Abandon Me: Memoirs
By Melissa Febos
(Bloomsbury USA, 9781628665855, $17)
“Melissa Febos has one of those minds that's as good at describing scenes as it is at clearly breaking down a complicated idea or articulating ambivalence. Abandon Me is a powerhouse collection—each essay can be enjoyed on its own, but taken together, they form a striking autobiographical portrait of a talented young writer and thinker. You won’t want to abandon a voice this powerful, and you won’t forget it either.”
—John Franciscon, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT

Fever Dream: A Novel
By Samanta Schweblin, Megan McDowell (Trans.)
(Riverhead Books, 9780399184604, $16)
“Haunting, foreboding, eerie, and ominous, Schweblin’s Fever Dream is the first of the Argentine author’s books to appear in English. Despite its brevity, Fever Dream throbs with a quickened pulse, as heightening tension is its most effective quality. An intriguing yet purposefully vague plot adds to the story’s mystique, one of peril, poison, and the unexplained terror of worms. Metaphorical in scope, Schweblin’s impressively constructed tale leaves much to the imagination but is all the richer for doing so. Unsettling and compelling, this is a delicious, potent novel not to be missed!”
—Jeremy Garber, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

One of the Boys: A Novel
By Elif Batuman
(Penguin Books, 9780449310610, $16)
“Batuman’s voice is bitingly original and her protagonist, Selin, brings vitality to the pages through her odd, serious, and slightly sardonic naivete. The honesty of Selin’s self-exploration during her first year at Harvard struck a chord with me. Her frank sense of observation as she navigates first love, friendship, and freshman year are a breath of fresh air. I have not read anything quite like The Idiot and I doubt I will again. I loved it.”
—Kisky Holwerda, Astoria Bookshop, Astoria, NY

Edgar and Lucy: A Novel
By Victor Lodato
(Picador, 9781250096998, $18)
“Edgar and Lucy is about a terribly broken family that faces crisis after crisis yet never gives up trying to be a family. The main narrator is eight-year-old Edgar, a child brilliant beyond his years but who has a problem relating to almost everyone except his grandmother, Florence. Edgar’s mother, Lucy, loves him in her own way but thanks to Florence, Lucy really doesn’t need to make much of an effort. When Florence dies, everything changes. A stunning novel, dark at times, raw and bold, written with an uncanny feel for life and death, Edgar and Lucy kept me spellbound waiting for its conclusion but unwilling for the story to end.”
—Clay Belcher, Signs of Life, Lawrence, KS

Edgar’s mother, Lucy, loves him in her own way but to almost everyone except his grandmother, Florence. The main narrator is eight-year-old Edgar, a child brilliant beyond his years but who has a problem relating to almost everyone except his grandmother, Florence. Edgar’s mother, Lucy, loves him in her own way but thanks to Florence, Lucy really doesn’t need to make much of an effort. When Florence dies, everything changes. A stunning novel, dark at times, raw and bold, written with an uncanny feel for life and death, Edgar and Lucy kept me spellbound waiting for its conclusion but unwilling for the story to end.”
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

The Heart's Invisible Furies: A Novel
By John Boyne
(Hogarth, 9781524760793, $17)
“A love song to John Irving, this new novel from John Boyne, acclaimed author of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, may just be his masterpiece. The story follows the life of Cecil Avery, an adopted child raised in repressed Ireland by unconventional parents. Hilarious and awkward, heartbreaking and beautiful, the pains and small triumphs of its characters leave you feeling hopeful for the future. I loved this book!”
—Whitney Kaaz, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women
By Kate Moore
(Sourcebooks, 9781492650595, $17.99)
“The harrowing true story of The Radium Girls is a compelling and fortifying portrayal of a dark, insidious mystery and the ‘shining girls’ who revealed it. Author Kate Moore takes the reader from Orange, New Jersey, to Ottawa, Illinois, following several women who work at factories that specialize in painting watch faces and instrument dials with the glow-in-the-dark wonder element radium. As these women fall ill in various and dire ways in the ensuing years, they seek answers and relief from the very companies that would deny them. In The Radium Girls, Moore, like the ‘shining girls’ before her, casts a bright light on these lives lost too young.”
—Heather Herbaugh, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD

Small Great Things: A Novel
By Jodi Picoult
(Ballantine Books, 9780345544971, $17)
“Picoult can be relied upon to find the themes that are most important to her and her readers, then interweave them with wit, warmth, and skill. In Small Great Things, she illuminates the racial divide in our country through the vivid stories of a black nurse, a white supremacist, and the public defender who intervenes when the worst happens. This excellent, timely novel is sure to be loved by Picoult’s fans and is certain to create new ones.”
—Michael Hermann, Gibson’s Bookstore, Concord, NH

All Our Wrong Todays: A Novel
By Elan Mastai
(Dutton, 9781101985151, $16)
“Tom Barren is a time traveler. From 2016 a different 2016 from ours, that is. It’s complicated. You see, he travelled from his techno-perfect utopian 2016 back to 1984 and really messed things up, leaving us with our current world. Now, the Tom-in-our-world, given the chance to return to 1984 and fix what he broke and return the world to the spiffy state he knows, faces the dilemma of loyalty to friends and family from his world versus the possibility of settling down with the love of his life in our grungy world. Whichever he chooses, people he loves will cease to exist. I predict the clever, witty, and poignant All Our Wrong Todays will be a huge bestseller for screenwriter and first-time novelist Elan Mastai.”
—Alice Meloy, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

The Fall of Lisa Bellow: A Novel
By Susan Perabo
(Simon & Schuster, 9781476769480, $16)
“I was surprised by the lasting impact of this novel. Though it speaks to a horrible crime, it is not the crime that becomes the plot, but rather the crime’s impact. This book is an intimate look at adolescence—of how gritty and hard it can be. Through Meredith’s eyes, we are reminded of the tug-of-war between needing family and needing independence, the way that friendship and loyalty can get lost in the status wars of high-school cliques, and how innocence and wisdom twist together to leave behind something much more complex. I loved this book for its intimacy rather than its sensationalism.”
—Susan McCloskey, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

Girl in Disguise: A Novel
By Greer Macallister
(Sourcebooks Landmark, 9781942652731, $15.99)
“I’m a resourceful and strong young woman, there is no other option. That’s the concept behind Greer Macallister’s telling of the real, honest-to-goodness life of Kate Warne, the first female Pinkerton detective. Kate is a widow with no money and no honest prospects, and she is desperate. Her unconventional upbringing taught her flexibility, and, spotting Pinkerton’s ad, she won’t take no for an answer. She is hired as an agent and, having proved her value, is soon hiring and training more female agents and serving as a spy as the U.S. prepares to split apart. Girl in Disguise is a delight: entertaining and a sure nonstop read.”
—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

Abandon Me
—Susan McCloskey, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

Me
—Jodi Picoult, Author, Small Great Things

Abandon Me
—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC

Me
—Jeremy Garber, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

Abandon Me
—Clay Belcher, Signs of Life, Lawrence, KS

The Idiot
—Kisky Holwerda, Astoria Bookshop, Astoria, NY

Small Great Things
—Susan McCloskey, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

The Idiot
—Heather Herbaugh, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD

Me
—Michael Hermann, Gibson’s Bookstore, Concord, NH

Abandon Me
—Kisky Holwerda, Astoria Bookshop, Astoria, NY

Small Great Things
—Heather Herbaugh, Mitzi's Books, Rapid City, SD

The Idiot
—Alice Meloy, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

Me
—Clay Belcher, Signs of Life, Lawrence, KS

Small Great Things