

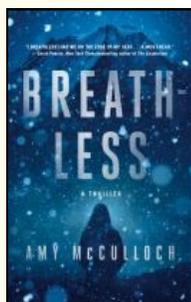


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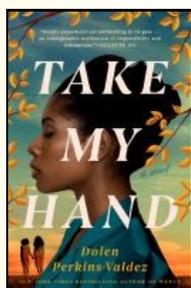
FICTION



BREATHLESS BY AMY MCCULLOCH

(PICKED BY SLS)

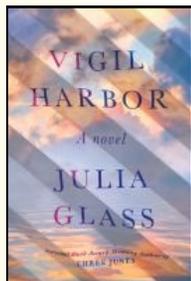
Journalist Cecily Wong is in over her head. She's come to Manaslu, the eighth-highest peak in the world, to interview internationally famous mountaineer Charles McVeigh on the last leg of a record-breaking series of summits. She's given up everything for this story—her boyfriend, her life savings, the peace she's made with her climbing failures in the past—but it's a career-making opportunity. It could finally put her life back on track. But when one climber dies in what everyone else assumes is a freak accident, she fears their expedition is in danger. By the time a second climber dies, it's too late to turn back. Stranded on a mountain in one of the most remote regions of the world, Cecily will have to battle more than the elements in a harrowing fight for survival against a killer who is picking them off one by one. (352 pgs)



TAKE MY HAND BY DOLEN PERKINS-VALDEZ

(PICKED BY BS)

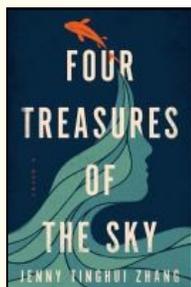
Montgomery, Alabama 1973. Fresh out of nursing school, Civil Townsend has big plans to make a difference, especially in her African American community. At the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic, she intends to help women make their own choices for their lives and bodies. But when her first week on the job takes her to a worn down one-room cabin, she's shocked to learn that her new patients are children—just 11 and 13 years old. Neither of the Williams sisters has even kissed a boy, but they are poor and Black and for those handling the family's welfare benefits that's reason enough to have the girls on birth control. As Civil grapples with her role, she takes India, Erica and their family into her heart. Until one day, she arrives at the door to learn the unthinkable has happened and nothing will ever be the same for any of them. Decades later, with her daughter grown and a long career in her wake, Dr. Civil Townsend is ready to retire, to find her peace and to leave the past behind. But there are people and stories that refuse to be forgotten. Because history repeats what we don't remember. (359 pgs)



VIGIL HARBOR BY JULIA GLASS

(PICKED BY SM)

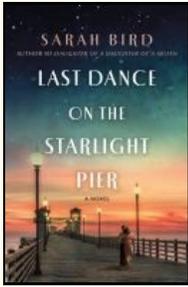
A decade in the future, in the historic town of Vigil Harbor, there's been a rash of divorces among the yacht-club set; a marine biologist despairs at the state of the world; a spurned wife is bent on revenge; and the renowned architect Austin Kepner pursues a passion for building homes to withstand the escalating fury of coastal storms. Brecht, Austin's stepson, has dropped out of college and retreated home from New York after narrowly escaping one of the domestic terrorist acts that, like hurricanes, are becoming all too common. Then two strangers arrive: a stranded traveler with subversive charms and a widow seeking clues about a past lover with ties to Austin—a woman who may have been more than merely human. These strangers and their hidden motives come together unexpectedly in an incident that endangers lives—including Brecht's—with dramatic repercussions for the entire town. (416 pgs)



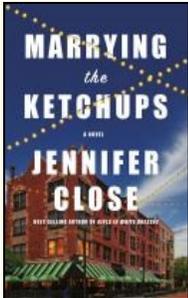
FOUR TREASURES OF THE SKY BY JENNY TINGHUI ZHANG

(PICKED BY KT)

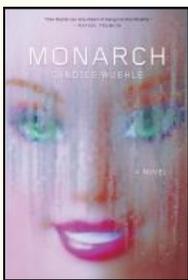
Daiyu never wanted to be like the tragic heroine for whom she was named, revered for her beauty and cursed with heartbreak. But when she is kidnapped and smuggled across an ocean from China to America, Daiyu must relinquish the home and future she imagined for herself. Over the years that follow, she is forced to keep reinventing herself to survive. From a calligraphy school, to a San Francisco brothel, to a shop tucked into the Idaho mountains, we follow Daiyu on a desperate quest to outrun the tragedy that chases her. As anti-Chinese sentiment sweeps across the country in a wave of unimaginable violence, Daiyu must draw on each of the selves she has been—including the ones she most wants to leave behind—in order to finally claim her own name and story. (336 pgs)


LAST DANCE ON THE STARLIGHT PIER BY SARAH BIRD
(PICKED BY JB)

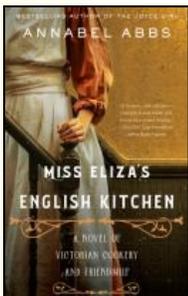
Shivering and in shock, Evie Grace Devlin watches the Starlite Palace burn into the sea and wonders how she became a person who would cause a man to kill himself. She'd come to Galveston to escape a dark past in vaudeville and become a good person, a nurse. When that dream is cruelly thwarted, Evie is swept into the alien world of dance marathons. All that she has been denied—a family, a purpose, even love—waits for her there in the place she dreads most: the spotlight. (432 pgs)


MARRYING THE KETCHUPS BY JENNIFER CLOSE
(PICKED BY SM)

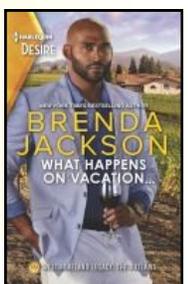
Here are the three things the Sullivan family knows to be true: the Chicago Cubs will always be the underdogs; historical progress is inevitable; and their grandfather, Bud, founder of JP Sullivan's, will always make the best burgers in Oak Park. But when, over the course of three months, the Cubs win the World Series, Trump is elected president, and Bud drops dead, suddenly everyone in the family finds themselves doubting all they hold dear. Take Gretchen - lead singer for a '90s cover band who has been flirting with fame for a decade but is beginning to wonder if she's too old to be chasing a childish dream. Or Jane - Gretchen's older sister, who is starting to suspect that her fitness-obsessed husband who hides the screen of his phone isn't always "working late." And Teddy - their steadfast, unfailingly good cousin, nursing heartbreak and confusion because the guy who dumped him keeps showing up for lunch at JP Sullivan's where Teddy is the manager. How can any of them be expected to make the right decisions when the world feels sideways? (320 pgs)


MONARCH BY CANDICE WUEHLE
(PICKED BY TA)

After waking up with a strange taste in her mouth and mysterious bruises, former child pageant star Jessica Clink unwittingly begins an investigation into a nefarious deep state underworld. Equipped with the eccentric education of her father, Dr. Clink (a professor of Boredom Studies and the founder of an elite study group known as the Devil's Workshop), Jessica uncovers a disquieting connection between her former life as a beauty queen and an offshoot of Project MKUltra known as MONARCH. As Jessica moves closer to the truth, she begins to suspect the involvement of everyone around her, including her own mother, Grethe (a Norwegian pageant queen turned occult American wellness guru for suburban housewives). With the help of Christine (her black-lipsticked riot grrrl babysitter and confidante), Jessica sets out to take down Project MONARCH. More importantly, she must discover if her first love, fellow teen queen Veronica Marshall, was genuine or yet another deep state plant. (184 pgs)


MISS ELIZA'S ENGLISH KITCHEN BY ANNABEL ABBS
(PICKED BY MG)

Before Mrs. Beeton and well before Julia Child, there was Eliza Acton, who changed the course of cookery writing forever. England 1837. Victorian London is awash with new ingredients from spices to exotic fruits, but Eliza Acton has no desire to spend her days in the kitchen. Determined to be a poet and shamed by the suggestion she write a cookery book instead, she at first refuses to even consider the task. But then her father is forced to flee the country for bankruptcy, shaming the family while leaving them in genteel poverty. As a woman, Eliza has few options, so she methodically collects recipes while teaching herself the mysteries of the kitchen. She discovers she is not only talented at cooking—she loves it. To assist her, she hires seventeen-year-old Ann Kirby, the impoverished daughter of a war-injured father and a mother losing her grip on reality. Under Eliza's tutelage, Ann learns about poetry, cookery, and love, while unravelling a mystery in her mistress's past. Through the art of food, Eliza and Ann develop an unusual friendship and break the mold of traditional cookbooks by adding elegant descriptions and ingredient lists that are still used today. (400 pgs)


WHAT HAPPENS ON VACATION BY BRENDA JACKSON
(PICKED BY CR)

For Alaskan senator Jessup Outlaw, a Napa Valley vacation starts out as innocent R and R—until he meets Paige Novak. Their chemistry is explosive! And the temptation to have the Hollywood star for himself proves irresistible... but the spotlight's trained on her every move. Is the timing finally right for Jess's personal desires to come ahead of his career? Or will their vacation romance crash into reality with the return of a familiar face from Paige's past? (224 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

JUNE 2022

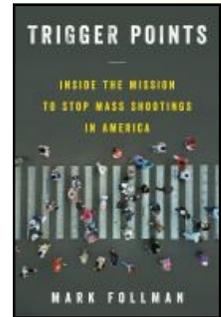


NON-FICTION

TRIGGER POINTS BY MARK FOLLMAN

(PICKED BY SM)

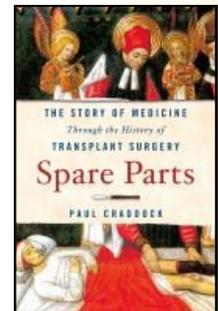
It's time to go beyond all the thoughts and prayers, blame on mental illness, and dug-in disputes over the Second Amendment. Journalist Mark Follman chronicles the decades-long search for identifiable profiles of mass shooters and brings readers inside the emerging field of behavioral threat assessment. With its synergy of mental health and law enforcement expertise, focusing on circumstances and behaviors leading up to planned acts of violence—warning signs that offer a chance for constructive intervention before it's too late. Follman traces how the field of behavioral threat assessment first grew out of Secret Service investigations and FBI serial-killer hunting. He goes inside the FBI's elite Behavioral Analysis Unit and immerses in an Oregon school district's innovative violence-prevention program. With its focus squarely on progress, the story delves into consequential tragedies and others averted, revealing the dangers of cultural misunderstanding and media sensationalism along the way. Follman shows how the nation could adopt the techniques of behavioral threat assessment more broadly, with powerful potential to save lives. (304 pgs)



SPARE PARTS BY PAUL CRADDOCK

(PICKED BY SLH)

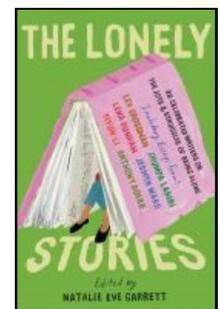
We think of transplant surgery as one of the medical wonders of the modern world. But transplant surgery is as ancient as the pyramids, with a history more surprising than we might expect. Paul Craddock takes us on a journey - from sixteenth-century skin grafting to contemporary stem cell transplants - uncovering stories of operations performed by unexpected people in unexpected places. Bringing together philosophy, science and cultural history, *Spare Parts* explores how transplant surgery constantly tested the boundaries between human, animal and machine, and continues to do so today. (320 pgs)



THE LONELY STORIES - NATALIE EVE GARRETT, ED.

(PICKED BY MG)

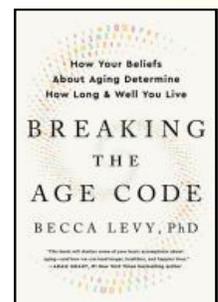
A collection of essays about the joys and struggles of being alone by 22 literary writers including: Lev Grossman, Jhumpa Lahiri, Lena Dunham, Jesmyn Ward, Yiyun Li, and Anthony Doerr. This cathartic collection of personal essays illuminates what the experience of being alone is like for all of us. Some of these stories are heartbreaking, such as Jesmyn Ward's reckoning with the loss of her husband, Imani Perry's confrontation with chronic illness, and Dina Nayeri's reflection on immigrating to a foreign country. Others are witty, such as Lev Grossman's rueful tale of heading to the woods alone or Anthony Doerr's struggles with internet addiction. Still others celebrate solitude and the kind of clarity it can bring about, such as Claire Dederer's journey toward sobriety and Lidia Yuknavitch's sensual look at women and desire. Thoughtful and ultimately affirming, *The Lonely Stories* explores emotions that so often go undiscussed, and lets us all know that we're not alone. (272 pgs)

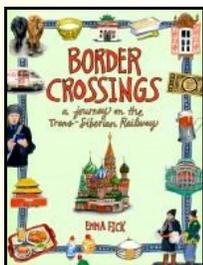


BREAKING THE AGE CODE BY BECCA LEVY

(PICKED BY SLS)

Dr. Becca Levy, draws on her ground-breaking research to show how age beliefs can be improved so they benefit all aspects of the aging process, including the way genes operate and the extension of life expectancy by 7.5 years. The results of Levy's science offer stunning revelations about the mind-body connection. She demonstrates that many health problems formerly considered to be entirely due to the aging process, such as memory loss, hearing decline, and cardiovascular events, are instead influenced by the negative age beliefs that dominate in the US and other ageist countries. It's time for all of us to rethink aging and *Breaking the Age Code* shows us how to do just that. She also presents a variety of fascinating people who have benefited from positive age beliefs as well as an entire town that has flourished with these beliefs. *Breaking the Age Code* presents not only easy-to-follow techniques for improving age beliefs so they can contribute to successful aging, but also a blueprint to reduce structural ageism for lasting change and an age-just society. (304 pgs)

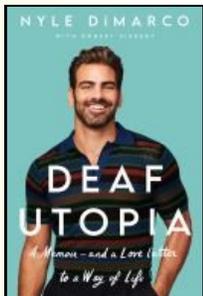




BORDER CROSSINGS BY EMMA FICK

(PICKED BY SLH)

In May 2015, on a trip through the Baltics and Scandinavia, artist and illustrator Emma Fick and her boyfriend (now husband) Helvio discovered a worn copy of the *Trans-Siberian Handbook* at a secondhand shop in Helsinki. Many travelers from around the globe had used the guide to journey on the longest train ride in the world. Emma and Helvio took their find as a sign to embark on their own adventure on the legendary railway. *Border Crossings* is the chronicle of their unforgettable 26-day, 8-city journey across Asia to Moscow. Emma's detailed observations and lush descriptions, accompanied by detailed colorful illustrations, bring this remarkable journey of discovery and adventure to life. (240 pgs)



DEAF UTOPIA BY NYLE DIMARCO

(PICKED BY SLS)

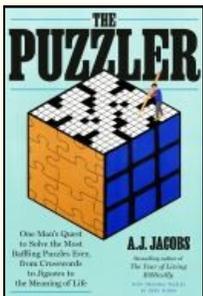
Before becoming the actor, producer, advocate, and model that people know today, Nyle DiMarco was half of a pair of Deaf twins born to a multi-generational Deaf family in Queens, New York. At the hospital one day after he was born, Nyle “failed” his first test—a hearing test—to the joy and excitement of his parents. In this moving and engrossing memoir, Nyle shares stories, both heartbreaking and humorous, of what it means to navigate a world built for hearing people. From growing up in a rough-and-tumble childhood in Queens with his big and loving Italian-American family to where he is now, Nyle has always been driven to explore beyond the boundaries given him. Nyle was drawn to acting, and dove into the reality show competitions *America’s Next Top Model* and *Dancing with the Stars*—ultimately winning both competitions. *Deaf Utopia* is more than a memoir, it is a cultural anthem—a proud and defiant song of Deaf culture and a love letter to American Sign Language. (317 pgs)



MEAN BABY BY SELMA BLAIR

(PICKED BY TA & BS)

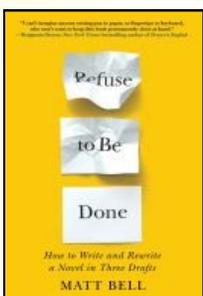
Selma Blair has played many archetypal roles: Gullible ingenue in *Cruel Intentions*. Preppy ice queen in *Legally Blonde*. Fire-starter in *Hellboy*. Muse to Karl Lagerfeld. Face of Chanel. Cover model. Advocate for the multiple sclerosis community. But before all of that, Selma was known best for being one thing: a mean baby. In a memoir that is as wildly funny as it is emotionally shattering, Selma Blair tells the story of growing up and finding her truth. Selma spent years living up to her terrible reputation: biting her sisters, lying spontaneously, getting drunk from Passover wine at the age of seven, and behaving dramatically so that she would be the center of attention. Although Selma went on to become a celebrated Hollywood actress and model, she could never quite shake the periods of darkness that overtook her. Selma lays bare her addiction to alcohol, her devotion to her mother, and the moments she flirted with death. (304 pgs)



THE PUZZLER BY A.J. JACOBS

(PICKED BY SLH)

What makes puzzles—jigsaws, mazes, riddles, sudokus—so satisfying? Convinced that puzzles have made him a better person, A. J. Jacobs—four-time *New York Times* bestselling author and nightly crossword—set out to determine their myriad benefits. In *The Puzzler*, Jacobs meets the most zealous devotees, enters (sometimes with his family in tow) any puzzle competition that will have him, unpacks the history of the most popular puzzles, and aims to solve the most impossible head-scratchers, from a mutant Rubik's Cube, to the hardest corn maze in America, to the most sadistic jigsaw. *The Puzzler* will open readers' eyes to the power of flexible thinking and concentration. Whether you're puzzle obsessed or puzzle hesitant, you'll walk away with real problem-solving strategies and pathways toward becoming a better thinker and decision maker. (368 pgs)



REFUSE TO BE DONE BY MATT BELL

(PICKED BY TA)

Refuse to Be Done is encouraging and intensely practical, focusing always on specific rewriting tasks, techniques, and activities for every stage of the process. Bell breaks down the writing process in three sections. In the first, Bell shares a bounty of tactics, all meant to push you through the initial conception and get words on the page. The second focuses on reworking the narrative through outlining, modeling, and rewriting. The third section offers a layered approach to polishing through a checklist of operations, breaking the daunting project of final revisions into many small, achievable tasks. Whether you are a first time novelist or a veteran writer, you will find an abundance of strategies here to help motivate you and shake up your revision process, allowing you to approach your work with fresh eyes and sharp new tools. (168 pgs)