The City Baker’s Guide to Country Living: A Novel
By Louise Miller
(Penguin Books, 9781088382144, $16)

“This charming debut follows big-city baker Olivia Rawlings as she flies her cushy Boston job for small-town New England after accidentally setting her dessert—and the building—on fire. Along the way, she makes new friends, family, and a sense of belonging. Perfect for fans of Kitchen of the Great Midwest and Sarah Addison Allen, this is a comforting, big-hearted book that will enchant readers with its quirky characters, beautiful setting, and mouthwatering descriptions of baked goods.”

—Rebecca Speas, One More Page, Arlington, VA

Dragon Teeth: A Novel
By Michael Crichton
(Harper, 9780062473363, $36.99)

“I cried for two days when Michael Crichton died, in part because there would be no more novels. However, after these years, Dragon Teeth is a true surprise, and a joyful one indeed! Although he’s more associated with futuristic science, Mr. Crichton was a dab hand at history, and this novel is deeply grounded in fact. At its heart are two feuding paleontologists, Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Marsh, participants in the late-1800s Bone Wars, a period of frenzied fossil discovery. Add to the mix a fictional Yale student, friendly and unfurled Native Americans, a heap of.varmints and scoundrels, and a lady or two, and you’ve got a rollicking good story!”

—Susan Tunis, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA

The History of Rock & Roll, Volume I: 1920-1963
By Ed Ward
(Flatiron Books, 9781250384916, $19.99)

“This is a great, fun book by Ward, a correspondent for NPR’s All Things Considered and one of the founders of the South by Southwest Conference and Festivals (SXSW). Covering the period of 1920 to 1963, almost every chapter in the book is devoted to a single year and the songs that were recorded and/or released during that year. Ward’s sweeping survey reads like the 400-plus page liner notes for a 1,000-song box set and, as a music nerd, that is one of the best compliments I can give!”

—Joe Turner, BookPeople, Austin, TX

I Will Send Rain: A Novel
By Rae Meadows
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9781250145932, $15.99)

“As I read I Will Send Rain, I was transported to the West of the 1930s as the Dust Bowl storms began. Annie Bell is struggling to keep her home, body, and family free of the layers of dust that reappear as fast as they are wiped clean. Her husband has constant dreams of rain; her teenage daughter is blinded by love; her young son suffers from dust pneumonia; and now an admirer is forcing Annie to question her own ethics and being. I was moved by the simultaneous longing and compassion that make this a beautiful and powerful story.”

—Lori Fazio, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, CT

Out of Bounds: A Karen Pirie Novel
By Val McDermid
(Grove Press, 9780802127266, $16)

“McDermid is a thriller writer at the top of her game and Out of Bounds has everything readers want in a character-driven suspense novel: fully human characters, tight plotting, unexpected twists, and a story that grabs and won’t let go. Karen Pirie is still reeling from the death of her partner and is coping by throwing herself into her work as detective chief inspector of Scotland’s Historic Cases Unit. As the unit works to unravel a 20-year-old case through a DNA match from the driver in a recent car accident, Pirie digs into the background of a mentally disturbed man who appears to have committed suicide. Highly recommended!”

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

The Impossible Fortress: A Novel
By Jason Rekulak
(Simon & Schuster, 9781501144424, $15.99)

“You don’t have to remember the 1980s to deeply ‘get’ this sweet memory trip back to the decade when video games, personal computers, and mixtapes were new. But if you did come of age in the 1980s, look out. All those awkward boy/girl moments, all those songs that comprised the soundtracks of your make-out sessions and your break-ups, all the wonder of your first encounters with MS-DOS buried deep in a far corner of your memory...Jason Rekulak will bring it all back to you.”

—Carol Spurling, BookPeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID

Nobody’s Son: A Memoir
By Mark Slouka
(W.W. Norton & Company, 9780393354751, $15.95)

“This is a gripping, soul-searching study of memory and personal pain written in the most searing prose. To some extent, most of us think we came from dysfunctional families, but this memoir is going to become the calibration standard for dysfunction. How Slouka survived his parents and their scarred Czech pasts, their humiliating years as refugees, and their years of unhappy marriage in America is a small miracle. What’s left are some large emotional holes that Slouka attempts to patch up in front of the reader. An absolutely mesmerizing read.”

—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

The Hundred Lies of Lizzie Lovett
By Chelsea Sedoti
(Sourcebooks Fire, 9781492652755, $10.99)

“Lamb offers another nostalgia-fueled foray into the past, this time in the era of bobbysoxers and hidden ‘women’s problems,’ with the rise of feminism and the pill. I was transported to the past, and to the present, with Lamb, in her inimitable way, weaves a family dramedy in the era of rock & roll, and a joyful one indeed!”

—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

I’ll Take You There: A Novel
By Wally Lamb
(Harper Perennial, 9780062663308, $15.99)

“Lamb offers another nostalgia-fueled foray into the past, this time in the era of bobbysoxers and hidden ‘women’s problems,’ with the rise of feminism and the pill. I was transported to the past, and to the present, with Lamb, in her inimitable way, weaves a family dramedy in the era of rock & roll, and a joyful one indeed!”

—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

A List of Cages
By Robin Roe
(Disney-Hyperion, 9781484776407, $9.99)

“Adam and Julian were foster brothers, but they haven’t seen each other in years. Adam is a senior just trying to finish high school, while Julian is the quiet freshman who likes to keep his secrets to himself, and stay out of trouble. Serving as an aide to the school counselor, Adam is reunited with Julian when the counselor asks him to track down the reticent student. When the truth of Julian’s living situation is revealed, both of their lives are put on the line. This raw, heartbreaking story is one that beautifully speaks to the true meaning of friendship, brotherhood, and family.”

—Shannon Alden, Literati Bookstore

Skye
By Neal Shusterman
(Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers 9781481427433, $11.99)

“In the future, people no longer age or die. All diseases have been eradicated, people are immortal, and everyone is the age they want to be, but there is a catch. Since no one dies naturally, society of reapers, called scythes, keeps the population under control. Every year people are given a quota of people that they must ‘glean’ in order to keep the world from overpopulation. Citra and Rowen are young apprentices who are fighting to be scythes, a position neither of them really wants. In order to win, they must learn all the ways of taking a life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own. This is the first book in a new series from the award-winning Shusterman.”

—Kris Stephens, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS