



MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN

By Jonathan Lethem

The short and shady life of Frank Minna ends in murder, shocking the four young men employed by his dysfunctional Brooklyn detective agency/limo service. The "Minna Men" have centered their lives around Frank, ever since he selected them as errand boys from the orphaned teen population at St. Vincent's Home. Most grateful is narrator Lionel. While not exactly well treated—his nickname is "Freakshow"—Tourette's-afflicted Lionel has found security as a Minna Man and is shattered by Frank's death. Lionel determines to become a genuine sleuth and find the killer. The ensuing plot twists are marked by clever wordplay, fast-paced dialog, and nonstop irony. The novel pays amusing homage to, and plays with the conventions of, classic hard-boiled detective tales and movies while standing on its own as a convincing whole.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction; on Audio-CD at Wayne

LAST ANGRY MAN

By Gerald Green

Sam Abelman, an elderly doctor who has outlined his time, practices compassionate medicine in the slums of Brooklyn and struggles as he rails against the corruption of his city in a powerful and poignant novel based on the life of Green's uncle.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction

MURDER ON LENOX HILL

By Victoria Thompson

New York City midwife Sarah Brandt investigates the potentially scandalous, unexplained pregnancy of a high society couple's mentally challenged teenage daughter. Detective friend Frank Malloy is reluctant to assist until one of the suspects, the family's minister, is murdered.

Available at Wayne in Fiction & Large-Type

OLD NEW YORK

By Edith Wharton

First published in 1924, Wharton's collection of four short novels reveals the customs and social orders of mid-19th-century New York.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



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NEW YORK: THE CITY, THE STATE & AND THE FIVE BOROUGHS

New York: where everyone mutinies but no one deserts.

~ Harry Hershfield



"Cut off as I am, it is inevitable that I should sometimes feel like a shadow walking in a shadowy world. When this happens I ask to be taken to **New York City**. Always I return home weary but I have the comforting certainty that mankind is real flesh and I myself am not a dream."

~ Helen Keller

Midstream: My Later Life



PARADISE ALLEY

By Kevin Baker

It may seem as if the Civil War has been done to death, in fiction as well as in nonfiction. But the author of the best-selling *Dreamland* (1999) wisely mines a relatively untapped Civil War vein: the devastating 1863 riots in New York City caused by President Lincoln's announcement of a draft. (In his acknowledgments, Baker calls the riots "probably the worst civic disturbance in the history of the United States.") Baker's success as a historical novelist rests on his superb ability to bring contemporary understanding to consequential events of the past by creating fictional yet totally credible characters whose lives are deeply affected by these events. In this case, the people impacted by the disastrous riots include Ruth Dove, who lives in poverty in Lower Manhattan with her husband, an escaped slave, and their children, and fears the return to New York City of her former lover, the vicious Johnny; Johnny's sister, Deirdre, whose husband is off to the war; and Maddy, a bordello keeper whose "sponsor" is newspaperman Herbert Willis Robinson. These are the major players in this richly detailed, impeccably researched drama.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction

A FEATHER ON THE BREATH OF GOD

By Sigrid Nunez

In this luminous debut novel about a young woman of mixed race, Nunez writes with fierce clarity, rare empathy and sharp humor of immigrant dreams and frustrations. The vulnerable, nameless narrator, who grows up in a Brooklyn housing project in the 1950s and '60s, is the daughter of Carlos, a silent, workaholic Chinese-Panamanian father, and Christa, a self-dramatizing German mother, who met shortly after V-E Day in Germany. Moving to New York in 1948, they raise three daughters in a marriage marked by poverty, violent quarrels and Christa's agoraphobia. Through flashbacks, Nunez shows Christa growing up in a Catholic boarding school taken over by the Nazis, while her father, an anti-Hitler protester, is arrested and confined in a concentration camp. The narrator-ignored by her father and dominated by her mother-escapes into a perfectionistic, masochistic world of ballet classes and becomes anorexic. Later, she has a doomed affair with a married Russian immigrant taxi driver with an unsavory past.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

By Cheryl Mendelson

In the first entry in a projected trilogy set in the Manhattan neighborhood of Morningside Heights, first-novelist Mendelson homes in on a charmed and charming circle of friends with the zeal of an anthropologist. For the first time in their placid marriage, the Braithwaites are experiencing serious tension. The overambitious gentrification plans of their co-op's new board of directors and the impending birth of their fourth child have pushed the couple's precarious finances past the breaking point. Charles, an opera singer, and Anne, who has turned domesticity into a deeply creative act, must now seriously consider a dreaded move to the suburbs. In addition, they are concerned about their best friends, a brilliant but lonely scientist and an acclaimed writer still reeling from yet another disastrous relationship. Readers will find it hard to resist Mendelson's radiant optimism, for she creates a world in which people naturally find and follow the arc of their true talents, lovers' defenses miraculously melt away, and decency and compassion are richly rewarded.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

