

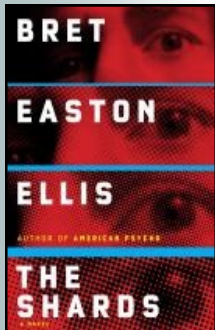


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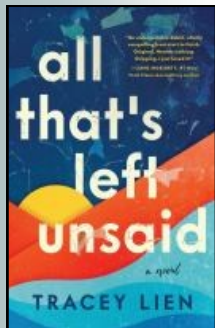
**FICTION**



**THE SHARDS BY BRET EASTON ELLIS**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

17-year-old Bret is a senior at the exclusive Buckley prep school when a new student arrives with a mysterious past. Robert Mallory is bright, charismatic, and shielding a secret from Bret and his friends even as he becomes a part of their tightly knit circle. Bret's obsession with Mallory is equaled only by his increasingly unsettling pre-occupation with The Trawler, a serial killer on the loose who seems to be drawing ever closer to Bret and his friends, taunting them with grotesque threats and local acts of violence. The coincidences are uncanny, but they are also filtered through the imagination of a teenager whose gifts for constructing narrative from the filaments of his own life are about to make him one of the most explosive literary sensations of his generation. Thwarted by the world and by his own desires, buffeted by unhealthy fixations, he spirals into paranoia and isolation as the relationship between The Trawler and Robert Mallory hurtles inexorably toward a collision. (608 pgs)



**ALL THAT'S LEFT UNSAID BY TRACEY LIEN**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

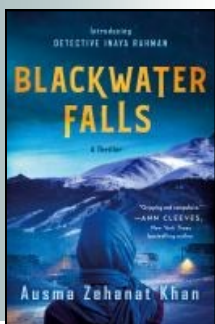
*Just let him go.* These are the words Ky Tran will forever regret. The words she spoke when her parents called to ask if they should let her younger brother Denny out to celebrate his high school graduation with friends. That night, Denny is brutally murdered inside a busy restaurant in the Sydney suburb of Cabramatta, a refugee enclave facing violent crime, an indifferent police force, and the worst heroin epidemic in Australian history. Returning home to Cabramatta for the funeral, Ky learns that the police are stumped by Denny's case: a dozen people were at Lucky 8 restaurant when Denny died, but each of the bystanders claim to have seen nothing. Ky sets aside her grief and determines to track down the witnesses herself. With each encounter, she peels back another layer of the place that shaped her and Denny, exposing the seeds of violence that were planted well before that fateful celebration dinner: by colonialism, by the war in Vietnam, and by the choices they've all made to survive. (304 pgs)



**JACKAL BY ERIN ADAMS**

**(PICKED BY SP)**

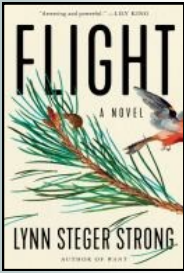
Liz Rocher is coming home . . . reluctantly. As a Black woman, Liz doesn't exactly have fond memories of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a predominantly white town. But her best friend is getting married, so she braces herself for a weekend of awkward reunions. On the day of the wedding, the bride's daughter, Caroline, goes missing. As a frantic search begins, with the police combing the trees for Caroline, Liz is the only one who notices a pattern: a summer night. A missing girl. A party in the woods. She's seen this before. Keisha Woodson, the only other Black girl in school, walked into the woods with a mysterious man and was later found with her chest cavity ripped open and her heart missing. As Liz starts to dig through the town's history, she uncovers a horrifying secret - children have been going missing in these woods for years. All of them Black girls. Liz knows what she must do: find Caroline, or be entirely consumed by the darkness. (336 pgs)



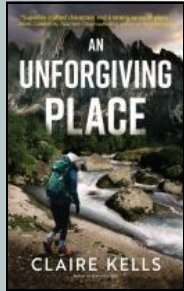
**BLACKWATER FALLS BY AUSMA ZEHANAT KHAN**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

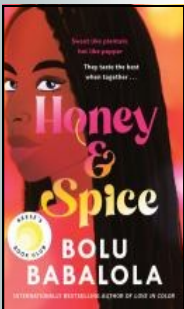
Girls from immigrant communities have been disappearing for months in the Colorado town of Blackwater Falls, but the local sheriff is slow to act and the fates of the missing girls largely ignored. At last, the calls for justice become too loud to ignore when the body of a star student and refugee is positioned deliberately in a mosque. Detective Inaya Rahman and Lieutenant Waqas Seif of the Denver Police are recruited to solve the murder, and quickly uncover a link to other missing and murdered girls. But as Inaya gets closer to the truth, Seif finds ways to obstruct the investigation. He may be covering up the crimes of their boss, whose connections in Blackwater run deep. Inaya turns to her female colleagues, attorney Areesha Adams and Detective Catalina Hernandez, for help in finding the truth. The three have bonded through their experiences as members of vulnerable groups and now they must work together to expose the conspiracy behind the murders. (375 pgs)

**FLIGHT BY LYNN STEGER STRONG****(PICKED BY BS & SM)**

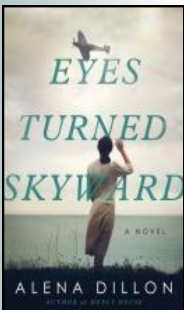
It's December twenty-second and siblings Henry, Kate, and Martin have converged with their spouses on Henry's house in upstate New York. This is the first Christmas the siblings are without their mother, the first not at their mother's Florida house. Over the course of the next three days, old resentments and instabilities arise as the siblings, with a gaggle of children afoot, attempt to perform familiar rituals, while also trying to decide what to do with their mother's house, their sole inheritance. As tensions rise, the whole group is forced to come together unexpectedly when a local mother and daughter need help. (240 pgs)

**AN UNFORGIVING PLACE BY CLAIRE KELLS****(PICKED BY SM)**

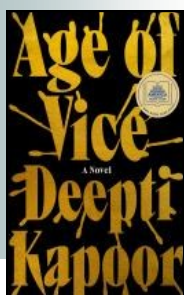
While enjoying a rare weekend off from her duties as an agent with the Investigative Services Branch, Felicity Harland learns that a young couple has turned up dead in Gates of the Arctic National Park. Harland recruits her partner, ex-Navy SEAL Ferdinand "Hux" Huxley, to join her in the investigation. After processing the peculiar scene where the couple perished, Harland and Hux decide that this was no tragic accident. They soon hear about a man living off the land, recruiting couples to his "fertility cult" in the Arctic. Could this survivalist have played a role in the couple's death? Determined to get to the truth before someone else meets a similar fate, Harland and Hux venture deep into the backcountry to find the cult's campsite. But what they find there tests their relationship in ways they never imagined—and thrusts them into a dangerous and deadly game. (288 pgs)

**HONEY & SPICE BY BOLU BABALOLA****(PICKED BY KT)**

Sharp-tongued (and secretly soft-hearted) Kiki Banjo has just made a huge mistake. As an expert in relationship-evasion and the host of the popular student radio show Brown Sugar, she's made it her mission to make sure the women of the African-Caribbean Society at Whitewell University do not fall into the mess of "situationships", players, and heartbreak. But when she kisses Malakai Korede, the guy she just publicly denounced as "The Wastemen of Whitewell," in front of every Blackwellian on campus, she finds her show on the brink. They're soon embroiled in a fake relationship to try and salvage their reputations and save their futures. Kiki has never surrendered her heart before, and a player like Malakai won't be the one to change that. But surprisingly entertaining study sessions and intimate, late-night talks at old-fashioned diners force Kiki to look beyond her own presumptions. Is she ready to open herself up to something deeper? (368 pgs)

**EYES TURNED SKYWARD BY ALENA DILLON****(PICKED BY SM)**

Kathy Begley is an empty-nester, the primary caretaker of her ailing mother, and the emotional support for her laid-off husband. She's also returning to the office after two decades to work under a borderline-inappropriate boss. Then a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony invitation arrives, and she uncovers an unfathomable family secret: her mother, Peggy Mayfield, wasn't just a tempestuous wife and mother. She was a Woman Airforce Service Pilot. Peggy jumped at the opportunity to become a WASP, the first American women to fly military aircraft. She wore men's uniforms, sweated, studied, trained, and soared. She also danced, drank, played poker, and fell in love with adventure, new friends, and her commanding officer. Once a spunky flyer, Peggy is now filled with regret as she confronts the end of her life, but Kathy is determined to make Peggy's last months count by securing her long overdue recognition, appreciating her anew, and forgiving her before it's too late. (384 pgs)

**AGE OF VICE BY DEEPTI KAPOOR****(PICKED BY KT)**

Deftly shifting through time and perspective in contemporary India, *Age of Vice* is an epic, action-packed story propelled by the seductive wealth, startling corruption, and bloodthirsty violence of the Wadia family — loved by some, loathed by others, feared by all. In the shadow of lavish estates, extravagant parties, predatory business deals and calculated political influence, three lives become dangerously intertwined: Ajay is the watchful servant, born into poverty, who rises through the family's ranks. Sunny is the playboy heir who dreams of outshining his father, whatever the cost. And Neda is the curious journalist caught between morality and desire. Against a sweeping plot fueled by loss, pleasure, greed, yearning, violence and revenge, will these characters' connections become a path to escape, or a trigger of further destruction? (544 pgs)

(544 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

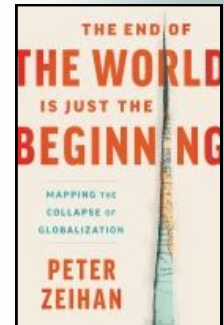
FEBRUARY 2023



## NON-FICTION

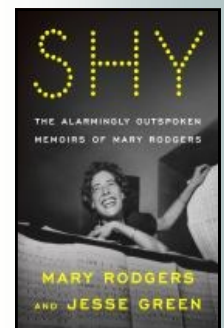
### ***THE END OF THE WORLD IS JUST THE BEGINNING* BY PETER ZEIHAN (PICKED BY SM)**

For generations, everything has been getting faster, better, and cheaper. America made that happen, but now America has lost interest in keeping it going. Globe-spanning supply chains are only possible with the protection of the U.S. Navy. The American dollar underpins internationalized energy and financial markets. American security policy forced warring nations to lay down their arms. *Billions* of people have been fed and educated as the American-led trade system spread across the globe. All of this was artificial. All this was temporary. All this is ending. Peter Zeihan maps out the *next* world where countries or regions will have no choice but to make their own goods, grow their own food, secure their own energy, fight their own battles, and do it all with populations that are both shrinking and aging. The list of countries that make it all work is smaller than you think. Which means everything about our interconnected world is about to change. (512 pgs)



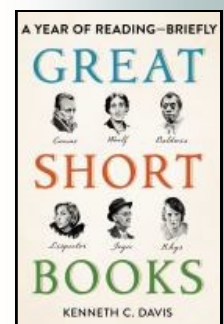
### ***SHY* BY MARY RODGERS (PICKED BY LB)**

"What am I, bologna?" Mary Rodgers Guettel (1931-2014) often said. She was referring to being stuck in the middle: the daughter of one composer and the mother of another. Her father was Richard Rodgers, perhaps the greatest American melodist; her son Adam Guettel, a worthy successor. What that leaves out is Mary herself, also a composer, whose musical *Once Upon a Mattress* remains one of the rare revivable Broadway hits written by a woman. *Shy* is the story of how it all happened: how Mary grew from an angry child, constrained by privilege and a parent's overwhelming talent, to become not just a theater star but also a renowned author of books for young people (including the classic *Freaky Friday*) and, in a final grand turn, a doyenne of philanthropy and the Chairman of the Juilliard School. But in telling these stories, *Shy* also tells another, about a woman liberating herself from disapproving parents and pervasive sexism to find art and romance on her own terms. (480 pgs)



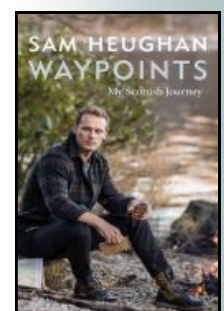
### ***GREAT SHORT BOOKS* BY KENNETH DAVIS (PICKED BY SLS)**

A journey into short fiction designed with our contemporary attention spans in mind, *Great Short Books* suggests fifty-eight excellent short novels, all easily readable in a week or less. From hard-boiled fiction to magical realism, the 18th century to the present day, *Great Short Books* spans genres, cultures, countries, and time to present an enchanting and diverse selection of acclaimed and canonical novels. From works in translation like Yu Miri's *Tokyo Ueno Station* and Marguerite Duras's *The Lover* to popular, acclaimed authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald and Stephen King, this compilation is a celebration of classics from the historic to contemporary—plus a few bestsellers. Each entry includes the novel's opening lines, a spoiler-free plot summary, a "why you should read it" section, and suggestions for what to read next. This eclectic collection is a fun and practical book for any passionate reader hoping to broaden their collection—or anyone who wants to find an entertaining and effortless reentry into reading. (448 pgs)

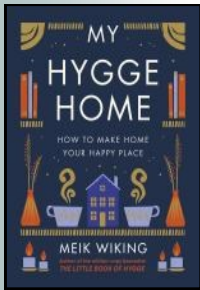


### ***WAYPOINTS* BY SAM HEUGAN (PICKED BY BS)**

In this intimate journey of self-discovery, Sam sets out along Scotland's rugged ninety-six-mile West Highland Way to map out the moments that shaped his views on dreams and ambition, family, friendship, love, and life. The result is a love letter to the wild landscape that means so much to him, full of charming, funny, wise, and searching insights into the world through his eyes. *Waypoints* is a deeply personal journey that reveals as much about Sam to himself as it does to his readers. (265 pgs)



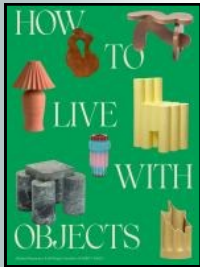




**MY HYGGE HOME BY MEIK WIKING**

**(PICKED BY FC)**

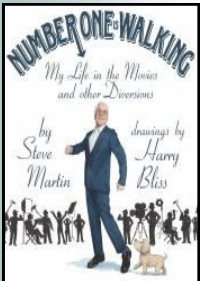
The urge to nest and control our close environments has never been stronger. We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else. Backed with Danish design principles, years of research, case studies and a sprinkle of hygge, Meik Wiking has created the ultimate guide to turning your home, office, or wherever you may be, into your happy place. *The Hygge Home* will teach us all how to create a much-needed cozy safe space in our homes into which we can retreat to escape the tough things going on in the outside world. Meik will explore the size of our spaces, the way we decorate our homes, the amount of natural light coming in, how much access to green space we have and how we can extend these design principles from inside our homes to our neighborhoods and beyond. (272 pgs)



**HOW TO LIVE WITH OBJECTS BY MONICA KHEMSUROV**

**(PICKED BY TA)**

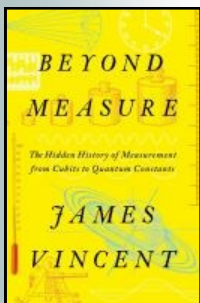
In the modern home, it matters less whether your interior is perfectly appointed and more if it's authentically personal, unique, and filled with the objects you feel a connection to. Through inspiring home tours and practical advice on how and what to collect, *Sight Unseen* editors Monica Khemsurov and Jill Singer take you on an educational and highly visual journey through the questions at the core of their design philosophy: What makes an object worth having? How do our objects impact our lives? The book acts as a detailed primer on how to maximize the visual and emotional impact of your space, regardless of your space limitations, style preferences, or budget. (320 pgs)



**NUMBER ONE IS WALKING BY STEVE MARTIN & HARRY BLISS**

**(PICKED BY LW)**

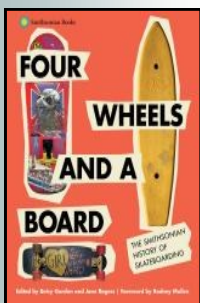
*Number One Is Walking* is Steve Martin's cinematic legacy—an illustrated memoir of his legendary acting career, with stories from his most popular films and artwork by New Yorker cartoonist Harry Bliss. Martin shares anecdotes from the sets of his beloved films—*Father of the Bride*, *Roxanne*, *The Jerk*, *Three Amigos*, and many more—bringing readers directly into his world. He shares charming tales of antics, moments of inspiration, and exploits with the likes of Paul McCartney, Diane Keaton, Harrison Ford, and Chevy Chase. Martin details his forty years in the movie biz, as well as his stand-up comedy, banjo playing, writing, and cartooning, all with his unparalleled wit. With gorgeously illustrated cartoons and single-panel “diversions” in Steve and Harry's signature style, *Number One Is Walking* is full of the everyday moments that make up the movie star's life. (256 pgs)



**BEYOND MEASURE BY JAMES VINCENT**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

From the cubit to the kilogram, the humble inch to the speed of light, measurement is a powerful tool that humans invented to make sense of the world. In this revelatory work of science and social history, James Vincent dives into its hidden world, taking readers from ancient Egypt, where measuring the annual depth of the Nile was an essential task, to the intellectual origins of the metric system in the French Revolution, and from the surprisingly animated rivalry between metric and imperial, to our current age of the “quantified self.” At every turn, Vincent is keenly attuned to the political consequences of measurement, exploring how it has also been used as a tool for oppression and control. *Beyond Measure* reveals how measurement is not only deeply entwined with our experience of the world, but also how its history encompasses and shapes the human quest for knowledge. (432 pgs)



**FOUR WHEELS AND A BOARD BY BETSY GORDON**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

Skateboarding isn't just a recreational activity, but a professional sport, lifestyle, art form, and cultural phenomenon. *Four Wheels and a Board* captures its spirited history, iconic skateboarders, diverse community, and the palpable passion of the people who love it. The book presents objects, artifacts, and photographs from the Smithsonian's collections that exemplify the vitality and innovation of skate culture. Book chapters are organized chronologically by decade from the '60s to present day, starting with 20th-century surfboards, moving through technological changes, the disappearance of skate parks, the rise of social media and collaborations, and ending with never-before-seen objects from the 2020 Summer Olympics, where skateboarding made its historic Olympic debut. (240 pgs)