Anything Is Possible
By Elizabeth Strout
(Random House Trade Paperbacks, 9780062383410, $17)

“Anything Is Possible merges the interlocking story form of Strout’s Olive Kitteridge with the characters from My Name is Lucy Barton. No one captures both the decency and cruelty of small towns the way Strout does—the kindness of a school janitor, the merciless taunts an impoverished child must endure. The story of Mississippi Mary, about a Barnburner visiting her mother in Italy, just might break your heart. Every story in this amazing collection is about the events that can make or break us—war, abuse, poverty, illness—and how we respond. I loved this marvelous book, and you should absolutely read it.”
—Jill Zimmerman, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI

The Baker’s Secret: A Novel
By Stephen P. Kiernan
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062369598, $16.99)

“Emma is an apprentice baker in a small Normandy village during the Nazi occupation whose quiet determination to keep her friends and grandmother alive is heroic and heart-wrenching. Forced to bake ten loaves of bread for the Kommandant each day, Emma stretches her supplies to make extra loaves to help feed the starving villagers. While she refuses to think she is part of the resistance and has lost hope of the Allies arriving, Emma epitomizes the French spirit of survival. What a beautiful book to recommend to book groups and customers seeking a well-written story.”
—Patricia Worth, River Reader Books, Lexington, MO

Chemistry: A Novel
By Weike Wang
(Vintage, 9780062543227, $16)

“The unnamed narrator of Wang’s winning and insightful novel is working on her PhD in synthetic organic chemistry, but the chemistry she really needs to learn is the one that makes relationships click. The prodigy daughter of high-achieving Chinese American parents, she’s always strived to meet their demanding expectations, but her prodigy daughter’s wins are paid for with pain. Wang’s beautifully plotted novel of an overachieving daughter who’s never felt like the one the parents truly want is a joy to read.”
—Laurie Greer, Politics & Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC

The Force: A Novel
By Don Winslow
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062664433, $16.99)

“Denny Malone, veteran NYPD detective and leader of the elite Manhattan North Task Force, didn’t start out as a dirty cop. Over the years, however, the odd payoff and favor became routine, and a talented and effective cop slid past the point of no return, stealing millions in money and drugs. As Winslow shows us, keeping citizens safe isn’t always clean and easy work, but even Malone and his team’s corruption is chump change compared to the real players behind the scenes who are busy rebuilding the city after the September 11 attacks. A gutty and uncompromising look at the dark heartbeat of modern America.”
—Patrick Milliken, The Poisoned Pen Bookstore, Scottsdale, AZ

Hourglass: Time, Memory, Marriage
By Dani Shapiro
(Anchor, 9780062364261, $15)

“As I consider the themes of memory and marriage in my own life, I realize that Dani Shapiro has reached across time to touch me with her insight and candor, and this is how Hourglass will touch all its readers. What a particular and original voice she has shared, reflecting on questions like, how are relationships formed? How does love burn and transform you? How does marriage, that age-old subject, play out between creators in the race against time? Through fragments, touching bits of memory, and poetic flights of fancy, this memoir honors the genre and elevates the form.”
—Cristina Nosti, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI
By David Grann
(Vintage, 9780307742483, $16.95)

“One of the most horrific chapters in American history is brought back to the national consciousness with alarming detail in Killers of the Flower Moon. After the Osage Indian Nation strikes oil, its members become rich beyond their wildest dreams, only to encounter a vast and murderous conspiracy that will leave more than 60 members of the nation dead. David Grann reconstructs those murders and the subsequent investigations with astonishing care and reveals the depths of a conspiracy that stretched from Oklahoma to Washington, D.C.”
—Steven Shonder, Anderson’s Bookshop, Naperville, IL

Maggie Murders: A Novel
By Anthony Horowitz
(Harper Perennial, 9780062645234, $16.99)

“Who better than the talented Anthony Horowitz to create this marvelous mystery within a mystery. Yes, we’re treated to two mysteries for the price of one. One set in a peaceful village in England during the 1950s with the one and only Detective Atticus Pund taking the case, and the other set in contemporary times with a book editor who becomes an amateur sleuth. Horowitz pays tribute to the golden age of British crime with references to mysteries created by the likes of Dorothy Sayers and Agatha Christie. A perfect book to read in a cushy chair with a cup of tea (hot or iced).”
—Ken Favell, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI

Miss You: A Novel
By Kate Eberlen
(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062460233, $16.99)

“Tess and Gus first cross paths in Florence as 18-year-olds with their futures stretching ahead of them. Back in England, they live their lives oblivious to all the near-misses and chances they have to encounter one another again. The meandering way their lives circle each other is charming rather than frustrating, but the heart of this book lies in the choices Tess and Gus make as their lives unfold in ways neither anticipated. Exceptionally poignant and filled with relatable and deeply human characters, this is a thoughtful story about how you can never quite guess what life has in store for you—and maybe that’s for the best.”
—Kelly O’Sullivan, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, CT

Rise & Shine, Benedict Stone: A Novel
By Phaedra Patrick
(Park Row, 9780778330899, $15.99)

“This is one of the most engrossing novels that I’ve read in a while. It is ultimately a road trip through the beautiful, haunted land of Bulgaria. An American woman arrives to teach English and inadvertently picks up the wrong bag at the airport. The bag contains a box containing human remains. Her helpful,igmatic taxi driver takes her into Bulgaria’s unsettled present in search of the family that surely wants the urn back. This novel about self-discovery and historical reconciliation is thrilling, introspective, and very well paced.”
—Dianne Patrick, Snowbound Books, Marquette, MI

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane: A Novel
By Lisa See
(Scribner, 9781476773478, $16.99)

“This captivating story is set in a remote Yunnan village where, for many years, the Akha people have followed the rituals and cycles of harvesting tea leaves. Slowly, the changes going on in the rest of China begin to reach the area. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls in the village, acts as translator for a stranger seeking a rare tea from Yunnan. When Li-yan gives birth to a baby out of wedlock, she leaves her in a city where she will be taken to an orphanage. Over the years, mother and daughter dream of finding one another again. Brew yourself a cup of tea and settle down with The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane.”
—Elizabeth Merritt, Titcomb’s Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA