan recovers from her grief by helping the people on her grandmother's Baltic Sea island remember how to have fun. (9-12)

Gavriel Savit
Anna and the Swallow Man
After her father disappears on the eve of World War II, Anna lands in the care of a strange polyglot who even speaks "bird." Chilling yet tender. (12 and up)

CONTRIBUTORS Books Stephanie Anderson, Sue Corbett, Lisa Greissing, Robin Micheli Movies Alynda Wheat Music Jeff Nelson