Bloody Crimes
The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Chase for Jefferson Davis, by James Swanson
[Harper Perennial, 9780061233791, $16.99]
"Bloody Crimes relates the gripping stories of President Lincoln’s funeral and the hunt for Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Since the grief-stricken nation largely believed that Davis had masterminded Lincoln’s murder, the two events are closely linked. Swanson, an acknowledged expert on Lincoln’s assassination, writes with passion and authority, offering a powerful story enriched with vivid details that sweeps readers back to the dark, uncertain days of late April 1865. A triumph!"
—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA

By Nightfall
A Novel, by Michael Cunningham
[Picador, 9780312610432, $15]
“Peter Harris, a mid-40s New York art dealer, realizes his life is reflected perfectly in one artist’s offhand comment: ‘The art we produce is never as scintillating as the art we imagine in our minds.’ But Peter, the world’s most stimulating bachelor, receives a stimulating jolt when his wife’s handsome younger brother comes to visit, and Peter responds in ways he never imagined he would.”
—Chris Brussat, Maria’s Bookshop, Durango, CO

The Emperor of All Maladies
A Biography of Cancer, by Siddhartha Mukherjee
[Scribner, 9781439170915, $18]
The struggle against cancer eventually touches the lives of every person on this planet. In The Emperor of All Maladies, Siddhartha Mukherjee displays remarkable skill in blending a definitive history of this disease with a compelling narrative. The book is informative, moving, and provocative, and teaches us a powerful lesson about humanity. We live in the face of inevitable uncertainty, but the knowledge in these pages makes us stronger and more compassionate beings.”
—Geoffrey B. Jennings, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS

Exley
A Novel, by Brock Clarke
[Alaquin, 978162088488, $13.95]
“If you like a book featuring an unreliable narrator, you have found it. Miller is nine years old and struggling with the disappearance of his father, who may or may not have joined the army and gone to Iraq. Miller’s ‘mental health professional’ strains the definition of the title ‘professional.’ Miller’s mother is bitter and quite sure that joining the military is the last thing her husband would have done. And then there’s Frederick Exley, who inhabits the novel through the relationship each of these characters has with his book, A Fan’s Notes. Even if, like me, you have never read A Fan’s Notes, you will feel rewarded by this smart and moving novel.”
—Stan Hynds, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

The False Friend
A Novel, by Myla Goldberg
[Anchor, 9780307390707, $14.95]
“ Arrested by a childhood memory triggered 21 years later, Cellia Durst decides it’s time to tell the truth about her part in the events that led to the disappearance of her childhood friend Djuna. After telling her overwhelmed partner, Huck, she goes home to confess her lie to her parents, her friend’s mother, and the other girls who formed an impassioned friendship. No one believes her new version of events. Goldberg does not shy away from the cruelties that strong girls inflict on their prey. Each character pushes Cellia to acknowledge truths she’d rather not know. The ending, in all its perfect brevity, will keep you awa. hoop, that Celia can go back to her life.”
—Helen Sinoradzki, Annie Bloom’s Books, Portland, OR

Cleopatra
A Life, by Stacy Schiff
[Back Bay Books, 9780316001946, $16.99]
“Beneath the myth and legend, Cleopatra was an educated, intelligent, and extremely forceful woman. For much of her life she had to stand virtually alone against the mightiest empire on earth and showed brilliant political gifts as she attempted to preserve Egypt’s autonomy. Stacy Schiff delves deep into ancient history and culture to portray a person far more interesting than the Hollywood version, and does so with a verve and sardonic wit rarely found in historical writing.”
—Bill Cusumano, Nicola’s Books, Ann Arbor, MI

Safe from the Sea
A Novel, by Peter Geye
[Alqonquin, 9781616200848, $13.95]
“Peter Geye brings to life images of maritime history from a time when the ore ships plied the waters of the Great Lakes to feed the great industrial heart of America. Classic themes of redemption, reconciliation, and family ties are set against the awesome power and beauty of the north shore of Lake Superior. In the final weeks of his life, Olaf relives the story of his survival in an ore boat wreck decades earlier, and acknowledges his feelings of guilt and regret, while his estranged son Noah discovers that things are not always as they seem.”
—Joni Montover, Paragraphs on Padre Blvd., South Padre Island, TX

The Good Daughters
A Novel, by Joyce Maynard
[Harper Perennial, 9780061994326, $14.99]
“The Good Daughters follows the lives of two women, born on the same day, in the same hospital, to two very different families. Their lives couldn’t be less similar, but the one thing they have in common is a feeling of never quite fitting in. At times comic, at times tragic, at times horrifying, this novel is a fascinating study of what it means to be part of a family. This is not a book to simply read and enjoy, but one that calls out to be shared and discussed.”
—Joe Eichman, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO

The Gendarme
A Novel, by Mark T. Mustian
[Vintage, 9780307388216, $15]
“Ensnared in WWII, Emnet Gom suffers amnesia as a result of a head wound. Now, at 92, a brain tumor revealed. The suffering of many in Nazi Germany, in Pinochet’s Chile, and those seeking a new life in Israel are woven together by the intricate thread of a stolen desk. This is a powerful book that will leave you reeling.”
—Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

Salvation City
A Novel, by Sigrid Nunez
[Riverhead Trade, 9781594485374, $16]
“In the latest work by the author of The Last of Her Kind, a deadly flu pandemic has devastated America. After the flu claims his parents, young Copley Vining is taken by the evangelical pastor of tiny, isolated Salvation City. Though this new life is the opposite of his liberal upbringing in Chicago, Copley begins to settle in. Then something unexpected turns Cole’s world upside down again, and he is caught between two opposing forces. As Cole struggles to reconcile his past with his present, he begins, at last, to carve his own path into the future.”
—Erin Kurup, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY