

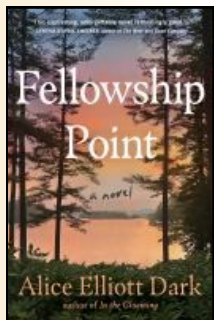


**Staff Picks Digital and Print Edition**

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



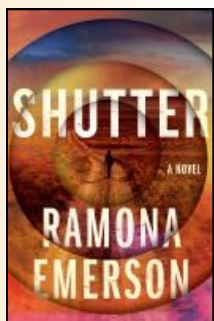
**FICTION**



**FELLOWSHIP POINT BY ALICE ELLIOT DARK**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

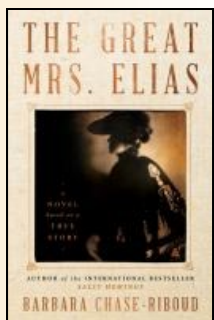
Celebrated children’s book author Agnes Lee is determined to secure her legacy—to complete what she knows will be the final volume of her pseudonymously written Franklin Square novels; and even more consuming, to permanently protect the peninsula of majestic coast in Maine known as Fellowship Point. To donate the land to a trust, Agnes must convince shareholders to dissolve a generations-old partnership. And one of those shareholders is her best friend, Polly. Polly Wister has led a different kind of life than Agnes: that of a well-off married woman with children, defined by her devotion to her husband, and philosophy professor with an inflated sense of stature. Polly soon finds her loyalties torn between the wishes of her best friend and the wishes of her three sons—but what is it that Polly wants herself? Agnes’s designs are further muddled when an enterprising young book editor named Maud Silver sets out to convince Agnes to write her memoirs. Agnes’s resistance cannot prevent long-buried memories and secrets from coming to light with far-reaching repercussions for all. (592 pgs)



**SHUTTER BY RAMONA EMERSON**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

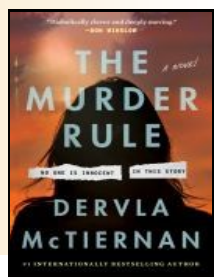
Rita Todacheene is a forensic photographer working for the Albuquerque police force. Her excellent photography skills have cracked many cases. In fact, Rita has been hiding a secret: she sees the ghosts of crime victims who point her toward the clues that other investigators overlook. As a lone portal back to the living for traumatized spirits, Rita is terrorized by nagging ghosts who won’t let her sleep and who sabotage her personal life. Her taboo and psychologically harrowing ability is what drove her away from the Navajo reservation, where she was raised by her grandmother. It has isolated her from friends and gotten her in trouble with the law. And now it might be what gets her killed. When Rita is sent to photograph the scene of a supposed suicide on a highway overpass, the furious, discombobulated ghost of the victim—who insists she was murdered—latches onto Rita, forcing her on a quest for revenge against her killers, and Rita finds herself in the crosshairs of one of Albuquerque’s most dangerous cartels. (296pgs)



**THE GREAT MRS. ELIAS BY BARBARA CHASE-RIBOUD**

**(PICKED BY SP)**

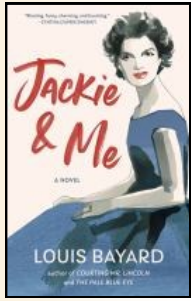
Born in Philadelphia in the late 1800s, Hannah Elias has done things she’s not proud of to survive. Shedding her past, Hannah slips on a new identity before relocating to New York City to become as rich as a robber baron. Hannah quietly invests in the stock market, growing her fortune with the help of businessmen. As the money pours in, Hannah hides her millions across 29 banks. Finally attaining the life she’s always dreamed, she buys a mansion on the Upper West Side and decorates it in gold and first-rate décor, inspired by her idol Cleopatra. The unsolved murder turns Hannah’s world upside-down and threatens to destroy everything she’s built. When the truth of her identity is uncovered, thousands of protestors gather in front of her stately home. Hounded by the salacious press, the very private Mrs. Elias finds herself alone, ensnared in a scandalous trial, and accused of stealing her fortune from whites.



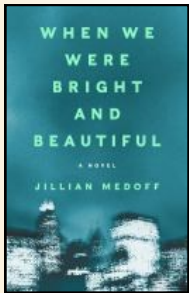
**THE MURDER RULE BY DERVLA MCTIERNAN**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

First Rule: Make them like you. Second Rule: Make them need you. Third Rule: Make them pay. They think I’m a young, idealistic law student, that I’m passionate about reforming a corrupt and brutal system. They think I’m working hard to impress them. They think I’m here to save an innocent man on death row. They’re wrong. I’m going to bury him. (295 pgs)

**JACKIE & ME BY LOUIS BAYARD****(PICKED BY BS)**

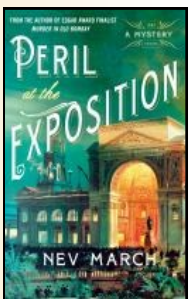
In 1951, former debutante Jacqueline Bouvier is hard at work as the Inquiring Camera Girl for a Washington newspaper. Her mission in life is “not to be a housewife,” but when she meets the charismatic congressman Jack Kennedy at a Georgetown party, her resolution begins to falter. Soon the two are flirting and as Jackie is drawn deeper into the Kennedy orbit, and as Jack himself grows increasingly elusive, she begins to question what life at his side would mean. For answers, she turns to his best friend and confidant, Lem Billings, a closeted gay man who has made the Kennedy family his own, and who has been instructed by them to seal the deal with Jack’s new girl. But as he gets to know her, a deep and touching friendship emerges, leaving him with painfully divided alliances. Narrated by an older Lem as he looks back at his own role in a complicated alliance, this is a courtship story full of longing, what-ifs and possible wrong turns. It is a surprising look at Jackie before she was that Jackie. (352 pgs)

**WHEN WE WERE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL BY JILLIAN MEDOFF (PICKED BY SM)**

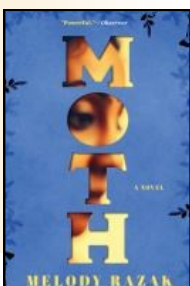
Cassie Quinn may only be twenty-three, but she knows a few things. One: money can't buy happiness, but it's certainly better to have it. Two: family matters most. Three: her younger brother Billy is not a rapist. When Billy, a junior at Princeton, is arrested for assaulting his ex-girlfriend, Cassie races home to Manhattan to join forces with her big brother Nate and their parents. The Quinns scramble to hire the best legal minds, but Billy fits the all-too-familiar sex-offender profile—white, athletic, and privileged—that makes headlines and sways juries. Cassie struggles to understand why Billy's ex Diana would go this far, even if the breakup was painful. She knows how the end of first love can destroy someone: Her own years-long affair with a powerful, charismatic man left her shattered, and she's only recently regained her footing. As reporters converge outside their Upper East Side landmark building, the Quinns gird themselves for the trial, and Cassie vows she'll do whatever it takes to save Billy. But what if that means exposing her own darkest secrets to the world? (336 pgs)

**THE LOVE CON BY SERESSIA GLASS****(PICKED BY TM)**

Kenya dreams of being able to turn her creative hobby of anime, gaming and cosplay into a career. She finally has a chance to make it big when she joins the reality show competition *Cosplay or No Way*. There's just one catch: the challenge for the final round is all about iconic pairs, and the judges want the contestants' significant others to participate. Unfortunately, Kenya is as single as can be at the moment. Luckily her best friend, Cameron Lassiter, agrees to be her fake boyfriend for the show. Roleplaying a couple in love will force them to explore what they're hiding under the mask of friendship. Can Kenya and Cam fake it until she makes it, or will she be real about her feelings, knowing it could cost her the best friend she's ever had? (309 pgs)

**PERIL AT THE EXPOSITION BY NEV MARCH****(PICKED BY SLS)**

**1893:** Newlyweds Captain Jim Agnihotri and Diana Framji are settling into their new home in Boston, Massachusetts, having fled the strict social rules of British Bombay. Jim, now a detective at the Dupree Agency, is teaching Diana the art of deduction he's learned from his idol, Sherlock Holmes. Everyone is talking about the preparations for the World's Fair in Chicago: the grandeur, the speculation, the trickery. Captain Jim will experience it first-hand: he's being sent to Chicago to investigate the murder of a man named Thomas Grewe. As Jim probes the underbelly of Chicago's docks, warehouses, and taverns, he discovers deep social unrest and some deadly ambitions. When Jim goes missing, young Diana must venture to Chicago's treacherous streets to learn what happened. But who can she trust, when a single misstep could mean disaster? (352 pgs)

**MOTH BY MELODY RAZAK****(PICKED BY SLS)**

Delhi, 1946. Fourteen-year-old Alma is soon to be married despite her parents' fear that she is far too young. But times are perilous in India, where the country's long-awaited independence from the British empire heralds a new era of hope—and danger. Political unrest ripples across the subcontinent, marked by violent confrontations between Hindus and Muslims. The solution is partition, which will create a new, wholly Muslim, sovereign nation—Pakistan—carved from India's northwestern shoulder. Given the uncertain times, Alma's parents, intellectuals who teach at the local university, pray that marriage will provide Alma with stability and safety. But, when Alma's grandmother—a woman determined to protect the family's honor no matter the cost—interferes with the engagement, her meddling sets off a chain of events that will wrench the family apart, forcing its members to find new and increasingly desperate ways to survive in the wake of partition. (368 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

OCTOBER 2022

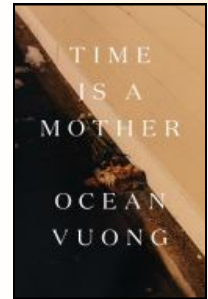


## NON-FICTION

### **TIME IS A MOTHER BY OCEAN VUONG**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

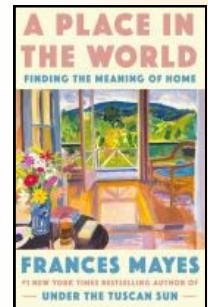
In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Ocean Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother's death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it. Shifting through memory, and in concert with the themes of his novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Vuong contends with personal loss, the meaning of family, and the cost of being the product of an American war in America. At once vivid, brave, and propulsive, Vuong's poems circle fragmented lives to find both restoration as well as the epicenter of the break. Vuong writes directly to our humanity without losing sight of the current moment. These poems represent a more innovative and daring experimentation with language and form, illuminating how the themes we perennially live in and question are truly inexhaustible. (128 pgs)



### **A PLACE IN THE WORLD BY FRANCES MAYES**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

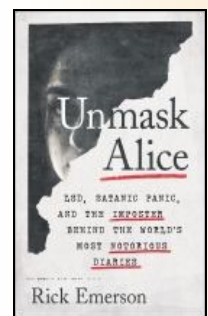
Though Frances Mayes is known for her travels, she has always sought a sense of home wherever she goes. In this poetic testament to the power of place in our lives, Mayes reflects on the idea of home, from the earliest imprint of four walls to the startling discoveries of feeling the strange ease of homes abroad, friends' homes, and even momentary homes that spark desires for other lives. From her travels across Italy—Tuscany, of course, but also Venice and Capri—to the American South, France, and Mexico, Mayes examines the connective tissue among them through the homes she's inhabited. *A Place in the World* explores Mayes's passion and obsessions with houses and the things that inhabit them—old books, rich food, beloved friends, transportive art. The indelible marks each refuge has left on her and how each home influenced the next serve as the foundations of its chapters. (304 pgs)



### **UNMASK ALICE BY RICK EMERSON**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

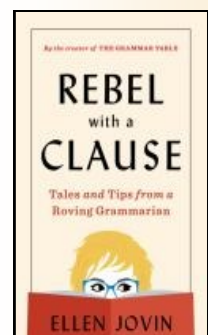
In 1971, *Go Ask Alice* reinvented the young adult genre with a blistering portrayal of sex, psychosis, and teenage self-destruction. The supposed diary of a middle-class addict, *Go Ask Alice* terrified adults and cemented LSD's fearsome reputation. It remains a divisive bestseller drawn by the book's mythic premise: *A Real Diary*, by *Anonymous*. In 1979, another diary rattled the culture. The posthumous memoir of an alleged teenage Satanist, *Jay's Journal* merged with a frightening new crisis—adolescent suicide—to create a literal witch hunt, shattering countless lives and poisoning whole communities. In reality, *Go Ask Alice* and *Jay's Journal* came from the same dark place: Beatrice Sparks, a serial con artist who betrayed a grieving family, stole a dead boy's memory, and lied her way to the National Book Awards. (349 pgs)

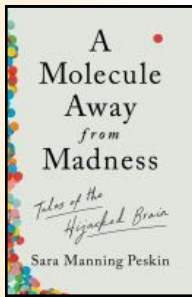


### **REBEL WITH A CLAUSE BY ELLEN JOVIN**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

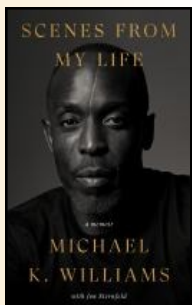
When Ellen Jovin first walked outside her Manhattan apartment and set up a folding table with a sign reading "Grammar Table," it took about 30 seconds to get her first visitor. EVERYONE had a question for her. Grammar Table was such a hit—attracting the attention of the *New York Times*, NPR, and CBS National News—that Ellen soon hit the road, traveling across the U.S. to answer questions from students, retired editors, bickering couples, and anyone else who uses words in this world. In *Rebel with a Clause* she tackles what is most on people's minds, grammatically speaking—from the Oxford comma to things you were never told about dictionaries, the ubiquity of *like*, common errors in online dating profiles, the likely lifespan of *whom*, semicolon phobia, and much, much more! (400 pgs)





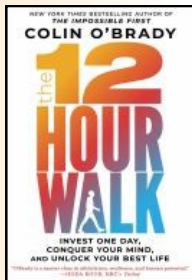
**A MOLECULE AWAY FROM MADNESS BY SARA PESKIN (PICKED BY KT)**

Our brains are the most complex machines known to humankind, but they have an Achilles heel: the very molecules that allow us to exist can also sabotage our minds. Here are gripping accounts of unruly molecules and the diseases that form in their wake. A college student cannot remember if she has eaten breakfast. By dinner, she is strapped to a hospital bed, convinced she is battling zombies. A man planning to propose marriage instead becomes violently enraged, gripped by body spasms so severe that he nearly bites off his own tongue. With an intoxicating blend of history and intrigue, Sara Manning Peskin invites readers to play medical detective, tracing each diagnosis from the patient to an ailing nervous system. Along the way, Peskin entertains with tales of the sometimes outlandish, often criticized, and forever devoted scientists who discovered it all. (214 pgs)



**SCENES FROM MY LIFE BY MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS (PICKED BY SLS)**

When Michael K. Williams died on September 6, 2021, he left behind a career as one of the most electrifying actors of his generation. From his star turn as Omar Little in *The Wire* to Chalky White in *Boardwalk Empire* to his Emmy-nominated role in *Lovecraft Country*. At the time of his death, Williams had nearly finished a memoir that tells the story of his past while looking to the future, a book that merges his life and his life's work. In *Scenes from My Life*, he traces his life from his childhood in East Flatbush and his early years as a dancer to his battles with addiction and the bar fight that left his face with his distinguishing scar. He was a committed Brooklyn resident and activist who dedicated his life to working with social justice organizations and his community. Williams worked to keep the spotlight on those he fought for and in whom he believed with his whole heart. (288 pgs)



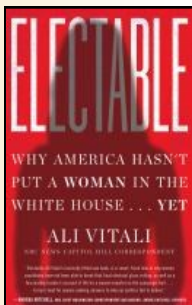
**12 HOUR WALK BY COLIN O'BRADY (PICKED BY TA)**

Millions of people dream of living a more fulfilling life, yet many settle for a life of comfortable complacency, allowing excuses and negative thoughts to invade their minds. *The 12-Hour Walk*, provides the inspiration—and catalyst—for getting unstuck and realizing your full potential. Featuring life lessons from explorer and entrepreneur Colin O'Brady, this book's vivid narrative and powerful insight will show you how you can embark on your own life-changing journey. *The 12-Hour Walk* asks you to invest one day in yourself. The goal? Conquering your mind and becoming your best self. By walking alone, unplugging, listening to the voice within, and rewriting the limiting beliefs etched into your psyche, you can break free of the patterns holding you back and learn how to cultivate a "Possible Mindset"—an empowered way of thinking that unlocks a life of limitless possibilities. (256 pgs)



**WHAT YOUR FOOD ATE BY DAVID MONTGOMERY (PICKED BY SLS)**

The roots of good health start on farms. *What Your Food Ate* marshals evidence from recent and forgotten science to illustrate how the health of the soil ripples through to that of crops, livestock and ultimately us. Unfortunately, conventional agricultural practices unravel these vital partnerships and thereby undercut our well-being. Can farmers and ranchers produce enough nutrient-dense food to feed us all? Can we have quality *and* quantity? Navigating discoveries and epiphanies about the world beneath our feet, Montgomery and Biklé reveal why regenerative farming practices hold the key to healing sick soil and untapped potential for improving human health. Humanity's hallmark endeavors of agriculture and medicine emerged from our understanding of the natural world—and still depend on it. (400 pgs)



**ELECTABLE BY ALI VITALI (PICKED BY SM)**

Electable is a sweeping look at a lingering question from the 2020 Presidential race. Why, when we saw more women run for President than ever before, did we still not cross that final hurdle? Following the race as the reporter embedded with Elizabeth Warren, Ali Vitali witnessed up-close the way that our most recent election was unique. With more female candidates than ever before, most of them incredibly qualified with decades of public service on their resumes—dealt once again with a different level of scrutiny than their male counterparts. Woven throughout is close examination of the treatment of Hillary Clinton, Geraldine Ferraro, Shirley Chisholm, and those on the right as well. Grappling with ideas around the "likeability" and "electability" issues, as well as fundraising hurdles many female candidates face, Vitali asks the questions - why is it so hard for a woman to be taken seriously as a presidential contender? What will it take for men and women to be held to the same standard? (576 pgs)