Adam & Eve
A Novel, by Sena Jeter Naslund
(Harper Perennial, 9780061579288, $15.99)
“A futuristic Eden is inhabited by Adam and Eve (also known as Lucy) who are both recovering from physical and emotional injuries. They find themselves in an oasis of warm sun, where plants bear fruit and animals give milk. But Lucy is secretly carrying a different version of the beginning of life that was newly discovered under the sands of Egypt, and is being sought by those who would kill to keep it from being released. This is an enchanting tale powerfully told, incorporating romance and suspense. Another original novel from a marvelous author.”
—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI

Bury Your Dead
A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel, by Louise Penny
(Minotaur, 9780312626907, $14.99)
“Timing is critical in a mystery. Just how much is revealed and when is what keeps the reader turning pages. Louise Penny nails both in this book, the sixth in the series featuring the Canadian Inspector Gamache. Engaging characters from previous books make their appearances, but it isn’t necessary to have read the others to totally enjoy this book. Those who have read the others are eagerly awaiting this book, and those who start with this one will quickly turn to the other titles in the series. Heartily recommended for all lovers of good mysteries.”
—Ann Carlson, Harborwalk Books, Georgetown, SC

City of Veils
A Novel, by Zoë Ferraris
(By Back Bay Books, 9780316074261, $14.99)
“This is a book that overwhelms you. While it can be regarded as a mystery, it is also a commentary on the various cultures in Saudi Arabia today, and how everyone there—male and female, conservative or not—is adjusting to the contemporary world with all of its contradictions. Zoë Ferraris does an incredible job of showing the lives of her characters with honesty and compassion.”
—Martin Sorensen, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA

How to Be an American Housewife
A Novel, by Margaret Dilloway
(Berkley Trade, 9780425241395, $15)
“You will love this story of Shoko, a Japanese woman who marries an American soldier at the end of World War II and travels to America to become the perfect housewife. Shoko’s plan to reannounce romance, and in Japan is put on hold because of health problems, and she sends her daughter and granddaughter instead for a visit that reveals family secrets and leads to forgiveness.”
—Beth Carpenter, The Country Bookshop, Plainfield, VT

The Hundred-Foot Journey
A Novel, by Richard C. Morais
(Scribner, 9781439165652, $15)
“From India to London to Lumiere—and then, oh, to Paree!—oh, what a great travel tale! And the people—I just loved them all. For foodies, it will be a delicious toppling to a cake, and for travel buffs, great fun to follow the adventures of a large Indian family. It’s a delectable read—one to savor and enjoy.”
—Roberta Rubin, The Book Stall At Chestnut, Winnetka, IL

I Curse the River of Time
A Novel, by Per Petterson
(Picador, 9780312429539, $15)
“Fans of Out Stealing Horses will not be disappointed by Petterson’s latest novel, which pulses with lyrical prose. Set against the backdrop of the collapse of Communism in 1989, the story follows Arvid, who, when his mother is diagnosed with cancer, joins her at their summer house. Shifting between the present and Arvid’s memories, I Curse the River of Time explores the strained relationship between mother and son, as well as Arvid’s struggle to make sense of a life that has gotten away from him.”
—Natalie DellBusso, Wolfgang Books, Phoenixville, PA

Let’s Take the Long Way Home
A Memoir of Friendship, by Gail Caldwell
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812979114, $14)
“This is the heart-warming and heart-wrenching story of the author’s deep friendship with writer Caroline Knapp. Through rowing, swimming, writing, the arts, and sharing life experiences, they nurture a connection that we would all love to have with someone. An honest and unforgettable tribute to best friends.”
—Ellen Jarrett, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

The Memory Palace
A Memoir, by Mira Bartók
(Free Press, 9781439183328, $15)
“This is a beautifully written, heart-stomping, provocative memoir about a daughter’s 17-year estrangement from her schizophrenic mother and their rapprochement following the mother’s diagnosis of terminal cancer. Just as the daughter tries to recreate her own life after a traumatic brain injury, she is faced with revisiting her broken childhood via a cache of physical mementos saved by her mother. This memoir provokes so many questions, not just about mothers and daughters, but also about genius and sanity, abuse and resiliency, and what family members owe each other.”
—Nancy Colalillo, Tome on the Range Books, Las Vegas, NM

Moonlight Mile
A Kenzie and Gennaro Novel, by Dennis Lehane
(Harper, 9780061836954, $9.99)
“Patrick and Angie are back, and so are the consequences from decisions they made years ago in the Game. Baby, Gone case. The same child, Amanda McCready, now 16, has disappeared and the pair of P.I.s vow this time will be different when they track her down. Lehane is a master at exploring—yet not answering or resolving—difficult issues of morality and individual and social responsibility, all while giving the reader great dialogue, unexpected plot twists, and unforgettable characters. This is a sequel worthy of its predecessor.”
—Leslie Reiner, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL

Swamplandia!
A Novel, by Karen Russell
(Vintage, 9780307276681, $14.95)
“Located in the Florida Everglades, the Swamplandia island theme park is also home to the Bigtrees, a family of alligator wrestlers. When the mom and star of the show dies, the Bigtree way of life unravels. Dad heads to the mainland to find investors, while his three teenagers are left to deal with their losses. Kiwi attempts to infiltrate a rival amusement park, Ossie falls in love with a ghost, and the story’s 13-year-old narrator, Ava, wrestles with a force more fearsome than gators: the loss of innocence.”
—Michael Keefe, Annie Bloom’s Books, Portland, OR

The Typist
A Novel, by Michael Knight
(Grove Press, 9780802145369, $14)
“This novel follows the lives of three boys during the American occupation of Japan—two American soldiers with no heroic combat feats to their credit, and a Japanese boy attempting to adapt and better himself in an alien environment—and the lifelong injuries their tours produced. It is a chapter of World War II that has gone largely unnoticed, and yet has produced both casualties as well as stories of hope just the same.”
—Simone Bratcher, Bookin’ It!, Belmont, NC