After the Flood: A Novel
By Kassandra Montag
(William Morrow Paperbacks, 9780062689386, $16.99)
“After the Flood is a real thought-provoker. It demands you ask yourself: What would I do to survive? This passionate tale of survival and determination is not one to miss.”
—Kelli O’Malley, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

All This Could Be Yours: A Novel
By Jami Attenberg
(Mariner Books, 9780358361336, $15.99)
“I am in love with Jami Attenberg’s writing, and was gripped by All This Could Be Yours from the opening pages. Everything about the Tuchmans felt so true to me: Alex’s confusion and anger toward the family’s toxic, now-comatose patriarch, Victor; Barbra’s isolation in her later years after a long marriage to a brute; Tevya and Gary’s unwinding secret selves—all of it is so perfectly told and paced. Full determination is not one to miss.”
—Bennard Fajardo, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC

Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee
By Casey Cep
(Vintage, 9780019720522, $16.95)
“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

Grand Union: Stories
By Zadie Smith
(Penguin Books, 9780255559016, $17)
“Whether she’s telling a very short story about a mother and daughter, or young animal cruelty while on vacation or a longer story about a trio of celebrities on a road trip to escape New York, Grand Union shows that Zadie Smith is as adept with short fiction as she is with the novel. For a form of literature that always seems to enhance the faults of lesser writers, short stories, for Smith, seem only to make her shine brighter than ever.”
—Bennard Fajardo, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington, DC

Imaginary Friend: A Novel
By Stephen Chbosky
(Grand Central Publishing, 9781538731352, $16.99)
“Imaginary Friend has, in my humble opinion, already earned its spot on the top shelf of classic horror novels. Reminiscent of Stephen King’s It and Neil Gaiman’s Coraline, it is one of the most compulsively terrifying, eerily uncanny novels of our time. Once you pick up this book, you won’t put it down until you’ve devoured it whole (or, should I say, it has devoured you), and once finished, you will feel the dangerous urge to turn to the first page and start all over again. It is an utterly original masterpiece of fear. Thank you, Stephen Chbosky, for the precision, Signed, and for the chills. A must-read.”
—Tiaan Moirley, the river’s end bookstore, Oswego, NY

Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA
By Amaryllis Fox
(Vintage, 9780055640839, $16.95)
“Her unconventional childhood—think playing chess with a chain-smoking woman who has clawed her way from a curse, a miracle, or something in between? Based on a true story, Mary Toft, a woman who gave birth to dead rabbits in 1726. She did this more than 10 times, confounding surgeons and townsfolk alike. Is this a hoax, a curse, a miracle, or something in between? Based on a true story—if you are not familiar with it, don’t look it up until you finish the book—we follow surgeon John Howard and apprentice Zachary as they try to understand what is going on with their stunning patient. I highly enjoyed this disturbing novel. It is brutal, unexpected, and unputdownable.”
—Katrina Bright-Yerges, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI

Mary Toft; or, The Rabbit Queen: A Novel
By Dexter Palmer
(Vintage, 9780055432739, $16.95)
“This is the story of Mary Toft, a woman who gave birth to dead rabbits in 1726. She did this more than 10 times, confounding surgeons and townsfolk alike. Is this a hoax, a curse, a miracle, or something in between? Based on a true story—if you are not familiar with it, don’t look it up until you finish the book—we follow surgeon John Howard and apprentice Zachary as they try to understand what is going on with their stunning patient. I highly enjoyed this disturbing novel. It is brutal, unexpected, and unputdownable.”
—Liv Stratman, Books Are Magic, Brooklyn, NY

The Vanished Birds: A Novel
By Simon Jimenez
(Del Rey, 9780593129005, $17)
“In The Vanished Birds, Earth becomes uninhabitable and humankind spreads out into space using technology that is all of our capitalist, designer-baby, smart-everything, social-media-age fears realized. But this new world is also beautifully poetic—enormous space stations have been designed to mimic specific birds but have outlived their nameakes for lifetimes. I am dazzled by this world Jimenez has created and the characters that live in it. I find myself thinking about Nia and the people in her orbit—their thoughts, their motives, their choices—and going over mistakes and minutiae as if they were my own. This is literary science fiction at its most effective and affecting.”
—Isabella Ogbolumani, Page 1 Books, Evanston, IL

Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts: A Novel
By Kate Racculia
(Mariner Books, 9780358410768, $16.95)
“Tuesday Mooney is smart, intrepid, and just a little bit lost—even 20 years after her best friend disappears without a trace. A prospect researcher by trade, she dives in deep when a strange and reclusive billionaire and his baby daughter are accused of a murder. Highly imaginative, Sherry Thomas’s latest book could have won me over just by being a romp, there is more here. Tuesday and her compatriots are all forced to confront the traumas that have CIA and her own new strength in their relationships.”
—Amiriym Badur, Main Point Books, Wayne, PA

The World That We Knew: A Novel
By Alice Hoffman
(Simon & Schuster, 9781980137587, $17)
“Alice Hoffman does her magic again with The World That We Knew. This is a story of great love and loss, a story of strong characters who, with heartfelt courage, save others by risking their own lives. The reader is taken on a journey of the world that once was—of memories of a past tainted by hatred during WWII. Alice Hoffman’s writing is passionate, poetic, and profound. This novel captivated me from the start and left me spellbound. A must-read!”
—Mollie Loughlin, The Book Vine, Cherokee, IA

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