

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 hom-

age to a complex and fascinating American hero, John Brown, and a superbly inventive retelling of an American tale.

Mathew Brady

Portraits of a Nation

By Robert Wilson

(Bloomsbury; 273 pages; \$28)

Wilson's is the first full-length, narrative biography of the elusive Civil War photographer.

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.