Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions: A Novel
By Mario Giordano, John Brownjohn (Trans.)
(Mariner Book, 9780241387843, $16.99)
"Introducing Auntie Poldi, a sixtyish amateur sleuth who
stars as the heroine of Giordano’s new series of delicious
mysteries. She’s sexy, outrageous, can’t mind her own
business, and has just retired to Sicily, where she intends
to lay about and drink good wine for the rest of her
days. Of course, things are soon stirred up by the murder of her
hot young handyman, and Poldi becomes deeply involved. Great characters,
fun plot, Italian charm—enjoy for the chilly months than a novel set in sun-soaked Sicily? Don’t miss what the Times Literary
Supplement calls ‘a masterful treat.’"
—Lisa Howorth, Square Books, Oxford, MS

Every Note Played: A Novel
By Lisa Genova
(Gallery/Scout Press, 9781476717814, $16)
"In this tightly composed novel, Genova carries
the reader through the grim melody and turbulent
sequence of ALS while expertly relaying the gradual
impact of the disease on the lives of patients and
caregivers. With medical details balanced against the
raw manifestation of the human experience, Every
Note Played explores the cruel effects of loss and the profound effects of
compassion and forgiveness. Richard and Karina are voluntarily alone, yet
uncomfortably unresolved by a sense of need and duty. Genova holds nothing
back, producing a story that resonates with meaning and builds to a keen
point of understanding."
—Joan Gallagher, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA

I Was Anastasia: A Novel
By Ariel Lawhon
(Anchor, 9781101973318, $16)
"By far the best historical fiction title I’ve read in a long
time! Not only is the story historically accurate, but
the way it unfolds is unique and significantly adds to
the plot and character development. Even though most
readers today probably know how the book ends before
they even start it, Ariel Lawhon’s masterful storytelling
will leave you cheering for or jeering at one of the Anastasias—which one
is up to you!"
—Kari Erpenbach, University of Minnesota Bookstores, Minneapolis, MN

A Long Way from Home: A Novel
By Peter Carey
(Vintage, 9780052435990, $16.95)
“Carey uses the Australian cross-country Redux auto
trials of the 1950s to explore how the need to be accept-
ected directs our motivations and, accordingly, our fates.
Titch and Irene Bobs join up with their neighbor Willy
Bach and a maps expert, to race the Redux. For Titch,
an opportunistic car salesman, the race represents the
chance to seize national fame—and the respect of his larger-than-life father.
Through the journey, Carey delves into Australia’s virulent racism toward its
indigenous populations and its embedded intolerance of miscegenation. As
the miles accumulate, Irene and Willy’s lives change in profound ways, and
we, in turn, experience Carey’s wit, heart, intelligence, and skill."
—Lori Feathers, Interabang Books, Dallas, TX

Mothers of Sparta: A Memoir in Pieces
By Dawn Davies
(FlattIron Books, 9789250132734, $16.99)
“It has been many years since I can recall encountering such
a moving collection of essays. Dawn Davies paints a
staring account of her life, from the dating years through
the joys and the darkness of motherhood. This engaging
debut combines striking prose with fearless honesty to
create a profound and thoughtful work. It is a completely
immersive experience and one that will leave readers with much to contemplate
long after the last exquisitely prolix page."
—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

Paris by the Book: A Novel
By Liam Callanan
(Dutton, 9781101062285, $16)
"In Paris, there is a bookstore called The Late Edition,
where books are shelved geographically, and while
readers can find any book by its story’s setting the
store’s proprietor Leah cannot locate her missing
husband and searches for him throughout the city. In
Paris by the Book, Paris is equal parts Madeline and
The Red Balloon, the children’s books that shape Leah’s view of the City of
Light. I’d compare Callanan’s engaging third novel to
The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry and The Little Paris Bookshop, but with its confounding but
ultimately lovable heroine, there’s a bit of Where’d You Go, Bernadette in the story as well. This captivating
novel is filled with rich characters, a twisty plot, a bit of mystery, and a healing dollop of joie de vivre."
—Daniel Goldin, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

The Perfect Mother: A Novel
By Aimee Molloy
(Harper Paperbacks, 9780062696809, $16.99)
“Buckle up for a gripping read that had me up until 2:00
in the morning! Aimee Molloy taps into one of the deepest
fears a mother can have: The ultimate fear of losing a
child, and the secretive fear of losing her identity. As a
new mother, this book spoke to me on every level. The
insecurity, the worries, the judgment—you name it. Add a missing child, and all those feelings were multiplied by
a thousand. Don’t miss this captivating novel—it won’t disappoint!"
—Teresa Steele, Old Firehouse Books, Fort Collins, CO

Three Daughters of Eve: A Novel
By Elif Shafak
(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781542069568, $18)
“Elif Shafak’s Three Daughters of Eve depicts a
sophisticated and compelling story of modern Istanbul.
Peri is now a rich and glamorous woman living a
comfortable life. While suffering through a tedious
dinner party with the international elite, she ponders
her days as a student at Oxford, when her life
was profoundly impacted by two friends and a charismatic professor. As a
young, unfomed student, Peri felt lost in her search for faith and self.
Looking back on these years from the perspective of adulthood, Peri must
confront her past before it collides with the present. Compelling, poignant,
and highly relevant, Three Daughters of Eve is a modern exploration of
identity in a changing world."
—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

We’re Going to Need More Wine: Stories That Are Funny, Complicated, and True
By Gabrielle Union
(Dey Street Books, 9780062893990, $16.99)
“I know what this book looks like, and it’s true that it’s a
90s celebrity’s memoir. But the other parts of this
book are so remarkable that it requires its description to
that would be an injustice. Gabrielle Union is an honest
writer and cultural critic. I’m ashamed I didn’t know this until now. Her
reflections on race, gender, and authenticity in an industry that values
anything but are refreshing and ring true. These are the portions of the
book that really sparkle on the page. Writer to reader, friend to friend,
Union simply shares some of her stories, and I was glad to be a part."
—Lindsay Crist-Lawson, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Lexington, KY

You’ll Miss Me When I’m Gone
By Rachel Lynn Solomon
(Simon Pulse, 9781481497749, $12.99)
“Twins Tovah and Adina are completely different in
almost every way. Their one commonality? The genes
they share with their dying mother. Each twin has a
50/50 chance that their bright future may be cut short
with the same genetic disorder, and, now 18, they can
finally find out their fate. After the genetic test results
are in, they have to reexamine what it means to live and to ready to die.
This is an honest and heartwarming story about luck, love, and trusting
your fate."
—Kim Bissell, Broadway Books, Portland, OR

Wild Bird
By Wendelin Van Draanen
(Emerald, 9781101940471, $9.99)
“Wild Bird is about a girl adrift in the choices she’s
made—in drugs, alcohol, and the friends she’s
chosen—and a family that doesn’t know how to bring
her back to them whole, if not damaged. Wren
Clemmens struggles to discover who she is and who
her true friends are when her parents send her to an
eight-week-long wilderness camp, the last chance they have to rescue her
from herself. Filled with great wilderness tips, this was a one-sit read and I
recommend it highly. It is never too late to be a warrior!”
—René Kirkpatrick, University Book Store, Seattle, WA