

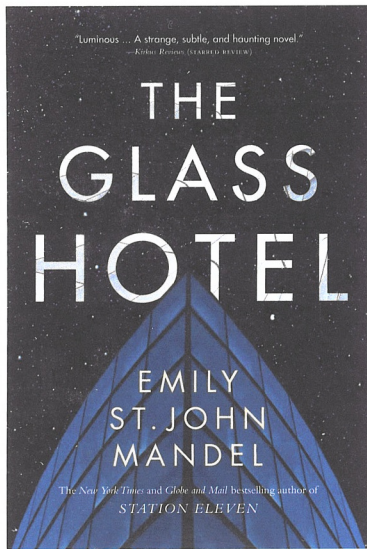
**ERROLSON HUGH**  
JONATHON YOUNG  
CHARLOTTE CARDIN  
PICO IYER

# NUVO<sup>\*</sup>



BOOK REVIEWS BY ALLIE TURNER

## Just Our Type



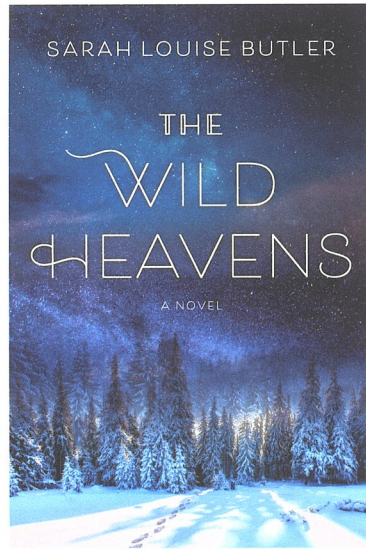
*The Glass Hotel*  
by Emily St. John Mandel

“Why don’t you swallow broken glass?” A permanent feeling of unease sets in upon cracking the spine of *The Glass Hotel* from the award-winning author of *Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel. From page one it feels as if, somewhere in the distance, a ticking has started and a countdown begun.

When a threatening message appears in the dead of night on the glass wall of a hotel in middle-of-nowhere British Columbia, the lives of everyone present in the hotel lobby are forever changed. Moving between the seedy underbelly of Toronto, the beautiful serenity of remote Vancouver Island, and the elite circles of New York, we follow a handful of deeply flawed and suspect characters living a scenario the reader knows to be predestined from the moment they read the threat.

The strange narrative format that manipulates space and time is the perfect medium for the surrealism of the novel. Ghosts haunt the pages, but it is not clear until the end who or what that ghost really is.

At times confusing and directionless, St. John Mandel lulls the reader into a state of permaquestioning, until the last few chapters when the alarm bells sound and she yanks a metaphorical thread cinching the story together.



*The Wild Heavens*  
by Sarah Louise Butler

An impossibly large footprint in the snow draws you into Sarah L. Butler’s debut novel. *Wild Heavens* spans a single winter day and a lifetime in the backcountry of British Columbia, as one woman follows a mysterious trail through the snow and reflects on the defining moments of her life. By the front door of her log cabin stands a wood carving of the unnamed but instantly recognizable creature she is following. The enigmatic footprints serve as bookmarks in a tale of life in the wilderness that is both foreign and entirely relatable.

The joy of childhood, the earnestness of young love, and the pain of loss are all tenderly captured in this novel that doubles as an ode to the Pacific Northwest—her rich descriptions of the natural world creating a character unto itself.

The deeply atmospheric writing represents a pre-existing world in the Canadian Gothic tradition, which sidesteps becoming hackneyed as some speculative fiction can be. Instead, Butler does a masterful job of leaving certain things unsaid. She understands that putting labels to things can break the magic, and that the space between the words is where the real power of this story resides.

JEWELLERY WATCHES

### Beauregard

Alexandre Beauregard threw himself into his grand horological adventure in 2011. Since founding his eponymous company, the serial entrepreneur (he owns an industrial laundry business and property holdings) has immersed himself in all aspects of watchmaking. In a workshop behind the kitchen of his Montreal home, Alexandre cuts the gems that make up the individual “petals” that surround the dials of the timepieces in his first collection, Dahlia. As the name suggests, the watch design strongly resembles the flower, with a magnificent central flying tourbillon developed and assembled specifically for Beauregard by Télôs Watch, a boutique movement maker, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland.

Upon release of the seven-year passion project in 2018, the Dahlia C1 (pictured below) was nominated in the Ladies Complication Category at the Grand Prix de l’Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG), with Beauregard the first Canadian watchmaker to receive this prestigious nod. Lili, the newest timepiece in the ever-growing portfolio, continues with the flower motif on the watch face, petals set in an overlapping pattern around a central tourbillon.

As an independent watchmaker, Beauregard produces limited quantities—10 units per year—and Alexandre is very much hands-on, involved with each creation from start to finish. The singular, modern design of a Beauregard timepiece reinvents the traditional jewellery watch. **Claudia Cusano**

