Future Home of the Living God: A Novel
By Louise Erdrich
(Harper Perennial, 9780062694065, $16.99)
“Powerful, prophetic, and absolutely pertinent to our times, Louise Erdrich’s new novel is a horrifying, haunting story about the lengths the government will go to control women’s reproductive rights and ensure the success of mankind as we know it. Riveting, repulsive, and revealing at the same time, Erdrich captures the essence of Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* and spins a new twist sure to tantalize and terrorize readers. Once again, Erdrich challenges societal constraints and conceives a novel guaranteed to leave you guessing.”
—Kristin Bates, McLean & Eakin Bookseller, Petoskey, MI

Freshwater: A Novel
By Akwaeke Emezi
(Grove Press, 9780802128997, $16)
“A full and arresting examination of the search for a sense of belonging to one’s self. *Freshwater* reads like the result of a successful dinner party hosted by Chimamanda Adichie, with a guest list featuring Octavia Butler, Neil Gaiman, Salman Rushdie, Helen Oyeyemi, and several preeminent cultural and sociological scholars. *Freshwater* follows Ada, a child born with ‘a foot on the other side,’ through her early life in Nigeria and her emigration to America. It gives us new vocabulary and territories for exploring the awkwardness of intersections that we encounter—gender, culture, tradition, history, personal mythology—and how one might go about locating herself in the pull of so many competing influences.”
—Sarah Bumstead, Vroman’s Bookstore, Pasadena, CA

The Ice House: A Novel
By Laura Lee Smith
(Grove Press, 9780802128645, $17)
“*The Ice House* is a lovely story full of heart and wry humor that manages to convey life in all its rich, messy, tragic wonder. John MacKinnon has it good but seems to be on the verge of losing it all. The ice company he runs in Florida is in trouble with OSHA, and then he discovers that he may have a brain tumor. While he is supposed to be taking it easy, Johnny decides he must try to mend his estranged relationship with his son in Scotland and with the granddaughter he’s never met. The result is a touching, funny, heartbreaking ride you won’t soon forget.”
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS

The Last Equation of Isaac Severy: A Novel in Clues
By Nova Jacobs
(Touchstone, 9781501175138, $16)
“Isaac Severy has died and taken the secret of his last mathematical equation with him. Except that he has also hidden clues to a hiding place for this final work and shares these clues with his adopted granddaughter, Hazel. But she’s not the only one looking for his equation, and some of the other searchers are dangerous indeed. This inviting mystery allows us to follow along as Hazel makes her way toward the answer, so be prepared to put on your thinking cap and get out your best clue-solving approach—you’ll need all the help you can get.”
—Linda Bond, Auntie’s Bookstore, Spokane, WA

Only Killers and Thieves: A Novel
By Paul Howarth
(Harper Perennial, 9780062690982, $16.99)
“An unforgettable first line propels this debut novel about two brothers on the Australian frontier who are drawn into a world of conflict and revenge that tests their beliefs and morals to the ultimate degree. The age-old conflict between settlers and indigenous people is played out on the southern continent much as it was in the American West and Russian East. As the brothers become deeply embroiled, they enter a savage and unforgiving landscape, both physically and culturally, and it becomes the ultimate test of their growth and humanity. This is a work that is as unrelenting as the world it describes.”
—Bill Cusumano, Square Books, Oxford, MS

Silence: In the Age of Noise
By Erling Kagge
(Vintage, 9780525563648, $14.95)
“Kagge’s deceptively simple meditation on silence complicates something we all think we understand. Quoting from a wide range of artists and thinkers, Kagge constructs a graceful mosaic of definitions, statements, and paradoxes. We all have a primal need for silence, Kagge states, and in this noisy world, it’s the ‘new luxury.’ Though it’s found inside of us, Kagge, an explorer and publisher, traveled to Japan for it to find in meditation and yoga. He walked to Antarctica in search of it, spending 50 days alone. Made up of 33 brief sections and ending in a blank page, Kagge leaves plenty of room for the reader’s own reflections, demonstrating the kind of active engagement he believes silence invites.”
—Laurie Greer, Politics and Prose, Washington, DC

Ultraluminous: A Novel
By Katherine Faw
(Picador, 9781250192728, $17)
“No one is just one thing. Take K, for instance: She spends her days getting just high enough and managing the men who pay her for sex. Time passes in a blur of heroin, hedonism, and risky sex from Duane Reade, but underneath that routine is something else. And it is this something else that is with K all the time, through the danger for Jules. As Jules discovers the truth behind the lies on which their past is built, she begins to see the world around her in a new light. A touching, funny, heartbreaking ride you won’t soon forget.”
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS

The Widows of Malabar Hill
By Sujata Massey
(Soho Crime, 9781616959767, $15.95)
“Life for a single woman in Bombay in 1916 is fraught. But Perveen Mistry has the support of her lawyer father and is educated as a lawyer, so very few women are in this time and place. She becomes essential when the law firm needs to interview three widows living in full purdah, secluded from the world in general and men in particular. When their house agent is murdered, the male police are stymied by the women’s inaccessibility. The backstory is disturbing in how the law favored even abusive men over women. A fascinating start to a new series.”
—Lisa Wright, Oblong Books and Music, Millerton, NY

The Wolves of Winter: A Novel
By Tyrell Johnson
(Sourcebooks Fire, 9781492668060, $10.99)
“When all the terrible things imaginable—and unimaginable—happen, all that is left is your family, whether blood or those you bond with in the aftermath and moral devastation. Teenager Lynn McBride remembers the world before—before nuclear war, before the flu—and even before her family moved to the Canadian territories for exploring the awkwardness of intersections that we encounter—gender, culture, tradition, history, personal mythology—and how one might go about locating herself in the pull of so many competing influences.”
—Sarah Bumstead, Vroman’s Bookstore, Pasadena, CA