the causes and motivations that might go into the creation of a monster.

—Jessica Cox, Plot Twist Bookstore, Ankeny, IA

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Not of This Fold: A Novel
By Mette Ivie Harrison
(Soho Crime, 9781642980937, $16.99)

“Following up on her debut novel in the Linda Wallheim mystery series, Mette Ivie Harrison’s new novel again ventures into the world of Mormon women fighting for power and a voice. Wallheim is pulled by her friend and fellow doubter, Gwen Ferris, into the investigation of a murder of a Latina mother whose death threatens to reveal corruption at the very highest levels of church leadership. Harrison also deftly handles the side plot of Wallheim’s son’s struggles as an openly gay man on his first mission. Her intimate understanding of Mormonism and carefully drawn, complex characters create a world with a faith in transition, mirroring the struggles of the larger culture.”

—Kelly Barth, Raven Bookstore, Lawrence, KS

The Paragon Hotel: A Novel
By Lyndsay Faye
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 978073520776, $17)

“Good gracious. I just adore all things written by Lyndsay Faye. Like her glorious Gods of Gotham series, The Paragon Hotel is a clever, fast-paced read with a unique ensemble of characters. Set during the Prohibition era, the novel bounces between the mafia-ridden streets of Harlem and the racially tense community of Portland, Oregon. Faye has given readers another deviously delicious story.”

—Anderson McKeen, Page and Palette, Fairhope, AL

The Water Cure: A Novel
By Sophie Mackintosh
(Anchor, 9780525562832, $16)

“He’s what they know: men hurt women, even if they don’t mean to. And the island is the only safe place in a world that has been completely corrupted by pollution—at least that’s what they’ve been told. So sisters Grace, Lia, and Sky occupy themselves with the painful rituals their parents have demanded, exercises that will make them stronger and immune to love’s sickness. Every day is the same until their father disappears and three strange men appear in his place. Violence is inevitable, stronger and immune to love’s sickness. Every day is the same until their father disappears and three strange men appear in his place. Violence is inevitable.”

—Lauren Peugh, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

Empress of All Seasons
By Emiko Jean
(HMH Books for Young Readers, 9780358108269, $9.99)

“What a fantastic fantasy read! Author Emiko Jean makes full use of Japanese words and mystical elements of the yokai to craft a feudal-like world of historical emperor-led Japan featuring a kick-ass young woman with powers beyond mortal humans. Her Hunger Games-like quest for survival of the fittest in the bewitched Season Rooms brings together themes of love, trust, and loyalty. A real page-turner, this young adult fantasy is sure to be hit.”

—Maureen Palacios, Once Upon a Time, Montrose, CA

How She Died, How I Lived
By Mary Crocket
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 9780316523820, $10.99)

“One of my absolute favorite books of 2018! The unnamed main character is one of five girls that were texted by a local boy with murder on his mind—only one girl replied, and only one girl was brutally murdered. A year later, our heroine is dealing with survivor’s guilt, the upcoming sentencing for the murderer, and a crash on the dead girl’s boyfriend. A life forever changed by the what-ifs of one fateful day—the violence that can so easily end the life of any woman—makes for an unforgettable and unputdownable read.”

—Kate Towery, The Fountain Bookstore, Richmond, VA

Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee
By Casey Cep
(Knopf, 9781101947869, $26.95)

“In Cold Blood and To Kill a Mockingbird kept me up reading all night as a teen, and I can now add Furious Hours to the list of couldn’t-put-it-down tomes. I was enthralled, educated, and awestruck by Casey Cep’s well-researched and masterfully written true-crime account of a rural minister, his lawyer, and his killer. Thankfully, Cep discovered and brought to light what surely could have been Harper Lee’s second bestseller. Now...off to get a good night’s rest!”

—Beth Stroh, Viewpoint Books, Columbus, IN

I Miss You When I Blink: Essays
By Mary Laura Philpott
(Atria Books, 9781982102807, $26)

“Mary Laura Philpott writes about today’s American woman in a marvelously frank and witty book of essays, i Miss You When I Blink. Women of all ages will nod their heads when reading about the decision to have babies (or not), the pitfalls of volunteering, the difficulty of getting a cat out from under the bed, the reward of crossing things off ‘the list,’ the challenge of finding time for relaxation, and, above all, the acceleration of time as we age. Philpott shares pivotal moments from her life in such a reliable way that, through both laughter and tears, readers will exclaim, ‘Yes, yes, this is ME! Don’t miss this gem!’

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA

Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss
By Margaret Renkl
(Milkweed Editions, 978157313782, $24)

“Margaret Renkl feels the lives and struggles of each creature that enters her yard as keenly as she feels the paths followed by her mother, grandmother, her people. Learning to accept the sometimes harsh, always lush natural world may crack open a window to acceptance of our own losses. In Late Migrations, we welcome new life, mourn its passing, and honor it along the way.”

—Kat Baird, The Book Bin, Corvallis, OR

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed
By Lori Gottlieb
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 9780328662057, $28)

“I was thinking maybe I should talk to someone, and then there was this book. Gottlieb has written a compassionate and entertaining memoir from both sides of the couch, so to speak. She tells the stories of four patients whose lives the reader comes to care deeply about while she herself goes into therapy. Physician, heal thyself? No. Human being, be honest with thyself and do something really difficult. Gottlieb is as fine a writer as she is a storyteller. I was sad our sessions had to end.”

—Stan Hynds, Northshire Bookstore, Saratoga Springs, NY

Save Me the Plums: My Gourmet Memoir
By Ruth Reichl
(Random House, 9781400069996, $27)

“In her new memoir, trendsetting food writer and editor Ruth Reichl writes lovingly of the full-blast creativity of her 16 years as editor-in-chief of Gourmet. By book’s end, you’ll miss the storied and groundbreaking magazine, but you’ll be grateful she shared the tale of how its outstanding roster of chefs, photographers, and cooks transformed how we look at food. Reichl takes readers behind the scenes as chefs became rock stars, as writers like David Foster Wallace reshaped food writing, and as she fought to save the magazine she adored. A beloved writer with an enviable career, Reichl reminds us that although things may change, simple, honest pleasures—like a perfect plum—endure and make life rich.”

—Mary Vermillion, Village Books, Bellingham, WA

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