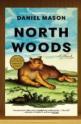
Our Favorite Fiction of 2023







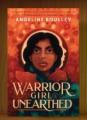




















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Abramson, Leigh McMullan

A Likely Story (Relationship Fiction)

A woman aspiring to be a writer like her best-selling novelist father faces her upcoming thirty-fifth birthday on the verge of a breakdown when she uncovers shocking truths about her parents and her family.

—Recommended by Jennifer

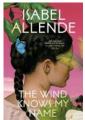


Ahmed, Samira

Hollow Fires (Young Adult Mystery)

Aspiring journalist Safiya Mirza investigates the murder of a 14-year-old boy who was wrongfully arrested, labeled a terrorist and eventually killed, seeking to tell the whole truth about the boy and those who killed him because of their hate-filled beliefs.

—Recommended by Mark



Allende, Isabel

The Wind Knows My Name (Family Saga) Traces the ripple effects of war and immigration on two children—five-year-old Samuel, whose mother puts him on a train out of Nazi-occupied Austria to England in 1938, and seven-year-old Anita, who boards another train eight decades later to the U.S. where she's separated from her mother.

—Recommended by Marianne and Natalie



Aoyama, Michiko

What You Are Looking For Is In the Library (Literary Fiction)

Tokyo librarian Sayuri Komachi always asks what patrons are looking for, but because she is as good at reading people as she is at reading books, she always gives them a book they really need. Invariably, her recommendations change their lives.

—Recommended by Erica and Marianne



Arceneaux, Danielle

Glory Be (Mystery)

Suspicious and doubting, Glory Broussard decides to investigate after learning that her best friend, a nun beloved by her Lafayette, Louisiana community, has died mysteriously and her death ruled a suicide by the authorities.

—Recommended by Andrea and Suzie



Awad, Mona

Rouge (Horror)

From the author of *Bunny* comes a horror-tinted, gothic fairy tale about a lonely dress shop clerk whose mother's unexpected death sends her down a treacherous path in pursuit of youth and beauty. Can she escape her mother's fate?

—Recommended by Kara



Bauermeister, Erica

No Two Persons (Short Stories)

When a devastating event breaks her heart, aspiring writer Alice creates a stunning debut novel in which her words find their way to readers. From a teenager hiding her homelessness to a widower rent by grief, Alice's eclectic readers find new paths forward.

-Recommended by Amy B.

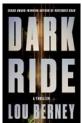


Benedict, Marie

The First Ladies (Historical Fiction)

Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt fight together for justice and equality, holding each other's hands through tragedy and triumph.

—Recommended by Ellen

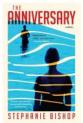


Berney, Lou

Dark Ride (Thriller)

Twenty-one-year-old easy-going stoner Hardy "Hardly" Reed steps up to help when he encounters two children who are clearly being harmed by an unknown someone.

—Recommended by Becky



Bishop, Stephanie

The Anniversary (Psychological Suspense) When her husband Patrick, a film director and cult figure whose success is starting to wane, falls overboard during their anniversary cruise, awardwinning novelist J.B. Blackwood searches for the truth of what happened to him.

-Recommended by Mary T.



HOLLY BLACK Black, Holly

The Stolen Heir (Fantasy, Novels of Elfhame, #1) Hiding in the human world, Suren, the tormented child queen of the Court of Teeth, must guard her heart against a manipulative prince whom she cannot trust as they go on a mysterious quest together.

—Recommended by Kara



Boulley, Angeline

Warrior Girl Unearthed (Young Adult Thriller) With the number of missing Indigenous women rising, her family's involvement in a murder investigation and grave robbers profiting off her Anishinaabe tribe, Perry Firekeeper-Birch takes matters into her own hands.

—Recommended by Andrea, Erica, Marianne, and Mark



Bourne, Brianna

The Half-Life of Love (Young Adult Romance)
Flint Larson has known when he was going to die since he was eight because of the Half-Life Institute, and he is down to his last forty-one days; September is a vibrant aspiring scientist who wants to cure "half-life," especially since she has met Flint—but their time together is getting short.

—Recommended by Stacey



Brammer, Mikki

The Collected Regrets of Clover (Relationship Fiction)

Feeling a stronger connection with the dying than to the living, Clover, a death doula in NYC, has no life of her own until the final wishes of a feisty old woman send her across the country to uncover a forgotten love story—and her own happy ending.

—Recommended by Erica



Brooks, Nick

Promise Boys (Young Adult Mystery)
Becoming prime suspects in the murder of their principal, who was known for doling out extreme discipline, three Urban Promise Prep School students team up to catch the real killer and clear their names.

—Recommended by Mark



Calahan, Patty

The Secret Book of Flora Lea (Historical Fiction) When a woman named Hazel in 1960s London stumbles across a mysterious children's book, long-held secrets about her missing sister and their childhood spent in the English countryside during World War II are revealed.

—Recommended by Sonia and Amy B.



Cañas, Isabel

Vampires of El Norte (Horror)

When the US attacks Mexico in 1846, Nena, a healer striving to prove her worth, and Néstor, a member of the auxiliary cavalry of ranchers and vaqueros, find their reunion overshadowed by the appearance of a nightmare made flesh.

—Recommended by Hannah and Joe



Castellano, Elizabeth

Save What's Left (Humor)

Kathleen buys a waterfront oyster shack and drives across country, but instead of beachfront bliss, she finds a two-room shed with a leaking roof and a rotting bulkhead, next door to a McMansion-in-progress, an architectural monstrosity the locals call the Sugar Cube.

-Recommended by Erica



Chavez Macias, Annette

Too Soon for Adiós (Relationship Fiction)
Twentynine-year-old Gabby Medina, an aspiring chef, struggles to keep her life together after her mother's death—until Raul, the biological father that Gabby has never met, turns up for her mother's memorial with an offer: Gabby can live in her late grandmother's house rent-free while fixing it up to sell.

—Recommended by Natalie



Chern, Lina

Play the Fool (Mystery)

A cynical tarot card reader, Katie Keen seeks to uncover the truth about her friend's mysterious death as well as stumble her way into adulthood in this whodunit set in a mall in the Chicago suburbs.

—Recommended by Erica, Hannah, and Natalie



Chu, Lily

The Comeback (Contemporary Romance)
Lawyer Ariadne "Ari" Hui works tirelessly toward
becoming a partner at her prestigious Toronto law
firm—until her roommate, Hana, begs her to let
Hana's cousin, Choi Jihoon, crash at their apartment
to escape from a mysterious breakup back in Korea.
—Recommended by Korie



Cline, Emma

The Guest (Literary Fiction)

Alex is coasting through life on the grace and credit card of her older boyfriend. She can't return to the city now that her roommates want nothing to do with her and her friends have all disappeared. There is nothing she won't do, and certainly no one she won't manipulate, to get what she needs: a bit more time.

—Recommended by Mary T.



Colgan, Jenny

The Summer Skies (Relationship Fiction)
Running a plane service with her grandfather on the remote islands of northern Scotland, Morag McGinty, on the verge of making a huge life change, is marooned on an off-grid island with a visiting ornithologist who has just the right perspective to help her plot her course.

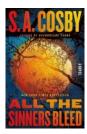
—Recommended by Sonia



Collins, Kate

A Good House for Children (Gothic Fiction)
Four decades apart, Orla and Lydia each move into the Reeve, a house that is known to be haunted but also a place where the lines between various periods and realities get supernaturally blurred.

—Recommended by Ellen



Cosby, S.A.

All the Sinners Bleed (Thriller)

Former FBI agent Titus Crown returns to his hometown and decides to run for sheriff to fight a bigoted police force and must trust his instincts when a serial killer appears to be hiding in plain sight.

—Recommended by Marianne and Andrea



Desai, Sara

To Have and To Heist (Romance)

When her best friend is accused of stealing a multimillion-dollar diamond necklace, Simi Chopra transforms a ragtag group of strangers into an elite heist crew with the help of a mysterious man in order to clear her friend's name and collect the substantial reward,

-Recommended by Korie



deWitt, Patrick

The Librarianist (Literary Fiction)

Bob, a retired librarian, starts volunteering at the senior center and finds a new start to his otherwise predictable days in Portland. The revelation that one of the center folks is someone from Bob's past sends him lurching back to his early adulthood and two best friendships that were ground to dust.

—Recommended by Erica, Andrea, and Marianne



Dimaline, Cherie

Venco (Urban Fantasy)

After finding a tarnished silver spoon humming with power, Metis millennial Lucky St. James and her cantankerous grandmother Stella are welcomed into the fold of VenCo—a network of witches working to return women to their rightful power.

—Recommended by Andrea



Dimaline, Cherie

Funeral Songs for Dying Girls
(Young Adult Horror)
Dimaline crafts a macabre tale about an Indigenous girl who falls in love with a ghost while living on the grounds of a cemetery with her widowed and ostracized father.

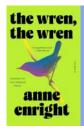
-Recommended by Mark



Enoch, Suzanne

Every Duke Has His Day (Historical Romance) When the eccentric Duke of Woriton and the diamond of the season Elizabeth "Bitsy" Dockering are brought together by a dognapping incident, hilarity and romantic chaos ensue as they work together to save their canine companions.

—Recommended by Marianne



Enright, Anne

The Wren, The Wren (Family Saga)
Centering around celebrated Irish poet Phil
McDaragh, who was lauded in public but was
carelessly selfish at home, three generations of
McDaragh women must contend with three
inheritances: poetic wonder, abandonment, and a
sustaining love.

—Recommended by Sarah



Fergesen, Hannah

The Infinite Miles (Science Fiction)
Three years after her best friend Peggy went missing, Harper is lost; lost in her dead-end job, lost in her grief. All she has are regrets and reruns of her favorite sci-fi show Infinite Odyssey. Then Peggy returns and demands to be taken to the Argonaut, the show's supposedly fictional main character.

-Recommended by Erica



Fitch, Stona

Death Watch (Dystopian Fiction)

Coe Vessel, son of a legendary adman, lands the much-anticipated ad campaign of artist-provocateur Watanabe's latest creation, a mysterious watch called Cassius Seven that can kill its wearer. First seen as a hoax, Cole needs to alert buyers when the watches start killing at random.

-Recommended by Natalie

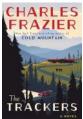


Fortune, Carley

Meet Me at the Lake (Romance)

IDesperate for help to keep the family's resort afloat after her mother's death, 32-year-old Fern Brookbanks finds an unexpected lifeline in Will Baxter, who broker her heart nine years ago and has suddenly reappeared.

-Recommended by Erica and Andrea



Frazier, Charles

The Trackers (Historical Fiction)
Commissioned to create a mural representing
Dawes, Wyoming for their new Post Office, Val
Welch, a Depression-era painter, stays with a
wealthy art lover, his wife and a mysterious elder
cowboy, where he turns up secrets that could spark
formidable changes for all of them.

-Recommended by Marianne



George, Jessica

Maame (Relationship Fiction)

Maddie Wright is a people pleaser who eams from her family the nickname Maame ("the responsible one"). A young British-Ghanaian woman, she attempts to navigate her 20s and find her place in the world.

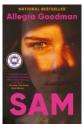
-Recommended by Andrea and Marianne



Gohlke, Cathy

Ladies of the Lake (Inspirational Historical Fiction) Four girls at Lakeside Ladies Academy sign a pact to always be true, calling themselves the Ladies of the Lake. Twenty-five years later, during the Great Depression, all four harbor secrets and scars, bringing them back together.

—Recommended by Jennifer



Goodman, Allegra

Sam (Literary Fiction)

Grappling with self-doubt and insecurity as she grows into her teens, Sam, yearning for her climbing coach's attention, dealing with her father's absence and raging against her mother's constant pressure, must decide who she wants to be.

—Recommended by Ellen

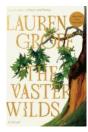


Gout, Leopoldo

Piñata (Horror)

Returning to New York with her daughters after supervising the renovation of an ancient abbey in Mexico, Carmen Sanchez soon discovers that something evil and unexplainable has followed them home—and it may already be too late to escape what's been awakened.

-Recommended by Natalie



Groff, Lauren

The Vaster Wilds (Literary Fiction)

Escaping from a colonial settlement in the wilderness, a servant girl with nothing but her wits, a few possessions, and some faith, is tested beyond the limits of her imagination, forcing her to question everything her civilization has taught her.

—Recommended by Marianne and Ellen

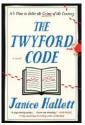


Hall, Alexis

Mortal Follies (Historical Romance)

Maelys Mitchelmore thinks she is cursed, and every time something embarrassing, tragic, or downright terrifying happens, Lady Georgianna Landrake is right there. Rumor has it that Lady Georgianna is a wicked enchantress—is she behind the curse, or can she save Maelys from the spirits that plague her?

—Recommended by Erica

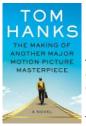


Hallett, Janice

The Twyford Code (Mystery)

Through a series of audio recordings and letters from 2021, a former felon recounts his attempts to solve a literary code that may lead to stolen gold...or maybe it's all a red herring.

—Řecommended by Sarah, Ellen, and Marianne



Hanks, Tom

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece (Literary Fiction)

A soldier returns home from WWII, then vanishes after meeting his nephew. The nephew grows up to create underground comic books inspired by his uncle, and in the present day, the comic book is found and inspires a superhero action film.

—Recommended by Ellen



Harmel, Kristin

The Paris Daughter (Historical Fiction)

As WWII ends, Elise returns to Paris to reunite with her daughter, only to find her friend Juliette, the woman to whom she entrusted her daughter, has seemingly vanished without a trace, leading Elise on a desperate journey to New York—and to Juliette—one final, fateful time.

—Recommended by Jennifer



Harrison, Rachel

Black Sheep (Horror)

Vesper Wright left the church and her whole family behind at a young age. But when she gets an invitation to the wedding of her cousin (and former best friend) to her ex-boyfriend, she has to go. Once home, though, she is pulled back into the world of her childhood.

-Recommended by Mark



Harrow, Alix E.

Starling House (Gothic Fiction)

Opal has been obsessed with the book The *Underland* since she was young. When she gets the chance to enter the author's home—and make some extra cash for her brother's escape fund—she can't resist. But sinister forces are digging deeper into the buried secrets of Starling House.

—Recommended by Stacey, Erica , Marianne, and Amy B.



Hart, Emilia

Weyward (Historical Family Saga)

Told over five centuries through three connected women, this riveting novel follows Kate, in 2019, as she seeks refuge in Weyward Cottage; Altha, in 1619, as she uses her powers to maintain her freedom; and Violet, in 1942, as she searches for the truth about her mother's death.

—Recommended by Ellen



Hawkins, Rachel

The Villa (Gothic Fiction)

While on a girls' trip to Italy with her best friend, Emily discovers their high-end villa was once the scene of a brutal murder, and, digging into the past, finds the truth seeping into the present as dangerous betrayals emerge.

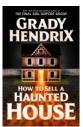
—Recommended by Kara



Hay, Alex

The Housekeepers (Historical Crime)
Born into a world of con artists and thieves, Mrs.
King has made herself respectable, running the
grandest home in Mayfair. When Mrs. King is
suddenly dismissed from her position, she recruits
an eclectic group of women to join her in revenge.

-Recommended by Sonia



Hendrix, Grady

How to Sell A Haunted House (Horror)
Forced to return to the small Southern town where
she grew up to sell her late parents' house, Louise
discovers that her and her brother's old grudges
pale in comparison to the terror that still lurks within
its walls.

-Recommended by Mark



Henry, Emily

Happy Place (Romance)

Despite breaking up months earlier, a pictureperfect couple still haven't told their friends about their split, and have to attempt to pretend they are still together at an annual Maine getaway.

—Recommended by Jennifer



Hilderbrand, Elin

The Five-Star Weekend (Relationship Fiction) Inviting her best friend from each phase of her life, widow Hollis Shaw hosts an unforgettable weekend on Nantucket during which things don't go as planned, as each woman deals with heartbreak, infidelity, scandal, and secrets—but things turn around due to new friendships and self-discovery.

-Recommended by Andrea



Holmes, Rupert

Murder Your Employer: The McMasters Guide to Homicide, vol. 1 (Crime Fiction)

This introduction to The McMasters Conservatory, dedicated to the consummate execution of homicidal arts, follows three students as they prepare for graduation by getting away with the perfect murder of someone whose death will make the world a better place to live.

-Recommended by Jenny B. and Erica



Huang, Ling Ling

Natural Beauty (Horror)

Giving up her future as a pianist to take care of her parents, the narrator starts working at a high-end beauty and wellness store in NYC, which affords her entry into a world of privilege where she discovers, beneath the fancy creams and tinctures, a terrible truth threatening to consume her.

—Recommended by Hannah



Huang, S.L.

The Water Outlaws (Historical Fantasy)

Lin Chong is an arms instructor with plenty to prove, but she has faith in the order of things—until a single bitter man brands her a criminal and sends her on the run. She joins a group of female bandits determined to carry out some much-needed justice against the corrupt, greedy officials of the empire.

-Recommended by Amy B.



Jackson, Jenny

Pineapple Street (Humor)

This novel of family, wealth, love, and tennis follows three women in an old Brooklyn Heights clan: one who was born with money, one who married into it, and one, the millennial conscience of the family, who wants to give it all away.

—Recommended by Marianne, Andrea, and Amy B.

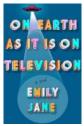


Jain, Vibhuti

Our Best Intentions (Suspense)

While on the way to swimming practice, sophomore INTENTIONS Angela Singh discovers her crush, Henry McCleary, collapsed and bleeding. After realizing he's been stabbed, she calls 911. As the story unfolds from various characters' points of view, the question is not who stabbed Henry, but why.

-Recommended by Becky and Sonia



Jane, Emily

On Earth As It is On Television (Science Fiction) Mysterious spaceships briefly hover over Earth's big cities before disappearing without a trace, leaving humanity baffled. Three story lines humorously trace human and feline reactions in the fallout.

-Recommended by Natalie

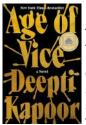


Johns, Jessica

Bad Cree (Horror)

A young Cree woman is tormented by vivid dreams from before her sister's untimely death and wakes up with a severed crow's head in her hands before returning to her rural hometown in Alberta to search for answers.

-Recommended by Mark



Kapoor, Deepti

Age of Vice (Literary Fiction)

A speeding car jumps the curb and in a flash, five people are dead. It's a rich man's car, but when the dust settles there is no rich man at all, just a shellshocked servant who cannot explain the strange series of events that led to this crime. Nor can he foresee the dark drama that is about to unfold.

-Recommended by Michelle



Kim, Angie

Happiness Falls (Mystery)

Mia isn't initially concerned when her family fails to return from a walk, until her mute brother Eugene, who suffers from a rare genetic condition, returns bloody and alone and is unable to describe what happened to their father.

—Recommended by Amy B. and Marianne



Kingfisher, T.

A House with Good Bones (Horror)
Warned by her brother that their mother seems "off,"
Sam visits and discovers a once-cozy home with
sterile white walls, her mom a jumpy, nervous
wreck, and a jar of teeth hidden in the rosebushes.

-Recommended by Ellen and Natalie



Klune, T.J.

In the Lives of Puppets (Science Fiction)
When an act of betrayal leads to the capture of his android Gio, who once hunted humans, Victor Lawson and his assembled family must journey to the City of Electric Dreams to rescue Gio from decommission, or worse, reprogramming.

-Recommended by Marianne

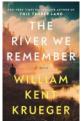


Kraus, Daniel

Whalefall (Science Fiction)

Diving in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Monastery Beach to find the remains of his deceased father, Jay Gardiner is swallowed by a sperm whale and has only one hour before his oxygen tanks run out—one hour to defeat his demons and escape.

—Recommended by Nate, Mary T., and Mark



Krueger, William Kent

The River We Remember (Historical Mystery) When the body of a wealthy landowner is found floating in the Alabaster River on Memorial Day in 1958, Sheriff Brody Dern, a highly decorated war hero, struggles to solve the murder while putting to rest the demons from his own past.

-Recommended by Ellen and Marianne



Kuang, R.F.

Yellowface (Literary Fiction)

After the death of her literary rival in a freak accident, author June Hayward steals her just-finished masterpiece, sending it to her agent as her own work, but as emerging evidence threatens her success, she discovers just how far she'll go to keep what she thinks she deserves.

—Recommended by Joe, Sarah, Amy B., and Marianne



Kwok, Jean

The Leftover Woman (Thriller)

Arriving in New York City from her rural Chinese village without money or family support, Jasmine Young, on the run from her abusive husband, desperately searches for the daughter taken away from her at birth, which forces her to make increasingly risky decisions.

-Recommended by Amy B.



Landay, William

All That Is Mine I Carry With Me (Psychological Suspense)
When the remains of their mother's body are discovered twenty years after she went missing, three siblings must decide whether to believe their criminal defense attorney father is guilty of the murder or to stand by him.

-Recommended by Becky



LaValle, Victor D.

Lone Women (Horror)

After her secret sin kills her parents, Adelaide Henry sets out for Montana in the year 1915, steamer trunk in tow, to take advantage of the government's offer of free land for lone women -- and to bury her past.

-Recommended by Lindsay



Leichter, Hilary

Terrace Story (Fantasy)

A family of three discovers a beautiful terrace hidden in their closet, setting off a seismic chain of events the will forever change the shape of their tiny home—and the shape of their world.

—Recommended by Hannah, Natalie, Erica, and Amy B.

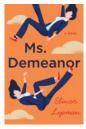


Link, Kelly

White Cat, Black Dog (Short Stories)

Inspired by the Brothers Grimm, 17th-century French lore, and Scottish ballads, this clever collection of reinvented fairy tales expertly blends realism and the speculative as characters hunt for love, connection, revenge, or their own sense of purpose.

—Recommended by Natalie



Lipman, Elinor

Ms. Demeanor (Relationship Fiction)

After a neighbor's complaint, Jane finds herself with her law license suspended and wearing an ankle monitor for six months. Her sister persuades her to try food blogging; soon Jane's cooking for another house-arrested tenant while trying to discover the identity of her accuser.

-Recommended by Brooke B. and Marianne



Lukasik, Gail

The Darkness Surrounds Us (Gothic Fiction) Fleeing Chicago at the height of the 1918 Spanish flu. Nellie Lester takes a nursing job at a decrepit mansion on a desolate Michigan island. Unfortunately, her dead mother seems to have fol-

lowed her there.

-Recommended by Sonia



Luo, Susie

Paper Names (Literary Fiction)

Chinese-born engineer Tony, now a doorman. Tony's daughter, Tammy, caught between her dreams and her family's ambitions for her. And Oliver, a handsome white lawyer in Tony's building. contending with his family's troubled past. As their stories unfold over three decades, they are brought together by a terrible act of violence.

—Recommended by Ellen



Makkai, Rebecca

I Have Some Questions For You (Mystery) Bodie Kane, the host of a popular podcast that reexamines the lives of female film stars, returns to the New Hampshire boarding school she attended in the 1990s to lead a brief, intensive winter course on podcasting...and to solve a 20-year-old murder.

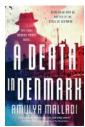
-Recommended by Melissa, Andrea, Marianne, Becky, and Erica



Malhotra, Aanchal

The Book of Everlasting Things (Historical Fiction) One January morning in 1938, Samir Vij, apprentice perfumer and a Hindu, meets Firdaus Khan, calligrapher's apprentice and a Muslim, in his family's shop in Lahore. Time passes, and their friendship deepens into love, until they find themselves on opposite sides of the border after Partition.

—Recommended by Andrea and Erica



Malladi, Amuyla

A Death in Denmark
(Crime Fiction, Gabriel Præst #1)

Gabriel Præst is an ex-Copenhagen cop and relentless pursuer of truth hired to exonerate an Iraqi immigrant accused of murdering a far-right politician and uncovers a greater conspiracy.

—Recommended by Erica



Manning, Kirsty

The Paris Mystery (Historical Mystery)

As Australian journalist Charlotte "Charlie" James alights at the Gare du Nord, ready to start her role as correspondent for *The Times*, Paris is in turmoil as talk of war becomes increasingly strident. Charlie needs to prove to her boss that she can do this job. And the best way is to make the British expats Lord and Lady Ashworth her business.

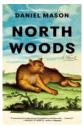
-Recommended by Marianne



Marshall, Kate Alice

What Lies in the Woods (Psychological Suspense) Twenty-two years ago, Naomi Shaw's best friend was stabbed seventeen times in the woods. When the man responsible dies in prison, Naomi returns home to find out what really happened, no matter how dangerous the truth may be.

—Recommended by Kara



Mason, Daniel

North Woods (Literary Fiction)

Exploring the many ways we're connected to our environment and to one another across time, language and space, this sweeping collection of stories about a single house in the woods of New England is told through the lives of an extraordinary succession of inhabitants.

-Recommended by Ellen, Erica, and Marianne

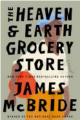


Maxwell, Jessa

The Golden Spoon (Mystery)

During her annual televised baking competition on her Vermont estate, celebrated baker Betsy Martin, hailed as "America's Grandmother," finds murder in the mix when a body is discovered, and everyone is a suspect.

—Recommended by Andrea



McBride, James

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store (Historical Fiction)

When a skeleton is unearthed in the community of Chicken Hill, Pennsylvania in 1972, an unforgettable cast of characters closely guards a secret, especially when the truth is revealed about what happened and what part the town's white establishment played in it.

—Recommended by Amy B., Erica, and Marianne



McCombs, Theodore

Uranians (Short Stories)

The five speculative stories in Theodore McCombs's kaleidoscopic collection span several possible worlds, teasing the boundaries between coexisting realities and taking up the question of LGBT difference from one surprising vantage after another.

-Recommended by Hannah



McDermott, Alice

Absolution (Literary Fiction)

Tricia, a young, shy, recently married woman from Yonkers tries to find her footing in the brash, moneyed American expat circle in early 1960s Saigon. Blueblood Charlene quickly enlists her in a fundraising scheme to help Vietnamese orphans and leprosy patients sequestered at a coastal retreat.

-Recommended by Becky and Andrea



Meissner, Susan

Only The Beautiful (Historical Fiction) In 1947, Helen Calvert, returning to her brother's vineyard in America after witnessing firsthand Adolf Hitler's brutal pursuit of hereditary purity, is drawn into battle at home when she discovers what really happened to the vinedresser's pregnant daughter she had long ago befriended.

-Recommended by Jennifer



Michaels, Charis

Say Yes to the Princess (Historical Romance) Obscure French royalty, exiled to England in the aftermath of the revolution, Princess Elise searches for her long-lost brother and is distracted from her mission by the devastatingly charming Mr. Killian Crewes, a "Royal Fixer" who, unbeknownst to her, has been sent to thwart her.

—Recommended by Korie



Michaels, Sean

Do You Remember Being Born? (Literary Fiction) Long-renowned poet Marian Ffarmer, who has always been intentionally isolated—from love, friendship, and even her son—is transformed when a giant tech corporation persuades her to come to California and compose verse with its poetry bot Charlotte.

-Recommended by Hannah



Mina, Denisa

Three Fires (Historical Fiction)

Referencing the "Bonfire of the Vanities," a series of fires lit throughout Florence at the end of the fifteenth century, this retelling of a fascinating historical story follows Girolamo Savonarola, a Dominican friar who was instrumental in the Medicis' removal from power.

—Recommended by Marianne and Hannah



Monaghan, Annabel

Same Time Next Summer (Romance)

An engaged woman comes face to face with her first love whom she hasn't seen since he broke her heart 14 years ago, calling into question everything she thought she knew about their love story and herself.

—Recommended by Erica



Moore, Lorrie

I Am Homeless If This Is Not My Home (Literary Fiction)

A Civil War-era boardinghouse, a hospice in the Bronx, and the underworld are all locales included in this road trip as Finn gives his very lively, recently deceased, ex-girlfriend a lift to a body farm.

-Recommended by Sarah and Hannah



Moore, Meg Mitchell

Summer Stage (Family Saga)

Amy Trevino has stayed close to her hometown while her famous brother, Timothy Fleming, pursued his Hollywood dreams. Now a high school teacher and drama director, Amy takes on the production manager role for her brother's play in an effort to mend strained family relationships.

-Recommended by Erica



Moreno-Garcia, Silvia

Silver Nitrate (Horror)

Helping her neighbor and cult horror director shoot the final scene from his magic film to lift a curse, sound editor Montserrat and her best friend Tristan start seeing strange things and must unravel the mystery of this film and the obscure occultist who once roamed their city.

—Recommended by Mark

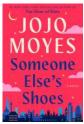


Morton, Kate

Homecoming (Mystery)

Set in Australia, Homecoming examines the mysterious circumstances and lasting effects of a family tragedy in 1959 on Christmas Eve. In the present day, a woman must delve into her own past to uncover the secrets that impacted her life in ways she doesn't yet understand.

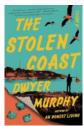
-Recommended by Mary Lou and Jennifer



Moyes, Jojo

Someone Else's Shoes (Relationship Fiction)
When she accidentally takes the wrong gym bag,
Sam Kemp tries on a pair of six-inch high Christian
Louboutin red crocodile shoes that give her the
confidence to change her life, while the shoes'
owner tries to cling to her glamorous life after her
husband cuts her off.

-Recommended by Ellen, Marianne, and Amy B.

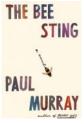


Murphy, Dwyer

The Stolen Coast (Crime Fiction)

A Harvard-educated lawyer in a sleepy coastal Massachusetts town finds his routine existence thrown off course by the arrival of his former flame—and a dedicated hustler—who draws him into her latest scheme.

-Recommended by Andrea and Erica



Murray, Paul

The Bee Sting (Literary Fiction)

Secret pasts, forbidden desires, and shattered illusions destroy the peace of the well-to-do Barnes family, as father Dickie creates an apocalyptic shelter and mother Imelda falls into adultery while their children are led into all sorts of temptation.

—Recommended by Becky and Mary T.



Napolitano, Ann

Hello, Beautiful (Family Saga)

Awarded a college basketball scholarship away from his childhood home, a young man befriends a spirited young woman who welcomes him into her loving, loud, chaotic household.

—Recommended by Jennifer and Amy B.



Newman, T. J.

Drowning; the Rescue of Flight 1422 (Suspense) When Flight 1421 crashes into the ocean six minutes after take-off, the surviving passengers believe they are the lucky ones until the plane starts to sink to the ocean floor, trapping them inside, and they must wait to be rescued as both air and time run out.

—Recommended by Kevin and Ellen

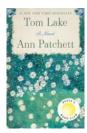


Orlando, Carissa

The September House (Horror)

Four years after moving into a haunted Victorian house, Margaret knows how to avoid the dangerous ghosts. But now her estranged daughter is coming to visit, and Margaret doesn't know how to explain (much less keep her child safe from) the specters' violent antics.

-Recommended by Mark



Patchett, Ann

Tom Lake (Literary Fiction)

Gathering with her family at their Michigan orchard in spring 2020, Lara is pestered by her daughters to tell them about her long-ago romance with renowned actor Peter Duke, with whom she acted in a theater company called Tom Lake.

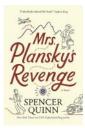
—Recommended by Andrea, Marianne, Jennifer, and Amy B.



Peyton, Tracey Rose

Night Wherever We Go (Historical Suspense)
To counter financial issues, the owners of a plantation decide to hire a stockman to impregnate the plantation's six enslaved women. The women rebel, agreeing to chew cotton root to prevent pregnancy. But their plan will backfire—and jeopardize them all—if any one of them bears a child.

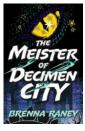
-Recommended by Natalie



Quinn, Spencer

Mrs. Plansky's Revenge (Mystery, Mrs. Planksy, #1) When she is scammed out of her life savings, Mrs. Loretta Plansky, a recent widow in her seventies, refuses to be just another victim. Following her only clue, she embarks on a whirlwind adventure to a small village in Romania to get both her money and dignity back.

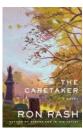
Recommended by Sonia, Erica, Marianne, and Amy B.



Raney, Brenna

The Meister of Decimen City (Science Fiction) Supergenius and quasi-villain Rex normally can't go a week without accidentally endangering Decimen City with her science shenanigans. But when actual villain Last Dance threatens the city, superheroes are crowding her lab to conscript her into quasi-herodom.

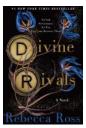
-Recommended by Erica



Rash, Ron

The Caretaker (Historical Fiction)
In 1951, Blackburn Gant, the sole caretaker of a hilltop cemetery in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, is charged with caring for his best friend's wife, Naomi when he is drafted to serve overseas. As Blackburn and Naomi grow closer, a shocking revelation upends numerous lives.

—Recommended by Becky

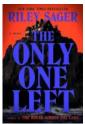


Ross, Rebecca

Divine Rivals (Young Adult Romantic Fantasy, Letters of Enchantment, #1)

When two young rival journalists, Iris Winnow and Roman Kitt, find love through a magical written connection, they must go to the front, in a war among gods, to seal their fate forever.

Recommended by Stacey



Sager, Riley

The Only One Left (Horror)

In 1983, home-health aide Kit McDeere arrives at decaying Hope's End to care for Lenora Hope. Helping her write about the events leading up to her family's massacre in 1929, Kit soon discovers this old woman could be far more dangerous than she first thought.

—Recommended by Kara

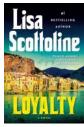


Scalzi, John

Starter Villain (Science Fiction)

When Charlie's long-lost uncle dies, leaving him his supervillain business and riches, Charlie finds that going bad is looking pretty good with unionized dolphins, hyperintelligent talking spy cats, and a terrifying henchperson at his side—until a rival league of supervillains arrives.

-Recommended by Marianne, Erica, and Andrea



Scottoline, Lisa

Loyalty (Historical Thriller)

Set during the rise of the Mafia in 19th-century Sicily, this epic story of good vs evil follows four individuals—a desperate lemon grower; an idealistic lawyer with a secret life; a new mother; and a reclusive goatherd under constant threat of being discovered as a Jew—as their lives collide.

-Recommended by Gail



Seales, Julia

A Most Agreeable Murder (Historical Mystery)
A young woman in a well-to-do family in Regency
England hides her obsession with true crime from
her etiquette obsessed social circle, but joins forces
with a detective when a wealthy bachelor drops
dead at a ball.

—Recommended by Jenny B. and Erica



Shaffer, Meg

The Wishing Game (Contemporary Romance) Lucy Hart is a kindergarten teacher's assistant, desperate to adopt her orphaned former student, but lacking the funds. When Lucy wins a chance to compete in a game devised by reclusive children's book author Jack Masterson, she hopes the competition will be the answer to her problems.

—Recommended by Brooke B. and Amy B.



Shepard, Katie

Bear With Me Now (Contemporary Romance)
After a panic attack puts him in the hospital, Teagan Van Zijl is dragged to a wilderness therapy retreat in Montana. Lost in the woods while absconding from meditation, Teagan is nearly eaten by a bear before his rescue by a furious angel in muddy hiking boots: the program's handywoman, Darcy Albano.

-Recommended by Erica



Shook, Cat

If We're Being Honest (Family Saga) When Gerry, the beloved Williams patriarch, dies suddenly, his grandchildren flock from across the country to the family home in Eulalia, Georgia. But when Gerry's best friend steps up to the microphone to deliver his eulogy, the funeral turns out unlike anyone expected.

-Recommended by Amy B.

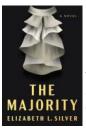


Shroff, Parini

The Bandit Queens (Suspense)

Five years ago, Geeta lost her no-good husband. Freedom must look good on Geeta, because now other women are asking for her "expertise," making her an unwitting consultant for husband disposal. And not all of them are asking nicely.

-Recommended by Andrea and Marianne

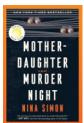


Silver, Elizabeth L.

The Majority (Historical Fiction)

Eighty-three-year-old Supreme Court Justice Sylvia Olin Bernstein shares her personal story, revealing the intimate truth about who she was as she ascended to her modern throne and how she was given a chance to change the course of American history—and give voice, at last, to the majority.

-Recommended by Andrea



Simon, Nina

Mother-Daughter Murder Night (Mystery)
When her teenage granddaughter Jack happens
upon a dead body while kayaking and becomes a
suspect in the investigation, businesswoman Lana
Rubicon sets out to find the true murderer,
uncovering a dangerous web of lies lurking beneath
the surface of their sleepy coastal town.

-Recommended by Marianne



Sims, Laura

How Can I Help You? (Psychological Suspense) Accepting a position at a small-town public library, a recent graduate student and failed novelist discovers a patron dead in the library bathroom and begins to dig up her co-worker's past as a nurse with a trail of premature deaths.

—Recommended by Marianne



Sittenfeld, Curtis

Romantic Comedy (Contemporary Romance)
A sketch writer for a late-night comedy show, Sally Milz pokes fun at the phenomenon of talented but average men who've gotten romantically involved with beautiful women and how the reverse never happens, until she meets a pop music sensation who flips the script on all her assumptions.

-Recommended by Andrea, Marianne, and Amy B.



Slocumb, Brendan

Symphony of Secrets (Suspense)

When he is asked to authenticate a piece from famed 20th-century composer Frederick Delaney, Bern Hendricks uncovers clues that Delaney may have had help composing his most successful work, which makes him the target of an organization who will stop at nothing to keep their secret hidden.

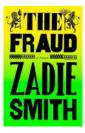
—Recommended by Marianne, Andrea, and Amy B.



Smale, Holly

Cassandra in Reverse (Relationship Fiction)
Cassandra Penelope Dankworth's life runs in a
pleasing, predictable order...until she gets dumped
and fired. Then, something truly unexpected happens: Cassie discovers she can go back and
change the past. With time on her side, how hard
can it be?

-Recommended by Jenny B. and Erica



Smith, Zadie

The Fraud (Historical Fiction)

Eliza Touchet, William Harrison Ainsworth's cousin by marriage, can't resist accompanying her cousin-in-law to a courtroom to witness as an Australian butcher pursues his claim that he is a long-lost British aristocrat, with testimony from a freeman.

-Recommended by Marianne



Spence-Ash, Laura

Beyond That, The Sea (Historical Fiction)
A young girl is sent from London to live in America during World War II and fits in so seamlessly with her new family that she is hesitant to return to post-war England when she is called home.

—Recommended by Jennifer and Becky

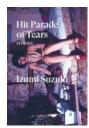


Stevenson, Benjamin

Everyone In My Family Has Killed Someone (Mystery)

Ernie Cunningham writes books on how to write mystery novels for a living and is part of a family where everyone has killed someone. Snowed in at a mountain resort with the rest of his relatives, he soon realizes there's another murderer in their midst.

-Recommended by Erica



Suzuki, Izumi

Hit Parade of Tears (Short Stories)

Translated decades after her death, Izumi Suzuki explores philandering husbands, music lovers, space pirates and bizarre romantic pickles in this series of wry and imaginative short stories.

-Recommended by Natalie

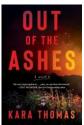


Thai, Thao

Banyan Moon (Literary Fiction)

This book follows three generations of Vietnamese American women reeling from the death of their matriarch, revealing the family's inherited burdens, buried secrets, and unlikely love stories.

-Recommended by Ellen



Thomas, Kara

Out of the Ashes (Psychological Suspense) When she was thirteen years old, Samantha Newsom's family was murdered and their Catskills farmhouse set ablaze, leaving nothing behind but ashes. Twenty-two years later, Sam returns to her hometown of Carney, New York, under the shadows of the grim tragedy she's never forgotten or forgiven.

-Recommended by Kara



Tran, Trang Thanh

She is a Haunting (Young Adult Horror)
Staying in Vietnam at the house her estranged
father is restoring, Jade, plagued by sleep paralysis,
bugs, and a ghostly apparition, must expose the
hidden evil lurking in its walls before dark forces
consume them all.

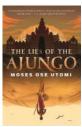
—Recommended by Mark



Urrea, Luis Alberto

Good Night, Irene (Historical Fiction)
After D-Day, two heroic Red Cross women, Irene
Woodward and Dorothy Dunford, join the Allied
soldiers streaming into France where they are
embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to
the liberation of Buchenwald, and where Irene
learns to trust again through their friendship.

—Recommended by Marianne



Utomi, Moses Ose

The Lies of the Ajungo (Epic Fantasy, The Forever Desert, #1)

Three days before he turns thirteen, the age when your tongue is cut out to appease the terrifying Ajungo Empire and make sure it continues sending water, Tutu embarks on a quest for the salvation of his mother, his city and himself.

—Recommended by Natalie

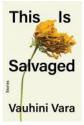


Valentine, Danielle

Delicate Condition (Horror)

When her doctor tells her she had a miscarriage after doing everything she could to become pregnant, Anna Alcott wonders if he is lying, and whether something more sinister is at play.

—Recommended by Kara

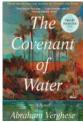


Vara, Vauhini

This is Salvaged (Short Stories)

This book explores the nature of being a young child, parent, friend, sibling, neighbor, or lover, and the relationships between self and others. The stories of girls and women connect to one another, discovering the power they can exert over others: as sisters, daughters, and objects of desire.

—Recommended by Hannah



Verghese, Abraham

The Covenant of Water (Historical Fiction)
Spanning the years 1900 to 1977 and set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, three generations of a family suffer from a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning...and in Kerala, water is everywhere.

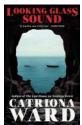
—Recommended by Ellen



Walls, Jeannette

Hang the Moon (Historical Fiction)
After encouraging her younger step-brother to participate in daredevil activities results in an accident, Sallie Kincaid is cast out of her family by her imposing patriarchal father until she returns to claim her throne as the Queen of the Kincaid Rumrunners.

-Recommended by Marianne

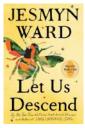


Ward, Catriona

Looking Glass Sound (Horror)

In a cottage overlooking the Maine coast, Wilder Harlow has begun the last book he will ever write. It is the story about the sun-drenched summer days of his youth in Whistler Bay, and the blood-stained path of the killer that stalked his small vacation town.

—Recommended by Mark

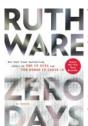


Ward, Jesmyn

Let Us Descend (Historical Fiction)

In the years before the Civil War, Annis, sold south by the white enslaver who fathered her, struggles through the miles-long march and seeks comfort from memories of her mother and stories of her African warrior grandmother, opening herself to a world beyond this one.

-Recommended by Marianne



Ware, Ruth

Zero Days (Suspense)

When a routine assignment goes horribly wrong, resulting in her husband's murder, penetration specialist and prime suspect Jack goes on the run, deciding who she can trust as she races against time to clear her name and find the real killer.

-Recommended by Jenny B.



Wees, Alyssa

Nocturne (Historical Fantasy)

With the Great Depression in full swing, prima ballerina Grace Dragotta, paying the high price of achieving her dream, garners the attention of a mysterious patron who, as she begins to unlock his secrets, shows her there may be another way to achieve the transcendence she's always sought.

-Recommended by Kara



Williams, Diane

I Hear You're Rich (Short Stories)

Thirty-three short stories from the founder and editor of the distinguished literary annual NOON include beautiful and unsettling tales of everyday life including an affair, a request for money, and carrying a cake from one room to the next.

-Recommended by Hannah



MY MURDER Williams, Katie

My Murder (Science Fiction)

Lou, a wife and mother of a 9-month-old daughter, whose work entails offering therapeutic hugs to people in virtual settings, returns to her old life along with several other victims of a serial killer thanks to a controversial government cloning program.

-Recommended by Natalie

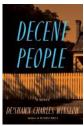


Willingham, Stacy

All the Dangerous Things (Suspense)

Unable to sleep except for the occasional nap after her toddler was taken from his crib a year ago, Isabelle Drake is willing to do anything to discover what happened to him—including being interviewed by a true-crime podcaster. But the way he probes into Isabelle's past is making her nervous.

—Recommended by Kara

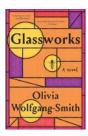


Winslow, De'Shawn Charles

Decent People (Mystery)

When the three enigmatic Harmon siblings are found shot to death in their home, the people of West Mills, North Carolina (still segregated in 1976) find themselves in a frenzy of finger-pointing and gossip that crosses the color line.

—Recommended by Marianne



Wolfgang-Smith, Olivia

Glassworks (Family Saga)

Four generations, each with a unique connection to glass, struggle to find love, freedom, and purpose in a changing America across a span of 100 years and across shifting identities and desires.

-Recommended by Erica



Woods, Kell

After The Forest (Fantasy)

Twenty years after the witch in the gingerbread house, Greta and Hans are struggling to get by. Now, dark magic is returning to the woods, and Greta's magic (magic she is still trying to understand) may be the only thing that can save her, if it doesn't kill her first.

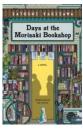
—Recommended by Kara



Woodson Harvey, Kristy

The Summer of Songbirds (Relationship Fiction) When they learn Camp Holly Springs, their childhood oasis, is in danger of closing, three best friends come together to save it in spite of their personal problems, rediscovering themselves in the process.

—Recommended by Jennifer



Yagisawa, Satoshi

Days at the Morisaki Bookshop (Relationship Fiction)

After a young Japanese woman's life falls apart, she moves into a flat above her eccentric uncle's bookshop, staying rent-free in exchange for working at the store and developing a passion for Japanese literature.

-Recommended by Erica



Yarros, Rebecca

Fourth Wing (Fantasy, The Empyrean, #1)
Twenty-year-old Violet Sorrengail was supposed to
enter the Scribe Quadrant, living a quiet life among
books. Now, the commanding general—also known
as her tough-as-talons mother—has ordered Violet
to join the hundreds of candidates striving to become
the elite of Navarre: dragon riders.

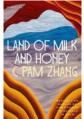
—Recommended by Stacey, Andrea, and Amy B.



Yoon, Paul

The Hive and the Honey (Short Stories)
From a boy's search for his prison-guard father on Sakhalin Island, to a man once imprisoned trying to start a family in upstate New York, to a woman in Barcelona tracking a prize fighter who could be her estranged son, author Yoon investigates shifting identities and cultures in disparate stories.

—Recommended by Hannah



Zhang, C. Pam

Land of Milk and Honey (Fiction)

Amid a global event affecting international food production, a down on her luck chef lands a job at a commune on an Italian mountaintop where the elite dine on rare ingredients and her enigmatic boss and his enticing daughter have a vision for the future.

—Recommended by Marianne

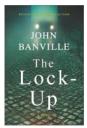


Zigman, Laura

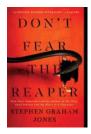
Small World (Relationship Fiction)

Inviting her older sister Lydia, who is also divorced, to live with her until she finds a place of her own, Joyce finds their relationship fraying as new revelations from their family's history come to light, forcing them to finally reckon with their childhood.

-Recommended by Natalie







Series We Continue to Love...

Banville, John

The Lock-up (Mystery, Quirke Mysteries #9)

—Recommended by Sarah

Bardugo, Leigh

Hell Bent (Dark Fantasy, Alex Stern, #2)
—Recommended by Andrea, Erica, and Marianne

DeLuca, Jen

Well Traveled (Romance, Well Met, #4)

—Recommended by Erica

Follett, Ken

The Armor of Light (Historical Fiction, Pillars of the Earth, #5)

—Recommended by Lori P.

Harrington, Anna

A Problem Princess (Historical Romance, Lords of the Armory, #6)

-Recommended by Korie

Holton, India

The Secret Service of Tea and Treason (Historical Romance, Dangerous Damsels, #3)

—Recommended by Erica

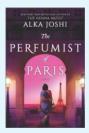
James, Eloisa

Not That Duke (Historical Romance, Would-Be Wallflowers, #3)
—Recommended by Korie

Jones, Stephen Graham

Don't Fear the Reaper (Horror, Indian Lake Trilogy, #2)

—Recommended by Mark







Series We Continue to Love...

Joshi, Alka

The Perfumist of Paris (Literary Fiction, The Jaipur Trilogy, #3)

—Recommended by Marianne

Katsu, Alma

Red London (Spy Fiction, Red Widow, #2)
—Recommended by Erica

Lafferty, Mur

Chaos Terminal (Science Fiction, The Midsolar Murders, #2)
—Recommended by Erica

MacLean, Sarah

Knockout (Historical Romance, Hell's Belles, #3)

—Recommended by Erica

Osman, Richard

The Last Devil to Die (Mystery, Thursday Murder Club, #4)
—Recommended by Marianne and Erica

Paolini, Christopher

Fractal Noise (Science Fiction, The FractalVerse, #2)
—Recommended by Joe

Pelayo, Cynthia

The Shoemaker's Magician (Horror, Chicago Saga, #2)
—Recommended by Natalie

Whitehead, Colson

Crook Manifesto (Crime Fiction, Harlem Trilogy, #2)

—Recommended by Andrea