

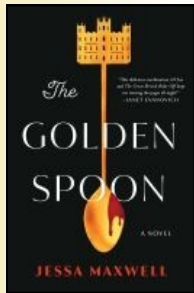


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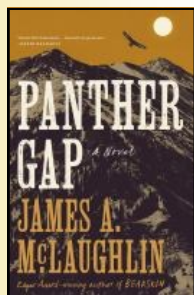
FICTION



THE GOLDEN SPOON BY JESSA MAXWELL

(PICKED BY KT)

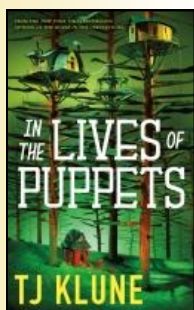
For six amateur bakers, competing in Bake Week is a dream come true. When they arrive at Grafton Manor to compete, they're ready to do whatever it takes to win the ultimate - The Golden Spoon. But for the show's famous host, Betsy Martin, Bake Week is more than just a competition. Grafton Manor is her family's home and legacy - and Bake Week is her life's work. It's imperative that both continue to succeed. But as the competition commences, things begin to go awry. At first, it's small acts of sabotage. Someone switching sugar for salt. A hob turned far too high. But when a body is discovered, it's clear that for someone in the competition, The Golden Spoon is a prize worth killing for... (288 pgs)



PANTHER GAP BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN

(PICKED BY BS)

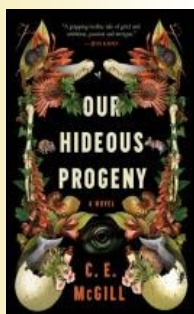
Siblings Bowman and Summer were raised by their father and two uncles on a remote Colorado ranch. They react differently to his radical teachings and the confusions of adolescence. As young adults, they become estranged but are brought back together in their thirties by the prospect of an illegal and potentially dangerous inheritance from their grandfather. They must ultimately reconcile with each other and their past in order to defeat ruthless criminal forces trying to extort the inheritance. (368 pgs)



IN THE LIVES OF PUPPETS BY T.J. KLUNE

(PICKED BY KT)

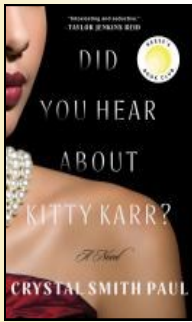
In a strange little home built into the branches of a grove of trees, live three robots—fatherly inventor android Giovanni Lawson, a pleasantly sadistic nurse machine, and a small vacuum desperate for love and attention. Victor Lawson, a human, lives there too. They're a family, hidden and safe. The day Vic salvages and repairs an unfamiliar android labelled "HAP," he learns of a shared dark past between Hap and Gio—a past spent hunting humans. When Hap unwittingly alerts robots from Gio's former life to their whereabouts, the family is no longer hidden and safe. Gio is captured and taken back to his old laboratory in the City of Electric Dreams. So together, the rest of Vic's assembled family must journey across an unforgiving and otherworldly country to rescue Gio from decommission, or worse, reprogramming. Along the way to save Gio, amid conflicted feelings of betrayal and affection for Hap, Vic must decide for himself: Can he accept love with strings attached? (420 pgs)



OUR HIDEOUS PROGENY BY C.E. MCGILL

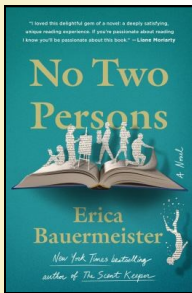
(PICKED BY LW)

It's 1853 London. Ex-medical student Victor Frankenstein has been missing for years now. Frankenstein's great niece Mary Saville and her husband, Henry, are trying to follow in his scientific footsteps and become renowned paleontologists. They have the brains and the ambition; the only thing they lack is the reputation. Mary is a woman with a sharp mind but a fierce tongue and Henry is an unemployed gambling addict: none of this earning appeal with their peers. But after finding clues to her great uncle's disappearance, Mary's luck may just change. She constructs a plan that will force the scientific community to take her and her husband seriously; no one will be able to ignore them after they learn to create life. Once they have successfully constructed their Creature, Henry's ambition soars, but Mary finds herself asking deeper, more important questions than she's ever confronted before. As Henry's desire for fame grows, Mary must decide how far she is willing to go to protect the Creature she has grown to love. (400 pgs)



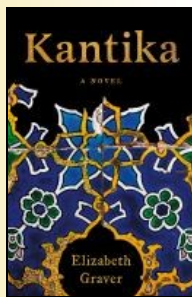
***DID YOU HEAR ABOUT KITTY KARR?* BY CRYSTAL SMITH PAUL (PICKED BY SLS)**

When Kitty Karr Tate, a White icon of the silver screen, dies and bequeaths her multimillion-dollar estate to the St. John sisters, three young, wealthy Black women, it prompts questions. Lots of questions. A celebrity in her own right, Elise St. John would rather focus on sorting out Kitty's affairs than deal with the press. But what she discovers in one of Kitty's journals rocks her world harder than any other brewing scandal could—and between a cheating fiancé and the fallout from a controversial social media post, there are plenty. The truth behind Kitty's ascent to stardom from her beginnings in the segregated South threatens to expose a web of unexpected family ties, debts owed, and debatable crimes that could, with one pull, unravel the all-American fabric of the St. John sisters and those closest to them. As Elise digs deeper into Kitty's past, she must also turn the lens upon herself, confronting the gifts and burdens of her own choices and the power that the secrets of the dead hold over the living. (416 pgs)



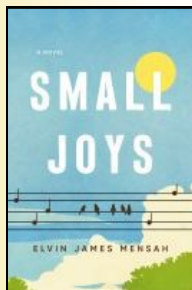
***NO TWO PERSONS* BY ERICA BAUERMEISTER (PICKED BY SM)**

Alice has always wanted to be a writer. Her talent is innate, but her stories remain safe and detached, until a devastating event breaks her heart open, and she creates a stunning debut novel. Her words, in turn, find their way to readers, from a teenager hiding her homelessness, to a free diver pushing himself beyond endurance, an artist furious at the world around her, a bookseller in search of love, a widower rent by grief. Each one is drawn into Alice's novel; each one discovers something different that alters their perspective, and presents new pathways forward for their lives. Together, their stories reveal how books can affect us in the most beautiful and unexpected of ways—and how we are all more closely connected to one another than we might think. (320 pgs)



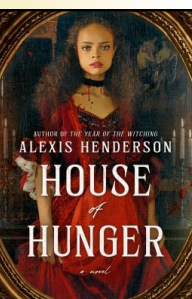
***KANTIKA* BY ELIZABETH GRAVER (PICKED BY SLS)**

A kaleidoscopic portrait of one family's displacement across four countries, *Kantika*, "song" in Ladino—follows the joys and losses of Rebecca Cohen, feisty daughter of the Sephardic elite of early 20th-century Istanbul. When the Cohens lose their wealth and are forced to move to Barcelona and start anew, Rebecca fashions a life and self from what comes her way—a failed marriage, the need to earn a living, but also passion, pleasure and motherhood. Moving from Spain to Cuba to New York for an arranged second marriage, she faces her greatest challenge—her disabled stepdaughter, Luna, whose feistiness equals her own and whose challenges pit new family against old. Exploring identity, place and exile, *Kantika* also reveals how the female body—in work, art and love—serves as a site of both suffering and joy. (304 pgs)



***SMALL JOYS* BY ELVIN MENSAH (PICKED BY FC)**

It's 2005 and Harley has dropped out of college to move back to rural England, where he works a dead-end job at a movie theater. Estranged from his father and finding every attempt at happiness futile, Harley is on the verge of making a devastating final decision. Fortunately for him, things don't go according to plan, and his attempt on his own life is interrupted by his new roommate. Muddy is everything Harley is not: ostensibly heterosexual, freewheeling, confident in his masculinity. Despite their differences, a deep friendship blossoms between them when Muddy takes Harley under his wing and shows him everything that, in his eyes, makes life worth living: bird-watching, karaoke, rugby, and the band Oasis. But this newfound friendship is complicated. It has enormous repercussions for the pair's romantically entangled friend group. As secrets and jealousies endanger all that Harley has come to depend on, he finds himself faltering once again, even though he finally has something—and someone—to live for. (320 pgs)



***HOUSE OF HUNGER* BY ALEXIS HENDERSON (PICKED BY SP)**

Marion Shaw has been raised in the slums, where want and deprivation is all she knows. Despite longing to leave its miseries, she has no real hope of escape until the day she spots a peculiar listing in the newspaper, seeking a bloodmaid. Though she knows little about the far north—where wealthy nobles live in luxury and drink the blood of those in their service—Marion applies to the position. In a matter of days, she finds herself the newest bloodmaid at the notorious House of Hunger. There, Marion is swept into a world of dark debauchery—and at the center of it all is her. Countess Lisavet, who presides over this hedonistic court, is loved and feared in equal measure. She takes a special interest in Marion. Lisavet is magnetic, and Marion is eager to please her new mistress. But when her fellow bloodmaids begin to go missing in the night, Marion is thrust into a vicious game of cat and mouse. She'll need to learn the rules of her new home—and fast—or its halls will soon become her grave. (304 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

JUNE 2023



NON-FICTION

ONCE UPON A TOME BY OLIVER DARKSHIRE

(PICKED BY LW & SLS)

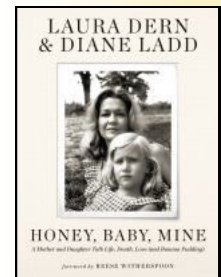
Some years ago, Oliver Darkshire stepped into the hushed interior of Henry Sotheran Ltd. on Sackville Street (est. 1761) to interview for their bookselling apprenticeship, a decision which has bedeviled him ever since. He'd intended to stay for a year before launching into some less dusty, better remunerated career. Unfortunately for him, the alluring smell of old books and the temptation of a management-approved afternoon nap proved irresistible. Soon he was balancing teetering stacks of first editions and trying not to upset the store's resident ghost (the late Mr. Sotheran had unfinished business when he was hit by that tram). *Once Upon a Tome* is the rather colorful story of life in one of the country's most ancient bookshops and a love letter to the benign, unruly world of antiquarian bookselling, where to be uncommon or strange is the best possible compliment. (244 pgs)



HONEY, BABY, MINE BY LAURA DERN & DIANE LADD

(PICKED BY LB)

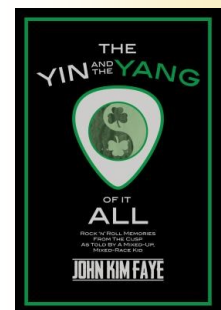
Laura Dern and Diane Ladd always had a close relationship, but the stakes were raised when Diane developed a sudden life-threatening illness. Diane's doctor prescribed long walks to build back her lung capacity. The exertion was challenging, and Laura soon learned the best way to distract her mom was to get her talking and telling stories. Their conversations began to break down the traditional barriers between mothers and daughters. They discussed the most personal topics: love, sex, marriage, divorce, ambition, and legacy. In *Honey, Baby, Mine*, Laura and Diane share these conversations, as well as reflections and anecdotes, taking readers on an intimate tour of their lives. The result is a celebration of the power of leaving nothing unsaid that will make you want to call the people you love the most and start talking. (256 pgs)



THE YIN AND YANG OF IT ALL BY JOHN KIM FAYE

(PICKED BY JB)

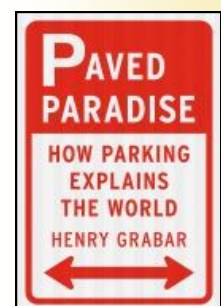
In 1966, John Kim Faye was born out of wedlock to a 40-year-old Korean mother and a 62-year-old Irish father. Faye grew up in the state of Delaware, where laws forbidding interracial marriage were still on the books until 1967. As the lead singer and primary songwriter of the Caulfields, Faye was one of the only mixed-race Asian American frontmen to sign a major record contract in the alternative rock heyday of the 1990s. In an era that preceded K-Pop—and even the rise of the internet—Faye's personal journey did not lead to superstardom. Instead, *The Yin and The Yang of it All* is a memoir about the discovery of a voice, a tribe, and a musical ethnicity that runs far deeper than his Korean/Irish roots. Bookended by the loss of his father against the backdrop of his tumultuous childhood in the post-Vietnam 70s and his mother's tragic passing in 2012, Faye's story weaves a tapestry of revealing moments as told from his unique perspective on the cusps of identity, race, and fame. (448 pgs)

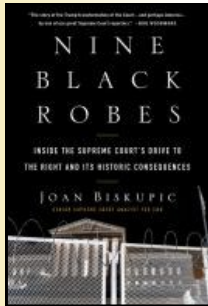


PAVED PARADISE BY HENRY GRABAR

(PICKED BY SM)

Parking, quite literally, has a death grip on America: each year a handful of Americans are tragically killed by their fellow citizens over parking spots. But even when we don't resort to violence, we routinely do ridiculous things for parking. Much of the nation's most valuable real estate is now devoted exclusively to empty and idle vehicles, even as so many Americans struggle to find affordable housing. Parking determines the design of new buildings and the fate of old ones, patterns of traffic and the viability of transit, neighborhood politics and municipal finance, the quality of public space, and even the course of floodwaters. Can this really be the best use of our finite resources and space? Is parking really more important than anything else? Grabar surveys the pain points of the nation's parking crisis, from Los Angeles to Disney World to New York, stopping at every major American city in between. He reveals how the pathological compulsion for car storage has exacerbated some of our most acute problems—from housing affordability to the accelerating global climate disaster—ultimately, lighting the way for us to free our cities from parking's cruel yoke. (368 pgs)

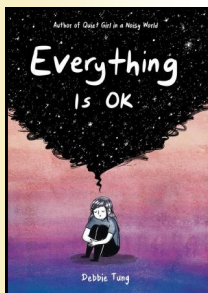




NINE BLACK ROBES BY JOAN BISKUPIC

(PICKED BY SLS)

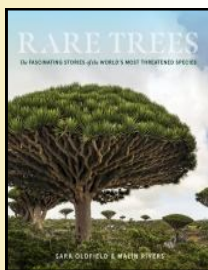
Supreme Court Analyst Joan Biskupic provides an inside look at the history-making era in the Supreme Court during the Trump and post-Trump years, from its seismic shift to the right to its controversial decisions, including its reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, based on access to all the key players. Biskupic details how rights are stripped away or, alternatively as in the case of gun owners, how rights are expanded. The Court has been headed rightward and ensnared by its own intrigues for years, but the Trump appointments hastened the modern transformation. With unparalleled access to key players, Biskupic shows the tactics of each justice and reveals switched votes and internal pacts that typically never make the light of day, yet will have repercussions for generations to come. *Nine Black Robes* is the definitive narrative of the country's highest court and its profound impact on all Americans. (416 pgs)



EVERYTHING IS OK BY DEBBIE TUNG

(PICKED BY FC)

Everything Is OK is the story of Debbie Tung's struggle with anxiety and her experience with depression. She shares what it's like navigating life, overthinking every possible worst-case scenario, and constantly feeling like all hope is lost. The book explores her journey to understanding the importance of mental health in her day-to-day life and how she learns to embrace the highs and lows when things feel out of control. Debbie opens up about deeply personal issues and the winding road to recovery, discovers the value of self-love, and rebuilds a more mindful relationship with her mental health. In this graphic memoir, Debbie aims to provide positive and comforting messages to anyone who is facing similar difficulties or is just trying to get through a tough time in life. She hopes to encourage readers to be kinder to themselves, to know that they are not alone, and that it's okay to be vulnerable because they are not defined by their mental health struggles. (208 pgs)



RARE TREES BY SARA OLDFIELD & MALIN RIVERS

(PICKED BY KT)

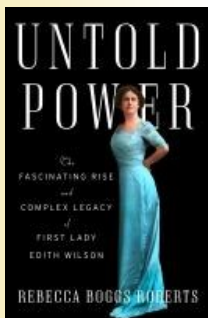
Did you know that the resin of the dragon tree was so prized that it was used and traded as medicine by the Roman Empire? Or that the Bornean ironwood is one of the only timbers dense enough to sink in water? Trees have adapted to thrive on steep mountains, high in cloud forests, on dry savannahs, in parched deserts, and in tropical wetlands. Our own human history—and our future—are interwoven with the trees that define the character and environments of our green planet. *Rare Trees* offers a stunning visual presentation of 60 of the most fascinating and threatened tree species on the planet, from conifers to magnolias to oaks. With color photographs showing trees and their most unusual features, maps of growing regions, and memorable facts, *Rare Trees* will give everyone who loves trees an armchair tour of unique specimens from around the globe. (400 pgs)



THE WORLD KEEPS ENDING, AND THE WORLD GOES ON BY FRANNY CHOI

(PICKED BY BS)

Many have called our time dystopian. But *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* reminds us that apocalypse has already come in myriad ways for marginalized peoples and calls us to imagine what will persist in the aftermaths. With lyric dexterity, these poems spin backwards and forwards in time. They look into the collective psyche of our years in the pandemic and in the throes of anti-racist uprisings, while imagining other vectors, directions, and futures. Stories of survival collide across space and time. Choi grapples with where the individual fits within the strange landscapes of this apocalyptic world, with its many-layered histories. In the process, she imagines what togetherness could look like. (144 pgs)



UNTOLD POWER BY REBECCA BOGGS ROBERTS

(PICKED BY SM)

Contrary to recent feminist maxims, the first woman president is not alive today. She was born in 1872, and her name was Edith Bolling Galt Wilson. She hightailed her way out of Appalachian poverty and into the highest echelons of American power, and in 1919 effectively became the first woman president of the US (before women could even vote) when her husband, Woodrow Wilson, was incapacitated. She was a complicated figure whose personal quest for influence reshaped the position of first lady into one of political prominence forever. Roberts' biography takes an unflinching look at the woman whose ascent mirrors that of many powerful American women before and since, one full of the compromises and complicities women have undertaken throughout time in order to find security for themselves and make their mark on history. She was a shape-shifter who was obsessed with crafting her own reputation, at once deeply invested in staking claim to her own power while also opposing women's suffrage. (320 pgs)