The indie NEXT list

The Unnamed  A Novel, by Joshua Ferris (Little, Brown, $24.99, 9780380860412) "Tim Farnsworth, a respected litigation attorney for a high-powered Manhattan law firm, is seized by a bizarre illness: He cannot stop walking. The Unnamed is an absolutely heartbreaking story of love, marriage, family, and what it means to be successful in today's society."—Joni Montover, Paragraphs on Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island, TX

Remarkable Creatures A Novel, by Tracy Chevalier (Dutton, $26.95, 9780525951452) "Tracy Chevalier brings history alive in Remarkable Creatures, which fictionalizes the story of Mary Anning, a young fossil hunter who in the early 1800s makes a discovery along the English seacoast that challenges the world views of geologists and theologians."—Carol Hicks, Bookshelf At Hooligan Rocks, Truckee, CA

Alice I Have Been  A Novel, by Melanie Benjamin (Delacorte, $25, 9780385344135) "Melanie Benjamin's Alice I Have Been is a richly written fictional account of the life of the girl who became Alice in Wonderland. It is a mystery, and a love story, that follows Alice into adulthood after both tragic and wonderful experiences. I loved this creative and well-written book."—Doreen Pierson, Chapter One Book Store, Hamilton, MT

The Breach  A Joe Pike Novel, by Robert Crais (Putnam, $26.95, 9780399156137) "Frank Meyer, a former mercenary now living a normal life, has been killed along with his family. Frank was one of Joe Pike's men, and Pike is determined to discover the truth—no matter how dangerous."—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Osceola, MI

Thereby Hangs a Tail  A Chet and Bernie Mystery, by Spencer Quinn (Atria, $25, 9781416585855) "In fighting crime, Chet is the kind of dog you want on your side: straightforward, ready to hold onto the bad guy (using teeth if necessary), and empathetic, even in difficult situations. Once again, he and his human detective partner, Bernie, dig for clues, battle the bad guys, and never turn down treats."—Jennifer Sorenson, Literary Life Bookstore & More, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI

The First Rule  A Joe Pike Novel, by Robert Crais (Harper, $7.99 paper, 9780061584459) "Patrick Lee's debut thriller, The Breach, features former cop Travis Chase and is a masterpiece of suspense, with exciting plot twists and an ending that is surprising, original, and satisfying."—Doug Christi, Browsing Bison Books, Deer Lodge, MT

The Red Door  An Inspector Ian Rutledge Mystery, by Charles Todd (Morrow, $24.99, 9780061726163) "World War I affected not only those who served, but those who stayed at home. Inspector Ian Rutledge has returned from the war and now faces two cases, which, he suspects, may be connected. The Red Door is one more satisfying chapter in the life of Inspector Rutledge, his family, and cohorts."—Wendy Foster Leigh, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT

Committed  A Skeptic Makes Peace With Marriage, by Elizabeth Gilbert (Viking, $26.95, 9780067002169) "Picking up the story of Elizabeth Gilbert's life where it stopped at the end of Eat, Pray, Love and sharing her angst about tying the knot was like having a conversation with a great pal."—Leslie Hakala, Best of Times Bookstore, Red Wing, MN

Shades of Grey  A Novel, by Jasper Fforde (Viking, $25.95, 9780670019632) "Set in a future world in which a caste system of color rigidly defines each individual, our naïve young hero—who wants nothing more than to marry up-color—is sent to the outskirts of the civilized world as punishment for prideful behavior. Funny, fast-paced, and fabulous!"—Jennie Turner-Collins, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH

Bloodroot by Amy Greene (Knopf, $24.95, 9780307269867) "The isolated Appalachian setting in Bloodroot is a powerful, realistic, and truly American stage on which basic human traits emerge under the heavy hand of hardship and poverty. This multigenerational story is a must-read for those who wish to expand their horizons, experience a bart of our country often ignored, and face challenges head-on through honest and sparse prose. I'm still reeling."—Janel Feierabend, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

The Swan Thieves  A novel, by Elizabeth Kostova (Little, Brown, $26.99, 978031605788) "The Swan Thieves skillfully blends the worlds of art, psychology, history, and mythology with myriad voices to create a compelling tale of obsession and human nature. Add a dash of mystery, and you have a thoroughly satisfying read."—Sue Beale, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI

The Crossing Places A Ruth Galloway Mystery, by Elly Griffiths (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $25, 978074729898) "The fascinating, isolated area of England called The Saltmarsh is an ideal location for middle-age forensic anthropologist Ruth Galloway to discover a child's bones, which begins this mystery. The characters in The Crossing Places are terrific, all unique and darkly sinister enough."—Susan Wassen, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM

A Mountain of Crumbs  A Memoir by Elena Gorokhova (Simon & Schuster, $26, 9781439125670) "Elena Gorokhova's A Mountain of Crumbs offers a view of the locked-in nature of daily life in 1960s Leningrad, beginning even in nursery school. Gorokhova's precise language and her word photos are impressive. I loved this book."—Carla Cohen, Politics & Prose Books & Coffee, Washington, DC

Then Came the Evening  A Novel, by Brian Hart (Bloomsbury, $25, 9781608191040) "Brian Hart's dark, brooding debut novel portrays an American West that few writers capture, and certainly not as well as he does. Then Came the Evening is a psychological stunner."—Andy Nettell, Back of Beyond Books, Moab, UT

Angel of Death Row  My Life as a Death Penalty Defense Lawyer, by Andrea Lyon (Kaplan, $24.95, 9781607144342) "Glass ceiling or metal jail bars, seemingly nothing will stop Andrea Lyon from success. Her record of 19 death row victories has earned her the title of this book. This one reads like a thriller with real life-and-death consequences."—Jamie Robinson, Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., Mason, MI

The Girl Next Door  A Novel, by Elizabeth Noble (Touchstone, $15 paper, 9781413915430) "Elizabeth Noble is back with another winner. We get to see bits of the lives of several people in one building in Manhattan—relationships beginning and ending, including everything that happens in between."—Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Book Store, Denver, CO

Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog  The Amazing Adventures of an Ordinary Woman, by Lisa Scolltine (St. Martin's, $21.99, 9780312587482) "Scolltine shares her life over the course of a year in this insightful and humorous book. You'll be laughing out loud over her observations about life and the bizarre nature of things."—Natalie Glenn, Red-Tail Books, Eleven Mile Corner, AZ

The Girl With Glass Feet  A Novel, by Ali Shaw (Holt, $24, 9780805091144) "When Ida Maclaird meets Midas Crook, she is slowly turning into glass. Haunting and beautiful and sad, Ali Shaw's debut novel tackles the bonds of family, the nature of love, and the power of transformation, all twisted together in prose that sparkles and captivates."—Erin Kurup, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY

The Privileges  A Novel, by Jonathan Dee (Random House, $25, 9781400068678) "Adam and Cynthia Mone are an exceptionally beautiful couple. They marry young, achieve abundant success and riches, have beautiful children, and somehow stay beautiful themselves. A 'happy' story that a novelist should avoid like the plague. But in this fantastic novel Jonathan Dee gives us a profoundly moving story about the sort of people we thought we should hate."—David Mallmann, Next Chapter Bookshop, Mequon, WI

An Irish Country Girl  A Novel, by Patrick Taylor (Forge, $24.99, 9780765320711) "In An Irish Country Girl, we return to Ballybucklebo and listen in as fey Kinky Kincaid, the housekeeper who smoothes the life of the village's doctors, weaves a tale based on memories of her earlier years in Cork, her family, the ghost that haunts the high hill, and her young dreams."—Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

JANUARY '10
Fiction
Among Thieves: A Novel, by David Hosp (Grand Central, $24.99, 9780446580151)
The Butterflies of Grand Canyon: A Novel, by Margaret Erhart (Plume, $15 paper, 9780452295490)
A Fair Maiden: A Novel, by Joyce Carol Oates (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $22, 9780151015160)
Finch, by Jeff VanderMeer (Underland Press, $14.95 paper, 9780980226010)
Ghosts and Lightning, by Trevor Byrne (Doubleday, $24.95, 9780385531276)
The Pig Did It, by Joseph Caldwell (Delphinium, $13.99 paper, 9781883285340)
Saving Cicadas: A Novel, by Nicole Seitz (Thomas Nelson, $14.99 paper, 9781595545039)
Through the Heart: A Novel, by Holly Smith (Wide World Books & Maps, $15 paper, 9780452295896)
True Confections: A Novel, by Katharine Weber (Shaye Areheart Books, $22, 9780307395863)
Unfinished Desires: A Novel, by Gail Godwin (Random House, $26, 9780345483201)

Nonfiction
Cherries in Winter: My Family’s Recipe for Hope in Hard Times, by Suzan Colon (Doubleday, $21.95, 9780385532525)
Eating Animals, by Jonathan Safran Foer (Little, Brown, $25.99, 9780316069908)
Happy: A Memoir, by Alex Lemon (Scribner, $25, 9781416550235)
The Most They Ever Had, by Rick Bragg (Doubleday, $23, 9780385716054)
The Voice That Calls You Home: Inspiration for Life’s Journeys, by Andrea Raynor (Atria, $24, 9781416596110)

Mystery/Suspense
The Disappeared: A Novel, by M. R. Hall (Simon & Schuster, $24.99, 978039916583)
I, Sniper: A Bob Lee Swagger Novel, by Stephen Hunter (Simon & Schuster, $26, 9781416565654)

Notables
Never Tell a Lie by Hallie Ephron
Harper 9780061567162, $7.99
Recommended in hardcover by Kathy Ashton, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT

The School of Essential Ingredients by Erica Bauermeister
Berkeley Trade 9780425232095, $15
Recommended in hardcover by Holly Smith, Wide World Books & Maps, Seattle, WA

After You’ve Gone by Jeffrey Lent
Grove Press 9780802144553, $15
Recommended in hardcover by Penny McConnel, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT

Picking Cotton: Our Memoir of Injustice and Redemption by Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton
St. Martin’s Griffin 9780325999599, $14.99
Recommended in hardcover by Deal Saffir, Literary Book Post, Salisbury, NC

Blindspot by Jane Kremensky and Jill Lepore
Spiegel & Grau 9780316550235, $15
Recommended in hardcover by Kristin Kirkham, The University Book Store, Madison, WI

The Wettest County in the World by Matt Bondurant
Scribner 9780316550235, $15
Recommended in hardcover by Kristin Kirkham, The University Book Store, Madison, WI

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