Best Staged Plans
A Novel, by Claire Cook
“Best Staged Plans is a classic Cook romp featuring Sandy, a home stager who could only wish that her talent for making other people’s lives appear organized and appealing could extend to her own life. The novel is full of trademark Cook wit and wry observations on those everyday situations that would be really comical if only they were happening to someone else. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll tell all your girlfriends that this is the beach read of the summer!”
—Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

Clara and Mr. Tiffany
A Novel, by Susan Vreeland
“This compelling novel tells the story of Clara Driscoll who is employed by Louis Tiffany during New York City’s ‘Gilded Age.’ As head of his glasswork’s women’s department, she achieves recognition for her design for the first leaded stained glass lamp. However, her desire for artistic success and personal happiness is thwarted by Tiffany’s company policy against hiring married females. Vreeland masterfully shows an emotional picture of the glamorous world of the privileged class as set against the poverty of immigrants struggling to sustain hope and survive in their ‘new world’. A must read!”
—Carol Hicks, Bookshelf At Hooligan Rocks, Truckee, CA

The Coffins of Little Hope
A Novel, by Timothy Schaffert
“At the heart of this story is narrator Essie Myles, an 83-year-old great-grandmother who has been writing obituaries for her father’s small-town newspaper since she was a teenager. Far from morbid, Essie is a born storyteller, and she takes the reader on a wonderful journey into the nuances of a small town and its reaction when a little girl goes missing. Filled with rich characters and written with both charm and wonder, this should be the next book on your nightstand!”
—Julia MacDonald, The Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock, VT

The Dovekeepers
A Novel, by Alice Hoffman
“The deaths of 900 Jews at Masada in 70 CE remains a terrifying tale. Through Hoffman’s stunning prose, we meet four women as they weave their way to Herod’s ancient fortress, believing the mountain top can withstand any siege. Yael, daughter of an assassin, is in search of her brother; Revka, a baker’s wife, arrives with her grandsons in the wake of her daughter’s murder; Shira is a sorceress and mother figure to all except her own daughter, Aziza, who has chosen the warrior’s path. This haunting novel puts an unforgettable human face on a terrible tragedy that will stay with the reader for a long time.”
—Anne Holman, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT
It Happened on the Way to War
A Marine’s Path to Peace, by Rye Barcott
“Rye Barcott’s unstoppable drive to do good in the world leads him to concurrent forms of public service. To serve the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya, he co-founds the organization Carolina for Kibera (CFK). To serve his country, he joins the Marines and trains to be a Human Intelligence Officer. Rye applies what he learns in Kibera to the challenges of the Marines, and vice versa. This book will restore your faith in humanity, and remind you how much impact one person can have.”
—Andrea Avantaggio, Maria’s Bookshop, Durango, CO

Please Look After Mom
A Novel, by Kyung-Sook Shin
“When an elderly woman is separated from her husband at a bustling Seoul railway station and is never seen again, it raises real questions for her distraught family. Did they really ever know her? Was her disappearance really all that sudden? Korean writer Kyung-Sook Shin’s heartbreaking novel reveals an unseen, under-appreciated, extraordinary, yet ordinary, woman. This book will make readers think about the hidden, mysterious lives lived by their own mothers and the many ways in which people can disappear a little at a time.”
—Karen Maeda Allman, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

The Northwest Angle
A Novel, by William Kent Krueger
“Krueger’s latest Cork O’Connor tale is partly based on a real event—straight-line winds that flattened a great swath of forest in northern Minnesota. This fast-paced thriller leads the reader through a tangled web of secrets that unfolds unpredictably until the satisfying end. The characters are deep and spiritual and the landscape beautiful. Some Native American wisdom adds to the story. If you have not read Krueger’s previous novels, this book will have you seeking them out.”
—Kristin Hurlin, The Cottage Book Shop, Glen Arbor, MI

The Reading Promise
My Father and the Books We Shared, by Alice Ozma
“This charming memoir has the potential to spark a revolution in reading in homes and schools everywhere. Ozma describes growing up with her single father from the unique perspective of the thousands of nights that he spent reading to her from the age of eight until the day she left for college. The value of reading, or more specifically, of being read to, is celebrated not only as an important part of intellectual and creative development, but also as a way to forge and to nurture relationships.”
—Lisa Stefanacci, The Book Works, Del Mar, CA
The Savage City
Race, Murder, and a Generation on the Edge, by T.J. English
“The Savage City is a fascinating chronicle of a brutal decade in the history of New York City. The story begins in 1963 with a double murder and then continues through the city’s difficult struggle with the emerging civil rights movement. Alternating chapters follow a falsely accused black male, a dirty cop, and a rising member of the Black Panther Party, and together portray a time when corruption ruled. Readers are led through 10 years of murder, rape, race riots, and back door deals until, finally, real justice can begin to prevail.”
—Daphne Safrit, Literary Book Post, Salisbury, NC

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The Trinity Six
A Novel, by Charles Cumming
“From the dark days of the Cold War to the darker days of Tony Blair’s Britain, Trinity Six crackles with intelligence and action. Following in the footsteps of John le Carré and Len Deighton, Cumming creates an intriguing thriller that seamlessly blends history and fiction. Professor Sam Gaddis’ bookish life falls away as he attempts to uncover the truth about a dead man who isn’t really dead and a parallel reality in which nothing is what seems. Classic, compelling espionage from a new master!”
—Michael Barnard, Rakestraw Books, Danville, CA

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Say Her Name
A Novel, by Francisco Goldman
“Remembering is sometimes like ‘juggling a hundred thousand crystal balls all at once, trying to keep all these memories going,’ writes Goldman in this autobiographical work. This book is, at the same time, an elegant, elegiac novel, a brutal and honest memoir, and the longest and most tender love letter in the world. Say Her Name is a gift of love for the author’s beautiful young wife, Aura Estrada, who died after an accident in the waves at Mezunte beach in Mexico. Aura’s absence is deeply felt throughout the whole book, and the last pages of will take your breath away.”
—Aggie Zivaljevic, Kepler’s Books & Magazines, Menlo Park, CA

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Winged Obsession
The Pursuit of the World’s Most Notorious Butterfly Smuggler, by Jessica Speart
“I had certainly heard about wildlife smuggling, but this completely bizarre true-life tale brings the strange black market for insects vividly to life. The cat-and-mouse chase between an intrepid wildlife agent and the notorious and highly unusual Japanese smuggler will shock and amaze you. Movie producers, take note!”
—Julie Arriens, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, CT

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