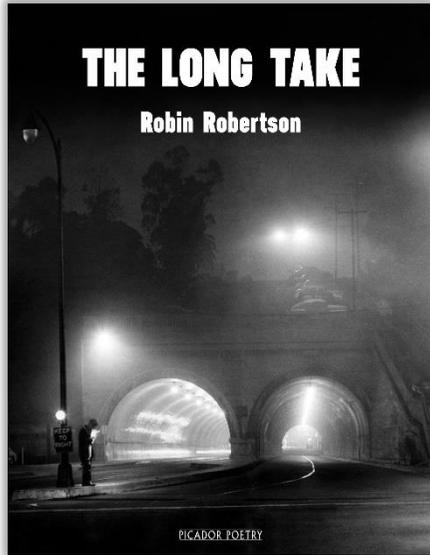


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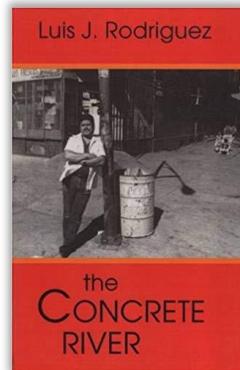


***The Long Take* by Robin Robertson**

Walker is a D-Day veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder; he can't return home to rural Nova Scotia, and looks instead to the city for freedom, anonymity and repair. As he moves from New York to Los Angeles and San Francisco we witness a crucial period of fracture in American history, one that also allowed film noir to flourish.

While Walker tries to piece his life together, America is beginning to come apart: deeply paranoid, doubting its own certainties, riven by social and racial division, spiralling corruption and the collapse of the inner cities.

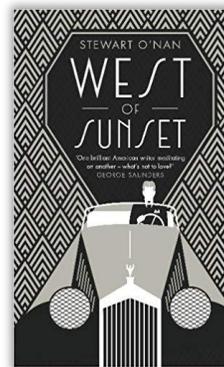
The Long Take is about a good man, brutalised by war, haunted by violence and apparently doomed to return to it – yet resolved to find kindness again, in the world and in himself.



***The Concrete River* by Luis J. Rodriguez**

This poetry collection illuminates the gritty idiosyncrasies of immigrant life in urban barrios from Los Angeles to Chicago to Harlem. Rodriguez lends powerful voices to those struggling to keep the gas on, to find work, and to keep love.

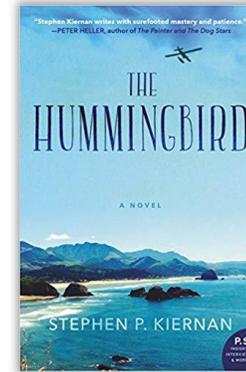
Populated by a vibrant cast of characters, Rodriguez's poems protest capitalism, violence, and exploitation while revelling in the potential of compassion.



***West of Sunset* by Stewart O'Nan**

In 1937, F. Scott Fitzgerald was a troubled, uncertain man whose literary success was long behind him. In poor health, with his wife consigned to a mental asylum and his finances in ruin, he struggled to make a new start as a screenwriter in Hollywood.

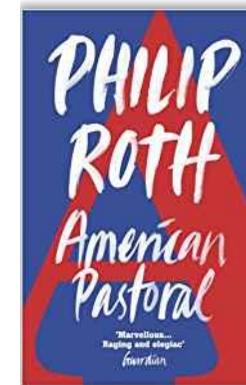
The story follows him as he arrives on the MGM lot, falls in love with a brassy gossip columnist, begins work on *The Last Tycoon*, and tries to maintain a semblance of family life with the absent Zelda and their daughter, Scottie.



***The Hummingbird* by Stephen P. Kiernan**

Deborah Birch is a seasoned hospice nurse whose daily work requires courage and compassion. But her skills and experience are tested in new and dramatic ways when her easy-going husband, Michael, returns from his third deployment to Iraq haunted by nightmares, anxiety, and rage.

She is determined to help him heal, and to restore the tender, loving marriage they once had.



***American Pastoral* by Philip Roth**

'Swede' Levov is living the American dream. He glides through life cocooned by his devoted family, his demanding yet highly rewarding (and lucrative) business, his sporting prowess, his good looks.

He is the embodiment of thriving, post-war America, land of liberty and hope. Until the sunny day in 1968, when the Swede's bountiful American luck deserts him.

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