All the Birds in the Sky
By Charlie Jane Anders
(Tor Books, 9780765379795, $15.99)

“All the Birds in the Sky reads like an instant classic. In tackling big questions about what is really important in life and how we are all connected, the novel soars through magic and science, good and evil, and all the shades in between; through the struggles of children against clueless parents, teachers, and spiteful kids; and through the struggles of adults against a heedless society, all with a love story at its heart. Deep, dark, funny, and wonderful!”

—Sara Hincley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA

All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel
By Anthony Doerr
(Scribner, 9781501173219, $17)

“The French girl cannot see, but she can hear, feel, and explore the world around her like a budding naturalist. The German boy has no parents, but he teaches himself how to repair collars, to make a fist out of the upper half of a pair of trousers, and to sneak away. They live just a few miles apart,across the English Channel, but they are worlds apart. And yet, in the same town, under the same sky, they are both experiencing the same thing: the turbulent times they cannot control, and the rock that mysteriously guides their fate.”

—Harriett Logan, Loganberry Books, Shaker Heights, OH

Barkskins: A Novel
By Annie Proulx
(Scribner, 9780743288798, $20)

“In tackling big questions about what is really important in life and how we are all connected, the novel soars through magic and science, good and evil, and all the shades in between; through the struggles of children against clueless parents, teachers, and spiteful kids; and through the struggles of adults against a heedless society, all with a love story at its heart. Deep, dark, funny, and wonderful!”

—Sara Hincley, Hudson Booksellers, Marietta, GA

Jane Steele: A Novel
By Lyndsay Faye
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 9780525623020, $16)

“It would be an easy way out for me to describe Jane Steele as an utterly delightful and charmingly murderously retelling of Charlotte Brontë’s Jane Eyre. However, I am honor-bound to inform readers that Faye has created much more than that: she has spun a snappy, tongue-in-cheek masterpiece that both thrills readers to the bone and expertly plunges their heartstrings in all the right places. One can’t help but cheer on the tenacious Steele as she drinks, sweats, stabs, and gallops her way through her quest to find love, home, and self, while stepping delicately over the bodies of her tormentors—so as not to ruin her dress—along the way. An absolutely marvelous book!”

—Rebecca Spears, One More Page Books, Arlington, VA

The Last Painting of Sara de Vos: A Novel
By Dominic Smith
(Picador, 9781250118325, $16)

“Smith’s new novel unfolds slowly, and each moment of illumination offers a glimpse into the true heart of this quiet, captivating tale. Spanning more than three centuries, it is the story of three lives—a female master painter of the Dutch Golden Age, a moneysed New York patent attorney, and an art history student turned one-time art forger—each changed by one haunting painting. Filled with hurt, grief, and deceit, but also love, grace, and regret, The Last Painting of Sara de Vos is a wonderful read, beautifully written.”

—Heather Duncan, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

Maestra: A Novel
By L.S. Hilton
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 9780399184277, $16)

“Get ready to tear through this hedonistic and refreshingly sex-positive thriller that hits all the right notes. Hilton sets her amoral heroine, Judith, amidst the shallow elegance of the European art world. While Judith’s character is deeply enamored with the lifestyles of the rich and famous, she is also a razor-sharp critic of bad taste and human softness, sniffling out and exploiting male weakness with gusto. She is utterly void of empathy, yet oddly sympathetic. I’d be recommending this novel to everyone I know with a strong constitution and an appreciation for intensity!”

—Selja Emerson, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

Mystery, My Father, the Pornographer: A Memoir
By Chris Offutt
(Washington Square Press, 9781501124793, $16)

“This fascinating memoir of Offutt’s difficult relationship with his father is complicated by the realization that his father was a prolific writer of pornography. Author Andrew Offutt was known as a science fiction writer, but, with his death, his son discovers that his family’s income was due to the astounding abundance of writing in this other genre. As he catalogs his father’s library of writings, drawings, and more, Offutt tries to understand the man that kept his family walking on eggshells. Difficult to read at times, but complex, intriguing, and hard to put down.”

—Nona Camuel, CoffeeTree Books, Morehead, KY

Sweetbitter: A Novel
By Stephanie Danler
(Vintage, 978010118860, $16)

“Sweetbitter has bite. Our heroine, Tess, moves from nowhere to New York, where her life is going to officially begin. Yes, she’s had a childhood and been to college, but none of that counts. Nothing starts counting until she crosses the river and starts working at a restaurant downtown. While she’s there, she falls in love and obsession, she finds a life, and starts to find herself. The writing is sharp, and the story is fierce and electric, like you have to read carefully or you might hurt yourself. Even still, I could not stop.”

—Tyler Goodson, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA

Vinegar Girl: A Novel
By Anne Tyler
(Hogarth, 9780804141284, $15)

“Tyler’s latest offering is part of the Hogarth Shakespeare Project, in which Shakespeare’s works are retold by contemporary authors. In this retelling of The Taming of the Shrew, Kate Battista keeps house for her scientist father and her younger sister, Bunny. When Dr. Battista’s lab assistant, Pyotr, is in danger of being deported, a plan is hatched to marry him to Kate so he can stay in the country. The story that follows is a thought-provoking look at the role of women in society, with questions that are just as relevant today as they were more than 400 years ago, all addressed with the same insightful humor that readers have come to expect from Tyler.”

—Sharon Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube
By Blair Braverman
(Ecco, 9780062311573, $14.99)

“The brilliant and engaging writing in this memoir belies the author’s young age. Braverman offers a taut and honest recounting of a young woman fiercely chasing down her dream and confronting myriad dangers—both natural and man-made—with intelligence and grit. This white-knuckle read left me awe-struck. The transition of Braverman’s conviction, and her lyrical rendering of the landscape of Alaska took my breath away.”

—Katie McGrath, Arcadia Books, Spring, Green, WI

The Woman in Cabin 10: A Novel
By Ruth Ware
(Gallery/Scout Press 9781501132957, $16)

“When journalist Lo Blacklock sees someone throw a woman’s body over the side of a small cruise ship, it should be clear that a crime has been committed. The problem? No one is missing. This is far from the travel magazine assignment that brought Lo on board, but she can’t just give up. Something happened and she must find the answer. But can she do so without losing her own life? This is a fun read full of psychological thrills and twists that readers absolutely will not see coming.”

—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA