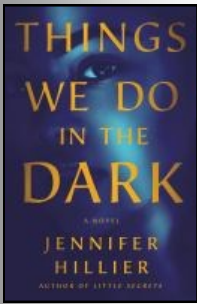




**Staff Picks Digital and Print Edition**

Go to [www.lib.de.us](http://www.lib.de.us) to find out how!



**THINGS WE DO IN THE DARK BY JENNIFER HILLIER**

**(PICKED BY SP)**

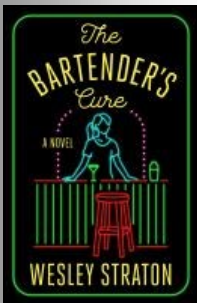
When Paris Peralta is arrested in her own bathroom—covered in blood, holding a straight razor, her celebrity husband dead in the bathtub behind her—she knows she'll be charged with murder. But as bad as this looks, it's not what worries her the most. With the unwanted media attention now surrounding her, it's only a matter of time before someone from her long hidden past recognizes her and destroys the new life she's worked so hard to build, along with any chance of a future. Twenty-five years earlier, Ruby Reyes, known as the Ice Queen, was convicted of a similar murder in a trial that riveted Canada in the early nineties. Reyes knows who Paris really is, and when she's unexpectedly released from prison, she threatens to expose all of Paris's secrets. Left with no other choice, Paris must finally confront the dark past she escaped, once and for all. Because the only thing worse than a murder charge are two murder charges. (352 pgs)



**THE LAST WHITE MAN BY MOHSIN HAMID**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

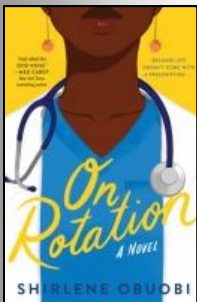
One morning, Anders wakes to find that his skin has turned dark, his reflection a stranger to him. At first he tells only Oona, an old friend, newly a lover. Soon, reports of similar occurrences surface across the land. Some see in the transformations the long-dreaded overturning of an established order, to be resisted to a bitter end. In many, like Anders's father and Oona's mother, a sense of profound loss wars with profound love. As the bond between Anders and Oona deepens, change takes on a different shading: a chance to see one another, face to face, anew. (192 pgs)



**THE BARTENDER'S CURE BY WESLEY STRATON**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

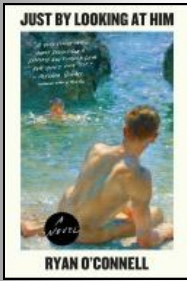
Samantha Fisher definitely does not want to be a bartender. But after a breakup and breakdown in San Francisco, she decides to defer law school for a year to move to New York, crashing on her best friend's couch. When she is offered a job at Joe's Apothecary, a beloved neighborhood bar in Brooklyn, she tells herself it's only temporary. As Sam learns more about bartending and gets to know the service industry lifers and loyal regulars at Joe's, she is increasingly seduced by her new job. She finds acceptance in her tight-knit community and even begins a new relationship. But as the year draws to a close, Sam is increasingly pulled between the life she thought she wanted and the possibility of a different kind of future. When destructive cycles from her past threaten to consume her again, Sam must decide how much she's willing to let go of to finally belong. (272 pgs)



**ON ROTATION BY SHIRLENE OBUOBI**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

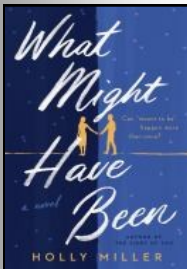
Ghanaian-American Angela Appiah has checked off all the boxes for the "Perfect Immigrant Daughter."— Enroll in an elite medical school - Snag a suitable lawyer/doctor/engineer boyfriend - Surround self with a gaggle of successful and/or loyal friends. But then it quickly all falls apart: her boyfriend dumps her, she bombs the most important exam of her medical career, and her best friend pulls away. And her parents, whose approval seems to hinge on how closely she follows the path they chose, are a lot less proud of their daughter. Angie, who has always faced her problems by working "twice as hard to get half as far," is at a loss. Suddenly, she begins to question everything: her career choice, her friendships, even why she's attracted to men who don't love her as much as she loves them. Just when things couldn't get more complicated, enter Ricky Gutierrez— brilliant, thoughtful, sexy, and most importantly, seems to see Angie for who she is instead of what she can represent. Unfortunately, he's also got "wasteman" practically tattooed across his forehead, and Angie's done chasing mirages of men. Or so she thinks. For someone who's always been in control, Angie realizes that there's one thing she can't plan on: matters of her heart. (352 pgs)



**JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM BY RYAN O'CONNELL**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

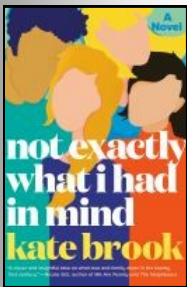
Elliott appears to be living the dream as a successful TV writer with a dotting boyfriend. But behind his Instagram filter of a life, he's grappling with an intensifying alcohol addiction, he can't seem to stop cheating on his boyfriend with various sex workers, and his cerebral palsy is making him feel like gay Shrek. After falling down a rabbit hole of sex, drinking, and Hollywood backstabbing, Elliott decides to limp his way towards redemption. But facing your demons is easier said than done. (304 pgs)



**WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BY HOLLY MILLER**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

The day that changes Lucy's life starts in the worst way possible when she is abruptly fired from her job. Drowning her sorrows in a nearby bar, Lucy spots her ex-boyfriend Max walking past outside. Should she stay where she is and ignore him or should she step outside and say hello? Everything hinges on the outcome of this one decision. In two storylines, we see what happens when Lucy follows both her head and her heart, and how the ripples from this moment change her whole life. A heartbreaking, uplifting and unforgettable novel for anyone who has ever paused to wonder what might have happened if you made a different choice. (320 pgs)



**NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND BY KATE BROOK**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

Hazel and Alfie have just moved in together as roommates. They've also just slept together, which was either a catastrophic mistake or the best decision of their lives—they aren't quite sure yet. Whatever happens, they need to find a way to keep living together without too much drama or awkwardness, since neither of them can afford to move out of the apartment. Then Hazel's sister, Emily, and her wife, Daria, come for a visit, and Hazel's and Alfie's feelings about each other are pushed to the side in the whirlwind of their arrival. Recently returned from abroad, Emily and Daria are excited for a new life in a new town, and ready to start a family of their own. As the lives of Hazel, Alfie, Emily, and Daria collide, a complicated chain of events begins to bind them all together, bringing joy and heartache, hope and anxiety, and reshaping their relationships in ways that no one quite predicted. (352 pgs)



**VACATIONLAND BY MEG MITCHELL MOORE**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

Louisa has come to her parents' house in Maine this summer with all three of her kids, a barely written book, and a trunkful of resentment. Left behind in Brooklyn is her husband, who has promised that after this final round of fundraising at his startup he will once again pick up his share of the household responsibilities. Louisa is hoping that the crisp breeze off Penobscot Bay will blow away the irritation she is feeling with her life choices and replace it with enthusiasm for both her family and her work. But all isn't well in Maine. Louisa's father, a retired judge and pillar of the community, is suffering from Alzheimer's. One of Louisa's children happens upon a very confusing and heartfelt letter referring to something Louisa doesn't think her father could possibly have done. Louisa's not the only one searching for something in Maine this summer. Kristie took the Greyhound bus from Pennsylvania with one small suitcase, \$761, and a lot of baggage. She's got a past she's trying to outrun, a secret she's trying to unpack, and a new boyfriend who's so impossibly kind she can't figure out what she did to deserve him. But she can't keep her various lives from colliding forever. As June turns to July turns to August, secrets will be unearthed, betrayals will come to light, and both Louisa and Kristie will ask themselves what they are owed and what they owe others. (384 pgs)



**TRUST BY HERNAN DIAZ**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

Even through the roar and effervescence of the 1920s, everyone in New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the brilliant daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth. But the secrets around their affluence and grandeur incites gossip. Rumors about Benjamin's financial maneuvers and Helen's reclusiveness start to spread—all as a decade of excess and speculation draws to an end. At what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? This is the mystery at the center of a successful 1938 novel entitled *Bonds*, which all of New York seems to have read. But it isn't the only version. (416 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

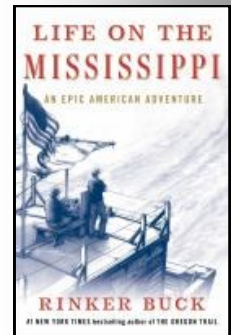
SEPTEMBER 2022



## **LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI BY RINKER BUCK**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

*Life on the Mississippi* is a blend of history and adventure in which Buck builds a wooden flatboat from the grand “flatboat era” of the 1800s and sails it down the Mississippi River, illuminating the forgotten past of America’s first western frontier. Buck casts off down the river on the flatboat *Patience*. As he charts his own journey, he also delivers a satisfying work of history that brings to life a lost era. Between 1800 and 1840, millions embarked from states like Pennsylvania and Virginia on flatboats headed beyond the Appalachians. The western rivers in America became a floating supply chain that fueled national growth. Today, America’s inland rivers are a superhighway dominated by leviathan barges—carrying \$80 billion of cargo annually—all descended from flatboats like the ramshackle *Patience*, which must avoid being crushed alongside their metal hulls. Buck also challenges familiar myths about American expansion, confronting the bloody truth behind settlers’ push for land and wealth. Buck portrays this watershed era of American expansion as it was really lived. (416 pgs)



## **SEWING GIRL’S TALE BY JOHN WOOD SWEET**

**(PICKED BY SLH)**

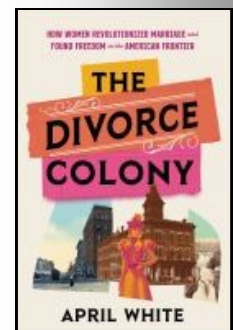
On a moonless night in the summer of 1793 a crime was committed in the back room of a New York brothel—the kind of crime that even victims usually kept secret. Instead, seventeen-year-old seamstress Lanah Sawyer did what virtually no one in US history had done before: she charged a gentleman with rape. Her accusation sparked a raw courtroom drama and a relentless struggle for vindication that threatened both Lanah’s and her assailant’s lives. The trial exposed a predatory sexual underworld, sparked riots in the streets, and ignited a vigorous debate about class privilege and sexual double standards. The ongoing conflict attracted the nation’s top lawyers, including Alexander Hamilton, and shaped the development of American law. The crime and its consequences became a kind of parable about the power of seduction and the limits of justice. Eventually, Lanah Sawyer did succeed in holding her assailant accountable—but at a terrible cost to herself. (384 pgs)



## **THE DIVORCE COLONY BY APRIL WHITE**

**(PICKED BY SLH)**

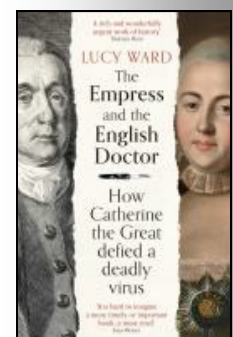
On the American frontier, South Dakota offered a tempting freedom often difficult to obtain elsewhere: divorce. With the laxest divorce laws in the country, five railroad lines, and the finest hotel for hundreds of miles, the small city became the unexpected headquarters for unhappy spouses—infamous around the world as *The Divorce Colony*. These society divorcees put Sioux Falls at the center of a heated national debate over the future of American marriage. April White unveils the incredible social, political, and personal dramas that unfolded in Sioux Falls and reverberated around the country through the stories of four very different women. This story lays bare the journey of the turn-of-the-century socialites who took their lives into their own hands and reshaped the country's attitudes about marriage and divorce. (304 pgs)

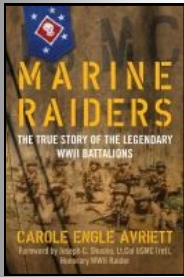


## **THE EMPRESS AND THE ENGLISH DOCTOR BY LUCY WARD**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

Within living memory, smallpox was a dreaded disease. Over human history it has killed untold millions. Back in the eighteenth century, as epidemics swept Europe, the first rumours emerged of an effective treatment: a mysterious method called inoculation. But a key problem remained: convincing people to accept the preventative remedy, the forerunner of vaccination. Arguments raged over risks and benefits, and public resistance ran high. As smallpox ravaged her empire and threatened her court, Catherine the Great took the momentous decision to summon the Quaker physician Thomas Dimsdale to St Petersburg to carry out a secret mission that would transform both their lives. Lucy Ward expertly unveils the extraordinary story of Enlightenment ideals, female leadership and the fight to promote science over superstition. (352 pgs)

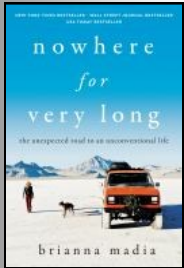




**MARINE RAIDERS BY CAROLE AVRIETT**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

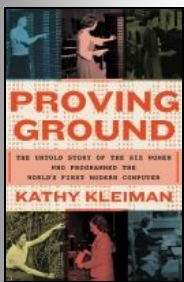
At the beginning of World War II, military planners set out to form the most ruthless, skilled, and effective force the world had ever seen. The U.S. Marines were already the world's greatest fighters, but leadership wanted a select group to conduct special operations at the highest level in the Pacific theater. The Marine Raiders were born. These young men received matchless training in the arts of war. Marksmen, brawlers, and tacticians, the Marine Raiders could accomplish their objective before the enemy even knew they were there. These heroes and their exploits should be the stuff of legend. Yet even though one of their commanders was President Roosevelt's son, they have disappeared into the mists of history—the greatest warriors you've never heard of -until now. (320 pgs)



**NOWHERE FOR VERY LONG BY BRIANNA MADIA**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

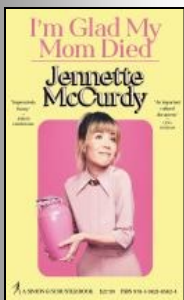
A woman defined by motion, Brianna Madia bought a beat-up bright orange van, filled it with her two dogs Bucket and Dagwood, and headed into the canyons of Utah with her husband on a journey of discovery. *Nowhere for Very Long* is her story of exploration—of the world outside and the spirit within. From the backroads to the breakdowns, married to solo, lost to found, it is the chronicle of a woman in the wild, learning and unlearning. (304 pgs)



**PROVING GROUND BY KATHY KLEIMAN**

**(PICKED BY SLH)**

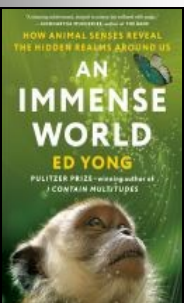
After the end of World War II, the race for technological supremacy sped on. Top-secret research into ballistics and computing, begun during the war to aid those on the front lines, continued across the United States as engineers and programmers rushed to complete their confidential assignments. Among them were six pioneering women, tasked with figuring out how to program the world's first general-purpose, programmable, all-electronic computer—better known as the ENIAC— even though there were no instruction codes or programming languages in existence. While most students of computer history are aware of this innovative machine, the great contributions of the women who programmed it were never told. Over the course of a decade, Kathy Kleiman met with four of the original six ENIAC Programmers and recorded extensive interviews with the women about their work. *Proving Ground* restores these women to their rightful place as technological revolutionaries. (297 pgs)



**I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED BY JENNETTE MCCURDY**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

Jennette McCurdy was six years old when she had her first acting audition. Her mother's dream was for her only daughter to become a star, and Jennette would do anything to make her mother happy. She went along with what Mom called "calorie restriction," eating little and weighing herself five times a day. She was even showered by Mom until age sixteen while sharing her diaries, email, and all her income. Jennette recounts all this in unflinching detail— just as she chronicles what happens when the dream finally comes true. Cast in a new Nickelodeon series called *iCarly*, she is thrust into fame. Though Mom is ecstatic, Jennette is riddled with anxiety, shame, and self-loathing, which manifest into eating disorders, addiction, and a series of unhealthy relationships. These issues only get worse when, soon after taking the lead in the *iCarly* spinoff, her mother dies of cancer. Finally, after discovering therapy and quitting acting, Jennette embarks on recovery and decides for the first time in her life what she really wants. (320 pgs)



**AN IMMENSE WORLD BY ED YONG**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

The Earth teems with sights and textures, sounds and vibrations, smells and tastes, electric and magnetic fields. But every animal is enclosed within its own unique sensory bubble, perceiving but a tiny sliver of an immense world. This book welcomes us into a previously unfathomable dimension—the world as it is truly perceived by other animals. We encounter beetles that are drawn to fires and turtles that can track the Earth's magnetic fields. We discover that the eyes of a giant squid evolved to see sparkling whales, that plants thrum with the inaudible songs of courting bugs, and that even simple scallops have complex vision. We learn what bees see in flowers, what songbirds hear in their tunes, and what dogs smell on the street. In order to understand our world, we don't need to travel to other places; we need to see through other eyes. (464 pgs)