

Harmony Resort are Johanna and Ben, Shell and Colin. Run by married therapists Miles and Grace Markell, the resort offers counseling by the celebrity doctors in a paradise setting, in hopes of repairing their marriages. As the couples begin therapy, they realize that both the Markells and the resort are not all that they seem. Not to mention that a deadly storm is approaching, putting everyone in danger on many different levels. Stapley (*Things To Do When It's Raining*) brings forth an addictive story line, using seductive language compiled with raw emotion in this fast-paced novel. Readers will pay close attention as the intensity builds, as the book is divided into sections corresponding to the days the couples are at the resort. With multilayered characters who all have deep-seated issues stemming from childhood, and some based on religion, this title will force readers to think about what it means to be broken and made whole again. **VERDICT** An excellent read, perfect for fans of Liane Moriarty and Anna Quindlen.—**Erin Holt, Williamson Cty. P.L., Franklin, TN**

Whalen, Marybeth Mayhew. *Only Ever Her*. Lake Union: Amazon. May 2019. 298p. ISBN 9781503903890. pap. \$14.95; ebk. ISBN 9781503958890. f

The date is set, the church and pastor are booked, everything is in order. But in sleepy, small-town, Ludlow, SC, bride-to-be Annie Taft has disappeared four days before the wedding. That same day, the man convicted of the murder of her mother is released from jail after a DNA test calls his guilt into question. It's the man that as a toddler she identified. Did Cordell Lewis seek revenge, or did Annie play runaway bride? As the search for her continues, many are forced to confront long-held secrets, including her Aunt Faye, a much-respected salon owner, transplanted to Ludlow to care for orphaned Annie after her mother's brutal murder. Were her motives selfless, or was she running from something darker? Did Kenny, the loner who has adored Annie since high school, decide he couldn't bear to see her in the arms of another? Even Annie has her secrets. If Cordell didn't kill Lydia, who did? And where is Annie? **VERDICT** Whalen (*When We Were Worthy*) writes about the secrets that cement and destroy small Southern towns. While not quite a nail-biter, this will satisfy those who enjoy watching a community's underbelly exposed.—**Susan Santa, Shelter Rock P. L., Albertson, NY**

Yellin, Jessica. *Savage News*. Mira: Harlequin. Apr. 2019. 352p. ISBN 9780778308423. \$26.99; ebk. ISBN 9781488037399. f
DEBUT Hard-working veteran Natalie

Savage has lived and breathed journalism all her life, though she still gets hair and clothes tips from her boss. ATN, the network where she is a reporter, lusts for ratings, so her work has to move the needle enough to land the job of White House correspondent. Her rival for this position is a journalistic pup who gets his ratings by wolfing down raw animal bits and other sensational behavior. Family members want her at her mother's second wedding, but Natalie deflects them and digs deeply into hidden POTUS involvement with a Venezuelan oil mob. She also investigates the whereabouts of FLOTUS, who's been missing for days. Feeling a bit under siege, Natalie finds some unexpected allies who help bring the story to a gasping close. **VERDICT** Yellin was CNN's White House reporter and has solid journalism props. The nuances of current #MeToo issues are on display in this satirically deft, accurately chilling debut with a dollop of romance. Yellin is sure to attract a loyal readership for her next book. [See Prepub Alert, 10/29/18].—**Barbara Conaty, Falls Church, VA**

SHORT STORIES

★**Caputo, Philip. *Hunter's Moon: A Novel in Stories*. Holt. Aug. 2019. 288p. ISBN 9781627794763. \$27; ebk. ISBN 9781627794770. f**

This latest from Caputo, an award-winning author of fiction and nonfiction (e.g., *Some Rise by Sin*) collects seven interconnected stories set on Michigan's rugged Upper Peninsula during the hunter's moon in autumn. As Vieux Desert inhabitants go about their lives, storms are brewing beneath the surface. In "Blockers," two men are called on by Bill's wife, Lisa, to look after their oldest friend, a recovering alcoholic who won't look after himself. In a later story, "The Guest," Lisa, now a widow running a local bed-and-breakfast, takes in a guest who begins a flirtatious conversation that leads to a once-a-year tryst. In "Grief," elderly Hal Havlicek, oozing discontent, goes on an ill-conceived hunting trip with his son Jeff and three friends. "Dreamers" sees Will Treadwell, a local microbrewery owner, leading two hunters on a bear shoot with bow and arrow, but they are disrupted by a troublemaker from town. Combat correspondent Phil joins Will to volunteer at a veterans' treatment center in "Lines of Departure," but despite Phil's experience a stargazing trip ends with mixed success. **VERDICT** Superb storyteller Caputo offers a tapestry weaving the friendships, losses, and past mistakes of ordinary people. Readers of literary fiction will not be disappointed in this first-rate collection.—**Donna Bettencourt, Mesa Cty. P.L., Grand Junction, CO**



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