At the Water’s Edge
A Novel, by Sara Gruen
(Scribner, 9781501198240, $16)
“A trip of privileged Philadelphia socialites—Maddie, her husband, Ellis, and their friend, Hank—travel to the Scottish Highlands during WWII to prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. There, they find themselves among villagers dealing with the atrocities of a war that will have bilithely ignored. Full of great period detail and richly drawn settings, “At the Water’s Edge is another spellbinding tale from the author of Water For Elephants.”
—Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

Enter Pale Death
A Joe Sandilands Investigation, by Barbara Cleverly
(Soho Crime, 97816166456172, $15.95)
“The tales of pre-World War II Scotland Yard’s Joe Sandilands are becoming addictive. Intrigue, political manipulations, the ever-present undercurrent of class differences, and the rising spectre of Nazism run throughout the series. Joe always expected to one day wed Dorcas and is alarmed to find that she has attached herself to her academic patron, Sir James Truelove. The detective is sent to Truelove’s family estate to investigate the death of Sir James’s wife. Murder investigations, just like true love, never run smoothly.”
—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

Good Grief
Life in a Tiny Vermont Village, by Ellen Simpson
(The Countryman Press, 9781581573213, $16.95)
“After reading Simpson’s earlier book, Mud Season, I knew I wanted to at least be Facebook friends with her. Now that I’ve read Good Grief, I wish she were my next door neighbor because everyone needs funny, witty people like her in their life. Simpson’s new memoir hits all the high points for readers—it is witty, philosophical, laugh-out-loud funny, and totally relatable. Laugh with her at the mundane and not so mundane situations that can flare up unexpectedly in life.”
—Sue Roege, Chapter2Books, Hudson, WI

The Forgers
A Novel, by Bradford Morrow
(Mysterious Press, 9780802124272, $14)
“Literary thriller is all about book collectors, booksellers, old books and manuscripts, and, of course, forgers. A famous book collector is found murdered and one of the suspects is Will, his future brother-in-law, who was once arrested for forgery. Nothing is proven, but soon Will starts to receive threatening letters written in the hand of long-dead authors. Feeling challenged in his craftsmanship, Will goes into a forgery duel that will force him to the limits to save his livelihood and the love of his life.”
—Jean-Paul Adriano, Water Street Books, Exeter, NH

Irene
The Commandant Camille Verhoeven Trilogy, by Pierre Lemaitre
(MacLehose Press, 9781623656564, $14.99)
“This extremely suspenseful, fast-paced crime novel is not for the faint-hearted. The graphic violence may turn some readers away, but those who stick through the opening scenes will be richly rewarded by following Commander Verhoeven’s pursuit of a monstrous serial killer who models his gruesome crimes on scenes from classic crime novels. The intense action is enriched by scenes from Verhoeven’s domestic life, as well as the interactions among the distinct personalities of his Paris detective squad.”
—Joe Strebel, Anderson’s Bookshops, Naperville, IL

Viking Bay
A Kay Hamilton Novel, by M.A. Lawson
(Signet, 9780451472540, $9.99)
“As recounted in the first book in this series, Rosorito Beach, Key Hamilton went rogue when working for the DEA and was fired. She now has the perfect job working for the Callahan Group, a top secret agency that does the government’s dirty work. Lawson has found the perfect vehicle for Kay’s daredevil personality and her no-holds-barred action when she is trying to right a wrong or bring someone to justice. A rogue agent in a rogue agency suits Kay to a T and makes for nonstop action and a great, entertaining read.”
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

Twelve Longmire Stories, by Craig Johnson
(Penguin Books, 9780143127826, $14)
“Sometimes short stories hit the spot, especially when they’re set in a favorite world. For years, Johnson has gifted his friends with stories at Christmas, and this anthology has brought them together for the first time, along with one new story. For the uninitiated, this is a wonderful introduction into Walt Longmire’s world, and for those already familiar with Absaroka County, Wyoming, these snippets of time spent with favorite characters will be like little vacations, a series of snapshots with old friends. Sometimes funny, sometimes touching, and always entertaining.”
—J.B. Dickey, Seattle Mystery Bookshop, Seattle, WA

The Wild Truth
by Carine McCandless
(HarperOne, 9780062325150, $16.99)
“As sad as Jon Krakauer’s Into the Wild was, the truth behind Chris McCandless’s decision to divorce his parents after graduating from college is even more heartbreaking. Carine, his sister, does an admirable job telling the story of their shared, difficult childhood—rich in material goods, but poor in parental love and support. In public, their parents were wealthy and admired pillars of the community; in private, they abused their children both physically and emotionally. The truths Carine shares do much to redeem her brother’s memory and to demonstrate how strong they both were in the face of adversity.”
—Susan M. Taylor, Market Block Books, Troy, NY

Wolf Winter
A Novel, by Cecilia Ekbäck
(Weinstein Books, 9781602862944, $16)
“Maija, her husband Paavo, and their daughters, Frederika and Dorotea, leave Finland to settle in Lapland in the beautiful area near Blackåsen Mountain. One day, Frederika discovers the body of one of the villagers. Was her killed by wolves or was he murdered? What powers do the mountain have? The harsh ‘wolf winter’ brings the settlers together to survive, but what tragedies, secrets, customs, and vengeance are they hiding? When Maija and her family arrived at the mountain, readers were told, ‘This was the kind of land that didn’t know how to let go.’ Ekbåck’s intriguing tale of Swedish Lapland in 1717 gives insight into the land and people of the far north and is also hard to let go.”
—Barbara Theroux, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT