

The Wedding Guest

by Jonathan Kellerman

Set in Las Vegas, California, and nearby areas. Begins at a post-wedding celebration with about a hundred invited guests in a large building- then, upstairs, a dead woman is discovered. The two protagonists- psychologist Alex Delaware and Lt. Milo Sturgis, good friends, attempt to find the killer. There is a huge number of possibilities, but, over time, they discover ho and why. Their work is fascinating, and Kellerman's descriptions and dialogue are riveting.

The Bone Tree

by Greg Iles

Set in Louisiana and Mississippi. Second volume in a trilogy.

Central character is the Mayor. Every three or four chapters goes through different character viewpoints. The main character is about to get married to a newspaper publisher covering a lot of corrupt areas. There's a group of creepy southern racists who have killed people and stuffed them into a gigantic big tree that's discovered.

A Murder of Magpies

by Judith Flanders

Part of a series. it's about book editor Samantha Claire. She's about to publish an expose on a fashion scandal. She's in the middle of so many crises. A young guy on staff gives people huge advances and it drives her crazy that h just throws money at people. An Inspector comes to her office investigating and she has to explain to him how many things she has to deal with and the number of people she works with. It's a mystery with interesting parts but also funny parts about working in an office and in publishing.

Britt-Marie was here

By Fredrik Backman

Britt-Marie was a person in the apartment building from "My grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry". She finds out about her husbands affair, picks up and leaves and gets a job. You start out thinking she's so anal retentive and judgmental, yet as it unfolds you see why she is that way. She ends up getting a job in a little dying town with a big company that went under. She's hired to take care of the rec center. she cleans it and at some point they tell her they need a coach for their football (soccer) team. Even though she hates football she agrees to do it. You get all the stories from the people in the town too.

And every morning the way home gets longer and longer

by Fredrik Backman

"A moving portrait of an elderly man's struggle to hold on to his most precious memories, and his family's efforts to care for him—even as they must find a way to let go. Grandpa and Noah are sitting on a bench in a square that keeps getting smaller every day. As they wait together on the bench, they tell jokes and discuss their shared love of mathematics. Grandpa recalls what it was like to fall in love with his wife, what it was like to lose her. She's as real to him now as the first day he met her, but he dreads the day when he won't remember her. Sometimes Grandpa sits

on the bench next to Ted, Noah's father—Ted who never liked math, prefers writing and playing guitar, and has waited his entire life for his father to have time for him, to accept him. But in their love of Noah, they have found a common bond. Grandpa, Grandma, Ted, and Noah all meet here, in this peculiar space that is growing dimmer and more confusing all the time. And here is where they will learn to say goodbye, the scent of hyacinths in the air, nothing to fear. This little book with a big message is certain to be treasured for generations to come."

Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us about Ourselves
by Frans De Waal

Fantastic book. "*Mama's Last Hug* begins with the death of Mama, a chimpanzee matriarch who formed a deep bond with biologist Jan van Hooff. When Mama was dying, van Hooff took the unusual step of visiting her in her night cage for a last hug. Their goodbyes were filmed and went viral. Millions of people were deeply moved by the way Mama embraced the professor, welcoming him with a big smile while reassuring him by patting his neck, in a gesture often considered typically human but that is in fact common to all primates. This story and others like it form the core of de Waal's argument, showing that humans are not the only species with the capacity for love, hate, fear, shame, guilt, joy, disgust, and empathy. De Waal discusses facial expressions, the emotions behind human politics, the illusion of free will, animal sentience, and, of course, Mama's life and death. The message is one of continuity between us and other species, such as the radical proposal that emotions are like organs: we don't have a single organ that other animals don't have, and the same is true for our emotions. *Mama's Last Hug* opens our hearts and minds to the many ways in which humans and other animals are connected, transforming how we view the living world around us."