Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions: A Novel
By Mario Giordano, John Brownjohn (Trans.)

“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—and what could be better reading 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

“In this tightly composed novel, Genova carries the reader through the grim melody and turbulent sequencing 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 united 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

“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

“Carey uses the Australian cross-country Redux auto trials of the 1950s to explore how the need to be accepted directs our motivations and, accordingly, our fates. Titch and Irene Bobs join up with their neighbor Willy Bachhuber, 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
“It has been many years since I can recall encountering such a moving collection of essays. Dawn Davies paints a searing 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 they turn the last exquisite page.”
—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

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Paris by the Book: A Novel
By Liam Callanan
“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 engrossing third novel to The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry and The Little Paris Bookshop, but with its confounding but ultimately loveable 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 heaping dollop of joie de vivre.”
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By Aimee Molloy
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—Teresa Steele, Old Firehouse Books, Fort Collins, CO

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By Elif Shafak
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—Pamela Klinger-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

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We’re Going to Need More Wine: Stories That Are Funny, Complicated, and True
By Gabrielle Union
“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 to limit 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.”
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By A.C. Gaughen
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You’ll Miss Me When I’m Gone
By Rachel Lynn Solomon
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—Kim Bissell, Broadway Books, Portland, OR

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Wild Bird
By Wendelin Van Draanen
“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 undamaged. 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!”
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