

## The New York Times

# New in Paperback: 'An American Family,' 'Red Clocks'

By **Joumana Khatib**

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*Six new paperbacks to check out this week.*

**AN AMERICAN FAMILY: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice**, by *Khizr Khan*. (Random House, \$18.) Khan, a Pakistani immigrant and the father of a fallen soldier, captured national attention after his address at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. In his memoir, he writes of his love of the United States, first forged as a law student in Pakistan; his faith; and his family's values.

**RED CLOCKS**, by *Leni Zumas*. (Back Bay/Little, Brown, \$16.99.) A novel imagines a dystopian near-future where abortion is again illegal, and single women are the subject of discrimination. The book centers on four characters — a pregnant teenager, an herbalist, a woman hoping to become pregnant and a mother in an untenable marriage — whose stories serve as a reminder of the interdependence of women's lives.

**HENRY DAVID THOREAU: A Life**, by *Laura Dassow Walls*. (University of Chicago, \$20.) This timely biography examines Thoreau's early years and intellectual foundations, as well as his role in some of the great movements of his time, such as advocating a system of national parks and, notably, fighting to abolish slavery. Walls, an English professor at Notre Dame, evokes the era in gratifying detail.

**MRS. OSMOND**, by *John Banville*. (Vintage, \$15.95.) This novel picks up where Henry James's "The Portrait of a Lady" left off, following Isabel Archer's return to Italy and an uncertain fate. Banville strives to emulate James's style and voice, and even shifts to the perspective of Isabel's poorly chosen suitor, Gilbert Osmond. Our reviewer, Jeffrey Eugenides, praised the book, writing that Banville's "astonishing" ventriloquism "allowed him to restore to glory extended metaphors that, although frowned on nowadays, are still beautiful to read."

**THE INFLUENTIAL MIND: What the Brain Reveals About Our Power to Change Others**, by *Tali Sharot*. (Picador, \$17.) For all the importance people ascribe to being persuasive, it turns out we're not terribly good at it. Sharot, a neuroscientist, shows why many of our instincts about how to change other people's minds are wrong and offers some better strategies.

**FIVE-CARAT SOUL**, by *James McBride*. (Riverhead, \$16.) In his debut story collection, McBride, the author of the National Book Award-winning novel "The Good Lord Bird," continues his exploration of American wars, masculinity, race and the question of freedom. As our reviewer, Tayari Jones, wrote, "These brilliant miniatures display all of the rambunctious fearlessness of his deeply empathetic imagination."

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