

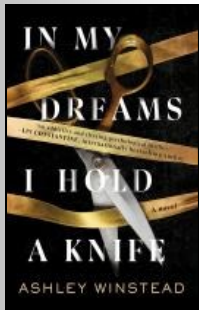


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**FICTION**



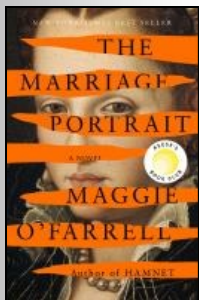
***IN MY DREAMS I HOLD A KNIFE BY ASHLEY WINSTEAD (PICKED BY BS)***

Ten years after graduation, Jessica Miller has planned her triumphant return to southern, elite Duquette University, down to the envious whispers that are sure to follow in her wake. Everyone is going to see the girl she wants them to see—confident, beautiful, indifferent—not the girl she was when she left campus, back when Heather’s murder fractured everything, including the tight bond linking the six friends she’d been closest to since freshman year. Ten years ago, everything fell apart, including the dreams she worked for her whole life—and her relationship with the one person she wasn’t supposed to love. But not everyone is ready to move on. Not everyone can let Heather’s murder go unsolved. Someone is determined to trap the real killer, to make the guilty pay. When the six friends are reunited, they will be forced to confront what happened that night—and the years’ worth of secrets each of them would do anything to keep hidden. (345 pgs)



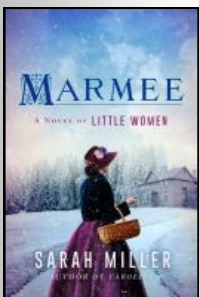
***WE ALL WANT IMPOSSIBLE THINGS BY CATHERINE NEWMAN (PICKED BY BS)***

Who knows you better than your best friend? Who knows your secrets, your fears, your desires, your strange imperfect self? Edi and Ash have been best friends for over forty years. Since childhood they have seen each other through life's milestones: stealing vodka from their parents, the Madonna phase, REM concerts, unexpected wakes, marriages, infertility, children. As Ash notes, 'Edi's memory is like the back-up hard drive for mine.' So when Edi is diagnosed with terminal cancer, Ash's world reshapes around the rhythms of Edi's care, from chipped ice and watermelon cubes to music therapy; from snack smuggling to impromptu excursions into the frozen winter night. Because life is about squeezing the joy out of every moment, about building a powerhouse of memories, learning when to hold on, and when to let go. (224 pgs)



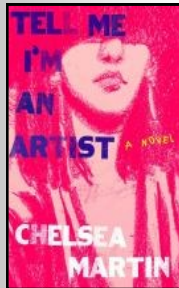
***THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL (PICKED BY LW)***

Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo: free to wonder at its treasures and devote herself to her own artistic pursuits. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding to the ruler of Ferrara, Modena and Reggio, the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father quick to accept on her behalf. Having barely left girlhood behind, Lucrezia must now enter an unfamiliar court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed. Perhaps most mystifying of all is her new husband himself, Alfonso. Is he the playful sophisticate he appeared to be before their wedding or the ruthless politician before whom even his sisters seem to tremble? As Lucrezia sits for a painting intended to preserve her image for centuries to come, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court’s eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferranese dynasty. (355 pgs)



***MARREE BY SARAH MILLER (PICKED BY SM)***

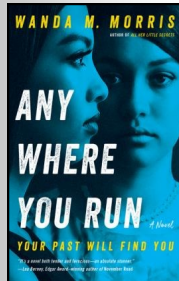
In 1861, war is raging in the South, but in Concord, Massachusetts, Margaret March has her own battles to fight. With her husband serving as an army chaplain, the comfort and security of Margaret's daughters— Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—now rest on her shoulders alone. Money is tight and every month, her husband sends less and less of his salary with no explanation. Worst of all, Margaret harbors the secret that these financial hardships are largely her fault, thanks to a disastrous mistake made over a decade ago which wiped out her family's fortune and snatched away her daughters' chances for the education they deserve. Margaret longs to do more—for the war effort, for the poor, for the cause of abolition, and most of all, for her daughters. Living by her watchwords, "hope and keep busy," she fills her days with charity work . All of that is interrupted when Margaret is summoned to her to her husband's bedside in Washington, D.C. While she is away, her daughter Beth falls dangerously ill, forcing Margaret to confront the possibility that the price of her own generosity toward others may be her daughter's life. (432 pgs)



### **TELL ME I'M AN ARTIST BY CHELSEA MARTIN**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

At her San Francisco art school, Joey enrolls in a film elective that requires her to complete what seems like a straightforward assignment: create a self-portrait. Joey inexplicably decides to remake Wes Anderson's *Rushmore* despite having never seen the movie. As *Tell Me I'm An Artist* unfolds over the course of the semester, the assignment hangs over her as she struggles to exist in a well-heeled world that is hugely different from any she has known. Miles away, Joey's sister goes missing, leaving her toddler with their mother, who in turn suggests that Joey might be the selfish one for pursuing her dreams. Meanwhile, her only friend at school, the enigmatic Suz, makes meaningful, appealing art, a product of Suz's own singular drive and talent as well as decades of careful nurturing by wealthy, sophisticated parents. (368 pgs)



### **ANY WHERE YOU RUN BY WANDA MORRIS**

**(PICKED BY SP)**

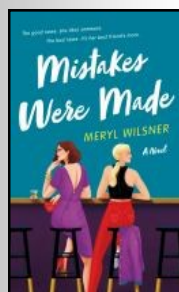
It's the summer of 1964, and three innocent men are brutally murdered for trying to help Black Mississippians secure the right to vote. Against this backdrop, twenty-two year old Violet, suffering a brutal attack of her own, kills the man responsible. But with the color of Violet's skin, there is no way she can escape Jim Crow justice in Jackson, Mississippi so she decides to run. With the help of her white beau, Violet escapes. Back in Jackson, Marigold, Violet's older sister, has dreams of attending law school. Working for the Mississippi Summer Project, she has been trying to use her smarts to further the cause of the Black vote. But Marigold is pregnant and unmarried. After news of the murder brings the police to her door, Marigold sees no choice but to flee Jackson too. Two sisters on the run—one from the law, the other from social shame. What they don't realize is that there's a man hot on their trail who has a disturbing motive for finding the sisters that is unknown to everyone but him. (400 pgs)



### **TOAD BY KATHERINE DUNN**

**(PICKED BY FC)**

Sally Gunnar has been in love, has been mad, has been an agent of destruction, has been spurned; and now she has retreated from the world. She lives in isolation in her small house, where her only companions are a vase of goldfish, a garden toad, and the door-to-door salesman who sells her cleaning supplies once a month. From her comfortable perch, she broods over her deepest regrets: her wayward, weed-hazy college days, her blighted romance with a scornful poet, a tragically comic accident involving a paper cutter, a suicide attempt, and her decision to ultimately relinquish a conventional life. (352 pgs)



### **MISTAKES WERE MADE BY MERYL WILSNER**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

When Cassie Klein goes to an off-campus bar to escape her school's Family Weekend, she isn't looking for a hookup—it just happens. Buying a drink for a stranger turns into what should be an uncomplicated, amazing one-night stand. But then the next morning rolls around and her friend drags her along to meet her mom—the hot, older woman Cassie slept with. Erin Bennett came to Family Weekend to get closer to her daughter, not have a one-night stand with a college senior. In her defense, she hadn't known Cassie was a student when they'd met. To make things worse, Erin's daughter brings Cassie to breakfast the next morning. And despite Erin's better judgement—how could sleeping with your daughter's friend be anything but bad - she and Cassie get along in the day just as well as they did last night. What should have been a one-time fling quickly proves impossible to ignore, and soon Cassie and Erin are sneaking around. Worst of all, they start to realize they have something real. But is being honest about the love between them worth the cost? (352 pgs)



### **THE TWIST OF THE KNIFE BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

'Our deal is over.' That's what reluctant author Anthony Horowitz tells ex-detective Daniel Hawthorne in an awkward meeting. The truth is that Anthony has other things on his mind. His new play, *Mindgame*, is about to open in London's Vaudeville theatre. Not surprisingly Hawthorne declines a ticket. On opening night, *Sunday Times* critic Harriet Throsby gives the play a savage review, focusing particularly on the writing. The next morning she is found dead, stabbed in the heart with an ornamental dagger which, it turns out, belongs to Anthony and which has his finger prints all over it. Anthony is arrested, charged with Throsby's murder, thrown into prison and interrogated. Alone and increasingly desperate, he realizes only one man can help him. But will Hawthorne take his call? (384 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

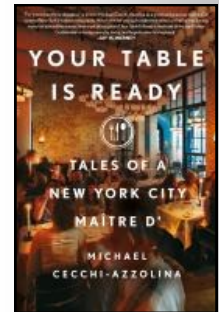
JANUARY 2023



## NON-FICTION

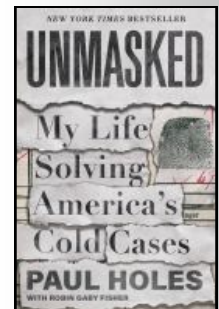
### ***YOUR TABLE IS READY* BY MICHAEL CECCHI-AZZOLINA (PICKED BY BS & TA)**

From the glamorous to the entitled everyone who wanted to be seen—or just to gawk—at the hottest restaurants in New York City came to places Michael Cecchi-Azzolina helped run. Besides dropping us back into a vanished time, *Your Table Is Ready* takes us places we'd never be able to get into on our own: from Buzzy O'Keefe's casually elegant River Café, to Keith McNally's Minetta Tavern to Nolita's Le Coucou. From his early career serving theater stars like Tennessee Williams and Dustin Hoffman at La Rousse right through to the last pre-pandemic-shutdown full houses at Le Coucou, Cecchi-Azzolina has seen it all. In *Your Table Is Ready*, he breaks down how restaurants *really* run (and don't), and how the economics work for owners and overworked staff alike. The professionals who gravitate to the business are a special, tougher breed, practiced in dealing with the demanding patrons *and* with each other, in a very distinctive ecosystem that's somewhere between a George Orwell "down and out in..." dungeon and a sleek showman's smoke-and-mirrors palace. (304 pgs)



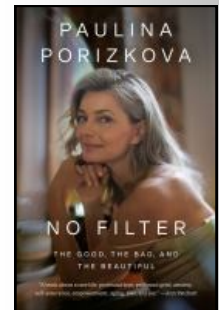
### ***UNMASKED* BY PAUL HOLES (PICKED BY BS)**

In this candid, poignant memoir, Holes reflects on a long career as a criminalist and detective. Though Holes was involved in high-profile investigations, including the murder of Laci Peterson and the kidnapping of Jaycee Dugard, it wasn't until he helped identify the Golden State Killer that he was catapulted into the public eye. Holes began searching for the Golden State Killer in 1994 after coming across an old file detailing years of crimes, and the case stayed with him over the course of his career. He retired in March 2018, and the alleged Golden State Killer was arrested the following month—in large part because of Holes's work gathering evidence and using emerging technology in DNA profiling. Holes effectively balances true crime and memoir, writing with empathy and self-awareness about the emotional impact of his work and the toll it took on his marriage. (288 pgs)



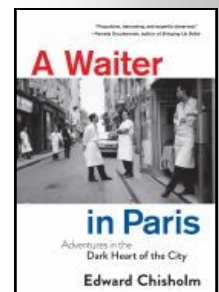
### ***NO FILTER* BY PAULINA PORIZKOVA (PICKED BY BS)**

Born in Cold War Czechoslovakia, Paulina Porizkova rose to prominence as a model, appearing on her first *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit Issue cover in 1984. As the face of Estée Lauder in 1989, she was one of the highest-paid models in the world. When she was cast in the music video for the song "Drive" by The Cars, it was love at first sight for her and frontman Ric Ocasek. He was forty at the time, and Porizkova was nineteen. The decades to come would bring marriage, motherhood, a budding writing career; and later sadness, loneliness, isolation, and eventually divorce. Following her ex-husband's death—and the revelation of a deep betrayal—Porizkova stunned fans with her fierce vulnerability and disarming honesty as she let the whole world share in her experience of being a woman who must start over. This is a wise and compelling exploration of heartbreak, grief, beauty, aging, relationships, re-invention and finding your purpose. (240 pgs)

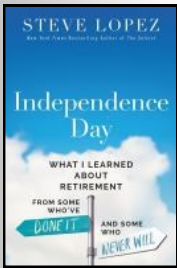


### ***A WAITER IN PARIS* BY EDWARD CHISHOLM (PICKED BY SM)**

A waiter's job is to deceive you. They want you to believe in a luxurious calm because on the other side of that door . . . is hell. Edward Chisholm's spellbinding memoir of his time as a Parisian waiter takes you beneath the surface of one of the most iconic cities in the world—and right into its glorious underbelly. He inhabits a world of inhuman hours, snatched sleep and dive bars; scraping by on coffee, bread and cigarettes, often under sadistic managers, with a wage so low you're fighting your colleagues for tips. Your colleagues—including thieves, narcissists, ex-soldiers, immigrants, wannabe actors, and drug dealers—are the closest thing to family that you've got. It's physically demanding, frequently humiliating and incredibly competitive. But it doesn't matter because you're in Paris, the center of the universe, and there's nowhere else you'd rather be in the world. (384 pgs)



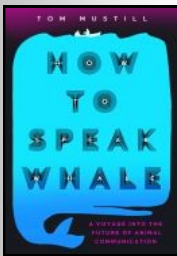




**INDEPENDENCE DAY BY STEVE LOPEZ**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

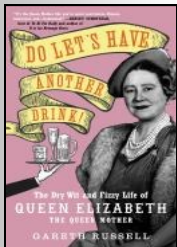
Grappling with his own decision of whether to retire, Lopez uses his reporter skills not only to look inward but also to interview experts and peers to collect a variety of perspectives as he examines the true nature of a person's time, identity, and ultimate life satisfaction. In *Independence Day*, Lopez talks to those who have chosen to extend their working life to its (il)logical extreme—people like Mel Brooks, still working at 94—those who have happily retired and reinvented themselves outside of the constraints of work, and those who would like to retire but can't because of financial constraints. He also turns to professionals on the matter, like two aging scientists, a geriatric specialist, and a psychiatrist, to understand the research-based reasons to retire. (256 pgs)



**HOW TO SPEAK WHALE BY TOM MUSTILL**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

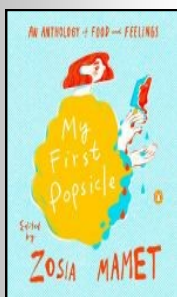
On September 12, 2015, Tom Mustill was paddling in a two-person kayak with a friend just off the coast of California. A humpback whale breached, landing on top of them, releasing the energy equivalent of forty hand grenades. He was certain he was about to die, but they both survived, miraculously unscathed. In the interviews that followed the incident, Mustill was left with one question: *What could this astonishing encounter teach us?* Drawing from his experience as a naturalist and wildlife filmmaker, Mustill started investigating human-whale interactions around the world when he met two tech entrepreneurs who wanted to use artificial intelligence (AI) to discover patterns in the conversations of animals and decode them. As he embarked on a journey into animal eavesdropping technologies, Mustill discovered that there is a revolution taking place in biology, as the technologies developed to explore our own languages are turned to nature. (304 pgs)



**DO LET'S HAVE ANOTHER DRINK! BY GARETH RUSSELL**

**(PICKED BY LW)**

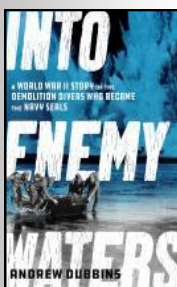
During her lifetime, the Queen Mother was as famous for her clever quips, pointed observations, and dry-as-a-martini delivery style as she was for being a beloved royal. Now, *Do Let's Have Another Drink* recounts 101 (one for each year of her remarkable life) amusing and astonishing vignettes from across her long life, including her coming of age during World War I, the abdication of her brother-in-law and her unexpected ascendance to the throne, and her half century of widowhood as her daughter reigned over the United Kingdom. (240 pgs)



**MY FIRST POPSICLE BY ZOSIA MAMET ED.**

**(PICKED BY FC)**

What is your most poignant memory surrounding food? Of all the essentials for survival: oxygen, water, sleep, and food, only food is a vast treasure trove of memory and of sensory experience. Food is a portal to culture, to times past, to disgust, to comfort, to love: no matter one's feelings about a particular dish, they are hardly ever neutral. In *My First Popsicle*, Zosia Mamet has curated some of the most prominent voices in art and culture to tackle the topic of food in its elegance, its profundity, and its incidental charm. With contributions from Anita Lo on the cultural responsibility of dumplings, Patti LuPone on childhood memories of seeking out shellfish, Andrew Rannells on his nostalgia for Jell-O Cake, Sloane Crosley on the pesto that got her through the early months of the pandemic, Jia Tolentino on the chicken dish she makes to escape reality, and more, *My First Popsicle* is as much an ode to food and emotion as it is to life. (304 pgs)



**INTO ENEMY WATERS BY ANDREW DUBBINS**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

*Into Enemy Waters* is the story of World War II's most elite and daring unit of warriors, the direct precursors to the Navy SEALs, told through the eyes of its last living member, 95-year-old George Morgan. Morgan was just a wiry, 17-year-old lifeguard from New Jersey when he joined the Navy's new combat demolition unit, tasked to blow up enemy coastal defenses ahead of landings by Allied forces. His first assignment: Omaha Beach on D-Day. When he returned stateside, Morgan learned that his service was only beginning. Outfitted with swim trunks, a dive mask, and fins, he was sent to Hawaii and then on to deployments in the Pacific as a member of the elite and pioneering Underwater Demolition Teams. GIs called them "half fish, half nuts." Today, we call them frogmen—and Navy SEALs. Morgan would spend the fierce final year of the war swimming up to enemy controlled beaches to gather intel and detonate underwater barriers. Moving closer to Japan, the enemy's island defenses were growing more elaborate and its soldiers more fanatical. From the black sand beaches of Iwo Jima to the shark infested reefs of Okinawa, to the cold seas of Tokyo Bay, teenaged George Morgan was there before most. (304 pgs)