

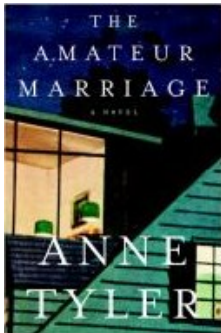
**April 14** *All the King's Men*  
by Robert Penn Warren

The ever-relevant story of a backcountry lawyer whose idealism is overcome by his lust for power. American literature's definitive political novel, *All the King's Men* traces the rise and fall of demagogue Willie Stark, who begins his career as a man of the people, but becomes corrupted by success. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.



**May 12** *Mr. Beethoven* by Paul Griffiths

In 1823 the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston sought to commission Beethoven to write an oratorio. The premise of this ingenious novel is that Beethoven accepted the commission and traveled to the United States to oversee its first performance. Griffiths chronicles his adventures and misadventures in a new world in which, great man though he is, he finds himself a new man.



**June 9** *The Amateur Marriage*  
by Anne Tyler

Wedding in haste on the eve of World War II, Michael and Pauline remain at odds for the next thirty years in this unflinching yet compassionate portrait of not only a mismatched couple, but the times they live through.

# Noon Book Group

2022-23

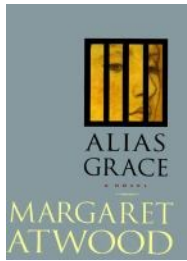


For details, contact Andy Moore, Assistant Director

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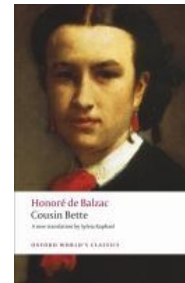
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**October 7** *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood

In 1859, sixteen years after she was convicted of a double murder, former housemaid Grace Marks—who claims to have no memory of the crime—is interviewed in prison by psychologist Simon Jordan, eager to use the new science to discover whether she's truly guilty. But his subject is far wiler than he knows, and the truth is not so readily available.



**January 13** *Cousin Bette* by Honoré de Balzac

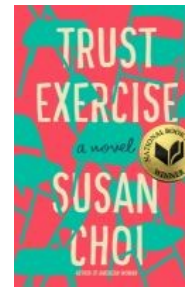
Written at the height of Balzac's powers, this novel portrays the stunningly malevolent Cousin Bette and her intricate plans for revenge against the wealthy relatives on whom she depends and whose condescension she bitterly resents. Balzac displays a sense of verbal comedy as acute as Dickens's and creates a world that is vivid and densely real.



**November 18** *Mrs. Osmond* by John Banville

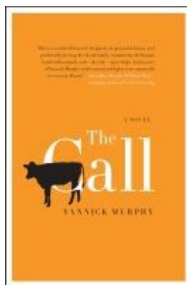
In this bold continuation of Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady*, Isabel Archer Osmond departs Rome for her cousin's funeral in England under threat from her husband of permanent enmity, and knowing that her stepdaughter is not the child of Gilbert Osmond and his deceased first wife but rather of Gilbert and the scheming Madame Merle. This revelation moves

Isabel to set in motion an audacious plan to regain her freedom from both of them.



**February 10** *Trust Exercise* by Susan Choi

Galvanized by the charged atmosphere created by their elite high school's magnetic theater teacher, two classmates have an intense sexual relationship the summer after their freshman year. When David makes their romance public in the fall, the two become estranged and Sarah grows increasingly isolated. Then an English theater troupe arrives and everything changes, with repercussions that last for years.



**December 9** *The Call* by Yannick Murphy

The daily rhythm of a veterinarian's family in rural New England is shaken when a hunting accident leaves the eldest son in a coma. The vet struggles to maintain his and his family's stability while searching for the man responsible. Then an unexpected visitor arrives, requesting a favor that will have profound consequences—testing a loving father's

patience, humor, and resolve, and forcing husband and wife to come to terms with what "family" truly means.



**March 10** *Mrs. Bridge* by Evan S. Connell

Connell's classic novel—comprising vignettes, images, fragments of conversations, events—builds powerfully toward the completed group portrait of a family, closely knit on the surface but deeply divided by loneliness, boredom, misunderstandings, isolation, sexual longing, and terminal isolation.