Home Fire: A Novel
By Kamila Shamsie

“Kamila Shamsie has written a brilliant story about two families who share geography and become linked by fate—one that has known exile 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 utterly telling form. The U.S., London, Karachi, Syria, and Istanbul all figure into this book. One of the finest writers at work in English today, Kamila Shamsie has written her most heartbreaking, beautiful, necessary book yet.”
—Rick Simonson, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA

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In the Midnight Room: A Novel
By Laura McBride

“Four women, five decades, and one Las Vegas nightclub come together in a powerful story of lust, grief, and family ties. Laura McBride spins a richly evocative tale of the glory days of Las Vegas and the women who inhabit this world. Their stories are intertwined both with and without their knowledge, and together they forge a future that none of them could foresee. Taking readers from the depths of grief and then sending them soaring with emotion, 'Round Midnight is an awe-inspiring novel that deserves to be on the bookshelf of every avid reader.”
—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

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In the Midst of Winter: A Novel
By Isabel Allende

“The title In the Midst of Winter, which comes from an Albert Camus quote, takes on many meanings in this story of two NYU professors, Richard Bowmaster and his tenant, Lucia Maraz, both in their 60s, who have each resigned themselves to a ho-hum existence. When a snowstorm accident brings Evelyn Ortega, a housekeeper for a wealthy family, into the picture, these three lives become entangled and anything but boring. The story takes the reader from Brooklyn to Mexico, Guatemala, Chile, and Brazil as the three characters bring their unique histories to the story. Allende’s new novel is both a love story and a story of the plight of the immigrant. A page-turner and a wonderful book club choice.”
—Mamie Potter, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC

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Logical Family: A Memoir
By Armistead Maupin

“Armistead Maupin’s new memoir, Logical Family, tells the story of his life with the same humor and grace that have made his Tales of the City series so beloved. Fans will delight in reading about the inspirations for Barbary Lane and its inhabitants, but readers who are brand new to Maupin will also fall in love. His story is that of a young boy growing up in the old South, in the Navy, in Vietnam, and in the closet—at least until he found his home in 1970s San Francisco. Even if he weren’t already an LGBT icon and literary hero, this memoir would be one to champion.”
—Emilie Sommer, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

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The Ninth Hour: A Novel
By Alice McDermott

“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, The Ninth Hour is compulsively readable and deeply thought-provoking. McDermott is a master artisan of humanity.”

—Lori Feathers, Interabang Books, Dallas, TX

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Uncommon Type: Some Stories
By Tom Hanks

“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

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All the Crooked Saints
By Maggie Stiefvater

“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 fabulist 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

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Dear Martin: A Novel
By Nic Stone

“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.”

—Karin Schott, Devaney, Doak & Garrett Booksellers, Farmington, ME

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The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue: A Novel
By Mackenzi Lee

"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

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Release: A Novel
By Patrick Ness

"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 Kehoe, Hockessin Bookshelf, Hockessin, DE

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There’s Someone Inside Your House
By Stephanie Perkins

“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

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Windfall
By Jennifer E. Smith

“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

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