

## Quick and Cozy Dispatch

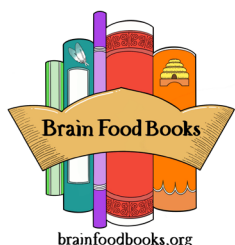
Dear Neighbors,

Maybe it's the poet in me, but I have always loved brevity. I admit to having found great delight in enormous books from time to time. Still. There's something to be said for a short book you can finish in one good sitting (thank you, Madeline Miller, for *Galatea*). Or a poem that doesn't require a page turn (thank you, Billy Collins, for *Musical Tables*). A poem with only two lines? A kiss.

Lately I've been loving short books even more than usual. Something

about the shorter days? Happily, the publishers seem to be aligned with me. Most of my recommendations in this issue hover around 100 pages. If you are also looking for quick escapes, we have just the slim spine for you. But if you are preparing for long wintry evenings in, don't worry; we have stacks of enormous tomes on offer as well. As the holidays are fast approaching, we also have a gift guide, including audiobook bundles from Libro.fm, book club subscriptions and charitable donations. We truly believe we have something for everyone. Can't wait to see you in the shop! —Michaela Riding

## Brain Food Books



Brain Food Books believes access to books offers a broader perspective, hope, and a safe place for children everywhere. Access to books has changed our worlds, so BFB wants to offer that same experience to kids. Representation in literature is a fundamental part of the BFB mission.

We welcome you to reach out if you want to be involved! Our community

is growing as we expand BFB by working with local leaders! <http://brainfoodbooks.org>

The first ever gathering of the collective Utah Poet Laureates was at the Benefit for Brain Food Books. Over 85 people attended in what was also our first patio event partnership with Finca, our neighboring Spanish Tapas restaurant!



Calvin Crosby and Anne Holman with David Lee (1997-2003), Kim Shuck San Francisco poet laureate emeritus, 2017, Katharine Coles (2006-2012), Lance Larsen (2012-2017), Paisley Rekdal (2017-2022), and Lisa Bickmore (2022-present)

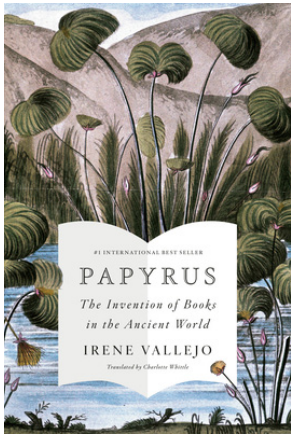


Hawthorne Elementary teachers with some of the books we are donating to kids! Left to right: Berkeley Lang (Neighborhood Kindergarten Class Teacher), Kody Colvin (Principal), Celeste Simmons (5th/6th C&A Teacher), and Jean Sesera (MELP Kindergarten Teacher)



## Gift Season

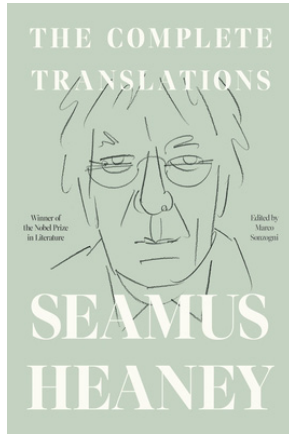
### FOR BOOK LOVERS



**Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World**, Irene Vallejo, Charlotte Whittle (Transl.), Knopf, \$35

**Persuasion: The Complete Novel, Featuring the Characters' Letter and Papers, Written and Folded by Hand**, Jane Austen, Barbara Heller, Chronicle, \$40

**Great Novels: The World's Most Remarkable Fiction Explored and Explained**,



DK, DK, \$35

**A Private Spy: The Letters of John le Carré**, John le Carré, Viking, \$40

**To the Realization of Perfect Helplessness**, Robin Coste Lewis, Knopf, \$35

**The Complete Translations: Seamus Heaney**, Marco Sonzogni, Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, \$50

### FOR FOOD LOVERS



**Smitten Kitchen Keepers: New Classics for Your Forever Files**, Deb Perelman, Knopf, \$35

**What's for Dessert: Simple Recipes for Dessert People: A Baking Book**, Claire Saffitz, Clarkson Potter, \$37.50

**Go-To Dinners: A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook**, Ina Garten, Clarkson Potter, \$35

**Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking: 30th Anniversary Edition**, Marcella Hazan, Knopf, \$40

**Evolutions in Bread: Artisan Pan Breads and Dutch-Oven Loaves at Home**, Ken Forkish, Ten Speed Press, \$35

**Cocktails with a Curator**, Xavier F. Salomon, Aimee Ng, Giulio Davit, Rizzoli Electa, \$39.95

**Justice of the Pies: Sweet and Savory Pies, Quiches, and Tarts plus Inspirational Stories from Exceptional People: A Baking Book**, Maya-Camille Broussard, Clarkson Potter, \$30

**Bread Head: Baking for the Road Less Traveled**, Greg Wade, Rachel Holtzman, W.W. Norton & Co, \$45

**A Place in the World: Finding the Meaning of Home**, Frances Mayes, Crown, \$27



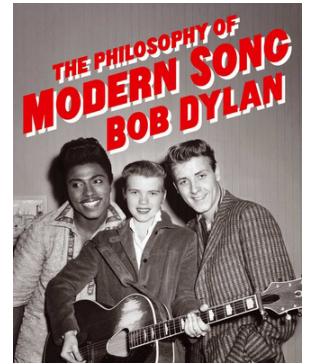
### FOR MUSIC LOVERS

**The Philosophy of Modern Song**, Bob Dylan, Simon & Schuster, \$35

**Rolling Stone: The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time**, Rolling Stone, Abrams, \$50

**The Come Up: An Oral History of the Rise of Hip-Hop**, Jonathan Abrams, Crown, \$35

**The McCartney Legacy: Vol 1: 1969-73**, Allan Kozinn, Adrian Sinclair, Dey Street, \$35



### FOR FILM LOVERS



**The Magic of MinaLima: Celebrating the Graphic Design Studio Behind the Harry Potter and Fantastic Beasts Films**, MinaLima and Nell Denton, Harper Design, \$50

**Hollywood: The Oral History**, Jeanine Basinger, Sam Wasson, Harper, \$37.50

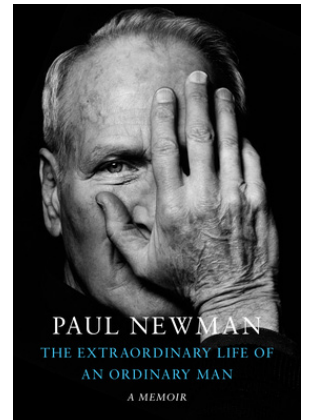
**Cinema Speculation**, Quentin Tarantino, Harper, \$35

**The Rise of the**

**Dragon: An Illustrated History of the Targaryen Dynasty, Volume One**, George R.R. Martin, Elio M. García Jr., Ten Speed Press, \$60

**Marvel Studios' Black Panther: Dreams of Wakanda: Creators, Writers, and Comics Legends on the Impact of Marvel Studios' Black Panther**, Random House World, \$25

**The Extraordinary Life of An Ordinary Man: A Memoir**, Paul Newman, Knopf, \$32



### FOR ART & DANCE LOVERS



**Women Holding Things**, Maira Kalman, Harper Design, \$32.50

**A Book of Days**, Patti Smith, Random, \$28.99

**The Wind at My Back: Resilience, Grace and Other Gifts from My Mentor**, Raven Wilkinson, Misty Copeland, Grand Central Publishing, \$29

**Art is Life: Icons and Iconoclasts, Visionaries and Vigilantes, and Flashes of Hope in the Night**, Jerry Saltz, River-

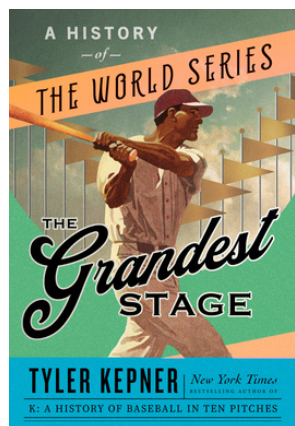
head Books, \$30

**Mr. B: George Balanchine's 20th Century**, Jennifer Homans, Random House, \$40



# Gift Season

## FOR SPORTS LOVERS



**The Grandest Stage: A History of the World Series**, Tyler Kepner, Doubleday, \$30

**Pride of a Nation: A Celebration of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team (An Official U.S. Soccer Book)**, Gwendolyn Oxenham, Ten Speed Press, \$35

**Cyclist – Climb: The Most Epic Cycling Ascents in the World**, Cyclist Magazine, Mitchell Beazley, \$40

## LITTLE GIFTS/ STOCKING STUFFERS

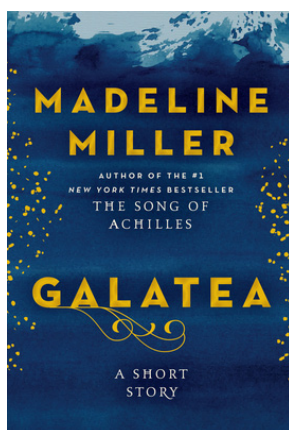
**Galatea: A Short Story**, Madeline Miller, Ecco, \$12

**Musical Tables: Poems**, Billy Collins, Random, \$26

**Lapidarium: The Secret Lives of Stones**, Hettie Judah, Penguin, \$24

**I'm So Happy You're Here: A Little Book About Why You're Great**, Liz Climo, Flatiron, \$19.99

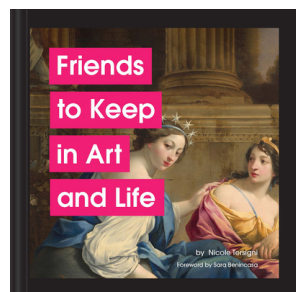
**Cabinet of Curiosities: Over 1000 Curated Stickers from the Fascinating Collections of the Smithsonian**, Smithsonian Institution, Smithsonian, \$40



**Friends to Keep in Art and Life**, Nicole Tersigni, Chronicle, \$14.95

**How to Win the War on Truth: An Illustrated Guide to How Mistruths Are Sold, Why They Stick, and How to Reclaim Reality**, Samuel C. Spitale, Quirk, \$24.99

**Math Games with Bad Drawings; The Ultimate Game Collection**, Ben Orlin,



Black Dog & Leventhal, \$16.99

**The Big Bang Theory Talking Button: Bazinga!**, Bryan Young, RP, \$12.95

**Dickens and Prince: A Particular Kind of Genius**, Nick Hornby, Riverhead, \$18

**The Moth Presents: A Game of Storytelling**, The Moth, Clarkson Potter, \$17.99

**Papercuts: A Party Game for the Rude and Well-Read**, Electric Literature, Clarkson Potter, \$22

**A Short History of Queer Women**, Kirsty Loehr, Oneworld, \$15.99

**The Wild Unknown Pocket Animal Spirit Deck**, Kim Krans, HarperOne, \$19.99

**The Lord of the Rings Tarot Deck and Guide**, Insight, \$27.99



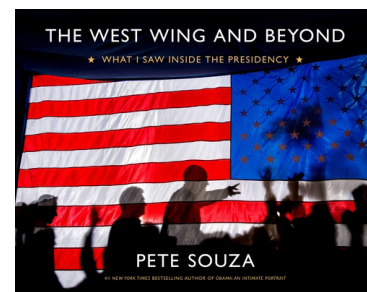
## FOR THOSE WITH A COFFEE TABLE

**The West Wing and Beyond: What I Saw Inside the Presidency**, Pete Souza, Voracious, \$50

**Seasons of Yellowstone: Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks**, Thomas D. Mangelsen, Rizzoli, \$55

**Tutankhamun's Trumpet: Ancient Egypt in 100 Objects from the Boy-King's Tomb**, Toby Wilkinson, W.W. Norton & Co, \$37.50

**Conserving America's Wildlands: The Vision of Ted Turner**, Rhett Turner, Rizzoli, \$55



**Apollo Remastered: The Ultimate Photographic Record**, Andy Saunders, Black Dog & Leventhal, \$75

**Wild Flowers of North America: Botanical Illustrations**, Mary Vaux Walcott, Prestel, \$65

**Animal: The Definitive Visual Guide**, DK, DK, \$60

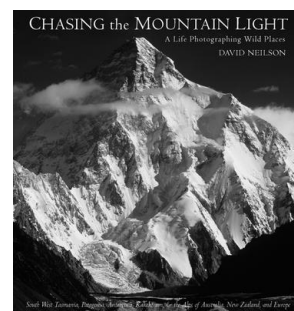
**Cultural Treasures of the World: From the Relics of Ancient Empires to**

**Modern-Day Icons**, DK, DK, \$50

**Our America: A Photographic History**, Ken Burns, Knopf, \$75

**Engines: The Inner Workings of Machines that Move the World**, Theodore Gray, Black Dog & Leventhal, \$32

**Chasing the Mountain Light: A Life Photographing Wild Places**, David Neilson, Abbeville Press, \$85



## FOR THOSE WHO HATE SURPRISES

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## FOR THOSE WHO LOVE SURPRISES

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## FOR A GOOD CAUSE

**BRAIN FOOD BOOKS** – Consider donating to our exciting non-profit, Brain Food Books. Because Kids Need to Read! [brainfoodbooks.org](http://brainfoodbooks.org)



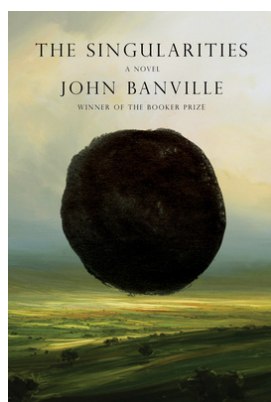
***Our Missing Hearts*, Celeste Ng**

What happens when your poem becomes the rallying cry for the revolution against a fascist state? And how does an artist keep her family safe against racism and economic hardship after that state has fractured society in the name of perceived safety? These are only two of many questions raised in Celeste Ng's new novel. Bird, a mixed race twelve-year old boy, has been taught to expunge his mother from his memory and to do everything to fly under the radar after he and his

father desperately try to move on without fear of repercussions from the new laws written to preserve "American Culture." Anti-Asian sentiments run high and children are disappearing from their homes as the government "re-locates" them to safer environments. After his only friend disappears and Bird receives an encoded message from his mother, he embarks on a journey to search her out and get some answers. In this searing and beautiful novel, Ng asks us to examine our own prejudices and ultimately asks the question: in this fractured world, does art have the power to create change and make a difference? —Anne Stewart Mark, Penguin Press, \$29

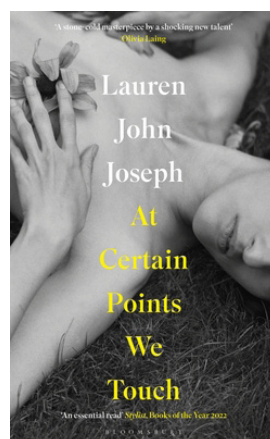
***The Singularities*, John Banville**

There are few novelists alive today whose language is more lyrical—or complex—than that of Booker Prize-winner John Banville. The same may be said of his plots. The character who begins this tale we already know from *The Book of Evidence*, Freddie. Fresh out of prison where he was serving a life sentence for murder, Freddie has renamed himself Felix Mordaunt and returned to a house in which he lived as a child. The rambling Arden House is now inhabited by the son, daughter-in-law, and mother of arguably the most famous scientist and thinker of the past century, Adam Godley. Adam, as cruel as he was famous and as insecure as he was accomplished, threw the world into disarray with his scientific theories, while seemingly doing his best to create the black hole he famously hypothesized as he savaged those who loved (and came to hate) him. Upon entering Arden, our murderer meets the family Adam left in his wake: Adam the younger who is, given the nature of his father, predictably passive; Helen his wife, a woman at once caustic, intelligent, careless, entrancing and clearly unfulfilled; and the ancient mother, as startling and memorable in her own way as Dickens's Miss Havisham, dwelling in the attic in a tangle of sheets, chamber pots and bottles. Add to that the scientist's sly biographer, and what emerges is a sorcerer's brew of quintessential Banville: funny, shocking, and complex (to put it mildly). The heroes (if they can be called that) are Banville's women, full of yearning yet somehow indomitable. The villains are the self-aggrandizing men, each circularly meditating on his life. Whether the subject be love, lust, homicide, academia, quantum physics or time, *The Singularities* is brilliant and often slyly funny, a novel that delves into the sorrows we bear, the regrets we harbor and the love we still manage to believe in from time to time. —Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$30



***The Book of Everlasting Things*, Aanchal Malhotra**

A love story for the ages, exquisitely told; fragrant, sensual, and indulgent. I loved this book from the first line: "His nose woke up first." Samir was born during the monsoon season, a season full of life, and it was his nose that guided him throughout his entire long life. By contrast: "Firdaus' reserved demeanor was a seamless translation of the frigid night of her birth." As these two very different, young creatures from Lahore—one Hindu, the other Muslim; one a perfumer, the other a calligrapher—find and subsequently lose each during the Indian/Pakistani partition, what unfolds is the glorious bulk of this new novel. Malhotra is a brilliant historian and her depth of research into the science and development of perfume is astounding. Along the way she also plunges us into the horrors of trench warfare in France during WWI and the tragedies enmeshed in the Indian struggle for independence from Great Britain. So much devastating history and flowing prose dedicated to scent is almost overpowering. But it's a book about love. A book of "memory and myth...not eclipsed by life or death." A book of everlasting things. —Anne Stewart Mark, Flatiron Books, \$29.99

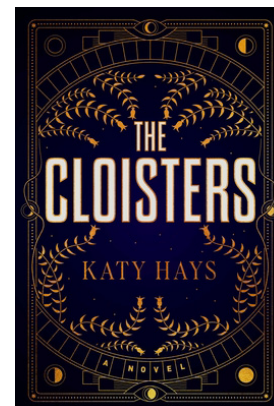


***At Certain Points We Touch*, Lauren John Joseph**

Lauren John Joseph's debut novel, *At Certain Points We Touch*, lands at that literary sweet spot between a young Edmund White (*A Boy's Own Story*), Garth Greenwell (*Cleanliness*), and Joan Didion (*A Year of Magical Thinking*). The author is a British-born, American-educated artist and writer who has worked across multiple mediums. They now bring us a novel told in letters of vivid prose. Written over a decade, the letters tell the story of grief, love, and navigating contemporary queer life in Mexico City, London, New York, and San Francisco, all the while moving forward and trying to understand the loss of first love. They write in a tone of sophistication on par with many a classic British storyteller combined with the candor of an American Millennial. Lauren John Joseph's writing will grip and enthrall your heart from the opening line to the final sentence. —Calvin Crosby, Bloomsbury \$26

***The Cloisters*, Katy Hays**

By a strange twist of fate, Ann Stilwell's summer post at New York City's famed Metropolitan Museum of Art falls through and she lands at The Cloisters—its older, more gothic sister—alongside monied researcher Rachel Mondray. Ann hopes to be a more successful doctoral candidate by the fall. Little does she know what fantastical and murderous events await her. Both girls have tragedy in their





past, and Ann's accidental discovery of an ancient deck of tarot could lead to future calamities as the lines between research and belief in the arcane blur. This debut novel is exciting, and we can't wait to see more from Katy Hays. —Paula Longhurst and Sue Fleming, Atria, \$28



**Signal Fires**, Dani Shapiro

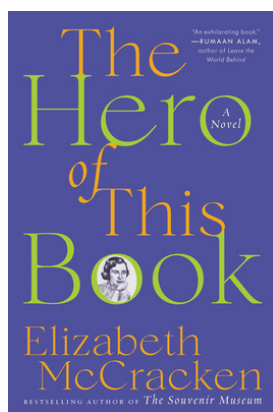
NY Times bestselling and award-winning author of *Inheritance*, Dani Shapiro, knows intimately what a secret can do to a person, a family and a community. Secrets have births and deaths, just like people, and this novel deftly follows the life cycle of one such secret, born in tragedy, tying together the fates of two houses across generations. What follows as it grows is a mélange of bad and good: psychic indignities, regret, mistakes and self-destruction living side by side with

comfort, love, relief and truth. And in the end? Dani Shapiro also knows what we readers need and search for in our books. Like a merciful Charon, she navigates us across time and space with these families, showing the ways they survive this tragic and beautiful thing called life. —Michaela Riding, Knopf, \$28

**The Hero of This Book**, Elizabeth McCracken

I love little books that seem to meander but ultimately get straight to some final earth-shaking point (or reveal that there isn't one). McCracken's latest, a novel on the face of it but one that might or might not double as a memoir, is such a book. As the narrator saunters along the streets of London during a single day, fondly recalling similar trips with her supposedly fictional mother, we begin to visualize that diminutive and extraordinary woman (obviously the 'hero' of the book) who walked with canes but was stopped by nothing; was indomitable, funny, and brilliant; was a beloved boss not only to her editors but to her daughter as well—and likewise to picture that daughter, a supposedly fictional narrator who is, as is McCracken herself, a noted novelist and teacher of writing. Autofiction, according to the narrator, going on to say that she hates autofiction. Real or imagined, I loved mother and daughter alike. Both simultaneously moved me and made me laugh. Together they taught me things I didn't know or perhaps hadn't recognized about love and about families, about self-determination and its opposite. And about the art (not craft, our narrator would insist) of writing. As in Elizabeth Strout's work, the brief but pregnant musings of Elizabeth McCracken are worth far more than the ponderous paragraphs of our "weightier" contemporary writers.

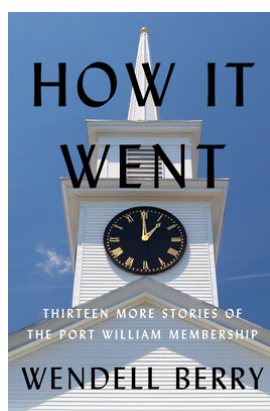
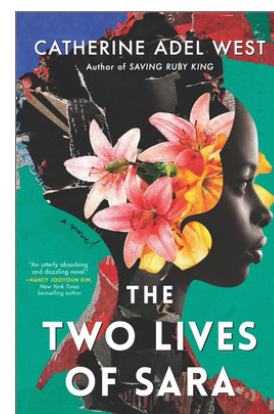
—Betsy Burton, Ecco, \$26.99



**The Two Lives of Sara**, Catherine Adel West

It's the early 60's, and Sara has a secret that haunts her to the point of fleeing her native Chicago for Memphis. She rebuilds her life and her ability to trust and form relationships, but just as her hard edges begin to soften, tragedy strikes again. Her struggle is mirrored in the Memphis community, where people are fighting for radical change. Black literature and music form the background for one woman's fight to understand and embrace her destiny. Told in beautiful prose, this novel is an immersive look at this heightened moment in America's history.

—Anne Stewart Mark, Park Row Books, Harpercollins, \$27.99



**How It Went**, Wendell Berry

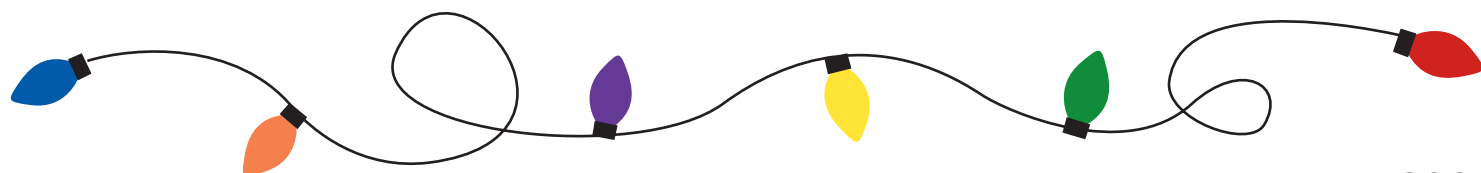
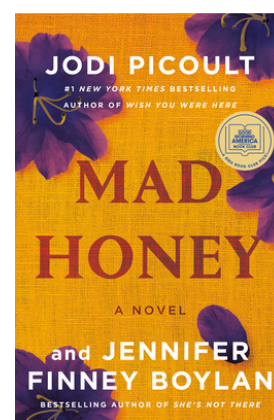
This overview of Andy Catlett's life in the fictional town of Port William, Kentucky, ranges from the year 1932 to 2021. The gentle beauty of this series is tied together in the thirteen short stories of Berry's latest book. The reader does not necessarily need to have read any of the previous books to be able to understand the arc of Andy's life, along with the many attending characters we have come to know and love. *How It Went* is truly a calming balm for the times in which we find ourselves

and will be enjoyed by readers of all ages. —Jan Sloan Tempest, Counterpoint Press, \$26

**Mad Honey**, Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

I truly feel I am not qualified to write this review. But I found this book so courageous, so compelling, so touching and so very important that trying is the least I can do. It took two brilliant writers to compose this story of love, transformation, murder and forgiveness. Jenny Boylan dreamed of co-writing a novel with Jodi Picoult and Ms. Picoult had been thinking of bringing to life the story of a trans person. During the pandemic they were able to create this marvelous story. Brilliantly researched, beautifully and seamlessly told, we are brought to the story of two women, Olivia and Lily. Within their stories is a tale of motherly love unshaken by abuse and turmoil, compellingly told through often heartbreaking prose. Please give this book a read and see if it doesn't open your heart and give you a more open mind along the way.

—Anne Stewart Mark, Ballantine, \$29.99







***The Oracle of Maracoor: A Novel,***  
Gregory Maguire

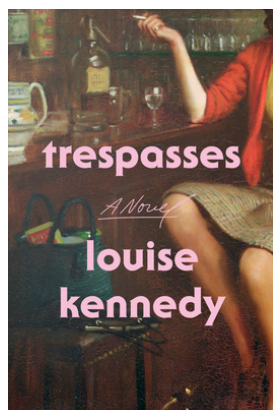
Gregory Maguire, the bestselling author of *Wicked* and *The Wicked Years Series*, has returned with *Rain*, the green-skinned granddaughter of Elphaba, for the second installation of the *Another Day Trilogy*. Her adventure continues in Maracoor, an ocean away from the legendary Oz that Frank L. Baum introduced in 1900 and Maguire revitalized in 1995. *Rain* is still without a memory of her life before landing in Maricool. She and the

convicted child Cossy must escape their imprisonment before execution. As they make their getaway, aided by a few flying monkeys, they narrowly escape an invading army. Chaos, mayhem, and adventure ensue in the way only Gregory Maguire can create. Mythological creatures, soothsayers, and a search for the legendary Oracle occur as the fabric of reality unravels, nations go to war, and the girls must fight for their lives and future. Maguire gives us wholly imagined worlds that are so vivid, with his characters being so human in thought and deed, despite being green, having flying monkeys, or a magic broom. I delight in the escapism Maguire's work offers.

—Calvin Crosby, HarperCollins \$28.99

***Trespases,*** Louise Kennedy

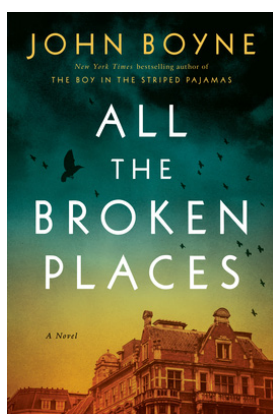
Belfast was a terrible place in the latter part of the 20th century, with an enormous capacity for destroying itself. Cushla is a young second grade teacher, who takes care of her alcoholic mom and helps in the family bar at night. Her family works and keeps their heads down, doing their best to avoid any trouble. When local lawyer, Michael Agnew, infamous for defending members of the IRA, comes in, Cushla's world shifts dramatically. Their story is dangerous from the beginning, and readers will be completely absorbed by it. The horrible banality of everyday life for Catholics in Belfast is overlaid with the devastating need for tenderness and love in every part of life. This novel felt real. One of the most memorable books of the season! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Riverhead, \$27



***All the Broken Places,*** John Boyne

Gretel has managed to live a quiet life post WWII, after fleeing Germany. A beautiful apartment in London, a husband who loves her very much, it looks like a life well-lived. But with each chapter, readers become more and more aware of a life filled with fear, guilt and denial, a life that is an immense burden that she has not shared with anyone. When a young family moves into the apartment below, Gretel's past life and world opens up again. She is going to have to deal

with what is going on downstairs, and with her own past. Forgive-



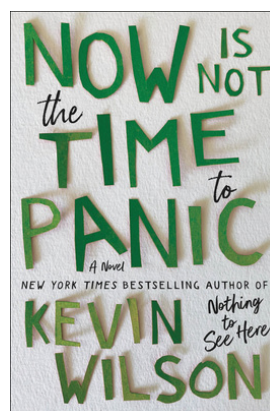
ness is hard to find and in this tragedy reconciliation may have to be enough. The connection with an earlier Boyne book, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, might catch readers by surprise. I will not forget Gretel; her story will stick with you. I couldn't put it down.

—Margaret Brennan Neville, Pamela Dorman Books, \$28

***The Magic Kingdom,*** Russell Banks

Russell Banks' latest is a tale of two [broken] promises, love and obsession, loneliness and solitude, and in some ways, a fable of America's search for utopia and development. In 1971 a successful Florida real estate developer named Harley Mann records his life story on 15 reel-to-reel tapes. These tapes, labeled "Magic Kingdom," are recovered by Banks in the hurricane-flooded basement of the St. Cloud, Florida Library. This "novel," then, is the transcribed, edited and shaped story. In 1902, when he is 12, Harley's family joins the New Bethany Shaker community in Florida. Harley follows the Shaker principles of Purity, Community, and Separation until he begins falling in love with consumptive Sadie Pratt (seven years his senior), who lives with the Shakers. The community prospers under the leadership of Elder John and Eldress Mary, and with the labor of its members ("never unnatural or cruel--exploitive, yes!") by selling its produce of pineapples, honey, grain, corn, and cattle. At his story's heart is Harley's struggle with loyalty to the Shakers and his own need to be faithful to his feelings and the truth as he sees it. Overlaying the narrative is what the 7,000 acres of the New Bethany Shaker property is today...

—Carol Kranes, Knopf, \$30



***Now Is Not the Time to Panic,***  
Kevin Wilson

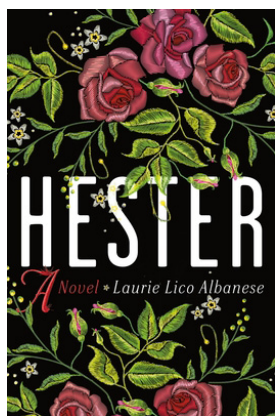
In this coming-of-age novel from the bestselling author of *Nothing to See Here*, we follow two teenage outcasts, Frankie and Zeke. To combat the very specific mix of boredom and angst that comes with high school summer breaks, the two make art together. They make a mysterious and unsigned poster, emblazoned with the phrase "The edge is a shantytown filled with gold seekers. We are fugitives, and the law is skinny with hunger for us." Soon the posters start appearing everywhere in town and even beyond. People begin wondering who is behind them, and rumors spread that Satanists, or kidnappers, or both are behind the posters. The mystery upsets the equilibrium of their small town and spirals out of control, with fatal repercussions. This sincere and thoughtful novel asks: what happens when artists lose control of their art? —Brian Pham, Ecco, \$27.99

***Hester,*** Laurie Lico Albanese

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* is one of my favorite books, most certainly my favorite high school Honors English required reading. I had never thought there was a need to refresh the story about perspective and personal consequences, but having just finished read-



## FICTION



ing *Hester*, everything has changed. Laurie takes down the mythos of Hawthorne's heroine and rebuilds it with a fresh and original story of a woman's struggle in the early decades of our country. The Salem witch trials, Scottish fairy myths, and Isobel Gamble's complicated existence are entwined in the story of a young woman ultimately made to find her own place in a harsh and judging environment. She does this against all odds and against the men who would have her expect less. Isobel Gamble is a heroine through and through. She supports herself with her

gifts with a needle. Her ability to see the color of words is compelling from the first page to the last and the overall detail in this historical time is breathtaking. I LOVED this book.

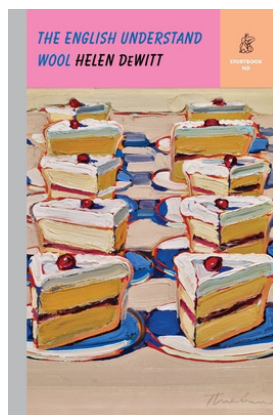
—Calvin Crosby, St. Martin's Press, \$27.99

***The English Understand Wool*,  
Helen DeWitt**

Charming and devastating in equal measure! This is a wry tale of a 17-year-old girl raised by parents to avoid, at all cost, *mauvais ton* (bad taste), up against the sharks of New York City. Will the standards she was raised on, such as "The English understand wool" and "One must play the piano" suffice? This is but one of six in an innovative series New Directions has come out with called Storybooks.

Almost like Golden Books, but for adults, their distinctive silver spines are a hint that these are going to be treasures—little tales that capture the satisfied, almost magical feeling you had as a kid when you devoured a book in an afternoon. DeWitt's offering to this series is one of the best things we've read. The pacing, the reveal, the characters, simply delightful. You'll wish it were longer, but the length is also an integral part of the magic. Storybook ND, these are brilliant. And Helen DeWitt, you had me at wool.

—Anne Holman and Michaela Riding, New Directions, \$17.95



***The Lemon*, S.E. Boyd**

Food Literature + Hilarious Fiction + Literary Who Done It = *Lemon*. S.E. Boyd is a team made up of journalists Kevin Alexander and Joe Keohane, and editor Alessandra Lusardi. They have given us their first novel, and it is brilliant. I don't want to give anything away so I will just say this: The story of John Doe's death will have you laughing and perplexed to the end. Set in Belfast, Northern Ireland, an exciting cast of suspects with genuine motives navigate the death of a well-loved

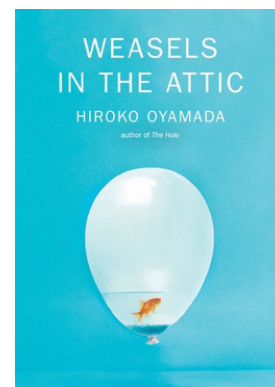


foodie celebrity (and by death, I mean the apparent suicide of the adored host of a culinary travel program). This page-turning story is filled with intrigue and a unique food perspective. —Calvin Crosby, Viking, \$27

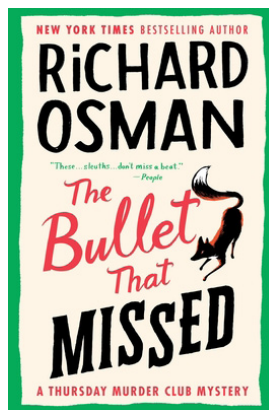
## PAPERBACK FICTION

***Weasels In the Attic*,  
Hiroko Oyamada**

This is a compellingly surreal snapshot of Japanese culture, but with something universal running through. Three interconnected stories featuring the same characters allow us as readers to sink deep into this world, even though the total page count hovers near 70. While there, we have the privilege of swimming like fish through the oft-unspoken tensions that surround parenthood: masculinity, expectation, desire, desperation, humor, change. The people are disconcertingly real, down to the foods they prefer, their inconsistencies, their eyebrows. It is the settings that are stranger than most fiction: defunct rare fish stores, weasel-infested attics, and snowed-in country homes. The dreams are unsettling and the people are incomplete. The experience is a delight. When you come up for air it will feel like emerging from a refreshing bath. —Michaela Riding, New Directions, \$13.95



## MYSTERY



***The Bullet That Missed*, Richard Osman**

*The Thursday Murder Club* is back! Ibrahim is feeling better, Elizabeth is more worried about Steven than ever and Bogdan is in love. And now it seems the Viking is on the hunt for Elizabeth; he is going to kill her (and Joyce just for good measure) if she doesn't kill Victor Illyich. You'll remember Martin Lomax from *The Man Who Died Twice*. It was his diamonds Elizabeth stole but they really belonged to Victor Illyich. And Victor is making the Viking look bad. And on it

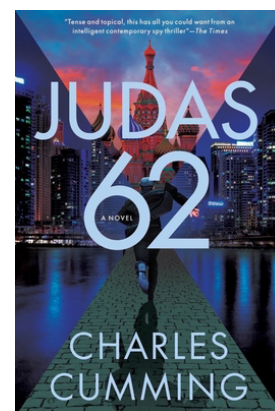
goes; every one of us at The King's English are loving these!

—Anne Holman, Pamela Dorman Books, \$27

***Judas 62*, Charles Cumming**

1993: Lachlan Kite used the alias Peter Galvin in an attempt to help smuggle a bioweapons expert out of Russia. 'Lockie' was still a fledgling agent, keen to impress his mentor at Box 88. Things didn't go quite to plan.

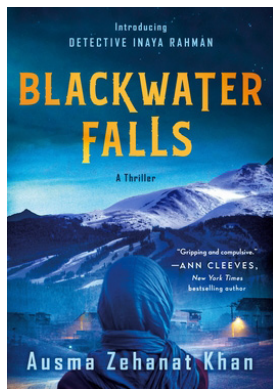
2020: The Galvin alias appears on the Judas list and only one man could've put it there. Before the Russians can discover his true identity and try to defenestrate him, Kite, now the Director of Box 88, goes on the offensive. He sets up an op in Dubai that dangles irresistible bait in front of the FSB officer Kite humiliated over two decades ago. Will the FSB bite or is Kite being led into a trap? —Paula Longhurst, Mysterious Press, \$27.95





## *Blitz* (Rook Files #3), Daniel O'Malley

1936: In the skies over London a trio of female Pawns watch the Nazi bombers approaching. They are forbidden to interfere, and up until tonight they haven't, right up to the point where Pamela, the sanest of them all, brings down a plane load of German airmen with her bare hands, killing almost all onboard. In present day South Shields, librarian Lynette Binns manifests a shocking power that destroys her kitchen and puts her into the hands of the Checquy. After a stint at a supernatural school Lyn masters her power and is reunited with her husband and young daughter. All is going well. Until someone starts murdering London gangland bosses using Lyn's unique ability. Lyn's only hope of survival is to catch the real killer. —Paula Longhurst, Little Brown, \$30

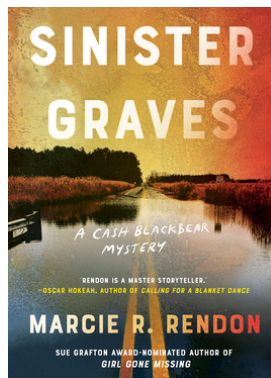


## *Blackwater Falls*, Ausma Zehanat Khan

Small town melting pot, or simmering racial tensions about to boil over? In the idyllic Colorado town of Blackwater Falls, resident Inaya Rahman, a refugee from wars foreign and domestic, is a part of the Community Response Unit. The CRU has been called in to attempt to wrest control of a racially sensitive murder investigation from the hands of the local crooked sheriff. In so doing, elements of disharmony amongst the local megachurch, the biker gang, the townsfolk, the refugees, and the FBI become agitated and start adding weight to Inaya's view that something is very wrong in this place. As if that wasn't enough, Inaya's boss is acting cold and distant, her family is trying to marry her off and the community organizer doesn't trust her but does let slip that some Somali girls went missing in the weeks before the murder.... —Paula Longhurst, Minotaur, \$27.99

## *Sinister Graves*, Marcie R. Rendon

The third book in the *Cash Blackbear* series follows the life of an Ojibwe woman with mystical powers useful to Sheriff Wheaton, her guardian, in this mystery set in the 1970's Red River Valley of Minnesota. Using her special skills, Cash is called upon to find the identity of a murdered Native woman; however, perhaps more important than her powers is her knowledge of the community and the strengths and weaknesses of the Native American culture. During the search for the dead woman's identity, she meets with an evangelical pastor and his wife and discovers the old grave of two children and one new killing. Unexplained deaths are a part of Cash's life. Cash is a flawed woman with undiscovered strengths who dreams of a future bringing justice to her community. Rendon's works have been recognized for her ability to create well-rounded characters and for the truthful portrayal of the challenges



of Native American communities. —Wendy Foster-Leigh, Soho Press, \$27.95



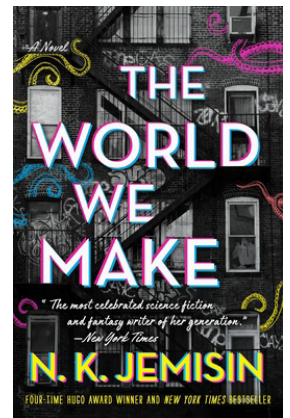
## *Station Eternity*, Mur Lafferty

Leaving Earth was the best thing for Mallory Veridian. The 'murder magnet' is almost alone on a sentient space station packed with alien races. Mallory isn't a) being accused of murder, or b) solving said murder before the cops have even called for forensics. However, *Eternity* has been conducting some back door diplomacy with Earth; she's invited a shuttle full of humans to come visit. It contains diplomats, plain clothes military, some 'lucky' winners and at least one murderer. Mallory's quiet life just got tossed out of the airlock. —Paula Longhurst, Ace, \$17

# SPECULATIVE FICTION

## *The World We Make*, N.K. Jemisin

In *The City We Became*, New York was born as a fully sentient city. When that birth suffered complications, Staten Island's Avatar enabled the Woman in White to maintain a foothold in this dimension. Now Queens is threatened with deportation, Brooklyn is running for mayor against a dark money Senator who wants to 'Make NY Great Again' and Manny is trying to rally older cities to New York's aid with varying degrees of success. Jemisin once again sends a love letter to New York and the immigrant New Yorkers who shaped her. —Paula Longhurst, Orbit, \$30



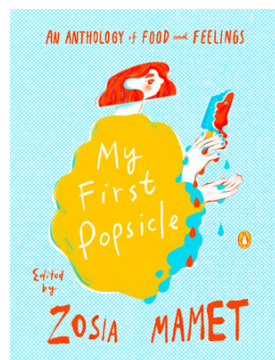
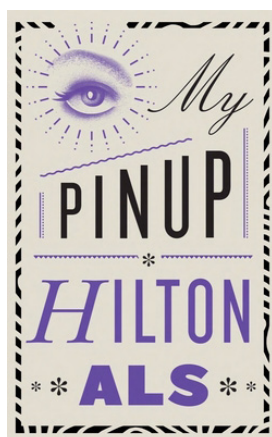
## *Tread of Angels*, Rebecca Roanhorse

In the fantasy realm of Goetia, the aftermath of a heavenly war has created a societal divide. The Elects are treated as privileged and virtuous while the Fallen, descendants of rebellious angels, are treated as loathsome and unworthy. When Mariel, a Fallen woman, is accused of murdering an Elect man who is part of an order of archangels, Mariel's sister Celeste must prove Mariel's innocence. But the more Celeste searches to uncover the truth... the darker the truth becomes. *Tread of Angels* is a novella with a large fantasy world that felt believable. The relationship between the two sisters was interesting, complicated, and the heart of the story. Celeste's sleuthing to solve the mysterious, violent murder felt a bit noir at first and kept me turning pages, but the story unfolds into something bigger than a homicide case. There are layers of social commentary involving society's negative treatment of women and how class structures breed privilege and abusive power. Even with a charismatic demon lord slinking around the pages, Roanhorse still focuses a light on the dark heart of mankind. —Alexis Powell, Saga Press, \$22.99

**My Pinup**, Hilton Als

Hilton Als and his earlier work *White Girls* first came to my attention when I began working for the publisher McSweeney's shortly after they released it. It was the kind of collection that hit so many topics with such graceful prose that while it was thought-provoking and raw, the book was beautiful. I will never forget sitting at my desk and opening that book and discovering Hilton Als' prose. Similarly, no one in my generation, I believe, will ever forget when they first fell in love with Prince. I was getting a bagel at the Bagel Nosh at the old Crossroads Mall (peanut butter on a cinnamon and raisin) when I first heard *When Dove's Cry* play; I had never heard anything like it. I fell in love with the lyrics, the music, and the artist before I had any idea who Prince was. In this first part of a new memoir/essay collection, Hilton explores desire, racism, black queerness, and love through Prince, the demure musical genius and demigod. He illustrates this love as he writes about a generation moved and inspired by the musician. His writing is beautiful, and he candidly captures desire in the most achingly vivid way.

—Calvin Crosby, *New Directions* \$9.95



**My First Popsicle**, Zosia Mamet

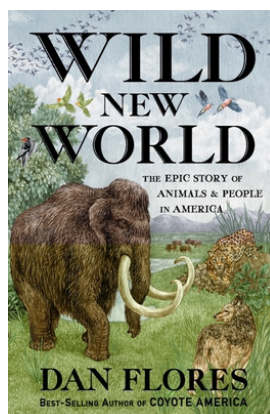
*My First Popsicle* is a delicious collection of food essays and recipes from an eclectic and diverse group of people. The editor Zosia Mamet is best known for her starring role in the Emmy- and Golden Globe Award-winning HBO series *Girls* and her role in the Emmy-nominated HBO Max series *The Flight Attendant*. Cookbooks are one of my favorite reads, and the ones with good essays (Nigella Lawson, Chef Bryant Terry and Ruth

Reichl, to name a few) are the ones that I really sink my teeth into. A book of food literature essays with recipes by such an eclectic group of contributors as this is beyond a delight. Essay and recipes from Patti Smith (yes, that Patti Smith), Patty LuPone, Kwame Onwuachi (Notes from a Young Black Chef and his new book *Northern Soul*). Kwame's Veal Blanquette with Mashed Potatoes is on the top of my must-try list. There is an essay, or maybe it is an ode, to hot dogs from David Sedaris. Stories from actors Tony Hale and Rosie Perez, author Sloane Crosley, comedian Whitney Cummings, and Michelin-starred chef Anita Lo. *My First Popsicle* is a perfect read for a seasoned foodie or someone contemplating an interest in food and all it can bring to your life.

—Calvin Crosby, *Penguin*, \$26

**Wild New World, The Epic Story of Animals & People in America**, Dan Flores

The book opens in 1908 with a Black cowboy, George McJunkin, discovering the ancient remains of a herd of giant bison near Folsom, New Mexico. His discovery was at first written off because of the common prejudice that there could be no remains in America dating back into “deep-time.” Once archeologists finally started examining the flint points embedded in the bones, they determined that the

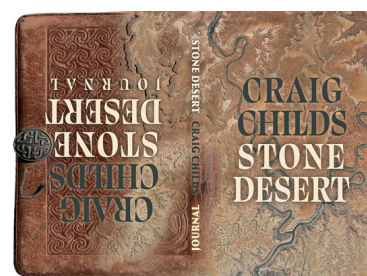


humans that killed and butchered the animals existed 12,450 years ago. This discovery expanded America's known human history and led to many more discoveries of just how long humans had existed in the “new world.” Mr. Flores' narrative style is compelling as he brings in considerations from native religions as well as cutting-edge science and environmental history. The amazing bestiary that arose on our continent, the complex humans who studied these animals and what led to their eradication, and the current work to recover them is a story told

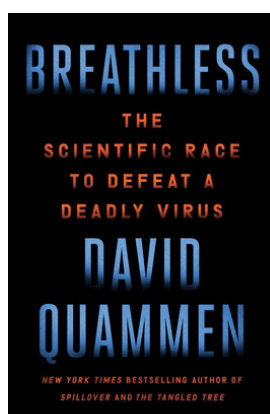
in thrilling narrative. *The Wild New World* is a “sweeping re-examination of animal-human relations.” —Jan Sloan Tempest, \$30, Norton

**Stone Desert**, Craig Childs

This reprint of Craig Childs' 1995 book, *Stone Desert* includes the treasure trove of his original journals, beautifully illustrated, unedited, and with some recipes thrown in for good measure. This book was written over the winter of 1993 in Canyonlands National



Park. Starting out boating down the Colorado River in November is in and of itself a grand adventure but added to this is the knowledge Mr. Childs imparts about the rock formations and the flora and fauna encountered on his trip into deep exploration of this area. This reprint is a true gift not only for those of us who have read and reveled in the original, but for an entirely new generation. Lucky us! —Jan Sloan Tempest, *Torrey House Press*, \$21.95



**Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus**, David Quammen

Quammen's wide ranging story of the evolution of the deadly SARS-CoV-2 virus is breathtaking in its scope. From the first reports out of China to the world-wide spread, Quammen interviews scientists across the globe. In so doing, he examines the way these new viruses develop and how they spread, sometimes from animals to humans. The scientists working with the virus are dedicated to understanding and controlling the devastation it inflicts on humankind. Their search for vaccines is a thrilling

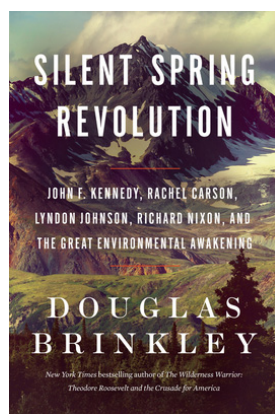
quest to conquer this plague and to prepare for the next pandemic using every tool available.

—Barbara Hoagland, *S&S*, \$28.99

**Silent Spring Revolution: John F. Kennedy, Rachel Carson, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and the Great Environmental Awakening**, Douglas Brinkley

Brinkley's chronicle of the 20th century environmental movement is encyclopedic. The end of World War II and the development of the atom bomb brought untold consequences to the world. The continued atomic testing brought devastation to wildlife and ecosys-





tems, some far removed from the actual site of the testing. The development of DDT further poisoned the land and caused unexpected disease in humans who were exposed to it. The individuals Brinkley examines were on the front lines of the environmental movement and their efforts are minutely examined in his exhaustive history. The movement's leaders are true heroes and Brinkley does an outstanding job in this tribute to the men and women who have been at the forefront of the battle to save the planet. —Barbara Hoagland, Harper, \$37.50

***The Storm is Here: An American Crucible*, Luke Mogelson**

Mogelson, who is best known for his war reporting, focuses on the war within today's United States in this insightful (and terrifying) book. He tracks the unrest and protests that have engulfed the country since 2020. He embedded with right-wing militias and antifascist protests across the country, culminating his travels with an inside look at the storming of the U. S. Capitol. The view he provides the reader is one of a nation on the verge of tearing itself apart. He examines the dark forces that prevail on both the right and the left, leaving the reader grieving for a country that seems to have lost its way.

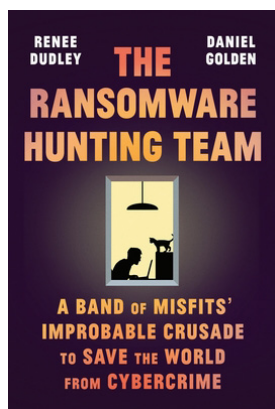
—Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, \$29



***The Ransomware Hunting Team: A Band of Misfits' Improbable Crusade to Save the World From Cybercrime*, Renee Dudley, Daniel Golden**

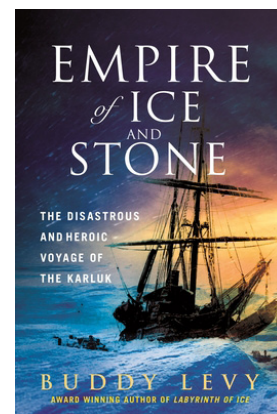
Ransomware hackers have inflicted chaos across the globe with their invasion of computer systems. From government agencies to the smallest mom and pop business, computer hacking is devastating. Companies large and small depend on the information available through their networks so when they are invaded and held hostage until payment is made

they are unable to function. Entering into this potential for mayhem is a loosely organized group of computer nerds who use their skills to outsmart the hackers. We are introduced to this improbable cohort who have devoted untold hours to untangling the hacking. They are the heroes of the ransomware hacking world, not only because of their skill, but because they do their work pro bono. Each of the men, and women, who do this work have provided an invaluable service and their deeds are rightly praised here. —Barbara Hoagland, FSG, \$30



***Empire of Ice and Stone*, Buddy Levy**

Levy does a compelling job telling the story of Captain Bartlett and the harrowing survival stories on his disastrous expedition to explore the Canadian Arctic. Originally led by anthropologist V. Stefansson, who ends up leaving the men and ship, Bartlett steps up. The ship gets captured and ultimately destroyed by the arctic ice. Bartlett, along with the vital support and help of Kuraluk and Auntie, Inuit hunter and partner, goes to extreme measures to save his crew. This is a gripping homage to sheer will, ingenuity and luck—narrative nonfiction at its best. Another great read for the “adrenaline section!” For fans of *Endurance*, *Heart of the Sea*, *Into Thin Air*. —Margaret Brennan Neville, St. Martin's Press, \$29.99



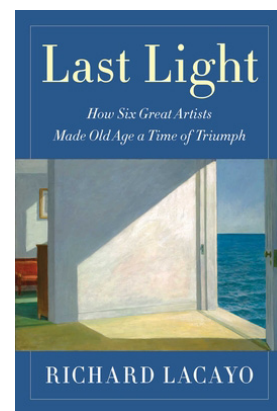
***Inciting Joy*, Ross Gay**

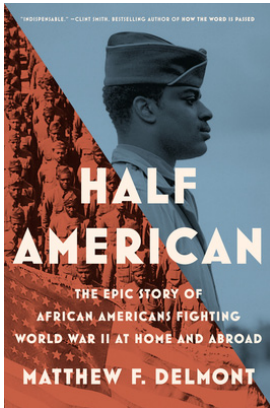
Gay poses two questions to ponder: “What incites joy?” and “What does joy incite?” Two very different questions, with infinite possibilities, depending on each individual. Joy is almost a radical thing to write about these days. With everything painful going on in this world, how dare he (Gay) write about joy! But what if joy is not separate from pain? What if joy and pain are fundamentally tangled up with one another? Mr. Gay walks the reader through 14 Incitements

of his Joy. After reading this heart-stirring book, I gratefully accept his invitation to find my own incitements of joy. —Kim Hacking, Algonquin, \$27

***Last Light: How Six Great Artists Made Old Age a Time of Triumph*, Richard Lacayo**

Rather than a sad tale of declining creativity, *Last Light* paints a powerful picture of artists exploring new techniques, new ideas, and creating long-lasting images which will transcend their earlier works and leave a final and powerful full stop to their lives. Six artists—Titian, Goya, Monet, Matisse, Hopper, and Nelson—lived long lives, battling creative ups and downs, but they fought against age and its physical limitations to produce important pieces during their final days. The book is more than six formal biographies. It is a look at the artists and their contemporaries and the influences of the time periods in which they worked and the landscape in which they lived. The artists did not live in a vacuum and the book places them in their social, political, and economic worlds. The obvious audience for *Last Light* may be the art world but should also include readers of history and those of us who are reaching those final years and want to understand that we can still be curious and creative. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Simon & Schuster, \$35





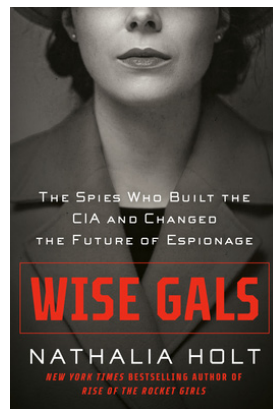
***Half American*, Matthew F. Delmont**

At times uplifting, at times depressing, *Half American* is the comprehensive story of two wars, one on the battlefields of the world during World War II, the other on the battlefield of the American home front. It is the richly stirring saga of Black Americans in their fight for equality, both to serve in the armed forces and for justice and recognition at home. Jim Crow was prevalent in America as World War II approached. Despite an executive order banning discrimination in employment

in war-related industries, Black Americans had to fight for those jobs. Once the war began and labor became scarce, Black people were hired but segregation persisted; White workers would not work next to Black workers. Race riots and civil disruption ensued. Prominent Black leaders such as Thurgood Marshall and Roy Wilkins fought on the home front for civil rights just as hard as Black soldiers did in the military. Within the military Black and White units were kept apart and Black men were only seen as service and support soldiers. Many camps were established in the South to train personnel. The Black soldiers were constantly harassed by the White civilian population. Their officers, who were all White, allowed this and in many instances encouraged it. Again, not until the manpower shortage became acute did the military allow their Black soldiers to fight. The Tuskegee Army, the 92nd Infantry Division, the 761st Tank Battalion were all decorated units distinguishing themselves in combat. They helped win the war on the battlefield yet when they returned home it was to the same hatred and prejudice they had left. Nothing had changed, they were still only half American. —John Mark, Viking, \$30

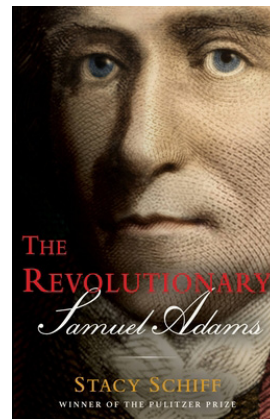
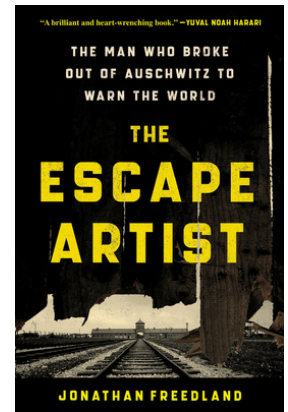
***Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA and Changed the Future of Espionage*, Nathalia Holt**

When World War II ended, the fighting stopped, but it was just the beginning of an orchestrated effort by countries to discover each other's secrets. During the war the U.S. had the fledgling OSS but as the Cold War emerged it became apparent that a more sophisticated organization was needed. Thus was born the CIA, which at the beginning was a men's club inhabited mostly by the sons of privilege. Against this wall, four women emerged as valuable assets in improving everything from cryptosystems for communication to detecting terrorism threats. These brilliant women had to fight for the right to serve their country and each of their stories is compellingly told. —Barbara Hoagland, Putnam, \$28



***The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*, Jonathan Freedland**

This is a remarkable story of Rudolf Vrba who was one of only four people who managed to escape from the Nazi death-camp of Auschwitz. Born in Slovakia to a middle-class Jewish family, Rudolf's life took a horrific turn with the advent of the Nazis and the increased repression of the Jews. An attempt he made to escape this repression ended with his capture and incarceration in the Polish concentration camp. Through the horrors he endured there, Vrba became obsessed with the need to expose the Nazi "Final Solution". With his mathematical and systematic background, he absorbed facts and figures of the number of transports that entered the camp and the mass murder that followed. The story of his escape is breathtaking, as is the story of his work to get the reality of these death camps out to the world. —Barbara Hoagland, Harper, \$28.99



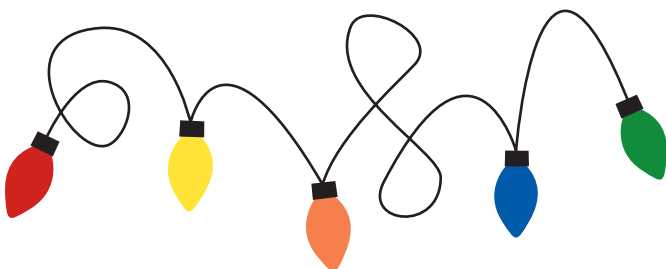
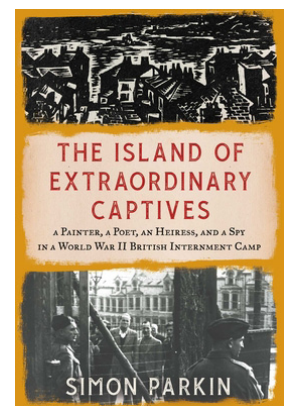
***The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*, Stacy Schiff**

Samuel Adams, the lesser-known cousin of John Adams, was perhaps the most influential voice in the movement to end British rule over what would become the United States. His rhetoric played an enormous role in persuading his fellow Bostonians that they lived under an illegitimate government. Through his writings beginning in the early 1760's, he educated, cajoled and entreated his fellow colonists, eventually uniting not only

Massachusetts but the rest of the colonies in preparation for what would become the American Revolution. Schiff has done a tremendous service to his memory and has added important nuance to the country's history. —Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, \$35

***The Island of Extraordinary Captives: A Painter, a Poet, an Heiress, and a Spy in a World War II British Internment Camp*, Simon Parkin**

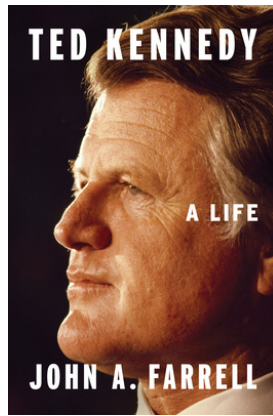
The Isle of Man was the location of eleven World War II internment camps established by the British government in the early days of the war. That most of its inhabitants were refugees from the Nazi horrors played almost no role in the decision as to who should be interned. The round up that ensued ensnared renowned artists, professors, composers, writers and other eminent refugees whose only "crime" was a fraudulent fear that they might possibly be a fifth column of spies and traitors. The individual stories of the internees are revelatory, as is how they managed to flourish on an island and during a time when they were considered to be dangerous merely by the fact of their refugee status. —Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, \$30





***Ted Kennedy: A Life*, John A. Farrell**

Edward M. Kennedy was the 9th child of Joseph and Rose Kennedy, and as such, wasn't expected to excel in the same way his three older brothers were. Ted's early life proved the expectations to be accurate. But then, World War II took Joseph, Jr. and assassinations took the other two brothers, leaving Ted to carry on the family tradition in politics. His life is ably outlined in Farrell's exhaustive biography. The Kennedy family allowed access to private papers and gave extensive interviews in this, perhaps the most in-depth examination of Kennedy's long and prolific life. —Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, \$40

***The Song of the Cell*, Siddhartha Mukherjee**

Mukherjee follows his award-winning *Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene* with a comprehensive examination of the cell, both those in plants and animals. He takes short bites with metaphors to assist the non-microbiologist to enter and understand this exquisite work of science. His expertise as a cancer physician and researcher comes to the forefront as he shares the history of our knowledge of the cells and organs within our bodies.

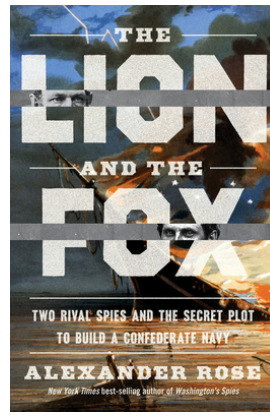
Fascinating, empowering and mindful with respect for both what we know and understand and that which we don't. I highly recommend this book for any reader interested in learning more of the knowledge to create new treatments and new humans. —Sue Fleming, Scribner, \$32.50

***The Lion and the Fox: Two Rival Spies and the Secret Plot to Build a Confederate Navy*, Alexander Rose**

In the early days of the Civil War, both the North and the South worked to draw England to their side. The British Commonwealth was rich with goods and materials that each side needed. While the North had the ability to produce weapons, the South was primarily an agricultural society, thus their need to trade goods with England. While the North's blockade of southern ports curtailed much of this trade, the spy masters working on each side struggled against each other to gain ground. Rose's tale of the two main protagonists in this battle is revealing and mesmerizing as the one attempted to build a Confederate Navy and the other worked to undo these attempts. —Barbara Hoagland, Mariner, \$28.99

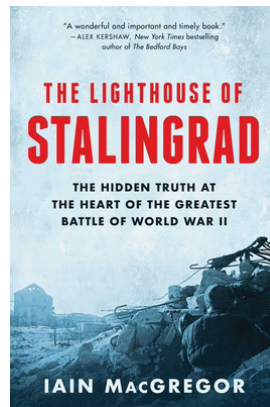
***American Midnight*, Adam Hochschild**

*American Midnight* chronicles the upheaval and domestic unrest that occurred between 1917 and 1921. Beginning slightly before America's entry into World War I, Hochschild delves into the



cooperation between government and industry in trying to suppress the nascent union movement through intimidation, disinformation, and violence. The I.W.W. (International Workers of the World also known as the Wobblies) was the main target, though the Socialist Party and others were attacked as well. Leaders such as Emma Goldman and Eugene Debs as well as members of these unions and political parties were constantly harassed, attacked and thrown into prison. Once the U.S. entered the war the head of the Radical Division of the Bureau of Inves-

tigation, one J. Edgar Hoover, waged a domestic war on dissidents, spurred on by the passage of the Espionage Act which assured that those who spoke out against the war, or called for industrial strikes or encouraged civil unrest was considered unpatriotic could, and would, be prosecuted and sent to prison. A campaign of mail censorship, restricting the mailing of union and socialistic periodicals, was initiated, along with the appearance of vigilante organizations such as the American Protection League and the Ku Klux Klan dedicated to rooting out dissenters and stoking hatred of Blacks, Jews, and all who looked to be foreigners whether they were citizens or not. President Wilson, concerned only with prosecution of the war, was at best ambivalent to what was happening, if not encouraging it. The parallels to today are striking. History does not necessarily repeat itself, but it often rhymes. —John Mark, Mariner, \$29.99

***The Lighthouse of Stalingrad*, Ian MacGregor**

In this stunning work noted historian Ian MacGregor brings to life the largest, longest, and bloodiest battle of World War II: the 156-day siege of Stalingrad. Nearly two million people were either killed or wounded. MacGregor focuses the story on Pavlov's House, a building near the center of the city, so named for the young Russian Sergeant whose bravery led a small band of Soviet forces to capture and hold the house against incredible odds for

fifty-eight days before being relieved. Using primary sources, letters, diaries, memoirs, and official records, many of which have not been previously published, MacGregor details the entire epic battle. We have a front-row seat into the thoughts and actions of the on-scene commanders, the bravery of individuals and small unit actions, logistics successes and failures, both Russian and German, which ultimately decided the battle, as well as the behind-the-scenes machinations of Hitler and Stalin and their respective staffs to achieve victory. Stalingrad marked the turning point on the Eastern Front. From then on, Spring of 1943, the Germans advanced no further and began the long bloody retreat to Germany. In an Epilogue MacGregor uses the battle to comment on the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the similarity of the early failures of the Russian Army and its resurgence, ultimately of employing the tactic of destroying everything in its path in order to save it. —John Mark, Simon & Schuster, \$29.99

## POETRY

### *Catching the Light*, Joy Harjo

How do you measure the power of one voice when that voice is United States Poet Laureate and winner of the 2022 Academy of American Poets Leadership Award, Joy Harjo? Harjo is the chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Board of Directors Chair of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation and is the first Artist-in-Residence for Tulsa's Bob Dylan Center. Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She served three terms as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019-2022. Harjo's words can be thought-provoking, breathtaking, and life changing. *Catching the Light* is a collection of essays on the life of a poet, life as a woman, and reflective of her first nation's heritage. She looks at her writings, poetry, youth in the 1960s, years at an "Indian College," and the joys and hardships she has found in her fifty years as a published poet. She uses lyrical prose to convey poetry's importance and place in her life and ours. She discusses the things that shatter us and navigates the brokenness it leaves behind. By my estimation, she is a champion of our indigenous community, a poetic superhero. —Calvin Crosby, Yale University Press, \$18



### *Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light: Fifty Poems for Fifty Years*, Joy Harjo

The perfect companion to *Catching the Light*. Harjo's poetry is almost beyond my ability to describe as she intertwines ancestral memory and indigenous perspective, creating words that are at once lyrical, political, and soul awakening, reflecting her strength and resilience. In this gorgeous collection, she has hand-picked fifty poems from her fifty years as a published poet. Selections range from

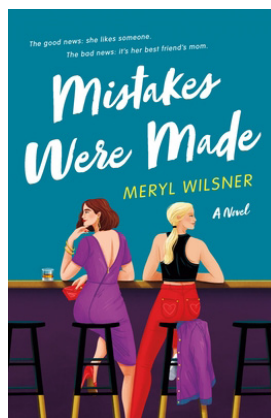
her early days of discovering her unparalleled poetic voice driven by her unique perspective to her more recent work examining the times and politics of contemporary America. Harjo is a poet who stays connected to the earth and its history and loves deeply. —Calvin Crosby, W. W. Norton & Company, \$25



## ROMANCE

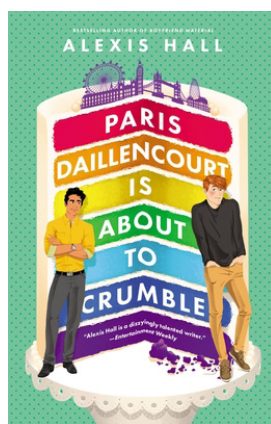
### *Mistakes Were Made*, Meryl Wilsner

Cassie isn't looking for a relationship—just a hook up with a hot older woman she meets at a bar near her college. She realizes too late that the best one night stand of her life is the single mom of her new roommate. And they cannot keep their hands off each other. A forbidden romance, great tension, and some refreshingly sexy and candid sex scenes between two women, this one was a delight from start to finish. — Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, St. Martin's Griffin, \$16.99



### *You're a Mean One, Matthew Prince*, Timothy Janovsky

Matthew Prince is banished from his life as a Manhattan socialite/bad boy/trust fund baby when he pisses off his parents one too many times—this time by buying an island. He has to adjust to small town life without his customary limitless credit cards, and with his sweet but simple grandparents and their unexpectedly handsome boarder, whom he has to team up with to plan a Christmas charity gala. Packed with plenty of charm—Christmas and otherwise—and led by a wise-cracking narrator who is somehow both impossibly obnoxious and impossibly endearing, this is a must read for anyone looking for a holiday romance as sweet as Christmas cookies. — Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$15.99



### *Paris Daillencourt Is About to Crumble*, Alexis Hall

Return to the enchanting world of romance on the pseudo-Great British Bake Off (although reading the first book in the *Winner Bakes All* series, *Rosaline Palmer Takes The Cake*, is not necessary to enjoy this one, it's so good you really should). Anxious and awkward Paris is an unlikely favorite to win Britain's favorite wholesome baking show, Bake Expectation. Even unlikelier? That he might fall in love with one of his competitors along the way.

Can Paris keep his fear of failure and tendency to turtle into himself at bay long enough to live up to his potential for the first time ever? Alexis Hall is a master of writing sweet, heart-felt romances about characters who grow together and find love not just for someone else, but for themselves, and his newest outing is no exception.

— Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Forever, \$15.99



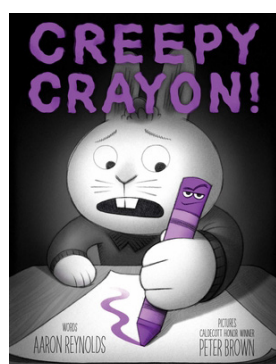
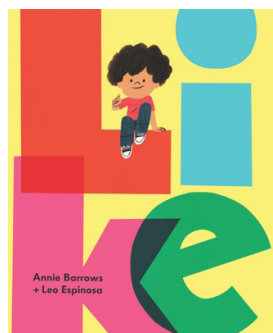


## PICTURE BOOKS

**Like**, Annie Barrows & Leo Espinoza (local illustrator)

Smile away while you are reading this book. Like challenges readers to see the world a little differently and consider that we may have a lot more in common than we ever thought we did. Easy to imagine a lot of conversation while reading it. Fun and smart is a good combo in any book!

—Chronicle, \$17.99 (3 and up) **NOTE:** Copies signed by Leo Espinoza are available at the store!



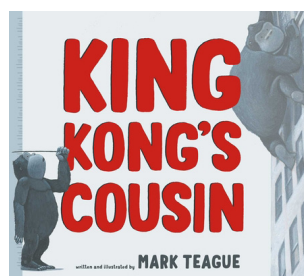
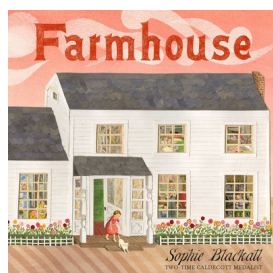
**Creepy Crayon!**, Aaron Reynolds & Peter Brown

Following up the success of Creepy Carrots and Creepy Pair of Underwear, fans will be thrilled with the latest collaboration of Reynolds and Brown. One purple crayon can save Jasper Rabbit from school. All of a sudden Jasper is getting straight A's; he is the smartest bunny in the class. But there is always a price to pay for this kind of help! Smart, funny, maybe a little creepy, this book will be on

demand for story time. — S&S, \$18.99 (5 and up)

**Farmhouse**, Sophie Blackall

Sophie Blackall bought an old farm, and found in it the inspiration for her new book. She imagines what it was like when the farmhouse was filled with kids and parents, when apples were picked and sea shells made into buttons. Text and art weave a family, and a home around readers. With each page personalities start to show and wallpapered corners are peeled away, until the end when Blackall shows readers how time and nature can take a place back, revealing and adding new layers. Readers will recognize this beautiful book comes from the place of love we've come to expect from Sophie. —Little Brown, \$18.99 (4 and up)



**King Kong's Cousin**, Mark Teague

King Kong is epic and, well, his cousin Junior is not. Hard to live up to fighting monsters, climbing skyscrapers and being a star in movies. Junior and his cat Bernice go through their days following Kong and all his accomplishments. His life seems pale in comparison. Finding yourself is always hard

but even harder in the light (shadow) of such a big star. Teague's story will bring a smile to your face. The monochromatic illustrations add a personal depth to a very relatable tale! I loved it. —Beach Lane, \$18.99 (3 and up)

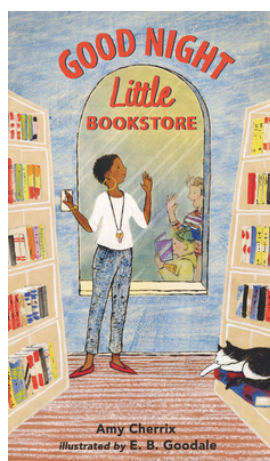
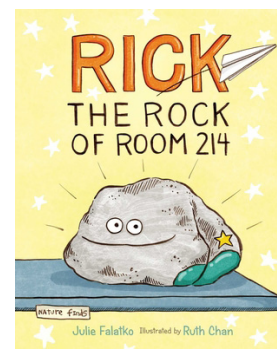


**Wellington's Big Day Out**, Steve Small

Wellington really, really wants to grow up! His birthday present, a jacket just like his dad's, is too big. This sends him and his dad off to town to fix it, with a series of moments that show Wellington over and over again, still too small. When grandpa comes over, he saves the day. A little more text, illustrations with a vibrant flair, Small makes growing up a wee bit easier. —S&S, \$18.99 (4 and up)

**Rick The Rock of Room 214**, Julie Falatko & Ruth Chan

Rick the Rock has been sitting on the Nature Finds shelf for a very long time. He has been listening to science lessons and realizes that he is a ROCK and he belongs outside. Rick finds out, of course, that outside is not the same as the stuff he heard in class. Is Rick between a rock and a hard place? Readers might be able to predict what happens next, and that is part of the fun. —S&S, \$18.99 (4 and up)



**Good Night Little Bookstore**, Amy Cherrix & E.B. Goodale

This gentle romp through an independent bookstore at closing time is an homage to both readers and stores. The lovely lilting text is calming and quiet. The illustrations are full of details that readers might recognize. And it ends with a sentiment shared by all book sellers, "Good night dear readers, wherever you are." Perfect for book lovers of all ages! —Candlewick, \$17.99 (2 and up)

**Gold**, David Shannon

Maximillian Midas (hint hint) loves gold. He wants to make millions and millions. His obsession takes over his life. But everyone around him, well, their lives go on too. Max will have to choose. Shannon's illustrations are so much fun, and give the book a lot of power! His rhyming text will make this a fun read aloud too. —Penguin, \$18.99 (3 and up)



**I'M A UNICORN**, HELEN YOON



**I'm a Unicorn**, Helen Yoon

One horn makes a unicorn, right? Yoon's take on this very popular subject will make readers giggle, chuckle, maybe guffaw. Ultimately this funny book is a tribute to accepting yourself as you are. Seriously though, rainbow poop:) —Candlewick, \$17.99 (3 and up)

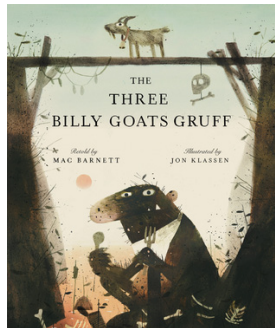


***The Sun is Late and So is the Farmer*, Phillip C. Stead**

A mule, cow and miniature horse do not understand where the sun is, or why the farmer has not come. The barn owl sends them off to the end of the world, with the instructions to take rooster with them. A lovely cadence and stunning illustrations, this is a great addition to any library. —Neal Porter, \$18.99 (3 and up)



school. What is so amazing is that she was able to do that without malice or anger. She knew then and now as an adult, that she was part of the “bridge,” that allows all of us to accept each other as we are, and to cross that bridge together. So powerful. The illustrations are dramatic and add the stress, the fear, and some of the facts to the story. A thoughtful way to complete this narrative. And, there is a darling photo of six-year-old Ruby on the back cover! She is a hero! —Orchard Books, \$18.99 (4 and up)



***The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen**

A classic story, readers know, but after this version, you will never look at a bridge in the same way. Two masters of picture books start their new fairy tale series with the style we have come to love, smart, funny, surprises and a bit snarky! Can't wait for the next one. —MBN, Scholastic, \$18.99 (4 and up)

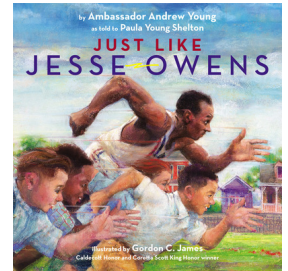
***Paradise Sands*, Levi Pinfold**

Four siblings on their way to visit their mom stop to gather flowers for her, when a castle (or a church? or a haunted palace?) invites the three brothers in. The sister is the only one who does not drink or eat, and she is the only one who can save the brothers. A book for storytellers and artists, an invitation for wonder and terror, Pinfold's work is intriguing and haunting. The artwork belongs in a gallery. —Candlewick, \$18.99 (6 and up)



***Just Like Jesse Owens*, Ambassador Andrew Young, Paula Young Shelton & Gordon C. James**

Andrew Young grew up in New Orleans in the 1930's surrounded with rampant racism. When an American Nazi group marched through his neighborhood, fear caught him. Andrew brought it up with his dad after he overheard a couple of white men talking about Hitler. Andrew Young's father, a very wise man, told him the truth about Hitler and what was happening in Germany. Another bit of scariness for Andrew to absorb. But the next weekend his dad took him to the movies and they watched Jessie Owens show Hitler, four times over, that Hitler was wrong. Young is inspired by Owens for the rest of his life and all Americans are fortunate in that. The illustrations have a “speedy” feel to them; movement is blurred, emotions are the only thing that is caught; I loved the picture of Andrew and his dad at the movie. Young's story is inspiring in so many ways. —Orchard Books, \$18.99 (6 and up)



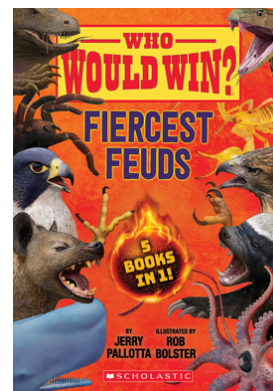
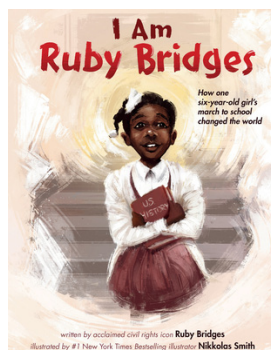
***A Book, Too, Can Be a Star: The Story of Madeleine L'Engle and the Making of A Wrinkle in Time*, Jennifer Adams, Charlotte Jones Voiklis & Adalina LiRius**

Local star Jenn Adams (BabyLit series) has co-authored a lovely biography of Madeleine L'Engle. Jenn does a wonderful job opening a window into the writing of this perennial favorite. L'Engle found courage and safety in writing, she understood that stories can be a refuge and a

place to figure things out. The art adds a whimsical, magical, feel to this cherished view of L'Engle and is one of our favorite books of the season. —MPS, \$18.99 (4 and up)

***I am Ruby Bridges*, Ruby Bridges & Nikolas Smith**

Ruby's example of courage, as a six-year-old, stands as a shining moment in our fractured history. She tells the story of her moving to a new school in 1961, the first child of color to step into an all White

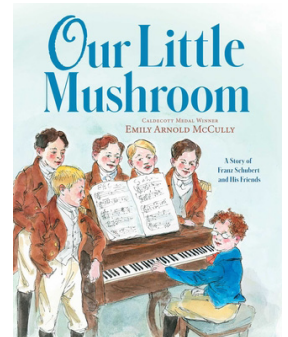


***Who Would Win? Fiercest Feuds*, Jerry Pallotta & Rob Bolster**

Five books in one: Komodo Dragon vs. King Cobra, Tarantula vs. Scorpion, Whale vs. Giant Squid, Hyena vs. Honey Badger, Hawk vs. Falcon, what more could a reader want??? This series is so much fun, kids love the fact revealing format of these unlikely contests. Pallotta knows his audience and delivers over and over. —Scholastic, \$10.99 (6 and up)

***Our Little Mushroom: A Story of Franz Schubert and his Friends*, Emily Arnold McCully**

Schubert's immense talent showed from a very young age. When his father did not support his choice to be a musician and a composer, his friends stepped up. Readers follow Schubert's story through these dedicated smart young men's point of view, they knew that his talent needed to be nurtured and shared. In Schubert's short life he managed to write over a thousand pieces of music, which we still enjoy today. McCully brings all her talents to tell this enduring story of the strength of talent and friendship. —McElderry Books, \$18.99 (4 and up)

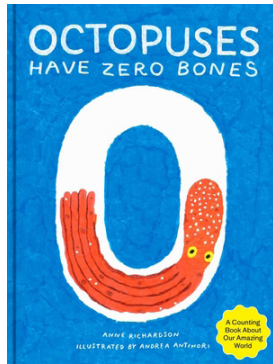




## PICTURE BOOKS

**Pizza!: A Slice of History**, Greg Pizzoli

We all love pizza. 350 pieces are eaten every second!! Wow! Pizza as we eat it today originated in Naples, Italy. Pizzoli's pizza bio illuminates of the origins of modern pizza, with a lot of info, and a sly sense of humor. It will make you want to order take out. —Penguin, \$18.99 (4 and up)



**Octopuses**

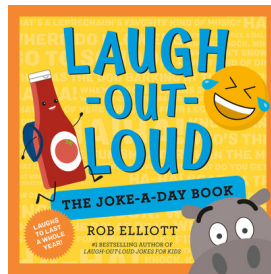
**Have Zero Bones**, Anne Richardson & Andrea Antinori

This very clever counting book combines numbers with a wide variety of facts about our world. It is an oversized book that will invite a lot of discussion. Numbers can illuminate so many things in the natural world. Kids and adults will find a wide variety of treasures in this book.

—Tra Publishing, \$19.99 (6 and up)

**Laugh-Out-Loud: The Joke-A-Day Book**, Rob Elliott

Like a book that makes noise, this is the one you give away. Kids will jump for joy, parents will cringe, and riddles will be everywhere! The joke on my birthday is "Where do writers go for spring break? Pencil-vania, of course!" A fun stocking stuffer! —Harper, \$8.99 (for anyone with a funny bone)



**The One Thing You'd Save**, Linda Sue Park

"If your house was on fire, what one thing would you save?" This is the provocative beginning of a book of linked poems, where the people and pets are all safe. It is a great way to have a conversation about what is important, what really matters. Easy read, stimulating discussion, worth buying! —Harper, \$16.99 (9 and up)

**Weird but**

**True! Birthdays: 300 Fun-Tastic Facts to Celebrate**, National Geographic

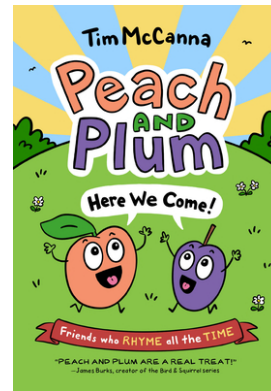
This series resonates for a lot of readers. Open the book read a page file the fact away, and do it again and again. This year's subject is birthdays. Facts like this, "The odds of being born on LEAP DAY are about ONE in 1,461," and "About 14 times more bacteria is found on cake after someone blows out their birthday candles." —NatGeo Kids, \$8.99 (8 and up)



## GRAPHIC NOVELS

NOTE: We are excited to let readers know that several of our favorite graphic novel series have new books coming this fall! You can order and preorder online!

- **Diana and Nubia: Princesses of the Amazons**, Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, DC Comics, \$9.99, releases Nov. 8. We will have signed copies!
- **Let's Make History**, Nathan Hale, Abrams, \$14.99 releases Oct. 11
- **Cat Kid Comic Club: Collaborations**, Dav Pilky, Scholastic, \$12.99, releases Nov 29
- **Bad Guys in the Others?!**, Aaron Blabey, Scholastic, \$6.99, releases Nov 1



**Peach and Plum - Here We Come!**, Tim McCanna

Five short stories make this rhyming graphic novel a blast to read out loud. Peach and Plum are headed out for all sorts of fun in Fruitdale. Baseball, bikes, camping, all sorts of treats, their relationship is up, down and funny! Good for that emerging reader! —Hachette, \$7.99 (6 and up)

**The Wolf Suit**, Sid Sharp



This clever story will be a great addition to any library. Bellweather has to figure out a way to go out to the forest again, without getting eaten by the wolves. Combining the best attributes of picture books and graphic novels, this is a good choice for readers looking for a longer story. The illustrations add dimension, and humor! —Annick, \$19.99 (6 and up)



**Swim Team**, Johnny Christmas

Bree and Dad have moved to a new apartment and that means a new school for her. Bree is great at math and when she does not get into the Math Puzzles class and ends up in Swim 101, she is not happy. When Etta, the neighbor who watches Bree after school, finds out that she cannot swim, she steps up. Turns out Etta was a swimming champ! Bree overcomes her fear of swimming and then must determine how far she can go on her team. Bree also needs to figure out

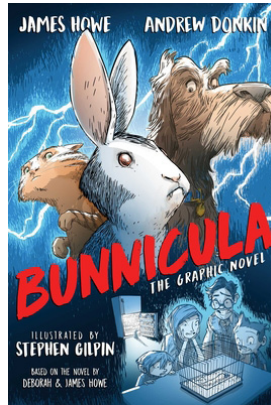
what makes a team. You will end up rooting for Bree, and her team! —Harper Alley, \$12.99 (8 and up)



## GRAPHIC NOVELS

**Bunnica: The Graphic Novel**, James Howe, Andrew Donkin & Stephen Gilpin

What can you do to make a great book even better, even more accessible? Originally published in 1979, all our staff loves Bunnica! We are so excited to share the newest version, in graphic novel format, of the vampire bunny. Fall in love again with Harold the dog and Chester the cat who just don't know what to do with the new pet bunny. Still a great read! —S&S, \$12.99 (8 and up)



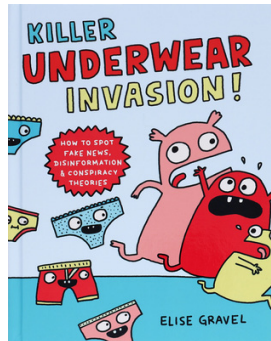
**The Tryout**, Christina Soontornvat & Joanna Cacao

Soontornvat (A Wish in the Dark and All Thirteen) shares her own story about her first year of middle school and the stress of trying out for cheer. Christina and her friend Megan are so inspired by the cheerleaders in middle school. The squad shines; they are stars! Christina and Megan think this might be their ticket to acceptance and popularity. Both girls are minorities, from Thailand and Iran, and both are victims of ignorance. To

top it off, tryouts are in front of the whole school! Readers get some authentic insight into how hard middle school is. I loved the story of Christina's family too. Terrific read, and perfect for all those fans of realistic graphic novels. —Scholastic, \$12.99 (9 and up)

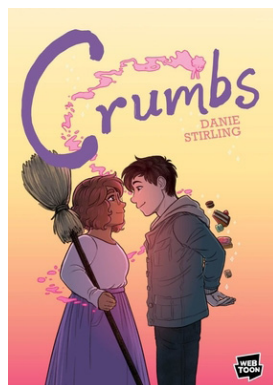
**Killer Underwear Invasion! How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy Theories**, Elise Gravel

This book is funny but it is dealing with a big problem. How do you figure out what is real on the internet? Readers of all ages will pick up tips on how to do just that. Gravel has a sly sense of humor that will catch you and your kiddos' interest. This might be the must have book of the season! —Chronicle, \$14.99 (8 and up, really for anyone who is on the internet!)

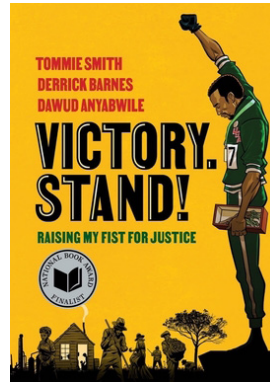


**Crumbs**, Danie Stirling

Ray goes for a cup of tea and romance pastry at the magical bakery every Friday. When Ray and Laurie finally meet (Laurie works at the bakery) they discover they have a lot common, including some unique magical skills. As they both try to figure out what their goals and life plans are, they also need to decide how far to let the other in. Lovely romance surrounded by backstories that add so much depth. Based on a webcomic from



WEBTOON, the print version shines, and will definitely leave readers wanting more. —Clarion, \$24.99 for a few signed editions, \$17.99 for the paperback (13 and up)



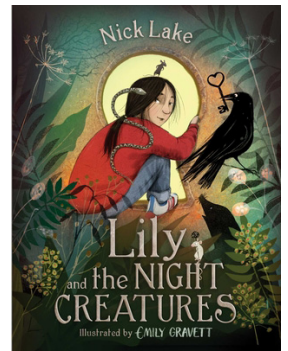
**Victory Stand**, Tommie Smith

One of the most iconic pictures in Olympic history, taken in October 1966, is of Tommie Smith and John Carlos on the medal stand raising their Black gloved hands in protest of racism, and the abysmal treatment of African Americans in their own country. What was truly a moment of great courage went on to bring even more terrible treatment, including death threats, into their lives. Smith shares his life story and the events that led up to that protest. —Norton, \$17.95 (12 and up)

## MIDDLE READERS

**Lily and the Night Creatures**, Nick Lake

Lily has the courage to live with dialysis, but is truly upset about the news of a soon-to-be-born sibling. But this is England and old magic is everywhere. When Mouse, Crow, Mole and Snake show up to help her get rid of the mother-thing and father-thing that have invaded her house. Lily must get rid of them or the end results will be a never ending nightmare. Nick Lake and Emily Gravett (love the artwork!) team up for a book that is both spooky and uplifting! —S&S, \$17.99 (9 and up)



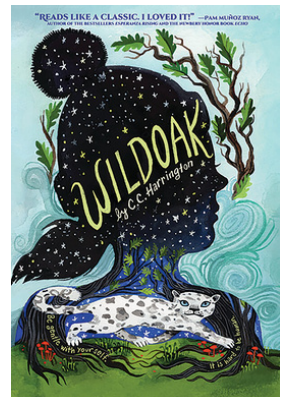
**Hummingbird**, Natalie Lloyd

Olive is so excited; she finally gets to go to school. All the adults think that they can keep her safe. Olive has brittle bone disease, and even the smallest of small bumps can break her bones. When she hears about the "magical hummingbird" that will grant a wish, a cadre of unlikely friends unite around her. Lloyd's Snicker of Magic is a staple on bookshelves, and her new book is deeply authentic. A kind and thoughtful rendering of a chronic disability. —Scholastic, \$17.99 (9 and up)



**Wildoak**, C.C. Harrington

So many of the adults in Maggie's life are uncomfortable with her stutter, even her parents. When she is sent to rural Cornwall to stay with her grandfather, she has a chance encounter with a snow leopard cub that has been abandoned in a wild and magical forest near her house. It turns out that Maggie does not stutter when she talks to animals. She will have to be her best to save this rare and beautiful creature. Maybe someone will be able to hear her. This is a lovely tender story, and it is perfect for kids who love animals. —Scholastic, \$18.99 (9 and up)



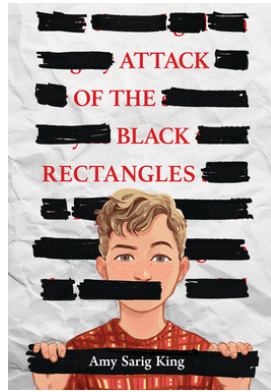


## MIDDLE READERS

### *Attack of the Black Rectangles*,

Amy Sarig King

When Mac gets his next assignment, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, he and his friends are really surprised to see words, sentences and paragraphs blacked out. Mac and his friends decide those blacked out words are worth fighting for. King balances out this very scary story with all the stuff going on at Mac's home. Censorship is on a significant rise in our schools. We all need to be willing to take a stand! Start by reading this book! One of my favorites of the year. —Scholastic, \$18.99 (9 and up)



### *The Stars Did Wander Darkling*,

Colin Meloy

Old magic comes in good and bad forms. Archie's dad accidentally uncovered something, an ancient evil, something that should have never been touched or moved. Weird, scary things are happening all over Seaham. Even the most benign things are somehow wrong. The grown-ups are changing. Archie and his friends are going to have to take some serious risks to save people they love, their town

and maybe the world. Obscure folklore shows up in this fast paced scary tale, adding another interesting layer! Meloy, rock star and author (*The Wildwood Chronicles*) has put it all together; this book is a blast to read! —Harper, \$17.99 (9 and up)

### *Secrets of Stone and Sea*,

Allison K. Hymas

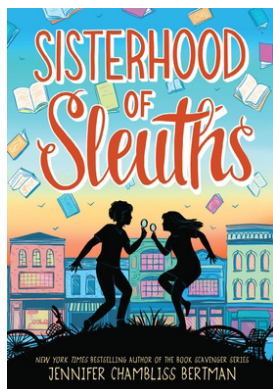
Adventure, fantasy, mythology and puzzles all come together in local author Allison Hymas's second book. Twins Peter and Kal are sent to their grandmother's for the summer. The quaint little seaside village life is ruptured by the appearance of a monster that could destroy everything. The kids have to figure out a series of puzzles to defeat the gods of the sea. —Roaring Brook, \$17.99 (9 and up)



### *Sisterhood of Sleuths*,

Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Who brought the box of Nancy Drew books, with a mysterious picture of Maizy's grandmother tucked inside, to her mother's bookshop? This fun mystery is a romp through the history of Nancy Drew (grandmothers everywhere will be thrilled!). Maizy is dealing with a lot. Her best friend has deserted her, a huge school project has a looming deadline, and her grandmother is hiding something!



Bertman (*Book Scavenger*) gives readers another terrific story with a few surprises. —Christy Ottaviano Books, \$16.99 (9



and up)

### *A Place to Hang the Moon*, Kate Albus

Anna, Edmund and William, three orphans forced to leave London because of the Blitz, are desperate to stay together as they are moved from one place to another. Their beloved grandmother's death has put them on a precarious and often terrible road to find a place of refuge. Finally a kind librarian offers them shelter. There is still a lot of deprivation in this story, but books and reading, and all the things that make a family shine forth.

I missed this book when it came out in hardback and am excited to bring it to readers attention. This heartwarming book is quiet and ultimately kind. —Holiday House, \$12.99 (10 and up)

### *Shot Clock*, Caron Butler and

Justin Reynolds

Tony's best friend dies and then he does not make his AAU team. His life cannot get any worse. Basketball is his life, was his life. Coach James throws him a lifeline: maybe helping out on the sidelines will be enough. This is a book about surviving the worst things life can throw at you. And it is about hope. Former NBA player Caron Butler gives this story an authentic basketball feel but it is so much more than a basketball book! —Harper, \$16.99 (9 and up)



### *Serwa Boateng's Guide to Vampire Hunting*, Roseanne A. Brown

Serwa is part of a long line of Ghana slayers, always on the lookout for the adze. Adze are deadly vampires that can be seen as fireflies. When her family is attacked by the adze, instead of including her in the search and destroy mission, they send her to live with her aunt. When the adze show up to Serwa's new school, she has to train some new friends, and step up to lead them in a fight for their lives. From the first page, this story grabs you! All the



great things readers expect from the Rick Riordan Presents label are in this book. —Disney, \$17.99 (10 and up)

### *The Lords of Night*, J.C. Cervantes

Another new series from Rick Riordan Presents, this one illuminating Mayan and Mexican mythology features a favorite character, Renata, a bruja whose mixed genealogy gives her a mighty combo of power! Set in the same world as Cervantes' Storm Runner series, this spin-off will make fans very happy. Ren believes





## MIDDLE READERS

that there is a connection between the aliens and the renegade Mayan gods. She is going to have to be on her game, with a lot of support, to save the world. This book's adventure is fast paced, a real page turner. But it also has a very human side with Ren and her peers dealing with everyday issues. Cervantes is cementing her place on bookshelves everywhere! —Disney, \$17.99 (10 and up)



***Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston***, Esme Symes-Smith

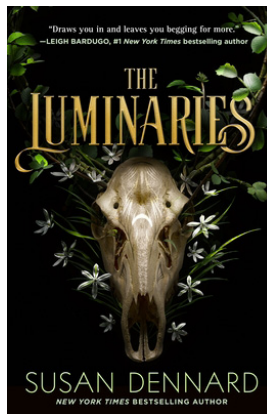
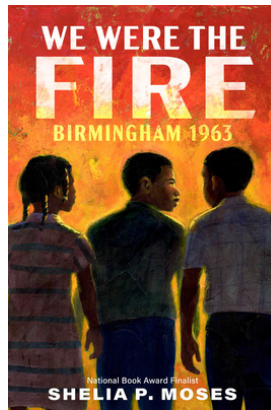
A BIG start (400 pages) to a new series, filled with everything readers want in their magical stories: dragons, knights, witches, shapeshifters, sword fights and of course magic. In Helston everything is viewed through a very strict gender bias. Callie our hero is non-binary! They can do anything and they can do it better than almost anyone else in the kingdom! When they and their friends get involved in a never-ending war, they quickly figure

out that to save the kingdom from the outside threat, they will first have to save the kingdom from the rigid bigotry within. I loved the idea that anyone can be the hero! Symes-Smith did a great job!

—Labyrinth Road, \$17.99 (9 and up)

***We Were the Fire, Birmingham 1963***, Shelia P. Moses

Parents (adults) were afraid of the repercussions of racial protest in Birmingham. But their fear sent the kids into the streets in what is now called the Children's Crusade. When 11 year old Rufus's parents tell him he cannot go to the park for the protest, he goes anyway. He and his friends end up being threatened by scary police dogs and sprayed by firemen. The records and photos, from that event are still so powerful. Rufus realizes that there was no fire, that the white men in power in Alabama thought that he and his peers were the fire. He and his family will have to face the racism together, as they accept all the challenges of the Civil Rights Movement. Rufus's story gave me chills. A child's point of view is powerful and Moses yield that power deftly. Worth reading! —Nancy Paulsen Books, \$17.99 (10 and up)



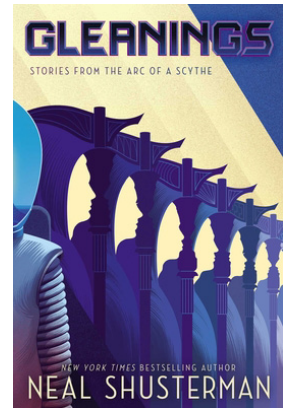
***The Luminaries***, Susan Dennard

Riverdale meets Twin Peaks! Two teenage outcasts in a magical town team up to fight the monsters that lurk in the forest—and discover their own family secrets along the way. Spooky, tense, and harkening back to YA of the 2010s in the best way, this book will keep you up all night - first because you can't put it down, then because you're too scared to sleep. —Tor Teen, \$18.99 (13 and up)

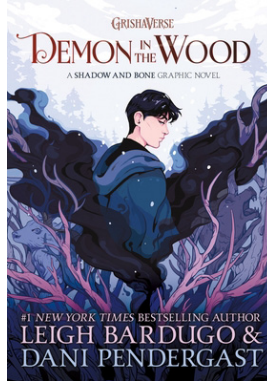
***Gleanings: Stories from***

***the Arc of a Scythe***, Neal Shusterman

Fans of the Scythedom will be pleased with this latest edition to the series. Shusterman along with some very creative help, fills in some of the histories, reveals some secrets and timelines of the three previous books. —S&S, \$19.99 (12 and up) *Editor's note: signed copies will be available after Nov 28.*



## EDGY GRAPHIC NOVELS



***Demon in the Wood***, Leah Bardugo & Dani Pendergrast

Bardugo shares Eryk, the Darkling's backstory in her latest book. He started out like a lot of kids, small and lonely. Eryk and his mom are always on the run, hiding that growing power. It is a power that is unusual and highly coveted in the Grishaverse. There are people who would do anything to control it. Eryk's story is in graphic novel format, and the Pendergrast illustrations are compelling, dark and add

another layer to Bardugo's complex storytelling. Very excited to have this book on the shelf! —Roaring Brook, \$22.99 (14 and up)

***Coven***, Jennifer Dugan & Kit Seaton

Emsy is caught by surprise when her parents tell her they are leaving California for their previous home in upstate New York. She does NOT want to leave her home or friends. Turns out her parents are part of an ancient Coven that has been threatened, possibly by a death witch. As Emsy uncovers the actual story of her family's past, she will have to decide where she fits in and what she wants. A little bit of queer love (nothing graphic) is part of the story. Looking forward to the next chapter in Emsy's story! —G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, \$17.99 (14 and up)

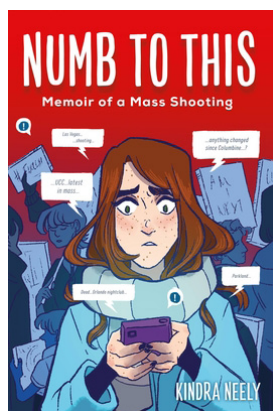




## EDGY GRAPHIC NOVELS

***Numb to This - Memoir of a Mass Shooting***, Kindra Neely

Kindra and her mother moved to Oregon to avoid all the gun violence in Texas. But when eight people were shot on her college campus, it sent her on a deep down spiral of constant fear, depression, suicide—all common responses to these kinds of events. But ultimately this is an ode to hope for all survivors of gun violence. Kindra's honesty is a window into something that too many people in our communities go through. It is also an invitation to keep on talking about mental health issues, guns, violence in schools. —Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, \$17.99 (14 and up)



## EDGY YOUNG ADULT

***Reader, I Murdered Him***, Betsy Cornwell

What if Adèle Varens, Rochester's illegitimate daughter from *Jane Eyre*, was a queer feminist vigilante killing bad men across Europe? It's a question I didn't know I needed answered until I read this book! With a murder and masked balls in equal measure, Adele is a feisty, independent young woman surrounded by a supporting cast of women determined to set right the wrongs of the world, by any means necessary. A book that lives up to its incredible title. —Clarion, \$17.99 (14



and up)

## EDGY YOUNG ADULT



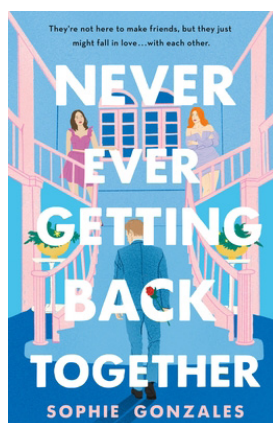
***The Ones We Burn***, Rebecca Mix

When Ranka is sent to assassinate the prince of a kingdom oppressing her people, the Witchik, everything she thought she knew about the war between them is upended—both by the quiet, kind-hearted prince she's meant to murder, and her attraction to his sister. As secrets about both sides of the war begin to unravel, Ranka realizes that everything she's been led to believe might be a lie, and she'll have to reevaluate which side she's on. A new epic fantasy for young adults

from debut author Rebecca Mix is an action-packed love story that I couldn't put down. Perfect for fans of Chloe Gong, Olivia Blake, and Hafsa Faizal. —Margaret K. McElderry Books, \$21.99 (14 and up)

***Never Ever Getting Back Together***, Sophie Gonzales

For anyone who's ever read a love triangle and thought "these two love interests would be so much better off if they ditched this drip and got with each other instead!" Two girls with the same famous ex-boyfriend both agree to go on a new reality tv show for a second chance at love with him; one of them is hoping for revenge, the other to rekindle her lapsed romance. What neither of them expect is to fall for each other. With funny allusions to all your favorite reality dating shows and a brilliant sapphic twist, underscored by strong themes of female friendship and women supporting each other, Sophie Gonzales has crafted another winning queer romance for young adults. —Wednesday Books, \$18.99 (14 and up)



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