

...ness that seems to be contradictory. He had a way of getting them sometimes into the same sentence. I'd never been to Los Angeles, I lived 3,000 miles away, but it evokes the place, this place of mystery and sunshine that was just intoxicating to me.

What makes Chandler's descriptions so striking? He empathically connects to the reader because a description will be something you'll never have read before or heard before but

What do you hope readers will take away from the novel? Forty years later, it still holds up. When it comes to writing at least, that's the definition of art: something that's significant and can pierce you many years after it was written. On the one hand this is a classic private-eye novel, it's an entertainment. But what makes Chandler and what makes most crime writers today disciples of Chandler is that he has another dimension, a higher

With Chandler's treatment of his female characters? There are aspects of Chandler's writing that don't hold up, wouldn't wash in today's world, and those areas are women and race. It becomes a little bit difficult to say I'm a writer because of this guy without some qualifiers...Certainly his view of women is pretty clear...You can make excuses and say it was of the time, but every writer is trying to write something that will transcend time.

...feeling created...Maybe 10 books in, I thought OK, I'm ready to try to—accent on try—to emulate Chandler now. So I wrote [two] books with Harry Bosch in the first person, and they were quite a struggle...It's hard to do Harry in the first person without coming off as a cheap Marlowe imitation.

Would Bosch and Marlowe get along? I think they'd get along—but there probably wouldn't be a lot of conversation.

READING LIST: NEW FICTION

Six Books to Curl Up With This Winter

BY JENNIFER MALONEY

FOR PUBLISHERS, winter is a relatively quiet season—a time when they can introduce gems that might otherwise be lost in fall's crush of literary heavyweights and commercial fare. The buzziest titles this season range from family dramas to short stories. Among the most notable are the latest novel from Pulitzer Prize-winner Elizabeth Strout, a debut novel about the 1999 World Trade Organization protests and a new book from a rising literary star that straddles fantasy and reality. Here are six books to keep the winter doldrums away:

"Mr. Splitfoot"

Samantha Hunt, *Jan. 5*

Zombies are out, ghosts are in. Ms. Hunt, author of "The Invention of Everything Else," taps into the cultural zeitgeist with a new novel blurring the natural and supernatural. Teenage orphans Nat and Ruth are on the verge of aging out of a group home run by a corrupt, religious fanatic when they meet a traveling con man and begin talking to the dead for money.

"My Name Is Lucy Barton"

Elizabeth Strout, *Jan. 12*

Ms. Strout's novel "Olive Kitteridge" launched her to stardom with a Pulitzer Prize and a 2014 HBO adaptation that won eight Emmy Awards. The book has sold 1.5 million copies, according to Random House. Fans have been eagerly awaiting her latest: In this new novel, the protagonist is recovering from complications after an operation when her mother arrives, rekindling a troubled relationship.

"The Expatriates"

Janice Y.K. Lee, *Jan. 12*

Ms. Lee's 2009 debut, "The Piano Teacher," a tale of two love affairs in midcentury Hong Kong, was a runaway hit, selling more than 400,000 copies in the U.S., according to her publisher. Viking is hoping for a repeat performance with "The Expatriates." The new work, set in present day Hong Kong, looks

at three women whose lives cross paths in the city's insular expat community.

"Your Heart Is a Muscle the Size of a Fist"

Sunil Yapa, *Jan. 12*

Editorial director Lee Boudreaux picked this debut novel to launch her first imprint at Little, Brown and Co. "I just got so blown away by the voice," she said. The book is told from the perspective of seven characters on a single day during the explosive 1999 World Trade Organization protests in Seattle. The characters include 19-year-old Victor, who hopes to sell enough marijuana at the protest to buy a plane ticket; his estranged stepfather, the police chief; the finance minister of Sri Lanka; as well as protesters and police officers who clash on a Seattle street corner.

"Sudden Death"

Álvaro Enríquez, *Feb. 9*

This mind-bending novel made a splash in Latin America and Europe, winning the prestigious Heralde prize in Spain. Now Riverhead brings it to the U.S. in an English translation. "It's like if Hillary Mantel and Roberto Bolaño and David Mitchell all got together and wrote a novel," said Mr. Enríquez's editor at Riverhead, Laura Perciasepe. The book begins with a 16th-century tennis match between the radical Italian artist Caravaggio and Spanish poet Quevedo, playing to the death with a ball made from the hair of beheaded Anne Boleyn.

"What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours"

Helen Oyeyemi, *March 8*

In 2013, Granta named Ms. Oyeyemi on its star-making, once-a-decade list of promising, young British novelists. Her most recent novel, "Boy, Snow, Bird," earned ecstatic reviews. Critics called it "bizarre and brilliant," and "the voice-over of a fever dream." Now Ms. Oyeyemi, whose writing is tinged with the strange and magical, offers up a collection of short stories built around the idea of keys, literal and metaphorical. It opens with a baby left at a Catalan monastery with a key on a chain around her neck.

