

Spring
2022

STAFF PICKS



Aurora
Public
Library
District



THE 1619 PROJECT: A NEW ORIGIN STORY

Nikole Hannah-Jones

Our national narrative is more accurately told if we begin not on July 4, 1776, but in late August of 1619, when a ship arrived in Jamestown bearing a cargo of twenty to thirty enslaved people from Africa. Their arrival inaugurated a barbaric and unprecedented system that would last for the next 250 years. This is more than the country's original sin: It is the country's very origin.

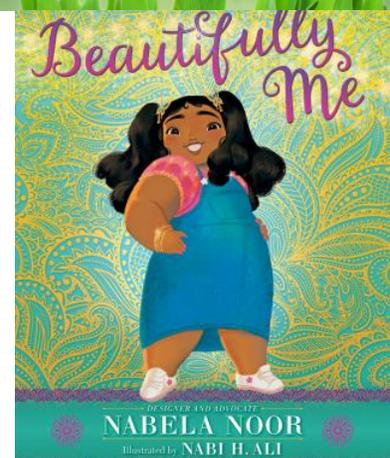
Adult Non-Fiction

BEAUTIFULLY ME

Nabela Noor

Zubi is excited about her first day of school, but is puzzled by her mother and older sister worrying about being "too big," and she starts to worry that maybe something is wrong with how she looks--until her declaration at dinner that she is on a diet makes her family realize what they have been doing wrong.

Children's Picture Book



CLOCKWORK CURANDERA. VOLUME 1, THE WITCH OWL PARLIAMENT

David Bowles and Raul the Third

Resurrected by her brother using a forbidden combination of alchemy and engineering, apprentice curandera Cristina vows to protect the Republic of Santander against the lechuzas terrorizing immigrants and plaguing the country.

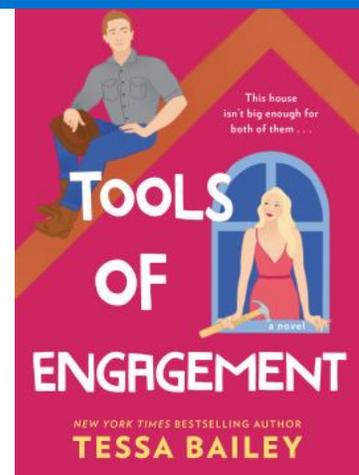
Teen Graphic Novel

TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT

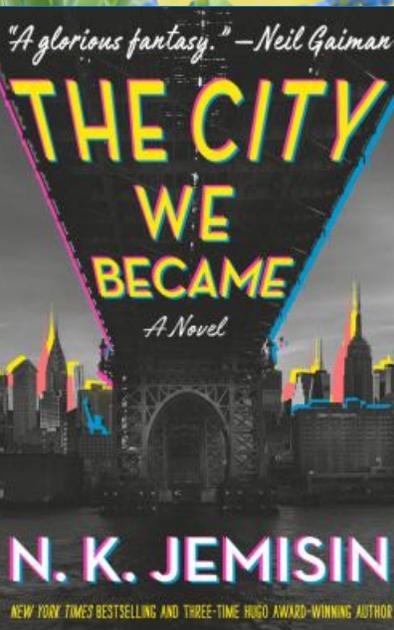
Tessa Bailey

Meticulous real-estate designer Bethany Castle is invited to compete against her brother on a house-flipping reality television show with the assistance of a brash but attractive Texas cowboy construction team leader.

Adult Fiction



Spring 2022 Staff Picks

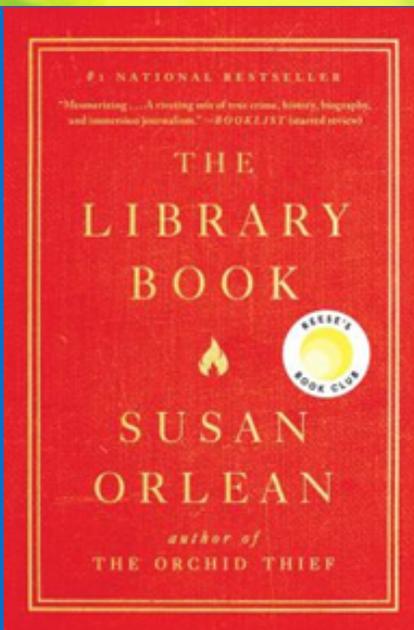


THE CITY WE BECAME

N.K. Jemisin

Every great city has a soul. New York? She's got six. When a young man crosses the bridge into New York City, something changes. He doesn't remember who he is, where he's from, or even his own name. But he can feel the pulse of the city, can see its history, can access its magic. And he's not the only one.

Adult Fiction



THE LIBRARY BOOK

Susan Orlean

The author reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) fire and its aftermath, to showcase the crucial role that libraries play in our lives.

Adult Non-Fiction

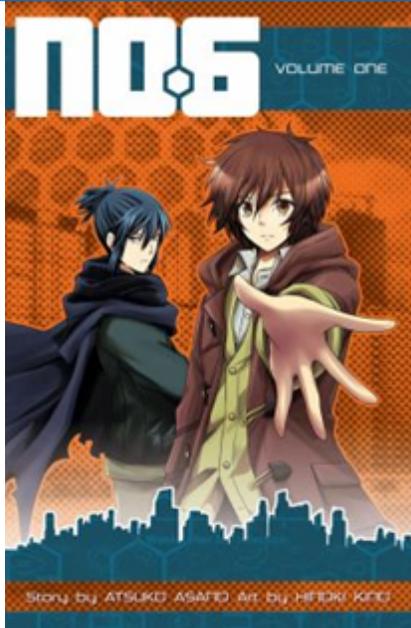


NO. 6

Atsuko Asano

After sheltering an injured boy from a typhoon, gifted ecology student Shion finds his life thrown into chaos as he begins to discover the appalling secrets behind the superficial perfection of No. 6, the computerized metropolis he calls home.

Middle Grade Fiction

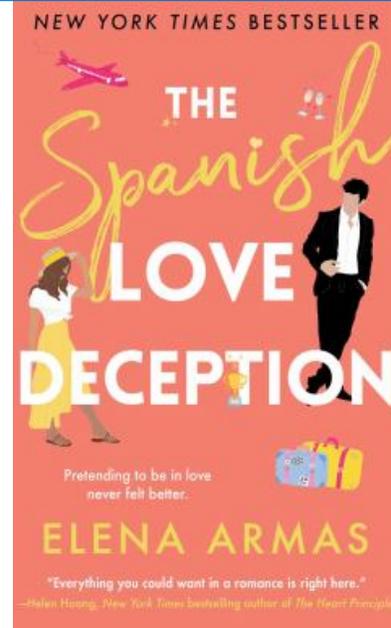


THE SPANISH LOVE DECEPTION

Elena Armas

Catalina desperately needs a date to her sister's wedding. Especially since her white lie about her American boyfriend has spiraled out of control. Now everyone will be eager to meet him. She only has four weeks to find someone willing to cross the Atlantic and aid in her deception.

Adult Fiction

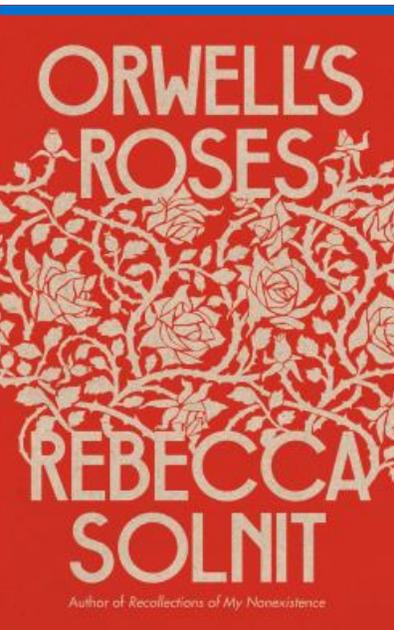


THE NAME OF THE WIND

Patrick Rothfuss

The tale of Kvothe - the notorious magician, accomplished thief, master musician, and infamous assassin - from his childhood in a troupe of traveling players, to years spent as a near-feral orphan in a crime-riddled city, to his daringly brazen yet successful bid to enter a dangerous school of magic.

Adult Fiction

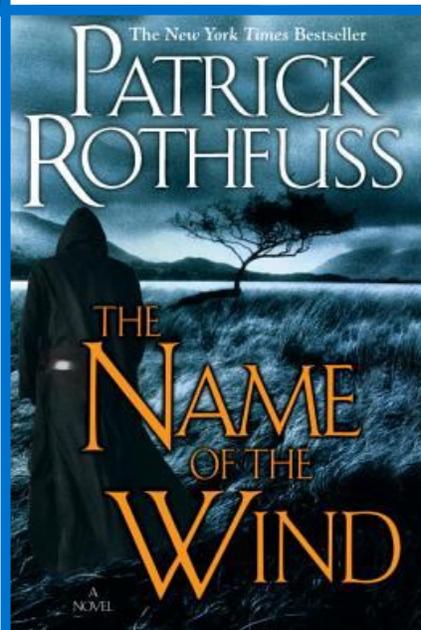


ORWELL'S ROSES

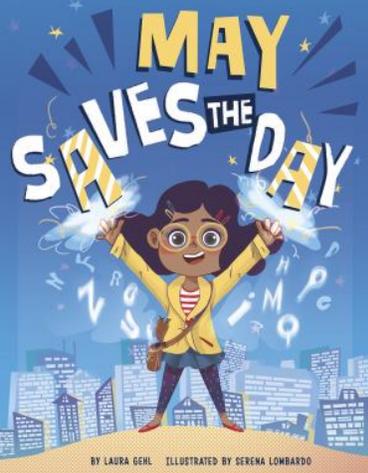
Rebecca Solnit

"In the spring of 1936 a man planted roses." That man was George Orwell, shortly before he went off to fight against fascism in Spain. Today, those rosebushes are still thriving. This presents another side of Orwell who took enormous pleasure in the natural world and found great meaning and value in it.

Adult Non-Fiction



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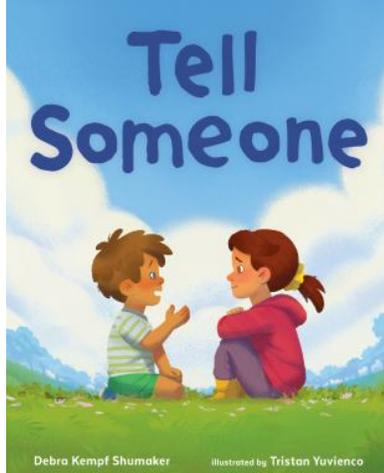


MAY SAVES THE DAY

Laura Gehl

May is the founder and sole owner of Word Saver, Inc. She solves problems on her own. However, when a tornado threatens the town, May quickly realizes that teamwork may be the word of the day.

Children's Picture Book



TELL SOMEONE

Debra Kempf Shumaker

Explores the benefits of sharing when one is happy, sad, proud, or hurt--inside or out--and the importance of telling a trusted adult when someone makes one feel weird or wrong.

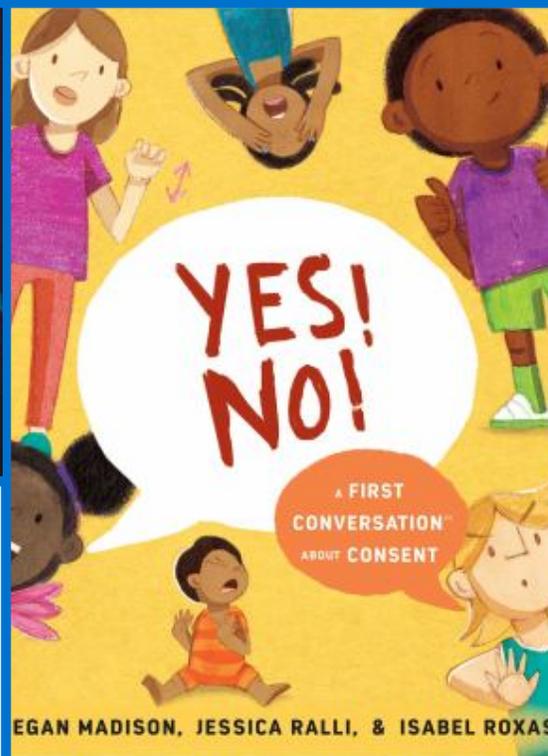
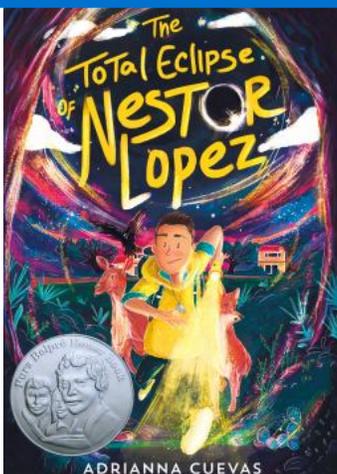
Children's Picture Book

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF NESTOR LOPEZ

Adrianna Cuevas

A Cuban-American boy must use his ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a witch that transforms into animals.

Juvenile Fiction

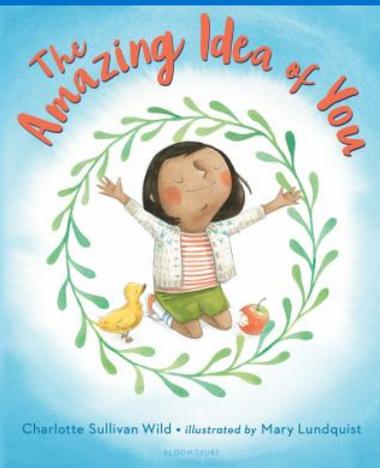


THE AMAZING IDEA OF YOU

Charlotte Sullivan Wild

Illustrations and simple text reveal that there is potential in every seed to be a tree, in every tadpole to be a frog, and in every child to be a unique and creative adult.

Children's Picture Book



THE OVERNIGHT GUEST

Heather Gudenkauf

True crime writer Wylie Lark, snowed in at an isolated farmhouse where she's retreated to write her new book, finds a small child in the snow outside and, bringing him inside for warmth and safety, learns that the farmhouse isn't as isolated as she thought.

Adult Fiction



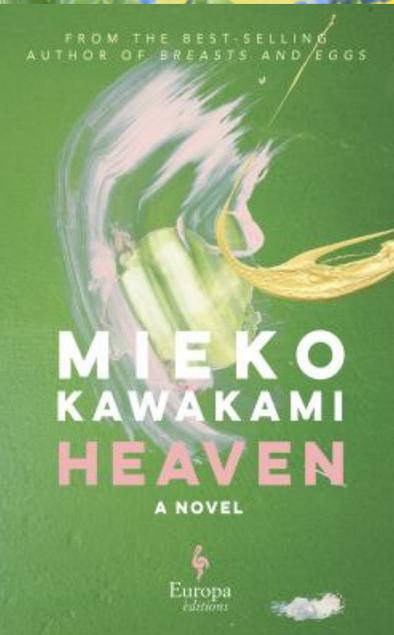
YES! NO!: A FIRST CONVERSATION ABOUT CONSENT

Megan Madison

Developed by experts in the fields of early childhood and activism against injustice, this book serves to normalize and celebrate the experience of asking for and being asked for permission to do something involving one's body. It centers on respect for bodily autonomy, and reviews the many ways that one can say or indicate "no."

Children's Board Book

Spring 2022 Staff Picks

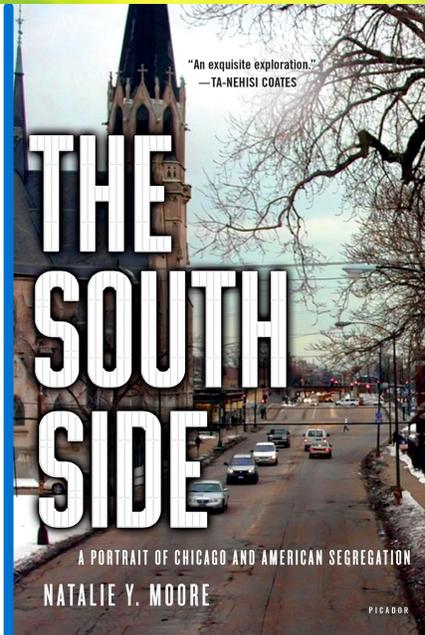


HEAVEN

Mieko Kawakami

Told in the voice of a 14-year-old student subjected to relentless torment for having a lazy eye and about the only who understands, Kawakami's novel is a raw and realistic portrayal of bullying textured by philosophical and religious debates concerning the violence to which the weak are subjected.

Adult Fiction

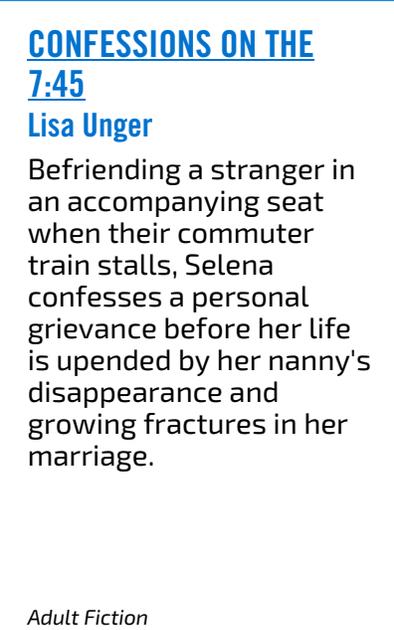


THE SOUTH SIDE: A PORTRAIT OF CHICAGO AND AMERICAN SEGREGATION

Natalie Y. Moore

Chicago is touted as a "world class city" yet, the stench of segregation compromises it. In this intelligent and highly important narrative, Natalie Moore shines a light on contemporary segregation on the South Side of Chicago.

Adult Non-Fiction

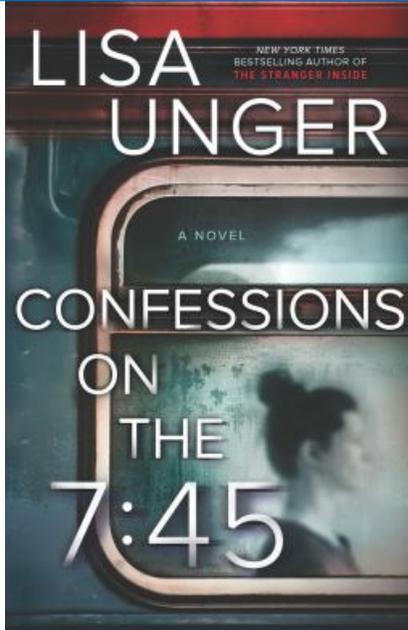


CONFESSIONS ON THE 7:45

Lisa Unger

Befriending a stranger in an accompanying seat when their commuter train stalls, Selena confesses a personal grievance before her life is upended by her nanny's disappearance and growing fractures in her marriage.

Adult Fiction



WHO THEY WAS

Gabriel Krauze

The unforgettable narrator goes by two names in his two worlds. At university, he's Gabriel, a seemingly ordinary, partying student learning about morality at a distance. But in his life outside the classroom, he's Snoopz, a hard living member of London's gangs, well-acquainted with drugs, guns, stabbings, and robbery.

Adult Fiction

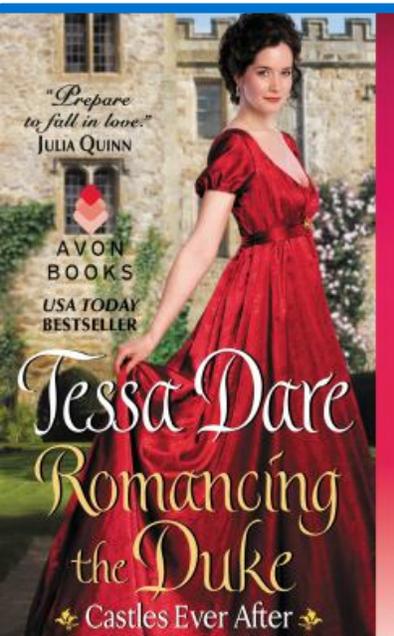


UNITED TASTES OF AMERICA

Gabrielle Langholtz

Cook around the country with this geographical collection of authentic recipes from each of the USA's 50 states, plus three territories, and the nation's capital.

Juvenile Non-Fiction

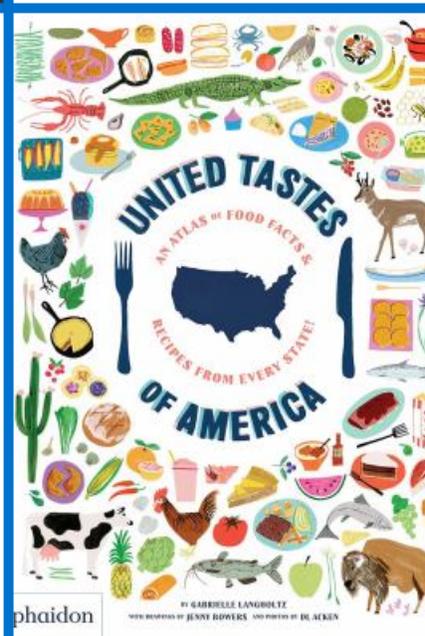


ROMANCING THE DUKE

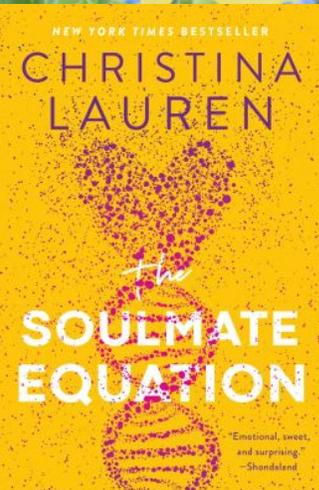
Tessa Dare

As the daughter of a famed author, Isolde grew up on tales of brave knights and fair maidens. She never doubted romance would be in her future, too. Now, Izzy's given up yearning for romance. What fairy tales are left over for an impoverished woman who's never even been kissed?

Adult Fiction



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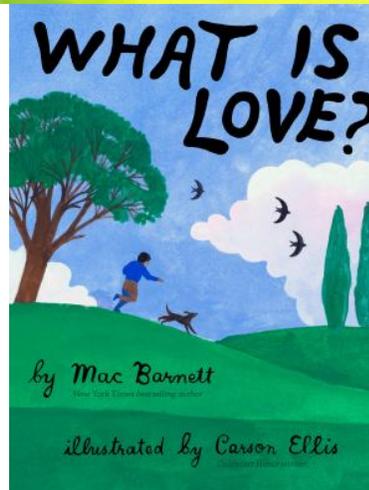


THE SOULMATE EQUATION

Christina Lauren

An entertaining and moving novel about what happens when a matchmaking company finds an ideal match in an unlikely pair.

Adult Fiction

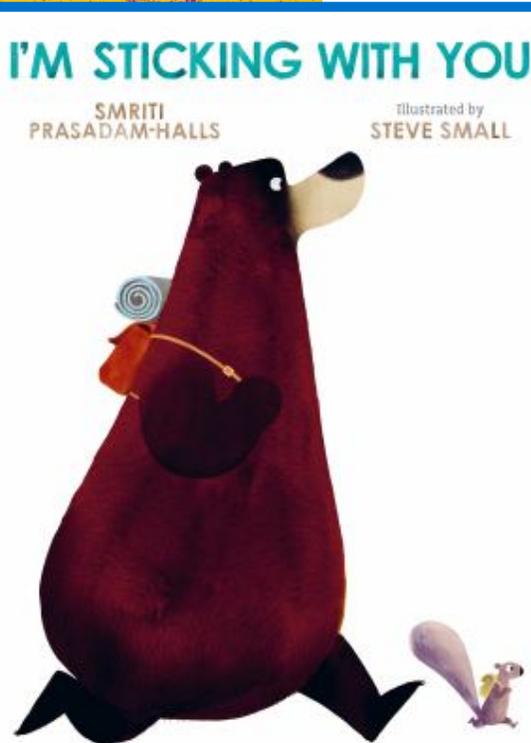


WHAT IS LOVE?

Mac Barnett

A boy sets out to find someone to answer a question that he asks his grandmother, and eventually his quest leads him back home.

Children's Picture Book

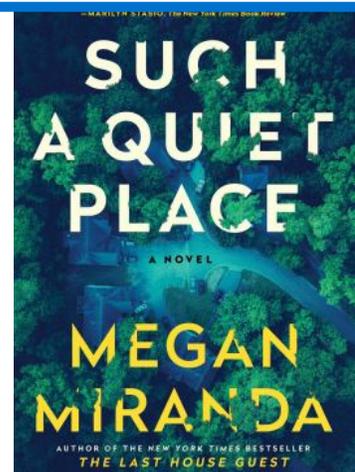


SUCH A QUIET PLACE

Megan Miranda

In Hollow's Edge, a private and idyllic neighborhood, came the murder of the Truets. A year and a half later, the residents are suffocated by their trial testimonies that implicated one of their own: Ruby Fletcher. And now, Ruby's back. With her conviction overturned, Ruby waltzes back to Hollow's Edge. It's increasingly clear that not everyone told the truth about that night.

Adult Fiction

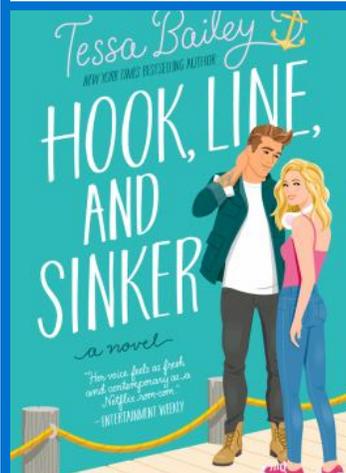


I'M STICKING WITH YOU

Smriti Prasad-Halls

Wherever you're going, I'm going too. Whatever you're doing, I'm sticking with you. It's wonderful to have good friends to see you through the good times and the bad. But sometimes, friends can also be a bit ... well ... overbearing. A gorgeously warm, funny book about everything a friendship can be -- for anyone who's ever had a friend.

Children's Picture Book



HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER

Tessa Bailey

King crab fisherman Fox Thornton has a reputation as a sexy, carefree flirt, and that's exactly how he prefers it. Until he meets Hannah Bellinger. She's immune to his charm and looks, but she seems to enjoy his ... personality?

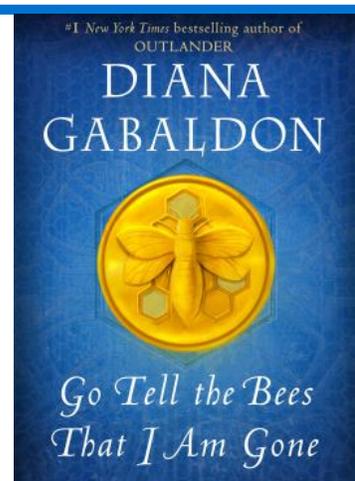
Adult Fiction

GO TELL THE BEES THAT I AM GONE. BOOK 9, OUTLANDER SERIES

Diana Gabaldon

"It is 1779 and Claire and Jamie are at last reunited with their daughter, Brianna, her husband, Roger, and their children on Fraser's Ridge. Yet even in the North Carolina backcountry, the effects of war are being felt. Jamie knows it won't be long until the war is on his doorstep

Adult Fiction



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WHAT I DID FOR A DUKE

Julie Anne Long

For years, he's been an object of fear, fascination and fantasy. But of all the wicked rumors that shadow the formidable Alexander Moncrieffe, the ton knows one thing for certain: only fools dare cross him. And when Ian Eversea does just that, Moncrieffe knows the perfect revenge: he'll seduce Ian's innocent sister, the only Eversea as yet untouched by scandal.

Adult Fiction

GALLANT

V.E. Schwab

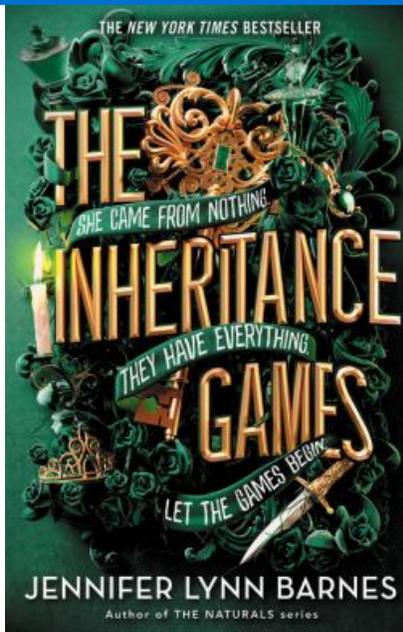
Olivia Prior has grown up at the grim Merilance School for Girls with no past except for her one treasure, her mother's journal, so when a letter arrives inviting her to come home to ruinous manor, Gallant, she seizes the chance to find out about her family.

Teen Fiction

THE INHERITANCE GAMES

Jennifer Lynn Barnes

When a Connecticut teenager inherits vast wealth and an eccentric estate from the richest man in Texas, she must also live with his surviving family and solve a series of puzzles to discover how she earned her inheritance.



Teen Fiction

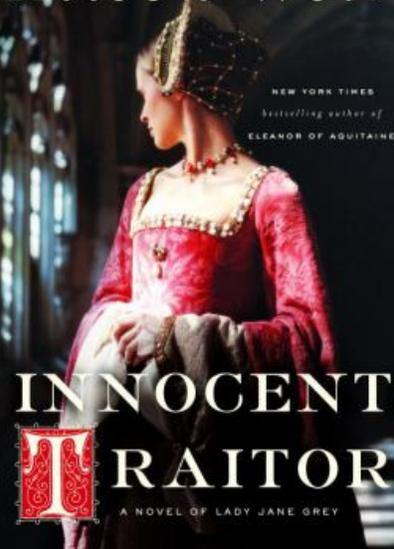
THE ANCIENT MAGUS' BRIDE

Kore Yamazaki

Hatori Chise has lived a life full of neglect and abuse, devoid of anything resembling love. Just when all hope seems lost, a fateful encounter awaits her. When a man with the head of a beast, wielding strange powers, obtains her through a slave auction, Chise's life will never be the same again.

Teen Manga

Alison Weir

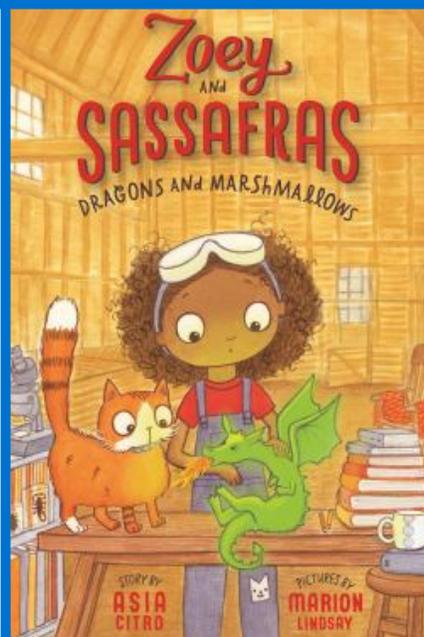


INNOCENT TRAITOR

Alison Weir

It is the story of Lady Jane Grey—"the Nine Days' Queen"—a fifteen-year-old girl who unwittingly finds herself at the center of the religious and civil unrest that nearly toppled the fabled House of Tudor during the sixteenth century.

Adult Fiction



ZOEY & SASSAFRAS: DRAGONS AND MARSHMALLOWS

Asia Citro

A girl, Zoey, and her cat, SassafRAS, use science experiments to help a dragon with a problem.

Youth Fiction

Spring 2022 Staff Picks

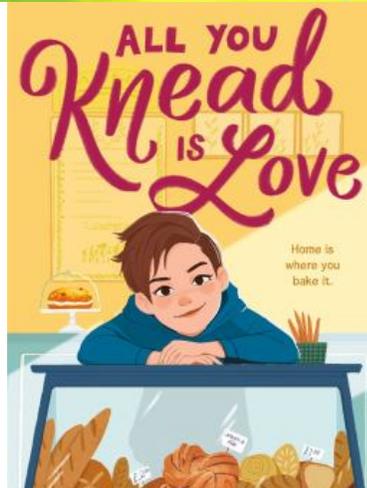


SPOILER ALERT

Olivia Dade

Marcus Caster-Rupp has a secret. While the world knows him as the star of the biggest show on TV, he's known to fanfiction readers as an anonymous and popular poster. But if anyone ever found out, he'd be fired. Immediately.

Adult Fiction

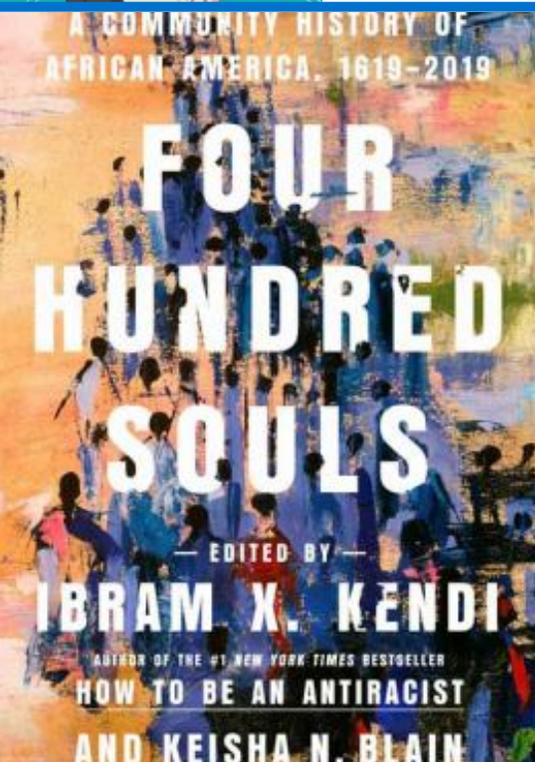


ALL YOU KNEAD IS LOVE

Tanya Guerrero

Banished from her abusive home for a summer with her estranged grandmother in Barcelona, twelve-year-old Alba feels hope and love while exploring a newly discovered passion for bread baking.

Juvenile Fiction



FOUR HUNDRED SOULS: A COMMUNITY HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICA, 1619-2019

Ibram X. Kendi

Ibram X. Kendi, director of the Antiracism Institute of American University, and Keisha Blain, editor of The North Star have gathered together eighty black writers from all disciplines -- historians and artists, journalists and novelists-- each of whom has contributed an entry about one five-year period to create a dynamic multivoiced single-volume history of black people in America

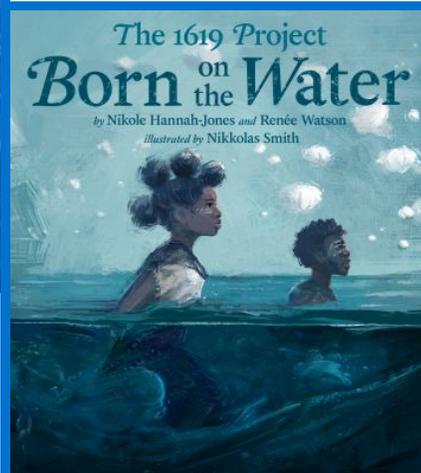
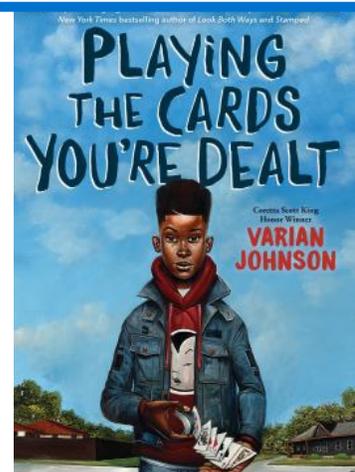
Adult Non-Fiction

PLAYING THE CARDS YOU'RE DEALT

Varian Johnson

Anthony Joplin is finally old enough to play in the spades tournament every Joplin Man before him has won. Then Ant's best friend gets grounded, and he's forced to find another partner. Shirley, the new girl in his class, isn't exactly who he has in mind. He's not sure that his father wants him playing with a girl. So Ant decides to join forces with Shirley--and keep his plans a secret.

Juvenile Fiction



BORN ON THE WATER

Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson

Stymied by her unfinished family tree assignment for school, a young girl seeks Grandma's counsel and learns about her ancestors, the consequences of slavery, and the history of Black resistance in the United States.

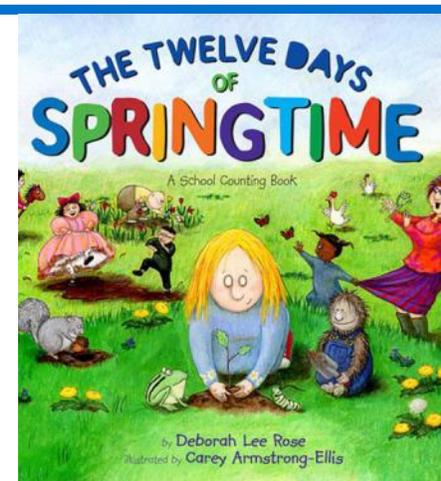
Picture Book for Older Readers

THE TWELVE DAYS OF SPRINGTIME

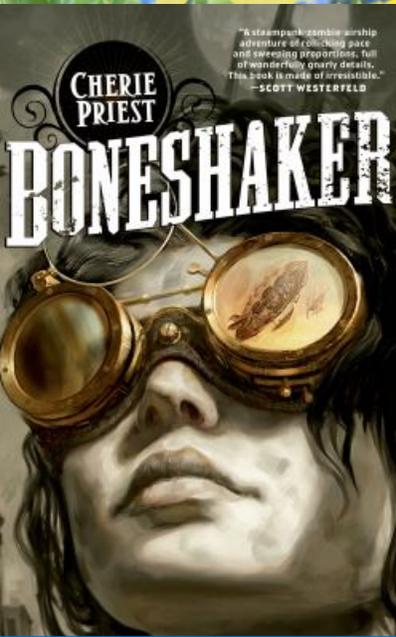
Deborah Lee Rose

Using a play on the words from The twelve days of Christmas, a cumulative counting verse in which a child lists items pertaining to springtime given to her by her teacher, from a garden that needs to be carefully watered to twelve flags for flapping.

Children's Picture Book



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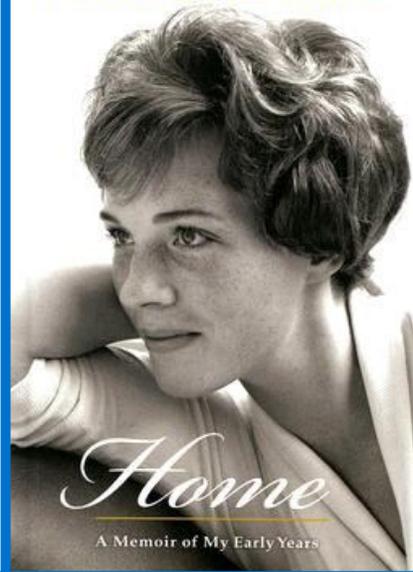
BONESHAKER

Cherie Priest

Inventor Leviticus Blue creates a machine that accidentally decimates Seattle's banking district and uncovers a vein of Blight Gas that turns everyone who breathes it into the living dead. 16 years later Briar, Blue's widow, and her teenage son Ezekiel are surviving: until Zeke impetuously decides that he must reclaim his father's name from history.

Adult Fiction

JULIE ANDREWS



HOME: A MEMOIR OF MY EARLY YEARS

Julie Andrews

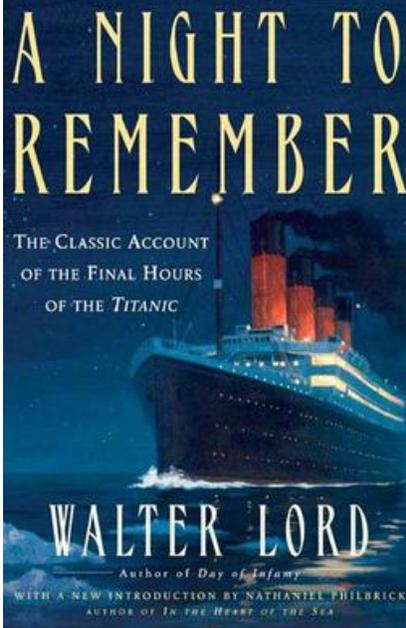
A personal account of her pre-fame life between her birth in 1935 and her discovery by Walt Disney in 1962, her relationships with a vaudevillian mother and teacher father, the World War II London Blitz, and her work as a Royal Command Performance child soloist.

Adult Biography

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Walter Lord

Recounts the demise of the "unsinkable" Titanic, the massive luxury liner that housed extravagances such as a French "sidewalk cafe" and a grand staircase, but failed to provide enough lifeboats for the 2,207 passengers on board.



Adult Non-Fiction