Blasphemy
Sherman Alexie
Grove / Atlantic
Alexie gives the reader a blazingly straight on view of Native life while at the same time suffusing his work with powerful humor that touches the tragedy of the human condition. Blasphemy is wide ranging, wildly entertaining, and heartfelt.
—PNBA Awards Committee

The Revised Fundamental of Caregiving
Jonathan Evison
Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill / Workman
Fortune has not smiled on Benjamin as of late and he’s down to his last dollar when forced to take a job as a caregiver for Trevor, a 19-year-old kid confined to a wheelchair. The friendship that unexpectedly—and sometimes painfully—grows inspires an audacious adventure of healing and forgiveness. Wickedly funny, daring and heartwarming. —PNBA Awards Committee

The Snow Child
Eowyn Ivey
Little, Brown
Beautiful prose brings dreamlike imagery to life and vivid yearnings percolate in the minds of these finely wrought, hardscrabble homesteaders following moose tracks along glacier-fed rivers as the isolation of a woodland winter looms. This quiet, magical story is unmistakably Alaskan at its heart.
— PNBA Awards Committee

On the Spectrum of Possible Deaths
Lucia Perillo
Copper Canyon Press
Lucia Perillo’s relentless curiosity, deep intelligence and dark wit are all on powerful display here in poems that flow with subtle music and a deceptively casual tone. Her poetry moves gracefully from the personal to the universal, generously inviting her readers to join her as she contemplates the vagaries of nature, culture, family and the body. —PNBA Awards Committee

Wild
Cheryl Strayed
Knopf / Random House
A beautiful, powerful memoir about a young woman who moves through grief by hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and proves she is the daughter to make her mother proud. Strayed’s love/hate relationship with her hiking boots and monstrous pack, her inner strength, and the beauty and power of her 1,100-mile trek kept us riveted.
— PNBA Awards Committee

Alif the Unseen
G. Willow Wilson
Grove / Atlantic
Grounded in the modern Middle East but bridging virtual reality, history, and mythology, this well-paced novel brings together a thought-provoking array of characters, each with a unique and powerful moral compass.
— PNBA Awards Committee