The Bone Season
A Novel, by Samantha Shannon
(Bloomsbury, 9781620402668, $17)
"Shannon has created a world that will set your imagination on fire and lure you in so absolutely that you will forget your surroundings. London in the year 2059 is the world of Paige Mahoney, a dreamwalker. Scion is the ruling government and it absolutely rejects any type of clairvoyant abilities among its citizens. If Scion finds that you have those skills, you disappear. Paige discovers that this is true, but the ‘disappearance’ is not what she has been led to believe. The Bone Season will take you on a wild ride."
—Lynn Riggis, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI

Frozen in Time
An Epic Story of Survival and a Modern Quest for Lost Heroes of WW II, by Mitchell Zuckoff
(Harper Perennial, 9780062133403, $15.99)
"In search of a lost cargo plane on the ice cap of Greenland, a B17 crashes with nine people aboard. In a second rescue mission, a Grumman Duck—an amphibious plane—disappears. Zuckoff gives us a harrowing and nail-biting WW II story of hope, despair, perseverance, heroism, and survival as well as a contemporary account of how volunteers are trying to recover the Grumman Duck and to bring home the remains of its crew."
—Jean-Paul Adriaansen, Water Street Books, Exeter, NH

Brewster
A Novel, by Mark Slouka
(W.W. Norton, 9780393348835, $14.95)
"The setting is Brewster, New York, in 1968, at the peak of the Vietnam War. Sixteen-year-old Jon Mosher, the son of Jewish immigrants who escaped Europe during WW II, is searching for his own escape from a dead-end town and his guilt over his older brother’s death. He meets fellow student Ray Cappicciano and together they struggle to make sense of their quickly changing world. Raw and brutal at times, the well-drawn characters of this poignant story stay with you well after the book is closed."
—Helen Markus, Hearthfire Books of Evergreen, Evergreen, CO

The Edge of the Earth
A Novel, by Christina Schwarz
(Washington Square Press, 9781451683707, $15)
"In 1897, 19-year-old Trudy Schroeder, inquisitive, opinionated, and ‘her own woman,’ alienates her family by marrying Osker Swann and traveling from her comfortable home in the Wisconsin to the desolate coast of central California. The couple begin a life as tenders of the Point Luca Lighthouse, trapped between the ocean and the wilderness bordering Big Sur. With vivid descriptions of time and place, this is an unforgettable magical tale of self-transformation and long-term secrets hidden among the ‘morro’ rocks."
—Carol Hicks, The Bookshelf, Truckee, CA

Gone Girl
A Novel, by Gillian Flynn
(Broadway Books, 9780307988371, $15)
"Told from the alternating perspectives of Amy and Nick whose marriage is falling apart in small-town Missouri, this is first a story of perfect young love in Manhattan, followed by its slow disintegration after both partners lose their jobs and move to Nick’s hometown to help his family through his mother’s terminal illness. When Amy disappears, who is innocent and who is guilty? Slowly, each spouse’s lies and deceptions are laid bare until the real foundation of their relationship is revealed."
—Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells
A Novel, by Andrew Sean Greer
(Ecco, 9780062213792, $14.99)
"This exquisitely rendered novel captures one character in three distinct and historically significant periods: during the flu epidemic of 1918, the wartime world of 1945, and the full-blown AIDS terror of 1985. Greer manages to achieve the near impossible in making Greta believable in all three eras. Greta suffers and learns in each circumstance, though her hard-won, accumulated knowledge is of little help in solving the essential riddle that is her life."
—Marion Abbott, Mrs. Dalloway’s Literary and Garden Arts, Berkeley, CA

Jewelweed
A Novel, by David Rhodes
(Milkweed Editions, 9781571311061, $16)
"Can people really start over? Jewelweed proves that many can in spite of lost loves, war, and imprisonment. Blake Bookchester has just been paroled from a system that promotes postmodern slavery and a war on minorities and the poor. He returns to his hometown, Words, Wisconsin, where he will try to reconcile with his past and forge a new future. Jewelweed, a plant that looks like little pieces of jewelry strung together on heavy green thread, is an apt description of the people of Words, all tied together and realizing the importance of community to their individual lives."
—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books & Hobbies, Oscoda, MI

Norwegian by Night
A Novel, by Derek B. Miller
(Mariner Books, 9780422926662, $14.95)
"Sheldon Horowitz, an 80-year-old Korean War veteran, has a touch of dementia and goes to live with his daughter and son-in-law in Norway. One day what sounds like violence breaks out in the upstairs apartment and a young boy’s life appears to be at risk. Sheldon becomes the boy’s protector/abductor, fleeing in disguise through the countryside as exiled Serbian war criminals and Norwegian cops give pursuit and the old man’s Marine sniper skills come back to him."
—Richard Howorth, Square Books, Oxford, MS

Shot All to Hell
Jesse James, the Northfield Raid, and the Wild West’s Greatest Escape, by Mark Lee Gardner
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780061989483, $15.99)
"Over 130 years have passed since the death of Jesse James, yet we remain fascinated by this enigmatic outlaw and his gang. By 1876, the James brothers were famous. The gang’s decision to rob the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota, would prove to be a disaster when the citizens rose up to defend their town. Gardner’s passion for his subject and his writing combines to make this the definitive book on the infamous crime."
—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA

Sisterland
A Novel, by Curtis Sittenfeld
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812980332, $15)
"Sisters always have special relationships, but identical twin sisters are a world unto themselves, especially if they have ESP. The lives of Violet and Kate go from mod closeness to fragile separation as they attend different colleges and then return to their native St. Louis. Sittenfeld is a funny and sagacious chronicler of the world we live in and the ways in which we seek security, loyalty, and love."
—Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books and Cafe, Wichita, KS

The Telling Room
(Dial Press Trade Paperbacks, 9780385337014, $16)
"While working in a deli, a young Paterniti encountered what was then considered the finest cheese in the world—Páramo de Guzmán. Years later, with family in tow, he travels to the rustic Spanish village where the cheese is produced. Paterniti spent the next decade embedded in the rural village, playing Sancho Panza to cheesemaker Ambrosio’s Don Quixote while piecing together a meandering melange of stories about food, flavor, love, loss, betrayal, and revenge. I got lost in this book."
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS