

Everett Public Library Staff Picks



**Great ideas
for your gift-giving list!**

Children's Fiction & Graphic Novels

WAITING



KEVIN HENKES

Waiting

Kevin Henkes

An owl, puppy, bear, bunny, and pig wait for marvelous things to happen.

Kevin Henkes has the soul of a poet and the precision of a scientist. His books are warm, lovely, and philosophical. The twist in this one, involving a nesting doll, is breathtaking...and the lesson is patience and gratitude in minutiae.

— Alan's pick

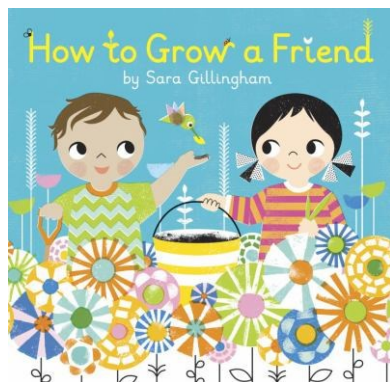
How to Grow a Friend

Sara Gillingham

In bold, adorable wood block prints, the author describes in toddler-friendly detail (very few words) how friendship works.

Gillingham analogizes growing a friend to how things grow in nature with ample talking points for the storyteller ("don't let your friend get stuck in the weeds").

— Alan's pick

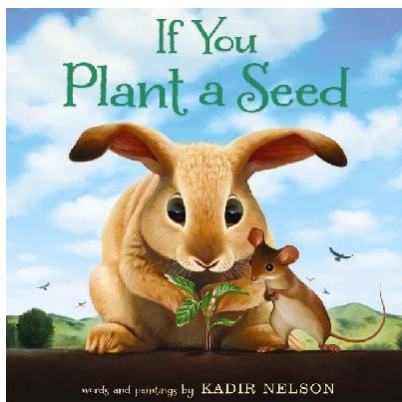


If You Plant a Seed

Kadir Nelson

With spare text and breathtaking oil paintings, *If You Plant a Seed* demonstrates not only the process of planting and growing for young children but also how a seed of kindness can bear sweet fruit.

The illustrations of this simple tale are whimsical and beautiful. The animals are so very expressive. — Andrea's pick

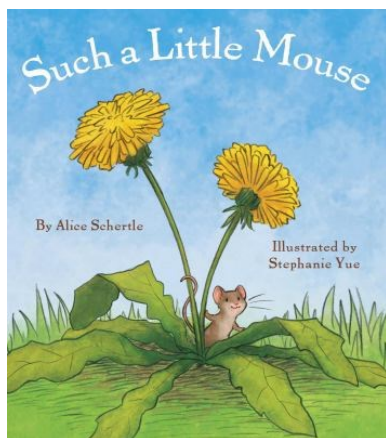


Such a Little Mouse

Alice Schertle

Every season a little mouse pops out of his hole in the meadow and explores his world, gathering the food and supplies he will need when winter comes.

This charming story is told in rhymes and is a delight. — Leslie's pick

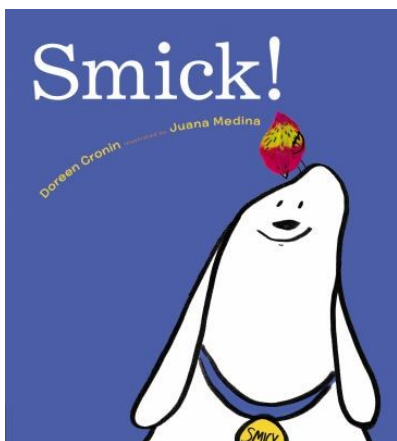


Smick!

Doreen Cronin

Smick is a very minimally drawn dog in a children's book. He retrieves a stick (done with a photo) and meets Chick (made from a photo of a petal and drawn upon).

With very simple line drawings, Smick is portrayed as being very lively, cute, and good. He plays well with Chick, and he stole my heart. A charming book for ages 2 and up, *Smick* uses simple rhyming text to tell the story. — Margaret's pick

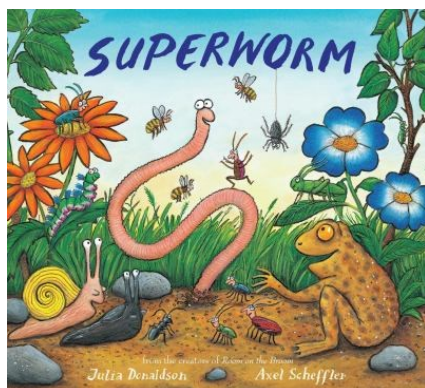


Superworm

Julia Donaldson

Our super hero is a worm! "Superworm is super long! Superworm is super strong! Watch him wiggle! Watch him squirm! Hip Hip Hooray for Superworm!"

I love all of Julia Donaldson's books (*The Gruffalo* is awesome), and this one doesn't disappoint. — Leslie's pick



Murder is Bad Manners

Robin Stevens

At an English boarding school in the 1930s, crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells struggle to find an exciting mystery to investigate. They hit pay-dirt when Hazel discovers the dead body of Miss Bell, the science teacher.

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong speak to the large portion of my soul still in love with all the Sherlock Holmes and Nancy Drew stories. We have a bit of a delay getting the U.S. versions (book 4 is already out in the UK), but it's going to be worth the wait!

—Carol's pick

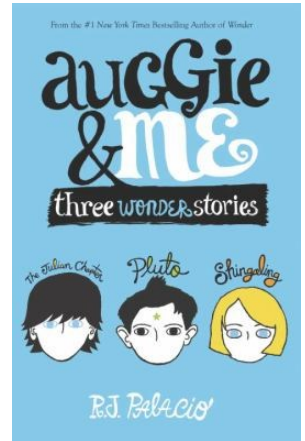


Auggie and Me: Three Wonder Stories

R.J. Palacio

These stories are an extra peek at Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep and during his first year there. Readers get to see him through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie's oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie's new friend at school.

This book is a companion to Palacio's *Wonder*. These chapters were not included in the original book, because *Wonder* was Auggie Pullman's story. This is a glimpse of the lives of three more people whose paths crossed with Auggie's. — Andrea's pick

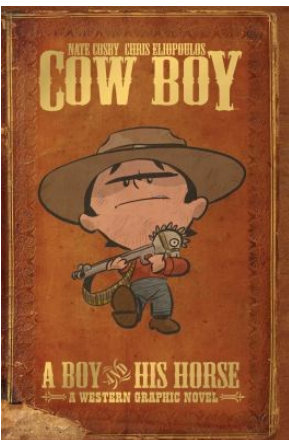


A Boy and His Horse

Nate Cosby

Story of a young bounty hunter determined to send his entire outlaw family to jail. He travels the Old West on a horse that ain't his, and won't stop til every one's in the clink.

From the Old West slang and drawl to the adorable illustrations, this graphic novel aimed at a younger audience will have adults like you and me enthralled as well. — Carol's pick



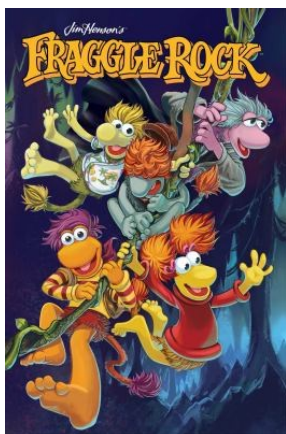
Lumberjanes Volume 1:

Beware the Kitten Holy

Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, Brooke Allen

At Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquiquil Thistle Crumpet's camp for hardcore lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes. Secret caves. Anagrams. The Lumberjanes are five rad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer.

I picked up issue 1 of this comic book series at Everett Comics on a whim. Little did I know how quickly I would fall in love with this magical series. Get caught up on these hardcore lady-types before the movie comes out (yep, film optioned!). — Carol's pick



Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock:

Journey to the Everspring

Kate Leth

When the water supply of Fraggle Rock mysteriously runs dry, the Fraggles will have to journey deep in the caves of Fraggle Rock to find the fabled Everspring where adventure awaits and no Fraggles have ever gone before! Dance your cares away!

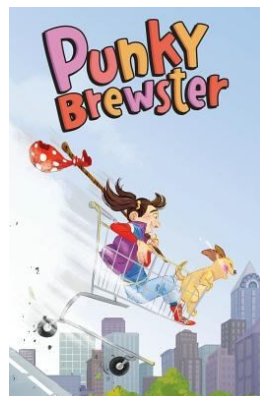
I was raised on Fraggle Rock and have come to be completely obsessed with Kate Leth. This is a match made in heaven, perfect for the young and young-at-heart. — Carol's pick

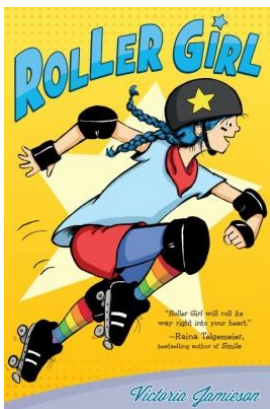
Punky Brewster Volume 1

Joelle Sellner

Punky Brewster has been abandoned by her mother and lives on the streets of Chicago with her puppy sidekick, Brandon. Punky thinks she doesn't need help, but after getting picked up by the police, she enters a foster home and searches for a new family.

When I was growing up, Punky Brewster was the one TV show my friends and I all watched religiously (well, as religiously as a small child can). She was the friend we all wanted, and this comic brings me back to those days of wonder. — Carol's pick





Roller Girl

Victoria Jamieson

Astrid becomes infatuated with roller derby after attending a bout with her mom and best friend, Nicole. The girls sign up for a roller derby boot camp, and Astrid soon realizes she's in over her head.

Fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile* will eat this up.
— Sarah's pick

Children's Nonfiction

Counting Lions

Katie Cotton

Larger-than-life black and white drawings are paired with poetic texts that reveal the ways in which endangered creatures- - including lions, elephants, giraffes, tigers, gorillas, penguins, Ethiopian wolves, macaws, turtles, and zebras — live on Earth. The drawn pictures are so realistic you believe they are photographs, and the words are mournful but with hope. This stunning book provides information about 10 beautiful wild animals. — Andrea's pick

Counting Lions



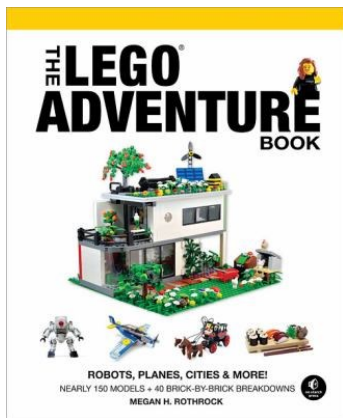
The Lego Adventure Book. Vol. 3

Robots, Planes, Cities & More

Megan Rothrock

Unleash your imagination as you journey through the wide-ranging world of LEGO building. It is filled with bright visuals, step-by-step breakdowns of 40 models, and nearly 150 example models from the world's best builders.

Whether you're brand-new to LEGO or have been building for years, this book is sure to spark your imagination and motivate you to keep creating!
— Leslie's pick

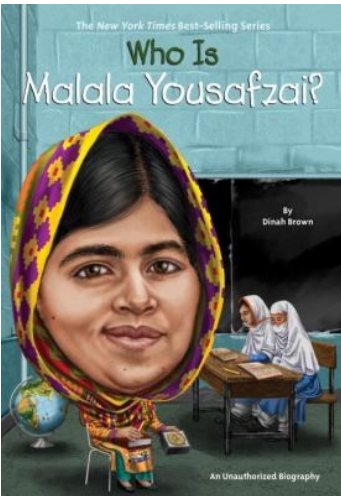


Ultimate Weird but True! 3

National Geographic Kids

A book with the latest discoveries, internet gems, urban legends, wacky myths, and tantalizing tidbits that are really true.

This is an amazing-looking book that's so much fun kids can't put it down. — Leslie's pick



Who Is Malala Yousafzai?

Dinah Brown

This book is part of the wildly popular biography series *Who Is?*, and now there are *What Was?* books also!

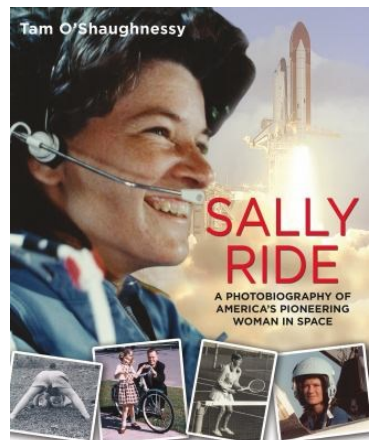
Kids like these books because they are good reads, and they are Accelerated Reader Books. — Leslie's pick

Sally Ride: a Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman in Space

Tam E. O'Shaughnessy

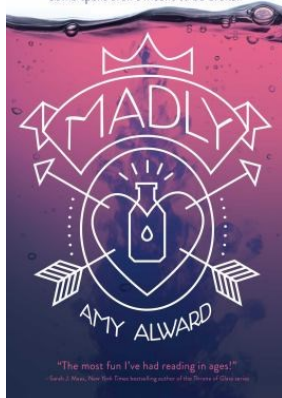
A biography of the famous astronaut drawing on personal and family photographs from her childhood, school days, college, life in the astronaut corps, and afterward.

This is an excellent primer, filled with rarely seen photographs and personal family stories of one of my personal heroes. — Carol's pick



Teen Fiction

Some spells aren't meant to be broken



Madly

Amy Alward

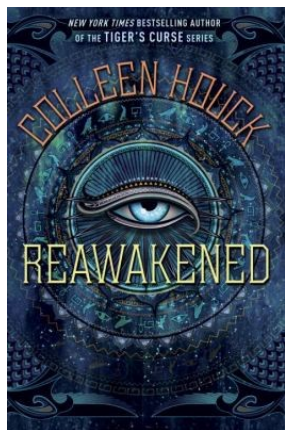
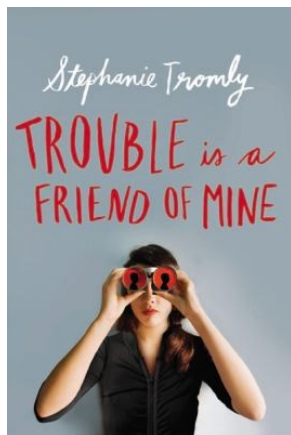
When the Princess of Nova accidentally poisons herself with a love potion meant for her crush, she falls crown-over-heels in love with her own reflection. Oops. A nationwide hunt is called to find the cure! Magic, mystery, romance--what's not to love? The world has magical rules that are vague enough to be believable, and I loved meeting another strong female heroine. Sam Kemi will be back in book 2 — can't wait to see what happens next! — Carol's pick

Trouble is a Friend of Mine

Stephanie Tromly

After her parents' divorce, Zoe Webster moves from Brooklyn to upstate New York where she meets the weirdly compelling misfit, Philip Digby, and soon finds herself in a series of hilarious and dangerous situations as he pulls her into his investigations.

The fast-paced adventure was only surpassed by the quick wit. And I haven't looked it up yet, but reading the ending makes it obvious that a sequel demands to be written. Or at least I am demanding one. I picked this book up on a whim, and I'm so glad I did. — Carol's pick



Reawakened

Colleen Houck

A visit to an Egyptian exhibit brings teen Lilliana Young face to face with a recently awakened mummy-turned-handsome-sun-god as she gets caught up in an adventure with more twists and turns than the Nile itself.

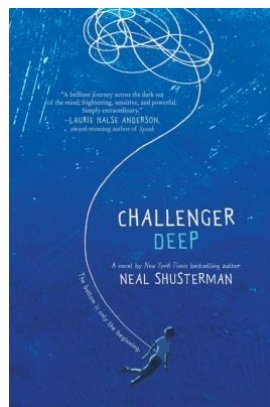
This book brings ancient Egyptian mythology into the modern age in an engrossing way. Lilliana's journey, both around the world and inside her heart, is a fast-paced adventure that kept me on the edge of my seat. — Carol's pick

Challenger Deep

Neal Shusterman

Fifteen-year-old Caden Bosch is traveling against his will on a ship bound for the deepest part of the ocean with an evil captain and trickster parrot. Or is it that he's slipping from his typical teenage life into the depths of madness?

By switching back and forth between the real and imagined stories, Shusterman expertly propels the reader into Caden's mind and its swirling, confusing, and terrifying thoughts. Brendan Shusterman's drawings add greatly to the chaos. — Elizabeth's pick

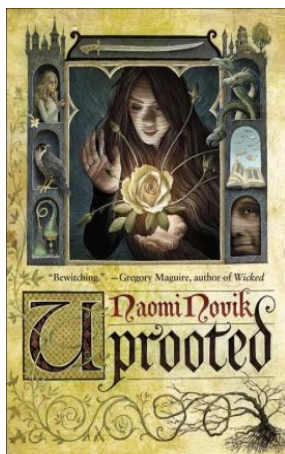


Uprooted

Naomi Novik

Messy, earthy Agnieszka expects to lose her friend to "The Dragon", a wizard who periodically takes a village girl for unknown purposes, only to be taken herself. She quickly becomes involved fighting the evil Wood, and learns to trust her budding powers.

This Polish fairy tale is at times very dark and the quest seems hopeless, but there are enough bright and funny parts to keep hope alive. I loved the totally creepy feeling to the Wood and all of its bizarre creatures brimming with evil intentions. — Elizabeth's pick

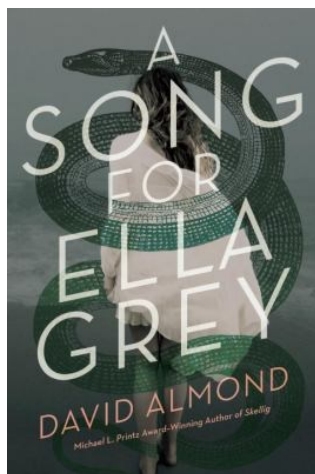


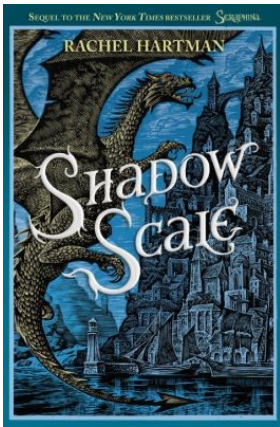
A Song for Ella Grey

David Almond

Claire and Ella have been best friends since elementary school, and Ella has become intensely important to Claire. During a campout at the beach the group meets mysterious Orpheus, whose hypnotic music draws them all in, especially Ella.

A modern day retelling of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, *Ella Grey* is likely to make you seek out other versions of the story and other books by Almond. Beautifully written, atmospheric, and full of teen angst and passion. Tragic and lovely!
— Elizabeth's pick





Shadow Scale

Rachel Hartman

The much-anticipated sequel to *Seraphina* (2012). In a world where dragons can assume human form, there are children who are half human and half dragon. Seraphina can communicate with others of her kind by diving deep into her subconscious mind.

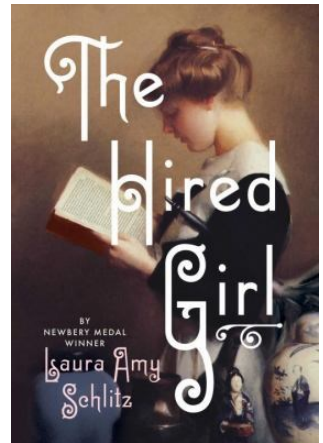
While this tale is inspired by other fantasy series about dragons, the characters are endearing and the pacing keeps those pages flying. — Emily's pick

The Hired Girl

Laura Amy Schlitz

She could bear the beatings, but she couldn't bear life on the farm without books. After her father forbids her to attend school, 14-year-old Joan runs away to Baltimore. After all, it's 1911! A modern girl should be able to make it on her own, right?

There is no shortage of historical fiction about girls running away from home to seek their fortunes. This story portrays the tensions between Jews and Gentiles in the early 20th century from the point of view of a young "Goy" working in a Jewish home.
— Emily's pick



Teen Graphic Novels



Batgirl Volume 1: Batgirl of Burnside

Cameron Stewart & Brenden Fletcher

It's Batgirl as you've never seen her before! Big changes are here for Barbara Gordon as she moves across Gotham City to begin a new chapter in her ongoing fight against crime as Batgirl.

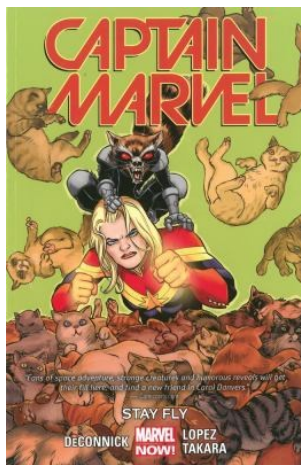
Who doesn't love Batgirl? This collects volumes #35-40 of the *Batgirl* comics, which have been my re-introduction to DC and one that was a random selection at Everett Comics! — Carol's pick

Bob's Burgers Volume 1

Various authors

The compilation of *Bob's Burgers* comics #1-5. Read about the Belcher family (parents Bob and Linda, and their children Tina, Gene, and Louise) with brand-new in-canon stories created by the TV show's producers, writers, animators, and the series creator.

I hop and skip for joy every time I pick up the newest issue of *Bob's Burgers* at Everett Comics. Jennifer H. got me to take a chance on the TV show a year ago, and the comics totally live up to the show's quality humor. — Carol's pick



Captain Marvel Volume 2. Stay Fly

Kelly Sue DeConnick

A compilation of stories that originally were published as the *Captain Marvel* comics #7-11.

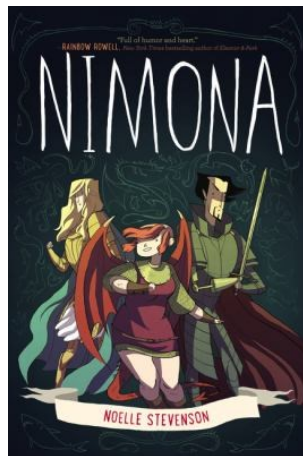
Carol Danvers isn't just cool because of her awesome first name. She's a woman setting her own course, even if that means leaving everyone she loves behind and going on an intergalactic adventure with the Guardians of the Galaxy. — Carol's pick

Nimona

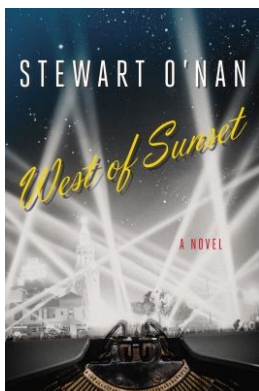
Noelle Stevenson

In this printing of the popular, award-winning web comic, a villain adopts a sidekick with incredible powers and a mysterious past.

Colorful, intelligent, and full of insight into human behavior and relationships, *Nimona* is everything you want a graphic novel to be: at once impactful, complex, and accessible. Iconographic and character-driven, this graphic novel is terrific for all ages. — Alan's pick



Adult Fiction



West of Sunset

Stewart O'Nan

This historical novel follows the last four years in F. Scott Fitzgerald's life.

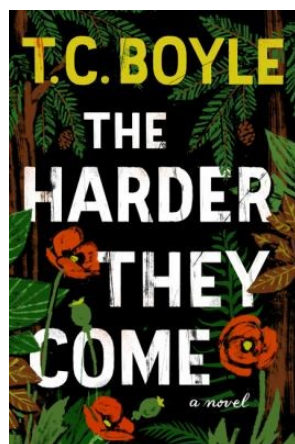
Stewart O'Nan writes literary, sensitive, character-driven tragedy, but usually about the everyday. Here, we get to see him flex his style and sympathy on a truly fascinating and heartbreaking story of the great writer's last years in Hollywood. — Alan's pick

The Harder They Come

T. C. Boyle

Set in contemporary Northern California, Boyle's latest explores the connections between three damaged people -- an aging Vietnam veteran, his psychologically unstable son, and the son's paranoid, older lover — as they careen toward explosive confrontation.

T. C. Boyle has been weaving his gorgeous character-driven and insight-rich literary style into works that speak volumes about contemporary issues. Written in Boyle's sheer lyrical style, this thriller should please anyone. — Alan's pick

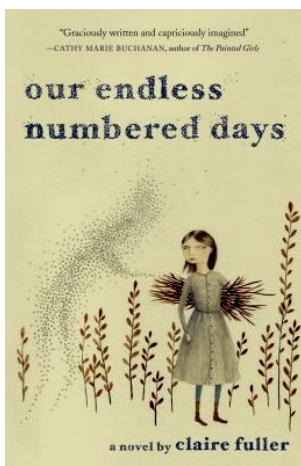


Our Endless Numbered Days

Claire Fuller

Eight-year-old Peggy is living in London with her concert pianist mother and survivalist father when an issue between the parents causes her dad to steal away with Peggy into the mountains of Germany where they live for years in "die Hutte".

Stories about surviving in the wild always appeal to me, but this book had so many subtle twists, so smoothly done in fact that I missed them, that at the surprising end I wanted to go back and see what really happened. Excellent! — Elizabeth's pick

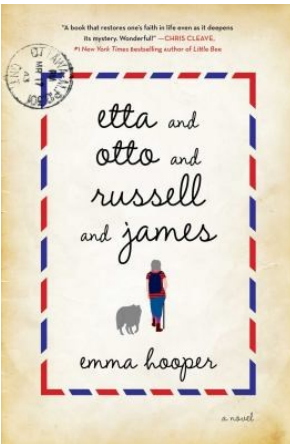
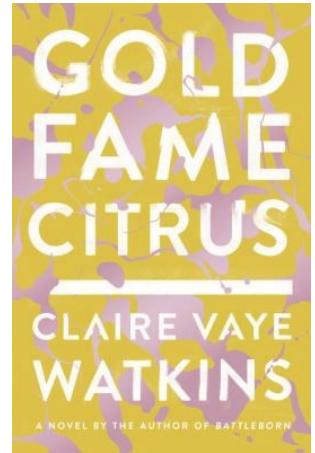


Gold Fame Citrus

Claire Vaye Watkins

Parched and ruined California has turned into a series of giant sand dunes, but Luz and Ray are surviving in a long-gone starlet's mansion. At an outdoor party, they encounter an abused and neglected toddler and begin to dream of a better life.

I can't seem to get enough of really good dystopian fiction, and this is one of the best since last year's *Station Eleven*. Brutal, sweet, hopeful, and devastating, it is also quite plausible considering the current droughts we are experiencing. — Elizabeth's pick



Etta and Otto and Russell and James

Emma Hooper

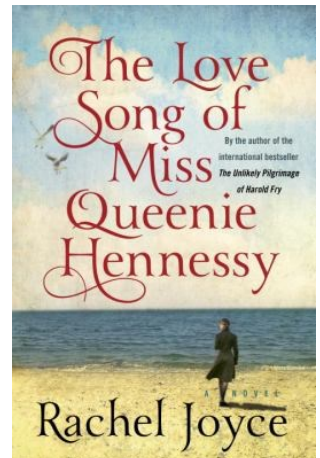
Journey across Canada and across the decades. Magical realism in a journey of self-discovery similar to *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce. — Julie's pick

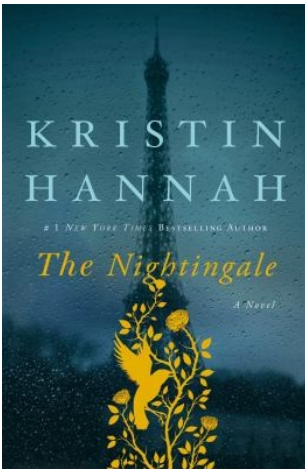
The Love Song of Miss Queenie

Hennessy : A Novel

Rachel Joyce

Queenie's side of the story of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*. While Harold was walking to Queenie, readers knew all about him, but not much about Queenie. Now that has been remedied with this new novel, letting us in on what Queenie remembers about Harold. — Julie's pick





[The Nightingale](#)

Kristen Hannah

This novel is the story of two sisters living in Nazi-occupied France during WWII. It is well written and a good companion book to *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

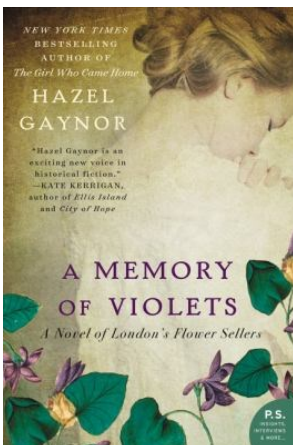
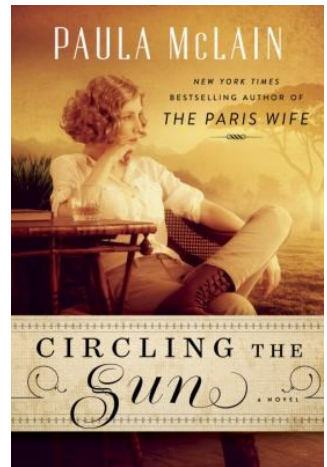
The setting and characters were very well done. I was sad when it ended. — Leslie's pick

[Circling the Sun](#)

Paula McLain

This is the backstory of Beryl Markham, the first woman to make a solo transatlantic crossing from east to west. She was raised by her father in Africa and became that continent's first woman horse trainer.

This book has it all—beautiful and descriptive writing, an interesting story of a woman trail-blazer, and the lovely land of Kenya. I could not recommend it more highly. — Leslie's pick



[A Memory of Violets](#)

Hazel Gaynor

This is an historical novel about two orphaned sisters who are flower sellers barely surviving in the streets of London in the 1800s and what happens after they are separated.

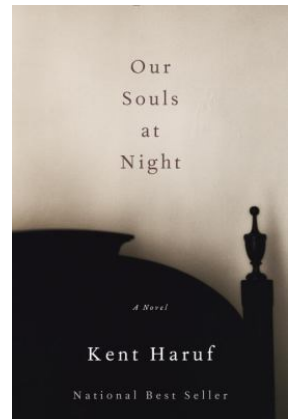
The story is realistic, heartbreaking, bittersweet, and, thankfully, has a mostly happy ending. I enjoyed this story immensely. — Margaret's pick

Our Souls at Night

Kent Haruf

In an attempt to stave off loneliness after losing their spouses, Addie and Louis start spending the night together for companionship. Addie's son disapproves, but her grandson comes to spend time with Addie and develops a strong bond with Louis.

A beautiful relationship story, told with grace and touching calmness. I am very sad that Kent Haruf passed away last year; he is one of my favorite authors. This is a quick read you can finish in a few hours, but it's good to read it slowly, so it lasts longer. — Sarah's pick



A Manual for Cleaning Women

Lucia Berlin

This collection of posthumous short stories by Lucia Berlin is something else. The two writers who introduce her gush and rave about her work; you wonder why it wasn't published years ago.

Berlin injects bits of her own history, incorporating alcoholism, pink-collar work, and years of hard living into her characters. Her vibrant landscapes (Oakland, Mexico, Chile, and beyond) are packed with individuals dealing with harsh circumstances. — Sarah's pick



Adult Graphic Novels

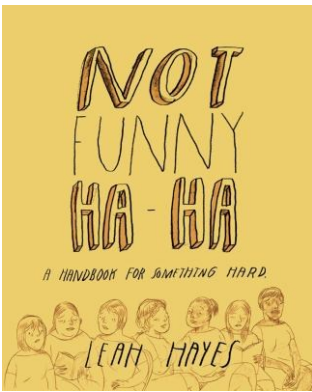
Ms. Marvel Volumes 2 & 3

G. Willow Wilson

Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City — until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm!

If you haven't read this reboot of Marvel standby *Ms. Marvel* (Vol. 1 came out in 2014), you are seriously missing out. Kamala Khan is not just a superhero—she's a teenager learning to trust herself and figure out just who she is. — Carol's pick





Not Funny Ha-Ha:

A Handbook for Something Hard

Leah Hayes

Demystifies the process of abortion by following the story of two women who have decided to have abortions, from making their initial decision, choosing a clinic and method (surgical and medical), reaching out to loved ones, and having the procedure.

The subject matter may be controversial, but this book can and will help someone making a thoroughly difficult decision. — Carol's pick

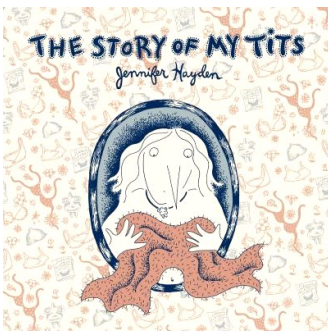
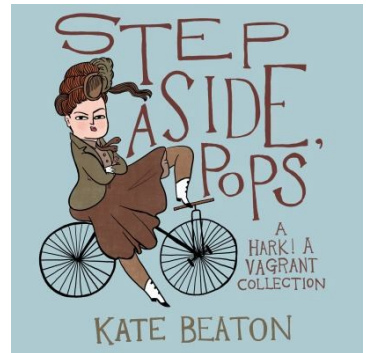
Step Aside, Pops :

a Hark! A Vagrant Collection

Kate Beaton

Kate Beaton's second *Drawn & Quarterly* book brings her hysterically funny gaze to bear on historical, literary, and contemporary figures. Irreverently funny and carefully researched, no target is safe from Beaton's incisive wit!

This was my intro into Kate Beaton and *D+Q*. When I cataloged it, the book fell open to a satirical strip of Nancy Drew, and I knew this was for me! — Carol's pick



The Story of My Tits

Jennifer Hayden

When Jennifer Hayden was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 43, she realized that her breasts told a story. Across a lifetime, they'd held so many meanings: hope and fear, pride and embarrassment, life and death. And then they were gone.

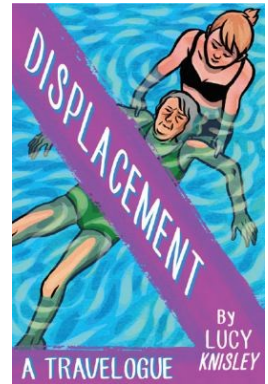
If you've never read an autobiographical comic strip or graphic novel, take a chance on this one. If your goal this year was to read difficult stuff, pick this up. If you know anyone touched by breast cancer, check this out. — Carol's pick

Displacement: A Travelogue

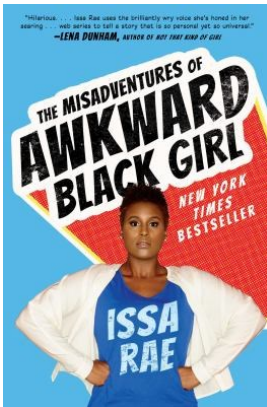
Lucy Knisley

Graphic novelist Lucy is in the prime of her life when she accompanies her rapidly aging grandparents on a Caribbean cruise. She has always been close to them, and when no one else can go along, and she is at loose ends, she offers to help.

Knisley really captures the sweet and rewarding aspects of helping the very old, but we also feel strongly the frustration, sadness, and feelings of being trapped that come with the job. The drawing style, while simple, is expressive and charming. — Elizabeth's pick



Adult Nonfiction



The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl

Issa Rae

A collection of humorous essays on what it's like to be unabashedly awkward in a world that regards introverts as hapless misfits, and Black as cool.

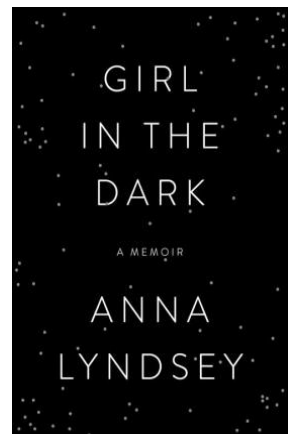
I feel like Issa and I are at times the same person. She had a much more interesting childhood and upbringing, but we're both total nerds who have just learned to finally own it and flaunt it! — Carol's pick

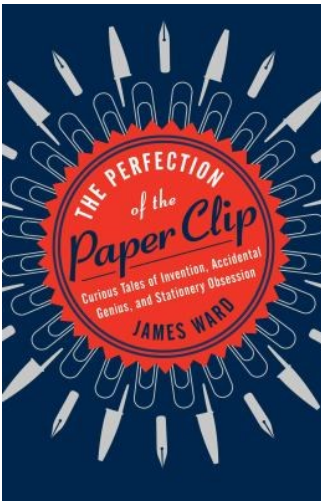
Girl in the Dark

Anna Lyndsey

Young and bright civil servant Anna is gradually becoming sensitive to light and finally has to retreat to a room of complete darkness. The fact that she has so much to offer and such interest in life makes her situation all the more difficult to accept.

This book, and Anna's anguish, jumped out and grabbed me the moment I started it. Her ability to make us feel what it is like to live in the dark, unable to experience life is exceptional, while her resourcefulness, strength and intelligence shine. — Elizabeth's pick





[The Perfection of the Paper Clip](#)

James Ward

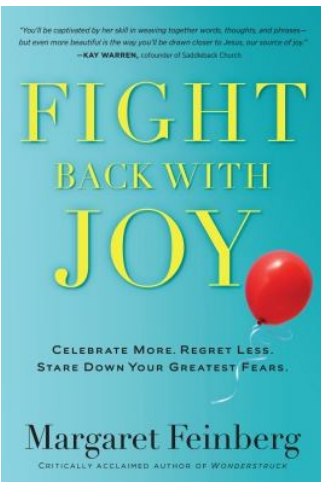
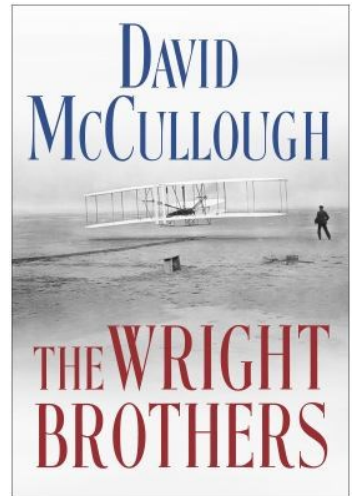
A history of office/school supplies! I have a weakness for school supplies, and I have even been to the Pencil Museum in Keswick, England. The scent of the Pink Pearl eraser brings back fond memories for me as it does for the author of this fascinating look at stationery through the ages. — Julie's pick

[The Wright Brothers](#)

David McCullough

This is an impeccably researched and brilliantly written book about "two of the workingist boys" of turn of the century America.

It was fascinating to learn about the invention of motorized flight. — Leslie's pick



[Fight Back with Joy : Celebrate More.](#)

[Regret Less. Stare Down Your Greatest Fears](#)

Margaret Feinberg

Fighting back with joy is not about having a good attitude or enough faith. Margaret candidly describes her battle with breast cancer and concludes that "fighting with joy is without beginning or end" and "flows out of unsuspecting places."

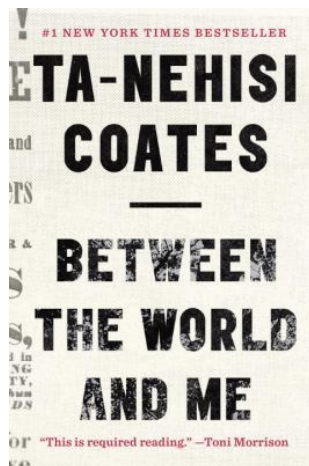
This was a refreshing read— transparent, and encouraging. — Margo's pick

Between the World and Me

Ta-Nehisi Coates

It's a heartfelt letter to Coates' son, depicting what it's like to be black in America. He outlines the history of slavery and how the country is still experiencing a major racial divide.

I now understand my white privilege better and realize some of the challenges of parenting black children in a society that can still be filled with hate. Toni Morrison raved about this book, calling it required reading. — Sarah's pick



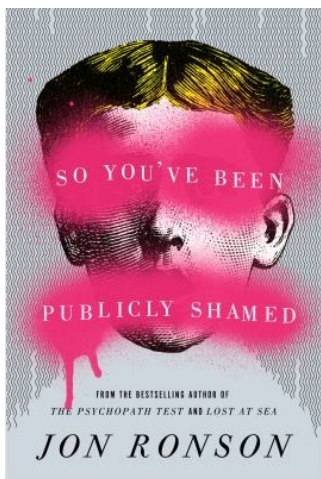
So You've Been Publicly Shamed

Jon Ronson

Ronson explores how social media and the Internet have brought about something of a public shaming renaissance, and he explores the history of public shaming to show how it has changed with technology.

This book takes a more empathetic stance than you will find in the media channels it critiques. It's a must read for Twitter users yet still approachable for non-tech users just interested in human behavior.

— Zac's pick



DVDs

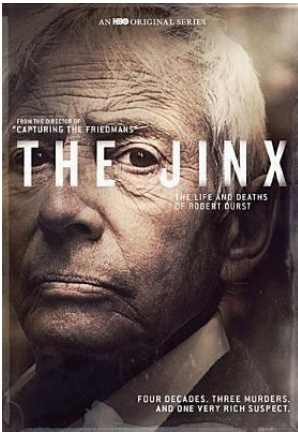
While We're Young

Noah Baumbach

Cornelia and Josh get their lives turned upside down when a young couple enters their lives.

On the surface, it's a comedy about the difference between youth and age. Looked at properly, it's a deep examination of the road not travelled and what it takes to be an artist. A great film works on many levels; *While We're Young* is a great film. — Alan's pick





[The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst](#)

Andrew Jarecki

The innovative HBO documentary miniseries unearthed damning information about three murders long connected to Robert Durst, the American real estate heir.

Interviewed by the show for over 20 hours, Durst was arrested one day before the finale. This gripping show, now on DVD, gave me the goose bumps. Binge watched it in a day.

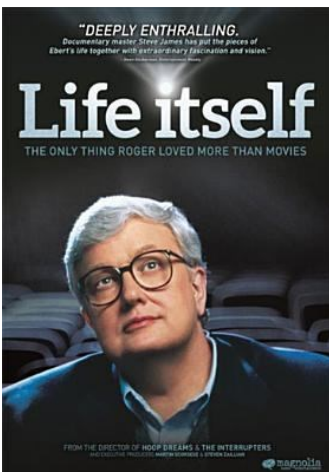
— Joyce's pick

[The Wolfpack](#)

Director Crystal Moselle

This true story follows six brothers who grow up locked in a Manhattan housing project.

With little access to the real world but lots of access to film, they pass time acting out revered movies (*Reservoir Dogs*) using elaborate props they create. It was fascinating, puzzling, and kind of strange. I loved it! — Joyce's pick



[Life Itself](#)

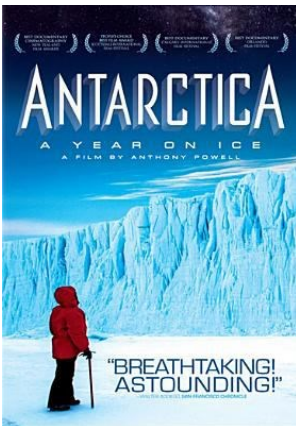
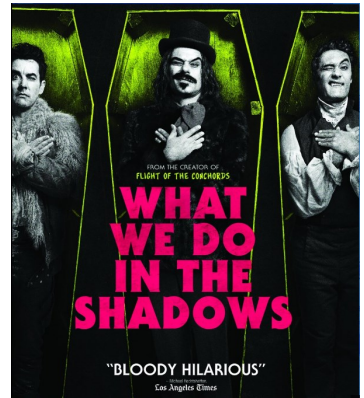
This review is for the DVD — I would *not* recommend the audiobook.

The fascinating life of film critic Roger Ebert is affectionately presented in this compelling film, an adaptation of Ebert's autobiography. An excellent journalistic writer, Ebert, endured a painful year-long journey with cancer. — Kate's pick

What We Do In the Shadows

A mock documentary about vampires and all the horrors involved in being one.

This film is packed with sight gags and comedic situations that will keep you laughing for almost all 85 minutes. Have you ever considered what would happen to your teeth if you lived 700 years? How you would get dressed without a mirror? — Kate's pick



Antarctica DVD: A year on Ice

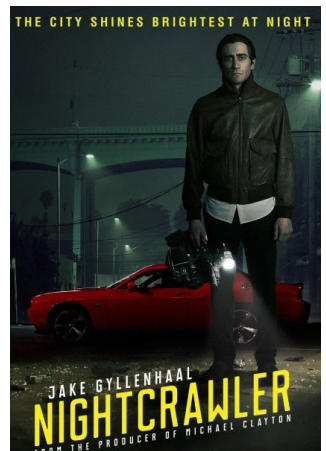
This fascinating documentary captures a snapshot of life in one of the most remote places on the planet, home to an international community of scientists and workers.

I was intrigued and spellbound as residents shared their frustrations and the attraction that led them to the rugged beauty that characterizes Antarctica. Highly recommended.
— Margo's pick

Nightcrawler

A low-level con artist in L.A. falls into the "big time" in the freelance video news business.

Simply put, this movie gives me the creeps (for me, this is a desirable feature in a film). In retrospect, the plot is a bit over the top, but Gyllenhaal's performance kept my belief thoroughly suspended for the full 1 hour and 58 minutes. — Zac's pick





The Flash: Season One

Grant Gustin

A CSI lab worker gets struck by lightning and obtains super powers. This incarnation of the Flash is molded after Geoff Johns' *New 52* DC Comic series.

This series falls somewhere between awesome and awesomely bad. Wentworth Miller, of *Prison Break* fame, also brings a lot to the series playing the hilariously evil villain Captain Cold. There're even *Arrow* Season 3 crossover episodes to boot!
— Zac's pick

Mad Max: Fury Road

George Miller

This film delivers a long-awaited update to the Mad Max franchise.

I'm a sucker for post-apocalyptic anything, but this film will appeal to anyone that enjoys a good action movie (and a lot of people that don't go for either genre). The movie's evil Immortan Joe and the War Boys are glorious.
— Zac's pick



Music

Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Sit

Courtney Barnett

Raw, acerbic, personal, yet intellectual garage/folk rock from a young Australian.

Barnett's smarts and energy come through on her fun, wry, and accessible debut LP, a sample lyric: "Give me all your money and I'll make some origami, honey / I think you're a joke, but I don't find you very funny." — Alan's pick



Choose Your Weapon

Hiatus Kaiyote

From start to finish this album is a joyride of blended styles: RnB, Soul, Drum and Bass, Hip-Hop, Funk, Jazz, and much more. It's really impossible to sum up.

A great album to throw on while you're working in the kitchen or entertaining guests, it's just a feel-good listen that provides a little of everything. — Lisa's pick



Ratchet

Shamir

A dancy, fun, sassy, intelligent electronic album with a sense of humor.

For pop listeners interested in expanding their horizons into electronic music, this might be a nice crossover album. — Lisa's pick

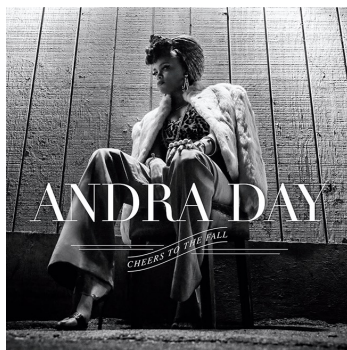


Cheers to the Fall

Andra Day

Day may incorporate some vintage vibes, but she possesses the vision and creativity to avoid being pigeon-holed as a throwback artist.

Day possesses a beautiful, powerful voice that fills up the room with neo-soul melodies. Her style has hints of doo-wop, soul, and Motown, with a timeless sound similar to Nikki Jean, Amy Winehouse, and Adele. — Lisa's pick

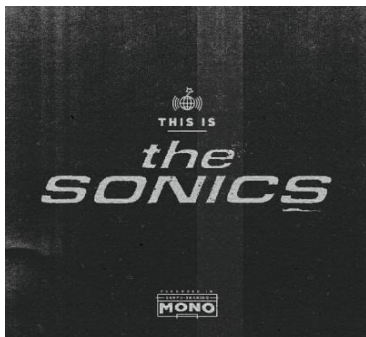


This is The Sonics

The Sonics

The godfathers of garage rock show that 50 years later they are still the kings of garage rock.

Strong singing and playing, fast tempos, rocking songs. As good as it gets. — Ron's pick





Before the World was Big

Girlpool

Simple, quiet, sometimes out-of-tune, charming.

This post-punk-in-spirit band surprised me with their childlike simplicity and sparse music. Excellent listen. — Ron's pick

So Delicious

Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band

Blues, swamp rock, music that mountain men wish they were tough enough to listen to.

Hard-edged yet filled with fun, leaves me expecting a jug solo at any moment. — Ron's pick



All Hands

Doomtree

Doomtree is a Minneapolis indie hip-hop super group.

Nerdy lyrical references and the high-tempo sound drew me in to this album. Those aspects made it worth listening to, but it was Doomtree's effective use of multiple MCs that pushed me to give it repeat listening. — Zac's pick