The Boy in the Snow
An Edie Kiglatuck Mystery, by M.J. McGrath
(Penguin Books, 9780143124146, $15)
“McGrath’s debut, White Heat, offers a view of the life of Inuits in Alaska. Half-Inuit Edie Kiglatuk is another strong heroine who has a troubled past but tries to do what she can to make things right. I look forward to learning more about what drives her in future books in this series.”
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

Chanel Bonfire
A Memoir, by Wendy Lawless
(Gallery Books, 9780143124146, $15)
“Lawless has written a compelling, engaging, sometimes funny, and at times shocking tale of her childhood. Her mother, Georgann Rea, was a narcissist of the highest order, and Wendy and her younger sister suffered terrible emotional deprivation at her hands. From a very young age, when her mother attempts suicide for the first time, Wendy struggles to protect her sister and herself from a woman who lived a life of decadence, alcoholism, adultery, and lies. Lawlessness ultimately makes peace with herself and learns to live on her own terms, a process remarkably recounted in this searing memoir.”
—Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

The Death of Bees
A Novel, by Lisa O’Donnell
(Harper Perennial, 9780062209856, $14.99)
“Beginning with two children who bury their parents in their deaths. The Death of Bees has me hooked from page one. Streetwise teen Marnie and her younger, socially awkward, violin prodigy sister find their parents dead and attempt to cover up their deaths to avoid foster care, with both help and hindrance from some this lively, suspenseful, and darkly hilarious tale transfixes me. Some of its characters are introduced and the resultant ‘mixing’ of their lives with the original characters gives the reader further insights into their personalities. Happily, the threads of this story also lend themselves to future volumes.”
—Carol Schneck Varner, Scholars Book & Music, Okemos, MI

The Dinner
A Novel, by Herman Koch
(Hogarth, 9780385346856, $14)
“In this brilliant novel, two brothers and their wives meet for dinner in an upscale restaurant. Structured around the courses of the meal and narrated by Paul, what starts out in the first section—‘Aperitif’—as a hilarious riff on the pretentious meal that he is reluctantly sharing with his brother, Stijn, takes on an increasingly ominous tone, and the reason for the meeting gradually unfolds. Psychologically taut and beautifully constructed, this tale hooks the reader from the first page to the hair-raising conclusion. A literary page-turner that explores the lengths to which families will go to protect their own.”
—Sheila Daley, Barrett Bookstore, Darien, CT

The House Girl
A Novel, by Tara Conklin
(Avon, 9780062207517, $14.99)
“A young, ambitious New York attorney in 2004, never knew her mother, Josephine, a young house slave in 1852, never knew her child. More than a century apart, their lives connect in unexpected ways. Corporate law offices, art museums, antebellum homes, and the Underground Railroad provide the setting for a story filled with secrets, betrayals, and love. Does the ‘House Girl’ title apply to both women? The paths of these strong women will have the reader marveling at the layers Conklin has created to tell their intertwined stories.”
—Beverly Bauer, Redbery Books, Cable, WI

Life After Life
A Novel, by Jill McCorkle
(Algonquin/A Shannon Ravenel Book, 9781616203221, $14.95)
“Let yourself be enchanted by McCorkle’s vividly observed world of Pine Haven Estates in Fulton, North Carolina, and treat yourself to a cast of characters so rich that you will not want to part with them until the pages of view changes, only to find yourself enchanted anew. Pine Haven Estates is a retirement community, where life and death are inevitable companions. Its inhabitants and the people who care for and about them are at the center of this story that examines the cycle of life. McCorkle’s first novel in 17 years depicts a community well worth visiting and offers a wonderfully satisfying reading experience.”
—Terry Gilman, Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego, CA

May We Be Forgiven
A Novel, by Erica Bauermeister
(Berkley Trade, 9780425265031, $15)
“Susan is a serial adulterer whose life is shattered by her husband’s sudden death. As she struggles to maintain a healthy relationship with her grown, paraplegic daughter, she unexpectedly inherits a mansion from a distant relative. The novel explores the many forms that loss can take—a loved one’s death when it is too late to make amends; a daughter’s loss at a life filled with possibilities if not for her accident; the slow deterioration of the elderly in the elderly with dementia; and the loss of animals in the wild to extinction. At once funny and touching.”
—Karen Vail, Titcomb’s Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA

Medora
A Novel, by Todd Moore
(FSG, 9780374254788, $15)
“Sprawling and imaginative, with language to match, Medora is both a portrait and a history of the American automobile industry and the people it employed. Its hero, a young man named Swayze, is a mechanic with a gift for inventing and a passion for cars. He is also a father, a husband, and a lover of women. The novel is about love and loss, about the nature of absorption and surrender, and about the impact of the automobile on American life.”
—Melanie Mayberry, Cornerstone Cottage, Hampton, IA

The Lost Art of Mixing
A Novel, by Lydia Millet
(W.W. Norton, 9780393346658, $15.95)
“This is the poignant and often hilarious sequel to The School of Essential Ingredients. Cooking classes brought the characters together in the first book and entwined their stories with one another as effectively as the ingredients they were learning to add. This book, raw characters are introduced and the resultant ‘mixing’ of their lives with the original characters gives the reader further insights into their personalities. Happily, the threads of this story also lend themselves to future volumes.”
—Melanie Mayberry, Cornerstone Cottage, Hampton, IA

The Last Of Summer Wine
A Memoir, by Michael Connelly
(Grand Central Publishing, 9780446556729, $10)
“Detective Harry Bosch is haunted by the memory of a beautiful young Danish photojournalist murdered during the riots following the Rodney King verdict. The killing was never solved and is forgotten by all but Bosch. Despite the reluctance of his bosses to reopen the case because they fear that focusing on the killing of the blond when there were so many other victims of color will inflame the community, Bosch is determined to find the ‘black box’ that will pull all the clues together. This is classic Connolly. I couldn’t put it down.”
—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR

The Black Box
by Michael Connelly
(Grand Central Publishing, 9780446556729, $10)
“Bosch. Despite the reluctance of his bosses to reopen the case because they fear that focusing on the killing of the blond when there were so many other victims of color will inflame the community, Bosch is determined to find the ‘black box’ that will pull all the clues together. This is classic Connolly. I couldn’t put it down.”
—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR

Maggie
A Novel, by Michael Connelly
(Harper Perennial, 9780062209856, $14.99)
“Bosch. Despite the reluctance of his bosses to reopen the case because they fear that focusing on the killing of the blond when there were so many other victims of color will inflame the community, Bosch is determined to find the ‘black box’ that will pull all the clues together. This is classic Connolly. I couldn’t put it down.”
—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR

The Long Way Home
A Memoir by Carl Hiaasen
(Harper Perennial, 9780062315760, $16)
“Hiaasen’s latest book is a memoir of a quarter-century spent in the Florida Everglades, on a farm with a “rhoester” and a leaky water tower. It’s a book about horses and wolves and a man who’s always been a useful, if not always a perfectly clean, voice for conservation.”
—Sheila Daley, Barrett Bookstore, Darien, CT

The Poisonwood Bible
A Novel, by Barbara Kingsolver
(Penguin, 9780446676900, $14.95)
“Kingsolver’s follow-up to her first book, The Bean Trees, is a sprawling, beguiling saga of a family that defies the odds.”
—Seth Marko, UCSD Bookstore, San Diego, CA

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