The Real Lola: A Lost Girl, an Unthinkable Crime, and a Scandalous Masterpiece
By Sarah Weinman
(Ecco, 9780062681837, $17.99)
"Any fan of Nabokov’s Lolita will be enthralled by Sarah Weinman’s investigation of the real-life kidnapping and sexual assault that became the basis for the 20th-century masterpiece. Weinman dives deep into the archives to piece together the ties between fact and fiction, even when the author or the victim’s family refused to discuss history. Swapping between true-crime journalism and contemporary literary analysis, the author brings new attention to Nabokov’s seminal work and draws the tragedy of Sally Horner out of obscurity."
—Ariel Jacobs, Solid State Books, Washington, DC

The Silence of the Girls: A Novel
By Pat Barker
(Anchor, 9780525564012, $16.95)
"The women in Homer’s Iliad hardly ever speak: we are not privy to their thoughts, feelings, or anguish as expressed in their own words. Until now. The Silence of the Girls depicts moments of the Trojan War through the eyes of the female captives at the mercy of the men who have slaughtered their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons. The focus of Barker’s novel is Briseis, through whose eyes we see, up close, the rift between Agamemnon and Achilles, the bond between Achilles and Patroclus, and the complex, beautiful support system the captured women weave together. Barker’s novel is a masterpiece!"
—Morgan McComb, Raven Book Store, Lawrence, KS

The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock: A Novel
By Laura E. Weymouth
(HarperTeen, 9780062696885, $10.99)
"Laura Weymouth’s debut novel, The Light Between Worlds, is a captivating tale of two sisters struggling to find home and to find themselves. The younger, Evelyn, longs for the days when she and her sister and brother lived in the Woodlands, a mystical Narnia-like land Weymouth paints with beautiful lyricism. Evelyn has carried the weight of her longing since she and her siblings returned to post-WWII England. Weymouth’s second novel, Wildcard, takes us back in time to World War II. Philipa carries the loss of her sister, as well as the pain of her own choices. They embark on their own journeys of healing and belonging, each searching for what they’ve lost and where they belong. Written with meaning, feeling, and depth, The Light Between Worlds is a stunning debut."
—Cecilia Cackley, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

Waiting for Eden: A Novel
By Elliot Ackerman
(Vintage, 9781019756671, $16)
"I was completely captivated by this intensely emotional yet compact novel. Both of Ackerman’s previous novels were acclaimed by readers and critics alike, but Waiting for Eden proves something more. In less than 200 pages, the intersecting lives of three people and the consequences of their choices are revealed in an astounding manner. It’s a love story, a ghost story, a horror story, a war story, and, ultimately, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. I don’t want to tell you much more as I don’t want to spoil it, but urge you to read this powerful and important work of literature."
—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS

YOUNG ADULT CROSSOVER FAVORITES

Darius the Great Is Not Okay
By Adib Khorram
(Penguin Books, 9780525529270, $10.99)
“A beautiful, thoughtful book that is all the more impressive for being a debut! Darius is visiting Iran with his family and meeting his grandparents in person for the first time. He struggles with fitting into an unfamiliar culture and feeling like a disappointment to his father, but a new friendship helps him learn some truths about himself and see the world in a new way. An achingly relatable story in a wry, honest voice. Stunning."

Wildcard
By Marie Lu
(Penguin Books, 9780399548000, $10.99, available September 17)
“Wildcard picks up exactly where Warcross left off. Emika has uncovered Hideo’s evil plan and now she’s determined to stop him. But while she can trust her Phoenix Riders…"