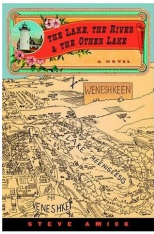


# Based in North America

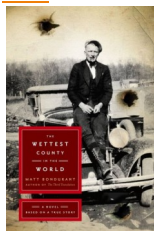
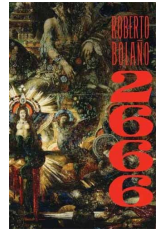


## **The Lake, the River, and the Other Lake by Steve Amick**

The town of Weneshkeen, MI., may be little, but a lot goes on there. The novel's primary force is Roger Drinkwater, a no-nonsense Ojibwe Indian who served in Vietnam and coaches the local high school swim team. The calm of his peaceful lakeside home has been shattered by screeching jet skis, and he vows to use his military training to try and silence the mechanized nuisance. Amick peppers his plot with other vexed individuals, including a recently retired minister grappling with an Internet porn addiction and a bigoted orchard owner whose son and daughter betray him by choosing foreign mates. Bitterly comic and surprisingly meaty, this roiling tale of passion, anger, regret and lust is dark fun for Garrison Keillor fans.

## **2666 by Roberto Bolaño**

At its simplest level, 2666 leisurely follows a handful of characters who are drawn, like vultures to a rotting carcass, to the northern Mexican city of Santa Teresa (read: Juarez) in the 1990s. Bolaño's themes are violence, dislocation, and the sexiness of literature, and here these strands are recombined endlessly, in Europe, Detroit, and Mexico, through multiple narrators and prose styles. The action converges on the Sonoran desert, where Bolaño anatomizes, in brutal and eerie detail, the true-life murders of hundreds of women, most of which remain unsolved.

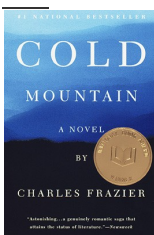
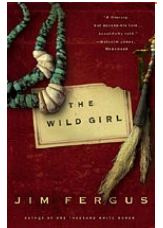


## **The Wettest County in the World by Matt Bondurant**

In 1928, a pair of thieves accost Bondurant's real life great-uncle Forrest at his Franklin County, Va., restaurant. They're after a large cache of bootlegging money and end up cutting Forrest's throat. The story of his survival and his trek to a hospital 12 miles away takes on mythical proportions by the time Sherwood Anderson arrives in Franklin County in 1934 to research a magazine piece on the area's prolific moonshiners. Soon after Anderson's arrival, two anonymous men appear at the same hospital, one with legs meticulously shattered from ankle to hip, the other one castrated, with the by-products of the deed deposited in a jar of moonshine. The arc of the story lies between the attack on Forrest and that on the two men. A gritty story with all the puzzle-solving satisfactions of a mystery.

## **The Wild Girl: The Notebooks of Ned Giles, 1932 by Jim Fergus**

Depicting the dusty Depression-era West this grandly, cinematically imagined saga, dramatizes latter-day conflicts between whites and Native Americans. During the fall of 1999, an obscure, financially struggling photographer, Ned Giles—now in his early 80s—sells, for \$30,000, *La Niña Bronca*, his only copy of a photo of a young Apache girl lying on the rude floor of a Mexican jail cell; the buyer's curiosity about the picture's provenance sparks Ned's memories. The rest of the book, set in 1932, reveals a legacy of heroism and lost love through Ned's scrupulously detailed diaries, which vividly recount a nightmare of harrowing misadventures.

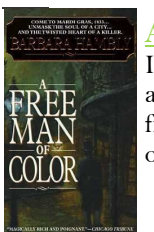
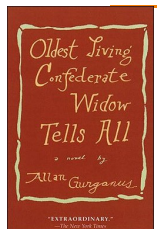


## **Cold Mountain by Charles Frazier**

The hero of Charles Frazier's beautifully written and deeply-imagined first novel is Inman, a disillusioned Confederate soldier who has failed to die as expected after being seriously wounded in battle during the last days of the Civil War. Rather than waiting to be redeployed to the front, the soul-sick Inman deserts, and embarks on a dangerous and lonely odyssey through the devastated South, heading home to North Carolina, and seeking only to be reunited with his beloved, Ada, who has herself been struggling to maintain the family farm she inherited.

## **The Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All by Allan Gurganus**

Ninety-nine year old Lucille Marsden, confined to a charity nursing home in North Carolina, tells the story of her marriage to "Captain" Will Marsden, ostensibly the Civil War's last survivor, whom she married when she was 15 and he was more than triple her age. She also tells about her husband's experiences in the war and after, the burning of her mother-in-law's plantation by Sherman's men, and the abduction from Africa of a former Marsden slave, mid-wife to Lucy's nine children as well as her best friend. But this novel is less about the War Between the States than about the war between the sexes.



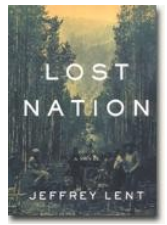
## **A Free Man of Color by Barbara Hambly**

In this rich and poignant thriller, it's 1833 and Ben January—a man of mixed blood making his living as a musician because he's not allowed to practice surgery—is back home in New Orleans after years of freedom in Paris. Trying to walk a caste line more complicated than India's, January risks his precarious position to investigate the killing of a young woman who is the mistress of a wealthy white man.

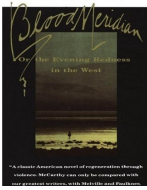


## Lost Nation by Jeffrey Lent

Lent follows Blood, a mysterious rogue attempting to make a new life for himself in Indian Stream, an ungoverned territory in 19th-century northern New Hampshire. Intending to start a trading business, Blood brings with him rum, supplies, and Sally, a 16-year-old girl he won in a card game from the madam of a brothel. A rugged "man of contradictions," Blood is learned and occasionally kind, yet capable of considerable cruelty and violence. Rumors quickly circulate in Indian Stream regarding his troubled past, and Blood is made a scapegoat when conflicts escalate in the area following his arrival. As Blood's history is gradually revealed, it becomes clear that his only chance at redemption is through confrontation.



CORMAC MCCARTHY  
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

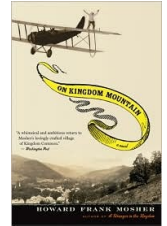


## Blood Meridian, or, the Evening Redness in the West by Cormac McCarthy

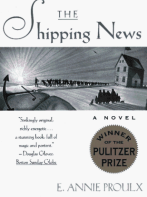
A perverse, picaresque Western about bounty hunters for Indian scalps near the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s—a ragged caravan of indiscriminate killers led by an unforgettable human monster called "The Judge." Imagine the imagery of Sam Peckinpah and Heironymus Bosch as written by William Faulkner, and you'll have just an inkling of this novel's power. From the opening scenes about a 14-year-old Tennessee boy who joins the band of hunters to the extraordinary, mythic ending, this is an American classic about extreme violence.

## On Kingdom Mountain by Howard Frank Mosher

Set in northern Vermont in 1930, this is the story of Miss Jane Hubbell Kinneson, a renowned local bookwoman, eccentric bird carver, and the last remaining resident of a wild mountain on the U.S.-Canadian border, now threatened by a proposed new highway. Miss Jane encounters a mysterious stunt pilot and weathermaker when his biplane crashes on a nearby frozen lake. He brings with him a riddle containing clues to the whereabouts of stolen Civil War gold that may have been hidden on Miss Jane's property. As she and the footloose aviator search for the treasure, Miss Jane is confronted by the most important decisions of her life. Featuring daring action scenes and outrageous comedy, along with a passionate, surprising love affair, *On Kingdom Mountain* is traditional storytelling at its best, rooted in Howard Mosher's own family history and in a way of life on the brink of extinction.



NO. 1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER

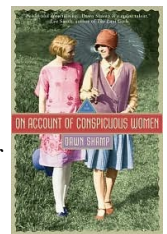


## The Shipping News by E. Annie Proulx

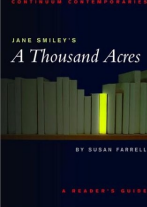
In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoyale. From all outward appearances, Quoyale has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoyale's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life.

## On Account of Conspicuous Women by Dawn Shamp

If you loved Fannie Flagg's *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* or Rebecca Wells' *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, you won't be able to resist Shamp's debut novel. It has it all: humor, compassion, southern sisterhood, quirky names, and a large dollop of history for good measure. Four vastly different women are united by their commitment to female suffrage in 1920 Roxboro, NC. As everything stands on the brink of change, Bertie, a hello-girl for Wheeler's Telephone Company and the only woman in Person County with her own Model T, is determined to be a "bound-breaking individualist." When Bertie joins forces with recently widowed city gal Ina Fitzhugh, newly liberated goose-girl Doodle Shuford, and pretty, feminine Guerine Loftis, both the fun and the real work begin.



CRISTINA GONZALEZ  
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

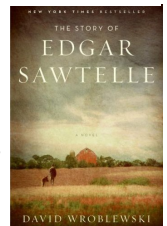


## A Thousand Acres by Jane Smiley

Aging Larry Cook announces his intention to turn over his 1,000-acre farm—one of the largest in Zebulon County, Iowa—to his three daughters, Caroline, Ginny and Rose. A man of harsh sensibilities, he carves Caroline out of the deal because she has the nerve to be less than enthusiastic about her father's generosity. While Larry Cook deteriorates into a pathetic drunk, his daughters are left to cope with the often grim realities of life on a family farm—from battering husbands to cutthroat lenders. In this winner of the 1991 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, Smiley captures the essence of such a life with stark, painful detail.

## The Story of Edgar Sawtelle: A Novel by David Wroblewski

It's gutsy for a debut novelist to offer a modern take on *Hamlet* set in rural Wisconsin—particularly one in which the young hero, born mute, communicates with people, dogs, and the occasional ghost through his own mix of sign and body language. But David Wroblewski's extraordinary way with language immerses readers in a living, breathing world that is both fantastic and utterly believable. Edgar's grandfather started a line of unusual dogs—the Sawtelles—and his sons carried on his work. But among human families, undesirable traits aren't so easily predicted, and clashes can erupt with tragic force.



## Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead

MacArthur fellow Whitehead has written a classic entering-manhood tale framed within the summer of 1985. Benji, 15, skinny, nerdy, well-meaning, and wry, reports on life in a legendary African American enclave in Sag Harbor, Long Island. He and his brother, the sons of a doctor and a lawyer, attend private school in Manhattan and spend each summer here with a circle of friends, this year moving on from bicycles to cars, arcade games to ogling girls. Benji muses over the fact that he and his friends, "black boys with beach houses," define paradox, and his stipulations of what is cool and uncool create a moral equation, while the buzz of summer delights conceals the pain of racism and class bias, which lurk like jagged rocks beneath the sun-dazzled sea.