



LOANSTARS



for

BOOK CLUBS



Library staff across Canada recommended these titles as essential books for Canadian libraries — and now you can browse their top picks in this handy guide!

In this book you will find a selection of the top picks from the past few years of monthly Loan Stars Adult lists. We've provided information about each title to help you discover new reads for your book club, for your own personal enjoyment, or to share with your friends and family.

Loan Stars releases top 10 lists each month featuring the books that library staff want in their libraries even before the books are published! You can receive the list announcements by signing up for our newsletter at loanstars.ca.

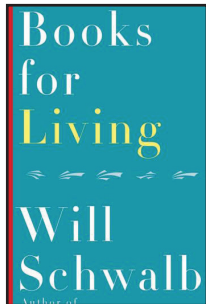
You can also visit the archive on our website to find even more recommendations.

Happy reading!

Books for Living

Will Schwalbe

From the author of the beloved *New York Times* best-selling *The End of Your Life Book Club*, an inspiring and magical exploration of the power of books to shape our lives in an era of constant connectivity.

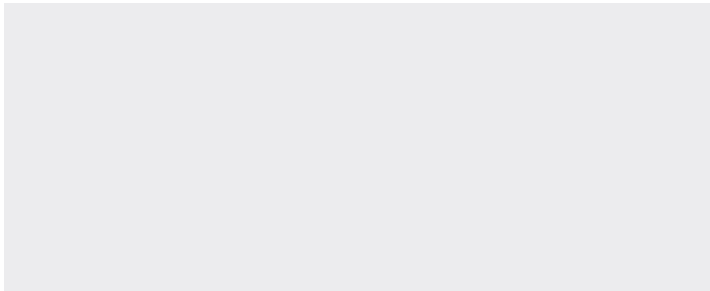


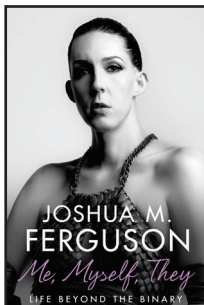
December 2016

In this delightful celebration of reading, Schwalbe invites us along on his quest for books that speak to the specific challenges of living in our modern world, with all its noise and distractions.

In each chapter, he discusses a particular book — what brought him to it (or vice versa), the people in his life he associates with it, and how it became a part of his understanding of himself in the world. These books span centuries and genres (from classic works of adult and children's literature to contemporary thrillers and even cookbooks), and each one relates to the questions and concerns we all share. Throughout, Schwalbe focuses on the way certain books can help us honor those we've loved and lost, and also figure out how to live each day more fully. Rich with stories and recommendations, *Books for Living* is a treasure for everyone who loves books and loves to hear the answer to the question: "What are you reading?"

Notes





May 2019

Me, Myself, They

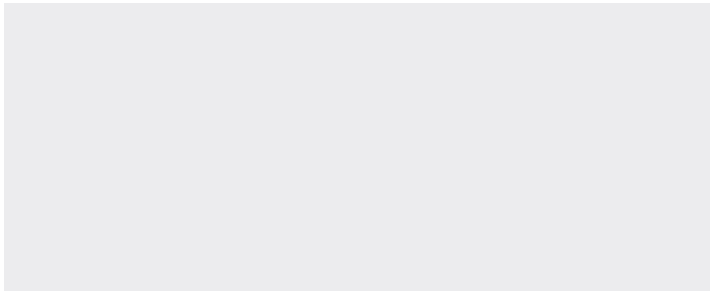
Joshua M. Ferguson 

Joshua M. Ferguson's extraordinary story of transformation to become the celebrated non-binary filmmaker, writer, and advocate for trans rights they are today.

Beginning with their birth and early childhood years of gender creativity, Ferguson recounts the complex and often challenging evolution of their identity, including traumatizing experiences with gender conversion therapy, bullying, depression, sexual assault, and violent physical assault.

But Ferguson's story is above all about survival, empathy, and self-acceptance. By combining their personal reflections with an informed analysis of the ongoing shifts in contemporary attitudes towards sex and gender, Ferguson calls for recognition and respect for all trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people, and an inclusive understanding of the rich diversity of human identity. Through their honest and impassioned storytelling, we learn what it means to reclaim one's identity and to live beyond the binary.

Notes



Death Threat

Vivek Shraya, Illus. by Ness Lee 🍁

In the fall of 2017, the acclaimed writer and musician Vivek Shraya began receiving vivid and disturbing transphobic hate mail from a stranger.

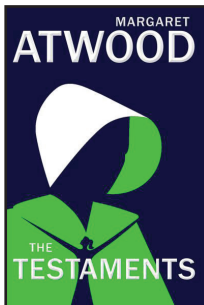


April 2019

Celebrated artist Ness Lee brings these letters and Shraya's responses to them to startling life in *Death Threat*, a comic book that, by its existence, becomes a compelling act of resistance.

Using satire and surrealism, *Death Threat* is an unflinching portrayal of violent harassment from the perspective of both the perpetrator and the target, illustrating the dangers of online accessibility, and the ease with which vitriolic hatred can be spread digitally.

Notes



September 2019

The Testaments

Margaret Atwood 

In this brilliant sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, acclaimed author Margaret Atwood answers the questions that have tantalized readers for decades.

When the van door slammed on Offred's future at the end of *The Handmaid's Tale*, readers had no way of telling what lay ahead.

With *The Testaments*, the wait is over.

Margaret Atwood's sequel picks up the story fifteen years after Offred stepped into the unknown, with the explosive testaments of three female narrators from Gilead.

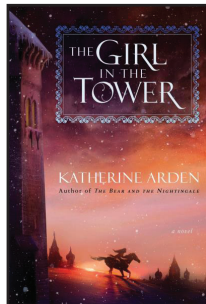
"Dear Readers: Everything you've ever asked me about Gilead and its inner workings is the inspiration for this book. Well, almost everything! The other inspiration is the world we've been living in." —Margaret Atwood

Notes

The Girl in the Tower

Katherine Arden

Brave Vasya, now a young woman, is forced to choose between marriage or life in a convent and instead flees her home — but soon finds herself called upon to help defend the city of Moscow when it comes under siege.

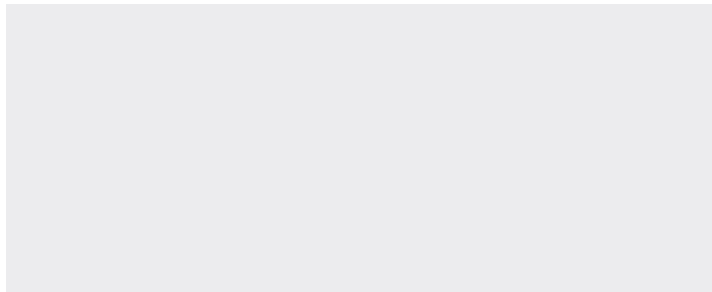


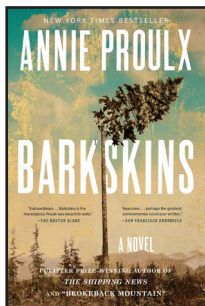
December 2017
Winternight #2

Orphaned and cast out as a witch by her village, Vasya's options are few: resign herself to life in a convent, or allow her older sister to make her a match with a Moscovite prince. Both doom her to life in a tower, cut off from the vast magical world she longs to explore.

So instead she chooses adventure, disguising herself as a boy and riding her trusted horse, Solovey, into the woods. A battle with some bandits who have been terrorizing the countryside quickly earns her the admiration of the Grand Prince of Moscow. But Vasya must now balance the growing challenges of the life she has chosen, navigating her increasingly risky relationship with Morozko and carefully guarding the secret of her gender to remain in the Grand Prince's good graces — even as she realizes his kingdom is under threat from mysterious forces only she will be able to stop.

Notes





Barkskins

Annie Proulx

From Annie Proulx — the Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning author of *The Shipping News* and “Brokeback Mountain,” comes her masterwork: an epic, dazzling, violent, magnificently dramatic novel about the taking down of the world’s forests.

June 2016

In the late seventeenth century two penniless young Frenchmen, René Sel and Charles Duquet, arrive in New France. Bound to a feudal lord.

For three years in exchange for land, they become wood-cutters — barkskins. René suffers extraordinary hardship, oppressed by the forest he is charged with clearing. He is forced to marry a Mi'kmaw woman and their descendants live trapped between two inimical cultures. But Duquet, crafty and ruthless, runs away, becomes a fur trader, then sets up a timber business.

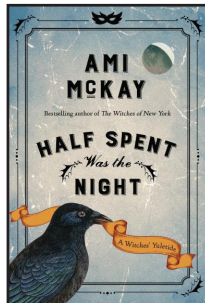
Proulx tells the stories of the descendants of Sel and Duquet over three hundred years — their travels across North America, to Europe, China, and New Zealand, under stunningly brutal conditions — the revenge of rivals, accidents, pestilence, Indian attacks, and cultural annihilation. Over and over again, they seize what they can of a presumed infinite resource, leaving the modern-day characters face to face with possible ecological collapse.

Notes

Half Spent Was the Night

Ami McKay 

Beloved author Ami McKay is back, bringing us a magical follow-up in the tradition of Victorian winter tales to her mesmerizing bestseller, *The Witches of New York*.

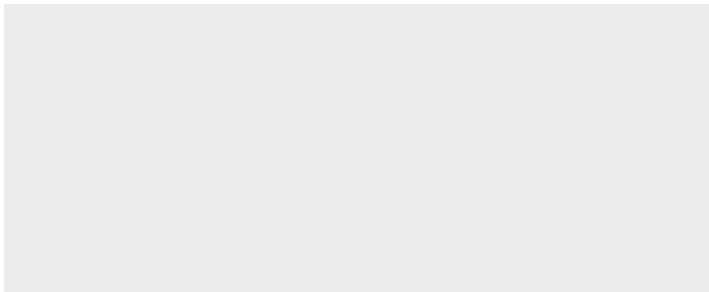


**October 2018
Witches #2**

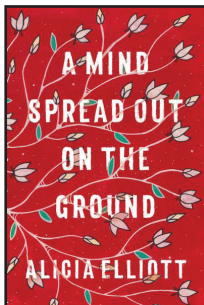
During the nights between Christmas and New Year's, the witches of New York — Adelaide Thom, Eleanor St. Clair, and the youngest, Beatrice Dunn — gather before the fire to tell ghost stories and perform traditional Yuletide divinations. (Did you know that roasting chestnuts was once used to foretell one's fate?)

As the witches roast chestnuts and melt lead to see their fate, a series of odd messengers land on their doorstep bearing invitations for a New Year's Eve masquerade hosted by a woman they've never met. Gossip, dreams and portents follow, leading the witches to question the woman's motives. Is she as benevolent as she seems or is she laying a trap? And so, as Gilded-Age New York prepares to ring in the new year, the witches don their finery and head for the ball, on the hunt for answers that might well be the end of them.

Notes



History (Non-Fiction)



March 2019

A Mind Spread Out on the Ground

Alicia Elliott 

A bold and profound work by Haudenosaunee writer Alicia Elliott, *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground* is a personal and critical meditation on trauma, legacy, oppression and racism in North America.

In an urgent and visceral work that asks essential questions about the treatment of Native people in North America while drawing on intimate details of her own life and experience with intergenerational trauma, Alicia Elliott offers indispensable insight and understanding to the ongoing legacy of colonialism. What are the links between depression, colonialism and loss of language — both figurative and literal? How does white privilege operate in different contexts? How does colonialism operate on the level of literary criticism?

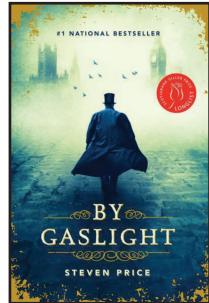
In the process, she engages with such wide-ranging topics as race, parenthood, love, mental illness, poverty, sexual assault, gentrification, writing and representation. Elliott makes connections both large and small between the past and present, the personal and political — from overcoming a years-long history with head lice to the way Native writers are treated within the Canadian literary industry; her unplanned teenage pregnancy to the history of dark matter and how it relates to racism in the court system. With deep consideration and searing prose, Elliott extends far beyond her own experiences to provide a candid look at our past, an illuminating portrait of our present and a powerful tool for a better future.

Notes

By Gaslight

Steven Price 

A magnificent literary historical-suspense novel in the tradition of Eleanor Catton's *The Luminaries*, Patrick DeWitt's *The Sisters Brothers*, and Michael Faber's *The Crimson Petal and the White*.



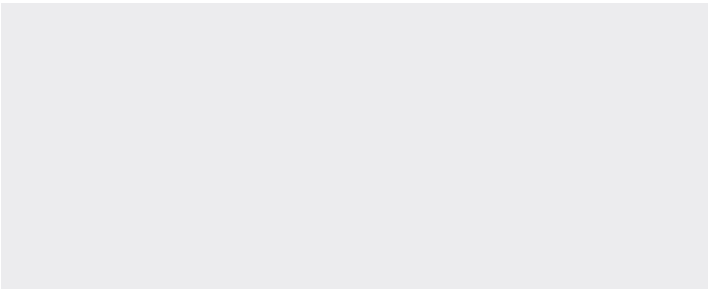
August 2016

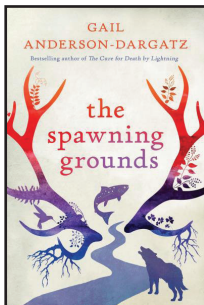
London, 1885. In a city of fog and darkness, the notorious thief Edward Shade exists only as a ghost, a fabled con, a thief of other men's futures — a man of smoke.

William Pinkerton is already famous, the son of a brutal detective. His father died without ever tracing Shade; William, still reeling from his loss, is determined to drag the thief out of the shadows.

Adam Foole is a gentleman without a past, haunted by a love affair ten years gone. When he receives a letter from his lost beloved, he returns to London in search of her. What follows is a fog-enshrouded hunt through sewers, opium dens, drawing rooms, and seance halls. Above all, it is the story of the most unlikely of bonds: between William Pinkerton, the greatest detective of his age, and Adam Foole, the one man who may hold the key to finding Edward Shade.

Notes





September 2016

The Spawning Grounds

Gail-Anderson-Dargatz 

An intimate family saga rooted in the Thompson-Shuswap region of B.C., and saturated with the history of the place. A bold new story that bridges Native and white cultures across a bend in a river where the salmon run.

On one side of the river is a ranch once owned by Eugene Robertson, who came in the gold rush around 1860, and stayed on as a homesteader. On the other side is a Shuswap community that has its own tangled history with the river — and the whites.

At the heart of the novel are Hannah and Brandon Robertson, teenagers who have been raised by their grandfather after they lost their mother. As the novel opens, the river is dying, its flow reduced to a trickle, and Hannah is carrying salmon past the choke point to the spawning grounds while her childhood best friend, Alex, leads a Native protest against the development further threatening the river. When drowning nearly claims the lives of both Hannah's grandfather and her little brother, their world is thrown into chaos.

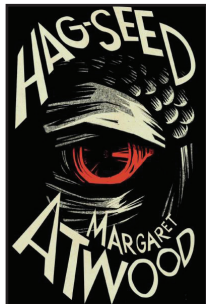
Hannah, Alex, and most especially Brandon come to doubt their own reality as they are pulled deep into Brandon's numinous visions, which summon the myths of Shuswap culture and tragic family stories of the past.

Notes

Hag-Seed

Margaret Atwood 

A re-imagining of Shakespeare's final, great play of magic and illusion. Entertaining, gripping, emotionally rich and wise, *Hag-Seed* is an homage to a master, positioned for the fall celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death.



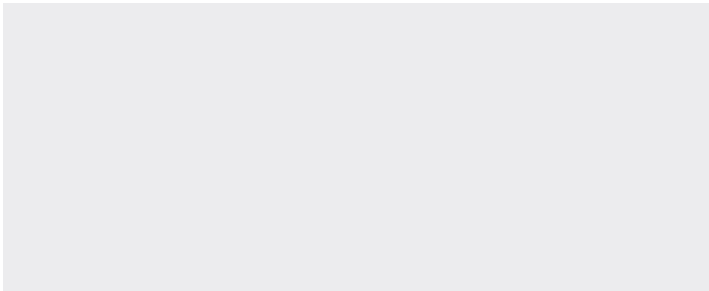
October 2016

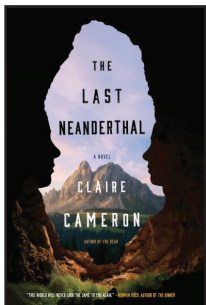
Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a *Tempest* like no other: not only will it boost his reputation, it will heal emotional wounds.

Or that was the plan. Instead, after an act of unforeseen treachery, Felix is living in exile in a backwoods hovel, haunted by memories of his beloved lost daughter, Miranda. And brewing revenge.

After twelve years, revenge finally arrives in the shape of a theatre course at a nearby prison. Here, Felix and his motley crew of inmate actors will put on his *Tempest*, and snare the traitors who destroyed him. But will it remake Felix as his enemies fall?

Notes





The Last Neanderthal

Claire Cameron 

The enthralling story of two women separated by millennia, but linked by an epic journey that will transform them both.

April 2017

40,000 years in the past, the last family of Neanderthals roams the earth. After a crushingly hard winter, their numbers are low, but Girl, the oldest daughter, is just coming of age and her family is determined to travel to the annual meeting place and find her a mate.

But the unforgiving landscape takes its toll, and Girl is left alone to care for Runt, a foundling of unknown origin. As Girl and Runt face the coming winter storms, Girl realizes she has one final chance to save her people, even if it means sacrificing part of herself.

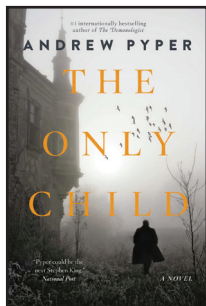
In the modern day, archaeologist Rosamund Gale works well into her pregnancy, racing to excavate newly found Neanderthal artifacts before her baby comes. Linked across the ages by the shared experience of early motherhood, both stories examine the often taboo corners of women's lives. Haunting, suspenseful, and profoundly moving, *The Last Neanderthal* asks us to reconsider all we think we know about what it means to be human.

Notes

The Only Child

Andrew Pyper 

What if you learned your father wasn't who you thought he was? What if you learned you carried secrets deep within your blood?



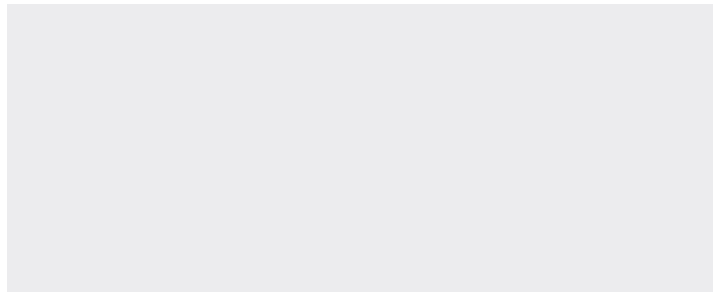
May 2017

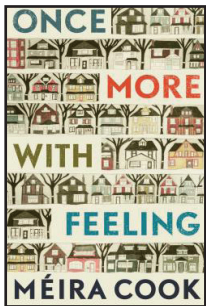
Client 46874-A is nameless. He insists that he is not human, and believes that he was not born, but created over two hundred years ago. As Dr. Lily Dominick listens to this man describe the twisted crime he's committed, she can't shake the feeling that he's come for her — especially once he reveals something she would have thought impossible: He knew her mother.

Lily was only six years old when her mother was violently killed in what investigators concluded was a bear attack. But even though she was there, even though she saw it, Lily has never been certain of what really happened that night.

To discover the truth—behind her client, her mother's death, herself — Lily must embark on a journey to find this stranger that will threaten her career, her sanity, and ultimately her life.

Notes





September 2017

Once More with Feeling

Méira Cook 

***Once More with Feeling* is about a community, about a family, and about the way time makes fond fools of us all.**

After twenty years Max Binder is still in love with his fiery wife, Maggie, and is determined to get her the perfect fortieth birthday gift. But Max's singular desire — to make his wife happy — leads to an unexpected event that changes the course of his family's life and touches the people who make up their western prairie city.

Set over the course of a single year, it tells the story of a community through intersecting moments and interconnected lives. The colourful citizens who make up this city — bisected by railway lines and rivers, connected by boulevards and back alleys — are marked by transformation, upheaval, and loss: the worker at a downtown soup kitchen who recognizes a kindred spirit amongst the homeless; the aging sisters who everywhere see the fleeting ghosts of two missing neighbourhood children; a communal voice of mothers anxious for the future of their children in the discomfiting world they inhabit — this place of memory, amnesia, longing, and belonging.

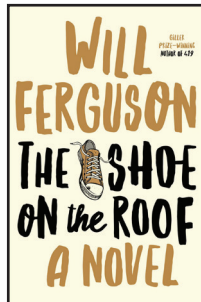
Notes

The Shoe on the Roof

Will Ferguson 

Imagine...meeting someone with the same name, the same history, the same identity as you. Now, imagine meeting another person making the same exact claim.

What would that do to you?

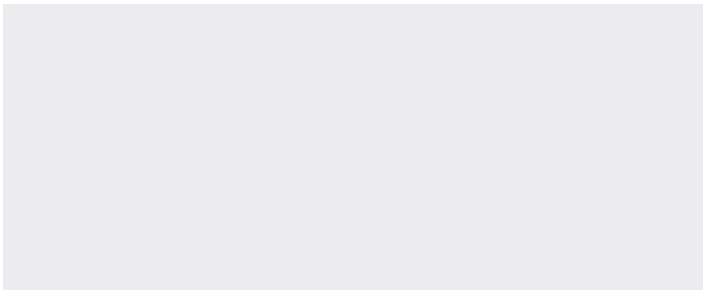


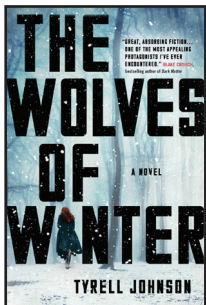
October 2017

Ever since his girlfriend ended their relationship, Thomas Rosanoff's life has been on a downward spiral. A gifted med student, he has spent his entire adulthood struggling to escape the legacy of his father, an esteemed psychiatrist who used him as a test subject when he was a boy. Thomas lived his entire young life as the "Boy in the Box," watched by researchers behind two-way glass.

But now the tables have turned. Thomas is the researcher, and his subjects are three homeless men, all of whom claim to be messiahs — but no three people can be the one and only saviour of the world. Thomas is determined to "cure" the three men of their delusions, and in so doing save his career — and maybe even his love life. But when Thomas's father intervenes in the experiment, events spin out of control, and Thomas must confront the voices he hears in the labyrinth of his own mind.

Notes





January 2018

The Wolves of Winter

Tyrell Johnson 

**As the old world dies, we
all must choose to become
predators. Or become prey.**

The old world has been ravaged by war and disease, and as far as Lynn McBride is concerned, her family could be the last one left on earth. For seven years, the McBrides have eked out a meagre existence in the still, white wilderness of the Yukon. But this is not living. This is survival on the brink.

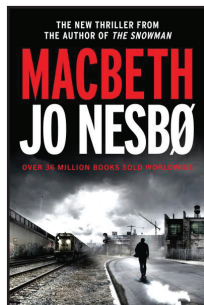
Into this fragile community walk new threats, including the enigmatic fugitive, Jax, who holds secrets about the past and, possibly, keys to a better future. And then there's Immunity, the pre-war organization that was supposed to save humankind from the flu. They're still out there, enforcing order and conducting experiments — but is their work for the good of humankind or is something much more sinister at play? In the face of almost certain extinction, Lynn and her family must learn to hunt as a pack or die alone in the cold.

Notes

Macbeth

Jo Nesbø

**He's the best cop they've got.
He's also an ex-drug addict with
a troubled past.
But a man like him won't get to
the top.
Unless he kills for it.**

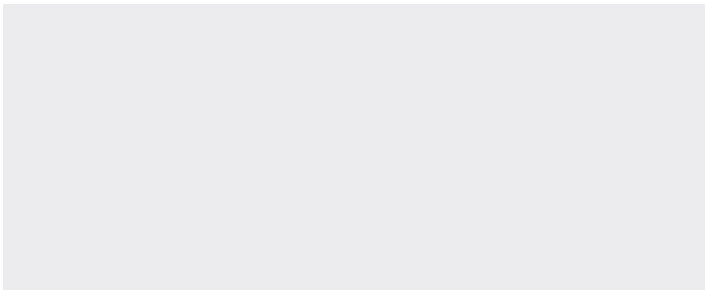


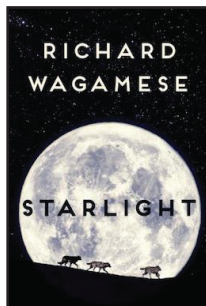
April 2018

Set in the 1970s in a run-down, rainy industrial town, Jo Nesbø's *Macbeth* centers on a police force struggling to shed an incessant drug problem. Duncan, chief of police, is idealistic and visionary, a dream to the townspeople but a nightmare for criminals. The drug trade is ruled by two drug lords, one of whom — a master of manipulation named Hecate — has connections with the highest in power, and plans to use them to get his way.

Hecate's plot hinges on steadily, insidiously manipulating Inspector Macbeth: the head of SWAT and a man already susceptible to violent and paranoid tendencies. What follows is an unputdownable story of love and guilt, political ambition, and greed, exploring the darkest corners of human nature and the aspirations of the criminal mind.

Notes





August 2018

Starlight

Richard Wagamese 

The final novel from Richard Wagamese is a profoundly moving novel about the redemptive power of love, mercy, and compassion — and the land's ability to heal us.

Frank Starlight has long settled into a quiet life working his remote farm, but his contemplative existence comes to an abrupt end with the arrival of Emmy, who has committed a desperate act so she and her child can escape a harrowing life of violence.

Starlight takes in Emmy and her daughter to help them get back on their feet, and this accidental family eventually grows into a real one. But Emmy's abusive ex isn't content to just let her go. He wants revenge and is determined to hunt her down.

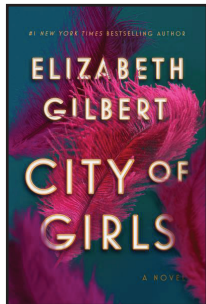
Starlight is a last gift to readers from a writer who believed in the power of stories to save us.

Notes

City of Girls

Elizabeth Gilbert

“Life is both fleeting and dangerous, and there is no point in denying yourself pleasure, or being anything other than what you are.”



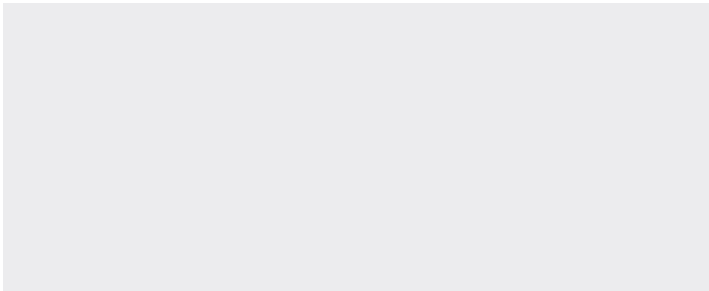
June 2019

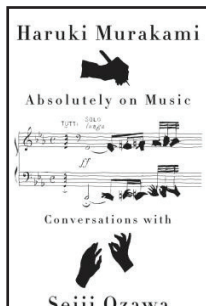
In 1940, nineteen-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College. Her affluent parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters, from the fun-chasing showgirls to a sexy male actor, a grand-dame actress, a lady-killer writer, and no-nonsense stage manager.

But when Vivian makes a personal mistake that results in professional scandal, it turns her new world upside down in ways that it will take her years to fully understand.

Now eighty-nine years old and telling her story at last, Vivian recalls how the events of those years altered the course of her life - and the gusto and autonomy with which she approached it.

Notes





November 2016

Absolutely on Music

Haruki Murakami

A deeply personal, intimate conversation about music and writing between the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author and his close friend, the former conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Haruki Murakami's passion for music runs deep. Before turning his hand to writing, he ran a jazz club in Tokyo, and from The Beatles' "Norwegian Wood" to Franz Liszt's "Years of Pilgrimage," the aesthetic and emotional power of music permeates every one of his much-loved books.

Now Murakami fulfills a personal dream, sitting down with his friend, acclaimed conductor Seiji Ozawa, to talk, over a period of two years, about their shared interest. Transcribed from lengthy conversations about the nature of music and writing, here they discuss everything from Brahms to Beethoven, from record collecting to pop-up orchestras, and much more.

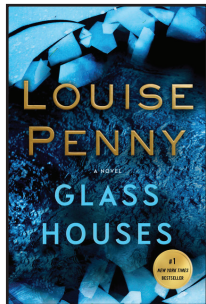
It is essential reading for book and music lovers everywhere.

Notes

Glass Houses

Louise Penny 

When a mysterious figure appears in Three Pines one cold November day, Armand Gamache and the rest of the villagers are at first curious. Then wary. Through rain and sleet, the figure stands unmoving, staring ahead.

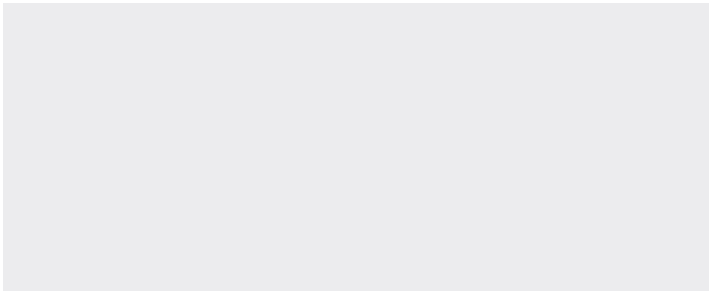


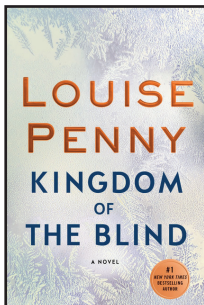
**August 2017
Chief Inspector Gamache #13**

From the moment its shadow falls over the village, Gamache, now Chief Superintendent, suspects the creature has deep roots and a dark purpose. Yet he does nothing. What can he do? Only watch and wait. And hope his mounting fears are not realized. But when the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to discover if a debt has been paid or levied.

Months later, on a steamy July day as the trial for the accused begins in Montreal, Chief Superintendent Gamache continues to struggle with actions he set in motion that bitter November, from which there is no going back. More than the accused is on trial. Gamache's own conscience is standing in judgment.

Notes





Kingdom of the Blind

Louise Penny 

As the investigation into what happened six months ago has dragged on, Armand Gamache begins to see his own blind spots. And the terrible things hiding there.

November 2018

Chief Inspector Gamache #14

When a peculiar letter arrives inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, he discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. The other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from Three Pines, and a young builder.

None of them had ever met the elderly woman.

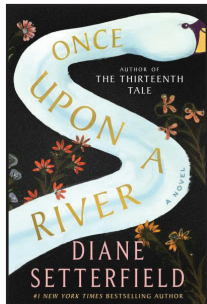
The will is so odd and includes bequests that are so wildly unlikely that Gamache and the others suspect the woman must have been delusional. But what if, Gamache begins to ask himself, she was perfectly sane? When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing.

Notes

Once Upon a River

Diane Setterfield

***Once Upon a River* is a miracle of a novel, a tale of love and family, of secrets and betrayal, and of the transformative power of storytelling.**

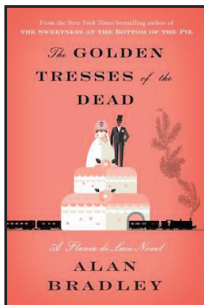


December 2018

On a dark, misty night in the small English village of Radcot, locals gather at the Swan Inn to cap their day with drinks and lore. The 600-year-old pub is a famed hub for storytellers, but the patrons cannot know that their evening will be stranger than any tale they could weave. Into the inn bursts a mysterious man, sopping and bloodied and carrying an unconscious four-year-old girl. But before he can explain who he and the child are, and how they came to be injured, he collapses.

Upriver, two families are searching desperately for their missing daughters. Alice Armstrong has been missing for twenty-four hours, ever since her mother's suicide. And Amelia Vaughan vanished without a trace two years prior. When the families learn of the lost little girl at the Swan Inn, each wonders if their child has at last been found. But identifying the child may not be as easy as it seems.

Notes



The Golden Tresses of the Dead

Alan Bradley 

Flavia de Luce, the twelve-year-old chemist and amateur detective, is eager to turn professional.

January 2019

Flavia de Luce #10

Flavia de Luce and her father's valet, Dogger, have founded a detective agency, Arthur Dogger & Associates, and unexpectedly cut into their first case during the revelry at her sister Ophelia's wedding reception.

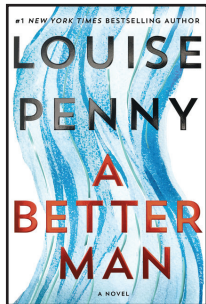
After an eventful ceremony with a missing best man and spontaneous ventriloquist act, spirits are high as Feely and her new husband head for the towering and beautifully iced wedding cake. But as Feely slices into the first piece, a scream rings out — the bridal cake contains a severed human finger. Delighted, Flavia wraps the finger in a napkin and whisks it away to her chemical laboratory. By studying the embalmed skin, the indentation of a ring and the slope of the fingernail, she'll not only be able to determine the identity of the victim — but also point a finger at a killer.

Notes

A Better Man

Louise Penny 

Catastrophic spring flooding, blistering attacks in the media, and a mysterious disappearance greet Chief Inspector Armand Gamache as he returns.

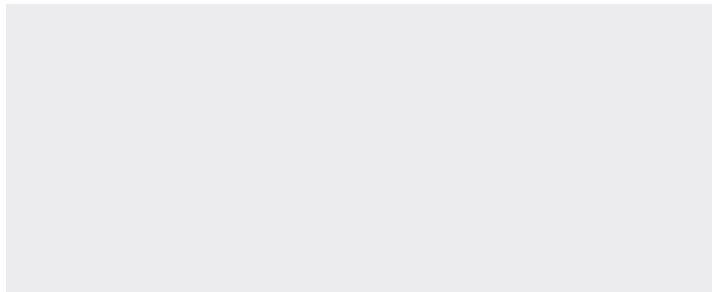


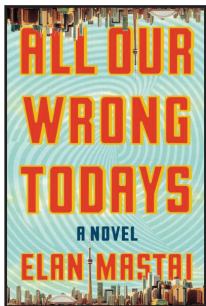
**August 2019
Chief Inspector Gamache #15**

It's Gamache's first day back as head of the homicide department, a job he temporarily shares with his previous second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir. Flood waters are rising across the province. In the middle of the turmoil a father approaches Gamache, pleading for help in finding his daughter.

As crisis piles upon crisis, Gamache tries to hold off the encroaching chaos, and realizes the search for Vivienne Godin should be abandoned. But with a daughter of his own, he finds himself developing a profound, and perhaps unwise, empathy for her distraught father. As the rivers rise, and the social media onslaught against Gamache becomes crueler, a body is discovered. And in the tumult, mistakes are made.

Notes





February 2017

All Our Wrong Todays

Elan Mastai

Elan Mastai's acclaimed debut novel is a story of friendship and family, of alternate paths, and of love in its multitude of forms.

It's 2016 and in Tom Barren's world, technology has solved all of humanity's problems — there's no war, no poverty, no under-ripe avocados. Unfortunately, Tom isn't happy. He's lost the girl of his dreams. And what do you do when you're heartbroken and have a time machine? Something stupid.

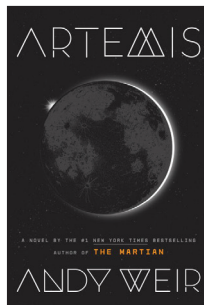
Finding himself stranded in a terrible alternate reality, Tom is desperate to fix his mistake and go home. Right up until the moment he discovers wonderfully unexpected versions of his family, his career, and the woman who may just be the love of his life. Now Tom faces an impossible choice. Go back to his perfect but loveless life. Or stay in our messy reality with a soulmate by his side. His search for the answer takes him across continents and timelines in a quest to figure out, finally, who he really is and what his future — our future — is supposed to be.

Notes

Artemis

Andy Weir

The bestselling author of *The Martian* returns with an irresistible new science-fiction thriller — a heist story set on the moon.



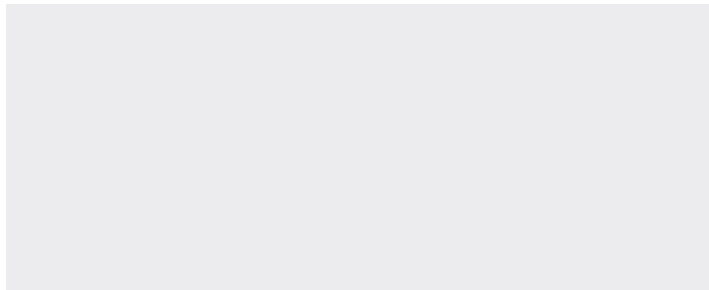
November 2017

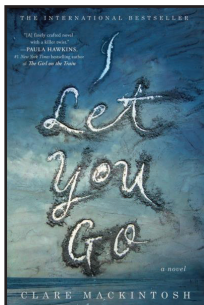
Jazz Bashara is a criminal.

Well, sort of. Life on Artemis, the first and only city on the moon, is tough if you're not a rich tourist or an eccentric billionaire. So smuggling in the occasional harmless bit of contraband barely counts, right? Not when you've got debts to pay and your job as a porter barely covers the rent.

Everything changes when Jazz sees the chance to commit the perfect crime, with a reward too lucrative to turn down. But pulling off the impossible is just the start of Jazz's problems, as she learns that she's stepped square into a conspiracy for control of Artemis itself — and that now, her only chance at survival lies in a gambit even more unlikely than the first.

Notes





I Let You Go

Clare Mackintosh

The “genuinely shocking” (*New York Times Book Review*) thriller with a twist that will make readers gasp.

May 2016

Jenna Gray moves to a ramshackle cottage on the remote Welsh coast, as she tries to escape the memory of the car accident that plays again and again in her mind and desperately heal from the loss of her child and the rest of her painful past.

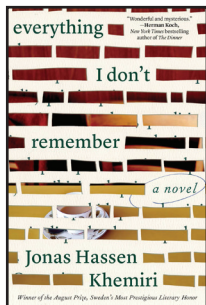
At the same time, the novel tracks the pair of Bristol police investigators trying to get to the bottom of this hit-and-run. As they chase down one hopeless lead after another, they find themselves as drawn to each other as they are to the frustrating, twist-filled case before them.

Notes

Everything I Don't Remember

Jonas Hassen Khemiri

An emotional roller coaster ride of a book that challenges us to see ourselves — and our relationships to the closest people in our lives — in new and sometimes shocking ways.

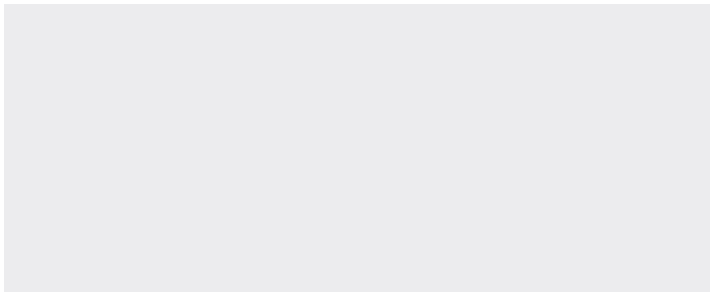


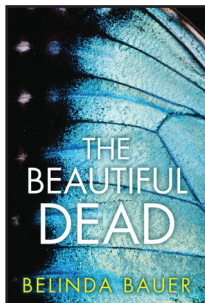
July 2016

A young man named Samuel dies in a horrible car crash. Was it an accident or was it suicide?

To answer that question, an unnamed writer with an agenda of his own sets out to map Samuel's last day alive. Through conversations with friends, relatives, and neighbors, a portrait of Samuel emerges: the loving grandchild, the reluctant bureaucrat, the loyal friend, the contrived poseur—the young man who did everything for his girlfriend Laide and shared everything with his best friend Vandad. Until he lost touch with them both.

Notes





January 2017

The Beautiful Dead

Belinda Bauer

A riveting narrative centered on a down-on-her-luck journalist and a serial killer desperate for the spotlight.

TV crime reporter Eve Singer's career is flagging, but that starts to change when she covers a spate of bizarre murders. Each one is committed in public and advertised like an art exhibition.

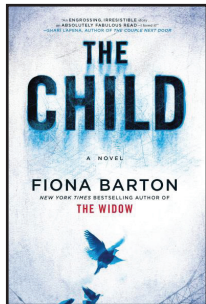
When the killer contacts Eve about her coverage of his crimes, she is suddenly on the inside of the biggest murder investigation of the decade. But as the killer becomes increasingly obsessed with her, Eve realizes there's a thin line between inside information and becoming an accomplice to murder — possibly her own.

Notes

The Child

Fiona Barton

As an old house is demolished in a gentrifying section of London, a workman discovers a tiny skeleton, buried for years.



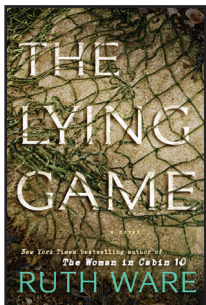
June 2017

For journalist Kate Waters, it's a story that deserves attention. She cobbles together a piece for her newspaper, but at a loss for answers, she can only pose a question: Who is the Building Site Baby?

As Kate investigates, she unearths connections to a crime that rocked the city decades earlier: A newborn baby was stolen from the maternity ward in a local hospital and was never found. Her heartbroken parents were left devastated by the loss.

But there is more to the story...

Notes



July 2017

The Lying Game

Ruth Ware

“I need you.” Three small words that change everything.

Isa Wilde knows something terrible has happened when she receives this text from an old friend.

The four friends first met at Salten House boarding school, where they quickly bonded over *The Lying Game*, a risky contest that involved tricking fellow boarders and faculty with their lies. But the game had consequences, and the girls were eventually expelled after Kate's dad mysteriously disappeared. Forever bound by their lies but needing to forget their past, they went their separate ways.

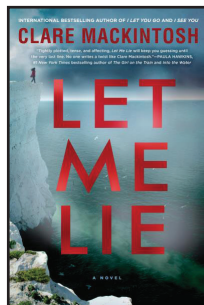
Now reunited, Isa, Kate, Thea, and Fatima discover that their past lies had far-reaching effects and criminal implications that threaten them all.

Notes

Let Me Lie

Clare Mackintosh

The police say it was suicide. Anna says it was murder. They're both wrong.



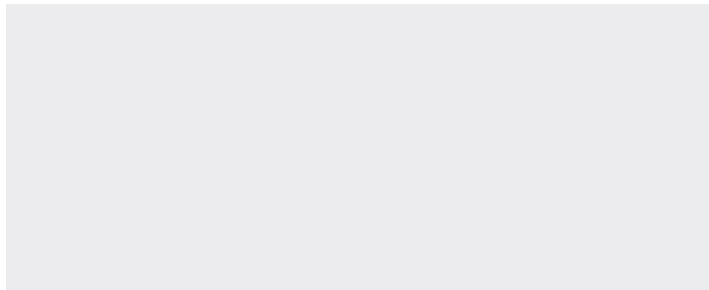
June 2017

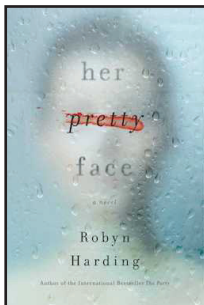
Last year, Tom and Caroline Johnson chose to end their lives, one seemingly unable to live without the other. Their daughter, Anna, is struggling to come to terms with her parents' deaths, unwilling to accept the verdict of suicide.

Now with a baby herself, Anna feels her mother's absence keenly and is determined to find out what really happened to her parents. But as she digs up the past, someone is trying to stop her.

Sometimes it's safer to let things lie....

Notes





Her Pretty Face

Robyn Harding 

A chilling domestic drama about two women whose deep friendship is threatened by dark, long-buried secrets.

July 2018

Frances Metcalfe is struggling to stay afloat. A stay-at-home mom whose troubled son is her full-time job, she had hoped that the day he got accepted into the elite Forrester Academy would be the day she started living her life. Overweight, insecure, and lonely, she is desperate to fit into the Forrester world.

Until she meets Kate Randolph.

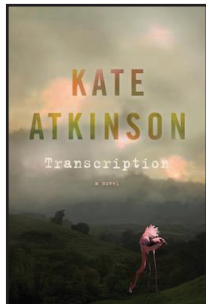
Kate is everything Frances is not: beautiful, wealthy, powerful, and confident. And for some reason, she's not interested in being friends with any of the other Forrester moms — only Frances. As the two bond over their disdain of the Forrester snobs and the fierce love they have for their sons, a startling secret threatens to tear them apart — one of these women is not who she seems. Her real name is Amber Kunik. And she's a murderer.

Notes

Transcription

Kate Atkinson

A novel that explores the repercussions of one young woman's espionage work during World War II.

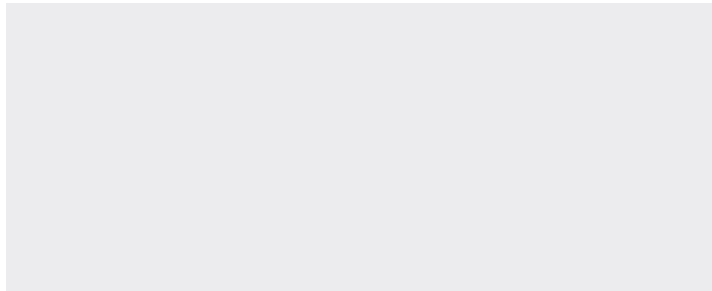


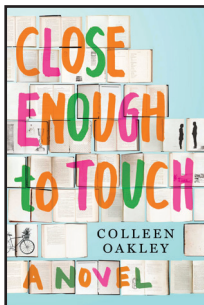
September 2018

Juliet Armstrong is a dissatisfied radio producer in a 1950s London that is recovering from the war as much as she is. During World War II, Juliet was conscripted into service, transcribing conversations between an MI5 agent and a ring of suspected German sympathizers. The seemingly dull work quickly plunged Juliet into a treacherous world of code words and secret meetings where Juliet herself was sent into the field. But as Juliet and the rest of London find ways to return to normal, her routine is upended by an encounter with a mysterious man from her past life.

Haunted by the relationships and actions of her past and facing a very real threat in the present, Juliet cannot escape the repercussions of her work for the government. With no other choice, Juliet is quickly pulled back into the life of espionage she thought she'd left behind.

Notes





Close Enough to Touch

Colleen Oakley

Can you miss something you never had?

March 2017

Jubilee Jenkins is no ordinary librarian. With a rare allergy to human touch, any skin-to-skin contact could literally kill her. But after retreating into solitude for nearly ten years, Jubilee's decided to brave the world again, despite the risks. Armed with a pair of gloves, long sleeves, and her trusty bicycle, she finally ventures out the front door — and into her future.

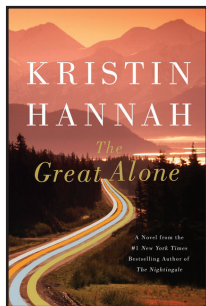
Eric Keegan has troubles of his own. With his daughter from a failed marriage no longer speaking to him, and his brilliant, if psychologically troubled, adopted son attempting telekinesis, Eric's struggling to figure out how his life got so off course, and how to be the dad — and man — he wants so desperately to be. So when an encounter over the check-out desk at the local library entangles his life with that of a beautiful — albeit eccentric — woman, he finds himself wanting nothing more than to be near her.

Notes

The Great Alone

Kristin Hannah

A desperate family seeks a new beginning in the wilderness of Alaska only to find that their unpredictable environment is less threatening than the erratic behavior found in human nature.



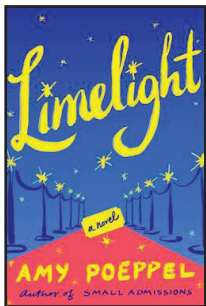
February 2018

Alaska, 1974. Ernt Allbright came home from the Vietnam War a changed and volatile man. Cora will do anything for the man she loves, even if means following him into the unknown. Thirteen-year-old Leni, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship, has little choice but to go along, daring to hope this new land promises her family a better future.

In a wild, remote corner of Alaska, the long, sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the newcomers' lack of preparation and dwindling resources.

But as winter approaches and darkness descends, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates. Soon the perils outside pale in comparison to threats from within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, blanketed in eighteen hours of night, Leni and her mother learn the terrible truth: they are on their own.

Notes



Limelight

Amy Poeppel

In a smart and funny novel, a family's move to New York City brings surprises and humor as their lives merge with the captivating world of Broadway.

May 2018

Allison Brinkley — wife, mother, and former unflappable optimist — discovers that a carefully weighed decision to pack up and move her family from suburban Dallas to the glittery chaos of Manhattan may have been more complicated than she and her husband initially thought.

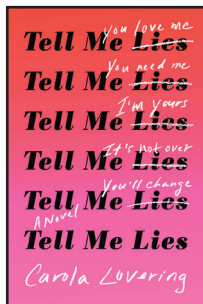
When Allison has a fender-bender, witnessed by a flock of mothers at her son's new school, she is led to the penthouse apartment of a luxurious Central Park West building and encounters a spoiled, hungover, unsupervised teenager who looks familiar. It doesn't take long to recognize him as Carter Reid — a famous pop star who has been cast in a new Broadway musical. Through this brush with stardom, Allison embraces a unique and unexpected opportunity that helps her find her way in the heart of Manhattan.

Notes

Tell Me Lies

Carola Lovering

**Everyone remembers the one.
No, not that one. The other one.
The one you couldn't let go of.
The one you'll never forget.**



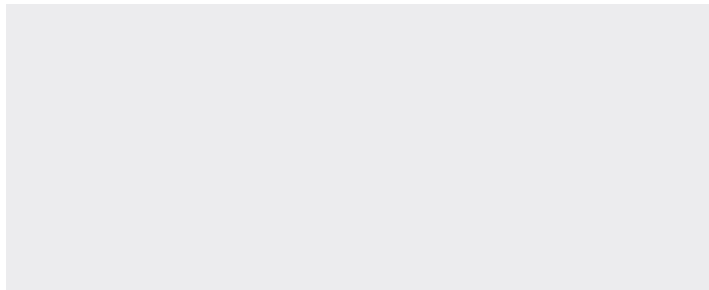
June 2018

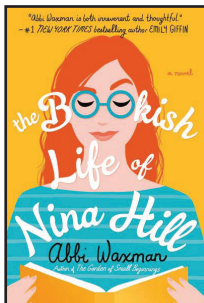
Lucy Albright is far from her Long Island upbringing when she arrives on the campus of her small California college, and happy to be hundreds of miles from her mother, whom she's never forgiven for an act of betrayal in her early teen years. Quickly grasping at her fresh start, Lucy embraces college life and all it has to offer—and then she meets Stephen DeMarco. Charming. Attractive. Complicated. Devastating.

Confident and cocksure, Stephen sees something in Lucy that no one else has, and she's quickly seduced by this vision of herself, and the sense of possibility that his attention brings her. Meanwhile, Stephen is determined to forget an incident buried in his past that, if exposed, could ruin him.

Lucy knows there's something about Stephen that isn't to be trusted. Stephen knows Lucy can't tear herself away. And their addicting entanglement will have consequences they never could have imagined.

Notes





July 2019

The Bookish Life of Nina Hill

Abbi Waxman

A humorous and heartwarming novel of a confirmed introvert who dares to step outside her comfort zone...

Nina Hill's life may not seem like much, but for a person battling anxiety, it's more than enough. She enjoys her job at a bookstore and her small circle of friends. Until a visit from a lawyer changes everything...

The father that Nina never knew existed has died, leaving behind an enormous extended family. Nina now has innumerable sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, and cousins all living within a twenty-mile radius. If that's not enough, Nina's talent for worrying is taking the thrill out of falling in love. Tom, a fellow trivia nerd — who's totally into her — is obviously too good to be true.

Everything is moving too fast for Nina. Caught in a whirlwind of new people, emotions and experiences, she feels the need to protect herself. But maybe opening her world — and her heart — is a risk worth taking.

Notes

Reading List

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anderson-Dargatz, Gail <i>The Spawning Grounds</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mackintosh, Clare <i>I Let You Go</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arden, Katherine <i>The Girl in the Tower</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mackintosh, Clare <i>Let Me Lie</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atkinson, Kate <i>Transcription</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mastai, Elan <i>All Our Wrong Todays</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atwood, Margaret <i>Hag-Seed</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> McKay, Ami <i>Half Spent Was the Night</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atwood, Margaret <i>The Testaments</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Murakami, Haruki & Ozawa Seiji <i>Absolutely on Music</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barton, Fiona <i>The Child</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Nesbø, Jo <i>Macbeth</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bauer, Belinda <i>The Beautiful Dead</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Oakley, Colleen <i>Close Enough to Touch</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brady, Alan <i>The Golden Tresses of the Dead</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Penny, Louise <i>Glass Houses</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cameron, Claire <i>The Last Neanderthal</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Penny, Louise <i>Kingdom of the Blind</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook, Méira <i>Once More With Feeling</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Penny, Louise <i>A Better Man</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elliott, Alicia <i>A Mind Spread Out on the Ground</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Poeppel, Amy <i>Limelight</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ferguson, Joshua M. <i>Me, Myself, They</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Price, Steven <i>Gaslight</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ferguson, Will <i>The Shoe on the Roof</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Proulx, Annie <i>Barkskins</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gilbert, Elizabeth <i>City of Girls</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Pyper, Andrew <i>The Only Child</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hannah, Kristin <i>The Great Alone</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Schwalbe, Will <i>Books For Living</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harding, Robyn <i>Her Pretty Face</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Setterfield, Diane <i>Once Upon a River</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Khemiri, Jonas Hassen <i>Everything I Don't Remember</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Shraya, Vivek <i>Death Threat</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Johnson, Tyrell <i>The Wolves of Winter</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Wagamese, Richard <i>Starlight</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lovering, Carola <i>Tell Me Lies</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ware, Ruth <i>The Lying Game</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Waxman, Abbi <i>The Bookish Life of Nina Hill</i> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Weir, Andy <i>Artemis</i> |



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CATALIST

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Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
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