After the Crash: A Novel
By Michel Bussi
(Hachette Books, 9780363096911, $15)
“...old-fashioned crime novel considers the miraculous survival of a three-month-old infant girl in an airplane crash in which all perished—including a second three-month-old baby. An 18-year struggle is unleashed between two rival sets of grandparents on opposite ends of the economic scale, one of which is accorded custody of the child. Does she really belong to that family? Is her brother really her brother? As the age of majority of the survivor approaches, the questions become more urgent and the private detective who has been on the case for 18 years tries to bring some closure.”
—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT

All the Winters After: A Novel
By Seré Prince Halverson
(Sourcebooks Landmark, 9781492635215, $15.99)
“This is the compelling story of a damaged young woman, Nina, who has taken refuge in a cabin in the Alaskan woods for the last 10 years after escaping an abusive marriage. Kachemak Winkel, the cabin’s owner, returns to Alaska after a long absence, still mourning for his parents and older brother who lost their lives in a plane crash 20 years earlier. Two young, damaged souls are at the heart of this beautifully written novel, and the wild and dangerous beauty of Alaska is present throughout. Perfect for book groups!”
—Patricia Worth, River Reader Books, Lexington, MO

A Certain Age: A Novel
By Beatriz Williams
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062404961, $15.99)
“Open the pages of A Certain Age and be drawn into ‘Hill’s’ rich, atmospheric world of Manhattan in the 1920s—a world where society pages hint at gossip, speakeasies tease with gin, and secrets and hidden desires lie just below the polished veneer of the fashionably dressed and well-bred families of the city.

This deft retelling of Richard Strauss’ comic opera Der Rosenkavalier is simply exquisite.”
—Dawn Reimert, The Concord Bookshop, Concord, MA

The Charm Bracelet: A Novel
By Viola Shipman
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9781250071330, $15.99)
“This is the story of three women slowly losing themselves until they are reunited in Scoops, Michigan, at the beginning of summer: Arden, working at a job that gives her nothing but a paycheck; Lauren, becoming sadder as she moves farther from doing what she loves most; and Lolly, gradually forgetting all the things in her life that brought her joy and happiness. Linked together like the charms on their wrists, Arden, Lauren, and Lolly will remind each other of times gone by, how to appreciate the present, and how to embrace whatever the future brings. Reading this sweet story reminded me how lucky we are if we are close to those who share our history.”
—Sylvia Smith, Bookmiser, Roswell, GA

The Children’s Home: A Novel
By Charles Lambert
(Scribner, 9781501177404, $15)
“Tragically disfigured and reclusive, Morgan lives in a secluded country estate with only his housekeeper, Elsa, to keep him company—until the children start to arrive. The first, an infant named Moira, is left in a basket on the doorstep; others soon follow—including the oddy precocious David—the eldest at five years old. But what does the children’s mysterious presence portend for Morgan and the world in which he lives? Through lyrical prose, Lambert creates an absorbing and dream-like narrative.”
—Dan Doody, University Bookstore Store, Seattle, WA

Dodgers: A Novel
By Bill Beverly
(Broadway Books, 9780062405029, $15)
“Four young black men, following orders, leave their tightly bound South Central Los Angeles community, and drive across the country to perform a hit to prevent a witness from testifying against their boss. They are ghetto born, raised, and trained, so they have outlaw skills and the resulting respect in their community. In mourning for his parents and older brother who lost their lives in a plane crash 20 years earlier. Two young, damaged souls are at the heart of this beautifully written novel, and the wild and dangerous beauty of Alaska is present throughout. Perfect for book groups!”
—Patricia Worth, River Reader Books, Lexington, MO

Fallen Land: A Novel
By Taylor Brown
(St. Martin’s Griffin, 9781250071330, $15.99)
“Fallen Land by debut novelist Brown is like a blend of Charles Frazier’s Cold Mountain and Cormac McCarthy’s The Road. In the setting of the southern Appalachians and crossing Georgia during Sherman’s March to the Sea, Brown shares the beautifully written story of Callum, a young Irish immigrant, and Ava, the orphan daughter of a Carolina doctor who perished in the war. Together they stay one step ahead of a loosely formed band of vicious bounty hunters at the trailing end of Sherman’s storming destruction of the South. Determination, survival, and love all combine to form a thrilling and romantic story.”
—Doug Robinson, Eagle Eye Book Shop, Decatur, GA

The Fireman: A Novel
By Joe Hill
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062200648, $18.99)
“A pandemic called Dragonscale has infected civilization and threatens to end it. The contagion spreads quickly and people are spontaneously combustible. Harper Grayson is a nurse struggling to save those who are infected. When she contracts Dragonscale, Harper is rescued by an enigmatic man known only as The Fireman, who takes her to a camp populated by those who have learned to control their disease. Longtime fans of Hill and his father, Stephen King, will enjoy the homage to King’s masterpiece The Stand, while new readers will appreciate Hill’s work on its own merit.”
—Sharon K. Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

Mothering Sunday: A Romance
By Graham Swift
(Vintage, 9780062405029, $15)
“A beautiful afternoon on Mothering Sunday—one now known as Mother’s Day—in 1924 provides the backdrop for this story: that of an estate on the Norfolk coast, long ago, and memory. Jane Fairfax, a housemaid, has been the longtime lover of the heir-apparent of the estate next door. Their final cataclysmic afternoon together will alter the course of her destiny in ways that she never contemplated. Told in flashbacks by the nonagenarian Jane, this rare gem of a novella will haunt readers long after they turn the final pages. Superb!”
—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

The Portable Veblen: A Novel
By Elizabeth McKenzie
(Penguin Books, 9780143118597, $16)
“This story of an engaged couple trying to navigate crazy family dynamics, betrayal, and professional dilemmas is one of the funniest and most unique novels I’ve ever read. If you list the story’s elements—a hippy commune, a combat field-medicine controversy, screaming snails, a devious pharmaceutical exec, a long-dead social theorist, the world’s greatest hypochondriac, and a main character who believes a squirrel is following her around California trying to tell her something—you would think that there is no way it could all come together, but it absolutely does, and ingeniously so. A terrific book!”
—Rico Lange, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

The Railwayman’s Wife: A Novel
By Ashley Hay
(Washington Square Press, 9781501117404, $15)
“...The Railwayman’s Wife is a remarkable story, drenched by the wells of sadness, yet it leaves readers marveling at the beauty of it all. Annaika Lachlan is grieving her beloved husband and attempting to find solace in books. But the town of Thirroul, Australia, is home to more than one person damaged by grief. Together as members of a club no one would choose to join, each begins to move towards healing. As one savors the novel’s heartbreaking prose, a world is revealed in which hope and grief are forever intertwined and love may be the strongest current of all.”
—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

The Travelers: A Novel
By Chris Pavone
(Broadway Books, 9780385348508, $16)
“Pavone’s third novel delivers everything readers have come to expect from his thrillers. As in his previous work, the world of publishing takes a central role: This time it’s a fading travel magazine and its companion travel agencies in the midst of an acquisition. Will and Chloe are a young married couple dealing with a home in need of extensive repairs so Chloe decides to take a less active role at Traveler magazine after Will is brought on board as the European correspondent. When Will meets an alluring woman while on assignment, she will change his life in ways he never could have foreseen.”
—Billie Bloebaum, Third Street Books, McMinnville, OR