The After Party: A Novel
By Anton DiScipio
(Riverhead Books, 9780399573817, $16)

“The real star of *The After Party* is the novel’s setting: 1950s Texas, where wealthy housewives and Junior League debutantes rule the social landscape. At the center is Joan Fortier, an unconventional bachelorette who is not content to sit on the sidelines—or to stay in Houston. Joan’s attitude causes conflict with her childhood best friend, CeCe Buchanan, and their dynamic rivalry is the catalyst for much of the story.”

—Annie B. Jones, Booksheath, Thomasville, GA

A House Without Windows: A Novel
By Nadia Hashimi
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062449658, $15.99)

“Hashimi sets her layered and suspenseful novel at the crossroads of tradition and modernity in present-day Afghanistan. Her nuanced and well-paced tale tells the story of Zeba, who is accused of murdering her husband. In the Chil Mahtab prison, where Zeba awaits her trial and sentencing, she comes to know a colorful cast of female inmates, many of whom are ordinary women who have been snared in various traps of family honor and have been cast away by their families and society. This is a compassionately written and moving page-turner.”

—Marya Johnston, Out West Books, Grand Junction, CO

Lily and the Octopus: A Novel
By Steven Rowley
(Simon & Schuster, 9781501126239, $16)

“Rowley’s latest novel, set in the late 1950s Texas, where wealthy housewives and Junior League debutantes rule the social landscape, is a fitting tribute to a man whose early dreams of glory proved to be a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

—Annie B. Jones, Booksheath, Thomasville, GA

My Last Continent: A Novel
By Nadia Hashimi
(Scriber, 9781501124716, $16)

“Suspense and love intertwine against the starkly beautiful backdrop of Antarctica in this wonderful debut. Deb is a researcher devoted to her life to the magnificent penguins that populate this remote corner of the world, where the ice-choked waters set the stage for the tragic collision of a supersized cruise liner and mountainous iceberg. When Deb discovers the man she loves is aboard the doomed ship, the poles of her world shift, as she must now focus on rescuing the one person who has saved her from her self-inflicted solitude. Raymond does a masterful job building the tension while the dramas of both the past and present unfold.”

—Luisa Smith, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

The View From The Cheap Seats: Selected Nonfiction
By Neil Gaiman
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062262277, $17.99)

“I must be one of the few people to love Neil Gaiman most for his nonfiction. Over the years, I’ve scoured the shelves and online for his speeches, his introductions, his forewords, even his tweets and blog posts, so this book is a true treasure.”

—Serena Longo, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA

Wintering: A Novel
By Peter Geye
(Vintage, 9781018689981, $16)

“It is tempting to inhale Wintering in a great rush because it is such a suspenseful, wild, and dangerous survival story. That would be a mistake. Geye magically conveys the starkness, beauty, and despair of the northern Minnesota borderlands in prose that deserves to be savored. He gives us characters with deep, complex interior lives, who struggle with secrets, love, and damaged relationships. A powerful father-son story and a landscape revealed in breathtaking detail make this a novel to read with care and wonder.”

—Tripp Ryder, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN

Another Brooklyn: A Novel
By Jacqueline Woodson
(Amistad, 9780062359995, $14.99)

“National Book Award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson has crafted a beautiful, heart-wrenching novel of a young girl’s coming-of-age in Brooklyn. Effortlessly weaving poetic prose, Woodson tells the story of the relationships young women form, their yearning to belong, and the bonds that are created – and broken. Brooklyn itself is a vivid character in this tale—a place at first safe. A brilliant and relentless thriller.”

—Alden Graves, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

Before the Fall: A Novel
By Noah Hawley
(Grand Central Publishing, 9781455561797 , $15.99)

“When a private plane plunges into the ocean off the coast of Mexico, the two survivors—a middle-aged artist along with his young son—are snared in various traps of family honor and have been cast away by their families and society. The painter turns up in London. Is it really an original Isaac Robles? Or is there a more complicated story behind the seemingly innocuous painting? A fun read with interesting meditations on the purpose and making of art.”

—Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

The Muse: A Novel
By Jessie Burton
(Ecco, 9780062409935, $15.99)

“Burton’s follow-up to *The Miniaturist* also takes place in the art world, but this time the settings alternate between London in the 1930s and pre-World War Spain in the I930s. In 1967, a long-lost work by a dead Spanish painter turns up in London. Is it really an original Isaac Robles? Or is there a more complicated story behind the intriguing painting? A fun read with interesting meditations on the purpose and making of art.”

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The After Party
By Candice Millard
(Riverhead Books, 9780399573817, $16)

“Joan’s attitude causes conflict with her childhood best friend, CeCe Buchanan, and their dynamic rivalry is the catalyst for much of the story.”

—Annie B. Jones, Booksheath, Thomasville, GA

Modern Lovers: A Novel
By Emma Straub
(Riverhead Books, 9781594634680, $16)

“Set in trendy Brooklyn, Straub’s latest novel follows the lives of former bandmates Zoe, Elizabeth, and Andrew and their teenage children, Ruby and Harry. When Ruby and Harry begin a relationship, their parents are forced to face and reveal long-buried tensions and secrets. Straub’s spot-on depictions of middle-age suburban life and teenage angst are alternatively searing and hilarious. This book is the ultimate literary beach read!”

—Angela Spring, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC

Herof the Empire
By Candice Millard
(Anchor, 9780307948786, $17)

“No one was more certain that he was destined for greatness than Winston Churchill and he let nothing deter or discourage him from achieving that goal. The young Churchill saw his path to prominence and power determined by his beloved father, it tests everything he’s ever known, including his faculty of navigating the world. A truly remarkable study of human nature and the importance of family—love, how to let go, how important friends are.”

—Mary Cotton, Newtonville Books, Newton Centre, MA

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