The Buried Giant: A Novel
By Kazuo Ishiguro
(Vintage, 9780307455796, $16)
“Ishiguro’s new novel is a work of wonder. A re-
current theme in his earlier books is the matter of
what happens after we have lost our way. In The
Buried Giant, Ishiguro explores losing direction,
memory, and certainty, as the primary characters
cling to remnants of codes of behavior and belief.
Which is the way through the forest? Where might our son be? And
where is the dragon, and who shall seek to slay her? Set in the time
just after King Arthur’s reign, Ishiguro’s tale, with striking, fable-like
rhythm and narrative, shows how losing and finding our way runs
long, deep, and to the core of things.”
—Rick Simonson, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

The Daylight Marriage: A Novel
By Heidi Pitlor
(Algonquin Books, 9781616205317, $15.95)
“After being together many years and having two
children, Hannah and Lovell Hall are a married
couple growing apart. One night they have a
terrible argument in which both accusations and
personal objects are thrown. The next morning
the unthinkable happens and Hannah disapp-
ppears. Was this her decision or someone else’s? Did her husband
make readers feel this tragedy deeply and painfully. This is a
page-turner that explores the depths of human relationships as well
as the consequences of even the smallest decision.”
—Sharon Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

The Devil’s Highway: A True Story
By Luis Alberto Urrea
(Back Bay Books, 9780316010801, $16)
Originally published in hardcover in 2004
“Empathy is the hallmark of most great novels, but
the most important and powerful nonfiction often
moves in the same direction as the novel, toward
the complexities that come with such empathy.
Such a work is Urrea’s account of the 26 men who crossed the
border into the southern Arizona desert in 2001. Readers come to
know and understand these men—14 of whom would perish in the
desert—as well as the border patrol agents who are frustrated and
traumatized by their inability to prevent the many deaths along the
‘Devil’s Highway.’ With his extraordinary skills as a writer, Urrea
makes readers feel this tragedy deeply and painfully. This is a
profoundly important and powerful book.”
—John Hughes, Warwick’s, La Jolla, CA

Inside the O’Briens: A Novel
By Lisa Genova
(Gallery Books, 9781476717791, $16)
“Haunted by Huntington’s disease, the O’Brien
family members watch as their patriarch slowly
loses his physical abilities. Stripped of his police-
man’s badge, Joe struggles to find meaning in
his life while his children wonder if they, too, will
eventually succumb to the degenerative disease
that has no cure. Should they get the blood test that will either
give them relief or lead to fear and despair? What would you do? This is
Genova at her best and a story that will provoke many discussions.”
—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA

The Jaguar’s Children: A Novel
By John Vaillant
(Mariner Books, 9780544570221, $14.95)
“Vaillant has established his reputation as an
accomplished writer of nonfiction, and he now
brings his considerable talent to this debut
novel. There are no easy moments in this story
told by Hector, a young man engaged in an ille-
gal border crossing inside a sealed tanker truck.
Vaillant uses Hector’s narration to bring the frequent brutality of the
illegal immigration experience to light in visceral detail, engaging
both the reader’s sympathy and revulsion, which linger long after the
last page is turned.”
—Fran Keilty, The Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington Depot, CT

The Upstairs Wife: An Intimate History of Pakistan
By Rafia Zakaria
(Beacon Press, 9780807080467, $18)
“This is a masterfully executed, gripping, and in-
timate account of both the situation of Pakistani
women and the troubling politics of the Paki-
state. Zakaria chronicles the humiliation of
her aunt, a barren wife, as she is relegated to second-class status
and moved upstairs to make room for her uncle’s second wife. Into
this remembrance, the author skillfully weaves the story of Benazir
Bhutto, the charismatic and powerful Pakistani leader plagued by the
dark history and politics of her country which eventually led to
her assassination.”
—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO

The West of Sunset: A Novel
By Stewart O’Nan
(Penguin Books, 9780143128243, $16)
“This novel begins after F. Scott Fitzgerald and
his wife Zelda have screamed across the Jazz Age
sky like bright, shiny shooting stars. Scott is in
Hollywood working as a script doctor and shakily
holding on to sobriety; Zelda is in a mental hospi-
tal clinging to sanity just as tenuously. Gone are
the days of wine and roses; Scott must now learn to live as if there is
a tomorrow. O’Nan offers a subtle portrait of an American icon as an
ordinary man attempting to redefine himself after nearly losing it all.”
—Kerry Spaulding, University Book Store, Mill Creek, WA

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—John Hughes, Warwick’s, La Jolla, CA

Cutting for Stone: A Novel
By Abraham Verghese
(Vintage, 9780375714368, $15.95)
Originally published in hardcover in 2009
“Twin boys, born to an Indian nun and a British
surgeon in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, are raised in a
hospital after their mother dies in childbirth
and their father abandons them. Fascinated by
the medicine that surrounds them, both brothers
choose to become doctors in an Ethiopia on the edge of revolution.
When both men fall in love with the same woman, one brother flees
to begin a new life in America. Cutting for Stone is a compelling
and beautiful family story that is rich with love and forgiveness.
The epic feel of this book will stay with readers long after the final
page is turned.”
—Sue Boucher, Cottage Book Shop, Glen Arbor, MI

PlainSong
By Kent Haruf
(Vintage, 9780375705854, $15)
Originally published in hardcover in 1999
“Much like Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha County,
Kent Haruf’s Holt, Colorado, captures the mythic
element of the small town. Inspired by the Ameri-
can essence of Steinbeck, Haruf touches our land
with the richness of humanity. Haruf’s precise
and lean prose rivals Hemingway’s magic of the unspoken. With
PlainSong, Haruf’s endurance as a writer will prevail.”
—John Evans, Lemuria Books, Jackson, MS