

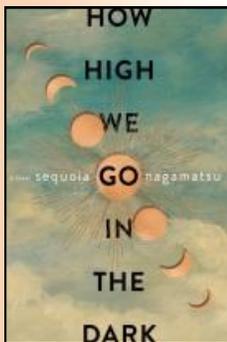


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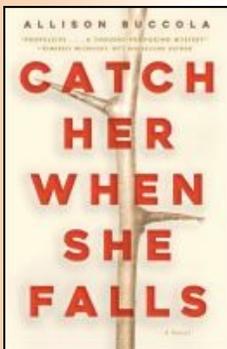


**FICTION**



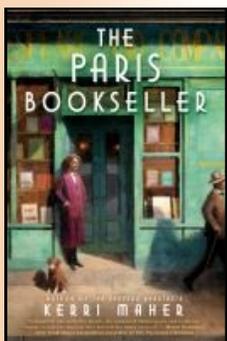
***How High We Go in the Dark* by Sequoia Nagamatsu (PICKED BY MG)**

Beginning in 2030, a grieving archeologist arrives in the Arctic Circle to continue the work of his recently deceased daughter. Researchers are studying long-buried secrets now revealed in melting permafrost, including the perfectly preserved remains of a girl who appears to have died of an ancient virus. Once unleashed, the Arctic Plague will reshape life on earth for generations to come, forcing humanity to devise a myriad of moving and inventive ways to embrace possibility in the face of tragedy. In a theme park designed for terminally ill children, a cynical employee falls in love with a mother desperate to hold on to her infected son. A widowed painter and her teenaged granddaughter embark on a cosmic quest to locate a new home planet. Sequoia Nagamatsu takes readers on an original and compassionate journey to tell a story about the resiliency of the human spirit, our infinite capacity to dream, and the connective threads that tie us all together in the universe. (304 pgs)



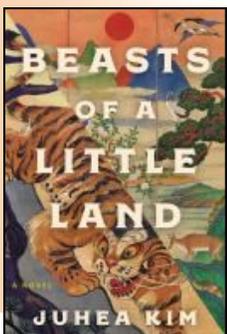
***Catch Her When She Falls* by Allison Buccola (PICKED BY SLS)**

When Micah Wilkes was a senior in high school, her boyfriend was convicted of murdering her best friend, Emily. A decade later, Micah has finally moved on from the unforgivable betrayal and loss. Now the owner of a coffee shop in her small hometown in Pennsylvania, she's happily coupled up with another old high school friend, the two having bonded over their shared sorrow. But when reminders of her past begin appearing at her work and home, Micah begins to doubt what she knows about Emily's death. Questions raised on a true crime blog and in an online web sleuthing forum force her to reexamine her memories of that fateful night. As Micah delves deeper into the case, she feels her grip on reality loosening, her behavior growing more and more secretive and unhinged. As she races to piece together the truth about that night ten years ago, Micah grapples with how things could have gone so wrong and wonders whether she, too, might be next to disappear. (368 pgs)



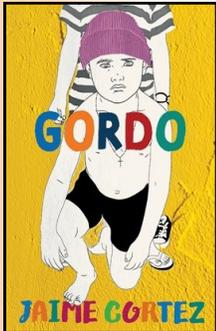
***The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher (PICKED BY SM)**

When bookish young American Sylvia Beach opens Shakespeare and Company on a quiet street in Paris in 1919, she has no idea that she and her new bookstore will change the course of literature itself. Shakespeare and Company is more than a bookstore and lending library: many of the prominent writers of the Lost Generation, like Ernest Hemingway, consider it a second home. It's where some of the most important literary friendships of the twentieth century are forged—none more so than the one between Irish writer James Joyce and Sylvia herself. When Joyce's controversial novel *Ulysses* is banned, Beach takes a massive risk and publishes it under the auspices of Shakespeare and Company. The future of her beloved store itself is threatened when *Ulysses'* success brings other publishers to woo Joyce away. Her most cherished relationships are put to the test as Paris is plunged deeper into the Depression and many expatriate friends return to America. As she faces painful personal and financial crises, Sylvia must decide what Shakespeare and Company truly means to her. (336 pgs)

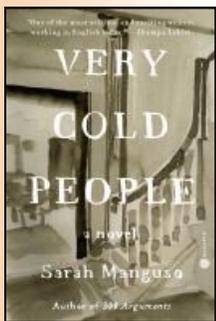


***Beasts of a Little Land* by Juhea Kim (PICKED BY SLS)**

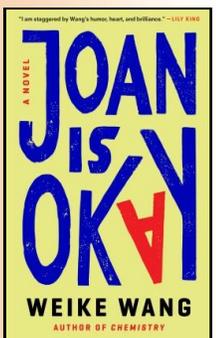
In 1917, in the snowy mountains of occupied Korea, a local hunter on the brink of starvation saves a young Japanese officer from an attacking tiger. In an instant, their fates are joined—and from this encounter unfolds a saga that spans half a century. A young girl named Jade is sold by her family to Miss Silver's courtesan school, an act of desperation that will cement her place in the lowest social status. When she befriends an orphan boy named JungHo, who scrapes together a living begging on the streets of Seoul, they form a deep friendship. As they come of age, JungHo is swept up in the revolutionary fight for independence, and Jade becomes a sought-after performer with a new romantic prospect of noble birth. Soon Jade must decide whether she will risk everything for the one who would do the same for her. (416 pgs)

**GORDO BY JAIME CORTEZ****(PICKED BY KT)**

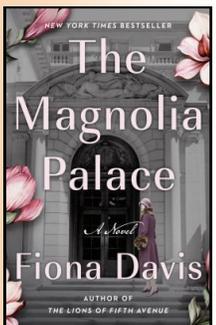
*Gordo* is set in a migrant workers camp near Watsonville, California in the 1970s. A young, probably gay, boy named Gordo puts on a wrestler's mask and throws fists with a boy in the neighborhood, fighting his own tears as he tries to grow into the idea of manhood so imposed on him by his father. As he comes of age, Gordo learns about sex, watches his father's drunken fights, and discovers even his own documented Mexican-American parents are wary of illegal migrants. There are Pepito and Manuel, who show up at Gyrich Farms every season without fail. Los Tigres, champion drinkers, end up assaulting each other in a drunken brawl. These scenes from Steinbeck Country seen so intimately from within are full of humor, family drama, and a sweet frankness about serious matters - who belongs to America and how are they treated? How does one learn decency, when laborers, grown adults, must fear for their lives and livelihoods as they try to do everything to bring home a paycheck? (208 pgs)

**VERY COLD PEOPLE BY SARAH MANGUSO****(PICKED BY BS)**

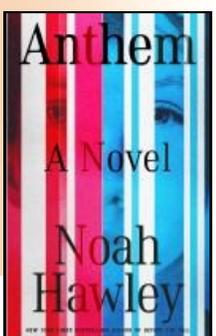
For Ruthie, the frozen town of Waitsfield, Massachusetts, is all she has ever known. Once home to the country's oldest and most illustrious families—the Cabots and the Lowells—by the tail end of the twentieth century, it is an unforgiving place awash with secrets. Forged in this landscape Ruthie has been dogged by feelings of inadequacy her whole life. Hers is no picturesque New England childhood but one of swap meets and factory seconds and powdered milk. Shame blankets her like the thick snow that regularly buries nearly everything in Waitsfield. As she grows older, Ruthie slowly learns how the town's prim facade conceals a deeper, darker history, and how silence often masks a legacy of harm—from the violence that runs down the family line to the horrors endured by her high school friends. For Ruthie, Waitsfield is a place to be survived, and a girl like her would be lucky to get out alive. (208 pgs)

**JOAN IS OKAY BY WEIKE WANG****(PICKED BY SM)**

Joan is a thirtysomething ICU doctor at a busy New York City hospital. The daughter of Chinese parents who came to the United States to secure the American dream for their children, Joan is intensely devoted to her work, happily solitary, successful. She does look up sometimes and wonder where her true roots lie: at the hospital, where her white coat makes her feel needed, or with her family, who try to shape her life by their own cultural and social expectations. Once Joan and her brother, Fang, were established in their careers, her parents moved back to China, hoping to spend the rest of their lives in their homeland. But when Joan's father suddenly dies and her mother returns to America to reconnect with her children, a series of events sends Joan spiraling out of her comfort zone just as her hospital, her city, and the world are forced to reckon with a health crisis more devastating than anyone could have imagined. (224 pgs)

**THE MAGNOLIA PALACE BY FIONA DAVIS****(PICKED BY SLH & SM)**

Under the moniker Angelica, Lillian was one of the most sought-after artists' models in New York City, with statues based on her figure gracing famous landmarks. But with her mother having died, Lillian is desperate—the work has dried up and a looming scandal has left her entirely without a safe haven. When she stumbles upon a job as private secretary to Helen Frick at the family mansion, Lillian jumps at the chance. Nearly fifty years later, English model Veronica has her own chance to make her career within the walls of the former Frick residence, now converted into one of New York City's most impressive museums. But when she is dismissed from the Vogue shoot, she chances upon a series of hidden messages in the museum: messages that will lead her and intern Joshua on a hunt that could not only solve Veronica's financial woes, but could finally reveal the truth behind a decades-old murder in the Frick family. (368 pgs)

**ANTHEM BY NOAH HAWLEY****(PICKED BY BS)**

For decades, Judge Margot Burr-Nadir has worked tirelessly to administer justice from the federal bench. She is surprised when a call comes from the President of the United States inviting her to accept his nomination to the Supreme Court—the President has reached across party lines. The call comes on a family trip to visit their oldest daughter, Story, who has vanished. The desperate search for Story's whereabouts soon intersects with the mission of teenagers Simon Oliver, Louise Conklin, and a young man known only as the Prophet. Together, they have escaped from the Float Anxiety Abatement Center in Chicago on the trail of man known as The Wizard: an unimaginably wealthy, almost mythical figure of unspeakable evil who has for years been taking whatever he wants without reaping the consequences. Stopping him, this band of young people hopes to accomplish what their elders can't or won't do: fix a broken world. (427 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

MARCH 2022

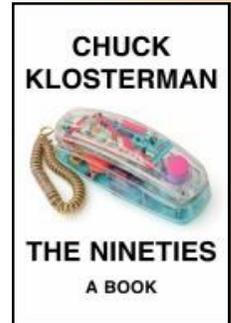


## NON-FICTION

### **THE NINETIES BY CHUCK KLOSTERMAN**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

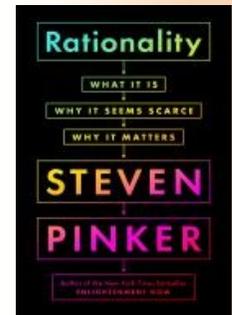
It was long ago, but not as long as it seems. In the beginning, almost every name and address was listed in a phone book, and everyone answered their landlines because you didn't know who it was. By the end, exposing someone's address was an act of emotional violence. There were wholesale shifts in how society was perceived: the rise of the internet, pre-9/11 politics, and the paradoxical belief that nothing was more humiliating than trying too hard. Pop culture accelerated without the aid of a machine that remembered everything, generating an odd comfort in never being certain about anything. On a '90s Thursday night, more people watched any episode of *Seinfeld* than the finale of *Game of Thrones*. In *The Nineties*, Chuck Klosterman makes a home in all of it: the film, the music, the sports, the TV, the politics, the changes regarding race and class and sexuality, the yin/yang of Oprah and Alan Greenspan. (370 pgs)



### **RATIONALITY BY STEVEN PINKER**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

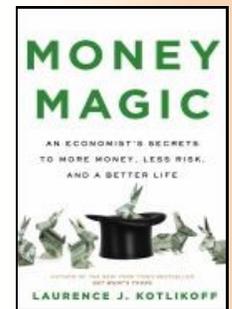
In the twenty-first century, humanity is reaching new heights of scientific understanding - and at the same time appears to be losing its mind. How can a species that discovered vaccines for Covid-19 in less than a year produce so much fake news, quack cures and conspiracy theorizing? In *Rationality*, Pinker rejects the cynical cliché that humans are simply an irrational species cursed with biases, fallacies and illusions. Instead, he explains, we think in ways that suit the low-tech contexts in which we spend most of our lives, but fail to take advantage of the powerful tools of reasoning we have built up over millennia: logic, critical thinking, probability, causal inference, and decision-making under uncertainty. Rationality matters. It leads to better choices in our lives and in the public sphere, and is the ultimate driver of social justice and moral progress. (432 pgs)



### **MONEY MAGIC BY LAURENCE KOTLIKOFF**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

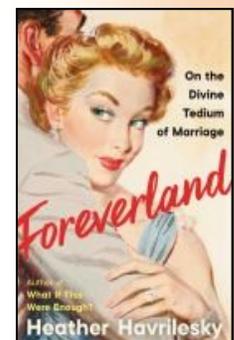
Laurence Kotlikoff, one of our nation's premier personal finance experts, harnesses the power of economics and advanced computation to deliver a host of simple money magic tricks that will transform your financial future. Each trick shares a basic ingredient for financial savvy based on economic common sense, not Wall Street snake oil. *Money Magic's* most powerful act is transforming your financial thinking, explaining not just what to do, but why to do it. Get ready to discover the economics approach to financial planning—the fruit of a century's worth of research by thousands of cloistered economic wizards whose now-accessible collective findings turn conventional financial advice on its head. (320 pgs)

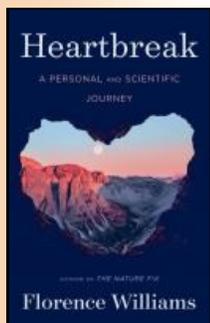


### **FOREVERLAND BY HEATHER HAVRILESKY**

**(PICKED BY SLH)**

If falling in love is the peak of human experience, then marriage is the slow descent down that mountain, on a trail built from conflict, compromise, and nagging doubts. Considering the limited economic advantages to marriage, the deluge of other mate options a swipe away, and the fact that almost half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce anyway, why do so many of us still chain ourselves to one human being for life? In *Foreverland*, Heather Havrilesky illustrates the delights, aggravations, and sublime calamities of her marriage over the span of fifteen years, charting an unpredictable course from meeting her one true love to slowly learning just how much energy is required to keep that love aflame. This refreshingly honest portrait of a marriage reveals that our relationships are not simply "happy" or "unhappy," but something much murkier—at once unsavory, taxing, and deeply satisfying. With tales of fumbled proposals, harrowing suburban migrations, external temptations, and the bewildering insults of growing older, *Foreverland* is a work of rare candor and insight. (304 pgs)

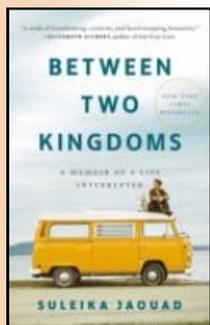




**HEARTBREAK BY FLORENCE WILLIAMS**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

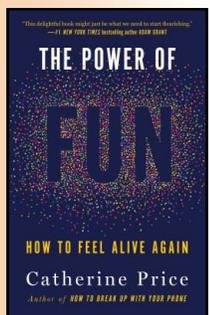
When her twenty-five-year marriage unexpectedly falls apart, journalist Florence Williams expects the loss to hurt. What she doesn't expect is that she'll end up in the hospital, examining close-up the way our cells listen to loneliness. She travels to the frontiers of the science of "social pain" to learn why heartbreak hurts so much and why so much of the conventional wisdom about it is wrong. Searching for insight as well as personal strategies to game her way back to health, Williams tests her blood for genetic markers of grief, undergoes electrical shocks in a laboratory while looking at pictures of her ex, and ventures to the wilderness in search of awe as an antidote to loneliness. *Heartbreak* is a remarkable merging of science and self-discovery that will change the way we think about loneliness, health, and what it means to fall in and out of love. (304 pgs)



**BETWEEN TWO KINGDOMS BY SULEIKA JAOUAD**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

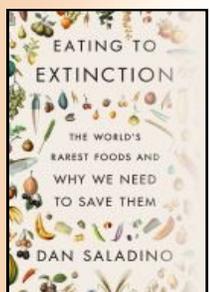
In the summer after graduating from college, Suleika Jaouad had fallen in love and moved to Paris to pursue her dream of becoming a war correspondent. A few weeks shy of her twenty-third birthday, a diagnosis: leukemia, with a 35 percent chance of survival. By the time Jaouad flew home to New York, she had lost her job, her apartment, and her independence. She would spend much of the next four years in a hospital bed, fighting for her life and chronicling the saga in a column for *The New York Times*. When Jaouad finally walked out of the cancer ward—after three and a half years of chemo, a clinical trial, and a bone marrow transplant—she was, according to the doctors, cured. But, a cure is not where the work of healing ends; it's where it begins. How would she reenter the world and live again? Jaouad embarked on a 100-day, 15,000-mile road trip across the country. She set out to meet some of the strangers who had written to her during her years in the hospital. What she learned on this trip is that the divide between sick and well is porous, that the vast majority of us will travel back and forth between these realms throughout our lives. *Between Two Kingdoms* is a profound chronicle of survivorship and a fierce, tender exploration of what it means to begin again. (352 pgs)



**THE POWER OF FUN BY CATHERINE PRICE**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

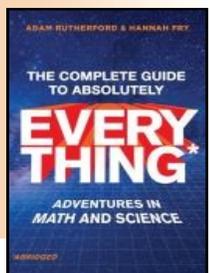
Journalist and screen/life balance expert Catherine Price argues persuasively that our always-on, tech-addicted lifestyles have led us to obsess over intangible concepts such as happiness while obscuring the fact that real happiness lies in the everyday experience of fun. We often think of fun as indulgent and selfish. We claim to not have time for it, even as we find hours a day for what Price calls "Fake Fun"—bingeing on television or posting photos to social media, all in hopes of filling some of the emptiness we feel inside. Price makes the case that True Fun—which she defines as the magical confluence of playfulness, connection, and flow—will give us the fulfillment we so desperately seek. If you use True Fun as your compass, you will be happier and healthier. You will be more productive, less resentful, and less stressed. You will have more energy. You will find community and a sense of purpose. (352 pgs)



**EATING TO EXTINCTION BY DAN SALADINO**

**(PICKED BY MG)**

Over the past several decades, globalization has homogenized what we eat. Of the roughly six thousand different plants once consumed by human beings, only nine remain major staples today. Just three of these—rice, wheat, and corn—now provide fifty percent of all our calories. The source of much of the world's food—seeds—is mostly in the control of just four corporations. Ninety-five percent of milk consumed in the United States comes from a single breed of cow. The consolidation of our food has steep costs, including a lack of resilience in the face of climate change, pests, and parasites. Our food monoculture is a threat to our health—and to the planet. Dan Saladino travels the world to experience and document our most at-risk foods before it's too late. (464 pgs)



**THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING BY ADAM RUTHERFORD (PICKED BY SLH)**

Mathematician Hannah Fry and geneticist Adam Rutherford investigate everyday mysteries (does your dog love you?) alongside the burning questions of time, space, and the origin of the universe. What will the end of the world look like, and when will it happen? What is time, and where does it come from? Approaching these questions and more with science and math rigorous and playful, Rutherford and Fry celebrate the weirdness of the cosmos, and reveal its secrets along the way. (304 pgs)