The Colour of Milk
A Novel, by Nell Leyshon
(Ecco, 9780062192066, $14.99)
“Heartbreaking, breathtaking, and very human, The Colour of Milk reads less like a historical fiction and more like a memoir. Mary is a hardworking but willful farm girl in rural England until her abusive father sells her to the local vicar as a servant. Her new position brings her opportunities for education and wider knowledge than she ever had before, but there are consequences. Gripping!”
—Caith Caulfield, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

Cover of Snow
A Novel, by Jenny Milchman
(Ballantine Books, 9780345534224, $15)
“Small towns have secrets. That’s no surprise to anyone who has ever lived in one, but the depth of those secrets is what Nora Hamilton must explore in Milchman’s debut. Nora’s husband, Brendan, is a police officer in their small town of Wedeskyll, New York. One snowy January morning, Nora wakes up to an awful silence, and finds her husband has hanged himself. She is beyond stunned, and as she tries to make sense of what has happened, Nora discovers that things in Wedeskyll are not as peaceful as she has always believed and that the secrets this town hides go back farther than she could have ever imagined.”
—Fran Fuller, Seattle Mystery Bookshop, Seattle, WA

Finding Camlann
A Novel, by Sean Pidgeon
(W. W. Norton, 97803073348255, $15.95)
“This is a new and gripping look at the history and landscape of Britain and the legend of King Arthur. A linguist and an archeologist search for the truth behind the myth, as they climb foggy hills and glean new meanings from a mysterious poem. We follow them through long-lost battles and modern feuds, as they look with fascination at the secrets and natural beauty of an ancient land that lives anew. Finding Camlann will please both scholars and poets and will intrigue historians and lovers of romance.”
—Daniel Butler, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA

The Golem and the Jinni
A Novel, by Nele Neuhaus
(Thomas & Mercer, 9781611291444, $16)
“A mesmerizing story comes from one of Germany’s most famous novelists. A seemingly normal small town is turned upside down when the body of a young woman is found and the convicted killer of two young girls who have never been found returns home after 10 years in prison. Nothing is as it seems as neighbors turn against neighbor and dark secrets from the past are slowly revealed by the diligent work of two police detectives. Filled with enough twists and turns and motives and means to keep you guessing to the very end!”
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

Gun Machine
A Novel, by Warren Ellis
(Mulholland Books, 9780316187411, $17)
“Ellis brings visual storytelling skills honed by his comic and graphic novel work, his obsessions with present and future technology, and his flair for fast-paced dialog to a novel that is part modern police procedural, part CSI drama, part serial killer monologue, and part techno thriller. What starts out as a really bad day for Detective John Tallow as he sees his partner shot dead in front of him suddenly becomes a potentially career-ending day with his discovery of an apartment full of guns that lead back to a host of unsolved murders. I hope that Ellis continues to explore this fascinating cast of characters in future books.”
—Scott Stearns, The Book Nook, Ludlow, VT

Life After Life
A Novel, by Kate Atkinson
(Berkley Books, 97803161676491, $18)
“Life After Life is both an engaging puzzle and a meticulously detailed historical novel that spans the two World Wars. With the introduction of Ursula Todd, a woman who lives her life over and over, Atkinson plays with second chances and alternate histories, and poses endless, fascinating questions: What would the world be like if we could start over when things went terribly awry? Could our decisions, big and small, avert wars? Make us happier? Stop death in its tracks?”
—Kat Bailey, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

Love Water Memory
A Novel, by Jennie Shortridge
(Gallery Books, 9781451684841, $16)
“By the end of the first page of Love Water Memory, readers will both care about Lucie and want to know why she is standing in frigid San Francisco Bay in an Armani suit. Shortridge’s novel moves like a thriller, as, along with Lucie, we discover what led to her flight from her fiancé, Grady, and her high-powered career. Grady is loving but flawed and Lucie is always likable, but they fight for understanding and happiness. Readers will be cheering for them all the way.”
—Cheryl Kracker McKeon, Book Passage, San Francisco, CA

Snow White Must Die
A Novel, by Nele Neuhaus
(Kinokuniya, 9784077449774, $14.99)
“This mesmerizing story comes from one of Germany’s most famous novelists. A seemingly normal small town is turned upside down when the body of a young woman is found and the convicted killer of two young girls who have never been found returns home after 10 years in prison. Nothing is as it seems as neighbors turn against neighbor and dark secrets from the past are slowly revealed by the diligent work of two police detectives. Filled with enough twists and turns and motives and means to keep you guessing to the very end!”
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

Some Girls, Some Hats and Hitler
A True Love Story, by Trudi Kanter
(Scribner, 9781476700281, $16)
“Kanter’s ability to take you inside her memorious phenomenoes is fluid, yet full of the tension of the times. Her use of unique phrases—‘it was delicious to know who was talking with whom’—and the way she speaks directly to her husband’s memory add a refreshing and dreamlike familiarity to her prose. A love story, a reminder of a cruel period in history, and a book filled with hope, beautifully written. I’ll never forget it!”
—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA

The Tale of the Old Man and the Sea
A Novel, by Ernest Hemingway
(Penguin, 9781439100220, $15)
“Hemingway’s novel, written on a fishing boat off the Florida Keys in 1927, has become a quintessential work for readers of all ages. The old man, Santiago, is determined to catch a big fish for his family. But when he finally brings home a big one, it is snatched away by a shark. The tale of the old man and the sea has touched the hearts of readers for generations.”
—Leslie Reiner, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL

Tenth of December
Stories, by George Saunders
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812984255, $15)
“Saunders’ stories stretch the boundaries of reality, but his characters are often defined by their limits. He is a master satirist in top form with this collection, but his occasionally outlandish settings never overshadow the humanity of the men, women, and children struggling through each tale. These stories do all the things we hope good fiction will: do blow your mind and break your heart, make you laugh and make you think.”
—Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY

Vampires in the Lemon Grove
And Other Stories, by Karen Russell
(Vintage, 9780307947475, $14.95)
“Karen Russell has the audacity to venture into realms few writers will explore and the talent to make the landscape her own. She returns to the short story form and creates worlds surreal, magical, and horrific, all while displaying the ability to comment on our own life through her fictional devices. Few modern writers can match her skill, courage, and genius. This collection is a testament to her right to be considered in the elite of current authors.”
—Bill Cusumano, Nicola’s Books, Ann Arbor, MI