“Future Home of the Living God: A Novel” by Louise Erdrich

“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 Booksellers, Petoskey, MI

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“Freshwater: A Novel” by Akwaeke Emezi

“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

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“The Ice House: A Novel” by Laura Lee Smith

“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. Johnny 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

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“The Last Equation of Isaac Severy: A Novel in Clues” by Nova Jacobs

“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

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Only Killers and Thieves: A Novel
By Paul Howarth
“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

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Silence: In the Age of Noise
By Erling Kagge
“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 to look for it 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

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Ultraluminous: A Novel
By Katherine Faw
“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 sushi from Duane Reade, but underneath that routine is something else. And it is this something else that is with K all the time, throughout the manicures and the art films and the stain on the ceiling above her bed and the memories of what came before. Who is K, really? Ultraluminous is raw, hideous, and beautiful, an open wound of a book.”
—Lauren Peugh, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

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The Widows of Malabar Hill
By Sujata Massey
“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, as 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

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The Wolves of Winter: A Novel
By Tyrell Johnson
“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 of devastation. Teenager Lynn McBride remembers the world before—before nuclear war, before the flu, and even before her family moved to the Canadian Yukon—and those memories tease and haunt her while giving us clues to her history. While her family struggles daily for food and warmth, they are together and they watch out for each other, never encountering strangers—until Jax shows up…”
—Eileen McGervey, One More Page Books, Arlington, VA

As You Wish
By Chelsea Sedoti
“To outsiders, Madison may look like an ordinary town in the middle of the Mojave Desert, but it’s anything but ordinary, because every Madison-born resident gets to go to the cave and make a wish on their 18th birthday—and that wish will come true. Eldon has seen how those requests for money, beauty, and athletic prowess, among more unique wishes, have rarely brought true happiness. Now he has to decide what to ask for on his own wishing day, knowing that what he wants more than anything—for his sister to recover from the accident that left her dying in a hospital in Las Vegas—is against the rules of wishing. Chelsea Sedoti’s layered story hooks readers from the first page.”
—Carla Ketner, Chapters Books & Gifts, Seward, NE

Everless
By Sara Holland
“Welcome to a world where you can sell your blood and your time, where the rich stay young and the poor die young. Desperate to save her father, Jules returns to the one place where she is most in danger: Everless, home of the Gerlings. Holland has created complex characters and powerful women and done some impressive world-building, and each mystery that unfolds only increases the danger for Jules. As Jules discovers the truth behind the lies on which her past is built, she begins to see the world around her in a new light. A thrilling start to a new series!”
—Kate Towery, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

Truly Devious: A Mystery
By Maureen Johnson
“Johnson delivers on everything a great YA book needs: a bit of romance, some quirky teen characters at a quirky boarding school, and a delicious murder mystery that leaves the reader guessing at every turn. I couldn’t put it down!”
—Melissa Fox, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS
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