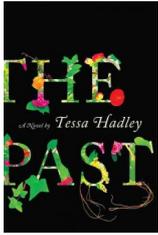


The Past



[view in catalog](#)

This novel is a dense, rich celebration of an English family, first in the present time, then in the past--the late 60s and early 70s.

In the first half, four siblings: Harriet, Alice, Roland, and Jane meet at the old family homestead near the sea for a family reunion. The house is being sold, and it will be their last time together at their childhood home.

Accompanying them, are children (Jane's), a new South American wife (Roland's--his third), a young friend, and son of a former lover (Alice's), and all alone, (Harriet).

In the siblings' idiosyncratic fashion, Harriet arrives first; she leaves the house locked and goes wandering in the forest. Alice arrives with Kasim, and then realizes, what she has done, brought an eighteen-year old to a place with nothing going on. Roland calls and says there will be delay, and that he and Pilar will arrive on Sunday.

Alice runs through the house, throwing open windows, picking and placing beautiful bouquets in each of the adults' room, while Jane, the mom, practically begins cooking the evening meal as her two children, Ivy and Arthur explore.

Privately, Jane and Harriet discuss whether Kazim is more than a friend to wild, actress Alice. Kazim reads on the porch terribly bored. But on Sunday when Roland, Pilar and Molly, Roland's sixteen year old daughter, arrive. Kazim immediately perks up at Molly's appearance. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 18, 2016

[The Past: A Novel](#)

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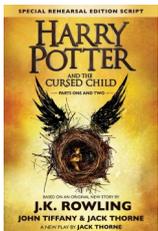
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Harry Potter and the Cursed Child



[view in catalog](#)

Put on your robes, fasten your house tie (Hey to all my Ravenclaws!), and grab a few pumpkin pasties. We're going back to Hogwarts and it's about time. When we last left Harry, Ron, and Hermione they were dropping their children off at Platform 9 3/4 and, "All was well." Unfortunately for Harry and the gang, that wasn't the case for very long.

In this new story from J.K. Rowling writing with playwrights John Tiffany and Jack Thorne, Potter fans get to go back to the wizarding world. Our favorite trio is all grown up with families of their own,

important positions in the Ministry of Magic, and newfound adult aches and pains. It's their children's generation who now take center stage. Quite literally, as this new story is a play. The show is currently running in London and will, hopefully, one day come to the US. Until then, we muggles can read the script.

The Cursed Child is a much different story than the original Harry Potter novels, but with all the charm we've come to expect. Reading a script, for those who have never attempted, isn't all that different from reading a novel. It's more condensed since you're watching the action unfold rather than reading long descriptions, but readers will still find themselves immersed in the story Rowling is telling. It's a story of parent child relationships, friendship, redemption, and what it means to be the son of THE Harry Potter. This muggle was happy to check in on old friends and excited to find new favorite characters (I'm looking at you Scorpius Malfoy).

The holds list is long, but worth the wait. Maybe pick up the original novels on [audiobook](#) while you're waiting. Trust me, it's like experiencing the story again for the first time. The narrator, Jim Dale, is that good. And, for those of you who've already experienced The Cursed Child, make sure to stop by The Ground Floor and talk to me about it! I have some FEELINGS that cannot adequately be expressed right now. Because spoilers. Happy Reading!

Posted by Becky F. on August 8, 2016

[Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#)

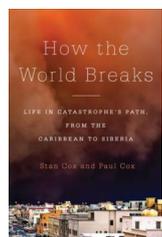
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How the World Breaks: Life in Catastrophe's Path from the Caribbean to Siberia



[view in catalog](#)

Anyone following the news these days sees far too many disasters: from wildfires to typhoons, mega-rain storms to landslides, tornados to earthquakes. This book examines how humans react to disasters, what is causing them, and what the future may bring.

Written by the father/son team of Stan and Paul Cox, this book looks at twelve major disasters in depth including some still in progress. The chapter 'Atlantis of the Americas' covers the flooding of Miami, FL that happens now even on clear days, and is expected to eventually make the city uninhabitable.

In 'Gray Goo: East Java, Indonesia,' the Coxes examines an event that caused massive amounts of mud to erupt over what was once a crowded middle class area. The authors believe that a mining operation triggered this extremely destructive mud volcano. As in many disasters, the authors show how the government got stuck with a huge bill while powerful companies got off the hook. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on August 4, 2016

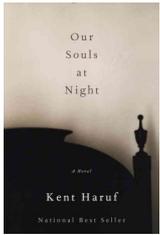
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Our Souls at Night



[view in catalog](#)

This moving book describes a love affair late in life. It's set in the fictional county of Holt, Colorado. One day Addie Moore visits her neighbor Louis. Louis almost falls off his chair when she asks him if he will come to her house and sleep with her that night. To share conversation, Addie adds, "not sex." Shortly after their night visits have begun (pajamas and toothbrush, paper bag will travel), Louis asks Addie, "Why me?" She answers with a question, do you think I'd just invite anyone. Because you're a good man, that's why I chose you.

Haruf, writes laconically, the kind of conversation you might expect from a man raised in a small agricultural town two hours east of Colorado Springs. Yet he succeeds masterfully at tackling the deep subjects: love, death, marriage, the friction between adult children and their parents. [Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 27, 2016

[Our Souls at Night: A Novel](#)

[Friendship](#)

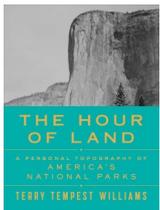
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Happy Birthday, National Park Service, 100 Years!



[view in catalog](#)

Terry Tempest Williams writes passionately about our natural world in the tradition of Thoreau, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Annie Dillard, and Edward Abbey.

This book--timed to come out with the hundredth year anniversary of the National Park System--argues strongly about the necessity of keeping our park lands protected. It also reinforces why we need them in our modern world.

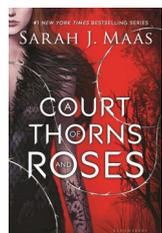
"Whenever I go to a national park, I meet the miraculous," she writes in the opening section. She also says that our national parks "are blood. They are more than scenery, they are portals and thresholds of wonder." Having just returned from Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, I heartily second that.

Although she has visited many parks, and some, over and over, she has chosen twelve to highlight here. And I love how she does it. Not only does she share personal anecdotes about each of the twelve, but she uses various formats to do so. For example, in the Big Bend section, she includes journal entries she wrote while there. Through riffs, all on a color theme, she shares what she saw and experienced there.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Dory L. on July 22, 2016

[A Court of Thorns and Roses, Sarah J. Maas](#)



[view in catalog](#)

This romantic, fantasy retelling of Beauty and the Beast is sure to make your heart skip a beat. Feyre is a young woman, struggling to support her family. They once lived the lives of prosperous merchants, but now have lost everything and are starving in a hovel. Feyre has taught herself to hunt and spends her time out in the dangerous winter woods. After taking down a deer and an enormous wolf, Feyre finally has food for her family and some extra money from selling the wolf's pelt. Just when she's feeling a little comfortable, an enormous wolf-like creature bursts into her family's home, demanding she pay the price for killing a fairie. It turns out the wolf was actually a fairie in disguise and now Feyre must either forfeit her life, or go with the creature to the fairie lands of Prythian forever.

Feyre goes with the creature across the border that keeps the mortals safe from the powerful immortal fey and into the land of Prythian. She discovers that the wolf is actually a High Fey male named Tamlin who can change his shape. He tells Feyre that his estate in the Spring Lands is her home now, but Feyre knows that this beautiful place is not all it seems to be. Dangerous creatures roam the woods and an unknown terror is gaining strength across the land.

Feyre's story will be familiar to readers as well as new and exciting. She is a strong young woman with a mind of her own who refuses to give up who she is. Sarah J. Maas is a wonderful new voice in YA fantasy with both this series and her [Throne of Glass](#) series. She writes unforgettable characters who will inspire readers. Her worlds are easy to lose yourself in and will feel very real. Some of the content of this particular series is mature so it's recommended for older teen readers. If you've already read, and loved, this book, then you should pick up [A Court of Mist and Fury](#). The sequel is even better than the first one! Happy Reading!

Posted by Becky F. on July 22, 2016

[A Court of Thorns and Roses](#)

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