



## The Orchardist: A Novel

By Amanda Coplin

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At once intimate and epic, *The Orchardist* is historical fiction at its best, in the grand literary tradition of William Faulkner, Marilynne Robinson, Michael Ondaatje, Annie Proulx, and Toni Morrison.

In her stunningly original and haunting debut novel, Amanda Coplin evokes a powerful sense of place, mixing tenderness and violence as she spins an engrossing tale of a solitary orchardist who provides shelter to two runaway teenage girls in the untamed American West, and the dramatic consequences of his actions.

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## **The Orchardist: A Novel By Amanda Coplin Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

**Amazon Best Books of the Month, August 2012:** Set against the rugged beauty of Washington State at the turn of the twentieth century, Amanda Coplin's debut novel, *The Orchardist*, introduces readers to William Talmadge and his lovingly cultivated orchards of apples and apricots. Coplin's characters are deeply rooted in the mystery of the American West, and she brings them together, like the grafting of Talmadge's trees, to form a unique family bound not by blood but by the shared experience of tragedy, the land, and ultimately fate.--*Seira Wilson*

#### Review

“Many contemporary novelists have revisited the question of what constitutes a family, but few have responded in a voice as resolute and fiercely poetic.” (New York Times Book Review)

“Amanda Coplin’s somber, majestic debut arrives like an urgent missive from another century. You can only be thrilled by a 31-year-old writer with this depth of understanding...the final epiphany equals in stark grandeur similar scenes in Emily Bronte’s **WUTHERING HEIGHTS** and Pat Barker’s **ANOTHER WORLD...**” (Washington Post)

“[A] beautiful, powerful novel...THE ORCHARDIST has the sweep and scope of a big historical novel...yet Coplin is exquisitely attuned to small, interior revolutions as well. Its language as rooted and plain as the apple trees Talmadge nurtures, this is a gorgeous first book.” (Boston Globe)

“There are echoes of John Steinbeck in this beautiful and haunting debut novel set in early-20th -century Washington State...Coplin depicts the frontier landscape and the plainspoken characters who inhabit it with dazzling clarity.” (Entertainment Weekly)

“A stunning debut...THE ORCHARDIST is a poetic book, but its strength doesn’t lie solely in its language. Coplin’s understanding of abuse and the lasting effects of fear and loss on the individual psyche are deeply resonant. As a debut novel, THE ORCHARDIST stands on par with Charles Frazier’s **COLD MOUNTAIN.**” (The Oregonian (Portland))

“Coplin’s prose is fresh and compelling...While the ending of this striking debut may not make every reader happy, it is, undoubtedly, the right one for both the book and for Talmadge, an unlikely hero who—like the book—is true to life and sweetly honest from beginning to end.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“THE ORCHARDIST is engaging and enthralling. The reader wants to turn each page quickly as the story develops, and wants at the same time to dwell on the lyrical moments of sunshine, soil and love.” (Seattle Times)

“Amanda Coplin has depicted her northwestern landscape with such fidelity that readers will know its every sight, smell, and sound. Within this world are compelling characters and their equally compelling stories. THE ORCHARDIST is an outstanding debut.” (Ron Rash, New York Times bestselling author of **SERENA** and **THE COVE**)

“To read this mysterious, compelling, elemental novel is to immerse yourself in the world of an old folk song, in which the passions and sorrows of plain people rage unseen and then blossom as madly (and quietly)

as apricot trees. In **THE ORCHARDIST**, Amanda Coplin shows us what's unknowable." (Bonnie Jo Campbell, author of National Book Award and NBCC Award Finalist for Fiction, **AMERICAN SALVAGE**)

"**THE ORCHARDIST** is a stunning accomplishment, hypnotic in its storytelling power, by turns lyrical and gritty, and filled with marvels. Coplin displays a dazzling sense of craftsmanship, and a talent for creating characters vivid and true." (Jane Ciabattari, **NPR**)

"A breathtaking work from a genuinely accomplished writer...Coplin's lyrical style and forceful storytelling provide many unexpected twists before the poignant conclusion." (**Library Journal**)

"Eloquent, moving...an immensely affecting first novel...Coplin refuses to sentimentalize. Instead, she demonstrates that courage and compassion can transform unremarkable lives and redeem damaged souls." (**Publishers Weekly** (starred review))

"Coplin's mesmerizing debut stands out with its depictions of uniquely Western personalities and a stark, gorgeously realized landscape that will settle deeply into readers' bones." (**Booklist**)

"Beautifully written, so alive to the magnificence of the land and the intricate mysteries of human nature, that it inspires awe rather than depression." (**Kirkus Reviews** (starred review))

"Nearly everybody in the book compels your admiration, either for their courage or for the heavy work they do, all the time and without complaint, even when wicked men are hunting them. Transfixing. I love this book straight through." (**Salvatore Scibona**, author of **THE END**, National Book Award Finalist)

"When you pick up **THE ORCHARDIST**, you will be lured at first by the lushness of the language. But soon enough the characters will take hold of you and you'll read on hungrily, as if under a spell. It's hard to believe that this is Amanda Coplin's first novel." (**Wally Lamb**, New York Times bestselling author of **THE HOUR I FIRST BELIEVED**)

"Patiently beautiful, **THE ORCHARDIST** builds its characters and its situations so carefully that the story becomes as real to us as this morning's news. I am in awe of Amanda Coplin's book, which does not feel like a first novel but a life's work." (**Charles Baxter**, author **THE FEAST OF LOVE**, National Book Award Finalist)

"A rare find—this debut novel that reads with masterful authority. Stately and passionate—a stunning powerhouse. **THE ORCHARDIST**, like Marilynne Robinson's **GILEAD**, drills into history, portraying an apparently modest American way of life but finally presenting us with a great American elegy." (**Patricia Hampl**, author of **A ROMANTIC EDUCATION**)

"This is a novel to burrow into, to be submerged in a world that is both lovely and hard. It's a world that becomes so real that one only leaves by being forced out by the closing of the covers that enfold it." (**Denver Post**)

"Coplin's grave, graceful prose gives dignity to lives that otherwise might be too sad to contemplate. Her story, which turns in unpredictable ways, is both troubling and touching." (**Columbus Dispatch**)

"A superb work from an abundantly gifted young writer" (**Dallas Morning News**)

"In the end, **THE ORCHARDIST** shares much in common with the fruits its protagonist nurtures: The

succulent flesh of the novel will intoxicate readers early on, but delving deeper reveals a hard core that is vital, bittersweet and ultimately timeless.” (BookPage, Top Fiction Pick)

“This is an extraordinarily ambitious and authoritative debut.” (Holloway McCandless, Shelf Awareness)

“Coplin’s consistent and finely-tuned rendering of a very different sensibility may help readers to comprehend a time when expedience did not rule...This patience is revealed in a narrative that is at once lyrical and unsentimental. This is the most extraordinary fruit of a noteworthy debut novel.” (Bellingham Herald)

“The exquisitely described landscapes in this tale astonish, but so do the emotional lives of its characters...a wise and great American novel.” (The Oprah Blog, Book of the Week September 17th)

“...the best first novel of 2012...the book brings to mind just how much the effect of reading about the land, the setting, with its lyric pulse, plays a role in the success of a forward moving narrative.” (Chicago Tribune)

From the Back Cover

A Best Book of the Year

*Washington Post* • *Seattle Times* • *The Oregonian* • National Public Radio • Amazon • *Kirkus Reviews* • *Publishers Weekly* • *The Daily Beast*

An Indie Next Pick

Barnes & Noble Discover Award Winner

At the turn of the twentieth century, in a rural stretch of the Pacific Northwest, a reclusive orchardist, William Talmadge, tends to apples and apricots as if they were loved ones. A gentle man, he's found solace in the sweetness of the fruit he grows and the quiet, beating heart of the land he cultivates. One day, two teenage girls appear and steal his fruit at the market; they later return to the outskirts of his orchard to see the man who gave them no chase.

Feral, scared, and very pregnant, the girls take up on Talmadge's land and indulge in his deep reservoir of compassion. Just as the girls begin to trust him, men arrive in the orchard with guns, and the shattering tragedy that follows will set Talmadge on an irrevocable course not only to save and protect them but also to reconcile the ghosts of his own troubled past.

Transcribing America as it once was before railways and roads connected its corners, Amanda Coplin weaves a tapestry of solitary souls who come together in the wake of unspeakable cruelty and misfortune. She writes with breathtaking precision and empathy, and in *The Orchardist* she crafts an astonishing debut novel about a man who disrupts the lonely harmony of an ordered life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Mamie Wilson:**

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of activity that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new information. When you read a publication you will get new information since book is one of numerous ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, reading through a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you examining a book especially hype book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, you can share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this The Orchardist: A Novel, you are able to tells your family, friends along with soon about yours reserve. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a book.

**Roger Johnson:**

The Orchardist: A Novel can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Orchardist: A Novel but doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial pondering.

**Eugene Barnum:**

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**Ramon Lopez:**

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