Commonwealth: A Novel
By Ann Patchett
(Harper, 9780062491794, $27.99)
“Patchett leaves behind the exotic locales and intricate plots of State of Wonder and Bel Canto for an even darker and more difficult place to navigate—the interior of a blended family over the course of several decades. While more domestic than many of her previous novels, Commonwealth offers plenty of intrigue and surprises as Patchett explores the interaction of a group of children forced into each other’s lives because of their parents’ impulsive choices. With keen insight, tears of both sorrow and joy, and some real—if dark—humor, Patchett pulls readers into this complex family’s world, and we are eager for every detail.”
—John Christensen, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI

The Fortunes: A Novel
By Peter Ho Davies
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 9780544263703, $27)
Recommended by Maureen Stinger, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

The Risen: A Novel
By Ron Rash
(Ecco, 9780062436303, $25.99)
Recommended by Jake Reiss, Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL

Lady Cop Makes Trouble: A Kopp Sisters Novel
By Amy Stewart
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 9780544409941, $26)
Recommended by Kathy Kirby, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

The Underground Railroad: A Novel
By Colson Whitehead
(Doubleday, 9780385542364, $26.95)
Recommended by Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT

The Nix: A Novel
By Nathan Hill
(Knopf, 9781101946619, $27.95)
Recommended by Gayle Shanks, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

A Whole Life: A Novel
By Robert Seethaler, Charlotte Collins (Trans.)
(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 9780374289867, $23)
Recommended by Jake Reiss, Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL

Loner: A Novel
By Teddy Wayne
(Simon & Schuster, 9781501107894, $26)
Recommended by Ellen Burns, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

Pancakes in Paris
By Craig Carlson
(Sourcebooks, 9781492632122, trade paperback, $15.99)
Recommended by Elizabeth Merritt, Titcomb’s Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA

The Gentleman: A Novel
By Forrest Leo
(Penguin Press, 9780399562631, $26)
Recommended by Jennifer Richter, Inkwood Books, Haddonfield, NJ
The Known World: A Novel
By Edward P. Jones
(Amistad, 9780061159176, $16.99)
Originally published in hardcover in 2003
“When Jones’ first novel, The Known World, was published in 2003, it was a literary sensation; Jones was even compared to Toni Morrison and William Faulkner. Set in a fictional antebellum Virginia county with a protagonist who is a mixed-race slaveholder, this complex examination of slavery won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and a number of other literary awards. With a quiet restraint and luminous prose, it plumbs the depths of slavery’s harsh realities and anomalies. It is a rare wonder and should not be missed.”
—Carole Horne, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA

Geek Love: A Novel
By Katherine Dunn
(Vintage, 9780375713347 , $16)
Originally published in hardcover in 1989
“A stunning, gripping, and profoundly unforgettable tale of what it means to be a ‘freak,’ Geek Love is the story of the Binewskis, a couple whose traveling carnival is failing, when they decide, through the use of prescription drugs and radiation, to birth a line of ‘freakish’ children to save their business. Narrator Oly, their albino dwarf daughter, leads us through the unsettling journey of her siblings. The humanity portrayed through those whom we may see as the least human among us is captured brilliantly.”
—Kelly Estep, Carmichael’s Bookstore, Louisville, KY

And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic
By Randy Shilts
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9780312374631, $21.99)
Originally published in hardcover in 1987
“And the Band Played On fuses the thoughtfulness of history to the urgency of a great news story. In writing about the people affected by the AIDS epidemic – doctors, politicians, and, most of all, gay men – Shilts powerfully conveys not only his anger at official inaction, but also his love and compassion for the victims. Thirty years after the book’s publication, it continues to inspire, to move, and to drive a stronger engagement with issues and the truth of people’s lives.”
—Michael Barnard, Rakestraw Books, Danville, CA

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