The Age of Miracles
A Novel, by Karen Thompson Walker
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780804185091, $14.99)

"The end of the world does not come with a bang but with a whisper in Walker’s wonderful debut novel. Earth’s rotation is slowing, the days are becoming longer, gravity mutates, radiation spikes, but still, life remains. The narrator is 12-year-old Julia, and she chronicles everything she sees happening in the world around her, from shock and panic to people adapting to new routines. This is not a fast-paced, bombastic, apocalyptic novel, but rather the story of how a family manages through unimaginable circumstances."
—Jason Kennedy, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

The Dressmaker
A Novel, by Kate Alcott
(Anchor, 9780307948199, $15.99)

"A young housemaid quits her job and is chosen at the last minute to accompany a great fashion designer on the ill-fated voyage of the Titanic. They both survive the sinking, but the designer and her husband make questionable choices in their lifeboat, which are not well received in the public eye. The reader can’t help but think, "What would I have done in that situation?"
—Beth Carpenter, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC

Drop Dead Healthy
One Man’s Humble Quest for Bodily Perfection, by A.J. Jacobs
(Simon & Schuster, 9781416559081, $16)

"Anyone wanting to pursue a healthier lifestyle should read this book first! Jacobs spent two years on a quest to improve his health, one body part at a time. Besides being very funny—who knew there was a surgical procedure to change the timbre of your tarts?—this book is a font of useful information as Jacobs tries out all of the crazy medical advice so you don’t have to. PS: Laughing at this book will make you healthier. (See Chapter 10.)"
—Susan Taylor, Market Block Books, Troy, NY

From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant
A Novel, by Alex Gilvarry
(Penguin Books, 9780143123064, $16)

"This is a bold book! What happens to those falsely accused or mistakenly detained when the remedies of the American criminal justice system are unavailable to them? How does one prove one’s innocence when the system is set up to prove one’s guilt? Gilvarry skillfully navigates the space between black comedy and farce without delivering a polemic and between black comedy and farce without delivering a polemic and instead gives us a novel that is delightful without being light."
—Catherine Weller, Weller Book Works, Salt Lake City, UT

The Lifeboat
A Novel, by Charlotte Rogan
(Reagan Arthur/Back Bay Books, 9780316185912, $14.99)

"Grace is the 22-year-old narrator of this terrifying, tightly told tale of the sinking of an ocean liner crossing the Atlantic from England in 1914. Few escape onto the small overcrowded lifeboats, Grace being one. With little food and drink, paranoia and power struggles surface, and The Lifeboat becomes a study of human nature and who has a stronger will to survive under extreme conditions. As Rogan writes in the end, ‘It was not the sea that was cruel, it was the people.’ A brilliant and harrowing story of a struggle for survival as well as a profound look at the complexities of human nature at its core."
—Annie Philbrick, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT

The Partnership
Five Cold Warriors and Their Quest to Ban the Bomb, by Philip Taubman
(Harper Perennial, 9780061744075, $16.99)

"Nuclear war continues to be an apocalyptic threat for America and other countries. Five men, members of the Cold War brain trust, have campaigned to challenge the United States and other nations to reconsider their strategic policies. The Partnership gives us an intimate look at these men—Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, Sam Nunn, Bill Perry, and Sidney Drell—their origins, their work together, and their dealings with Barack Obama and other world leaders. Meticulously researched and compellingly told."
—Sue Fleming, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

Stone of Kings
In Search of the Lost Jade of the Maya, by Gerard Helferich
(Lyons Press, 9780762782543, $14.95)

"In the spirit of Indiana Jones, author Helferich takes us on an amazing journey through history and through the mountains of Guatemala in search of the lost jade of the Maya. If you relish great fireside tales of adventure or going into the jungles from your armchair, you’ll enjoy this book. By the way, you may be surprised to learn that jade comes in more colors than just green—even the good stuff!"
—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA

Waiting for Sunrise
A Novel, by William Boyd
(Harper Perennial, 9780061746776, $15.99)

"This time master storyteller Boyd takes us from London to Venice at the height of Freudian psychoanalysis and the end of WWI. The story of Lynden Riel, a young English actor in Vienna seeking help with a sexual problem, takes a turn when a romantic relationship leads to betrayal and he is framed for a crime he didn’t commit. Boyd’s intriguing, intelligent characters, unusual plots, and fine understanding of the human psyche make for an engaging read."
—Barbara Siepker, The Cottage Bookshop, Glen Arbor, MI