the indie NEXT list

**Chronic City** A Novel, by Jonathan Lethem (Doubleday, $27.95, 9780385518635) “A story of Manhattan as a city of falsehoods plays out in the friendship of a former child star and a polemicist with a mishmash of psychological problems. The characters are brilliantly developed, the plot is intricate but engaging, and Lethem pulls no punches.” —Conrad Silverberg, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI

**Mennonite in a Little Black Dress** A Memoir of Going Home, by Rhoda Janzen (Holt, $22.95, 9780805089257) “Poet Rhoda Janzen has an intriguingly honest and witty way with language, and a personality and unique story to match. This insightful memoir is simultaneously humorous and touching.” —Kerry Hartwick, The Velveteen Rabbit Bookshop, Fort Atkinson, WI

**The Financial Lives of the Poets** A Novel, by Jess Walter (Harper, $25.99, 9780061916045) “Fecless financial reporter Matt Prior has lost his job, is six days away from losing his house, and suspects his wife is courting an affair. Walter will have you pulling for Prior and his screwy, shoddy last-chance scheme for solvency. A tough-out-loud serio-comic masterpiece!” —Ranee Burdette, Eagle Harbor Book Company, Bainbridge Island, WA

**Lit** A Memoir, by Mary Karr (Harper, $25.99, 9780060596989) “Once you’ve read Mary Karr’s *The Liar’s Club*, how can you not read her latest to find out how it turns out? This fine American writer continues her journey through college, marriage, and young motherhood, offering her hard-won experience in recovery from depression and alcoholism.” —Andy Lillich, University of Oregon Bookstore, Eugene, OR

**Invisible** by Paul Auster (Holt, $25, 9780805090802) “Invisible, set in New York, Paris, and the Caribbean from 1967 to 2007, is narrated by three different voices, and Auster—like a fine painter—uses each paragraph to create color, shadow, and, finally, a vibrant texture that will leave you amazed.” —Angela Mann, Kepler’s Books & Magazine, Menlo Park, CA

**Beloved on the Earth** A Novel, by Lauren Grodstein (Algonquin, $23.95, 9781565122916) “The story of Pete Diznoff, a successful suburban doctor, and his son, Alec, whom Pete dotes on, takes a decidedly Shakespearean turn in a story about the lengths to which a father will go to protect his child. This brilliant literary thriller will leave readers emotionally rent, as the protagonist’s life collapses while he reaches out for what matters most to him.” —Mary Cotton, Newtonville Books, Newton, MA

**The Lacuna** A Novel, by Barbara Kingsolver (Harper, $26.99, 9780060852573) “Moving from a setting in Mexico (in the company of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and Trotsky) to the 1950s America of Red Scares and McCarthyism, The Lacuna tells the very personal and human story of young novelist Harrison Shepherd. Kingsolver does a masterful job creating a story with both scope and intimacy while also raising potent questions about freedom of expression and belief. Bravo!” —Sheryl Corf<t>eur, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

**Hardball** A V.I. Warshawski Novel, by Sara Paretsky (Putnam, $26.95, 9780399159392) “In Hardball, V.I. Warshawski is asked to locate a man who went missing in 1967, and it comes as no surprise that people desperately want V.I. to leave this case alone. This multi-layered story will leave you amazed.” —Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

**The Fourth Part of the World** The Race to the Ends of the Earth, and the Epic Story of the Map That Gave America Its Name, by Toby Lester (Free Press, $30, 9781416535317) “The Fourth Part of the World is not a history book you pigeonhole: map making, printing, transportation, exploration, and imperialism all influence this great story. Perhaps most enjoyable is learning about the evolving mythology associated with the edges of the map, and how it persists through discoveries great and small.” —Justin Fetterman, The Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL

**The Gray Man** by Mark Greaney (June, $9.99 paperback, 9780515147018) “Former CIA operative Court Gentry is not your typical sympathetic figure—he kills people for a living, after all, but you can’t but feel for the ‘Gray Man’ as a nonstop storyline keeps you turning the pages to figure out what tragic event will befell him next. Will you grab you from the first chapter.” —Chris Burcky, Cower to Cover Bookstore, Arlington, TN

**The Man in the Wooden Hat** by Jane Gardam (Europa Edn, $15 paper, 9781933372891) “A classic tale of the marriage of an English couple in the Far East, idealistic and romantic; Betty and her husband find their ways through life, carrying secrets from their pasts back and forth between Hong Kong and England. Gardam’s stylish prose gets to the heart of this fascinating relationship.” —Valerie Koehler, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX

**The Vows of Silence** A Simon Serrailier Mystery, by Susan Hill (Overlook, $24.95, 9781590202456) “Fans of character-driven suspense writers will love Susan Hill’s Simon Serrailier series. While Serrailier and his team attempt to solve a series of apparently random shootings, his sister and her husband — both doctors — struggle with a diagnosis that will change all their lives.” —Caroline Schnee, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI

**When Everything Changed** The Amazing Journey of American Women From 1960 to the Present, by Gail Collins (Little, Brown, $27.99, 9780316095941) “‘Gail Collins, a New York Times columnist, interviewed hundreds of people, and her history encompasses the major events from the 1930s to the present, putting society’s changes into context. This amazing book is necessary reading for everyone.” —Barbara Hoagland, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

**The Ghosts of Belfast** by Stuart Neville (Soho Crime, $24.95, 9781616951459) “Unbelievable, a comic book from the world of the Troubles” —Sheryl Cotleur, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

**A Fiery Peace in a Cold War** Bernard Schriever and the Ultimate Weapon, by Neil Sheehan (Random House, $32, 9780679422846) “The brilliant Neil Sheehan gives us a fascinating history of the Cold War years, wrapped in a narrative of Bennie Schriever, the father of the ICBM program. Sheehan illuminates a period rife with suspicion, misinformation, and paranoia that profoundly changed the world and resonates today.” —Bill Cusumano, Nicola’s Books, Ann Arbor, MI

**Soul of Wood** by Jakob Lind, Ralph Manheim (trans.) (NYRB Classics, $14.95 paper, 9781907133055) “Soul of Wood is a careening, delirious, madcap tour through the rattled soul of mid-20th century Europe. The book’s greatest achievement is the titular novella in which a disabled veteran fights for survival in the absurdities of the Third Reich, where, finally, a handful of megalomaniacs compete to take possession of a sort of miraculous young Jew.” —Adam Walter, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA
Notables

Fiction
Hummingbirds: A Novel, by Joshua Gaylord (Harper, $25.99, 9780061769016)
The Interrogative Mood: A Novel?, by Padgett Powell (Ecco, $21.99, 9780061859410)
Matchless: A Christmas Story, by Gregory Maguire (Morrow, $19.99, 9780061913013)
A Separate Country: A Novel, by Cory Doctorow (Tor, $24.99, 9780765312792)
A Christmas Story, by Gregory Maguire (Morrow, $19.99, 9780061913013)
The Heretic’s Daughter, by Kathleen Kent (Back Bay Books, 9780316024495, $13.99)
Recommended in hardcover by Calvin Crosby, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA

Nonfiction
The Boy From Baby House 10: From the Nightmare of a Russian Orphanage to a New Life in America, by Alan Philps and John Lahutsky (St. Martin’s, $24.99, 9780061796974)
Eating: A Memoir, by Jason Epstein (Knopf, $25, 9781400042968)

Mystery/Suspense
A Drunkard’s Path: A Someday Quilts Mystery, by Clare O’Donohue (Plume, $13 paper, 9780452295582)
The Fury, by Jason Pinter (Mira, $7.99 paper, 9780778326274)
Rough Country: A Virgil Flowers Novel, by John Sandford (Putnam, $26.95, 9780399155987)

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