The Bucolic Plague
How Two Manhattanites Became Gentleman Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir by Josh Kilmer-Purcell
(Harper Perennial, 9780062318798, $14.99)
“Speaking of love,” says Leandra, “there’s an old saying that ‘love is blind,’ right? Well, how about this: when you’re blind, it’s like drinking from a stream with no way of knowing it’s contaminated.”
—Robert L. Rosen, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH

Day for Night
A Novel by Frederick Reiken
(Reagan Arthur Books, 9780380785776, $14.99)
“Ten parts, ten people, ten stories spanning over four decades and crossing the Atlantic Ocean. It is left up to the reader to determine which parts of which stories are real, who is connected to whom, and who is the most important link in the chain. One, that, if broken, would result in the whole architecture crumbling to the ground. This web of interpersonal connection may seem unbelievable at first, until you examine the six degrees of separation in your own life.”
—Stacie M. Williams, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

The Lonely Polygamist
A Novel, by Brady Udall
(W. W. Norton, 9780393339710, $15.95)
“This is the story of 45-year-old Golden Richards, a hapless soul, whose four wives, twenty-eight children, and one paramour run his life. The reader learns to love and root for this man at every wrong turn. By turns laugh-out-loud funny and hauntingly sad, this novel is a big, fat, satisfying read that will make you reconsider what it means to be part of a family. Plus, it contains the naughtiest, goofiest eleven-year-old boy who will ever break your heart.”
—Robert Dyer, Broadway Books, Portland, OR

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake
A Novel, by Aimee Bender
(Anchor, 9780385720960, $15)
“Aimee Bender’s keen eye and delightfully quirky sensibilities are enchantingly reflected in this novel. When a ten-year-old Rose discovers that she can taste people’s emotions in the food they prepare, she learns of her mother’s despair. Meanwhile, her older brother is increasingly remote and her father blissfully naïve. As Rose advances awkwardly into young adulthood, the depth of her family’s peculiarities is revealed. Heartbreaking, sweet, and thoroughly engrossing.”
—Michael Keefe, Annie Bloom’s Books, Portland, OR

The Red Thread
A Novel, by Ann Hood
(W. W. Norton, 9780393339765, $14.95)
“Is it chance or an invisible Red Thread that connects parents to the children they were meant to have? In her new novel, Ann Hood weaves the lives of two Rhode Island couples who yearn for children and the Chinese babies who are abandoned half a world away. This is a story of love and hope and new beginnings—Ann Hood does not disappoint!”
—Pat Coussa, Island Books, Middletown, RI

Secret Daughter
A Novel, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda
(Morrow Paperbacks, 9780061928352, $13.99)
“Secret Daughter is the story of Aasha, a daughter given up by her rural Indian mother in an attempt to give her a better life. Somer, Aasha’s adoptive mother in California, grapples with her daughter’s return to her birth country as a young woman. The two families, intertwined by a twist of fate, will capture your heart.”
—Caitlin Dougart, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA

The Singers’ Gun
A Novel, by Emily St. John Mandel
(Unbridled Books, 9781609530426, $14.95)
“In some ways Emily St. John Mandel’s novels defy classification, the appeal of her work is wide. The Singers’ Gun is a taught, restrained book with a quick hook and a long pull. More than that, though, it reads breathtakingly against the grain of so much commercial literary fiction—full of cute tricks and slick, self-impressed prose. It is a wholly authentic, moving, and mysterious work.”
—Jason, Wolfgang Books, Phoenixville, PA

Tomorrow River
A True Story of Vengeance and Survival, by John Vaillant
(Vintage, 9780307389046, $15)
“What happens when the order of hunter and prey is reversed? Yuri Trush, a tracker living near a tiny Siberian village, must find a tiger that has recently killed a poacher. Trush and his team must learn what drives the tiger to behave in this terrifying new way before they can stop the carnage. By turns absolutely fascinating and monstrously chilling, The Tiger explores the world of the feline from its mythic history and extreme habitat to modern economics and black market poaching.”
—Marilyn Smith, Kepler’s Books & Magazine, Menlo Park, CA

What Is Left the Daughter
A Novel, by Howard Norman
(Mariner, 9780547521824, $13.95)
“In a letter to his daughter on her 21st birthday, Wyatt Hillery tells his intense life story, along with that of his parents, in elegant prose bejalling astonishing events. After his parents’ almost simultaneous suicides as the result of a love triangle, the teenage Wyatt falls hard for his lovely cousin Tilda, while he only has eyes for the mysterious German student Hans. In a tiny Nova Scotia village during WWII, suspicion and violence play out along with the passions of this intimate circle of rich, distinct characters you will not forget.”
—Carla Jimenez, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL