Alice I Have Been
A Novel, by Melanie Benjamin
(Backam, 9780385344142, $15)
“Melanie Benjamin’s Alice I Have Been is a richly woven fictional account of the life of the girl who became Alice in Wonderland. It’s a mystery, and a love story, that follows Alice into adulthood after both tragic and wonderful experiences. I loved this creative and well-written book.”
—Doreen Pierson, Chapter One Book Store, Hamilton, MT

Bloodroot by Amy Greene
(Vintage, 9780307390578, $15)
“The isolated Appalachian setting in Bloodroot is a powerful, realistic, and truly American stage on which basic human traits emerge under the heavy hand of hardship and poverty. This multi-generational story is a must-read for those who wish to expand their horizons, experience a part of our country often ignored, and face challenges head-on through honest and sparse prose. I’m still reeling.”
—Janel Fierabend, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

The Girl Who Fell From the Sky
A Novel, by Heidi W. Durrow
(Algonquin, 9781616200152, $13.95)
“The child of a black G.I. father and Danish mother, Rachel never felt that she had to choose between her parents until a tragic event leads her to live with her black grandmother. In this new setting, she discovers that she doesn’t measure up to others’ standards of ‘blackness,’ but she’s not ‘white’ either. Durrow’s deft portrait of Rachel’s struggles to figure out who she is and where she belongs is a resonant reminder of the stereotypes that are perpetuated, often despite the best intentions.”
—Sandy Scott, The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT

The First Rule
A Joe Pike Novel, by Robert Crais
(Berkley, 9780425238127, $9.99)
“Frank Meyer, a former mercenary now living a normal life, has been killed along with his family. Has his past come back to haunt him? Or has he been involved in something bad, as the police believe? Frank was one of Joe Pike’s men, and Pike is determined to discover the truth—no matter how dangerous. If you are looking for strong characters and strong action The First Rule is for you.”
—Bridget Allison, Phoenix Books, Essex, VT

The Girl With Glass Feet
A Novel, by Ali Shaw
(Ficados, 9780312680459, $15)
“When Ida Macalaid meets Midas Crook, she is slowly turning into glass. As the two young people search for answers, they must confront past ghosts and untangle their feelings for one another before time runs out. Haunting and beautiful and sad, Ali Shaw’s debut novel tackles the bonds of family, the nature of love, and the power of transformation, all twisted together in prose that sparkles and captivates.”
—Erin Kurup, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

The Harvard Psychedelic Club
by Don Lattin
(HarperOne, 9780061655944, $14.99)
“The Harvard Psychedelic Club brought back lots of memories—some fond, some not—of the ‘60s, when Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, and Huston Smith were among the people who dominated the popular press. Don Lattin is right in that it took society about 30 years to catch up with ‘the lads.’ On the other hand, peace and love seem to be just about as far away as ever. A gem of a little book.”
—Gerald A. DeLong, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cleveland, OH

One Amazing Thing
A Novel, by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
(Voice, 9781401341589, $13.99)
“Nine people are trapped in the Indian consulate’s office after a devastating earthquake. As they start to melt down emotionally, Uma, a grad student, suggests they each tell a story about one thing in their lives. The stories they tell are incredible, and you will feel as though you have the best intentions for each character as they wait for rescue or death. An amazing read.”
—Cinda Meister, Booksmart, Morgan Hill, CA

The Red Door
An Inspector Ian Rutledge Mystery, by Charles Todd
(Harper Paperback, 9780061726170, $14.99)
“World War I affected not only those who served, but those who stayed at home. Inspector Ian Rutledge has returned from the war but has brought back his own horrors and guilt. Now, he is faced with two cases, which, he suspects, may be connected. Filled with unexpected twists and turns plus the personal angst of Rutledge himself, The Red Door is one more satisfying chapter in the life of Inspector Rutledge, his family, and cohorts.”
—Wendy Foster Leigh, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

Roses
A Novel, by Leila Meacham
(Grand Central Publishing, 9780446549998, $13.99)
“This family saga is as big as the state of Texas, where it takes place. Three generations struggle to hold onto the family land causing heartache, deceit, and, finally, forgiveness.”
—Nancy Sullivan, Oblong Books & Music, Rhinebeck, NY

Then Came the Evening
A Novel, by Brian Hart
(Bloomsbury, 9781608194698, $15)
“Brian Hart’s dark, brooding debut novel portrays an American West that few writers capture, and certainly not as well as he does. Tense dialogue captures the lives entwined in this bleak, raw landscape. Then Came the Evening is a psychological stunner.”
—Andy Nettell, Back of Beyond Books, Moab, UT

The Tyranny of E-mail
The Four-Thousand-Year Journey to Your Inbox, by John Freeman
(Scribner, 9781416576747, $16)
“The Tyranny of E-mail is a riveting read and a clarion call to pay attention to the downsides of our increasing addiction to e-mail, and the subsequent loss of social connection and empathy. Freeman’s fascinating book does not advocate abolishing e-mail, but rather gives insightful new ways to look at it. This is a tipping-point book for sure, as Freeman calls for a slow communication movement.”
—Sheryl Colleur, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA