

# Alfred·A·Knopf

P U B L I S H E R O F

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B O R Z O I B O O K S

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Dear Editor/Producer,

**Ann Packer** has been keeping a secret. While *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* was captivating readers and critics alike, exploding into a national bestseller, and *Songs Without Words* was rising to join its predecessor on bestseller lists across the country, Ann Packer found pockets of time to devote to another project. **SWIM BACK TO ME** (Alfred A. Knopf/April 15<sup>th</sup>) is the “touching, tender and true” result of a decade’s work (*Kirkus*, starred review) by one of our most talented writers, and we are thrilled to finally share it with you.

The *New Yorker* has written: “[Ann Packer’s] **characters seem observed rather than invented.**” In **SWIM BACK TO ME**, Packer’s ability to imbue heart-achingly authentic life to a disparate cast—including a young husband coming to grips with the joy and vulnerability of impending fatherhood, a mother mourning her teenage son (“Her body had become a scale, a device for measuring grief”), and in the masterly opening novella, two teenagers forging a friendship only to discover the unsettling power of sex—is remarkable. Gracefully, Packer explores themes her readers will recognize but will find newly imagined and revelatory: the effects of the past on every step forward; deception, both the kind we practice on each other and the kind we feel so compelled to practice on ourselves; loss of the actual (divorce, the death of loved ones); the sad end to rose-tinted dreams and, equally hard to face, the overturning of our most pessimistic expectations.

With **SWIM BACK TO ME**, Ann Packer has again succeeded in creating “**those small miracles that reinforce our faith in fiction . . . making the largest things visible by perfect rendering of life on the smaller scale**” (Scott Turow).

Ann Packer will be on tour this spring (see event schedule attached) and is available for interview. Please contact us to arrange one.

Warmly,

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