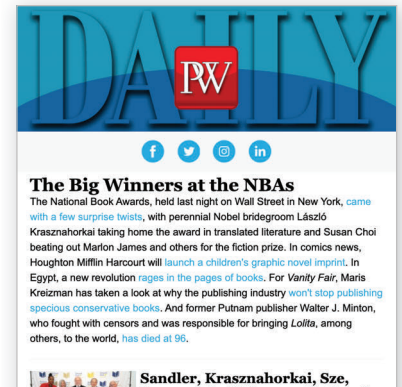




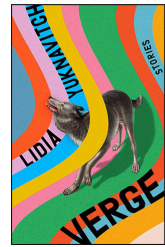
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★ Verge by Lidia Yuknavitch, Riverhead

In this brilliant collection, Yuknavitch (*The Book of Joan*) chronicles people outside society's margins... The subject matter is pretty dark stuff, but Yuknavitch does offer an occasional ray of hope or rallying cry of resilience for her characters trapped by addiction, forced sex work, or bad marriages. This riveting collection invites readers to see women whose points of view are typically ignored. — *Publishers Weekly, November 18, 2019*

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★ Verge
Lidia Yuknavitch, Author
Riverhead
ISBN 978-0-525-53487-7

In this brilliant collection, Yuknavitch (*The Book of Joan*) chronicles people outside society's margins. In "Cusp," a teenager in rural Texas comes of age while acting as a drug mule at a prison. "The Organ Runner" follows a young girl as she works to ferry kidneys for illegal backroom transplants, while "Second Language" deals with sex trafficking in Portland, Ore. In "A Woman Refusing," a frustrated ex-husband refuses to aid his former spouse, who stands nude atop a high-rise, threatening to jump. The incest-tinged "Second Coming" describes an at-home artificial insemination involving a sexually naive woman and her married sister. In "Mechanics," a woman flirts with a potential new lover while working under the hood of her car. The stories are incisive, with sharp

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Review FICTION

Blue Club. Further coincidences link Boyd to another of Kocharyan's cases. Kocharyan proves he can take punishment and keep on coming in the best hardboiled tradition, but Rodford, the pen name of Mischa Hiller (*Sabra Zoo*), strains credulity beyond reason. Agent: David Grossman, David Grossman Literary Agency. (Mar.)

A Fatal Inheritance: A Burren Mystery
Cora Harrison. Severn, \$27.95 (224p)
ISBN 978-0-7218-8566-1

The discovery of the body of Clodagh O'Lochlainn on a cliff overlooking the Atlantic, where she's tied to the stone statue of a god with a nose around her neck, propels Harrison's solid 15th whodunit set in 16th-century Ireland (after 2015's *Condemned to Death*). Just 10 days earlier, Mara, an investigating magistrate and law teacher, presided over a legal case in which Clodagh successfully contested the claims of four of her cousins in a chest of her father's farm. The cousins asserted that her father promised the farm to them before he went senile, in appreciation of the care they had given him. But the will that the cousins saw locked in a chest of that the cousins saw locked in a chest of Fergus, another magistrate, had disappeared, and Fergus, whose faculties were in decline, had no memory of making or storing the document, leaving Mara no choice in her verdict. Given this perceived injustice, Clodagh's cousins are the natural suspects. Harrison again makes the Irish system of justice accessible and intriguing in the service of a clever plot. Agent: Peter Backman, Amperсанд Agency (U.K.). (Mar.)

The Alzhammer, or Keep Your Friends Close and... I Forget the Other Part

UNICORN talks about his