



Valentine's Dispatch

Dear Neighbors,

We did not plan it this way, but the topic of love in all its complexity came up a lot in our selections.

If you peruse these pages, you will find first love, forbidden love, sisterly love, and both cute and passionate love. You will find politicized and stolen love, grief, obsession, and desperation for parental acceptance. Not to mention love of place and of travel, of extremely niche topics, and of self.

Of course, reading fuels, and is fueled by, curiosity, which is one of the first steps in love. So perhaps books themselves are a form of love. The passion of authors translates into hours upon hours of research and writing to bring these books into our delighted hands. The passion of you, our readers, for your favorite books is inspiring.

So Happy Valentine's Day; we hope that one of these offerings piques your interest, says "I'm Yours," and becomes your new favorite.
 —Michaela Riding

Getting to Know Antonia

A very warm welcome to our new Children's Book Buyer here at TKE, Antonia Squire. A bookseller for almost 20 years, and a specialist in children's books for 17 of those years, she is passionate and knowledgeable and eager to share. We are delighted to introduce her to you, the best way we know how, with bookish questions.



Margaret Brennan Neville, Anne Holman, Luisa Smith (Book Passage), Calvin Crosby, Antonia Squire

Who are your five favorite authors?

Goodness, this one's tricky, and ever changing, but at the moment they are:

Karen M. McManus – for Edgy Teen

Alistair Chisholm – for Middle Grade sci/fi, we will be importing him into TKE from the UK

MG Leonard – for Middle Grade mysteries

Fleur Hitchcock – for Middle Grade mysteries and again, UK titles we will be importing

Neal Shusterman – for YA dystopia

What are you reading right now?

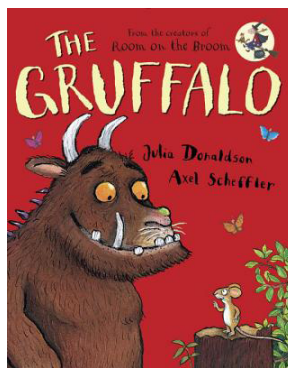
Ghost Wall by Sarah Moss for Book Club and Nic Blake and *The Remarkables* - Angie Thomas' Middle Grade Debut coming out in April

How do you organize your books?

By Genre and by Series

What is a book you hid from your parents (if so)?

None, my mum didn't worry about what I was reading, just that I was reading. Once I turned twelve I read some deeply inappropriate books that I just LOVED!



Who is your favorite hero? Villain?

Katniss Everdeen (*The Hunger Games*) is my favourite hero as she's just so complex and has no idea why people are drawn to her. My favourite villain is The Gruffalo.

Are you a re-reader, or one and done?

I am absolutely a re-reader and I have several series I re-read regularly as an adult - mainly *Clan of the Cave Bear* and *The Belgariad/Mallorean series*,

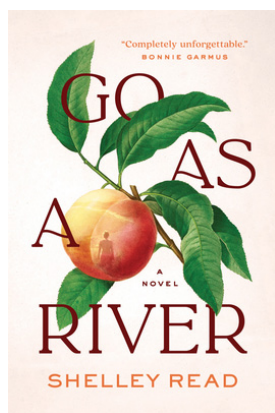
but also *Good Omens* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

What book did you reread over and over as a kid?

The Malory Towers series by Enid Blyton

What is your favorite spot to read?

Bed, however that is defined - it can be my bed at home, or a sun lounger, or a sofa



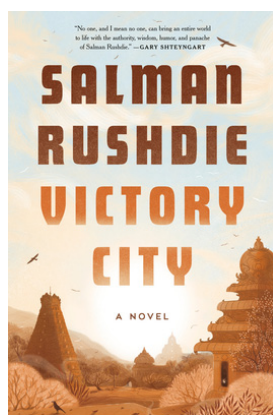
Go as a River, Shelley Read

At TKE we love to call attention to voices that authentically represent the West we know through our Rewriting the West initiative, and Coloradoan Shelley Read is a perfect addition. Her debut novel *Go as a River* is a story of place, land, and survival, beginning in 1940s Colorado. 17-year-old Victoria Nash lives on a peach farm in a family of troubled men, until a chance encounter with Wilson Moon, a mysterious drifter, unlocks both passion and danger. As she seeks

her place in the world and learns what family means, she must also confront the imminent flooding of the Gunnison River to create a reservoir that will drown the land she grew up on. A moving story of first romantic love, the ache of loss and erasure, and of changing course. —Calvin Crosby, Spiegel & Grau, \$28

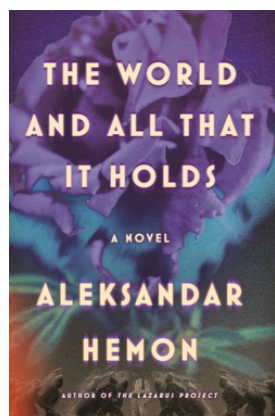
Victory City, Salman Rushdie

Bisnaga (translation, Victory City) is originally created and closely chronicled over its 250-year existence by Pampa Kampala through assorted vicissitudes (including war, always war) as she marries first one king and then another, loves this man and that one, gives birth again and again, never aging, all-seeing, holding close to her heart her determination to give women equality. Feminist, fierce, fantastical, Rushdie's new novel gives voice to this woman and this kingdom (a noun used advisedly since kings always reigned in this 14th century dynasty, despite the overarching power of Pampa Kampala to imagine and create otherwise). The tone is as bewitching as the most magical of fairy tales, the writing is at once richly inventive and elegant, the plot mythic, mesmerizing, and painfully evocative of the world today, expressing the ongoing, often ugly (but as often hope-filled) truth of humanity and history. That Rushdie is one of the world's greatest writers is plain in the pages of Victory City. Bravo. Brava. —Betsy Burton, Random House, \$30



The World and All That It Holds, Aleksandar Hemon

Sarajevo, 1914: Pinto the apothecary hears a loud noise in the street outside, follows it, and becomes witness to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. It's what follows that matters though; in the next chapter we find Pinto in 1916 Polish Galicia as a soldier in the Bosnian army. There he meets and falls in love with Osman, a fellow soldier. As we move across the world and time with the two of them, we see how history has treated LGBTQ

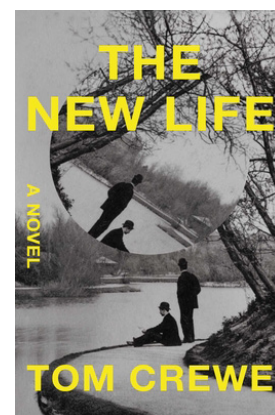


people, Jews, and other political refugees. More than anything else, this is a love story for the ages and a wonderful way to start my new year of reading. —Anne Holman, FSG/MCD, \$27

The New Life, Tom Crewe

Set in 1894 London under the shadow of Oscar Wilde's defiance of convention and incarceration, Tom Crewe's debut novel, *The New Life* has created a story with an atmospheric sense of time and place reminiscent of and as memorable as Michael Cunningham's *The Hours*, Andrew Sean Greer's *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*, and Alan Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*. In this novel, two men navigate the powerful and complex mores of their time with equal parts fear and courage.

John and Henry are working on a book which argues that "inversion" or homosexuality is simply an expected variation of human sexuality (an argument that some still reject, and it wasn't until 1973 that the American Psychiatric Association stopped looking at homosexuality as a mental illness). The two men and the women they are married to face the end of the safety and security of their family as the men come to terms with society's limitations on the book they are writing. *The New Life* is historical fiction at its best, compelling in tone and plot, and riveting in every way. —Calvin Crosby, Scribner, \$28



The Gospel of Orla, Eoghan Walls

Teenager Orla is mourning the death of her mother, and Irish poet Eoghan Walls takes all that rolled up anger, guilt, grief, love and turns it into an unforgettable novel. Orla wants to get away from her life, her dad who drinks too much, her baby sister, her classmates. Her best friend has been told to stay away from her as she is a bad influence, and the family friend is just so intrusive. And then she meets a homeless man named Jesus. Jesus has some "special" talents that turn

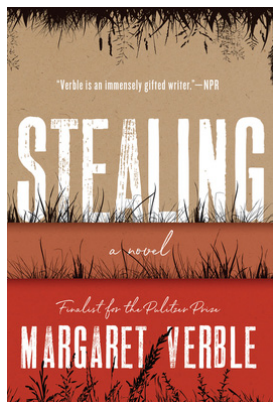
Orla's world into an even bigger mess. The adults struggle blindly, not really seeing, when Orla starts her quest. Surrounded by so many things that are an illusion, Orla must figure out what is real, and what is actually important. The strength of this novel is authenticity. Even though the magic and miracles abound, readers will recognize the universal questions - Why me? Why my mom? Orla is a character that will stay with readers. Powerful writing! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Seven Stories, \$16.95

The Applicant, Nazli Koca

Not just anyone sues their college after their master's thesis is rejected. But Leyla, a twenty-something Turkish immigrant studying in Berlin, is desperate to stay and even more desperate to become a writer. With a precarious visa limiting how long she has to do both, Leyla gets a cleaning job at a hostel by day and works on her writing skills by night, faithfully capturing in journal entries a wildly provocative and contemporary immigrant narrative. *The Applicant* is



such an intimate read you can't help but feel you may have penned it yourself once, but only if you ever found yourself experiencing some of the largest issues of our time—ethnic identity, national belonging, the traumas of patriarchy and White supremacy, sexual ownership, feminist reckoning—and found it all furiously exasperating and oddly funny at the same time. “Recommended for those who have ever lived abroad, for artists, students and those who don't know what they are just yet. But even more for those who are none of these things.” —Val Kittel, Grove Press, \$26



Stealing, Margaret Verble

This OwnVoices novel combines both the grit and the resilience of a young Cherokee girl fighting against a community and a system that is trying to steal her family and culture from her. The story chronicles Kit Crockett from an early age. When her mother dies, she and her father live together with their grief until Kit finds herself at a religious boarding school facing a very different set of challenges. The series of events that lead from the beginning to the end of this book are heavy and heart

wrenching as you root for humanity and truth. This book gives vibes similar to *Where the Crawdads Sing* but in a more raw and humble way. This is a can't miss book! —Brady Parkin, Mariner, \$27.99

Looking for Jane, Heather Marshall

Angela Creighton and her partner desperately want a baby. As they struggle through the trials of IVF, she comes upon a lost letter from a dying mother to her estranged daughter, and she determines to find the child. We follow her on her search to 1971 where pregnant girls in the U.S. were sent to homes for unwed mothers, not unlike the Magdalene laundries of Ireland. Conditions are frightful and new mothers are abused, stripped of their babies, and left to a life of unforgiving loss. Dr. Evelyn Taylor is one such mother who joins the “Jane” network of doctors and caregivers determined to give American women of the 80's the choice she was denied. When Nancy Mitchell discovers a devastating family secret, she too vows to help the women of their day never have to resort to back-alley horrors. As the stories of these three women collide, we are reminded of how women have had to fight for the autonomous right to their bodies: a fight that continues today. A compelling and courageous novel that will stay with you for a long time. —Anne Stewart Mark, Atria Books, \$27.99



Stone Blind, Natalie Haynes

Of all the women in Greek mythology, Medusa might get the worst rap. But what if we didn't have her real story until now? What if she was raised by two Gorgon sisters who found the mortal baby left on the shore and decided she was not a meal but another sister? I love this trend of retelling the stories of the gods and goddesses (and everyone else) from a woman's point of view. Yes, it's snakes but it's so much more! —Anne Holman, Harper, \$30

The Farewell Tour, Stephanie Clifford

Memory can be tricky; especially when it tries to protect us. Lillian Waters is a wonderful character, a survivor who understands her limited choices early in life and moves steadily forward to achieve her dream of bluegrass stardom. But at what cost? The novel opens with Lillian's farewell tour in 1980 but quickly jumps back in time to WWII Tacoma and a young woman discovering her love for the guitar and for singing. And briefly, when many young men were away at war, it was a woman's world; they could work, sing, be independent—but when the soldiers returned it was back to the proverbial waitress-ing job and maybe, kids in diapers. Lillian's journey to defy modern conventions is emotional and gutsy; and the appearances by country and western stars of old makes this book even more fun! —Anne Holman, HarperCollins, \$29.99



Brain Food Books Latest



Antonia Squire, Tami Charles, Calvin Crosby, Nathan Spofford

Author Tami Charles signed hundreds of books to distribute at four presentations throughout SLC schools. Every child in attendance received a copy of her newest book, *We Are Here*.





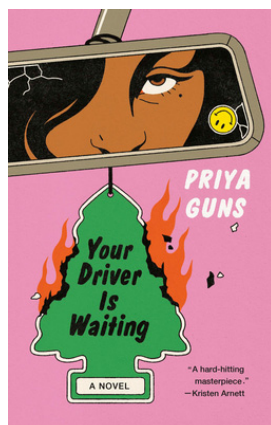
Really Good, Actually, Monica Heisey

I have never laughed so hard over an extended breakdown. *Really Good, Actually* follows 30-year-old Maggie in the year after her divorce. From her ill-fated rebounds, to online shopping for clothes that are now too small for her after so much stress eating, to waffling between her determination to free herself from the oppression of patriarchal ideas of marriage while simultaneously desperate to recouple while then sabotaging every relationship she's in, all are desperate at-

tempts to prove just how fine she's doing. I laughed out loud countless times while reading this book and related so deeply to the slow-motion breakdown of a mid-sized woman in her 30s. It will appeal to anyone who has ever felt like everyone but them has it figured out. *Bridget Jones* for fans of *Fleabag*. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Morrow, \$27.99

Your Driver Is Waiting, Priya Guns

As a rideshare driver, Damani interacts with a wide array of characters, but she never thought that she would develop feelings for someone she gives a ride to. Jolene is exactly the opposite of Damani. Damani lives on a limited budget, fighting to keep a job with a living wage, in a world where she is marginalized as a woman of color. Jolene is a stereotypical woman of racial and financial privilege. In this modernized retelling of the 1970s classic movie "Taxi Driver," conflict builds and builds until the story reaches a climax that throws convention to the wind. The tension between social justice, activism, and falling in love becomes palpable. Stylistically, this book is such an accessible read and I could not put it down. It is memorable in the best way. If you enjoyed *All This Could Be Different* by Sarah Thankam Matthews, this is a great next read! —Brady Parkin, Doubleday, \$26



I Have Some Questions For You, Rebecca Makkai

The MeToo movement triggers a present shift in which we find ourselves "all of us, casting a sharp eye back on the men who'd hired us, mentored us, pulled us into coat closets." This theme underscores the action of this riveting novel in its thought-provoking pages. Bodie Kane—successful 40-year-old podcaster and professor of film studies—is invited to teach a two week "mini-mester" at her old New Hampshire prep school. Suddenly,

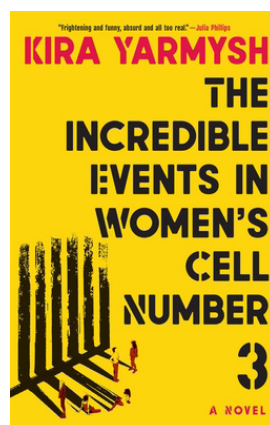
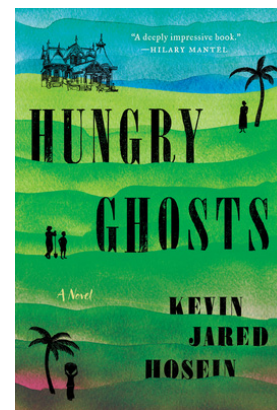
Bodie's raw teenage years bubble up into her adult present. Foremost is the memory of the murder of her roommate Thalia Keith during her senior year. The research of her bright, energetic, well-prepared podcast students unearths serious flaws in the original investigation

of Thalia's murder, flaws which led to the conviction of Omar Evans, the school's athletic trainer. Their conclusion: "I think the wrong guy is in prison." In Bodie's reckoning there are eight possible murderers. The kids' podcast brings national attention and leads to a motion to have Omar's case brought up for retrial. Bodie is a potential, sequestered witness. And new questions which she and others were never asked may hold the key to uncovering the truth. Readers will find this novel by an acclaimed contemporary writer impossible to put down.

—Carol Kranes, Viking, \$28

Hungry Ghosts, Kevin Jared Hosein

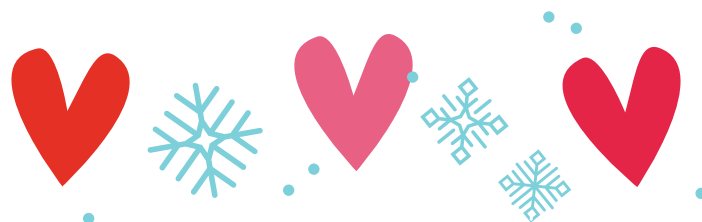
"There is no other life but the one you are bound to." And life in dusky, rural Trinidad in the 1940s offers few ways to escape, especially from the barracks where whole families live in single rooms in a ramshackle building of wood and tin. The novel follows two contrasting families, the Saroops of the barracks and the Changoor who live in a "whisper-filled manor surrounded by lush acreage." The mysterious disappearance of wealthy landowner Dalton Changoor begins the action and creates a central tension when his young wife, Marlee, hires Hans Saroop (of the barracks) as watchman. Other tensions arise when young cousins, Krishna and Tarak, sign a blood oath with twins Rudra and Rustam, setting off an on-going conflict with a rival gang led by a local lawman's son. Author Hosein strongly evokes the landscape's verdant beauty while chronicling grim loss in a time when Hindu discrimination was state sponsored. —Carol Kranes, HarperCollins, \$27.99



The Incredible Events in Women's Cell Number 3, Kira Yarmysh

A timely novel, in light of the recent events surrounding the imprisonment of basketball star Brittney Griner. Written by the press secretary of opposition leader Alexey Navalny, this fictional account describes the detention of a woman arrested at a political rally. Over the ensuing nine days, we are introduced to Anya's fellow detainees. Their back stories along with the alleged offenses, sexuality, and the roles of ordinary Russian women are revealed as we gradually learn of Anya's

backstory and the psychological toll she suffers. The narrative begins languidly, following the rhythm of the monotony of her detention. As Anya's anxiety surrounding her sentence evolves, so does the pace of the story and we see her psychological fitness devolve until a surprising ending. —Christina Richards, Grove Press, \$27





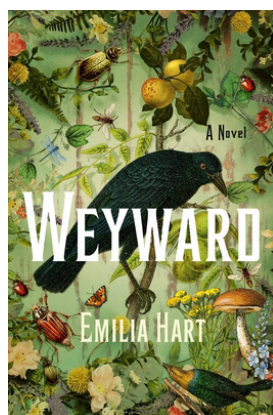
Dinner Party, Sarah Gilmartin

No one writes family quite like the Irish and this is no exception. As we get to know Kate, and through her, her family, we see a young woman trapped between duty and desire, diet and a demonic mother. Gilmartin gets right at the heart of why you can still love your family even when they are crazy mean and sometimes just crazy. Interspersed with brilliant food scenes, it just reinforces how hungry we can be for security in our lives regardless of the cost. —Anne Holman, *Steerforth*,

\$16.95

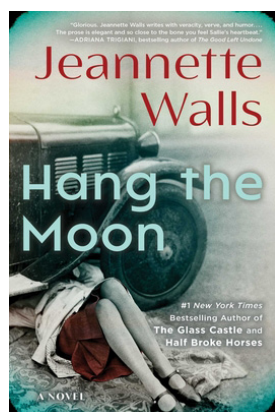
Weyward, Emilia Hart

A sublimely written debut about three generations of women (one in the 1600s witch trials, one set shortly after WWII, and another in our modern time) who have a way with the natural world, and the ways they've been oppressed because of it. Though separated by decades or even centuries, these three Weyward women are each other's heritage and legacy, and I loved seeing how they found their power in different ways. A blend of history and a touch of magic, it's perfect for fans of Alice Hoffman's *Practical Magic* series. —Mickey George, *St. Martin's Press*, \$27.99



Hang the Moon, Jeannette Walls

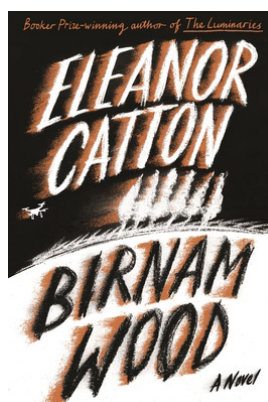
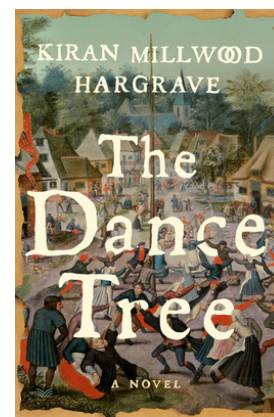
Duke Kincaid runs his small, turn of the century Virginia town with his bigger than life charismatic personality. His oldest child, Sallie, orphaned by her young mother under suspicious circumstances, is determined to keep her father's attention by emulating him in all things. After the Duke remarries and a son Eddie is born, she tries to help Eddie overcome his quiet reserved nature, to devastating results, and is banished to the hills with her estranged aunt. After nine years, she



is finally called home to reclaim her rightful place in the family. The complicated education of the scandals and secrets of the Big House mature Sally quickly into the feisty and fearless whippersnapper of her father's likeness. A story of the South during Prohibition where moralists and hucksters alike fight for control. You will enjoy the ride with Sally, as your heart races with her often reckless choices. —Anne Stewart Mark, *Scribner*, \$28

The Dance Tree, Kiran Millwood Hargrave

The summer of 1518 in Europe was exceedingly dry, hot and languishing from years of drought and brutal winters. From those most affected, the poor and destitute, one woman begins to dance in the center of the city, and Strasbourg is sunk into a dance plague as hundreds join her in this choreomania. The city council and the church, already reeling from the effects of the Ottoman Turkish war, declare a state of emergency, and musicians are brought in to play the devil out of the afflicted. Living on the outskirts of town, pregnant Lizbet tends her family's bees which provide the church's candles. When their bees are accused of stealing the monks' pollen, Lisbet's husband, Henne, must journey to Heidelberg to defend their rights to the bees. Meanwhile his sister, Agnetha, returns from seven years of penance for an unspoken sin, and the city trembles from the beat of thousands of feet, Lisbet seeks solace in the forest in a Dance Tree left from former pagan rituals. A novel of desire, forbidden love, superstition and deceit, reminiscent of O'Farrell's *Hamnet*, I found I couldn't put it down. —Anne Stewart Mark, *Harper Via*, \$27.99



Birnam Wood, Eleanor Catton

NO TRESPASSING! What do a Guerilla Gardening Group (Birnam Wood) and an American billionaire drone manufacturer (Automono founder Robert Lemoine) have in common? Both trespass on a farm property near Korowai, a New Zealand National Park. The hippie gardeners use the acreage to plant in neglected spaces and "foster a commitment to helping those in need." Lemoine extracts rare earth minerals from beneath the park, nursing ambitions far beyond the crime of trespass. When the billionaire offers to donate the property and a cash donation, no strings attached, to Birnam Wood, can his motives be trusted? Enter cynical Tony Gallo who spots a sign on a fence surrounding the park: "Research in Progress. Please Keep Out" and decides to investigate the secret deal. Sir Owen Darvish, the previous owner, after receiving Tony's call with questions about the fence, the sign, and the security guard, also decides to investigate, with a potentially deadly turn. Author Eleanor Catton, Man Booker Prize winner for *The Luminaries*, weaves a complex tale full of stunning cliff-hangers, compassionate, vulnerable characters, and the underlying questions: At what cost can we preserve such places as Korowai National Park? And What is the cost of Trespass? —Carol Kranes, *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*, \$28

A Flaw in the Design, Nathan Oates

What happens when a creative writing professor, Gil, and his wife, Molly, become guardians of their 17-year-old nephew Matthew after his very wealthy parents die in a hit-and-run auto crash? Some disturbing facts: Matthew misses his parents' funeral and appears not to be upset. Put out, but not sad. As well, the last time the two

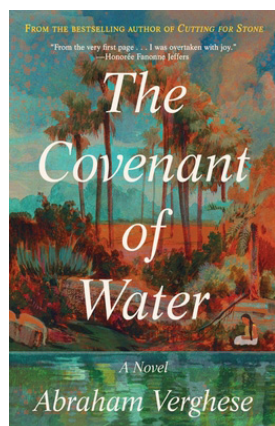


FICTION

families were together—over six years previously—Matthew had angrily confessed to almost drowning Gil and Molly's daughter, Ingrid. Lastly, a detective calls to say his department is investigating the circumstances of the car crash. Matthew, who is bright, enrolls in Gil's Creative Writing class where he reads deeply and makes very perceptive comments. Still, Gil feels usurped, burdened, sometimes victimized by his nephew. Is Gil—as his wife Molly suggests—over-reacting? Does he need to give Matthew some space and the benefit of doubt? Or is something truly wrong, especially when Matthew writes chilly stories about the deaths of his parents as well as other pieces which detail the killing of a family like his uncle's? This psychological thriller unreels in twists and turns that kept this reader caught in its edginess, guessing until the final pages and even beyond. —Carol Kranes, Random House, \$28



FICTION PREORDER

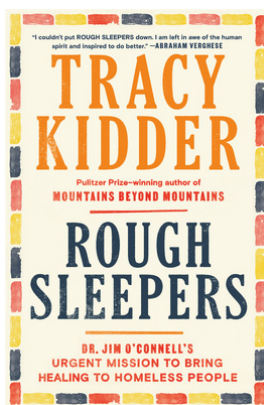


The Covenant of Water, Abraham Verghese

The best books make our own lives recede, vanish completely, as we fall into the lives of others—until, in the end, our lives are illuminated in vivid and unforgettable flashes. *The Covenant of Water* does exactly that, immersing us in Southern India—in its history, its religions and castes and culture, as well as the lives of one family (and the parallel life of a Scottish doctor) through time and endless complications; the book's characters fall in and out of love, parent children, harbor

secrets, encounter obstacles, and endure pain physical and psychic. The reader is in thrall, page by riveting page, from the time a 12-year-old bride-to-be alights fearfully in Parambil, the new home in which her life will unspool—as wife, as mother, as matriarch—in ways she could never have foretold. Yet if family is the substance of this miracle of a novel so grounded in character, medicine is its spine, the backbone around which the tale is wrapped. Not just the science of medicine, the miracles that it can perform, the mysteries it can solve, but the DUTY of it. The care. This duty of care thrums through every one of the ten parts of this beyond-brilliant book, as does the balm of compassion. The result is a novel that grabs not just our interest, as we race spellbound through the story; not just our minds, each page a revelation into the sweep of history and the fascinating particularity of science; but most of all our hearts. We are so utterly captivated by the whole of it—by its narrative and its characters and the history and landscape it portrays, by the world view it imparts and the empathy that is at its core—that it becomes one with us. This is the best of novels. Perhaps the best ever. Miraculous doesn't begin to describe it. —Betsy Burton, Grove Press, \$32

NONFICTION



Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People, Tracy Kidder

When Jim O'Connell graduates from Harvard Medical School, he is asked to give one year to a medical clinic for the homeless. He reluctantly agrees and so finds his true calling in life — at the clinic and on the streets of Boston, helping those citizens who sleep “rough.” His tools: A van and supplies, respect for his patients, a medical team as willing as he is. Kidder, who won the Pulitzer for

Mountains Beyond Mountains, again follows an extraordinary man, this time around the streets of a tough city where Dr. O'Connell has made such a huge difference to the lives of his itinerant patients over the years. Would there were a way of replicating his inspiring efforts in Salt Lake, where our wonderful 4th Street Clinic might become just one part of even broader outreach to the “rough sleepers” of our city. —Betsy Burton, Random House, \$30

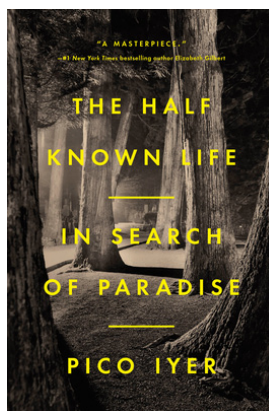
Enchantment: Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age, Katherine May

May is exploring different ways to be in our world. In *Wintering*, she examined the power of stepping away from the overwhelming. And in this new book she looks for restoration. With kind and heart-revealing antidotes, May inspires readers to look no further than a quiet moment with an orange, a step outside, open eyes to the world around us. She introduced me to a new word, hierophany. “Hierophany is the experience of perceiving all the layers of existence, not just seeing its surface appearance.” And isn't that the response we should have to all of our own stuff, and to the larger world and its problems? May knows, as do many of her readers, that being fully in the natural world is a curative response to what ails us. I often give away *Living Beautifully with Uncertainty and Change* by Pema Chodron, and now I have another choice for that friend who needs a wee bit of comfort and inspiration.

—Margaret Brennan Neville, Riverhead, \$25



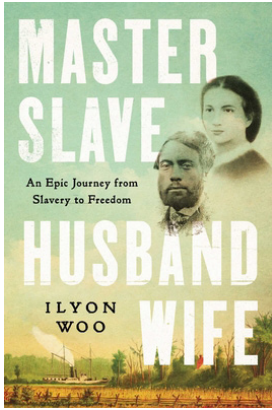
The Half Known Life: In Search of Paradise, Pico Iyer



In Mr. Iyer's latest work, he starts with the travel writing that he is best known for and adds the spiritual context by investigating the convoluted concept of “paradise.” As the Dalai Lama's biographer, Pico Iyer has observed firsthand the way that people of all different lands and cultures search for a meaningful existence. This made him question if or what kind of paradise can be found in the divided world in which we live today. The

voyage takes the reader from the sterile landscape of North Korea to Jerusalem, from the peaceful lakes of Kashmir to Ladakh to Sri Lanka

and Broome, Australia. So many of these locales are far from what many of us would consider our idea of paradise. In the search he also questions our idea of knowledge by stating that “the half known life is where so many of our possibilities lie.” Iyer’s idea of paradise, in embracing both engagement and conscious solitude, welcomes as well as mitigates the isolationist sentiment. His worldview has recently been compared to the latest Olga Tokarczuk book, *The Books of Jacob*, which shares more alignment with hell than the way most of us would view paradise. The reader gets to explore new places, geographically, but also intellectually. The perfect book to make us think. —Jan Sloan Tempest, Riverhead Books, \$26



Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom,
Ilyon Woo

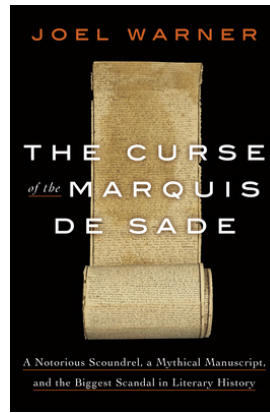
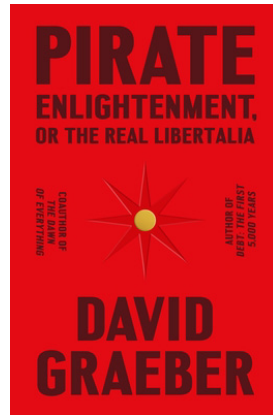
The remarkable story of William and Ellen Craft is movingly portrayed in this extensive history. Each were born into slavery with all the associated horrors inflicted on both as their families were torn apart. William’s mother was sold separately from her young children, some of whom were never able to be found after the Civil War. Despite being forbidden to read or write, William and Ellen concocted a radical plan to escape Georgia and flee north. The story of how they managed their escape and the notoriety they gained afterwards is told through the prism of the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Act and the rampant racism they faced, not only in their home state of Georgia, but in the supposedly free north. Woo’s work is a masterful contribution to the history of slavery in America.

—Barbara Hoagland, S&S, \$29.99

Pirate Enlightenment, or the Real Libertalia, David Graeber

When first given this book, the first thought was, pirates, really? Then the next was, why me? Because it is a gift. New year. New ideas. David Graeber’s posthumously published book puts to rest so many of our preconceived ideas of piracy and who really was in charge. Mr. Graeber’s book came from field research that he did in Madagascar for his doctoral thesis on the politics and history of slavery and magic of the island. Here he encountered an ethnic group of descendants of the pirates who settled here; the Zana-Malata. In his research, Graeber found how the proto-democratic/libertarian practices of this group came to shape the period of Enlightenment which has long been defined as a strictly European movement. He shows the non-European origins of what we always considered Western thought, which leads him to recover forgotten forms of social and political order that show us a more hopeful possibility for the future since these pirates were led by Malagasy women and “egalitarian pirates at the crossroads of the world.”

—Jan Sloan Tempest, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27



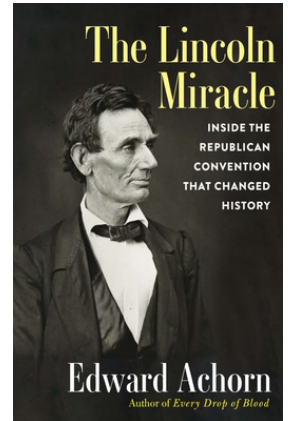
The Curse of the Marquis de Sade: A Notorious Scoundrel, a Mythical Manuscript, and the Biggest Scandal in Literary History, Joel Warner

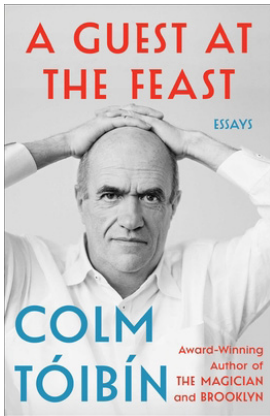
During one of his many incarcerations, the Marquis de Sade produced his most controversial novel written on a tiny scroll and hidden within the bowels of the Bastille. The journey through history of 120 Days of Sodom is a convoluted tale which Warner aptly unravels. The Marquis de Sade was an avowed libertine who reveled in debauchery and the story

of his life alone is enough to keep the reader’s attention. But it doesn’t end with de Sade’s death. Through the decades the scroll traveled a convoluted path which finally ended where it began, in Paris. In the process, a scandal of gigantic proportions upended the French literary community and revealed the largest Ponzi scheme in French history. —Barbara Hoagland, Crown, \$28.99

The Lincoln Miracle, Edward Achorn

Whatever your personal feelings about Abraham Lincoln, it must be admitted that he is one of the most consequential individuals in American history. This new book by Edward Achorn is a thorough look at the 1860 Republican Party Nominating Convention held in Chicago at which Lincoln and his followers engineered his nomination for the presidency. Everything about Lincoln winning this nomination is improbable—a true “dark horse” candidate. Lincoln had not been a successful political candidate except for a short term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is from a very rural and frontier state with little national name recognition. He is ungainly in appearance with ill-fitting clothes and a folksy manner which only contrast with his sharp mind and quick wit. Meanwhile the Democratic Party is trying to appease the pro-slavery states who want to extend slavery to the new states as they come into the Union. The Republicans hold firm that slavery must not be extended to these new states even while the slave states are threatening to secede if the Republican nominee is elected president. A great read for the history buff and anybody who is interested is how the past can shape the future. One fascinating tidbit (of many) the author uncovers is that in 1860, Chicago, with the Republican Party Nominating Convention about to descend on it, is scrambling to provide housing and clean entertainment to the attendees. One entrepreneur decides to bring the wildly popular play “My American Cousin” to Chicago – the same play Lincoln would be enjoying at Ford’s Theater on that fateful night in 1865. —Patrick Fleming, Atlantic Monthly Press, \$30





A Guest at the Feast, Colm Tóibín

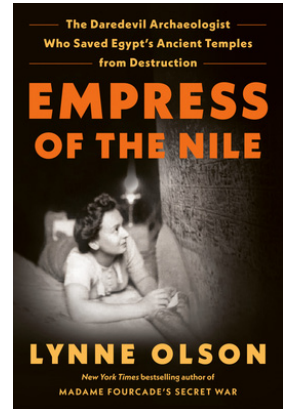
Perhaps it is the brilliant narrative voice, honed by years spent creating some of the world's great novels, that entices the reader so willingly into Tóibín's wide-ranging new book of nonfiction. His first essay, deeply personal, begins with a memorable first sentence: "It all started with my balls." What follows seems mildly funny as Tóibín misdiagnoses himself via the internet. But in his description of his eventual chemo treatments, his masterful use of small, telling details, brings to

vivid life his intensifying discomfort, his waning interest in the world around him, and in the end, his profound lassitude. This same mix of detail and inner awareness, of a growing understanding of humankind and an ever-expanding cognizance of the worlds of culture, country and the arts, is even more present in the title essay, a lyrical, insightful recollection of his coming of age in the small County Wexford town where many of his memorable novels are set. What follows are essays on everything from the judicial world to popes to literature to writers, each depiction rendered with startling clarity, thanks to the formidable depth of not only his journalistic skills but his uncanny perception as well. Throughout, Tóibín's fondness for friends and family, his homosexuality, his humor, his familiarity with the Catholic Church in which he grew up, the sexual abuse that is and has long been a part of that church and of his troubled country, lend depth and resonance to every portrayal. His final essay, "Alone

in Venice," affectingly evokes the present-day plague, the (blessedly) empty streets, their beauty, and the scenes they helped to ignite in his work (including, aptly, the hauntingly familiar portrayal of Thomas Mann, the author at the heart of his recent brilliant novel *The Magician*). I have long been enamored of, dazzled by, the fiction of Colm Tóibín but have, thanks to *A Guest at the Feast*, acquired new insight into the breadth of his knowledge, his boundless curiosity, his multifaceted genius. Reading each essay was intensely pleasurable and endlessly fascinating. —Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$28

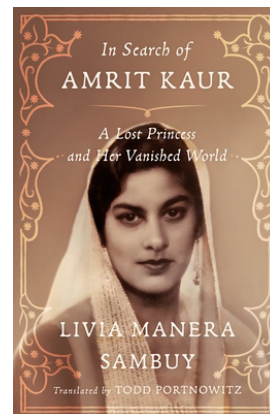
Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction, Lynne Olson

Christine Desroches-Noblecourt is foremost in the pantheon of women who changed the arc of history. Her love of all things Egyptian led her into the world of French archaeology in what had traditionally been an all-male occupation. Despite efforts by her fellow archeologists to undermine her work, she persevered in the harsh environment of early excavations, gaining the admiration and loyalty of the Egyptian workers. While her work was derailed by the Second World War, she was undeterred as she turned her attention to action with the resistance in France. However, her greatest endeavor was to almost single-handedly pursue the effort to move priceless Egyptian temples away from proposed destruction during the creation of the Aswan High Dam. She was instrumental in drawing together 50 countries in a commitment to save these treasures, even facing down the objections by both the Egyptian President and the President of France. Her work saved and preserved invaluable historic treasures and for that alone, she deserves a special place in history. —Barbara Hoagland, Random, \$32



In Search of Amrit Kaur: A Lost Princess and Her Vanished World, Livia Manera Sambuy

The life of Amrit Kaur is one of incredible riches, lost inheritances, and a war that tore the fabric of the world and displaced millions of people. Amrit was born into immense wealth in an Indian society at the end of the British Raj. That she abandoned her children, as well as her life as an Indian Princess, was enough in and of itself to draw Sambuy into researching her life. Little did she know at the beginning that Amrit's story would lead



her from Paris to London to San Diego and, ultimately, back to India. Along the way she uncovered a life that intersected with a multitude of amazing people. This is not only a look at one woman's life, it is a detailed examination of a world that no longer exists. —Barbara Hoagland, FSG, \$28

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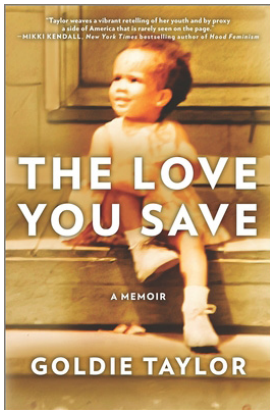
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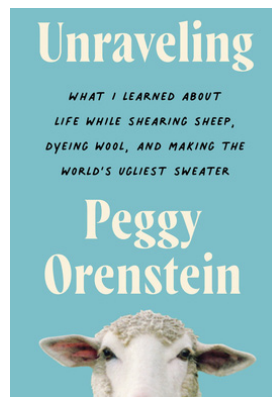
The Love You Save: A Memoir, Goldie Taylor

Goldie Taylor is an inspiring individual, and her candid honesty and deft storytelling have her memoir conveying the depth and strength of human perseverance. Goldie as an adult has found acclaim and respect as a novelist, journalist, and the current editor-at-large at the Daily Beast. As a child, she experienced unimaginable trauma. With a mother struggling with personal battles, her Auntie Gerald took her in along with the many other people

with limited resources that filled the house. Being left in the care of her Auntie Gerald took Goldie from the good school she was attending to the limited resources and crime of East St. Louis. Once situated, she slept on the floor with a tattered blanket for comfort from further abuses from the many “cousins” residing there. Brutal, honest, and necessary are the best words to describe the inspiration and strength that Goldie Taylor continues to convey. —Calvin Crosby, Hanover Square Press, \$28.99

Unraveling: What I Learned About Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater, Peggy Orenstein

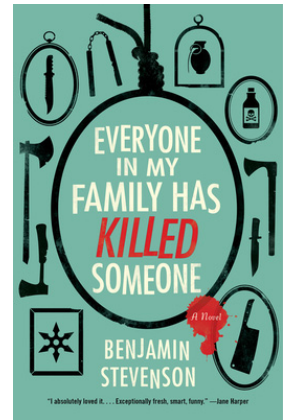
This memoir was fascinating. Peggy Orenstein reacted to the destabilizing combination of COVID lockdown and fire season in California by following her compulsion to create a sweater entirely herself, start to finish. Thus begins an adventure through the figurative wilderness of nearly abandoned textile artisanship, while she finds a shearing teacher willing to direct her alone, learns to spin socially-distanced on someone's driveway, takes dyeing and design classes over Zoom, and grapples with the sheer enormity of what it takes to craft an ethical piece of clothing. Ironically, it is the interior journey she goes on that allows her to find connections to struggling ranchers around the world, historical dyers across Central America, early knitters in ancient Egypt, the infamous tricoteuses of the French Revolution, and her own place in the world. Obviously, knitters and textile enthusiasts will adore this book, but this will introduce many more people to the complex natural beauty and inevitable humanity behind every single piece of clothing we wear. —Michaela Riding, Harper, \$27.99 *Editor's Note: Come and meet the author in person on Saturday, February 11th at 3 p.m. at the Neighborhood Hive*



MYSTERY/HORROR

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone, Benjamin Stevenson

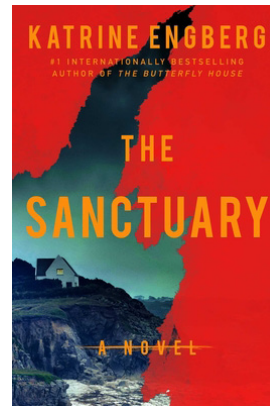
An Aussie murder mystery in the same vein as *Clue* with a dash of *Knives Out*. Ernie Cunningham is a reliable-ish narrator. He's inviting us to a family reunion at a remote and cold location. There will be murders—he even tells you the pages on which they will occur. He quite often chats to you—the reader—as you puzzle your way through this fiendishly clever mystery. —Paula Longhurst, Mariner, \$28.99



The Sanctuary, Katrine Engberg

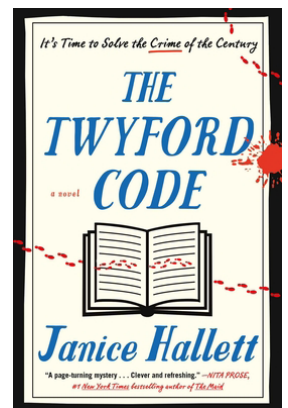
A suitcase with part of a decaying corpse inside is discovered close to a children's playground in Copenhagen. Annette Werner leads the investigation; her partner Jeppe Korner has taken an indefinite leave of absence on the island of Bornholm. Evidence surfaces leading back to Bornholm and Werner co-opts Jeppe into asking ‘a few questions’ about the origins of the suitcase. He follows a trail leading back to a death that shattered the isolated community many years ago, a death

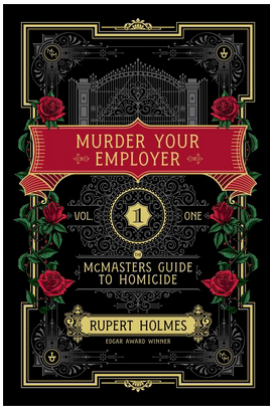
that ruined lives. Did someone finally take their revenge? Fans of Jo Nesbo will eat this up. —Paula Longhurst, GalleryScout Press, \$28.99



The Twyford Code, Janice Hallett

For those of you who love a good puzzle, get ready to read carefully. Steven Smith is an ex-con who learned to read late in life but in time to read a children's book by Edith Twyford, disgraced children's writer of the late 1800s. He and his coterie of friends and acquaintances in English E believe they have found a code which will lead them to hidden gold. The story is told through the iPhone transcripts on “Smithys” old phone. It is a haphazard mix of events and thoughts which lead to a “truth” of sorts. There are middle-class, upper class, and criminal class characters who will make readers curious, sometimes disappoint, but always entertain. Because of the twists and turns in Smithy's life and the ups and downs of the search for the code, the book is a page turner. Now, it is possible to cheat; however, I am not going to tell you how. Enjoy the fragmented story from beginning to end. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Atria Books, \$27





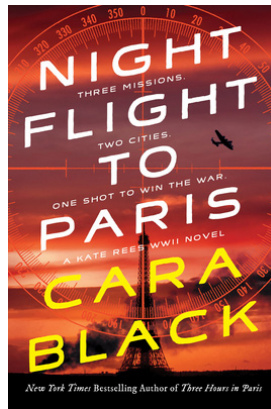
***Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide*, Rupert Holmes**

There are people in this world whom no one would miss or mourn; their demise would make the world a better place. At McMasters Conservatory for the Applied Arts, students learn how to successfully delete a single target and get away with it. It's like Hogwarts but the M you learn isn't Magic, it's Murder. Cliff tried and failed to murder his boss, and now he's at McM's on a scholarship; his mysterious benefactor—McM's is eye-wateringly

expensive—knows that as a McMaster's graduate Cliff will pull off the perfect murder. Dulcie intends to murder the lecherous studio head who's tanking her movie career and Gemma's blackmailer could well be the death of her, and her mother. —Paula Longhurst, Simon & Schuster, \$28

***Night Flight to Paris*, Cara Black**

When readers last met Kate Rees she had unsuccessfully attempted to shoot Hitler in Cara Black's novel, *Three Hours in Paris*. She is now a sharpshooting instructor for the British Secret Service. However, her comfortable job in rural Scotland will be turned upside down when she is told to report for a special task back in France amid the turmoil of occupied Paris. Kate's motivation for the return to Paris is dual—to save a friend and to kill an enemy—but nothing goes smoothly. The tension builds throughout the novel and the reader will feel Kate's anxiety and fear with each setback, eagerly hoping for the best but prepared for the worst. Cara Black creates strong yet vulnerable characters who readers care about and live their dangers and fears vicariously. Perhaps she is another Aimee Leduc, and we can expect more stories to follow. Hard to read slowly as the tension builds toward the end. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$27.95



***The Blackhouse*, Carole Johnstone**

Storms! Storms! Storms! This Gothic novel is set in Kilmeray on an isolated Scottish island. It is awash with mysteries, sprinkled with changed identities and all the intrigue of a small island town where no question is too personal, no secret a secret for too long. Enter Maggie Mackay/Anderson with a quest: to discover what really happened—20 years before—when she was five and visited Kilmeray. Back then she had told anyone and everyone

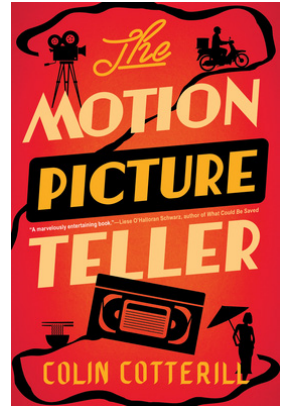


she'd once been a man named Andrew MacNeil who one day died—was murdered—and then she'd awakened, reincarnated as Maggie. She made a BIG THING about it! Understandably, her return is met with mixed responses. "Everyone knows about you," she is told. The mystery unfolds, layer by layer, as Maggie settles into her Airbnb, The Blackhouse, side by side with a few ghosts, some ominous threats,

and living intruders. There are terrific descriptions of weather-wreathed cliffs, gloomy wafts of air, shadows and shrieks. Readers will enjoy this page-turner as Maggie unravels her own tragic secrets and those of the island. —Carol Kranes, Scribner, \$28

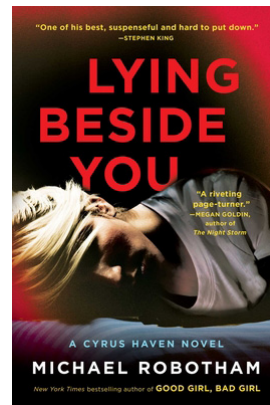
***The Motion Picture Teller*, Colin Cotterill**

Cotterill creates curious characters who combine humor with pathos. His Dr. Siri Paiboun series created a cult following who will be delighted with this new mystery set in Thailand in 1996. Supot, the protagonist, is a reluctant postman whose true love is watching classic movies. Supot embarks on a search for the actress in a long-lost cassette, *Bangkok 2010*. He and his friend Ali watch the film in Ali's video store and become obsessed with finding the makers and actors in this long-lost Thai movie. The search is both dangerous and fulfilling. Cotterill again takes the readers into a fascinating culture and landscape. Perhaps he has another cult classic. —Wendy Foster-Leigh, Soho Crime, \$27.95



***Lying Beside You*, Michael Robotham**

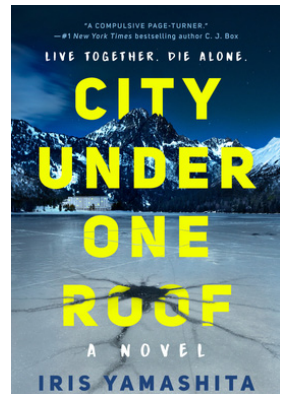
Robotham is an author who often skirts propriety in defining the relationships between the complex and all-too-believable people with whom his protagonist interacts and investigates. Here, in the third of the Cyrus Vance novels, he has used the uneasiness thus created to plumb the depths of exactly what is and is not moral—despite appearances. Vance is a psychologist who works with the police; Evie, a former patient, is a boarder at his home. As if that isn't enough to upend



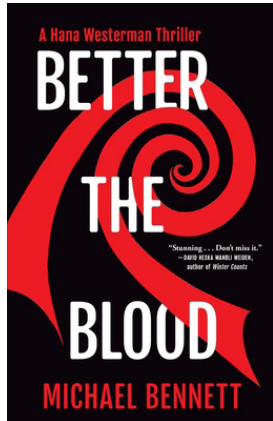
the reader's comfort with Vance, newly arrived is Elias, his brother, recently released after a lifetime spent in a psychiatric hospital where he had been incarcerated for killing their parents and twin sisters. To say the inhabitants of Vance's house are edgy is crass understatement—especially when Vance begins working on the profile of a murderer in a new case. The daughter of the victim has disappeared, Evie is the only possible witness to the identity of the murderer, and Elias is rapidly becoming a suspect. All three of the Cyrus Vance novels keep the reader as off balance, uncertain and apprehensive as the characters, all three are riveting enough to prevent sleep, but *Lying Beside You* in particular haunted this reader long after the last page was turned. —Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$27.99

***City Under One Roof*, Iris Yamashita**

Think of the classic golden age mystery in which travelers are trapped in a remote mansion during a snowstorm, and then, forget the mansion and replace it with a high-rise in the Alaskan wilderness filled with 205 people who live there year-round. Yamashita has created a troubled detective, Cara Kennedy from An-



chorage, and an insular world in Point Mettler filled with outcasts bonded together by shared secrets. The investigation arises when a teenager discovers a hand and foot washed onto the shore. The search for the rest of the body parts by local police and the big city detective takes the reader into the lives of the high-rise residents and gang members from a native village. If not already in the works, book two should come out soon. *City Under One Roof* piques the reader's curiosity about this detective and the small Alaskan enclave. —Wendy Foster Leigh, Berkley, \$27



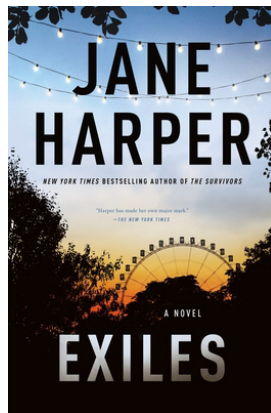
***Better the Blood*, Michael Bennett**

This debut set in Auckland, New Zealand and the surrounding countryside, is fast paced and fascinating. Hana Westerman, is a senior police detective, a Maori, and a mother. All of that comes into play as she chases a serial killer intent on righting the wrongs of the colonial past. But it's not just the distant past. Westerman was involved in a messy, indigenous mass arrest as a new cop and her extended family hasn't forgiven her. Watching her battle her demons while on the hunt for a living devil makes for a terrific mystery. I hope

this is the first of many! —Anne Holman, *Atlantic Monthly*, \$27

***Exiles*, Jane Harper**

Aaron Falk is back, heading into wine country to celebrate a new baby, and gets drawn into a curious death of an acquaintance's wife. Of course! The closely knit circle believes that Kim wrapped her baby up very carefully in her stroller and then killed herself. They are all still mourning this untimely death when Aaron arrives for the baptism. It soon becomes clear that there are a lot of questions about the suicide; friends and family both reveal their disbelief and questions. Readers start to see the cracks in this circle. Harper is at the top of her game with her careful plotting, character revelations and backstories. The thing that readers might like the best though is Aaron, and his new personal story. Mystery fans cannot go wrong with Jane Harper! Fun engaging reads! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Flatiron Books, \$27.99



***Stateless*, Elizabeth Wein**

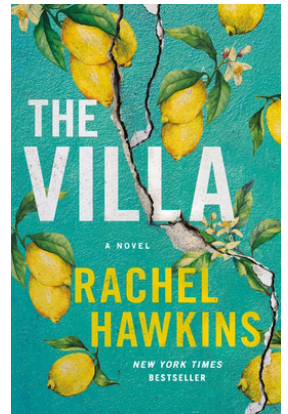
1937 Brit Stella 'Northie' North is the only young female pilot in an air race across Europe. The entire group must contend with the public's appetite for news of the race, and the twin specters of sabotage and tragedy. Whilst the race aims to promote peace, Northie and the other contestants are beginning to suspect that one of their number is willing to kill their competition to win and some of the pilots are not who they claim to be — including Stella herself. —Paula Longhurst,



LittleBrown, \$18.99

***The Villa*, Rachel Hawkins**

Two frenemies—both writers with wildly disparate levels of success—rent a house in Italy for the summer, and both become obsessed with the murder that long-ago took place there, and the famous horror novel that was written by one of the survivors. Not only is this an addictive page-turner that I read in one sitting, it's inspired by Mary Shelley and her summer in Geneva that resulted in her writing *Frankenstein*! Meta horror but also a great mystery even if you don't know anything about the Romantics. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, St. Martin's Press, \$28.99



***The Spite House*, Johnny Compton**

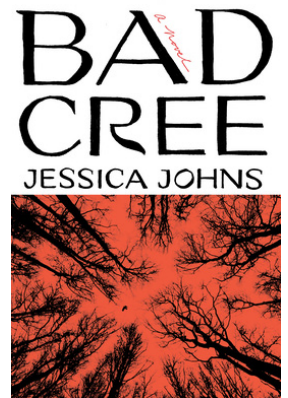
Eric Ross and his daughters are on the run. They are running low on money, and while using a local library computer, the ad for a caretaker 'of sorts' in Degener, Texas calls out to Eric. Degener is a town controlled by the Masson family for centuries. All Eric has to do is live in the Masson house, successfully document evidence of paranormal activity and walk away with enough money to set his young family up for life. He's so keen to take the job that he doesn't stop to wonder what



happened to the previous couple Mrs. Masson hired... —Paula Longhurst, Tor Nightfire, \$27.99

***Bad Cree*, Jessica Johns**

Mackenzie fled home after her beloved grandmother passed away and did not go back when her sister, Sabrina, mysteriously died. When the nightmares start, when she wakes up with a crow's head in her hand, she knows there is a problem and she returns home to her Cree family living in the Great Plains of Canada. Still, Mac's dreams keep taking her back to a night on the lake. And she starts getting text messages from Sabrina. Mac feels the danger and now worries she is dragging her beloved family into it. Something evil, a wheetigo, is out there. This mystery is as much a journey through grief and loss as it is a horror story. The junction between the dreams and her family are terrifyingly close. But so is the pain and guilt of leaving and not being present. The Cree community, her family, will have to help put the evil away, as they all accept their grief. This novel also touches on a lot of current issues. It is an impressive debut; readers will want to see Mackenzie again. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Doubleday, \$27



SPECULATIVE FICTION



Hell Bent, Leigh Bardugo

It's time to descend. In the sequel to *Ninth House*, Alex Stern ventures to rescue Darlington the "Gentleman Demon" from the pits of fire and brimstone while investigating new deaths on the Yale campus. Alex gains control of her ghostly powers, sinister puzzles beg to be unlocked, and new monsters crawl out of the void. It's one hell of a ride that is guaranteed to make your hair stand on end. —Alexis Powell, Flatiron, \$17.99

ROMANCE

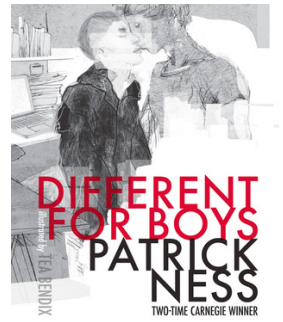
Georgie, All Along, Kate Clayborn

Kate Clayborn is a staple for sweet, detail-oriented romance—but this one is one of her best in years. *Georgie, All Along* is basically a "returning to your small American hometown" story, but Clayborn keeps this trope fresh by making her characters feel so real. That's Clayborn's magic: writing romantic tropes so grounded in reality it makes you believe in love. —Mickey George, Kensington, \$16.95



Different for Boys, Patrick Ness

This book will be banned and that is good, because then more people will read it! Ness tells the story of Anthony, a teenager trying to figure out what being gay means. Anthony has three friends all with different levels of self-awareness. Even with friends and teammates, Anthony is lonely, wondering what being himself would feel like. This novel goes from devastating lows to completely unexpected highs. It resonates with honesty. There is a surprise for readers in the book; the blacked-out sections of the text definitely capture your attention. This adds to the "we must hide ourselves" feeling. And this will complicate the future banning of the book! Ness is a fascinating, powerful writer. This short book with the redacted text and b&w illustrations shows readers that figuring out who we are is a human condition, not a queer one. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Walker Books, \$18.99 (14 & up)



Promise Boys, Nick Brooks



Trey, JB and Ramon attend The Promise Academy for boys, and while they may chafe against the extreme discipline instilled by Principal Moore in The Moore Method, they all know this is their one chance for college and escaping the harsh reality of the streets. When life outside school gets too much though, the three boys land in detention, and that is when they hear gunshots and discover Principal Moore has been murdered. With no alibi, the boys become the prime suspects

in the crime and are suspended from school. Gossip and innuendo are rife, and it is only by working together, against the odds, that they can even begin to prove their innocence. Because they are innocent, aren't they? A fantastic thriller, full of intrigue, I cannot recommend *Promise Boys* highly enough. Just brilliant. —Antonia Squire, Henry Holt & Co, \$19.99 (14 & up)

6 Times We Almost Kissed (And One Time We Did), Tess Sharpe

My girlfriend stole this book from me before I could finish and devoured it in one day; the book will, in her words, "make your heart flutter one moment and then the next you will be grabbing a tissue." Told in six moments over a lifetime of friendship, drama, and love, it's a YA sapphic romance that perfectly captures the suspended tension before that first kiss happens. Fans of Jenny Han and Nina LaCour will love this one. —Mickey George, Little Brown Books for Young Readers, \$18.99 (14 & up)



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YOUNG ADULT



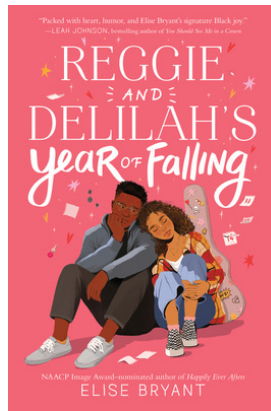
The Davenports, Krystal Marquis

The Davenports are one of the few black families in the upper echelons of Chicago society at the turn of the twentieth century. As the two daughters, along with their childhood best friend and maid, navigate being young, eligible, and black in a white society with specific expectations for both their gender and race, all four find themselves torn between what society thinks is best for them and what their hearts want. Both a compelling historical and a thrilling romance, all steeped in true history,

the Davenports is perfect for fans of *Bridgerton*! —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Dial Books, \$18.99 (12 & up)

Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling, Elise Bryant

Reggie and Delilah are two very different teens—him a D&D nerd, her the lead singer of a punk band—but they meet one fateful New Year's Eve. And then again. And again. Across a year of missed connections, they begin to fall for each other...but can you really know someone after a series of chance encounters? Elise Bryant is the new reigning queen of sweet love stories for all teens (but especially black teens). I loved this sweet, funny, pitch-perfect YA love story. —Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Balzer+Bray, \$18.99 (12 & up)



Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute, Talia Hibbert

This is veteran romance writer Talia Hibbert's YA debut—and the debut of an imprint focused on telling the love stories and happily ever afters of teens of color. Hibbert's writing is as flirty and hilarious as always, but where she shines is weaving in the ways that mental illness, neurodiversity, and sexuality affect the ways we love and communicate with each other, and she does it with compassion and that giddy feeling of hope. This book was “un-



fairly cute.” —Mickey George, Joy Revolution, \$19.99 (12 & up)

The Winter Soldier: Cold Front, Mackenzi Lee

If James Buchanan “Bucky” Barnes isn't already one of your most beloved Marvel characters he might be now. In *The Winter Soldier: Cold Front*, the reader gets to see him as both a riotous, tough, and determined sixteen-year-old boy and as the Soviet Union's ruthless and efficient weapon. It's an action-packed story with immense heart that Lee deftly reveals. I was constantly intrigued and couldn't put it down. Lee shows readers that everyone takes their past with them, and that memories are important. If you are a fan of the Marvel world and of Mackenzi Lee, you will LOVE this book. Devoted Bucky fans and newbies alike will fall in love with this! —Alexis Powell and Margaret Brennan Neville, Marvel Press, \$17.99 (12 & up)



MIDDLE READER

The Pearl Hunter, Miya T. Beck

Japanese pearl diver twin sisters, Kai and Kishi compete over everything. When Kishi is killed by a ghost whale, Kai must do everything in her power to bring her twin back to life. She visits the sea gods who send her on a quest with a few helpful tools, but Kai must summon all her courage and resourcefulness and time is running out. Reminiscent of Grace Lin, this debut brings Japanese folklore to life. —Becky Hall, Balzer & Bray, \$16.99 (Ages 8-12)

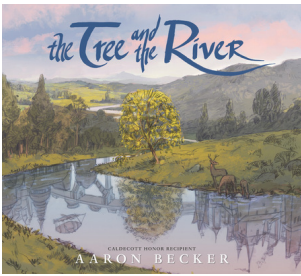


Iceberg, Jennifer Nielsen

Jennifer Nielsen does it again! This time she takes readers onto the Titanic for a thrilling journey. In her first moments stowing aboard the fated ship, Hazel, a young girl travelling to the US to find a better job, befriends Sylvia, a first-class passenger, and Charlie, a porter. Their adventures and friendship carry the story across the hazardous Atlantic on a ship full of mysteries. Nielsen includes a “Fact vs. Fiction” section at the end of the book and her careful incorporation of historical details gives her novel even more depth. This novel is going to fly off the shelf! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Scholastic, \$17.99 (9 and up)



PICTURE BOOKS



The Tree and the River, Aaron Becker

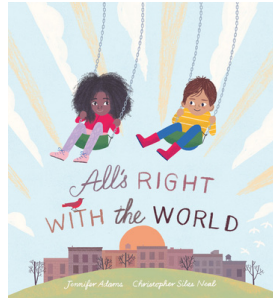
In a slight 32 pages, Becker (*The Journey*) challenges his readers to look at his world very carefully. When you are finished reading and re-reading this book, you will realize that through the life of this singular, majestic oak tree, you can see the life of our world.

It is easy to imagine readers of all ages

turning these pages. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Candlewick, \$18.99 (5 & up)

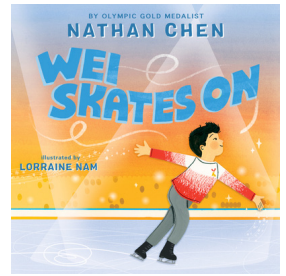
All's Right with the World, Jennifer Adams

A contemporary reworking of the poem Pippa's Song by Robert Browning, but kids won't know that. They will simply enjoy the coziness of the lyrical refrain, and the celebration of all the tiny daily moments when you know "all's right with the world". Christopher Silas Neal's friendly illustrations take us through a day worth being thankful for. —Michaela Riding, Balzer + Bray, \$17.99 (4 & up)



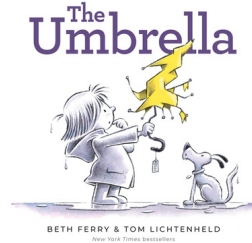
Wei Skates On, Nathan Chen

From one of my favorite childhood Olympic Gold medalists, a relatable story of facing your fear of failure. What happens if Wei doesn't win his first competition? Will he still enjoy skating? How can he cope with the pressure? As a parent with a very competitive sporty child, this is high on my list. —Michaela Riding, HarperCollins, \$19.99 (4 & up)



The Umbrella, Beth Ferry

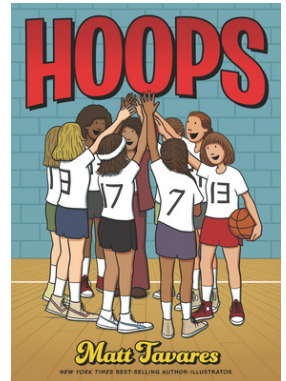
Gorgeously puddly illustrations of a dreary rainy day give way to the shine of a yellow umbrella, because generosity and happiness can be contagious. With spare but interesting words for the younger of us, this is sure to be a new story time favorite. —Michaela Riding, Clarion Books, \$19.99 (4 & up)



CHILDREN'S GRAPHIC NOVELS

Hoops, Matt Tavares

Judi has always played basketball with her brothers, but in the 1970's there were no teams for girls. When she gets to high school, and an opportunity appears she takes it! Based on a true story, readers follow Judi and her teammates through a season of surprises. They have to do a lot more than play basketball. Tavares, maybe better known at TKE for his Christmas book, *Red and Lulu*, uses all of his talents in this full color graphic novel. This is a feel good, go get em book that readers of ages will enjoy! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Candlewick, \$12.99 (8 and up)



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Hilary Dudley

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Anne Holman Alexis Powell

Inkslingers:

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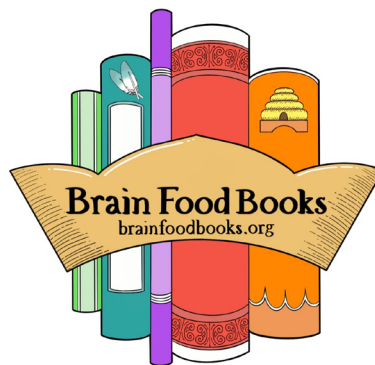
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