After Alice: A Novel
By Gregory Maguire
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780060859749, $15.99)
“Maguire, the fairy tale spin doctor, here takes on Wonderland. The heroine is not Alice, but rather her playmate Ada, a sheltered and lonely girl by a twisted spine. Ada inadvertently follows Alice into Wonderland, and her perceptions and experiences are marvelous and fresh, with her dry wit, pragmatism, and imagination enlivening and dominating the scene. Back at home, Alice’s sister Lydia offers readers a glimpse into Victorian times as Maguire’s prose gives a mystical glow to landscapes, personalities, and everyday life.” —Colleen Colwell, BookSmart, Morgan Hill, CA

Dancing with the Devil in the City of God: Rio de Janeiro on the Brink
By Juliana Barbassa
(Touchstone, 9781476756264, $16)
“Rio de Janeiro is one of the world’s most exotic cities and much in the news over the past few years, hosting both the World Cup in 2014 and the upcoming 2016 Olympics. Journalist and Brazilian native Barbassa presents a complex portrait of a city, country, and society attempting to present the best possible face to the world while having to confront numerous problems, particularly a level of crime that is almost beyond belief. Barbassa’s description of this massive city, the native Barbassa presents a complex portrait of a city, country, and everyday life.”

Enchanted August: A Novel
By Brenda Bowen
(Penguin Books, 9780143108078, $16)
“Four unlikely companions join together to rent Hopewell Cottage on Little Lost Island, Maine, for one glorious summer month during which they gradually open up to one another and rediscover their capacity to give and receive love. A brilliant homage to a beloved classic, Bowen’s debut novel is a sparkling read any month of the year.” —Rona Brinlee, The Book Mark, Neptune Beach, FL

Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse: A Novel
By Faith Sullivan
(Milkweed Editions, 9781571311122, $16)
“Whether you are familiar with the work of P.G. Wodehouse or not, you will want to read his books by the time you have finished this wonderful novel. Returning to Harvester, Minnesota, the location of her best-selling novel, The Cape Ann, Sullivan has provided a tale that will resonate with anyone who has been faced with the loss of a loved one, a challenge of faith, the gossip of a community, or the search for one’s independence. What better place to find grace than in the heart of a good book!” —Betsy Schram, The Bookshelf, Cincinnati, OH

The Hand That Feeds You: A Novel
By A.J. Rich
(Scribner, 9781476774596, $15)
“Morgan is living the good life until the day she returns home to find her fiancé mauled to death and her dogs covered in blood. She had rescued her dogs from a shelter, wanting to do something good, and now a man is dead. She doesn’t understand why her dogs, loving animals, would have done such a thing. And the victim is not all he seemed—his job, his home, nothing is as he said, and then there is the discovery of other fiancées. This edge-of-your-seat mystery has twists and turns that will keep you guessing.” —Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books and Music, Sunriver, OR

The Memory Painter: A Novel of Love and Reincarnation
By Gwendolyn Womack
(Picador, 9781250095770, $16)
“Most of us can’t remember our early childhood. What if, thanks to a powerful experimental pharmaceutical, you could access ancient memories—not your own, but other people’s—and acquire their skill sets and languages, too? Neurogenetics may be a new frontier, but for artist Bryan Pierce, it’s not about a drug, it’s all about dreams—dreams in which he might be re-experiencing lives stretching back millennia and gaining dangerous knowledge. Womack couples modern science with imaginative concepts of time, history, and myth in this masterful debut.” —Barbara Peters, The Poisoned Pen, Scottsdale, AZ

Our Souls at Night: A Novel
By Kent Haruf
(Vintage, 978101011921, $15)
“In his final novel, Haruf once again casts an aura of spiritual resonance over the small town of Holt, Colorado. When an elderly woman proposes to her equally old male neighbor that they spend their nights together in conversation, chastely, yet sharing her bed in slumber, the talk among townsfolk begins to stir. Neither Addie Moore nor Louis Waters will allow slurred observations to impact what, for them, has become a blessing encompassing memories and the comfort of having the warmth of another body close on cold and lonely nights. Matters take a dramatic turn, however, with the arrival of Addie’s grandson, Jamie. His presence in the ongoing arrangement brings the inevitable question of moral behavior to the surface. As in a minister’s benediction, Haruf extends a wise and compassionate resolution to this story, the quintessence of his life’s work.” —Mark Ingram, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

Slade House: A Novel
By David Mitchell
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812988079, $16)
“Every nine years, on the last Saturday in October, an iron gate appears in Slade Alley. It is small and easy to miss, but every nine years someone is looking for it and for the promises and mysteries it offers. Like all ghost stories, the end to this tale is inevitable, but anticipation is an opiate. Who will be trapped next? What form will the deception take? With Slade House, Mitchell adds another layer to a tightly wound fictional universe cast with the characters of his previous works. With each novel now, past, present, and future seep into one another, but the center holds.” —Adie Smith, Lemuria Bookstore, Jackson, MS

Undermajordomo Minor: A Novel
By Patrick deWitt
(Ecco, 9780062281227, $15.99)
“With dry and witty dialogue worthy of a Monty Python movie, this wonderful novel takes some getting used to, but once you fall into this world you will not want to come back out. A remote castle, a crazy Baron, an incredibly incompetent cook, and a lovely village girl—what else could the young narrator Lucien, known as Lucy, need for a good story? Of course, the fact that he’s a compulsive liar makes things more interesting, too. Dewitt, the author of The Sisters Brothers, once again crafts an unusual and wholly entertaining story that is sure to surprise and delight his growing legion of fans.” —Dana Schulz, Snowbound Books, Marquette, MI
Revisit & Rediscover

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
By Michelle Alexander
(The New Press, 9781595586438, $19.95)
Originally published in hardcover in 2010
“Using heartrending stories, incendiary court cases, clever parallels, and perfect metaphors, Alexander brings complex issues home for the reader in a way that is impossible to forget. The phrase ‘required reading’ is in danger of being overused, but the truths offered in The New Jim Crow are so revelatory that nothing else will do. This is a book that will forever change readers’ perspectives, and, hopefully, those readers will help change the world.”
—Aaron Curtis, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL

In Patagonia
By Bruce Chatwin
(Penguin Classics, 9780142437193, $17.00)
Originally published in hardcover in 1977
“Bruce Chatwin’s fascination with Patagonia began as a child, with a hairy piece of prehistoric animal skin that his grandmother kept in a curio cabinet. In Patagonia chronicles his adventure, 30 years later, to Argentina and Chile and to the ‘furthest place to which man walked from his place of origins.’ In a series of vignettes that changed travel writing forever, Chatwin maps his interior landscape while covering the people and places that make up the desolate wonder of Patagonia and the southernmost parts of the peopled world.”
—Kelly Estep, Carmichael’s Bookstore, Louisville, KY

Any Human Heart: A Novel
By William Boyd
(Vintage, 9781400031009, $15.95)
Originally published in hardcover in 2003
“Boyd’s clever Any Human Heart remains a great choice for those in search of a meaty, literary novel. The story unfolds through the journals of the fictionalized British everyman Logan Mountstuart, a writer of minor talent, enabling readers to experience the ups and downs of Logan’s life alongside him. The journal begins in 1923, when Logan is 17, and continues through his death in 1991 at 85, providing a bird’s-eye view of English history in the 20th century as Logan crosses paths with major real-life characters.”
—Sally McPherson, Broadway Books, Portland, OR