

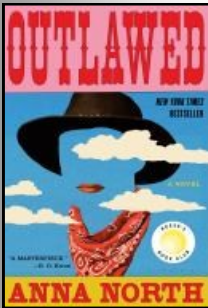


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FICTION



OUTLAWED BY ANNA NORTH

(PICKED BY MG)

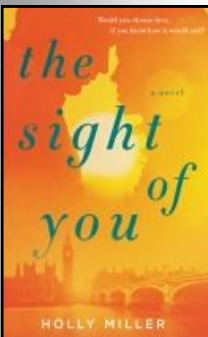
On the day of her wedding, 17 year old Ada's life looks good; she loves her husband, and she loves working as an apprentice to her mother, a respected midwife. But after a year of marriage and no pregnancy, in a town where barren women are routinely hanged as witches, her survival depends on leaving behind everything she knows. She joins up with the notorious Hole in the Wall Gang, a band of outlaws led by a preacher-turned-robber known to all as the Kid. Charismatic, grandiose, and mercurial, the Kid is determined to create a safe haven for outcast women. But to make this dream a reality, the Gang hatches a treacherous plan that may get them all killed. Ada must decide whether she's willing to risk her life for the possibility of a new kind of future for them all. (272 pgs)



RED HANDS BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN

(PICKED BY BS)

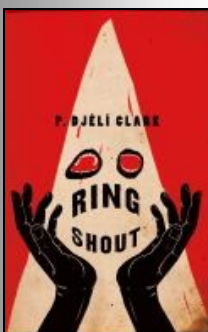
A car plows through the crowd at a July 4th parade. The driver climbs out, sick and stumbling, reaching out...and everyone he touches drops dead within seconds. Maeve Sinclair watches in horror as people she loves begin to die and she knows she must take action. But in the aftermath of this terror, it's Maeve who possesses that killing touch and she flees into the mountains. Ben Walker is surprised to get a call from Alena Boudreau, director of the newly restructured Global Science Research Coalition. She needs to send someone she can trust to Jericho Falls. Whoever finds Maeve Sinclair first will unravel the mystery of her death touch, and many are willing to kill her for that secret. Walker's assignment is to get her off the mountain alive. But as Maeve searches for a hiding place, growing sicker by the moment, she begins to hear an insidious voice in her head, and the yearning to touch another human being continues to grow. When Walker and Maeve meet at last, they will unravel a stunning legacy of death and betrayal, and a malignant secret as old as history. (320 pgs)



THE SIGHT OF YOU BY HOLLY MILLER

(PICKED BY SM)

Joel has sworn off falling in love. But when he meets Callie, he can't help being drawn to her. In Callie, he sees a second chance at life. And in Joel, Callie discovers the kind of love she'd always hoped was real. They challenge one another to take chances, to laugh, and to trust that no matter how hard each falls, the other will be there to catch them. But Joel has a secret. He dreams about the people he loves, and these dreams always come true. One night, Joel has the dream of Callie he's feared the most, and each must decide: Can Callie stay, knowing her fate? And if her days must be numbered, is there a life she is meant to live? Told in Joel and Callie's voices, *The Sight of You* is a sweeping, romantic, and unforgettable American debut, about the bravery it takes to love, especially when we think we know how the story will end. (384 pgs)



RING SHOUT BY P DJELI CLARK

(PICKED BY SP)

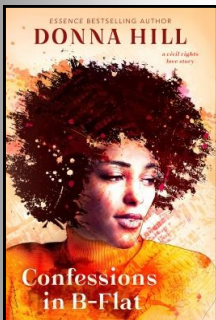
D. W. Griffith is a sorcerer, and *The Birth of a Nation* is a spell that drew upon the darkest thoughts and wishes from the heart of America. Now, rising in power and prominence, the Klan has a plot to unleash Hell on earth. Luckily, Maryse Boudreaux has a magic sword and a head full of tales. When she's not running bootleg whiskey through Prohibition Georgia, she's fighting monsters she calls "Ku Kluxes." She's damn good at it, too. But to confront this ongoing evil, she must journey between worlds to face nightmares made flesh—and her own demons. Together with a foul-mouthed sharpshooter and a Harlem Hellfighter, Maryse sets out to save a world from the hate that would consume it. (192 pgs)


THE CHILDREN'S BLIZZARD BY MELANIE BENJAMIN
(PICKED BY SLH)

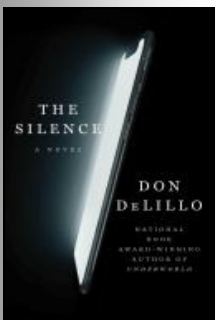
The morning of January 12, 1888, was unusually mild, warm enough for the children of the homesteaders of the Dakota territory to return to school without their heavy coats—leaving them unprepared when disaster struck. At just the hour when most prairie schools were letting out for the day, a terrifying, fast-moving blizzard struck without warning. Schoolteachers as young as sixteen were suddenly faced with life and death decisions: keep the children inside, to risk freezing to death when fuel ran out, or send them home, praying they wouldn't get lost in the storm? Based on actual oral histories of survivors, the novel follows the stories of Raina and Gerda Olsen, two sisters, both schoolteachers—one who becomes a hero of the storm, and one who finds herself ostracized in the aftermath. It's also the story of Anette Pedersen, a servant girl whose miraculous survival serves as a turning point in her life and touches the heart of Gavin Woodson, a newspaperman seeking redemption. (368 pgs)


THE HARP BY MEGAN HUNTER
(PICKED BY KT)

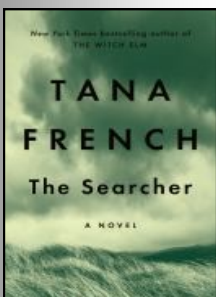
Lucy and Jake live in a house by a field where the sun burns like a ball of fire. Lucy has set her career aside in order to devote her life to the children, to their finely tuned routine, and to the house itself, which comforts her like an old, sly friend. But then a man calls one afternoon with a shattering message: his wife has been having an affair with Lucy's husband, Jake. The revelation marks a turning point: Lucy and Jake decide to stay together, but make a special arrangement designed to even the score and save their marriage—she will hurt him three times. As the couple submit to a delicate game of crime and punishment, Lucy herself begins to change, surrendering to a transformation of both mind and body from which there is no return. (194 pgs)


CONFESSIONS IN B-FLAT BY DONNA HILL
(PICKED BY CR)

The year is 1963. In Harlem, the epicenter of Black culture, the fight for equality has never been stronger. The time is now. Enough is enough. Yet even within its ranks, a different kind of battle rages. Love thy neighbor? Or rise up against your oppressors? Jason Tanner has just arrived in New York to help spread the message of his mentor, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., of passive resistance, while beat poet Anita Hopkins believes the teachings of Malcolm X with all her heart: that the way to true freedom is “by any means necessary.” When Jason sees Anita perform her poetry at the iconic B-Flat lounge, he's transfixed. And Anita has never met anyone who can match her wit for wit like this... One movement, two warring ideologies—can love be enough to unite them? *Confessions in B-Flat* is a celebration of the hard-won victories of those who came before us, and a stark reminder of just how far we still have to go. (400 pgs)


THE SILENCE BY DON DELILLO
(PICKED BY TA)

It is Super Bowl Sunday in the year 2022. Five people, dinner, an apartment on the east side of Manhattan. The retired physics professor and her husband and her former student waiting for the couple who will join them from what becomes a dramatic flight from Paris. The conversation ranges from a survey telescope in North-central Chile to a favorite brand of bourbon to Einstein's 1912 Manuscript on the Special Theory of Relativity. Then something happens and the digital connections that have transformed our lives are severed. What follows is a dazzling and profoundly moving conversation about what makes us human. (128 pgs)


THE SEARCHER BY TANA FRENCH
(PICKED BY SLS)

Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat, and starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets. (451 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

FEBRUARY 2021

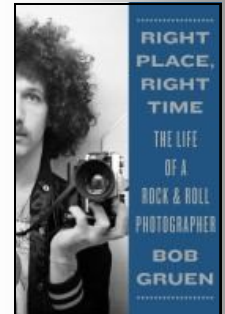


NON-FICTION

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME BY BOB GRUEN

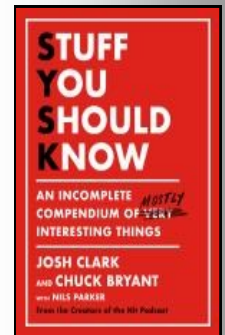
(PICKED BY BS)

Bob Gruen is one of the most well-known and connected photographers in rock and roll. For almost 50 years, he has documented the music scene in pictures that have captured the world's attention. *Right Place, Right Time* is Gruen's first written account of his winding, adventure-filled journey. He takes us on visits to John and Yoko's apartment, on a cross-country road trip with the Ike and Tina Turner band, to Glasgow with Debbie Harry, backstage with KISS, inside CBGB, and on the bus as he swaps steel-toed boots with Sid Vicious. In wildly entertaining stories and iconic images, Gruen gives the reader a unique window into the evolution of American music culture over the last five decades. (352 pgs)



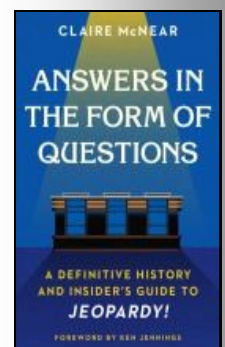
STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW BY JOSH CLARK & CHUCK BRYANT (PICKED BY SMC)

Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant started the podcast *Stuff You Should Know* back in 2008 because they were curious—curious about the world around them, curious about what they might have missed in their formal educations, and curious to dig deeper on stuff they thought they understood. They've since amassed a rabid fan base, making "Stuff You Should Know" one of the most popular podcasts in the world. Armed with their inquisitive natures and a passion for sharing, they uncover the weird, fascinating, delightful, or unexpected elements of a wide variety of topics. The pair have now taken their near-boundless "whys" and "hows" from your earbuds to the pages of a book for the first time—featuring a completely new array of subjects that they've long wondered about and wanted to explore. Follow along as the two dig into the underlying stories of everything from the origin of Murphy beds, to the history of facial hair, to the psychology of being lost. (304 pgs)



ANSWERS IN THE FORM OF QUESTIONS BY CLAIRE MCNEAR (PICKED BY SLH)

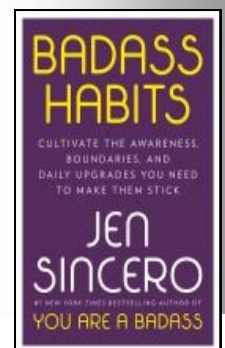
Jeopardy! is a lot of things: record-setting game show, beloved family tradition, and proving ground for many of North America's best and brightest. Nearly four decades into its current edition, *Jeopardy!* now finds itself facing unprecedented change. This is the chronicle of how the show became a cross-generational touchstone and where it's going next. *Answers in the Form of Questions* dives deep behind the scenes, with longtime host Alex Trebek talking about his life and legacy and the show's producers and writers explaining how they put together the nightly game. Readers will travel to bar trivia showdowns with the show's biggest winners and training sessions with trivia whizzes prepping for their shot onstage. And they'll discover new tales of the show's most notable moments—like the time the Clue Crew almost slid off a glacier—and learn how celebrity cameos and Saturday Night Live spoofs built a television mainstay. *Answers in the Form of Questions* looks to the past — and the future — to explain what *Jeopardy!* really is: a tradition unlike any other. (272 pgs)

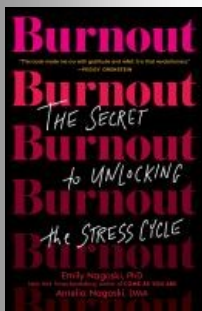


BADASS HABITS BY JEN SINCERO

(PICKED BY SM)

Badass Habits is a eureka-sparking, easy-to-digest look at how our habits make us who we are, from the measly moments that happen in private to the resolutions we loudly broadcast on social media. Habit busting and building goes way beyond becoming a dedicated flosser or never showing up late again—our habits reveal our unmet desires, the gaps in our boundaries, our level of self-awareness, and our unconscious beliefs and fears. *Badass Habits* features Jen's trademark hilarious voice and offers a much-needed fresh take on the conventional wisdom and science that shape the optimism (or pessimism?) around the age-old topic of habits. The book includes a new perspective on how to train our brains to become our best selves, and offers a simple, 21 day, step-by-step guide for ditching habits that don't serve us and developing the habits we deem most important. Habits shouldn't be impossible to reset—and with healthy boundaries, knowledge of—and permission to go after—our desires, and an easy to implement plan of action, we can make any new goal a joyful habit. (256 pgs)





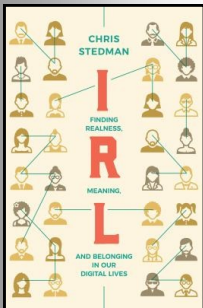
BURNOUT BY EMILY AND AMELIA NAGOSKI

(PICKED BY KT)

Burnout. What's expected of women and what it's really like to be a woman in today's world are two very different things—and women exhaust themselves trying to close the gap between them. Sisters Emily Nagoski, PhD, and Amelia Nagoski, DMA, are here to help end the cycle of feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. Instead of asking us to ignore the very real obstacles and societal pressures that stand between women and well-being, they explain with compassion and optimism what we're up against—and show us how to fight back. Emily and Amelia tell us that we are enough, just as we are—and that wellness, true wellness, is within our reach. (277pgs)

IRL BY CHRIS STEDMAN

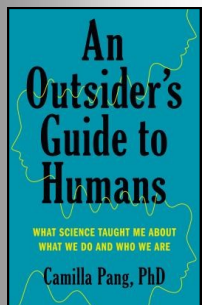
(PICKED BY TA)



What does IRL (In Real Life) really mean in today's digital age? It's easy and reflexive to view our online presence as fake, to see the internet as a space we enter when we aren't living our real, offline lives. Yet so much of who we are and what we do now happens online, making it hard to know which parts of our lives are real. *IRL*, Chris Stedman's personal and searing exploration of authenticity in the digital age, shines a light on how age-old notions of realness—who we are and where we fit in the world—can be freshly understood in our increasingly online lives. *IRL* invites readers to consider how we use the internet to fulfill the essential human need to feel real—a need many of us once met in institutions, but now seek to do on our own, online—as well as the ways we edit or curate ourselves for digital audiences. In the end, he makes a bold case for embracing realness in all of its uncertainty, online and off, even when it feels risky. (336 pgs)

AN OUTSIDER'S GUIDE TO HUMANS BY CAMILLA PANG

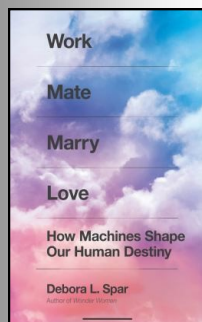
(PICKED BY MG)



Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of eight, Camilla Pang struggled to understand the world around her. Desperate for a solution, she asked her mother if there was an instruction manual for humans that she could consult. With no blueprint to life, Pang began to create her own, using the language she understands best: science. That lifelong project eventually resulted in *An Outsider's Guide to Humans*, an original and incisive exploration of human nature and the strangeness of social norms, written from the outside looking in—which is helpful to even the most neurotypical thinker. Camilla Pang uses a set of scientific principles to examine life's everyday interactions. Her unique perspective of the world tells us so much about ourselves—who we are and why we do the things we do—and is a fascinating guide to living a happier and more connected life. (304 pgs)

WORK MATE MARRY LOVE BY DEBORA SPAR

(PICKED BY SLS)



What will happen to our notions of marriage and parenthood as reproductive technologies increasingly allow for newfangled ways of creating babies? What will happen to our understanding of gender as medical advances enable individuals to transition from one set of sexual characteristics to another, or to remain happily perched in between? What will happen to love and sex and romance as our relationships migrate from the real world to the Internet? Can people fall in love with robots? Will they? In short, what will happen to our most basic notions of humanity as we entangle our lives and emotions with the machines we have created? In *Work Mate Marry Love*, Harvard Business School professor and former Barnard College president Debora L. Spar offers an incisive and provocative account of how technology has transformed our intimate lives in the past, and how it will do so again in the future. (352 pgs)

DOG'S BEST FRIEND BY SIMON GARFIELD

(PICKED BY SLH & BS)



"Ludo is now an elderly gentleman, and we would do almost anything to ensure his continued happiness. We schedule our days around his needs. When he's not with us for a few days, the house feels extraordinarily empty. I feel so fortunate to know him." Ludo is Simon Garfield's beloved black Labrador retriever, one of millions of canines who have become integral parts of our lives. But how did the dog become top dog? How did these faithful animals come to assist us not only in hunting, but in bomb disposal and cancer detection—and ultimately become our closest companions? *Dog's Best Friend* examines how this bond developed over the centuries, and how it has transformed countless lives, both human and canine. Along the way, we meet the Corgis of Buckingham Palace, the dogs of the Soviet space program, and the world's first labradoodle. (320 pgs)