Angelology
A Novel by Danielle Trussoni
(Penguin, 9780143118466, $16)
“Danielle Trussoni explodes upon the fiction scene with a classic clash of good and evil that is bound to rivet readers to their seats until completion. Delving deeply into myth and belief, she presents a contemporary world of angels more like the battles of John Milton than the heavenly choirs of Hollywood.”
—Bill Cusumano, Nicola’s Books, Ann Arbor, MI

Bite Me
A Love Story, by Christopher Moore
(Harper Paperback, 9780061779732, $14.99)
“While possibly the last of Moore’s vampire series, his signature wit is still in full force. Moore perfectly captures the voice of the teenage Goth-girl Abby Normal and pulls off his mix of comedy with a real emotional core with his usual mastery. This is a perfect book for longtime fans and new readers.”
—Mike Burns, Howard's Bookstore, Bloomington, IN

False Mermaid
A Novel, by Erin Hart
(Scribner, 97814165653778, $15)
“Wherever she goes, Nora Gavin is haunted by the unsolved murder of her sister. Now she is ready to make a final assault on the man she believes to be guilty of the crime. Nora’s efforts will unearth dark secrets, and bring closure to old wounds. There is a subtle, lyrical quality to Hart’s writing, coupled with an emotional insight into even the most peripheral characters. Immensely enjoyable.”
—Jennie Turner-Collins, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH

Making Toast
A Family Story, by Roger Rosenblatt
(Ecco, 9780061825958, $12.99)
“After the death of their married daughter, Roger Rosenblatt and his wife take on all that they can to help their son-in-law and grandchildren. The pain of the story is beautifully mitigated by the elegance of the language, and Making Toast is inspiring. This is a book to cherish.”
—Dana Brigham, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA

So Much for That
A Novel, by Lionel Shriver
(Harper Perennial, 9780061458590, $14.99)
“Shep Knacker has been planning for his ‘Afterlife’ for decades, but life’s pesky details always get in the way. Finally, he’s ready to take off, even if he has to leave his wife behind. But when she is diagnosed with a deadly illness, Shep finds himself tied yet again to his employer so he can pay the hospital bills. This satisfying novel illustrates the arbitrary nature of the whole medical system—including the things we bring on ourselves, the things we have no control over, and how we choose to deal with both.”
—Alice Meyer, Beaverdale Books, Des Moines, IA

The House of Tomorrow
A Novel, by Peter Bognanni
(Berkley Trade, 9780425238882, $15)
“Afterlife’ for decades, but life’s pesky details always get in the way. Finally, he’s ready to take off, even if he has to leave his wife behind. But when she is diagnosed with a deadly illness, Shep finds himself tied yet again to his employer so he can pay the hospital bills. This satisfying novel illustrates the arbitrary nature of the whole medical system—including the things we bring on ourselves, the things we have no control over, and how we choose to deal with both.”
—Valerie Koehler, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

The Journal Keeper
A Memoir, by Phyllis Theroux
(Grove Press, 9780802145284, $14.95)
“The Journal Keeper is a radiant display of Phyllis Theroux’s considerable talents with pen and paper. But even more remarkable is her window on a mystical world of universal wisdom that she unveils in her daily task of record keeping.”
—Barbara Meade, Politics & Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Washington, DC

The Madonnas of Echo Park
A Novel, by Brando Skyhorse
(Free Press, 9781439170847, $14)
“This is a powerful, touching, and revelatory novel, reminiscent of The Bridge of San Luis Rey in its beautifully interrelated secret stories. These long-time Mexican-American residents of a changing L.A. neighborhood struggle for identity and are often almost invisible to the worlds they work in, but their compelling and sometimes shocking stories leave an indelible stamp on an increasingly gentrified neighborhood. Skyhorse is an important chronicler of a community that needs to be heard from.”
—Kerry Slattery, Skylight Books, Los Angeles, CA

The Surrendered
A Novel, by Chang-rae Lee
(Riverhead Trade, 9781594485015, $16)
“Events of the Korean War slam into a young girl, a GI, and the wife of a missionary with a tragic ferocity, and their lives will intersect in Korea, changing them forever. Epic in its scope and beautifully written, The Surrendered begins in Korea and then moves to Manchuria, New Jersey, and Italy. What makes us who we are? Can cataclysmic events alter our sense of self beyond redemption?”
—Deane Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet
A Novel, by David Mitchell
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812976366, $15)
“Honest, forthright Jacob de Zoet, the nephew of a Dutch preacher, journeys to the Nagasaki of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, at the peak of Dutch trade with Japan. Through his eyes, we see this absorbing tale of the clash of cultures, replete with political machinations, plots within plots, graft and corruption, unrequited love, and the struggle of the ‘good’ to persevere throughout it all. A thoroughly satisfying read!”
—Lynne Almeida, Spellbinder Books & Coffee Bar, Bishop, CA

Whiter Than Snow
A Novel, by Samanta Schweblin
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9780312663162, $14.99)
“Dallas has written another absorbing book filled with compelling characters. In 1920, an avalanche devastates a poor mining town high in the Colorado mountains. Nine children are trapped on their way home from school, and only four survive. Each child’s family has a story. Was it chance or destiny that brought them together? And what, if any, connection do the Swandyke from such different backgrounds have in this novel?”
—Laurie Krushenisky, MacDonald Book Shop, Estes Park, CO