For a man's life, the land on which he lives, and the consequences of caring about others.

—Tegan Tigani, Queen Anne Avenue Books, Seattle, WA

Mr. Choy had the perfect business plan, with almost no cash outlay for staff. His corn business used North Korean refugees who had nowhere to run. Three young women who were taught from birth that there is no free will and that their every action must benefit the Glorious Leader are easy prey. This is a compelling and unflinchingly told tale of personal survival, politics, and, above all, friendship that will stay with you.

—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

The Orchardist
A Novel, by Amanda Coplin
(Harper Perennial, 9780062188519, $15.99)

"Set in rural Washington state in the early 20th century, The Orchardist tells the story of Talmadge, who has lived alone since his sister disappeared from their home and orchard when he was a young man. His life is changed when two young pregnant teens, escaping from a horrific situation, arrive at the orchard and he decides to let them into his life. Lyrically written, this is a moving book about a man's life, the land on which he lives, and the consequences of caring about others."

—Nancy Felton, Broadside Bookshop, Northampton, MA

The Uninvited Guests
A Novel, by Sadie Jones
(Harper Perennial, 9780062116512, $14.99)

"This is a comedy of manners in an Edwardian family manor in the English countryside that quickly spins into a zany tale of people who are not who they appear to be or even who they think they are. It has twists and turns and keeps the reader amused and completely intrigued. A delightful romp!"

—Karen T. Harris, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven, MA

Let's Pretend This Never Happened
A Mostly True Memoir, by Jenny Lawson
(The Bloggess
(Berkley Trade, 9780425261019, $16)

"I just can't recommend Lawson's new memoir highly enough! However, my recommendation does come with a warning. Do not read this in public unless you want others staring at you and wondering if you've gone mad because you're laughing hystically. The daughter of an off-kilter taxidermist and a mother, who, for the most part, turned her head the other way, Jenny has her issues resulting from standing inside a dead deer at a young age, growing up with live raccoons in the house, and being an anarchist at the age of three."

—Paul Ingram, Prairie Lights Books, Iowa City, IA

The Mirage
A Novel, by Matt Ruff
(Harper Perennial, 9780061976230, $15.99)

"Engrossing from the first page, Defending Jacob will keep you on the edge of your seat and then it will break your heart. What appears to be the story of a lovely family with a teenage son becomes a nightmare of suspicions, accusations, isolation, condemnation, and ultimately tragedy when an assistant district attorney and his wife watch as their only son is arrested for the murder of a classmate. We tend to see those we love with our hearts, which is not always the same as reality, and life can come crashing down in a hurry. I was blown away by this book!"

—Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM

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—Laurie Greer, Politics & Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?
by Jeanette Winterson
(Grove Press, 9780802120878, $15)

"Readers familiar with Winterson's Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit are likely to be interested in this memoir. Winterson's writing is evocative and thought-provoking. This memoir delivers far more than the expected exploration of that story's roots. This is a captivating book, quotable, and brightly flecked with humor, a personal, and, at times, painfully raw story about an adoptee's lifelong search for love. It also makes the strongest case I've ever read for how a life can be saved by literature."

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