The Terranauts: A Novel
By T.C. Boyle
(Ecco, 9780062349415, $16.99)
In the early 1990s, a grand experiment began in the Arizona desert to determine if human life could be sustained in an engineered, sealed ecological system. The mission failed spectacularly, but fiction gives it another chance in this riveting story of eight scientists who commit to live under glass for two years. They battle hunger, fatigue, and isolation, but the real drama is personal. He writes with wit and perspicacity on both human relations and ecology, and this novel is among his best.
—Sharon Flesher, Brilliant Books, Traverse City, MI

Victoria: The Queen: An Intimate Biography of the Woman Who Ruled an Empire
By Julia Baird
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780812982282, $20)
“Only 18 when she assumed the throne, Victoria ruled a vast empire for more than 60 years. In this biography Baird reveals a woman who so dominated the world that an entire epoch was named for her. Her nine children and their children inhabited most of the thrones of Europe until the upheaval of World War I, and her expansionist policies enabled Great Britain to rule over a quarter of the world. Baird portrays a passionate and vibrant woman who struggled to assert herself in a time and place that was dismissive of the female sex. An enthralling biography.”
—Barbara Hoagland, The King’s English Book Shop, Salt Lake City, UT

Writing to Save a Life: The Louis Till File
By John Edgar Wideman
(Scribner, 9781501147296, $16)
“This is a powerful meditation on the life of Louis Till, the father of Emmett Till whose brutal murder in 1955 spurred the Civil Rights Movement forward. It is not common knowledge today that Louis Till was convicted of a crime and executed in Italy while serving in the Army during World War II. When Wideman found out decades later about Louis Till's fate, he set out to investigate the tragic lives of both father and son. The result is a profound and moving exploration of race, manhood, violence, and injustice in our society.”
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS

You Will Not Have My Hate
By Antoine Leiris
(Penguin Books, 9780735222151, $15)
“This slender tome began as a social media viral sensation. Shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015, a husband and father wrote an open letter to the perpetrators of those attacks, stating time and again that they would not have his hate, despite the fact that he lost his wife and the mother of their infant son. This memoir closely follows the hours after the attack, chronicling Leiris’ thoughts and emotions for the next several days up through his wife’s funeral. Though brief, this is a powerful meditation on grief and resilience.”
—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA

Orphans of the Carnival: A Novel
By Carol Birch
(Anchor, 9780197309791, $16.95)
“Orphans of the Carnival is the story of a time when the oddities of nature could be a lucrative path to fame and fortune. Although heartbreaking, it is the wonderful journey of a talented woman who just wants a normal life, in spite of being alternately vilified and celebrated. Filled with many unforgettable characters and amazing writing, this is a book that will stay with readers for a long time.”
—Mary McBride, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS

The Fifth Petal: A Novel of Salem
By Brunonia Barry
(Broadway Books, 9781000015568, $16)
“Brunonia Barry’s newest witchy tale, set in Salem, reservation as alternately rich in culture and disheartening in its injustice, exploits are convincing and real. Erdrich offers a view of life on an Ojibwe farm, this book takes the reader on a days-long search for the past and the present in modern day Bogotá. A prominent political cartoonist is shaken when a forgotten uncertainty from the past resurfaces. This psychological study of the concept that what we believe makes us who we are is a masterpiece!”
Nicole Magistro, The Bookworm of Edwards, Edwards, CO

The Round House: A Novel
By Louise Erdrich
(Harper Perennial, 9780062357274, $10)
“When 13-year-old Joe’s world is shattered by a horrific crime perpetrated against his mother, he seeks to right the wrong. Erdrich masterfully lets the reader experience this period in Joe’s life through his eyes. His world is drawn with sure strokes, and his family and their traditions and his friends and their exploits are convincing and real. Erdrich offers a view of life on an Ojibwe reservation as alternately rich in culture and disheartening in its injustice, poverty, and disrespect. Compelling and immediate, The Round House is a mesmerizing book.”
—Jenny Lyons, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

The Sleepwalker: A Novel
By Chris Bohjalian
(Vintage, 9780804170994, $16)
“Once again, master storyteller Bohjalian has crafted a thoughtful, suspenseful novel that grabs hold and doesn’t let go until the end. Exploring the world of sleepwalking and parasomnia, he recounts the story of the night Liana’s mother disappeared. At turns a harrowing mystery and a heartbreaking tale of a family coping with their mother’s affliction, The Sleepwalker is filled with beautiful prose that culminates in a twist readers never see coming.”
—Kathleen Carey, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

The Girl From Venice
By Martin Cruz Smith
(Harper Perennial, 9780062357274, $10)
“This is a crime novel set in Venice at the end of WWII, it is filled with beautiful prose that culminates in a twist readers never see coming.”
—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA

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—Mary McBride, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS

Reputations: A Novel
By Juan Gabriel Vasquez
(Riverhead Books, 9780735216860, $16)
“With direct and forceful narrative and a translation as smooth and peaceful as the quiet narrator himself, this book takes the reader on a days-long search for the past and the present in modern day Bogotá. A prominent political cartoonist is shaken when a forgotten uncertainty from the past resurfaces. This psychological study of the concept that what we believe makes us who we are is a masterpiece!”
Nicole Magistro, The Bookworm of Edwards, Edwards, CO

All That Man Is: A Novel
By David Szalay
(Graywolf Press, 9781555977900, $16)
“All That Man Is was recently longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and with good reason. The novel’s parade of characters, ranging from teenagers to a man in his twilight years, when taken as a whole, represents an ‘everyman’ in whom readers can easily see pieces of themselves. With prose reminiscent of Amis, Kundera, and Nabokov, Szalay offers a collection of related stories that speak to the mundane qualities of modern life with a sympathetic tone, a reflection of our struggle to move forward in a world increasingly unfamiliar to most of us, but not without hope.”
—Tom Beans, Dudley’s Bookshop Café, Bend, OR

Everything You Want Me to Be: A Novel
By Mindy Mejia
(Atria/Emily Bestler Books, 9781501123436, $16)
“To some extent we are all chameleons. We fit ourselves to the situations we find ourselves in, act differently around our boss than with our family, and tell little white lies out of kindness. But what if that’s all you did? Hattie Hoffman is just a teenager, but she has already mastered the art of observing the people around her, assessing their desires and expectations and molding herself accordingly. Everything You Want Me to Be is a chilling mystery that explores the mutability of identity through the eyes of three very different people. If you’re looking for the next captivating thriller that everyone will be comparing to Gone Girl or The Girl on the Train, this is it!”
—Lauren Peugh, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ

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“Brunonia Barry’s newest witchy tale, set in Salem, follows the threads of three mysteries that all ended in murder. Callie, who carries the scars of murders past, is joined by detectives Rafferty and Towner from Barry’s The Lace Reader in a race to stop yet more killings. Barry’s prose excels at keeping readers chas"