Alex
The Commandant Camille Verhoeven Trilogy, by Pierre LeMaitre, Frank Wynne (Trans.)
(MacLehose Press, 9781632651244, $14.99)
“A beautiful woman is kidnapped after leaving a Paris shop and is brutally beaten and suspended from the ceiling in a wooden crate in an abandoned warehouse, by a man who tells her he wants to watch her die. Police Commander Camille Verhoeven is assigned to the case after eyewitnesses report the abduction. Alex is chilling and frequently horrifying as it plays out, catching the reader by surprise at every turn.”
—Frank Keilty, The Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington, CT
Badluck Way
A Year on the Rugged Edge of the West, by Bryce Andrews
(Aria, 9781476710846, $15)
“Andrews spent a year on an 18,000-acre ranch in Montana that was toutsed as being committed to the well being of the land, livestock, and wildlife. All goes well in his rugged new life until wolves begin their relentless plundering of the summer herds. In a heartbreaking meditation on life, ethics, animal rights, and conservation, Andrews struggles to keep his herding responsibilities and his fascination for the wolves in balance. This is an elegant, lyrical account of a sensitive, conservation-minded cowboy in the American West of the 21st century.”
—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT
Bitter River
A Novel, by Julie Keller
(Minotaur, 9781250047274, $15.99)
“Fans of character-driven suspense with strong female protagonists will love Bitter River, the latest in Keller’s Bell Elkins series. Prosecutor and divorced mom Elkins is questioning her move back from Washington, D.C., to her impoverished West Virginia hometown as she reevaluates her own family history, Dr. Jacob Thacker is forced to decide between his own future and the future of the school.”
—Carol Spurling, Bookpeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID

Erin
A Novel, by Paul Harding
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812981773, $15)
“Charlie Crosby has to face what no parent should ever have to—the death of a child. Erin is the town where Charlie, his wife, Susan, and daughter, Kate, lived until one September day Kate is run over while riding her bike home from the beach. Kate’s birth had bound Charlie and Susan together and, according to Susan, was supposed to make them both better people. Now what? Harding pulls no punches when describing Charlie’s life after Kate’s death. A moving meditation on living in a small town, the seasons of New England, and the mysteries of life, Erin is profound, powerful, and heartbreakingly honest, not to be missed.”
—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books & Hobbies, Osceola, MI

Hothouse
The Art of Survival and the Survival of Art at America’s Most Celebrated Publishing House, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, by Boris Kachka
(Simon & Schuster, 9781451691917, $17.99)
“Roger Straus, editor and publisher at FSG, was loved, loathed, feared, and admired, and the publishing house with which he came of age—and still is—perhaps the mightiest producer of quality literature in America. Hothouse perfectly captures the often uneasy alliance between commerce and creativity. Through anecdotes and firsthand reminiscences, Kachka weaves a compelling and sometimes hilarious history of 20th century American publishing.”
—Mark LaFrangiboise, Politics and Prose Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Washington, D.C.

How the Light Gets In
A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel, by Louise Penny
(Minotaur, 9780628047274, $15.99)
“A new Inspector Gamache novel by Louise Penny is always something to anticipate, even as the nuanced and mercurial Gamache is getting older and, perhaps, slightly weary of clearing up the raff in Quebec. As Gamache looks forward to a family trip to Paris, and, what it means to those at the very top to get Gamache out of the way once and for all, a murder, and a mysterious suicide intertwine in a complex and satisfying plot that never gives itself away.”
—Carol Spurling, Bookpeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID

The Illusion of Separateness
A Novel, by Simon Van Booy
(Minotaur, 9780628047453, $14.99)
“This story, spanning a number of decades, delicately intertwines the lives of several characters who, at a glance, seem like strangers but, in fact, making an unforgettable impact on each other’s lives. This book sinks its teeth into the hell of war, the pain and unspeakable joy of loving another human being, and how it means to grow up and grow older. Pieces of the story build on a truth that Van Booy clings to—that there are no coincidences and the experiences we share with others are vital in shaping who we are as individuals.”
—Hannah Hester, Lemuria Bookstore, Jackson, MS

Let Him Go
A Novel, by Emily Croy Barker
(Penguin Books, 9780143125679, $16)
“A century and a half into a worldwide drought, Earth to be a bleak, dry, decaying urban landscape, precarios for everyone but especially for Parentless Dependent Children like Nadia. Nadia is a lover of books in a television addicted world, who dreams of escaping to Lighthouse Island, an improbable haven of trees, rain, and wilderness somewhere to the northwest. This dystopian novel is beautifully written and Jiles’ scenes of Nadia navigating the crumbling cityscape are vivid, shocking, and often darkly funny, all the while lit by Nadia’s energy, guile, and hope.”
—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

Lighthouse Island
A Novel, by Paulette Jiles
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062232519, $15.99)
“A century and a half into a worldwide drought, Earth to be a bleak, dry, decaying urban landscape, precarios for everyone but especially for Parentless Dependent Children like Nadia. Nadia is a lover of books in a television addicted world, who dreams of escaping to Lighthouse Island, an improbable haven of trees, rain, and wilderness somewhere to the northwest. This dystopian novel is beautifully written and Jiles’ scenes of Nadia navigating the crumbling cityscape are vivid, shocking, and often darkly funny, all the while lit by Nadia’s energy, guile, and hope.”
—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

The Resurrectionist
A Novel, by Matthew Guinn
(W.W. Norton, 9780399348881, $14.95)
“In the mid 19th century, Nemo Johnston is sold to the fledging South Carolina Medical College, where he will act as janitor, buffer, and grave-robber. After all, medical students do need to work on human cadavers. A century and a half later, construction workers unearth hundreds of bones of African-American slaves in the cellar of one of the school’s original buildings. As he investigates the college’s past and his own family history, Dr. Jacob Thacker is forced to decide between his own future and the future of the school.”
—Jennifer Gywyr, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

The Thinking Woman’s Guide to Real Magic
A Novel, by Emi Cray Barker
(Penguin Books, 9780143125679, $16)
“Nora, a perennial graduate student who hasn’t made the best romantic choices, lands in another world that is rife with medieval attitudes toward women. She brings an analytical eye to a highly stratified, low-tech, but magical place, and, by speaking truth to power she learns new lessons about herself. This beautifully written first novel reverberates with echoes of fairy tales and fantasy literature from Narnia to Harry Potter.”
—Tonye Ille, The Regulator Bookshop, Durham, NC

The Valley of Amazement
A Novel, by Amy Tan
(Ecco, 9780062107329, $16.99)
“Tan’s newest novel is utterly engrossing. Spanning more than four decades and two continents, it tells the transporting story of two-year-old Ge Fei’s travels from Shanghai to San Francisco as it reveals the lives of two women, Lucia and Violet, an American courtesan mother and her half-Chinese daughter. The story details their attempt to undo their past, leading to forgiveness and bringing about redemption. The final pages signal the possibility of a sequel that would be welcome, indeed!”
—Carol Hicks, The Bookshelf, Truckee, CA