By Camila Shamsie (Riverhead Books, 9780735217690, $16)
“Camila Shamsie has written a brilliant story about two families who share geography and become linked by fate—one that has kept secrets of love, loss, and death, and another that has adapted to the so-called mainstream. Family, religion, the politics of media, various forms of seduction, and present-day devices all bring themselves to bear in this story of American expansion from Brooklyn to Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, and Brazil as the three characters bring their unique histories to the story. Allende’s new novel is a captivating look at a time in history when the world was turning, and a wonderful book club choice.”
—Rick Simonson, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

The Ninth Hour

By Alice McDermott (Picador, 9781250192745, $17)
“Alice McDermott’s dazzling The Ninth Hour turns on the contradictions that confound our need to reconcile with mortality. The empathetic characters, at once agents and benefactors of Christian charity, grow to realize not just the grace but also the hubris of their faith. A stunning work of generational storytelling, McDermott is a master artisan of humanity.”
—Lori Feathers, Interabang Books, Dallas, TX

Uncommon Type: Some Stories

By Tom Hanks (Vintage, 9781101911945, $16)
“Wow! Here is a collection of stories that are at times funny, often moving, and really, really good, if not great. ‘Welcome to Mars’ is perhaps my favorite. It’s Kirk’s 19th birthday, and he joins his father to go surfing on what turns out to be a defining day in his life. And then there’s Alan Bean Plus Four,” which is a hilarious telling of four friends’ journey to the moon. Read it. You’ll be pleasantly surprised by Tom Hanks’ writing.”
—Randy Schiller, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO

All the Crooked Saints

By Maggie Stiefvater (Scholastic Press, 9780545930819, $10.99)
“Here is how I would describe All the Crooked Saints: A dusty, magical, desert fable chock full of miracles, owls, rock ‘n’ roll, pilgrims, giants, fighting roosters, paper flowers, radio waves, and love in all of its many forms. It’s very different than Stiefvater’s Raven Cycle books, but it should be—as it is, All the Crooked Saints is a tabulist love song to self-reflection, the human heart, and the fact that we are not as alone in this world as we think.”
—Rebecca Speas, One More Page Books, Arlington, VA

Dear Martin: A Novel

By Nic Stone (Ember, 9781019395529, $9.99)
“Justyce helps his drunk girlfriend into the backseat of a car. A police officer sees them and accuses him of something more nefarious, which leaves Justyce sitting for three hours with handcuffs on. At the same time, there are news stories of young black men being shot by police officers. These events combine to lead Justyce to explore how issues of race intersect with his life as an African-American student in a mostly white private high school. He does this through a series of letters he writes to Martin Luther King. Told with depth and tenderness, Dear Martin is an honest and challenging exploration of race and the many ways it impacts our culture.”
—Karen Schott, Devaney, Doak & Garrett Booksellers, Farmington, ME

The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue: A Novel

By Mackenzi Lee (Katherine Tegen Books, 9780062382818, $9.99)
“Get ready to swoon over this book. A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder meets Sorcery and Cecelia in this delicious, historical romp. Monty and Percy, best friends since forever and Monty hopes maybe something more, are headed off on their grand tour. Despite severe prohibitions on alcohol, sex, and other vices, Monty is determined to have a decadent time. But they get more than they bargained for when Monty accidentally steals an important object from the French court. Filled with highwaymen, pirates, and heart-pounding exploits of a romantic nature, this is the summer road-trip adventure you’ve been waiting for.”
—Marika McCoola, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

Release: A Novel

By Patrick Ness (HarperTeen, 9780062403209, $10.99)
“In this beautifully written coming-of-age young adult novel, Adam Thorn, teenage son of a pastor, struggles to accept his sexuality. And a struggle it is, as his Christian parents, recognizing that he is different from his older brother, keep him at arm’s length. They have done this for a number of years and Adam feels that his family does not love him. His acceptance and exploration of his sexuality leads him to be able to differentiate between lust and love. Ness’ writing explores Adam’s feelings and confusion with tenderness and empathy.”
—Biddy Kelho, Hockessin Books, Hockessin, DE

There’s Someone Inside Your House

By Stephanie Perkins (Speak, 978042249889, $10.99)
“Finally! A young adult horror novel where the body count is as high as the tension! Stephanie Perkins brings the terror as a small town finds its population of teenagers rapidly dwindling. With a diverse cast of misfits and a heroine with secrets of her own, the plot never slows down, racing to a bloody and heart-stopping end! The next time you find a drawer or a door open that you swear you closed, chances are Perkins will have you running out of the house for fear of your life.”
—Kate Towery, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

Windfall

By Jennifer E. Smith (Ember, 9780399559402, $10.99)
“At its heart, Jennifer E. Smith’s Windfall is about what we choose to do with luck, whether it is good or bad. Heart is something this book has plenty of—heart and hope fill every page. Windfall is one of those books that forces a happy sigh out of you once you’ve turned the last page, and inspires you to care—not just about its wonderful trio of characters, but about the world around you and the people on the outskirts of your mind. Winning the lottery is about luck, but Windfall reminds us that luck can only bring so much, and our choices, our reactions to that luck, are what impact our lives.”
—Rachel Strolle, Anderson’s Bookshop, Naperville, IL