The Art Forger
A Novel, by B.A. Shapiro
(Algonquin Books, 9781616203160, $14.95)
“Using as it’s jumping off point the heist from the Gardner Museum in 1990, Shapiro weaves a tale of intrigue and suspense. Claire Roth, disgraced artist, who uses her considerable talents to paint art reproductions, is engaged to make an identical copy of a stolen Degas masterpiece. A peek into the Boston art scene, a mystery and a love story: this illuminating novel is fun and educational. Shapiro brings the life of an artist and the fascinating methods of painting and forging, brilliantly to light.”
—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore

Capital
A Novel, by John Lanchester
(W.W. Norton, 9780393345094, $15.95)
“Capital begins with the households of London’s Pepys Road each receiving a card that states, ‘We want what you have.’ These menacing and mysterious notes are the jumping off point for Lanchester’s brilliant exploration of modern London. From the financial trader in the midst of growing midlife and career crises, to the Pakistani family struggling with faith and family, to a dying woman and her street artist son, Lanchester effortlessly weaves myriad stories into brief chapters to create a written tapestry of remarkable color and depth.”
—Catherine Weller, Weller Book Works, Salt Lake City, UT

The Chaperone
A Novel, by Laura Moriarty
(Riverhead Trade, 9781594631436, $16)
Silent film star Louise Brooks was accustomed to being the center of attention, but that is not the case in this exquisite novel about the summer of 1922 when 15-year-old Louise traveled to New York for dance training. At the center of this story is her chaperone, 38-year-old Cora Carlisle, who has reasons of her own for traveling to New York that fateful summer. Cora’s story is one of tenacity of love and family in the face of unspeakable inhumanity.”
—Laurie Paul, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

Eight Girls Taking Pictures
A Novel, by Whitney Otto
(Scribner, 9781451682724, $16)
Otto is masterful in telling the stories of eight women photographers—their creative lives, their struggles balancing family and work, their politics (sexual and otherwise), and their place within the art community and the world events of the 20th century. All are skilfully presented and intricately woven together to create an unforgettable novel. Yes, it is fiction, but Otto has drawn from the real lives of gifted, renowned photographers, and the stories behind the images, whether real or imagined are compelling, inspiring and very entertaining. What a feast of a novel!”
—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

The End of Your Life Book Club
by Will Schwabbe
(Vintage, 9780307399780, $15)
“What a remarkable book! Not only a love letter to his mom, but a love letter to books and their power to help us all remember both the struggle and the joy it is to be a human being and the grace we can find in our shared humanity. I fell head over heels for Mary Ann Schwabbe, thanks to her son’s meticulous and loving tribute. In someone else’s hands this is the kind of book that could have slipped into the maudlin or overwrought, but Schwabbe succeeds in portraying his mother’s quiet, humble, spot-on wisdom and beautiful with both restraint and passion. My copy is thoroughly dog-eared. Is there any better tribute?”
—Laurie Paul, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

Flight Behavior
A Novel, by Barbara Kingsolver
(Harper Perennial, 9780062124272, $16.99)
“Dellarobia Turnbow, who is ready to run away from her unsatisfactory life on a Tennessee farm, comes across a river of flame on the mountain behind her home: millions of Monarch butterflies. The insects, wintering in Appalachia instead of their traditional Mexican grounds, open Dellarobia’s circumscribed life, slowly drawing her out into the wider world. Kingsolver’s precise prose, deep characters, and provocative questions versus facts, duty versus choice, facts versus perception—will resonate with readers as they contemplate the real world and its global changes.”
—Erica Caldwell, Present Tense, Batavia, NY

In the Shadow of the Banyan
A Novel, by Vadeey Ratner
(Grove Press, 9781451657775, $16)
Ratner’s remarkable debut novel transforms her childhood experiences of living through the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia into the finest of literary fiction. The story is narrated by the precocious Roami, whose privileged life is shattered when soldiers ravage Pnom Penh and send her aristocratic family into exile. Roami emerges from the book scarred, but with spirit unbroken. A powerful testament to the tenacity of love and family in the face of unspeakable inhumanity.”
—Caitlin Cuffley, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

The Innocents
A Novel, by Francesca Segal
(Voice, 9781401341893, $14.99)
Although the plot of The Innocents follows the man in love with his wife’s cousin’s formula, it is anything but stale and predictable. Caught in the loving web of his huge Jewish family, Adam Newman struggles to do the right thing while being true to himself and honest with others. Through wonderful, sometimes tragic and often quirky characters, Segal offers finely honed truths about humanity.”
—Susan Tyler, The Book Bin, Onley, VA

Live by Night
A Novel, by Dennis Lehane
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062197757, $16.99)
“This is a stunning epic of a young Irish gangster coming up in the vicious underworld of the Prohibition era who carries the loaded pedigree of being the son of the Boston police chief. Knocked off by his game by his first great and loving love, he falls prey to the Italian mob boss who makes him his own and then punishes him for his success. From Charlestown to Tampa to Havana, this stay-up-all-night page-turner is rich in both history and suspense.”
—Elizabeth Houghton Barden, Big Hat Books, Indianapolis, IN

Sutton
A Novel, by J.R. Moehringer
(Penguin, 9781401312688, $15.99)
“What a heartfelt journey we travel in this capriciously tragic story of Benjamin Benjamin Jr., caregiver extraordinaire. His charge, Trev, is a 19-year-old suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, or, as Ben describes him, ‘a pretzel with a perfectly healthy imagination.’ Ben is suffering, too. He is trying to recover from a personal tragedy that has left him without a family or a job. To read this book is to be in a constant, conflicting state between tears and laughter.”
—Lynn Rigs, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI

When We Were the Kennedys
A Memoir From Mexico, Maine, by Monica Wood
(W.W. Norton, 9780544002326, $14.95)
“Wood’s memoir is a compelling tale of loss on many levels. She recounts the tragedy of the unexpected death of her father and also the loss of a way of life with the slow dying of the town that has sustained its citizens for generations. Her mother’s fascination with the stoicism of the Kennedys after the death of the President foreshadows the family’s ability to deal with the abrupt loss of their husband and father. This book is a moving tale—sad, yet funny, as Monica shares her story of growing up in a small town with all of the various folks who helped shape her life.”
—Barbara Kelly, Portland Bookstore, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME