



CHILD 44, by Tom Rob Smith (Grand Central, \$24.99, 9780446402385/0446402389) “The remarkable achievement of *Child 44* is its invocation of a paranoid, brutal Orwellian domain in which society’s moral compass is spinning like a roulette wheel. This snowy, bitter world is realized with cinematic vividness, and the plot maintains a nerve-wracking tension throughout. A great thriller for people who don’t always read this genre.”—**Ken A. White, SFSU Bookstore, San Francisco, CA**



SO BRAVE, YOUNG, AND HANDSOME, by Leif Enger (Atlantic, \$24, 9780871139856/0871139855) “Enger again explores the often transparent line between good and bad, focusing his story on characters who fall in the gray in-between. Failed novelist Monte Becket accompanies his friend, Glendon Hale, a former outlaw, to Mexico to find Hale’s estranged wife. Their adventures along the way, and the surprising end of their journey, make for an exciting and thought-provoking read.”—**Erica Caldwell, Present Tense, Batavia, NY**



THE GOD OF WAR, by Marisa Silver (Simon & Schuster, \$23, 9781416563167/1416563164) “Marisa Silver’s story of 12-year-old Ares Ramirez, living with his mother and younger brother in a trailer at the edge of the Salton Sea, tells us unvarnished truths about those who are different, whether physically, emotionally, or by virtue of circumstance. The result is a novel that is as true to life as it is unforgettable.”—**Betsy Burton, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT**



THE WHITE TIGER, by Aravind Adiga (Free Press, \$24, 9781416562597/1416562591) “The very talented Aravind Adiga’s debut novel of chauffeur Balram Halwai and his dark rise in society left me just too amazed for words. I knew something of India from other books I have read, but never has any other writer captured the way of life as well as Adiga does in this book, nor conveyed it in such a strong voice.”—**Ellie Joubert, Bear Pond Books of Montpelier, Montpelier, VT**



THE GIFT OF RAIN: A Novel, by Tan Twan Eng (Weinstein Books, \$23.95, 9781602860247/1602860246) “Set in Malaya over several decades, the book opens in 1939, when Philip, a half-Chinese, half-British teenager becomes the student and guide for a Japanese diplomat who becomes his Sensei master. It is only after the Japanese invade Malaya that the boy realizes that his teacher, to whom he has proudly shown and told so much, is a Japanese spy. Intrigue, love, politics, and war are intricately woven together in this story of complex and fascinating characters.”—**Elaine Petrocelli, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA**



THE HOST, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown, \$25.99, 9780316068048/0316068047) “Earth’s population is slowly being taken over by an alien species who implant themselves in host bodies to stop humanity from destroying itself. One of them finds herself in the body of a rebellious young woman named Melanie, who is determined to reunite with her young brother and her boyfriend at all costs. This multifaceted story that keeps you turning pages until the exciting conclusion.”—**Holly Frakes, Schuler Books & Music, Lansing, MI**



THE HOUSE AT RIVERTON: A Novel, by Kate Morton (Atria, \$24.95, 9781416550518/1416550518) “Grace Bradley, now 98, recalls her time as a young maid working at Riverton Manor at the dawn of WWI. She is witness to an incident during a summer party, the suicide of a famous poet. What happened that night between the poet and the beautiful young sisters of the manor down by the pond? As Grace tells her story, Kate Morton slowly reveals all the mysteries of decades past. A wonderful, evocative novel.”—**Karen Vail, Armchair Bookstore, Dennis, MA**



THE ROMANOV BRIDE, by Robert Alexander (Viking, \$24.95, 9780670018819/0670018813) “Revolutionary Russia is the setting for this novel of love, loss, and redemption. Robert Alexander’s third Romanov novel examines the tragic lives of a young revolutionary and the widowed duchess, Elisavyeta. Adeptly presented with alternating points of view, readers will be intrigued to discover the compelling drama of one of Russia’s lesser-known historical figures. Heartily recommended.”—**Dave Lederer, Vero Beach Book Center, Vero Beach, FL**



BONK: *The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*, by Mary Roach (Norton, \$24.95, 9780393064643/0393064646) “An absolutely fantastic book that will have you laughing and blushing at the same time! As she did with *Spook* and *Stiff*, Mary Roach again uses her wonderful storytelling talents to combine her knowledge of science (this time examining current and historical studies of sex) with the curious and absurd.”—**Lori Kauffman, Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA**



THE LEGEND OF COLTON H. BRYANT, by Alexandra Fuller (Penguin Press, \$23.95, 9781594201837/1594201838) “Alexandra Fuller’s novel is a vivid recounting of the raw and poignant life of a young oil-rig worker set in the modern-day American West. Writing about what she knows gives Fuller the ability to develop an unparalleled truthfulness and depth to both her scenes and subjects.”—**Kathleen Thut, Inkwell Bookstore, Falmouth, MA**



A VOYAGE LONG AND STRANGE: *Rediscovering the New World*, by Tony Horwitz (Holt, \$27.50, 9780805076035/0805076034) “Tony Horwitz fills in the blank (and decidedly bloody) century of American history between the voyage of Columbus in 1492 and the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620, breathing life back into forgotten Spanish conquistadors, Elizabethan colonists, and massacred Indians, dispelling historical myths and giving an additional nod to the Vikings, who settled briefly in Newfoundland around 1000 AD.”—**Arlene Cook, Watermark Book Co., Anacortes, WA**



THE CONVERSION, by Joseph Olshan (St. Martin’s, \$24.95, 9780312373917/0312373910) “Joseph Olshan’s *The Conversion* is delicately, yet powerfully, rendered, taking the reader through layers, twists, and turns to a surprise ending in a novel of deep and intricate characterization. Beginning in Paris, the characters travel to an Italian villa that is so carefully and evocatively described that it, too, becomes one of Olshan’s beautifully drawn characters. A must read.”—**Susan Morgan, The Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock, VT**



MEMORY, by **Philippe Grimbert** (Simon & Schuster, \$19.95, 9781416559993/141655999X) “Philippe Grimbert has crafted the most amazing novel/memoir of his life as a Jewish youth in a family struggling to survive in Paris and Lyons during World War II. His images are memorable and breathtaking: his family, the ‘sporting life’ of the 1930s, and the cities, especially the shops. I could not put down this beautiful book!”
—**Kathleen Dixon, Islandtime Books & More, Washington Island, WA**



THE BAUM PLAN FOR FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE: *And Other Stories*, by **John Kessel** (Small Beer Press, \$16 paper, 9781931520508/193152050X) “John Kessel’s writing exists at the edge of things, in the dark corner where the fiction section abuts the science fiction shelves, in the hyphen where magic meets realism. This is one of those too rare short story collections that you can recommend with confidence to both the literary snob and the hard-core computer geek.”—**Rich Rennicks, Malaprop’s Bookstore/Cafe, Asheville, NC**

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