

Paperbacks New & Noteworthy

July 1, 2012

“Once Upon a River,” by Bonnie Jo Campbell. (Norton, \$15.95.) Campbell’s first novel, “Q Road” (2002), told the story of Rachel Crane, an isolated and determined young woman in Kalamazoo County, Mich. This follow-up is the story of her mother, Margo, herself a difficult and willful young woman, in rural Michigan in the late 1970s. Raped by an uncle at 15, Margo develops a taste for hunting that turns her small world upside down and leaves her adrift as she evades both her relatives and the authorities.

“Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail ’72,” by Hunter S. Thompson. (Simon & Schuster, \$17.) First published in 1973, Thompson’s brutally perceptive account of the battle for the 1972 presidency – from the Democratic primaries to the showdown between George McGovern and Richard Nixon – remains a cornerstone of American political journalism. This 40th anniversary edition includes a new introduction by Matt Taibbi.

“The Sense of an Ending,” by Julian Barnes. (Vintage International, \$14.95.) Tony Webster, a cautious, divorced man in his 60s and the narrator of Barnes’ Man Booker Prize-winning novel, “had wanted life not to bother me too much, and had succeeded.” But an unexpected bequest from a woman he’d met only once, 40 years earlier, forces him to re-evaluate his relationships, past and present.

“Blooms of Darkness,” by Aharon Appelfield. Translated by Jeffrey M. Green. (Schocken, \$15.95.) In a heartbreaking novel with echoes of Anne Frank’s diary, a Jewish child is hidden in a brothel in a Ukrainian village during the Holocaust.

“A World on Fire: Britain’s Crucial Role in the American Civil War,” by Amanda Foreman. (Random House, \$20.) Not only did the Civil War divide the American people, it sundered the larger English-speaking community across the Atlantic. Foreman’s expansive military and diplomatic history presents an enormous cast of characters and panoramic views of the war on the front lines and the battle for British hearts and minds.

“The Informant,” by Thomas Perry. (Mariner/Otto Penzler/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$14.95.) Named after the foster father (Eddie the Butcher) who taught him

his trade, and introduced 30 years ago by Perry in “The Butcher’s Boy,” this choldblooded professional killer has returned to defend himself against the Mafia and a Justice Department official who’d like to turn him into a government informer.

“Everything is Obvious, Once You Know the Answer,” by Duncan J. Watts. (Crown Bysiness, \$16.) Ranging through psychology, economics and the science of social networks, Watts argues that “common sense” comes loaded with hidden biases and is an unreliable guide to the social world.