The Country of Ice Cream Star: A Novel
By Sandra Newman
“Newman drops the reader into a small tribe of scavengers, hunting and thieving out a meager survival in the woods of Massachusetts, approximately 80 years after an unnamed plague has wiped out most of the U.S. population. At turns violent, romantic, funny, and touching, The Country of Ice Cream Star wraps an exploration of power, American institutions, race, and human nature into a ripping, twisting, and turning post-apocalyptic tale that is epic in scope and achievement.”
—Matt Nixon, The Booksellers at Laurelwood, Memphis, TN

The Precious One: A Novel
By Marisa de los Santos
“In The Precious One, de los Santos offers a tale of family secrets, love, rejection, and forgiveness. The point of view shifts between two half-sisters who have met only once in 16 years: Taisy Cleary, now 35, and 16-year-old Willow. Why would their father bring his daughters together now, after he has kept them apart for all these years? The story is both warmly funny and heartbreaking as the two sisters share their perceptions and insights into the man who abandoned his first family. This is a thoroughly enjoyable read!”
—Fran Duke, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA

Descent: A Novel
By Tim Johnston
“Descent is a gripping, utterly engrossing account of a girl’s disappearance in the Rocky Mountains. The aftermath of this tragedy is told in alternating voices: the injured brother at the scene of the accident when she left with a stranger to get help; the mother who has been hospitalized and stunned into breathtaking grief; the father who has been unable to leave the small town where the family was vacationing when his daughter disappeared—and most stunning of all, through the words of the victim herself. A real page-turner with a brilliantly conceived climax!”
—Kelly Estep, Carmichael’s Bookstore, Louisville, KY

I’ll Give You the Sun
By Jandy Nelson
“Noah and Jude have always been competitive, but also completely inseparable, as only twins can be. As they approach their teen years, the competitiveness, plus a multitude of other life changes, rips them apart until misunderstanding and hatefulness are all they seem to know. What will it take for them to forgive each other—and themselves—and once again be ‘NoahandJude,’ forever together? This is a beautifully written, unforgettable book about love, art, and recognizing truth.”
—Judy Hobbs, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA
Skink: No Surrender
By Carl Hiaasen
"Adult fans of Hiaasen know Skink’s colorful past. Here Hiaasen does a masterful job of making his most iconic character accessible to younger audiences. Fiercely independent Skink joins with a teenage acquaintance to rescue an abducted girl in trouble way over her head. No one metes out justice quite like Skink. It’s great to see ‘The Governor’ back in action!"
—Rosemary Pugliese, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC

Unbecoming: A Novel
By Rebecca Scherm
“Julie rents a room in a dilapidated house outside of Paris. She repairs antiques, mostly things no one else wants, and is a loner with no friends or social life. In her room at night, she reads the news from Garland, Tennessee, her hometown, where two men are about to be let out on parole for a crime for which she was the mastermind. Julie is terrified of being found and is just trying to survive. This is an exhilarating page-turner with multi-layered characters and several good twists. Once you hit the halfway point, it’s a race to the finish to find out what’s going to happen.”
—Amanda Skelton, Union Avenue Books, Knoxville, TN