LIT PICKS

We recommend these recently reviewed titles:

**The Good Lord Bird**
*By James McBride*
*(Riverhead; 417 pages; $27.95)*

McBride's absorbing and darkly funny novel is an homage to a complex and fascinating American hero, John Brown, and a superbly inventive retelling of an American tale.

**The Art of Joy**
*By Goliarda Sapienza; translated from the Italian by Anne Milano Appel*
*(Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 685 pages; $30)*

Sapienza locked her epic novel in a chest for two decades and now, several years after her death, the masterpiece tracking the life of a Sicilian woman is finally available in English.

**The Forage House**
*By Tess Taylor*
*(Red Hen Press; 83 pages; $17.95 paperback)*

Personal history and American history become intertwined in this stunning debut collection by the Bay Area poet.