

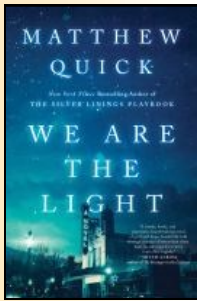


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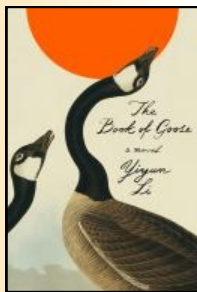
FICTION



WE ARE THE LIGHT BY MATTHEW QUICK

(PICKED BY BS)

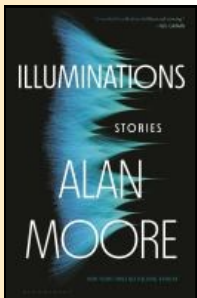
Lucas Goodgame lives in Majestic, Pennsylvania, a quaint suburb that has been torn apart by a recent tragedy. Everyone in Majestic sees Lucas as a hero—everyone, that is, except Lucas himself. Insisting that his deceased wife, Darcy, visits him every night in the form of an angel, Lucas spends his time writing letters to his former Jungian analyst, Karl. It is only when Eli, an eighteen-year-old young man whom the community has ostracized, begins camping out in Lucas's backyard that an unlikely alliance takes shape and the two embark on a journey to heal their neighbors and, most important, themselves. The humorous, soul-baring story of Lucas Goodgame offers an antidote to toxic masculinity and celebrates the healing power of art. Quick reminds us that guardian angels are all around us—sometimes in the forms we least expect. (256 pgs)



THE BOOK OF GOOSE BY YIYUN LI

(PICKED BY SLS)

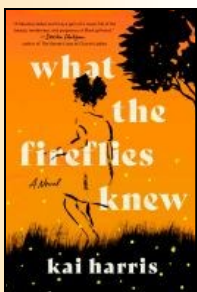
Fabienne is dead. Her childhood best friend, Agnès, receives the news in America, far from the French countryside where the two girls were raised—the place that Fabienne helped Agnès escape ten years ago. Now, Agnès is free to tell her story. As children in a war-ravaged, backwater town, they'd built a private world, invisible to everyone but themselves—until Fabienne hatched the plan that would change everything, launching Agnès on an epic trajectory through fame, fortune, and terrible loss. A magnificent, beguiling tale winding from the postwar rural provinces to Paris, from an English boarding school to the quiet Pennsylvania home where Agnès can live without her past. (368 pgs)



ILLUMINATIONS BY ALAN MOORE

(PICKED BY FC)

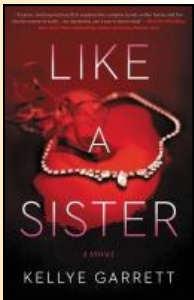
In his first-ever short story collection, which spans forty years of work, Alan Moore presents a series of wildly different and equally unforgettable characters who discover—and in some cases even make and unmake—the various uncharted parts of existence. In "Not Even Legend," a paranormal study group is infiltrated by one of the otherworldly beings they seek to investigate. In "Illuminations," a nostalgic older man decides to visit a seaside resort from his youth and finds the past all too close at hand. And in the monumental novella "What We Can Know About Thunderman," which charts the surreal and Kafkaesque history of the comics industry's major players over the last seventy-five years, Moore reveals the dark, beating heart of the superhero business. (464 pgs)



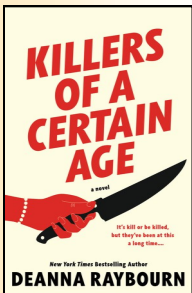
WHAT THE FIREFLIES KNEW BY KAI HARRIS

(PICKED BY KT)

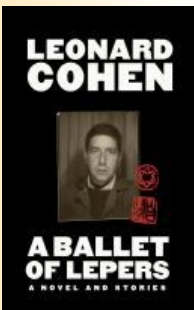
After her father dies of an overdose and the debts incurred from his addiction cause the loss of the family home in Detroit, almost 11 year old Kenyatta Bernice (KB) and her teenage sister, Nia, are sent by their overwhelmed mother to live with their estranged grandfather in Lansing. Over the course of a single summer, KB attempts to get her bearings in a world that has turned upside down—a father who is labeled a fiend; a mother whose smile no longer reaches her eyes; a sister, once her best friend, who has crossed the threshold of adolescence and suddenly wants nothing to do with her; a grandfather who is grumpy and silent; the white kids across the street who are friendly, but only sometimes. And all of them are keeping secrets. KB is forced to carve out a different identity for herself and find her own voice. As she examines the jagged pieces of her recently shattered world, she learns that while some truths cut deep, a new life—and a new KB—can be built from the shards. (288 pgs)

**LIKE A SISTER BY KELLYE GARRETT****(PICKED BY SP)**

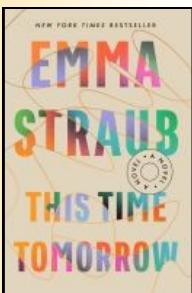
When the body of disgraced reality TV star Desiree Pierce is found on a playground in the Bronx the morning after her 25th birthday party, the police and the media are quick to declare her death an overdose. It's a tragedy, certainly, but not a crime. But Desiree's half-sister Lena Scott knows that can't be the case. A graduate student at Columbia, Lena has spent the past decade forging her own path far from the spotlight, but some facts about Desiree just couldn't have changed since their childhood. And Desiree would *never* travel above 125th Street. So why is no one listening to her? Despite the bitter truth that the two haven't spoken in two years, torn apart by Desiree's partying and by their father, Mel, a wealthy and influential hip-hop mogul, Lena becomes determined to find justice for her sister, even if it means untangling her family's darkest secrets—or ending up dead herself. (336 pgs)

**KILLERS OF A CERTAIN AGE BY DEANNA RAYBOURN****(PICKED BY SM)**

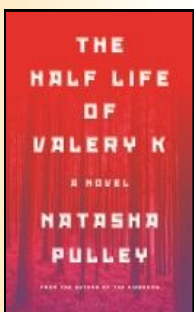
Billie, Mary Alice, Helen, and Natalie have worked for the Museum, an elite network of assassins, for forty years. Now their talents are considered old-school and no one appreciates what they have to offer in an age that relies more on technology than people skills. When the foursome is sent on an all-expenses paid vacation to mark their retirement, they are targeted by one of their own. Only the Board, the top-level members of the Museum, can order the termination of field agents, and the women realize they've been marked for death. Now to get out alive they have to turn against their own organization, relying on experience and each other to get the job done, knowing that working together is the secret to their survival. They're about to teach the Board what it really means to be a woman—and a killer—of a certain age. (353 pgs)

**A BALLET OF LEPERS BY LEONARD COHEN****(PICKED BY TA)**

Before Leonard Cohen's worldwide fame expanded to fourteen studio albums, Grammy awards, and late-career global tours, he yearned for literary stardom. The Canadian songwriter of iconic hits like "Hallelujah," and "Suzanne," first ventured into writing in his early twenties, and in *A Ballet of Lepers: A Novel and Stories*, readers will discover that the magic that animated Cohen's unforgettable body of work was present from the very beginning of his career. The pieces in this collection, written between 1956 and 1961, offer startling insights into Cohen's imagination and creative process. The titular novel, *A Ballet of Lepers*—focuses on toxic relationships and the lengths to which one will go to maintain them, while the fifteen stories, as well as the playscript, probe the inner demons of his characters, many of whom could function as stand-ins for the author himself. (256 pgs)

**THIS TIME TOMORROW BY EMMA STRAUB****(PICKED BY LW)**

On the eve of her 40th birthday, Alice's life isn't terrible. She likes her job, even if it isn't exactly the one she expected. She's happy with her apartment, her romantic status, her independence, and she adores her lifelong best friend. But her father is ailing, and it feels to her as if something is missing. When she wakes up the next morning, she finds herself back in 1996, reliving her 16th birthday. But it isn't just her adolescent body that shocks her, or seeing her high school crush, it's her dad: the vital, charming, 40-something version of her father with whom she is reunited. Now armed with a new perspective on her own life and his, some past events take on new meaning. Is there anything that she would change if she could? (320 pgs)

**THE HALF LIFE OF VALERY K BY NATASHA PULLEY****(PICKED BY LW)**

In 1963, in a Siberian gulag, former nuclear specialist Valery Kolkhanov has mastered what it takes to survive: the right connections to the guards for access to food and cigarettes, the right pair of warm boots to avoid frostbite, and the right attitude toward the small pleasures of life so he won't go insane. But on one ordinary day, all that changes: Valery's university mentor steps in and sweeps Valery from the frozen prison camp to a mysterious unnamed town that houses a set of nuclear reactors and is surrounded by a forest so damaged it looks like the trees have rusted from within. In City 40, Valery is Dr. Kolkhanov once more, and he's expected to serve out his prison term studying the effect of radiation on local animals. But as Valery begins his work, he is struck by the questions his research raises: why is there so much radiation in this area? What, exactly, is being hidden from the thousands who live in the town? And if he keeps looking for answers, will he live to serve out his sentence? (375 pgs)

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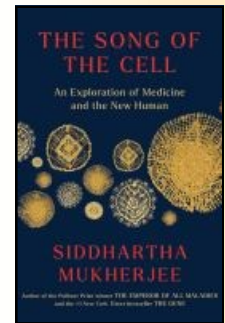
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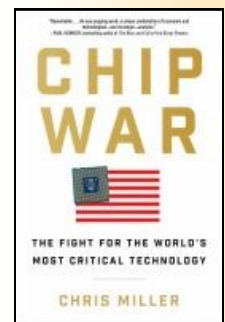
***THE SONG OF THE CELL* BY SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE (PICKED BY SLS)**

Mukherjee begins this story in the late 1600s, when Robert Hooke, and Antonie van Leeuwenhoek looked down their handmade microscopes. What they saw introduced a radical concept - the fact that complex living organisms are assemblages of tiny, self-contained, self-regulating units. Our organs, our physiology, our selves—hearts, blood, brains—are built from these compartments. Hooke christened them “cells”. The discovery of cells announced the birth of a new kind of medicine based on the therapeutic manipulations of cells. A hip fracture, a cardiac arrest, Alzheimer’s dementia, AIDS, pneumonia, lung cancer, kidney failure, arthritis, COVID pneumonia—all could be reconceived as the results of cells, or systems of cells, functioning abnormally. And all could be perceived as loci of cellular therapies. In *The Song of the Cell*, Mukherjee tells the story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using that knowledge to create new humans. (496 pgs)



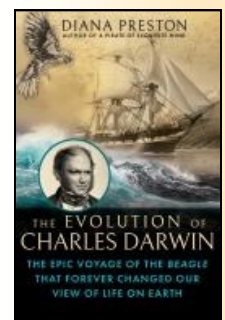
***CHIP WAR* BY CHRIS MILLER (PICKED BY SM)**

Microchips are the new oil—the scarce resource on which the modern world depends. Today, military, economic, and geopolitical power are built on a foundation of computer chips. Virtually everything—from missiles to microwaves—runs on chips. Until recently, America designed and built the fastest chips and maintained its lead as the #1 superpower, but America’s edge is in danger of slipping, undermined by players in Taiwan, Korea, and Europe taking over manufacturing. Now China is pouring billions into a chip-building initiative to catch up to the US. At stake is America’s military superiority and economic prosperity. Chris Miller explains how the semiconductor came to play a critical role in modern life and how the U.S. became dominant in chip design and manufacturing and applied this technology to military systems. But here, too, China is catching up. America has let key components of the chip-building process slip out of its grasp, contributing not only to a worldwide chip shortage but also a new Cold War with a superpower adversary that is desperate to bridge the gap. (464 pgs)



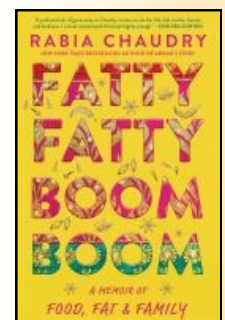
***THE EVOLUTION OF CHARLES DARWIN* BY DIANA PRESTON (PICKED BY SLS)**

When twenty-two-year-old aspiring geologist Charles Darwin boarded HMS *Beagle* in 1831, he hardly thought he was embarking on what would become the most important and epoch-changing voyage in scientific history. Nonetheless, over the course of the five-year journey around the globe, Darwin would make observations and gather samples that would form the basis of his revolutionary, evolutionary theories about the origin of species and natural selection. Diana Preston chronicles the epic voyage as it unfolded, tracing Darwin's growth from untested young man to accomplished adventurer and natural scientist in his own right. Darwin never left Britain again after his return in 1836, though his mind journeyed far and wide to develop the theories that were first revealed in 1859, with the publication of his epochal book *On the Origin of Species*. (448 pgs)

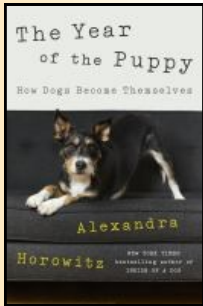


***FATTY FATTY BOOM BOOM* BY RABIA CHAUDRY (PICKED BY BS)**

"My entire life I have been less fat and more fat, but never not fat." When Rabia Chaudry’s family returned to Pakistan for their first visit since moving to the United States, two-year-old Rabia was more than just a pudgy toddler. Her grandfather, demanding of Chaudry’s mother: “What have you done to her?” The answer was two full bottles of half-and-half per day, frozen butter sticks to gnaw on, and lots and lots of American processed foods. Yet, despite her parents plying her with all the wrong foods, they were highly concerned for the future for their large-sized daughter. Soon she would leave behind fast food and come to love the Pakistani foods of her heritage, learning to cook them with wholesome ingredients and eat them in moderation. An often hilarious dissection of life in a Muslim immigrant family, *Fatty Fatty Boom Boom* is also a searingly honest portrait of a woman grappling with a body that gets the job done but that refuses to meet the expectations of others. (352 pgs)

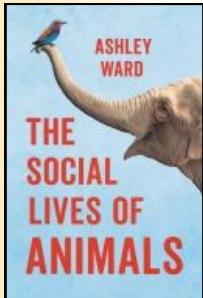


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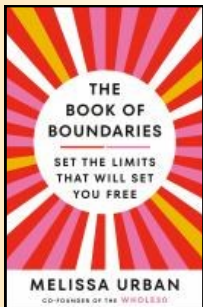
THE YEAR OF THE PUPPY BY ALEXANDRA HOROWITZ (PICKED BY SM)

Few of us meet our dogs at Day One. The dog who will become an integral part of our family, is born without us into a family of her own. A puppy's critical early development into the dog we come to know is usually missed entirely. Horowitz aimed to change that with her family's new pup, Quiddity (Quid). In this scientific memoir, she charts Quid's growth from her birth to her first birthday. She documents the social and cognitive milestones that so many of us miss in our puppies' lives - in focusing on training a dog to behave, we mostly miss the radical development of a puppy into *themselves*—through the equivalent of infancy through teenager-hood. Horowitz also draws from the ample research in the fields of dog and human development to draw analogies between a dog's first year and the growing child—and to note where they diverge. (320 pgs)



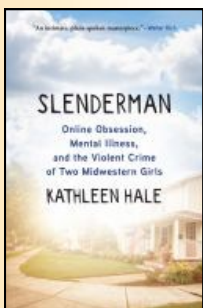
THE SOCIAL LIVES OF ANIMALS BY ASHLEY WARD (PICKED BY FC)

In *The Social Lives of Animals*, biologist Ashley Ward takes us on a wild tour across the globe as he searches for a more accurate picture of how animals build societies. Ward drops in on a termite mating ritual (while his guides snack on the subjects), visits freelance baboon goat-herds, and swims with a mixed family of whales and dolphins. Along the way, Ward shows that the social impulses we've long thought separated humans from other animals might actually be our strongest connection to them. *The Social Lives of Animals* demonstrates that you can learn more about animals by studying how they work together than by how they compete. (384 pgs)



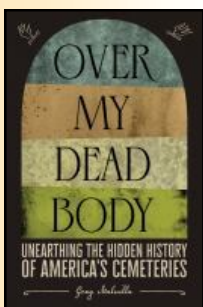
THE BOOK OF BOUNDARIES BY MELISSA URBAN (PICKED BY SLS)

Do your relationships often feel one-sided or unbalanced? Are you always giving in just so things will go smoothly? Are you depleted, overwhelmed, and tired of putting everyone else's needs ahead of your own? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need to establish some boundaries. Since launching the mega-bestselling wellness program the Whole30, Melissa Urban has taught millions of people how to establish healthy habits and successfully navigate pushback and peer pressure. She knows firsthand that boundaries—clear limits you establish to protect your energy, time, and health—are all that stand between you and feelings of security, confidence, and freedom. Now, in *The Book of Boundaries*, she shows you how boundaries are the key to better mental health, increased energy, improved productivity, and more fulfilling relationships. (368 pgs)



SLENDERMAN BY KATHLEEN HALE (PICKED BY TA)

The Slenderman stabbing of May 31, 2014, in Waukesha, Wisconsin, shocked the local community and the world. The violence of two twelve-year-old girls who attempted to stab their classmate to death, was extreme, but what seemed even more frightening was that they had done so under the influence of a figure born by the internet: the so-called "Slenderman." The even more urgent aspect of the story, that the children involved were suffering from undiagnosed mental illness, was often overlooked in coverage of the case. Morgan and Anissa were bound together by their discovery of the user-uploaded scary stories on the Creepypasta website. But Morgan was suffering from early-onset childhood schizophrenia. She believed that she had been seeing Slenderman for many years, and the only way to stop him from killing her family was to bring him a sacrifice: Morgan's best friend whom they planned to stab to death on the night of Morgan's twelfth birthday. *Slenderman* is both a page-turning true crime story and a search for justice. (368 pgs)



OVER MY DEAD BODY BY GREG MELVILLE (PICKED BY SLH)

The summer before his senior year in college, Greg Melville worked at the cemetery in his hometown. He came to realize what a rich story the place told of his town and its history. Thus was born Melville's lifelong curiosity with how, where, and why we bury and commemorate our dead. *Over My Dead Body* is a lively (pun intended) and wide-ranging history of cemeteries, places that have mirrored the passing eras in history but have also shaped it. Cemeteries have given birth to landscape architecture and famous parks, as well as influenced architectural styles. They've inspired and motivated some of our greatest poets and authors. But they are changing and fading. Embalming and burial is incredibly toxic, and while cremations have just recently surpassed burials in popularity, they're not great for the environment either. *Over My Dead Body* explores everything—history, sustainability, land use, and what it really means to memorialize. (272 pgs)