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VOLUME 29



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Rumaan Alam
Entitlement:
A Novel

978-0-593-71846-9 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Riverhead | HC
📞 978-0-593-71848-3 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-91110-5
📧 LP: 978-0-593-94904-7

READERS' ADVISORY:

A novel of money and morality from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Leave the World Behind*.

Perfect for fans of Jennifer Egan,
Emily St. John Mandel, and Emma Cline.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

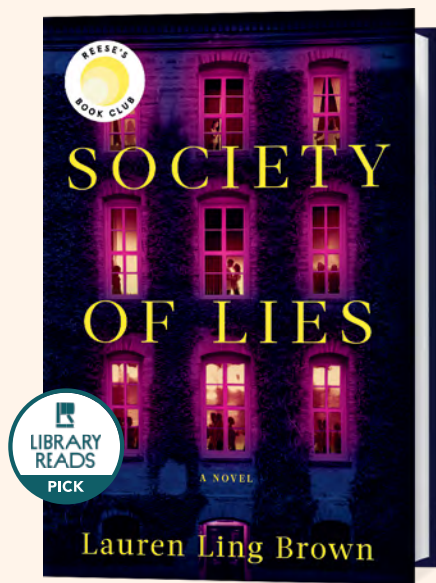
Brooke wants. She isn't in need, but there are things she wants. A sense of purpose, for instance. She wants to make a difference in the world, to impress her mother along the way, to spend time with friends and secure her independence. Her job assisting an octogenarian billionaire in his quest to give away a vast fortune could help her achieve many of these goals. It may inspire new desires as well: proximity to wealth turns out to be nothing less than transformative. What is money, really, but a kind of belief?

Taut, unsettling, and alive to the seductive distortions of money, *Entitlement* is a riveting tale for our new gilded age, a story that confidently considers questions about need and worth, race and privilege, philanthropy and generosity, passion and obsession. It is a provocative, propulsive novel about the American imagination.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. As Brooke grows closer to billionaire Asher Jaffee, stepping into her role as his protégée, she gains access to a new, bewitching way of living that begins to distort her sense of reality. Describe this distortion field of wealth. How does it shape Brooke?
2. Within Brooke's own tight network of friends and family, conflicts arise surrounding who has access to money and who does not. Which other characters are shaped by wealth, its lack, or the desire for it?
3. *Entitlement* brings New York City to vivid life. Discuss this sense of place and the ways in which Brooke's relationship with New York begins to evolve as she grows closer to Asher and further from her peers.
4. Discuss the party at Asher and Carol's house. What do you think about Brooke's decisions at the end of the novel? What ultimate purpose did Asher and Brooke serve for each other?
5. In our culture, it is largely considered taboo to openly discuss money and class, but in *Entitlement*, these conversations are centered. Why do you think the author made this choice? What did you take away from this?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/EntitlementRG



Lauren Ling Brown

Society of Lies:

A Novel

978-0-593-72335-7 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Bantam | HC
📞 978-0-593-72336-4 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-90950-8
📻 LP: 979-821-707760-1

READERS' ADVISORY:
A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of *White Ivy*, *The Secret History*, and *I Have Some Questions for You*.

"A dark and haunting debut that explores secret societies, the bonds of sisterhood, and the intricacies of privilege at an elite college."

—Julia Bartz, author of *The Writing Retreat*

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Maya has returned to Princeton for her college reunion—it's been a decade since she graduated, and she is looking forward to seeing old faces and reminiscing about her time there. This visit is special because Maya will also be attending the graduation of her little sister, Naomi.

But what should have been a dream weekend becomes Maya's worst nightmare when she receives the news that Naomi is dead. The police are calling it an accident, but Maya suspects that there is more to the story than they are letting on.

As Maya pieces together what happened in the months leading up to her sister's death, she begins to realize how much Naomi hid from her. The more Maya uncovers, the more terrified she becomes that Naomi's decision to follow in her footsteps might have been what got her killed. Because her sister wasn't the first young woman to turn up dead. Now every clue is leading Maya back to the past . . . and to the secret she's kept all these years.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Before reading *Society of Lies*, did you know anything about clubs at Ivy League schools? And if you had the opportunity to join Sterling Club, would you? How about Greystone Society?
2. Should Maya have told Naomi the truth about the Society? Do we have a duty to tell the truth at all costs, or is it better to protect our loved ones from situations that may harm them?
3. How do the sisters' backgrounds affect their view of the world and the choices they make?
4. What systems (of race, class etc.) do you see at work in the book, and how do the characters combat or contribute to them?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/SocietyOfLiesBookClubKit

Edward Burns
**A Kid from
Marlboro Road:**
A Novel

978-1-64421-407-7 | \$27.95/\$36.95C | Seven Stories Press | HC
978-1-64421-408-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Colm Tóibín, Roddy Doyle,
Frank McCourt, and Lisa McInerney.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

An Irish-American family comes to life through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy in this debut novel by actor-filmmaker Ed Burns.

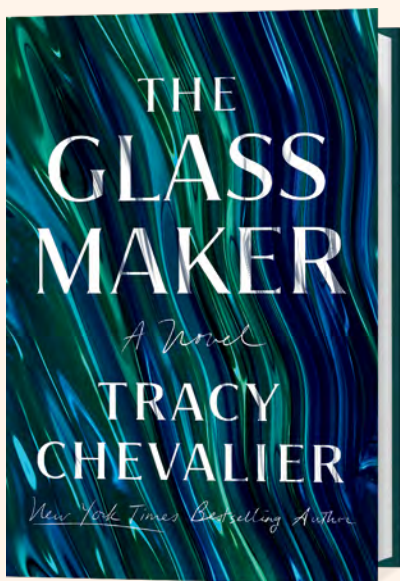
Immigrants and storytellers, lilting voices and Long Island moxie are all part of this colorful Irish-Catholic community at the end of the 1970s.

Our twelve-year-old narrator, an aspiring writer, is at a wake. He takes in the death of his beloved grandfather, Pop, a larger-than-life figure. The overflowing crowd—a sign of a life well lived—comprises sandhogs in their muddy work boots, Irish grandmothers in black dresses, cops in uniform, members of the family deep in mourning. He watches it all, not yet realizing how this Irish American world defines who he is and who he will become. His older brother Tommy has no patience for rules and domesticities, his father is emotionally elsewhere. This boy knows he's the best thing his mother's got, though her sadness envelops them both.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The relationship of the main character to his family is at the heart of *A Kid from Marlboro Road*. The young narrator is especially close with his mother, who grows increasingly sad as the book progresses, and is in awe of Pops, his grandfather who has just died. What do you think is especially important and poignant about their relationships?
2. Songs and stories—from Hemingway to the Rolling Stones—mark the winding path of our young hero's adolescence, providing insight, refuge, and connection. Which songs and their attendant moments in his story resonated with you?
3. *A Kid from Marlboro Road* is deeply concerned with time and place. The boy's mother often laments changes in their neighborhood, Gibson, and in her beloved New York City. What similarities do you notice between changes in place and changes in relationships in this novel?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Tracy Chevalier
The Glassmaker:
A Novel

978-0-525-55827-9 | \$32.00/\$42.00C | Viking | HC
📍 978-0-525-55828-6 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-90881-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the bestselling historical novelist, a rich, transporting story that follows a family of glassmakers from the height of Renaissance-era Italy to the present day. For fans of Geraldine Brooks and Kristin Hannah.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

It is 1486 and Venice is a wealthy, opulent center for trade. Orsola Rosso is the eldest daughter in a family of glassblowers on Murano, the island revered for the craft. As a woman, she is not meant to work with glass—but she has the hands for it, the heart, and a vision. When her father dies, she teaches herself to make glass beads in secret, and her work supports the Rosso family fortunes.

Skipping like a stone through the centuries, in a Venice where time moves as slowly as molten glass, we follow Orsola and her family as they live through creative triumph and heartbreaking loss, from a plague devastating Venice to Continental soldiers stripping its palazzos bare, from the domination of Murano and its maestros to the transformation of the city of trade into a city of tourists. In every era, the Rosso women ensure that their work, and their bonds, endure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

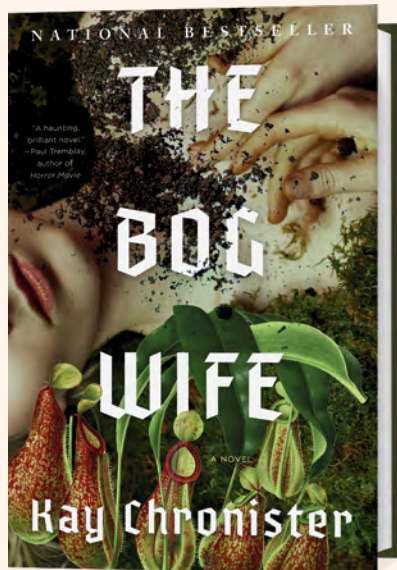
1. Time flows differently in *The Glassmaker's* Venice. Characters skip across centuries while aging only a few years at a time. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story of Orsola and the Rosso family in this way?
2. Early on in the novel, Maria Barovier tells Orsola, "Beads fill the spaces between things . . . They are inconsequential, and women can make them because of that." Did you agree with the reasoning behind Maria's statement? Consider the shifting roles of women and beadmaking in the Rosso family business over time. At what point did you feel that Orsola's beads became "consequential"?
3. Long after Antonio has parted ways with Orsola, she continues to collect the glass dolphins that are sent her way. Do you think that it was acceptable for her to do so? Do you feel that this impacted Orsola's commitment to her husband and daughter?
4. *The Glassmaker* ends in the present day, in a world recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. After traveling through time with the Rossos, how did it feel to see them navigate the pandemic, particularly compared to the plague of 1575?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/GlassmakerRG

Kay Chronister
The Bog Wife:
A Novel

978-1-64009-662-2 | \$28.00/\$36.00C | Counterpoint | HC
📞 978-1-64009-663-9

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Shirley Jackson, Karen Russell,
and Matt Bell.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Five siblings in West Virginia unearth long-buried secrets when the supernatural bargain entwining their fate with their ancestral land is suddenly ruptured.

Since time immemorial, the Haddesley family has tended the cranberry bog. In exchange, the bog sustains them. The staunch seasons of their lives are governed by a strict covenant that is renewed each generation with the ritual sacrifice of their patriarch, and in return, the bog produces a “bog-wife.” Brought to life from vegetation, this woman is meant to carry on the family line. But when the bog fails—or refuses—to honor the bargain, the Haddesleys, a group of discordant siblings still grieving the mother who mysteriously disappeared years earlier, face an unknown future. At once a gothic eco-horror, a psychological drama, and a family saga, *The Bog Wife* is a propulsive read.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The novel opens with Nora’s decision to hide the “trespasser” mushrooms that she sees in the bog from her brother Percy. Why does Nora make this decision, and how does it set the stage for conflicts between Nora and her siblings later on?
2. What roles do Eda, Charlie, Percy, and Nora play in the family at the beginning of the novel, and how do their dynamics change through the course of the story?
3. Discuss the bog-wife’s story of the compact between the bog and the Haddesley family on pages [275-276]. How does her history of the bog contrast with the Haddesley mythology that we learn earlier in the novel?
4. *The Bog Wife* draws from a tradition of fairy tales about men who marry magical non-human women, such as selkie stories. What does the novel suggest are the consequences of this kind of marriage?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Elizabeth DeLozier
**Eleanore of
Avignon:**
A Novel

978-0-593-47503-4 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Dutton | HC
📞 978-0-593-47504-1 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-91546-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

A gorgeously drawn debut full of captivating historical drama about a woman who is unwilling to bend to the limitations her society places upon her when she becomes the apprentice to the pope's physician during the bubonic plague. For readers of *Hamnet* and *The Hour of the Witch*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Provence, 1347. Eleanore (Elea) Blanchet is a midwife and herbalist with remarkable skills. But she must be careful to stay within her station—tending to the pregnant women in her home city of Avignon.

Then Elea meets Guy de Chauliac, “Guigo,” the personal physician to the powerful Pope Clement, who agrees to take her on as his apprentice. But just as she starts to settle into her new position, the much-feared plague hits Europe.

As the “Black Death” spreads like wildfire, Elea finds herself battling what seems to be an unwinnable war and the people of Avignon are becoming more and more desperate for a scapegoat, and a group of religious heretics launch a witch hunt, one that could cost her everything.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Eleanore saving the dog Baldoin from the trap introduce her character? How do their ongoing meetings shape her story?
2. Eleanore and her mother both treat Mathilde Dupont and both suffer consequences for it. What do you think about the line between personal feelings and medical care? What would you have done in Eleanore's situation?
3. The novel includes a three-month time skip after the first day Eleanore treats a patient with the plague. What is the impact of seeing how the city has changed?
4. Father Loup does not recognize Eleanore at first when they meet again. Why do you think that is?
5. Both David and Eleanore face the prejudices of people who do not trust their skills or knowledge. What did it mean to be a marginalized group at this time? How do they both react to the distrust?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/EleanoreofAvignonBCK

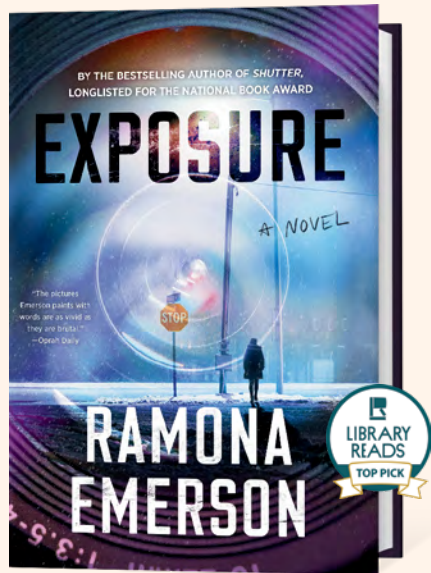
Ramona Emerson

Exposure

978-1-64129-476-8 | \$29.95/\$39.95C | Soho Crime | HC
978-1-64129-476-8

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of Angeline Boulley, Stephen Graham Jones, and John Connolly.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the follow-up to the National Book Award–longlisted *Shutter*, Navajo forensic photographer Rita Todacheene grapples with a fanatical serial killer—and the ghosts he leaves behind.

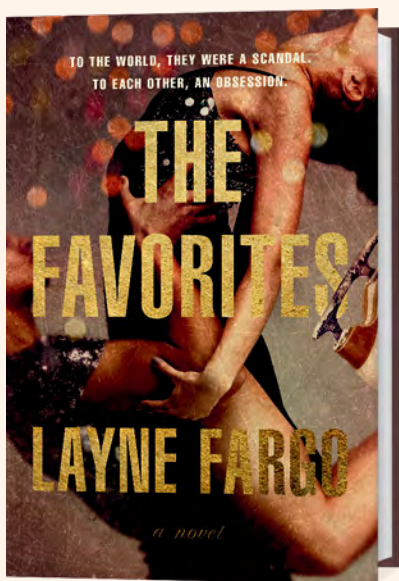
A dual-voice cat-and-mouse thriller, told from the points of view of a killer who has created his own deadly religion and the only person who can stop him, an embattled young detective who sees the ghosts of his Native victims.

In Gallup, New Mexico, where violent crime is five times the national average, a serial killer is operating unchecked, his targets indigent Native people whose murders are easily disguised as death by exposure on the frigid winter streets. He slips unnoticed through town, hidden in plain sight by his unassuming nature, while the voices in his head guide him toward a terrifying vision of glory. As the Gallup detectives struggle to put the pieces together, they consider calling in a controversial specialist to help.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you make of the title *Exposure*? Beyond the more obvious connotations to Rita Todacheene's profession as a forensic photographer, what other interpretations of the title are possible?
2. Ramona Emerson uses her fiction as a way to illuminate the lives of Navajo people in New Mexico. How did reading *Exposure* open your mind to the complexities, struggles, and triumphs of Navajo people and culture as it exists today?
3. *Exposure* takes place at the onset of winter. How does the weather contribute to the setting, across Albuquerque, Gallup, and Tohatchi? How does the winter setting contribute to the themes of the book?
4. In *Exposure*, Ramona Emerson plays with narrative structure by alternating between two points of view: Rita's and the killer's. How does this impact the storytelling?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Layne Fargo

The Favorites:

A Novel

978-0-593-73204-5 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Random House | HC

📖 978-0-593-73205-2 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-94645-9

📱 LP: 979-82-17-01394-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

An epic love story set in the sparkling, savage sphere of elite figure skating, starring a woman determined to carve her own path on and off the ice. For fans of *Carrie Soto Is Back* and *The Turnout*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

She might not have a famous name, funding, or her family's support, but Katarina Shaw has always known that she was destined to become an Olympic skater. When she meets Heath Rocha, a lonely kid stuck in the foster care system, their instant connection makes them a formidable duo on the ice. Clinging to skating—and each other—to escape their turbulent lives, Kat and Heath go from childhood sweethearts to champion ice dancers, captivating the world with their scorching chemistry, rebellious style, and roller-coaster relationship. Until a shocking incident at the Olympic Games brings their partnership to a sudden end.

As the ten-year anniversary of their final skate approaches, an unauthorized documentary reignites the public obsession with Shaw and Rocha. Kat wants nothing to do with the documentary, but she can't stand the thought of someone else defining her legacy. So, after a decade of silence, she's telling her story, and the truth may be even more shocking than the headlines.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What threads does *The Favorites* share with its literary inspiration, *Wuthering Heights*? Where do the stories differ?
2. How does Kat Shaw's self-description in the beginning ("a bitch, a diva, a sore loser . . .") shape your initial perception of her? How does this perception evolve throughout the book?
3. Kat's ambition often conflicts with her relationships. How does her drive to be the best impact her connections with Heath, Garrett, and Bella?
4. Heath Rocha's background is touched upon briefly. How do his racial and cultural identity play into his experiences and relationships within the story?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Aisha Abdel Gawad
**Between Two
Moons:**
A Novel

978-0-593-46782-4 | \$17.00/\$23.00C | Vintage | TR
📞 978-0-385-54862-5 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-74068-2

READERS' ADVISORY:
A BOOKLIST BEST BOOK OF 2023

For readers of Megha Majumdar, Yaa Gyasi,
and Fatima Farheen Mirza.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

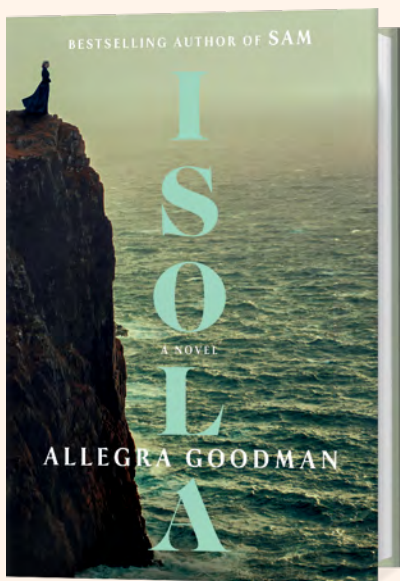
It's the holy month of Ramadan, and twin sisters Amira and Lina are about to graduate high school in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. On the precipice of adulthood, they plan to embark on a summer of teenage revelry, trying on new identities and testing the limits of what they can get away with while still under their parents' roof. But the twins' expectations of a summer of freedom collide with their older brother's return from prison, whose mysterious behavior threatens to undo the delicate family balance.

Meanwhile, outside the family's apartment, a storm is brewing in Bay Ridge. A raid on a local business sparks a protest that brings the Arab community together, and a senseless act of violence threatens to tear them apart. Everyone's motives are called into question as an alarming sense of disquiet pervades the neighborhood. With everything spiraling out of control, how will Amira and Lina know who they can trust? A gorgeously written, intimate family story and a polyphonic portrait of life under the specter of Islamophobia.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Ramadan is a holy month during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Why do you think the author decided to set the book during Ramadan?
2. How would you describe the relationship between twin sisters Amira and Lina? What moment in the novel best illustrates the dynamic between them?
3. Amira's first-person narration is punctuated by a few sections narrated in the third-person. What effect do the third-person sections have on the way the story unfolds?
4. Surveillance is a big theme in the novel. What are some of the different kinds of watching that happen? What is the relationship between the watcher and the watched?
5. By the end of the book, would you say this is a story about a family being broken apart or a family coming together?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Allegra Goodman

Isola: A Novel

978-0-593-73008-9 | \$28.99/\$38.99C | The Dial Press | HC

📖 978-0-593-73009-6 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-94649-7

📻 LP: 979-82-17-07762-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

A young woman and her lover are marooned on an island in this breathtaking saga, an epic story of love, faith, and defiance from the bestselling author of *Sam*. For readers of *The Marriage Portrait*, *The Paris Wife*, *The Book of Longings*, and *The Vaster Wilds*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Hair to a fortune, Marguerite is destined for a life of prosperity and gentility. Then she is orphaned, and her guardian—an enigmatic and volatile man—spends her inheritance and insists she accompany him on an expedition to New France. Isolated and afraid, Marguerite befriends her guardian's servant and the two develop an intense attraction. But when their relationship is discovered, they are brutally punished and abandoned on a small island with no hope for rescue.

Once a child of privilege who dressed in gowns and laced pearls in her hair, Marguerite finds herself at the mercy of nature. As the weather turns, blanketing the island in ice, she discovers a faith she'd never before needed.

Inspired by the real life of a sixteenth-century heroine, *Isola* is the timeless story of a woman fighting for survival.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Isola* is inspired by the real life of a sixteenth-century heroine. If you could ask the real Marguerite one question, what would you ask?
2. "Everything we treasure has a price. And everything we have will slip away." Reflect on how this quote encapsulates the themes of loss and resilience in Marguerite's story. How does she cope with the continuous loss of her possessions and loved ones?
3. How does Marguerite's relationship with her guardian shape her journey and her perception of power and control? How does it affect her sense of identity and autonomy?
4. Where do different characters draw the line between loyalty and self-preservation?

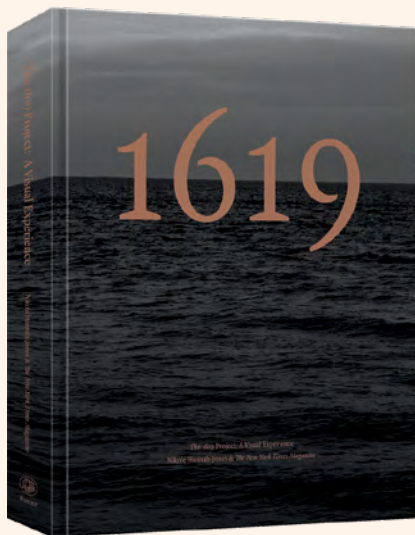
For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Nikole Hannah-Jones;
The New York Times Magazine
The 1619 Project:
A Visual Experience

978-0-593-23225-5 | \$65.00/\$86.00C | Clarkson Potter | HC
📞 978-0-593-23254-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

An illustrated edition of *The 1619 Project*, with newly commissioned artwork and archival images, *The New York Times Magazine's* award-winning reframing of the American founding. For fans of Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be an Antiracist* and Isabel Wilkerson's *Caste*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

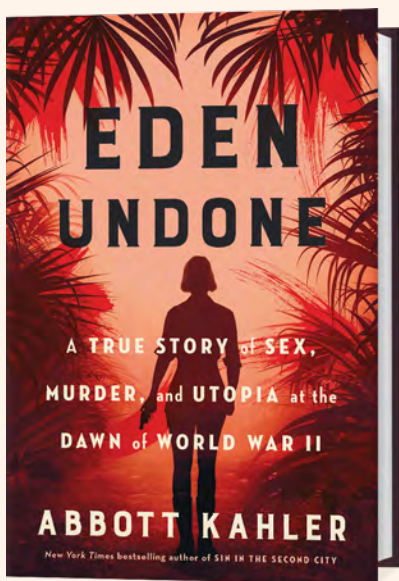
Curated by the editors of *The New York Times Magazine*, led by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, this illustrated edition of *The 1619 Project* features seven chapters from the original book that lend themselves to beautiful, engaging visuals, deepening the experience of the content.

Filled with original art by thirteen Black artists like Carrie Mae Weems and Xaviera Simmons, on the themes of resistance and freedom, a brand-new photo essay about slave auction sites, vivid photos of Black Americans celebrating their own forms of patriotism, and a collection of archival images of Black families by Black photographers, this gorgeous volume offers readers a dynamic new way of experiencing the impact of *The 1619 Project*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Was there a photograph or work of art from *The 1619 Project: A Visual Experience* that stood out most to you? Which was it and why?
2. How have photographs and images factored into exposing the injustices white Americans have visited upon every generation of Black Americans? What events or truths may never have come to light if not for documented visual evidence?
3. What does it mean to reframe our understanding of U.S. history by considering 1619 as our country's origin point? How does that reframing change how we understand the unique problems of the nation today? How does looking at contemporary American life through this lens help us better appreciate the contributions of Black Americans—not just to our culture but to our democracy itself?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/1619IllustratedBCK



Abbott Kahler

Eden Undone:

A True Story of Sex, Murder,
and Utopia at the Dawn of
World War II

978-0-451-49865-6 | \$32.00/\$42.00C | Crown | HC

📖 978-0-451-49867-0 | 📄 DN: 979-8-217-06518-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

An incredible true story of murder, romance, and a fateful search for utopia in the Galápagos—from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Ghosts of Eden Park*. Perfect for fans of Erik Larson, Candice Millard, and Ben Macintyre.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

At the height of the Great Depression, Los Angeles oil mogul George Allan Hancock and his crew of Smithsonian scientists came upon a gruesome scene: two bodies, mummified by the searing heat, on the shore of a remote Galápagos island.

Using never-before-published archives, Abbott Kahler weaves a chilling, stranger-than-fiction tale worthy of Agatha Christie. Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression and the march to World War II, with a mystery as alluring and curious as the Galápagos itself, *Eden Undone* explores the universal and timeless desire to seek utopia—and lays bare the human fallibility that, inevitably, renders such a quest doomed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you understand why Dore and Friedrich made the decision to leave their lives behind and go to the Galápagos Islands? Would you have taken—or would you now take—such a risk?
2. Do you believe Dore and Friedrich truly loved each other?
3. Were Dore and Friedrich prepared for the challenges they would face on Floreana? If you were in their shoes, what might you have done differently?
4. Heinz's first wife, the mother of teenage Harry, had reservations about the sick boy joining Heinz and Margret in the Galápagos. Was Heinz right to bring him, or would Harry have been better off in Germany with his mother? If Harry were your child, what would you have done?
5. What do you think of Margret's decision to give birth on the Galápagos? Would you have taken such a risk?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/EdenUndoneBCK

Kevin Kwan
Lies and Weddings:
A Novel

978-0-385-54629-4 | \$29.00 | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-69541-1 | \$36.95C | Doubleday Canada | HC
978-0-385-54630-0 | CD: 978-0-593-82229-6
DN: 978-0-593-29359-1 | LP: 978-0-593-86270-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For fans of *The White Lotus* and *Succession*;
readers of Emily Henry, Taylor Jenkins Reid,
Condé Nast Traveler, and rom-coms.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Sizzling with scandals to discuss and hot topics to debate, *Lies and Weddings* is the ultimate selection if your book club settles for nothing less than five-star intrigue. In this globe-trotting comedy of manners, Kevin Kwan—the iconic bestselling author of the *Crazy Rich Asians* trilogy—sends us an engraved invitation to the world’s most exclusive gatherings as we accompany Rufus Leung Gresham, future Earl of Greshamsbury and son of a former Hong Kong supermodel, on his quest for a suitable wife.

Of course, his mother’s definition of “suitable” is an heiress with a royal bloodline who can rescue the Gresham Trust from financial ruin after decades of overspending. After that plan is dashed by a hot mic, a megawealthy matchmaker recommends a different direction: Martha Dung, a tattooed venture capitalist. Or should Rufus follow his heart and finally confess his love to a humble beauty named Eden Tong, who lacks a fortune but has been his lifelong refuge through thick and thin?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do men have more power than women within the families and societies of *Lies and Weddings*? Or is gender irrelevant, with power being derived through other factors?
2. Rufus is caught between his mother’s expectations and his true self. How does he balance being dutiful with finding fulfillment?
3. Eden shares common ground with Freddy, whose Iranian mother died when he was younger. How are Eden and Freddy shaped by the loss of a parent and by their global upbringing?
4. As you experienced the various wedding locales and venues (including nuptials in a hot-air balloon), which one appealed to you the most?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Julie Leong
**The Teller of
Small Fortunes**

978-0-593-81591-5 | \$19.00/\$25.99C | Ace | TR
📞 978-0-593-81590-8 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-94274-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

A wandering fortune teller finds an unexpected family in this warm and wonderful debut fantasy, perfect for fans of Travis Baldree and Sangu Mandanna.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Tao is an immigrant fortune teller, traveling between villages with just her trusty mule for company. She only tells “small” fortunes: whether it will hail next week; which boy the barmaid will kiss; when the cow will calve. She knows from bitter experience that big fortunes come with big consequences.

But a small fortune unexpectedly becomes something more when a (semi)reformed thief and an ex-mercenary recruit her into their desperate search for a lost child. Soon, they're joined by a baker with a knead for adventure, and—of course—a slightly magical cat.

Tao sets down a new path with companions as bighearted as her fortunes are small. But as she lowers her walls, the shadows of her past close in—and she'll have to decide whether to risk everything to preserve the family she never thought she could have.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How have Tao, Mash, Silt, and Kina each changed—or not changed—by the end of the book?
2. Does Tao's experience of being an immigrant caught between cultures resonate with any experiences from your own childhood?
3. What stance do you think the book takes on people being driven by free will versus fate? What are the most important choices that Tao makes throughout the book?
4. Who or what would you consider the “villain” of the story? Is there one?
5. How does Tao's experience of gaining a found family change her view of the world? Do you think it has any bearing on the resolution of her problems with her mother?
6. Did you find the ending of the book satisfying? What do you imagine will happen next to each of the characters?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TellerofSmallFortunesBCK

Claire Lombardo
**Same as
It Ever Was:**
A Novel

978-0-385-54955-4 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Doubleday | HC
978-0-385-54956-1 | ♻️ DN: 978-0-593-86553-8
LP: 978-0-593-91530-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of Ann Patchett, Jonathan Franzen,
Tayari Jones, Celeste Ng, and Jenny Jackson.



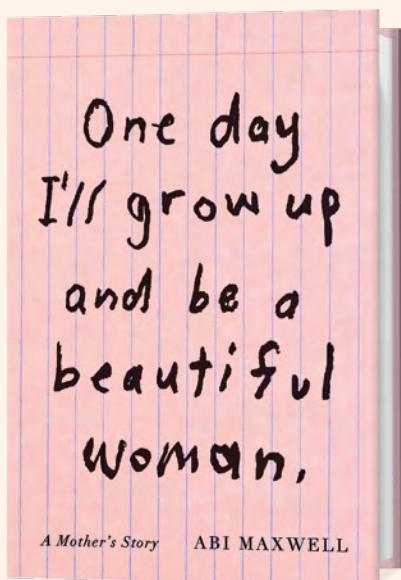
ABOUT THE BOOK:

Claire Lombardo, author of the acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller *The Most Fun We Ever Had*, returns with the mesmerizing story of a life marked by loss and longing but redeemed by enduring devotion. Brimming with Lombardo's signature wry wit and captivating storytelling, *Same As It Ever Was* begins in the most familiar of places: a grocery store, where Julia Ames is prepping for her husband's sixtieth birthday party. A chance encounter there propels her to a decidedly unfamiliar place emotionally, reunited with the memories of her turbulent past. As Julia confronts hard truths about her deeply rooted fears, she retraces the crossroads of her career, her marriage, and her parenting, even as she struggles to accept that her son and daughter are navigating adulthood with maps of their own making. A poignant meditation on family and fate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you were first introduced to Helen Russo, what were your hunches about her history with Julia? As their story unfolded, what did you observe about the basis of their friendship? What did they ultimately need from each other?
2. What were the greatest sources of tension in Mark and Julia's marriage? What were the sturdiest strands—emotional or otherwise—that held their relationship together and strengthened it over the years?
3. Are Ben and Sunny embarking on a marriage of equals? How is their attitude toward parenting different from that of their parents?
4. What transformations does Julia undergo in the closing scenes? How did those scenes impact the way you view your own relationships? Which moments from your life would you like to experience as a freeze frame?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Abi Maxwell

One Day I'll Grow Up and Be a Beautiful Woman:

A Mother's Story

978-0-593-53584-4 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Knopf | HC

📞 978-0-593-53585-1 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-94843-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For parents of LGBTQ kids, fans of *This is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel, *Gender Born*, *Gender Made* by Diane Ehrensaft, and readers of *Educated* by Tara Westover.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Abi Maxwell grew up in rural New Hampshire, one of eight kids in a poor town abutting a wealthier lakeside village. As a young couple, Maxwell and her husband planned not to have kids, but when Maxwell became pregnant, she knew she wanted to raise her child near the mountains and lake of her youth. When her six-year-old, who was known to the world as a boy, asks to wear pink sneakers, asks to be a witch for Halloween, asks to wear a girl's dance costume, Abi worries about how their small community will react. But when that child changes her name, grows her hair long, and announces that she is a girl, a firestorm engulfs the family.

Weaving together the story of her own youth, marked by long afternoons skiing the mountains, a cottage on the lake, and a proud gay brother, but also by neglect and bullying that pushed her brother to the brink, Abi Maxwell contends with the rural America where she was raised and, years later, where she is now raising her daughter, as lawmakers nationwide push to erase the very existence of trans youth. Intimate and stirring, this book is essential reading for this moment in our history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Small-town Yankees are notoriously suspicious of outsiders. Despite the Maxwell family's deep roots in Gilford, New Hampshire, they are made to feel like others. How does this betrayal of "one of their own" affect your perception of Gilford's residents? Of small towns in general?
2. Abi's brother Noah, although absent, is a central character in this book. How do his experiences inform Greta's story? How do they affect Abi's reactions to the town's bigotry?
3. The author writes, "we had an old rainbow flag nailed to our garage in the center of a street lined with crisp American flags." What values underlie the displaying of these two flags? Are they mutually exclusive, or can one be both an LGBTQ+ ally and a proud American?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

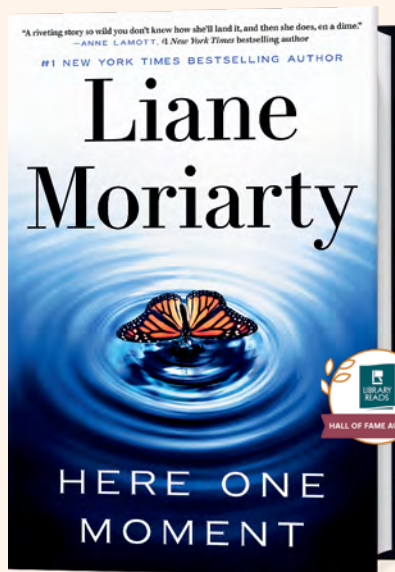
Liane Moriarty

Here One Moment

978-0-593-79860-7 | \$30.00 | Crown | HC
978-0-385-69979-2 | \$38.00C | Doubleday Canada | HC
📞 978-0-593-79861-4 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-94827-9
📧 LP: 979-8-217-01429-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

From the beloved author of *Big Little Lies* and *Apples Never Fall* comes a moving novel of love, marriage, family, and trying to find certainty in a fragile world. Perfect for fans of Jodi Picoult and Celeste Ng.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Aside from a delay, there will be no problems. The flight will be smooth, it will land safely. Everyone who gets on the plane will get off. But almost all of them will be forever changed.

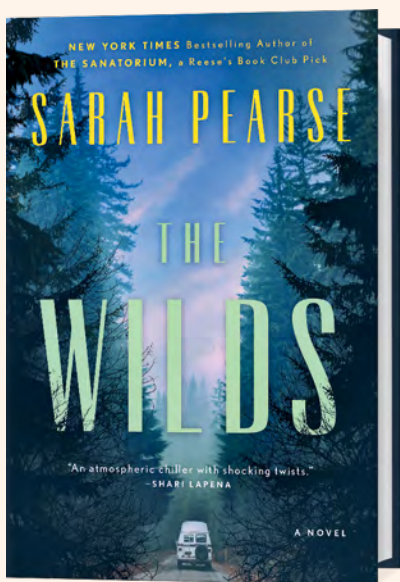
Because on this ordinary flight, something extraordinary happens. People learn how and when they are going to die. And for six passengers, their predicted deaths are not far away at all.

Liane Moriarty's *Here One Moment* is a brilliantly constructed tale that looks at free will and destiny, grief and love, and the endless struggle to maintain certainty and control in an uncertain world. A modern-day Jane Austen who humorously skewers social mores while spinning a web of mystery, Moriarty asks profound questions in her newest I-can't-wait-to-find-out-what-happens novel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Would you do anything differently if you knew the exact date you were going to die?
2. How did your opinion about Cherry change from when you first started the book to when you finished it?
3. Cherry calls herself "the butterfly" and "the agent of chaos." What does she mean?
4. How do the passengers handle Cherry's predictions in the days, weeks, and months after the flight? Do you think their lives would have unfolded differently had it been an uneventful trip? Whose story—or fate—did you feel most invested in?
5. Do you believe that fate can be fought? Can it be changed? Do you think Cherry's predictions were based on fate or helped put events in motion?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/HereOneMomentBCK



Sarah Pearse

The Wilds:

A Novel

978-0-593-65404-0 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Pamela Dorman Books | HC
📖 978-0-593-65405-7 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-90865-5

READERS' ADVISORY:

Detective Elin Warner unravels the mystery behind the disappearance of a young woman in a propulsive new thriller from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Sanatorium*. For fans of Ruth Ware, Shari Lapena, and Riley Sager.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Since the dark events that scarred her childhood, Kier Templer escaped her hometown to live life on the road. She and her twin have never lost contact until, on a trip to a Portuguese national park, Kier vanishes without a trace.

Detective Elin Warner arrives in the same park ready to immerse herself in its vast wilderness—only to hear about Kier's disappearance, and discover a disturbing map she left behind. The few strangers at an isolated campsite close ranks against Elin's questions, and the park's wild beauty starts to turn sinister.

Elin must untangle the clues to find out what really happened to Kier. But when you follow a trail, you have to be careful to watch your back.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *The Wilds* follows two sets of siblings: Elin and Isaac, and Kier and Penn. Do you see any similarities in the two relationships? If so, what? How do their relationships differ? What are the strengths of each?
2. The novel is set in the wilderness of a Portuguese national park. How much of a role do you think this landscape plays in the novel?
3. In *The Wilds*, both Detective Elin Warner and Kier are struggling to move on from troubling past relationships. Have you ever been in a relationship that you found it hard to move on from? If so, why?
4. Throughout the novel, we see Kier questioning herself and the actions of others. How much do you think her past and childhood influence this self-doubt? Do you think it makes her more vulnerable to what then happens in the book?
5. Were you expecting any of the reveals that occur during the book? Did the ending come as a surprise to you? Why or why not?

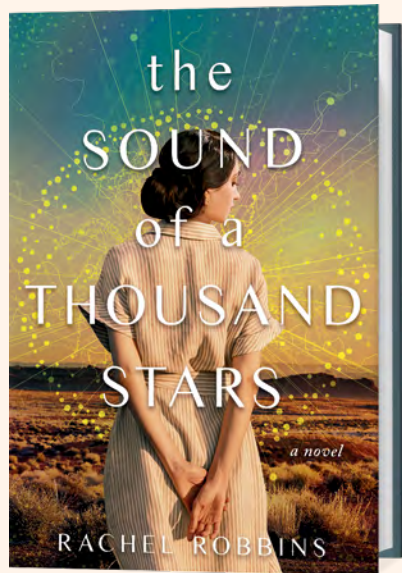
For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TheWildsRG

Rachel Robbins
**The Sound of a
Thousand Stars:**
A Novel

978-1-63910-896-1 | \$29.99/\$39.99C | Alcove Press | HC
978-1-63910-897-8 | DN: 979-82-17-06658-2

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers interested in WWII historical fiction
and fans of Kate Quinn and Bonnie Garmus.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Oppenheimer meets *Hidden Figures* in this sweeping historical debut where two Jewish physicists form an inseverable bond amidst fear and uncertainty.

Alice Katz is a young Jewish physicist, one of the only female doctoral students at her university, studying with the famed Dr. Oppenheimer. Her well-to-do family wants her to marry a man of her class and settle down. Instead, Alice answers her country's call to come to an unnamed city in the desert to work on a government project shrouded in secrecy.

At Los Alamos, Alice meets Caleb Blum, a poor Orthodox Jew who has been assigned to the explosives division. Around them are other young scientists and engineers who have quietly left their university posts to come live in the desert.

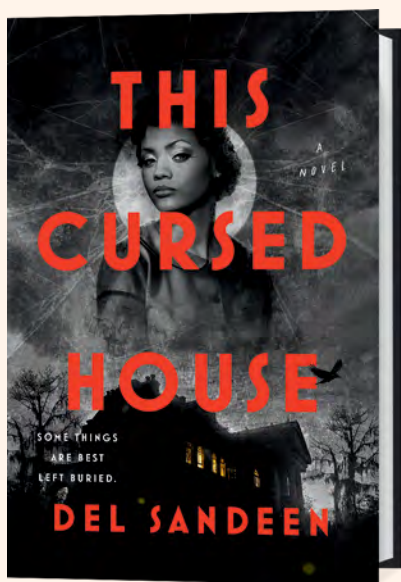
No one seems to know exactly what they are working on—what they do know is that it is a race and that they must beat the Nazis in developing an unspeakable weapon. In this atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, and despite their many differences, Alice and Caleb find themselves drawn to one another.

Inspired by the author's grandparents, *The Sound of a Thousand Stars* is a propulsive novel about love in desperate times, the consequences of our decisions, and the roles we play in history.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The term "woman scientist" is used often in the text because, during the novel's period, "scientist" was assumed to mean male. What other instances of racism, sexism, or ableism did you notice in the novel?
2. What do you think of the author's decision to include the Japanese perspective? Instead of focusing on the past, what might the book's narrative imply about the future?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



Del Sandeen

This Cursed House

978-0-593-63952-8 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Berkley | HC
📞 978-0-593-63953-5 | 📄 DN: 978-0-593-91390-1

READERS' ADVISORY:

In this Southern gothic horror debut, a young Black woman abandons her life in 1960s Chicago for a position with a mysterious family in New Orleans, only to discover the dark truth: They're under a curse, and they think she can break it. For fans of *Get Out* and readers of *Mexican Gothic*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In the fall of 1962, twenty-seven-year-old Jemma Barker is desperate to escape her life in Chicago—and the spirits she has always been able to see. When she receives an unexpected job offer from the Duchon family in New Orleans, she accepts, thinking it is her chance to start over.

But Jemma discovers that the Duchon family isn't what it seems. And soon the shocking truth comes out: The Duchons are under a curse. And they think Jemma has the power to break it.

As Jemma wrestles with the gift she's run from all her life, she unravels deeper and more disturbing secrets about the mysterious Duchons. Secrets that stretch back over a century. Secrets that bind her to their fate if she fails.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If Jemma's adoptive father had been accepting of and loving toward her, do you think she would have approached her relationship to the Duchons differently?
2. The Duchon family has been trapped on their property for decades, and they're also under a death curse. In what other ways are they cursed?
3. Forgiveness is an important theme of the book. Do you think that forgiving someone is the best way to free yourself from anger and other emotions, or do you believe that there are more effective ways for one to find emotional freedom?
4. Both Jemma and Inès can see ghosts, but they choose to ignore them. How does their choice to do so negatively impact their lives?
5. At the end of the book, when Jemma introduces herself by her birth name, what do you think it means in terms of her acceptance of herself and what she will do going forward?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ThisCursedHouseBCK

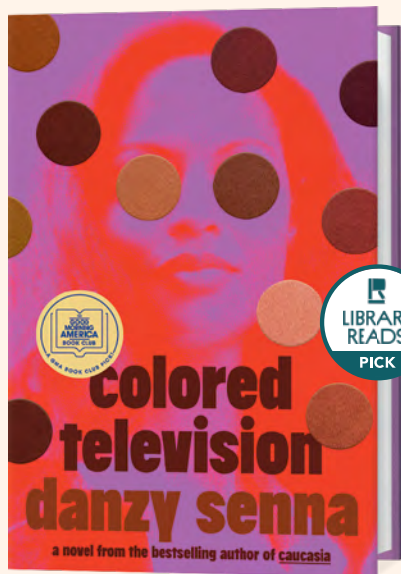
Danzy Senna

Colored Television: A Novel

978-0-593-54437-2 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Riverhead | HC
978-0-593-54439-6 | DN: 978-0-593-86767-9

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *The Sellout* and *Yellowface*, a brilliant dark comedy about second acts, creative appropriation, and the racial identity-industrial complex.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

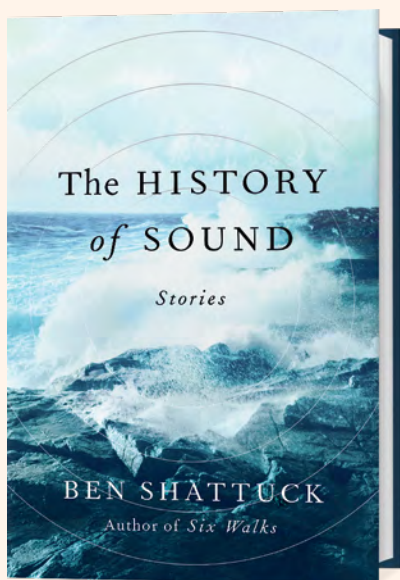
Jane has high hopes her life is about to turn around. After years of living precariously, she, her painter husband, Lenny, and their two kids have landed a stint as house sitters in a friend's luxurious home high in the hills above Los Angeles, a gig that coincides magically with Jane's sabbatical. If she can just finish her latest novel, *Nusu Nusu*, she'll have tenure and some semblance of stability and success within her grasp.

But things don't work out quite as hoped. In search of a plan B, Jane turns to Hollywood. When she finagles a meeting with a hot young producer to create "diverse content" for a streaming network, he seems excited to work with a "real writer" to create what he envisions as the greatest biracial comedy ever to hit the small screen. Things finally seem to be going right for Jane—until they go terribly wrong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *Colored Television* is the intimate story of a marriage and family, and also a barbed satire of Hollywood and what Danzy Senna has dubbed "the racial-identity industrial complex." How do the two storylines intersect, both plot-wise and thematically? Which aspect resonated with you most strongly?
2. Jane's dream of professional success seems to be constantly at war with her dream of nurturing a perfect family; when she strives to succeed in one realm, she always feels she is failing in the other. How does her dilemma speak to the plight of women trying to "have it all" today? How does the novel reckon with that desire?
3. Jane and Lenny's marriage was in a sense arranged, unbeknownst to Lenny, by a psychic Jane consulted. What role do fate and free will play in their relationship? Does it matter ultimately?
4. Both Jane and Hampton appear to be guilty of creative theft at different points in the story. What do you think the novel is trying to say about appropriation? About the nature of originality and imitation as it pertains to art?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/ColoredTelevisionRG



Ben Shattuck

The History of Sound: Stories

978-0-593-49038-9 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Viking | HC
📞 978-0-593-49039-6 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-90859-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

For readers of *Tinkers* and *Caleb's Crossing*, a stunning collection of interconnected stories set in New England, exploring how the past is often misunderstood and how history, family, heartache, and desire can echo over centuries.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

In twelve luminous stories set across three centuries, *The History of Sound* examines the unexpected ways the past returns to us and how love and loss are entwined and transformed over generations.

Shattuck's inventive, exquisite stories transport readers from 1700s Nantucket to the contemporary woods of New Hampshire and beyond—into landscapes both enduring and unmistakably modern. Memories, artifacts, paintings, and journals resurface in surprising and poignant ways among evocative beaches, forests, and orchards, revealing the secrets, misunderstandings, and love that linger across centuries.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The collection is deeply concerned with what we pass on, knowingly or unwittingly, over generations. Is there a particular object in your life that you think might have significance on a future generation?
2. How does the northeastern landscape contribute to the overall atmosphere and mood of the book? Can you draw any parallels between the physical setting and the emotional or psychological state of the characters? How does your immediate environment impact your life?
3. Discuss the theme of home and belonging as it appears across these stories. How do the characters define and redefine home over time? How do you think about home?
4. Many of the transcendent moments in *The History of Sound* are spurred by a character's realization about the natural world. Do you turn to nature when you're seeking clarity? What have you found there?
5. Considering the dialogue between past and present that connects each story, did reading this collection make you think differently about how you view the past?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/HistoryofSoundRG

Elizabeth Strout
**Tell Me
Everything:**
A Novel

978-0-593-44609-6 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Random House | HC
📍 978-0-593-44610-2 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-66950-1
📻 CD: 978-0-593-66948-8

READERS' ADVISORY:
AN OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author comes a “stunner” (*People*) of a novel about new friendships, old loves, and the very human desire to leave a mark on the world. For fans of Anne Tyler, Daniel Mason, and Michael Cunningham.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

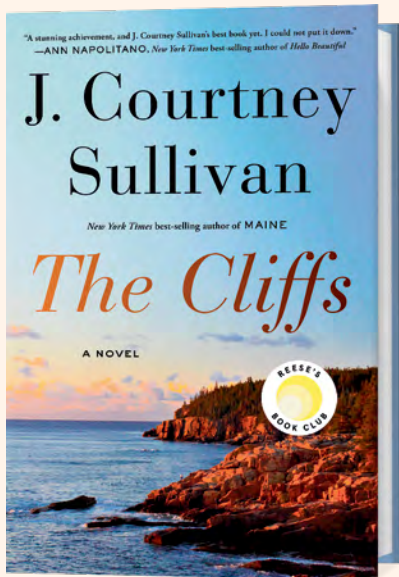
With her remarkable insight into the human condition and silences that contain multitudes, Elizabeth Strout returns to the town of Crosby, Maine, and to her beloved cast of characters—Lucy Barton, Olive Kitteridge, Bob Burgess, and more—as they deal with a shocking crime in their midst, fall in love and yet choose to be apart, and grapple with the question, as Lucy Barton puts it, “What does anyone’s life mean?”

It’s autumn in Maine, and the town lawyer Bob Burgess has become enmeshed in an unfolding murder investigation, defending a lonely, isolated man accused of killing his mother. He has also fallen into a deep and abiding friendship with the acclaimed writer Lucy Barton, who lives down the road in a house by the sea with her ex-husband, William. Lucy, meanwhile, is finally introduced to the iconic Olive Kitteridge. They spend afternoons together in Olive’s apartment, telling each other stories. Stories about people they have known, reanimating them, and, in the process, imbuing their lives with meaning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Elizabeth Strout use the character of Lucy Barton to explore the concept of empathy? What did you learn about your own capacity for radical empathy?
2. How does the murder investigation affect the dynamics between the characters, particularly Bob Burgess and Lucy?
3. Discuss the relationship between Lucy and her ex-husband, William. How does their past influence their current interactions? Have you ever been involved in a similarly complicated and shifting relationship, romantic or otherwise?
4. How does Strout explore the theme of isolation in the novel? Which characters do you think feel the most isolated, and why? How does this theme show up in your own life?
5. What does the novel suggest about the nature of love and its various forms?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TellMeEverythingBookClubKit



J. Courtney Sullivan
The Cliffs:
A Novel

978-0-593-31915-4 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Knopf | HC

📖 978-0-593-31916-1 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-90708-5

📖 LP: 978-0-593-94677-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK

For readers of Curtis Sittenfeld, Emma Straub, Kiley Reid, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Sarah Blake, and Meg Wolitzer.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

On a secluded bluff overlooking the ocean sits a Victorian house, lavender with gingerbread trim, a home that contains a century's worth of secrets. By the time Jane Flanagan discovers the house as a teenager, it has long been abandoned. The place is an irresistible mystery to Jane. There are still clothes in the closets, marbles rolling across the floors, and dishes in the cupboards, even though no one has set foot there in decades. The house becomes a hideaway for Jane, a place to escape her volatile mother.

Twenty years later, now a Harvard archivist, she returns home to Maine following a terrible mistake that threatens both her career and her marriage. Jane is horrified to find the Victorian is now barely recognizable. The new owner, Genevieve, a summer person from Beacon Hill, has gutted it. Strangely, Genevieve is convinced that the house is haunted. She hires Jane to research the history of the place and the women who lived there. The story Jane uncovers—of lovers lost at sea, romantic longing, shattering loss, artistic awakening, historical artifacts stolen and sold, and the long shadow of colonialism—is even older than Maine itself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

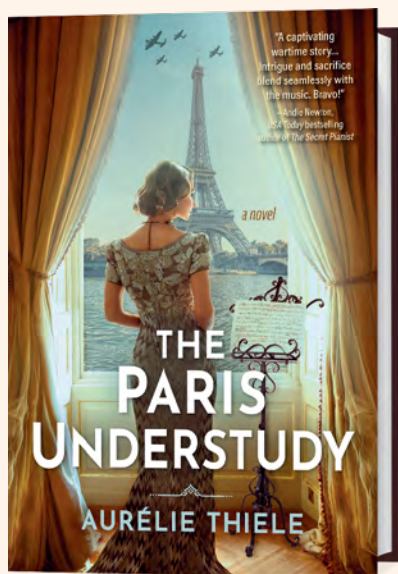
1. Why is Jane drawn to the violet-colored Victorian house? What forms of refuge does it provide to her, despite its dilapidated condition?
2. Do you believe that the dead can communicate with the living? Is there any harm done at places like Camp Mira?
3. Discuss the novel's many different depictions of motherhood and childhood, including Genevieve's recounting of her own painful girlhood.
4. J. Courtney Sullivan's storytelling provides a distinctive perspective on life's turning points. Which turning points resonated with you the most in *The Cliffs* and in her previous novels that you have read?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Aurélie Thiele
The Paris Understudy:
A Novel

978-1-63910-861-9 | \$30.99/\$40.99C | Alcove Press | HC
978-1-63910-862-6

READERS' ADVISORY:
For fans of Kate Quinn, Kristen Harmel,
Pam Jenoff and Fiona Davis.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

This powerful debut novel brings to life the hard choices Parisians made—or failed to make—under Nazi occupation.

1938. Paris Opera legend Madeleine Moreau must keep newcomer Yvonne Chevallier, whose talent she fears, off the stage. As the long-standing star of the opera, she is nowhere near ready to give up her spotlight. The perfect solution: enlist Yvonne as her understudy so she can never be upstaged. When Madeleine is invited to headline at Germany's preeminent opera festival, she is sure this will cement her legacy. But war is looming, and when she learns that Adolf Hitler himself will be in attendance, she knows she's made a grave error. As Madeleine makes a hurried escape back to France, Yvonne finds herself unexpectedly thrown into the limelight on the German stage.

Painting an enrapturing portrait of resilient wartime women, *The Paris Understudy* is a love letter to the arts and a stark depiction of the choices we make to survive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did family (or the lack of family) influence the choices Yvonne made? What about Madeleine?
2. If you'd been in Yvonne's shoes, what would you have done differently either before or during the war?
3. Was there a specific moment where you knew Yvonne was headed for big-time trouble but she didn't know?
4. Can you relate to Madeleine's fear of no longer excelling at the one thing she takes pride in being best at?
5. Why did Henri and Madeleine behave so differently toward the Nazis, despite being married to each other?
6. What do you think will happen to Yvonne and Madeleine after the novel ends? Do you think Yvonne and Jules will ever repair their relationship?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)



David F. Walker;
Marcus Kwame Anderson
**Big Jim and the
White Boy:**
An American Classic Reimagined

978-0-593-83611-8 | \$35.00/\$48.00C | Ten Speed Graphic | HC
TR: 978-1-984-85772-9 | 978-1-984-85773-6

READERS' ADVISORY:

A graphic novel reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—from the team behind the Eisner Award-winning *The Black Panther Party*. For readers of modern retellings of classic literature such as *Anne of West Philly* and *The Secret Garden on 81st Street*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Big Jim and the White Boy is a radical retelling of this American classic, centering the experiences of Jim, an enslaved Black man in search of his kidnapped wife and children, along with his cheeky sidekick, Huckleberry Finn. Jim and Huck's high-stakes adventures take them on an epic voyage across the antebellum South and Midwest, through Confederate war camps and runaway safe houses, into Old West standoffs, and on the road as covert Underground Railroad agents.

Intertwined into the story of Jim and Huck are the stories of Jim's descendants in the 1930s, 1980s, and 2020s, making this a multigenerational family epic as well as an adventure story. Big Jim and the White Boy takes readers on a journey through Jim and Huck's past, present, and future, delving into their incredible friendship and years of adventures—a bond that transcends the gruesome racism of the Civil War era.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is deemed an American classic? Why do you think writers and artists keep finding new ways of telling that story?
2. Huck says, "People with good sense ain't got the kind of bad sense it takes to live the kind of life that leads to anything interesting." Do you agree?
3. How does the story convey the origins behind the inspiration of Huck Finn? Does that context enhance the book? Why?
4. What do you think of the professor's critique of Jim's story as told by Twain? Why do you think she is included?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/BigJimBCK

Kate Weinberg There's Nothing Wrong with Her

978-0-593-71736-3 | \$27.00/\$37.00C | Putnam | HC
📍 978-0-593-71737-0 | 📖 DUN: 978-0-593-86517-0

READERS' ADVISORY:

A raw, tenderly comic, and perfectly off-kilter novel about a woman who occasionally finds herself in “The Pit”—a delirious state of semiconsciousness—and the improbable, sometimes imagined people who meet her there. For fans of *Nightbitch* and *Fleabag*.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Vita Woods is on the brink. As much as things are going right, Vita spends long, blurred hours falling in and out of The Pit, dead to the world and to herself. For months, Vita has been sick with an illness that no doctor can diagnose. And recently, Luigi, a Renaissance poet nursing a 500-year-old heartbreak, has started showing up at her bedside, bringing snacks and unsolicited romantic advice. He says he's come to release her. The issue is: he may be a ghost, an apparition of her sickly mind.

Something about her “condition” keeps nagging at her. What if the problem is Vita herself? Because as far as anyone can prove . . . there's nothing wrong with her.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *There's Nothing Wrong with Her* is largely set in Vita's apartment building and the depths of her mind: The Pit. What do you think of author Kate Weinberg's decision to render a character's interiority as a chief part of the story's setting?
2. The title *There's Nothing Wrong with Her* signals how society often neglects invisible illness. But what is wrong with Vita? Discuss how your relationships—with others and with yourself—can impact your health, both mental and physical.
3. As Vita battles The Pit, she's visited by many ghosts: her sister, ex-boyfriends, and even sixteenth-century poet Luigi da Porto. In what ways does The Pit function as a haunting of the past, and in what ways is it a manifestation of regret, guilt, or grief?
4. Music plays a healing role in this story. What songs or artists do you listen to when you're feeling down?
5. Whitney Houston and her fishbowl are a prominent motif. Discuss what Whitney and the fishbowl might symbolize. What did you make of the way the fishbowl was jeopardized near the end of the novel?

For more discussion questions visit: TinyUrl.com/TheresNothingWrongwithHerRG



Charmaine Wilkerson
Good Dirt:
A Novel

978-0-593-35836-8 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Ballantine Books | HC

📞 978-0-593-35837-5 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-50524-3

📺 LP: 979-82-17-07034-3

READERS' ADVISORY:

The daughter of an affluent Black family pieces together the connection between a childhood tragedy and a beloved heirloom in this moving novel from the bestselling author of *Black Cake*. For readers of *The Vanishing Half*, *Homegoing*, and *The Girl with the Louding Voice*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

When ten-year-old Ebby Freeman heard the gunshot, time stopped. And when she saw her brother, Baz, lying on the floor surrounded by the shattered pieces of a centuries-old jar, life as Ebby knew it shattered as well.

The crime was never solved—and because the Freemans were one of the only Black families in a particularly well-to-do enclave of New England—the case has had an enduring, voyeuristic pull for the public. The last thing the Freemans want is another media frenzy, but when Ebby's high profile romance falls apart, that's exactly what they get.

So Ebby flees to France. And as she tries to process what's happened, she begins to think about the other loss her family suffered on that day eighteen years ago—the stoneware jar that had been in their family for generations, brought North by an enslaved ancestor. Little does she know that the handcrafted piece of pottery held more than just her family's history—it might also hold the key to unlocking her own future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. "There was the moment before and there would be everything after." Prior to the shooting, the flashbacks to Baz and Ebby's childhood depict them as carefree siblings with a strong bond. How does this before-and-after mentality shape the way Ebby sees her life? How does Baz's death haunt Ebby throughout her adult life?
2. What was your favorite part of the story? Favorite location and time period? The character who interested you the most?
3. Ebby's decision to take refuge in a small French village after her wedding is called off is a pivotal moment. What do you think she was hoping to find in France, and how does this setting contrast with her life in the United States?
4. Throughout the novel, Ebby's physical appearance changes dramatically—her hair color shifts, and she experiments with different looks. How do you interpret these changes in the context of her emotional journey?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

Nicola Yoon
One of Our Kind:
A Novel

978-0-593-47067-1 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Knopf | HC

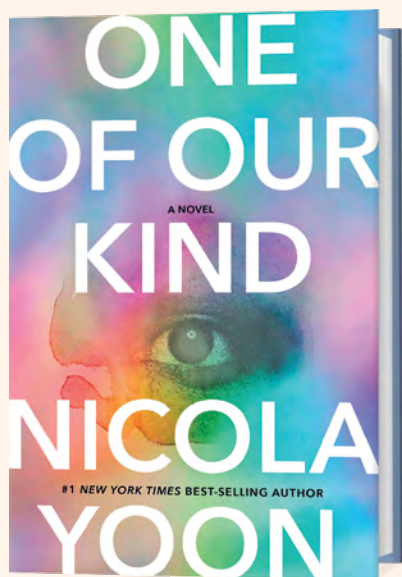
📖 978-0-593-47069-5 | 📻 DN: 978-0-593-86917-8

📱 LP: 978-0-593-94679-4

READERS' ADVISORY:

A LIBRARYREADS BONUS PICK

For fans of *The Other Black Girl*, *The Stepford Wives*,
and Jordan Peele's movies.



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Jasmyn and King Williams move their family to the planned Black utopia of Liberty, California hoping to find a community of like-minded people, a place where their growing family can thrive. King settles in at once, embracing the Liberty ethos, including the luxe wellness center at the top of the hill, which proves to be the heart of the community. But Jasmyn struggles to find her place. She expected to find liberals and social justice activists striving for racial equality, but Liberty residents seem more focused on booking spa treatments and ignoring the world's troubles.

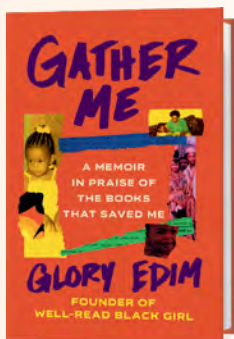
Jasmyn's only friends in the community are equally perplexed and frustrated by most residents' outlook. Then Jasmyn discovers a terrible secret about Liberty and its founders. Frustration turns to dread as their loved ones start embracing the Liberty way of life. Will the truth destroy her world in ways she never could have imagined?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The book's ending is both tragic and provocative. Why do you think it ends the way that it does?
2. What role does the horror of racism play in the creation of Liberty?
3. Who do you consider to be the victims in the novel? In what ways are the book's villains also victims themselves?
4. As the genre of social horror continues to grow, what does this book contribute to the conversation?
5. Pregnancy is often used in the horror genre as a clock and also as a device to magnify the powerlessness of a situation. In what ways did Jasmyn's impending birth impact your reading experience?
6. How are Eurocentric standards of beauty used to foreshadow the outcome of the story?

For more discussion questions visit: [PenguinRandomHouseLibrary.com](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/library)

TITLES FOR TEEN BOOK GROUPS



Glory Edim

Gather Me:

A Memoir in Praise of the Books That Saved Me

978-0-525-61979-6 | \$28.00/\$37.99C | Ballantine Books | HC

📞 978-0-525-61980-2 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-61488-4

A “dramatic [and] ingeniously crafted” (*Los Angeles Times*) memoir of family, community, and resilience, and an ode to the power of books to help us understand ourselves, from the renowned founder of Well-Read Black Girl.



Marcela Fuentes

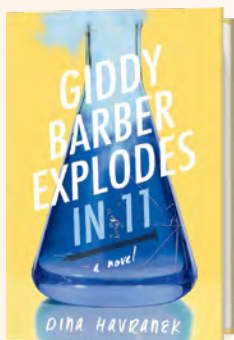
Malas:

A Novel

978-0-593-65578-8 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Viking | HC

📞 978-0-593-65579-5 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-90875-4 | 📖 LP: 978-0-593-91541-7

A story full of passion and revenge, following one family living on the Texas Mexico border and a curse that reverberates across generations, perfect for fans of Charmaine Wilkerson and Erika Sanchez.



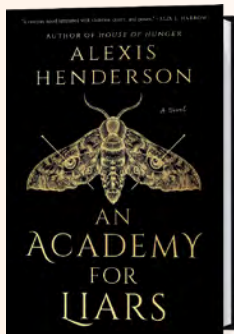
Dina Havranek

Giddy Barber Explodes in 11

978-1-682-63714-2 | \$19.99/26.99C | Peachtree Teen | HC

📞 978-1-682-63715-9 | 📖 DN 978-0-593-94695-4

The hilarious and heartening story of a teen girl who makes several astonishingly terrible decisions in an effort to find the support she needs.



Alexis Henderson

An Academy for Liars

978-0-593-63830-9 | \$29.00/\$39.00C | Ace | HC

📞 978-0-593-63831-6 | 📖 DN: 978-0-593-91132-7

A student will find that the hardest lessons sometimes come outside the classroom in this stunning dark academia novel from the acclaimed author of *The Year of the Witching* and *House of Hunger*.

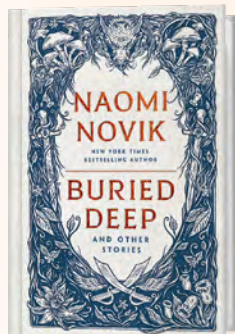
Naomi Novik

Buried Deep and Other Stories

978-0-593-60035-1 | \$30.00/\$39.99C | Del Rey | HC

📞 978-0-593-60036-8 | ♿ DN: 978-0-593-82451-1 | 📺 LP: 979-82-17-01395-1

From the dragon-filled Temeraire series and the gothic magical halls of the Scholomance trilogy, through the realms next door to *Spinning Silver* and *Uprooted*, this stunning collection takes us from fairy tale to fantasy, myth to history, and mystery to science fiction as we travel through Naomi Novik's most beloved stories.



Suja Sukumar

When Mimi Went Missing

9781641295369 | \$19.99/\$25.99C | Soho Teen | HC

📞 9781641295376

The splintered relationship between two Indian American cousins is at the center of this dark, twisty YA mystery—perfect for fans of Tiffany D. Jackson, Karen McManus, and Angeline Boulley.



Mason Stokes

All the Truth I Can Stand

978-1-662-68088-5 | \$18.99/\$24.99C | Calkins Creek | HC

📞 978-1-662-68087-8

A gay teenager in 1990s Wyoming must contend with the violent loss of a loved one in this historical YA novel that draws from the tragic murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998.



Allen Zadoff

The Donut Prince of New York

9780823456635 | \$18.99/\$25.99C | Holiday House | HC

📞 9780823461356

Follow Eugene Guterman's journey from theater kid to football star in this heartfelt high school story about self-discovery, staying true to yourself, and finding love. Perfect for fans of coming-of-age stories with a unique twist.





Mercedes Guerrero
**La sinfonía de Julia/
 Julia's Symphony**

978-84-253-6567-6 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Grijalbo | HC

The author of *The Dance of the Puppets*, the literary phenomenon that soars in Spain, the United States, and Mexico, returns.



Freida McFadden
**La empleada te vigila/
 The Housemaid Is Watching**

979-88-909820-5-6 | \$19.95/\$25.95C | Vintage Español | TR

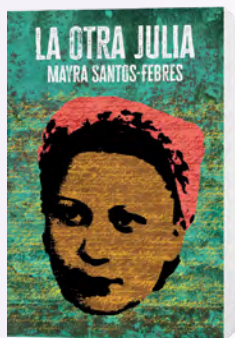
From *New York Times*, *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author Freida McFadden comes the next installment of the unbelievably twisty, tension-packed and globally bestselling Housemaid series.



Sally Rooney
Intermezzo (Spanish Edition)

978-84-397-4403-0 | \$24.95/\$33.95C | Literatura Random House | TR

An exquisitely moving story about grief, love, and family—but especially love—from the global phenomenon Sally Rooney.



Mayra Santos-Febres
La otra Julia/The Other Julia

979-88-909811-6-5 | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Vintage Español | TR

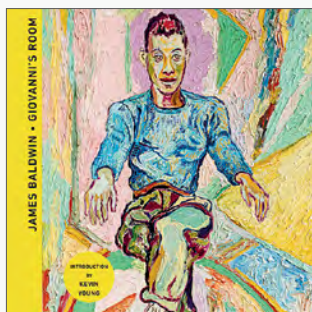
The short and intense life of Julia de Burgos as told by an author who shows us another side of the iconic Puerto Rican poet.

Winner of a John S. Guggenheim fellowship.

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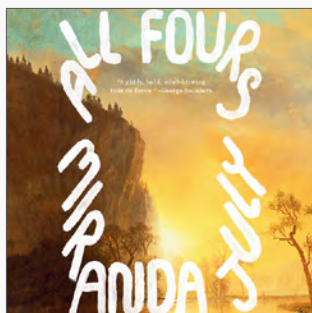


James Baldwin; Read by Matt Bomer; with an Introduction Written and Read by Kevin Young
Giovanni's Room

Audio Download

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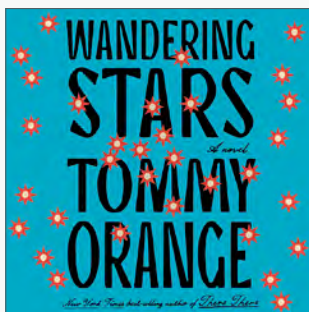
—AudioFile Earphones Award



Miranda July; Read by the Author
All Fours

Audio Download

"Miranda July perfectly delivers the overanxious voice of a quirky, unnamed protagonist who realizes, too late, that she's having a midlife crisis... July's intimate narration teases out the complex emotions the protagonist is just now realizing she's always kept under wraps, drawing listeners into this relatable story of longing." —AudioFile



Tommy Orange; Read by a Full Cast
Wandering Stars

CD & Audio Download

"The audio is strongly recommended to listeners looking for heady, thoughtful, full-cast narrated fiction that tackles difficult issues, both contemporary and historical. A must-listen for those interested in the perspectives of Native-viewpoint characters." —Booklist starred review



Karen Valby; Read by January LaVoy
The Swans of Harlem

Audio Download

"January LaVoy's smooth and expressive voice is a perfect match for Karen Valby's history of America's first Black professional ballerinas. . . A nice touch is the occasional voices of the ballerinas themselves." —AudioFile

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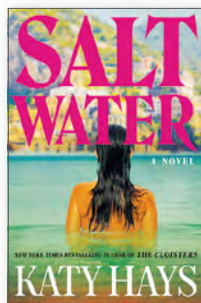
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