The Accident
A Novel, by Chris Pavone
(Broadway Books, 9780385348478, $15)

“Literary agent Isabel Reed is the first to receive the manuscript of The Accident, which, unknown to her, is a dangerous thing to have in one’s possession. It reveals secrets that a powerful media mogul and his cronies, including a CIA agent, have spent a lifetime concealing. They will stop at nothing to see that it’s not published. Readers get an insider’s glimpse into the gears of the publishing machine as the manuscript changes hands and endangers everyone who knows of its existence. A compelling thriller for book lovers!”
—Hannah Johnson-Breimeier, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

And the Dark Sacred Night
A Novel, by Julia Glass
(Anchor, 9780307456113, $15.95)

“A decade has passed since we fell in love with the unforgettable characters of Three Junes. In her latest, Glass gives readers another all-consuming novel, the time centered around Malachy Burns, the journalist who made a profound impact on Three Junes’ beloved protagonist, Fenno McLeod. Beautifully told, this is an emotionally satisfying tale of family secrets, hidden truths, and personal discovery—a moving story that leaves the reader breathless, in awe of the author’s ability to hit each and every note.”
—Anderson McKean, Page & Palette, Fairhope, AL

A Circle of Wives
A Novel, by Alice LaPlante
(Grove Press, 9780802122926, $15)

“What would you do if you discovered your husband had another wife, or even two, at the same time that he is married to you? Full of marital and murderous deception, LaPlante’s new novel echoes the tension and suspense of Three Junes but is more playful and layered. The result is a riveting read.”
—Annie Philbrick, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT

The Crane Wife
A Novel, by Patrick Ness
(Penguin Books, 9780143126171, $16)

“Based on a Japanese folk tale, The Crane Wife spins a story about two artists—one of whom may not be fully human—and how they achieve the act of creation and destruction, both in their art and in their personal lives and relationships. The characters are fully drawn, each with faults but very lovable in their own ways, and the act of creation is beautifully explored through children, art, and budding relationships, as well as through myths of earth-creation. This is my favorite read of the season and it’s been a long time since a novel has made me feel so.”
—William D. Carl, Books on the Square, Providence, RI

The Girl With a Clock for a Heart
A Novel, by Peter Swanson
(William Morrow Paperback, 9780062267504, $14.99)

“This brilliant debut thriller has all the characteristics necessary for bestsellerdom! There is George Foss, an everyman protagonist who has never gotten over his first college sweetheart; an unresolved love, now a femme fatale who is as stunning as she is unpredictable; and a plot with surprises and twists on every other page. The Girl With a Clock for a Heart will take its rightful place beside my favorites from Michael Connelly and Dennis Lehane!”
—Jerry Brown, The Bookstore, Radcliff, NY

If Only You People Could Follow Directions
A Memoir, by Jessica Hendry Nelson
(Counterpoint, 9781619024670, $15.95)

“Memory doesn’t move in a straight line. It is chaotic, digressive, and imperfect. While most memoirs force life into the restrictions of straight lines, Nelson embraces the chaos by moving back and forth in time, free-associating among memories and organizing her life into a series of vignettes that highlight the moments of greatest pain and the choices of love, family, friendship, and self-discovery.”
—Josh Cook, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

The Kept
A Novel, by James Scott
(Harper Perennial, 9780062236654, $15.99)

“It is a rare pleasure to read a novel that is written with such self-assuredness, balance, and grace as The Kept, but the fact that it is also a debut makes it all the more extraordinary. Elspeth and Caleb’s troubled odyssey through rural upstate New York at the turn of the 20th century is both vivid and compelling, with the starkness of the setting matched only by the ruthless nature of the characters, all stunningly balanced with beautiful prose. Scott joins the pantheon of great American writers such as Cormac McCarthy and Flannery O’Connor in his understanding of the dichotomy of violence and beauty.”
—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

Lost Lake
A Novel, by Sarah Addison Allen
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9781250019820, $15.99)

“After a year of mourning her husband, Kate finally wakes up and realizes her life is not going the way she wishes. She and her daughter, Devin, head to the coast to visit family in the days after the murder of a black soldier encounters a white national guardman. Meanwhile, in New York, former Marine Miles Robichard learns that the Jim Crow South is a world unto itself, but he also learns the power of narrative and story as she meets a reclusive author who produced the book that influenced her childhood. This is a novel of subtext, incisive portraits, and a brilliant evocation of a time and place on the cusp of momentous change.”
—Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS

Unremarried Widow
A Memoir, by Artis Henderson
(Simon & Schuster, 9781451649291, $16)

“Unremarried Widow is a love story that will tug at your heartstrings and make you ache for Henderson, as she shares the story of how she met—and lost—her husband, Miles, a handsome young Army pilot. As their love grew, they moved in together and bought a rundown house near the base. When Miles was deployed to Iraq, they e-mailed and phoned until the day Henderson walked into her mother’s house and found two uniformed officers waiting for her. This is a brilliant book about a young woman’s love and loss.”
—Kathy Ashton, The King’s English Bookshop, Salt Lake City, UT

North of Boston
A Novel, by Elizabeth Elo
(Penguin Books, 9780413126126, $16)

“In this gritty debut thriller, Pirio Kasparov has an unusually high tolerance for survival in cold water, a fact that captures the interest of the Navy and the attention of the thugs who were responsible for her submersion. Pirio, the only child of a wealthy, cynical Russian and his late wife, was developed to be a street fighter in boarding school, skills she will need when she decides to investigate why the boat she was on was rammed, her friend killed, and her godson left without a dad.”
—Kathleen McGonagle, Buttonwood Books & Toys, Cohasset, MA

Radiance of Tomorrow
A Novel, by Ismael Beah
(Sarah Crichton Books, 9780374535032, $14)

“Beah’s lush and beautiful prose draws the reader into a story both devastating and uplifting. What happens after true evil destroys a country? In A Long Way Gone Beah wrote a moving memoir about the carnage in his native Sierra Leone. Now, his novel deals with what comes after the battles are over. How do people confront what they have endured? Beah creates many memorable characters, each with tales that will break your heart while they also give you hope for the future.”
—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books & Music, Sunriver, OR

The Secret of Magic
A Novel, by Deborah Johnson
(Berkley Trade, 9780425272787, $16)

“A young lawyer who is sent by Thurgood Marshall to Mississippi in 1942 to investigate the murder of a black soldier encounters a world both surreal and mysterious. Regina Robichard learns that the Jim Crow South is a world unto itself, but she also learns the power of narrative and story as she meets a reclusive author who produced the book that influenced her childhood. This is a novel of subtext, incisive portraits, and a brilliant evocation of a time and place on the cusp of momentous change.”
—Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS