Girls to the front! Carrie Brownstein writes the way she plays guitar, with raw honesty, passion, and great humor, in Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl (Riverhead). In Lady Bird and Lyndon (Simon & Schuster), Betty Boyd Caroli redefines the First Lady as an iron fist in a white glove. Vladimir Nabokov’s Letters to Véra (Knopf) bloom with exquisite writing.


—ELISSA SCHAPPELL

IN SHORT