The Address: A Novel
By Fiona Davis
(Button, 9780524742020, $16)
“Like in her debut, The Dollhouse, Fiona Davis meshes historical fiction, thriller, mystery, and love story in her sophomore novel, moving back and forth between the late 1800s and the mid-1980s and putting her own juicy and highly readable spin on classic ‘women’s’ fiction. Set in New York’s storied and infamous Upper West Side apartment building The Dakota, The Address juxtaposes the stories of two women whose lives are connected, in dangerous, warm, illicit love, an illegitimate child, drug abuse, a mysterious murder weapon, wealthy wrong-doers, a severed finger, a stay in an insane asylum, and a guest appearance by famed feminist reformer Susan B. Anthony. With a strong sense of humor and an amazing climax, this is the kind of adventure through time and the investigation into the family secrets.”
—Joy Preble, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX

Artemis: A Novel
By Andy Weir
(Broadway Books, 9780553448146, $16)
“A fast-paced and harrowing saga of a sibling pair, both trying to do what is right for the other while navigating the physical and political terrain around them. Ragnvald and his sister, Svanhild, are our protagonists, and the book contains alternating chapters about each of their adventures. One fights a war on the battlefield while the other fights a war in the bedroom, growing into adulthood quickly in this harsh environment. Rich with battles, love stories, and the breathtaking landscapes of Norway, The Half-Drowned King is a must-read.”
—Giovanni Boivin, The Book Loft, Great Barrington, MA

The City of Brass: A Novel
By S.A. Chakraborty
(Harper Voyager, 9780062678198, $16.99)
“S.A. Chakraborty introduces a fantasy set in the Middle East that thrusts us into the magical world of Daevabad. The City of Brass follows, in parallel, Nahri, a con artist and naturally gifted healer, and Ali, prince of Daevabad and fiercely trained soldier. Nahri and Ali find themselves learning new lessons on how to survive changing environments and difficult alliances, while trying to figure out the complexities of their lives. The City of Brass is a wonderfully written, mystical adventure that keeps you guessing about what will happen next.”
—Barry Nelliporwitz, Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor, MI

The Dark Net: A Novel
By Benjamin Percy
(Mariner Books, 9781328953757, $14.99)
“In The Dark Net, Benjamin Percy’s best work yet, the author takes the poorly understood underbelly of the Internet and brings it to terrifying life in Portland, Oregon, in a tale complete with hipsters and homeless people, supernaturals, being, hardcore geeks, a journalist, and a blind 12-year-old girl. As a former resident of Portland and a technologist, I was particularly impressed with Percy’s nuanced portrayal of downtown Portland and his use of our digital age to mine the inner depths of his characters. This thriller feels like a combination of American Gods and the Stephen King books I grew up through as a teenager. Highly recommended.”
—Nathan White, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN

The Dollhouse: A Novel
By Sarah Miller
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062685353, $16.99)
“In Caroline, Sarah Miller recreates Little House on the Prairie from Ma’s point of view. An off-looked character, in Caroline we find a rich inner life that rarely breaks her smooth surface. She is constantly wrestling with fears and doubts about this journey and everything that it means. Although Caroline seems consumed by caregiving, childbearing, and tasks for others, we get a glimpse of her true self through her thoughts. Miller draws out the quiet richness of the character, showing Caroline to be as integral to the story as Pa or Laura.”
—Jordan Barnes, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA

Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body
By Roxane Gay
(Harper Perennial, 9780062420718, $16.99)
“This memoir is about trauma and privilege, self-loathing, and a silent fear kept secret for far too long. It’s about our obsession with body weight and body image, what happens when we internalize our pain and become self-destructive, and how very, very large people are treated in humiliating ways. The descriptions of addictive behavior and the journey to want to still make this book more universal than I expected. When you decide that this is the day you’re going to change and you get out of bed and fail, that’s pretty normal—just remember to like yourself enough to overcome the fear of healing and try again. Highly recommended.”
—Todd Miller, Arcadia Books, Spring Green, WI

The Half-Drowned King: A Novel
By Linnea Hartsuyker
(Harper Paperback, 9780062563705, $15.99)
“A man running naked among the gridlocked cars of an L.A. freeway is the catalyst for this dark tale set in the rough neighborhoods of a decidedly unglamorous Los Angeles. In this version of the city, it’s not only the poor and the powerless who are desperate; even the better-off characters turn out to be broken sinners who crave hope and redemption. The gritty beauty of Pochoda’s writing, whether about cruelty and violence or about love, no matter how desperate, pulled me into the characters’ lives and compelled me to keep reading all night.”
—Francesca De Stefano, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA

The Martian
By Andy Weir
(Mariner Books, 9780553448146, $16)
“In a dazzling, emotive prequel to her bestselling novel Practical Magic, Alice Hoffman brings the reader back into the world of the Owens family. The Rules of Magic takes us back two generations with practical Franny, who must learn how to love; sensitive Jet, who must learn how to persevere; and restless Vincent, who must learn how to be happy. Hoffman’s writing is frank, tender, vivid, and elusive all at once. Full of sorrow and beauty and courage. The Rules of Magic is a delicious, satisfying read.”
—Jenny Lyons, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT

See What I Have Done: A Novel
By Sarah Schmidt
(Grove Press, 9780802128133, $16)
“See What I Have Done is a spellbinding historic reimagining of a Gothic tale many of us grew up knowing about. Schmidt brings to life all the characters in Lizzie Borden’s world and takes the reader on an adventure through time and the investigation into the murder of her parents. Schmidt takes context to make the moment in history as much of a character as the people in the story, and the lively characters will keep you transfixed on the murder mystery. It is hard to say that a book about a murder is delightful, but See What I Have Done is a delightfully suspenseful, and satisfying read.”
—Steve Iwanski, Turnrow Book Co., Greenwood, MS

The Red-Haired Woman: A Novel
By Orhan Pamuk
(Vintage, 9781019742306, $16)
“Beguiling is the perfect word to describe The Red-Haired Woman, which feels like an entrancing fairy tale, set in a faraway, exotic land populated with fascinating men and women. The mystery plays out over the life of a woman whose actions and choices over one summer, however fleeting, will turn out to be the formative events that shape her entire life. I particularly enjoyed the summer nights in the quiet town, as the boy stole around the back alleys, hoping for a glimpse of the red-haired woman. This book is unlike any other I’ve read.”
—Susan Tunis, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA

The Rules of Magic: A Novel
By Alice Hoffman
(Simon & Schuster, 9781501137488, $16)
“This memoir is about trauma and privilege, self-loathing, and a silent fear kept secret for far too long. It’s about our obsession with body weight and body image, what happens when we internalize our pain and become self-destructive, and how very, very large people are treated in humiliating ways. The descriptions of addictive behavior and the journey to want to still make this book more universal than I expected. When you decide that this is the day you’re going to change and you get out of bed and fail, that’s pretty normal—just remember to like yourself enough to overcome the fear of healing and try again. Highly recommended.”
—Susan Tunis, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA

Wonder Valley: A Novel
By Ivy Pochoda
(Grove, 9780802128133, $16)
“A man running naked among the gridlocked cars of an L.A. freeway is the catalyst for this dark tale set in the rough neighborhoods of a decidedly unglamorous Los Angeles. In this version of the city, it’s not only the poor and the powerless who are desperate; even the better-off characters turn out to be broken sinners who crave hope and redemption. The gritty beauty of Pochoda’s writing, whether about cruelty and violence or about love, no matter how desperate, pulled me into the characters’ lives and compelled me to keep reading all night.”
—Francesca De Stefano, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA