In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette (Anchor, 9780307946911, $16.95)

“Sides tells more than a fateful story of exploration, he brings to life an entire era of discovery and invention that drove it. We meet a wild newspaper magnate who, in addition to racing carriages at midnight in the nude, exiled himself to France after drunkenly urinating in his then-fiancee’s grand piano; an obsessive German cartographer who staunchly believed in a warm, open polar sea at the North Pole; and a strong-willed captain who fell madly in love with the impossible, glaciers grandeur of Earth above the 80th parallel. The meeting of these three eccentric minds led to the voyage of the USS Jeannette, and Sides tells the ship’s tragic story well in cinematic prose with a keen sense of his characters and their changing world.”

—Michael Wallentals, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

Painted Horses (Grove, 9780802127248, $15.95)

“Brooks sweeps post-WWII American prosperity, ancient native traditions, and the rush to tame the still-wild West together in a novel driven by diverse and deeply realized characters that come together in a heart-pounding story. Catherine Lemay is a talented young archeologist defying the traditions of a ‘man’s world’ by approaching the challenge of the Upper Montana canyon slated for flooding for hydroelectric power. What she discovers is beauty, history, threats, and John H – a former mustanger, Army veteran, and enigmatic canyon dweller. Far from her comfortable New York home, Catherine embraces Montana’s stark conditions and with John H uncovers both secrets of the region and truths within herself. A breathtaking debut!”

—Cheryl McKeon, Book Passage, San Francisco, CA

We Are Not Ourselves (Simon & Schuster, 9781476756677, $16)

“Suspicous, full of heartwarming moments of lightness and love intertwined with dark moments of foreboding, this is the story of the marriage, a family, and the struggle to attain the American Dream. Most of all, it is the story of Eileen Leary, the daughter of Irish immigrants, and her unwavering strength, love, loyalty, and hopes for herself, her husband, Ed, and their son, Connell. The novel spans from 1951 to 2011 and is set primarily in New York, but the unexpected tragedy that befalls the Learys could happen in any town in any country. Immensely moving and thought-provoking!”

—Mari Roden, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA