**The Bird King: A Novel**
By G. Willow Wilson
(Grove Press, 97800248292, $16)

“Fatima is a concubine of the sultan of the last emirate in the Iberian Peninsula to submit to the Spanish Inquisition. When her dearest friend is singled out by the Inquisition, she flees with him and a jinn, following the trail of the elusive and mythical Bird King, who may or may not be able to grant them sanctuary. Wilson’s latest novel is rich with the historical detail, lush description, and fantastical elements that we have come to know and love from her. A story of resistance, freedom, seeking, and strength, and a true fable for our times.”
—Anna Eklund, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

**Chesapeake Requiem: A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island**
By Earl Swift
(Dey Street Books, 9780062661401, $17.99)

“I was so impressed with this story of Tangier, an exploration of science, history, religion, and culture driven by emotionally salient commentary from people who live there today. The community is conservative both religiously and politically, but their home is being swept away by rising sea levels thanks to climate change, which is usually a politically charged topic. It was also interesting to have insight into what is likely the United States’ first group of ‘climate refugees’. Hopefully, lovingly, and intelligently done. An important read!”
—Chloé Groth, Content Bookstore, Northfield, MN

**Gingerbread: A Novel**
By Helen Oyeyemi
(Riverhead Books, 9781594634666, $17)

“To me, any new book by Helen Oyeyemi is a cause for celebration, and Gingerbread is no exception. Harriet Lee is a mother, a daughter, a PTA-wannabe, a tutor, and a gingerbread baker. She is also Druhstranarian—a refugee from a country that may (or may not) exist. No one is quite sure where Druhstrana is or how to get there but Harriet’s daughter, Perdita, is determined to find out even if it kills her. While still imbued with Oyeyemi’s trademark fairy tale essence, this novel is a departure into weirder, more uncanny territory. Oyeyemi, who lives in Prague, has finally given us her Czech novel, and it’s perfect.”
—Devin Dunn, Book Culture, New York, NY

**The Island of Sea Women: A Novel**
By Lisa See
(Scribner, 9781501154867, $18)

“Jeju Island is home to generations of haenyo—women who take their living from both land and sea and call the shots in their patriarchal society. Young-sook and Mi-ja are best friends in the 1930s, learning to dive with their all-female collective while their island suffers under Japanese colonialism. Lisa See follows them as they grow up under Japanese rule and into the 21st century. The Island of Sea Women is not only a story of friendship found, lost, and found again, but also a richly detailed picture of a unique culture of women in a world spinning out of control. Amazing.”
—Janet Rhodes, BookPeople of Moscow, Moscow, ID

**The Light Years: A Memoir**
By Chris Rush
(Picador, 9781250251900, $18)

“Rush’s memoir depicts the wild, drug-filled days of his youth with such luminous prose it feels as though we’re with him. That this book exists is proof that Rush makes it through every situation he encounters, and he brings such generosity to those who were alongside him that it’s impossible not to care about him or his family and loved ones. The Light Years offers a perfect glimpse into the counterculture of the ‘60s and ‘70s. A perfect pick for those who lived through that time and those who wish they could have.”
—Katie Orphan, The Last Bookstore, Los Angeles, CA

**Long Live the Tribe of Fatherless Girls: A Memoir**
By T Kira Madden
(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781635574780, $18)

“Madden has no limits when it comes to the open she loves—her cool and free older friends, her Internet-famous first girlfriend, her mother, her father, and us, the fortunate readers. She accomplishes one of the great feats of a memoir: in telling the story of her life, she translates its remarkable aspects (for one, her father worked for Jordan Belfort and was, yes, a wolf of Wall Street) while making the commonplace (love for one’s parents) remarkable. Her prose is a Lisa Frank-racetrack-Hawaiian shirt phantasmagoria that I couldn’t get enough of. And, man, that last section—it’ll knock you loose.”
—Molly Moore, BookPeople, Austin, TX

**My Lovely Wife: A Novel**
By Samantha Downing
(Berkeley, 9780451491732, $16)

“It started out as a game, a series of hypothetical questions to liven up their marriage: Who could they hurt? And what could they get away with? With two kids and a mortgage, Millicent and her husband need all the excitement they can find. But soon conversation leads up to a startling yet inevitable end to an unsettling yet satisfying story.”
—Lauren Peugh, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

**The Priory of the Orange Tree: A Novel**
By Samantha Shannon
(Bloomsbury Publishing, 9781355703204, $20)

“A fabulous, complex fantasy that will appeal to fans of Erika Johansen, Melissa Caruso, and George R.R. Martin. Priory has something for every fantasy lover. Shannon’s story and its characters’ fates revolve around the most riveting aspect of the whole book: dragons! Shannon writes with a fast-paced, engrossing voice that continues to build with every chapter. I loved this world and think readers will wholeheartedly embrace it.”
—Lauren Nopenz Fairley, Curious Iguana, Frederick, MD

**When All Is Said**
By Mary Adkins
(HarperPaperbacks, 9780062536338, $16.99)

“Death is called the final act, but for our loved ones who survive us, the show inevitably goes on. In *When You Read This*, Mary Adkins gives equal stage time to Iris, a dancing, raucous woman recently diagnosed with terminal cancer who begins a blog about her experiences, and those she has left behind. Grief is a unifying theme in this novel, from Iris, who struggles to come to terms with her death, to her sister, Jade, who is left rudderless without her, and even Iris’ boss, Smith, who is determined to fulfill Iris’ last request of having her blog published as a book. Poignant and bittersweet, *When You Read This* is a well-rounded blend of romance, comedy, and drama.”
—Heather Herbaugh, Mitzi’s Books, Rapid City, SD