



Above

A Novel, by Isla Morley

"Blythe can't imagine anything worse than the 17 years she has been held captive in an abandoned underground missile silo until she escapes with her teenage son. The book begins as the compelling story of a teenager who has to endure her abduction by a mad survivalist who was convinced that the world was coming to an end, but it ends as a riveting, heart-stopping tale of determination, love, and hope for the future."

—Nancy McFarlane, Fiction Addiction, Greenville, SC



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At Night We Walk in Circles

A Novel, by Daniel Alarcón

"Set in an unnamed South American country years after a protracted civil war has ended, *At Night We Walk in Circles* chronicles the life and dark fate of Nelson, a bright and promising young man who joins a small guerrilla theatre group. Nelson and the group's two founders, one of whom is a psychically battle-scarred casualty of the political conflict, bring their play, *The Idiot President*, to villages in the countryside and mountains, looking for escape, renewal, and perhaps redemption. The village that is the troupe's final destination holds deep secrets, and an innocent and kind act results in a shocking outcome. Alarcón is a genius, and this novel is a work of brilliance."

—Cathy Langer, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO



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Chickens in the Road

An Adventure in Ordinary Splendor, by Suzanne McMinn

"All those interested in sustainable agriculture, living off-the-grid, dwelling in yurts, organic farming, backyard foraging, beekeeping, cheesemaking, etc., will love this inspiring memoir. It's also a great gift for rural-wannabes, as it's filled with the details and dialogues of McMinn's challenging pursuit of a natural lifestyle."

—Susan Thurin, Bookends on Main, Menomonie, WI



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Dept. of Speculation

A Novel, by Jenny Offill

"I found myself gasping at the sheer beauty and conciseness of Offill's sentences in this portrait of a marriage. *Dept. of Speculation* can be devoured quickly, or readers can linger in it over many sittings. Covering the topics of love, loneliness, grief, joy, fidelity, beauty, depression, mania, motherhood, and writing, the shifting points of view are subtle yet profound, and despite the darkness and sadness of the story, when I closed the book I was left more alert and attentive, and feeling more alive. Highly recommended!"

—Janet Geddis, Avid Bookshop, Athens, GA



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Little Failure

A Memoir, by Gary Shteyngart

"Bursting with insight, pathos, and Shteyngart's signature self-effacing humor, *Little Failure* brilliantly illustrates the struggles of an inveterate misfit from his early life in Soviet Russia to his youth in the United States. What sets this memoir apart is Shteyngart's sparkling wit and warmth, and a voice that invites the reader inside his world. Like his novels, Shteyngart's memoir displays an exhilarating mind at work and feels like a fresh, contemporary classic."

—Mark Haber, Brazos Bookstore, Houston, TX



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The Men Who United the States

America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics, and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible, by Simon Winchester

"The always amazing Winchester turns his storytelling talent to America for the first time. As always, he gives the reader interesting and often obscure facts, this time about the uniting of the separate states into a nation. Explorers, inventors of trans-continental telegraph and highway systems, builders, and thinkers are part of the chronicle. Did it work? Are we 'one nation, indivisible?' These are questions to ponder as you read this fascinating story."

—Carole Horne, Harvard Book Store, Cambridge, MA



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Mud Season

How One Woman's Dream of Moving to Vermont, Raising Children, Chickens, and Sheep & Running the Old Country Store Pretty Much Led to One Calamity After Another, by Ellen Stimson

"Have you ever dreamed of moving to rural Vermont? Imagined the good life away from traffic, noise, and the difficulties of city life? Stimson and her husband did exactly that, moving from St. Louis with children and dogs and cats in tow. By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *Mud Season* is the story of their immersion into a small town populated with crusty Vermonters who view 'flatlanders' with a combination of suspicion and amusement. This is a funny, self-deprecating memoir of making a new life in a beautiful place."

—Caitlin Caulfield, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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The Museum of Extraordinary Things

A Novel, by Alice Hoffman

"Hoffman's latest work of fiction is a tour de force of imagination. The setting is New York and Brooklyn in 1911, where sideshow 'curiosities', Russian émigré Jews, the emerging workers unions, and the lost, wild beauty of Manhattan's rivers and woods blend into a dream. Hoffman's research is precise, her vision unique, and her writing extraordinarily evocative. This is a beautiful and sensitive novel."

—Karen Pennington, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA



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Someone

A Novel, by Alice McDermott

"'Who's going to love me?' Marie asks her brother after she is dumped by her first boyfriend. 'Someone,' he tells her. 'Someone will.' Love is only one of the themes that weave together the stories that make up McDermott's latest mesmerizing novel. The tale is told through Marie's memories as a little girl, a mother, and an old woman. Snapshots of events in a Brooklyn neighborhood come together seamlessly to tell the endlessly fascinating story of 'someone's' life."

—Sharon K. Nagel, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage

by Ann Patchett

"Readers familiar with Patchett's fiction treasure her imaginative and heartfelt stories. Now, in this essay collection, she confirms what her readers have always known: we would love to be her neighbor, knowing that she would wash our mud-soaked clothes in her dry laundry room after a flood; we would share her heartbreak when her dog Rosie died; we would cheer her feisty dedication to uncensored reading and bookselling. The story of her happy marriage is one her fans will savor. Patchett deserves this joy."

—Cheryl McKeon, Book Passage, San Francisco, CA



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The UnAmericans

Stories, by Molly Antopol

"Antopol has written a pitch-perfect collection of stories that capture the essence of human survival and triumph; an aspiring actor of Russian descent jailed during the McCarthy era, who is attempting to build a relationship with his son after his prison term is over; another father, this one a struggling, middle-aged adjunct professor, who worries that the play his daughter is producing may expose the secrets of his escape from Czechoslovakia. Each story is a gem to be savored and each demonstrates that a new American talent has emerged."

—Nancy Simpson-Brice, The Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA



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Under the Wide and Starry Sky

A Novel, by Nancy Horan

"Just as she did in *Loving Frank*, Horan brings to life the story of a strong woman and a talented man—in this case Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne and Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson was not a strong man physically, which meant the couple spent much of their married life chasing climates and locations in an attempt to give him a chance at life as a writer. Fannie gives up her personal ambitions as an artist and writer to be Stevenson's caregiver, but at what cost? Readers will want to revisit the works of Stevenson with new eyes after reading Horan's wonderful book."

—Beverly Bauer, Redbery Books, Cable, WI



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