



Staff Picks Digital and Print Edition

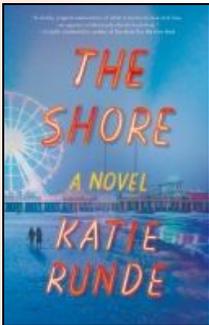
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FICTION

THE SHORE BY KATIE RUNDE

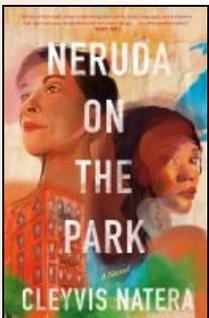
(PICKED BY BS)



Brian and Margot Dunne live year-round in Seaside, just steps away from the bustling boardwalk, with their daughters Liz and Evy. The Dunes run a real estate company, making their living by quickly turning over rental houses for tourists. But the family's future becomes even more precarious when Brian develops a brain tumor, transforming into a bizarre version of himself. Amidst the chaos and new caretaking responsibilities, Liz still seeks out summer adventure and flirting with a guy she should know better than to pursue. Her younger sister Evy works in a candy shop, falls in love with her friend Olivia, and secretly adopts the persona of a middle-aged mom in an online support group, where she discovers her own mother's most vulnerable confessions. Meanwhile, Margot faces an impossible choice driven by grief, impulse, and the ways that small-town life in Seaside has shaped her. Falling apart is not an option, but she can always pack up and leave the beach behind. (304 pgs)

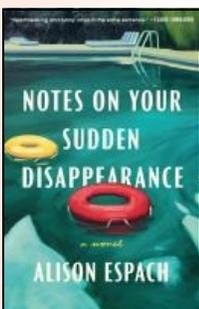
NERUDA ON THE PARK BY CLEYVIS NATERA

(PICKED BY SM)



The Guerreros have lived in Nothar Park, a predominantly Dominican part of New York City, for twenty years. When demolition begins on a neighboring tenement, Eusebia, an elder of the community, takes matters into her own hands by devising an increasingly dangerous series of schemes to stop construction of the luxury condos. Meanwhile, Eusebia's daughter, Luz, a rising associate at a top Manhattan law firm who strives to live the bougie lifestyle her parents worked hard to give her, becomes distracted by a sweltering romance with the handsome white developer at the company her mother so vehemently opposes. As Luz's father, Vladimir, secretly designs their retirement home in the Dominican Republic, mother and daughter collide, ramping up tensions in Nothar Park, racing toward a near-fatal climax. (336 pgs)

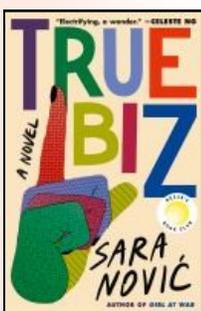
NOTES ON YOUR SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE BY ALISON ESPACH (PICKED BY BS)



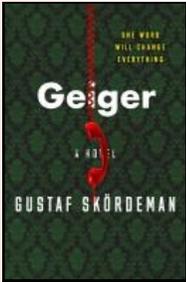
The summer before Sally Holt starts the eighth grade is full of long afternoons at the local pool with her older sister Kathy, which they mostly use as an excuse to ogle Billy Barnes, who works the concession stand there. A rising senior and local basketball star, Billy has been a source of intrigue for both girls since he jumped off the school roof in fifth grade, and their fascination with him is one of the few things the increasingly different sisters have in common. By summer's end Billy and Kathy are an item—an unthinkable stroke of luck that ends in an even more unthinkable tragedy. Set over the course of fifteen years, the story is narrated by Sally as she addresses Kathy before, during, and after her death. We watch as Kathy's absence creates a gaping hole that only Billy—now firmly off-limits to Sally—understands and might possibly begin to fill. It is both a breathtaking love story between two broken people who are inconveniently drawn to each other, and an observant coming-of-age story that looks at the ways the people we love the most continue to shape our lives long after they're gone. (352 pgs)

TRUE BIZ BY SARA NOVIC

(PICKED BY KT)



True biz? The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history final, and have doctors, politicians, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf, where they'll meet Charlie, a rebellious transfer student who's never met another deaf person before; Austin, the school's golden boy, whose world is rocked when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the headmistress, who is fighting to keep her school open and her marriage intact, but might not be able to do both. As a series of crises both personal and political threaten to unravel each of them, Charlie, Austin, and February find their lives inextricable from one another—and changed forever. (386 pgs)

**GEIGER BY GUSTAF SKORDEMAN****(PICKED BY SLS)**

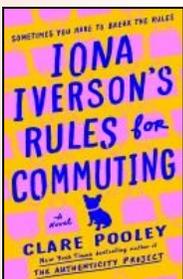
It's early summer in Stockholm. Agneta and Stellan Broman have just waved off their daughters and grandchildren when the landline phone rings. The caller says just one word: "Geiger." Agneta hangs up, finds her old pistol, kills her husband of fifty years and then disappears from their home without a trace. Sara Nowak, a police officer in the prostitution unit, is called by a colleague who is investigating the murder. Stellan was a widely loved former television presenter, and Sara grew up next door to the Bromans, spending much of her childhood in their grand house. Both the victim's daughters and Sara are devastated by the killing, and going against all regulations, Sara gets involved in the investigation. It is the beginning of a dark journey, leading back to the Cold War and fatal ideologies, and the truth about Sara's own childhood. (366 pgs)

**HIDE BY KIERSTEN WHITE****(PICKED BY SLH)**

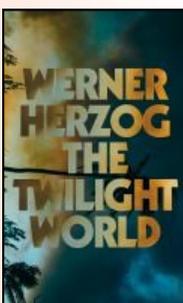
The challenge: spend a week hiding in an abandoned amusement park and don't get caught. The prize: enough money to change everything. Even though everyone is desperate to win—to seize their dream futures or escape their haunting pasts—Mack feels sure that she can beat her competitors. All she has to do is hide, and she's an expert at that. It's the reason she's alive, and her family isn't. But as the people around her begin disappearing one by one, Mack realizes this competition is more sinister than even she imagined, and that *together* might be the only way to survive. Fourteen competitors. Seven days. Everywhere to hide, but nowhere to run. (256 pgs)

**THEY CAN'T TAKE YOUR NAME BY ROBERT JUSTICE****(PICKED BY SP)**

What happens to a dream deferred—especially when an innocent man's life hangs in the balance? Langston Brown is out of time and options for clearing his name. Wrongfully convicted of the gruesome Mother's Day Massacre, he prepares to face his death. His final hope for salvation lies with his daughter, Liza, who dreamed of a life of music and song but left Juilliard to get a law degree with the intention of clearing her father's name. Just as she comes close to succeeding, it's announced that Langston will be put to death in thirty days. In a desperate bid to find freedom for her father, Liza enlists the help of Eli Stone, a jazz club owner. Devastated by the tragic loss of his wife, Eli is trying to find solace by reviving the club—but still, he thinks longingly of joining her in death. As the dark shadows of the past converge, could Langston, Eli, and Liza be facing a danger that could shatter those dreams forever? (298 pgs)

**IONA IVERSON'S RULES FOR COMMUTING****(PICKED BY MG/SM)**

Every day Iona, a larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, travels the ten stops from Hampton Court to Waterloo Station by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people, whom she knows only by nickname: Impossibly-Pretty-Constant-Reader and Terribly-Lonely-Teenager. Of course, they never speak. Seasoned commuters never do. Then one morning, the man she calls Smart-But-Sexist-Manspreader chokes on a grape right in front of her. He'd have died were it not for the timely intervention of Sanjay, a nurse, who gives him the Heimlich maneuver. This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute discover that a chance encounter can blossom into much more. It turns out that talking to strangers can teach you about the world around you—and even more about yourself. (352 pgs)

**THE TWILIGHT WORLD BY WERNER HERZOG****(PICKED BY TA)**

In 1997, Werner Herzog was in Tokyo to direct an opera. His hosts asked him, Whom would you like to meet? He replied instantly: Hiroo Onoda. Onoda was a former soldier famous for having quixotically defended an island in the Philippines for decades after World War II, unaware the fighting was over. Herzog and Onoda developed an instant rapport and would meet many times, talking for hours and together unraveling the story of Onoda's long war. At the end of 1944, on Lubang Island in the Philippines, with Japanese troops about to withdraw, Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda was given orders by his superior officer: *Hold the island until the Imperial army's return.. There is only one rule. You are forbidden to die by your own hand. In the event of your capture by the enemy, you are to give them all the misleading information you can.* So began Onoda's long campaign. Soon weeks turned into months, months into years, and years into decades. All the while Onoda continued to fight his fictitious war, a character in a novel of his own making. Herzog immortalizes and imagines Onoda's years of absurd yet epic struggle. (144 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

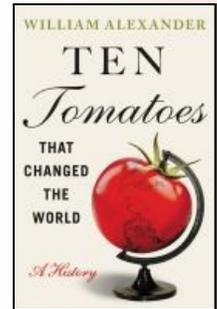
JULY 2022



NON-FICTION

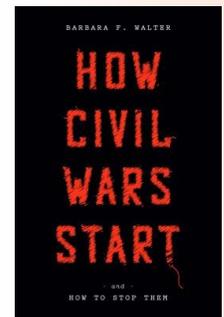
TEN TOMATOES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD BY WILLIAM ALEXANDER (PICKED BY SLH/SL)

Accused of being vile and poisonous, subjected to being picked hard-green and gassed, the poor tomato has become the avatar for our disaffection with industrial foods — while becoming the most popular vegetable in America (and, in fact, the world). Each summer, tomato festivals crop up across the country; the Heinz ketchup bottle, instantly recognizable, has earned a spot in the Smithsonian; and now the tomato is redefining the very nature of farming, moving from fields into climate-controlled mega-greenhouses the size of New England villages. Supported by meticulous research and told in a lively, accessible voice, *Ten Tomatoes That Changed the World* seamlessly weaves travel, history, humor, and a little adventure (and misadventure) to follow the tomato's trail through history. (320 pgs)



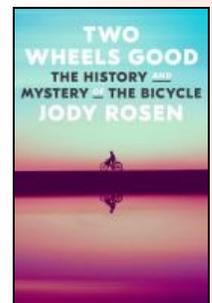
HOW CIVIL WARS START BY BARBARA WALTER (PICKED BY SM)

Most of us don't know it, but we are living in the world's greatest era of civil wars. While violence has declined worldwide, civil wars have increased. This is a new phenomenon. With the exception of a handful of cases - the American and English civil wars, the French Revolution - historically it has been rare for people to organize and fight their governments. Since 1946, over 250 armed conflicts have broken out around the world, a number that continues to rise. Even countries we thought could never experience another civil war - such as the USA, Sweden and Ireland - are showing signs of unrest. Barbara F. Walter, who has advised on political violence everywhere from the CIA to the U.S. Senate to the United Nations, explains the rise of civil war and the conditions that create it. As democracies across the world backslide and citizens become more polarized, civil wars will become even more widespread and last longer than in the past. This urgent and important book shows us a path back toward peace. (320 pgs)



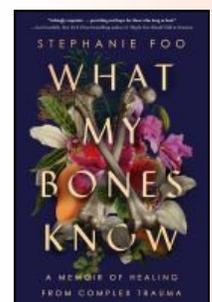
TWO WHEELS GOOD BY JODY ROSEN (PICKED BY SLH)

The bicycle is a vestige of the Victorian era, seemingly out of pace with our age of smartphones and ridesharing apps and driverless cars. Yet we live on a bicycle planet. Across the world, more people travel by bicycle than by any other form of transportation. Rosen sweeps across centuries and around the globe, unfolding the bicycle's saga from its invention in 1817 to its present-day renaissance as a "green machine," an emblem of sustainability in a world afflicted by pandemic and climate change. *Two Wheels Good* examines the bicycle's past and peers into its future, challenging myths and cliches, while uncovering cycling's connection to colonial conquest and the gentrification of cities. But the book is also a love letter: a reflection on the sensual and spiritual pleasures of bike riding and an ode to an engineering marvel—a wondrous vehicle whose passenger is also its engine. (416 pgs)



WHAT MY BONES KNOW BY STEPHANIE FOO (PICKED BY KT)

By age thirty, Stephanie Foo was successful on paper: She had her dream job as an award-winning radio producer at *This American Life* and a loving boyfriend. But behind her office door, she was having panic attacks and sobbing at her desk every morning. After years of questioning what was wrong with herself, she was diagnosed with complex PTSD—a condition that occurs when trauma happens continuously, over the course of years. Both of Foo's parents abandoned her when she was a teenager, after years of physical and verbal abuse and neglect. She thought she'd moved on, but her new diagnosis illuminated the way her past continued to threaten her health, relationships, and career. She found limited resources to help her, so Foo set out to heal herself, and to map her experiences onto the scarce literature about C-PTSD. Foo interviewed scientists and psychologists and tried a variety of innovative therapies. Ultimately, she discovered that you don't move on from trauma—but you can learn to move with it. (352 pgs)



ANNA BY AMY ODELL

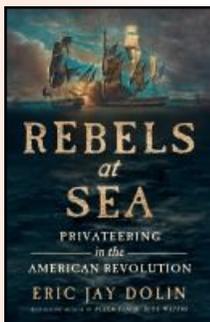
(PICKED BY TA)



As a child, Anna Wintour was a tomboy with no apparent interest in clothing but, seduced by the miniskirts and bob haircuts of swinging 1960s London, she grew into a fashion-obsessed teenager. Her father, an influential newspaper editor, loomed large in her life, and once he decided she should become editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, she never looked back. Impatient to start her career, she left high school and got a job at a trendy boutique in London—an experience that would be the first of many defeats. Undeterred, she found work in the competitive world of magazines, eventually embarking on a journey to New York and a battle to ascend, no matter who or what stood in her way. Once she was crowned editor-in-chief of *Vogue*—in one of the stormiest transitions in fashion magazine history—she continued the fight to retain her enviable position, ultimately rising to dominate all of Condé Nast. Weaving Anna’s personal story into a larger narrative about the hierarchical dynamics of the fashion industry and the complex world of Condé Nast, *Anna* charts the relentless ambition of the woman who would become an icon. (464 pgs)

REBELS AT SEA BY ERIC JAY DOLAN

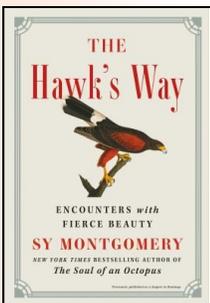
(PICKED BY SM)



The story of the founding of the U.S. Navy during the Revolution has been told before, yet missing from most maritime histories of America’s first war is the ragtag fleet of private vessels that truly revealed the new nation’s character. Eric Jay Dolin corrects that significant omission, and contends that privateers, though often seen as profiteers at best and pirates at worst, were in fact critical to the Revolution’s outcome. Armed with cannons, swivel guns, muskets, and pikes—as well as government documents granting them the right to seize enemy ships—thousands of privateers tormented the British on the broad Atlantic and in bays and harbors on both sides of the ocean. With tales of daring maneuvers and deadly encounters, *Rebels at Sea* presents the American Revolution as we have rarely seen it before. (344 pgs)

THE HAWK’S WAY BY SY MONTGOMERY

(PICKED BY SLS)



When Sy Montgomery went to spend a day at falconer Nancy Cowan’s farm, home to a dozen magnificent birds of prey, it was the start of a deep love affair. Nancy allowed her to work with Jazz, a feisty, four-year-old, female Harris’s hawk with a wingspan of more than four feet. Not a pet, Jazz was a fierce predator with talons that could pierce skin and bone and yet, she was willing to work with a human to hunt. Over the next few years, Sy spent more time with these magnificent creatures, getting to know their extraordinary abilities and instincts. They are deeply emotional animals, quick to show anger and frustration, and can hold a grudge for years. But they are also loyal and intensely aware of their surroundings. In this mesmerizing account, featuring sixteen pages of gorgeous color photographs, Sy passionately and vividly reveals the wonderous world of hawks and what they can teach us about nature, life, and love. (96 pgs)

BURN THE PAGE BY DANICA ROEM

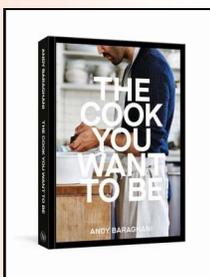
(PICKED BY KT)



Danica Roem made national headlines when—as a transgender former frontwoman for a metal band and a political newcomer—she unseated Virginia’s most notoriously anti-LGBTQ 26-year incumbent as state delegate. But before Danica made history, she had to change her vision of what was possible in her own life. Doing so was a matter of storytelling: during her campaign, Danica hired an opposition researcher to dredge up every story from her past that her opponent might seize on to paint her negatively. Danica dismantles all the stories, showing how through brutal honesty and loving authenticity, it’s possible to embrace the low points, and even transform them into her greatest strengths. *Burn the Page* is an inspiring manifesto about how it’s possible to set fire to the stories you don’t want to be in anymore, and rewrite your own future, whether that’s running for politics, in your work, or your personal life. (320 pgs)

THE COOK YOU WANT TO BE BY ANDY BARAGHANI

(PICKED BY SLS)



Food writer and social media star Andy Baraghani helps you define and develop your personal cooking style—and become the cook you want to be—in more than 100 recipes. Baraghani peeled hundreds of onions at Chez Panisse as a teenage intern, honed his perfectly balanced salad-making skills at Estela in New York, and developed recipes in the test kitchens of Saveur, Tasting Table, and Bon Appétit. It took him all those years to figure out the cook he wanted to be: a cook who is true to his Persian heritage, a fresh-vegetable lover, a citrus superfan, and an always-hungry world traveler. In *The Cook You Want to Be*, Baraghani shows home cooks the techniques and unexpected flavor combinations that maximize flavor in minimal time. (336 pgs)