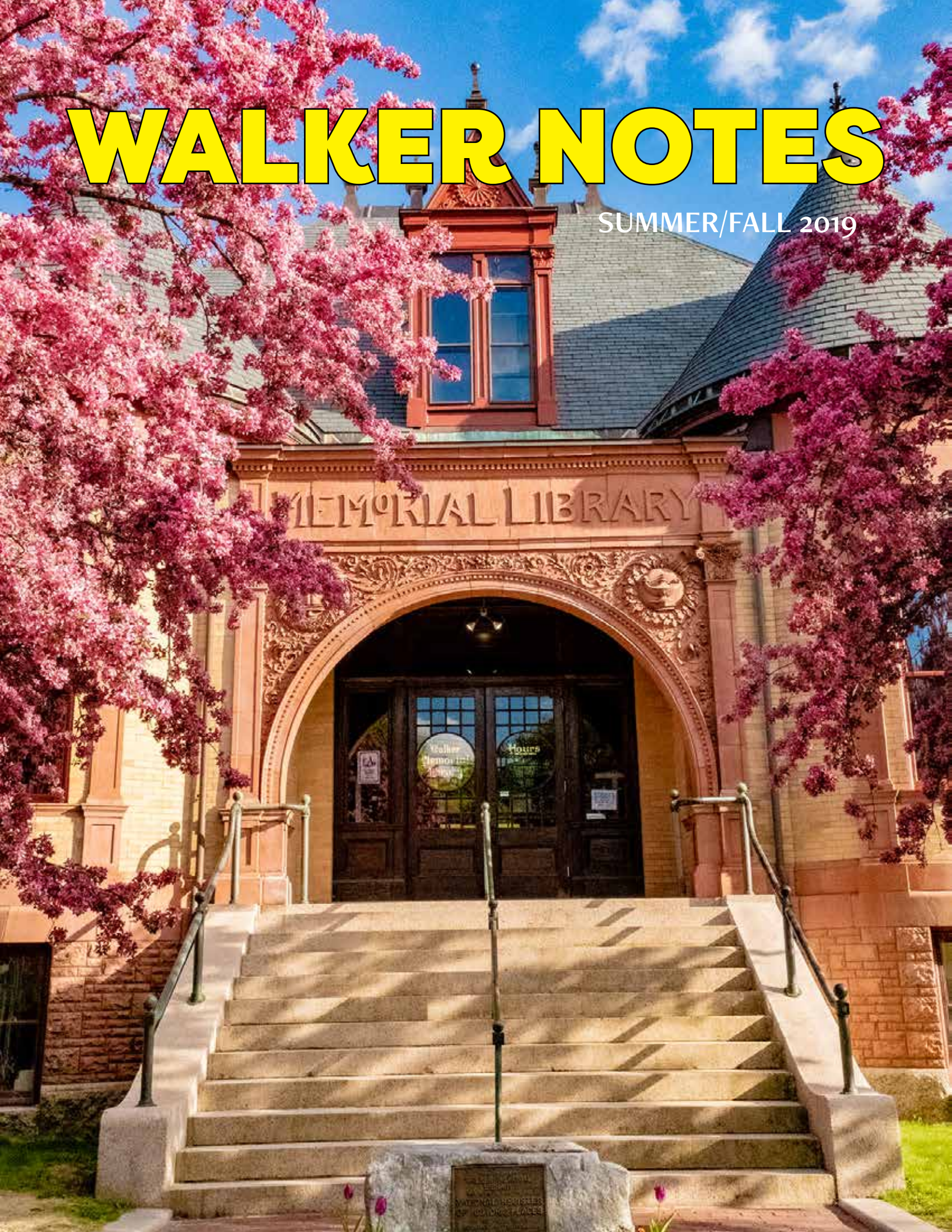


WALKER NOTES

SUMMER/FALL 2019



A FAREWELL MESSAGE



I grew up at the Walker Memorial Library. I remember going up the big stairs out front and entering through those beautiful doors. I remember attending a magic show in the children's room of the old library, with nursery rhyme murals on the walls, and checking out a book of magic tricks after the show. I remember sitting at the big wooden tables upstairs in the "adult" library researching books and magazine articles about the Beatles (an obsession that started in 7th grade and continues to this day). I remember hanging out with my friends after school in the beautiful, spacious library garden, where

the 1989 addition sits now, and running into my dad on his lunch break walking down the sidewalk on the new Wayside Drive (now William Clarke Drive).

I have been so proud and honored to have come home to serve this library and the citizens of Westbrook for the past four years. While it is time for me to open a new chapter in my life, I will miss the daily interaction with patrons, working with a great staff, and coming to work every day to such a beautiful building. I am proud of the changes we've made during my time here, to make the library more open, attractive and welcoming by bringing in art shows, author talks, and poetry readings.

Most of all, I am proud of accomplishing the years-long dream of reopening the old library for the daily use of patrons. Though we can no longer go up those big stairs and use the the original Main Street entrance, we can sit and read, reflect and write in the beautiful rooms that I remember from my childhood. That, I believe, was my greatest contribution to this library, and I am proud to have overseen the completion of that project (with multitudes of help from library staff, city staff, and trustees, of course!).

Rebecca Albert

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday & Thursday
10:00am - 7:00pm
Saturday & Sunday
Closed





WALKER WORLD OF STORIES

ADULT SUMMER READING

by M.D.

Thinking about summer reminds me of vacation, more time with family and friends, ice cream, reading outside while enjoying the warm fresh air, and—of course—stopping by the library for Summer Reading Programs.

For this year's adult summer reading, the library will be hosting a diverse selection of programs designed to help facilitate the discovery of new stories.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Have fun reading and earn a prize! The reading challenge will run from **June 24 to September 24**. The goal is to **read eight books** from the following categories listed on the reading challenge card. You may pick up your reading challenge card at the front desk or go to <https://walkerlibrary.org/walkerworldofstories>.

The grand prize includes a six-month subscription to the Book of the Month Club, a box of Black Dinah Maine Farm Market Truffles, and \$25 gift certificates to the Daily Grind, Quill Books, AND Roots Cafe.

READ ME PROGRAM

The library will be a part of the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine State Library's Read ME program, a statewide community read that encourages readers across Maine to read two books recommended by a fellow Maine author.

For 2019, Tess Gerritsen has chosen Susan Conley's *Paris Was the Place* and Sarah Perry's *After the Eclipse: A Mother's Murder, a Daughter's Search*. Both books will be available to borrow at the library's lending desk starting Monday, June 24th. The book discussion dates are as follows:

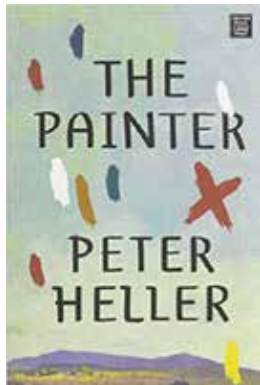
- Thursday, August 1 at 6PM - *Paris Was the Place*, book discussion led by Erin Curren
- Thursday, August 29 at 6PM - *After the Eclipse*, book discussion led by Kelly Day and Joan Austin

WALKER WORLD OF DISCOVERY: Summer Reading Speaker Series

Walker World of Discovery is the library's summer reading speaker series for 2019. We have invited Maine writers, artists, educators, and community organizers to share their areas of expertise and work. We hope that you can join us. For more information, grab a copy of the Adult Summer Reading Program Schedule or go to <https://walkerlibrary.org/walkerworldofstories>.

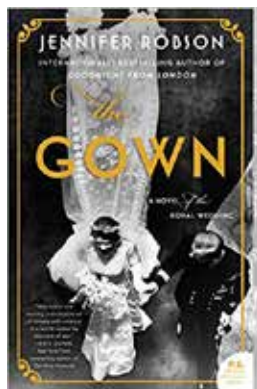
WML RECOMMENDS

***The Painter* by Peter Heller (audiobook)**



Very well known and professionally respected in the American art world, Jim Stegner begins to fall apart after the violent death of his beloved teenaged daughter. It doesn't help that he is alcoholic, arrogant, and has a short fuse. It is not surprising that he has murdered two men. The really interesting part of the story is the unraveling of why he allowed himself this behavior and whether he was justified in each case. None of the characters are either good or evil, even the brutal brothers he kills are shown to have a sympathetic backstory. The beating of a small horse sets Stegner off on his soul searching and very tense, dangerous, and unwanted adventure. The story is riveting and very well read by Mark Deakins. ~ **Martha**

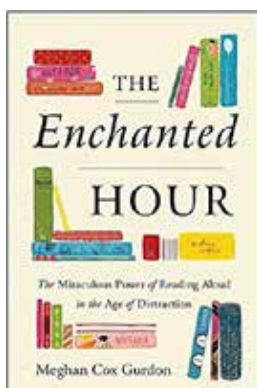
***The Gown* by Jennifer Robson**



In 1947, the general mood in Britain was one of gloom and hardship with continuing post-war rationing and abnormally severe winter weather. The announcement of the royal engagement, therefore, couldn't have come at a better time. At last, people had something to be cheerful about and to look forward to. It is particularly exciting for Ann Hughes and Miriam Dessin, two friends at the fashion house of Norman Hartnell in London, as they become part of the team making and embroidering Princess Elizabeth's gown. Ann grew up in London and Miriam is a prison camp survivor and émigré from France; both of them the sole survivor of their families. Ann dies in Toronto, Canada in 2016, having never spoken about her past, but she leaves a box of samples and photographs to her granddaughter, Heather. Heather becomes intrigued by the mystery of her grandmother's hidden past and heads to London to follow the clues.

I loved this book! A historical novel, based on the story of Queen Elizabeth's wedding dress, set against the backdrop of everyday life in post-World War II Britain. Above and beyond the historical detail, it is ultimately the story of a friendship between two women and the legacy of that friendship to a future generation. The story is very moving and it inspires an emotional response as you, along with the granddaughter, sense the women's pain through adversity, feel admiration for their resilience in overcoming hardship, and share their joy in the love that endures and the hope that lives on through their children and grandchildren. ~ **Karen**

***The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in the Age of Distraction* by Meghan Cox Gurdon**



Meghan Cox Gurdon isn't the first writer to extol the virtues of reading aloud, but her recent book *The Enchanted Hour: The Miraculous Power of Reading Aloud in the Age of Distraction* provides a thoughtful blend of research and anecdotes to add to the conversation. Gurdon focuses on early literacy, storytime, and the simple beauty of bedtime rituals but also expands her scope to the benefits of taking this age-old practice to nursing homes, hospitals, and individuals with special needs. By appealing to both curiosity and emotion, Gurdon stirred my memories of reading at hospital bedsides or with a child in my lap, demonstrating the powerful combination of the human voice and the delights of literature to provide connection across generations. She bookends her argument for the importance of reading aloud with some practical advice that boils down to: Make time. Even if it's just five minutes, enchantment is worth it. ~ **Nora**

MAINE WRITER SPOTLIGHT



Elaine

Oh, come again to Astolat!
I will not ask you to be kind.
And you may go when you will go,
And I will stay behind.

I will not say how dear you are,
Or ask you if you hold me dear,
Or trouble you with things for you
The way I did last year.

So still the orchard, Lancelot,
So very still the lake shall be,
You could not guess—though you should guess—
What is become of me.

So wide shall be the garden-walk,
The garden-seat so very wide,
You needs must think—if you should think—
The lily maid had died.

Save that, a little way away,
I'd watch you for a little while,
To see you speak, the way you speak,
And smile,—if you should smile.

***Taken from Project Gutenberg*

Edna St. Vincent Millay

One of our state's most famous writers is Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) who was born in Rockland. Millay, who preferred to be called Vincent, graduated from Camden High School where her gift for poetry was acknowledged. She graduated from Vassar College in 1917 and moved to New York City, where she established her career as a poet and playwright and helped to found the Cherry Lane Theater. She was an independent, outspoken and very liberated redhead who wowed audiences with her charisma. In 1923 she won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry and in 1943 she was the second woman to receive the Frost Medal for her contributions to American poetry. Sadly, she died at the age of 58, at her home in Steepletop, in Austerlitz, New York. If you want to know more about Millay and her interesting life, Nancy Milford's biography *Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay*, is thorough and well written.

WALKER PROFILE



Alice Persons moved to Maine in 1983, has lived in Westbrook since 1996 and cherishes her library card. She joined the Board of Regents two years ago. Alice grew up in an Army household and moved around a lot. She graduated from high school in Virginia and got a BA and MA in English from the University of Oregon, and a JD from the University of Maine School of Law. Alice is the only person in her family born in New England (the Boston area). She teaches business law part-time at the University of Southern Maine and is the editor and publisher of Moon Pie Press, a poetry press that has been going since 2003. She has published poems in journals and has had eight poems in *The Writer's Almanac* on Minnesota Public Radio. Alice has three books of poetry of her own. She spoils two cats and a dog. For fun she likes to read, bake, and travel. She is currently learning acrylic painting.

"I love the Walker Library—its friendly staff, its beautiful historic building, and how much it offers Westbrook."

If you're a library patron, you've likely seen **Martha Goodale** doing something to beautify or improve the library. She has been working here since 2013, shelving books, caring for our rather impressive plant collection, refinishing furniture and shelves, updating the catalog, and generally being indispensable in her quiet way.

Martha lives in Westbrook with her son. She enjoys gardening, hiking in Acadia, working on her house, refinishing furniture, and watching movies. She likes reading both fiction and non-fiction and names an eclectic list of favorite writers: Carlos Ruiz-Zafon, Jodi Picoult, Nancy Horan, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Maine's own Elizabeth Garber. She has worked as a librarian in elementary, high school, university, and public libraries for nearly 40 years, and says, "Libraries are home to me."

When asked about one of her favorite things about Walker Memorial Library, Martha says, "I enjoy the staff, who are always affable if not outright cheerful, and conscientious in helping patrons."

Something that might surprise you about Martha: in her thirties she was a competitive wrist wrestler!

The board and staff of Walker Memorial Library thank Martha for her invaluable contributions.



WALKER NEWS

Kara Reiman's New Adventure

After eight years of serving as Walker Memorial Library's Youth Services Librarian, Kara Reiman will be leaving to start a new journey as the Children's Literacy and Services Specialist at the Maine State Library.

Kara will be best remembered for her passion for librarianship. She always took her time to create relationships with those who visited Youth Services. Kara remarked that the highlight of her day was seeing and talking with the parents and their kids.

During her time as Youth Services Librarian, Kara had the opportunity to meet several children's book authors, including Matt Tavares, author of *Growing Up Pedro* and *There Goes Ted Williams*.

When asked about what she will miss most, Kara said, "The wonderful families that I've gotten to know. I've had the incredible privilege of knowing some of my patrons since they were born and have watched them grow into amazing young people as they've gone on to school and further adventures. To all of the Walker families: being a small part of your lives for the past eight years has made a lasting impact on my life, and it has been my honor to serve as your librarian. I will not soon forget you."



Join the Friends of WML

The Friends of Walker Memorial Library is a group dedicated to supporting the library, and they are always looking for new members to join. The Friends sponsors and participates in many fun activities at the library, such as the Read ME program for summer reading, the Valentine's Tea, and the Holiday Open House.

If you are interested in joining the Friends of Walker Memorial Library, please e-mail friends@walkerlibrary.org or visit <https://walkerlibrary.org/friends>.



Closing Temporarily on Saturdays

As much as we would like to be open more hours, due to a shortage of staff, the library is temporarily closing on Saturdays. We understand that there are patrons who may not be able to get to the library on weekdays when we are open. However we would like to assure everyone that the City of Westbrook and the Walker Memorial Library staff are working towards a solution that will allow everyone in the community to enjoy the services we offer. We thank everyone for their patience and their continuous support of the library.

Shadows

by David C. Weiss

The three of us pose in a photo memorializing
my spiritual confirmation in the Lutheran Church.

My mother on my right, Father on my left.
I'm the thirteen-year-old boy wedged between them
as if a slight shift of their bodies toward the center
would make me to disappear.

Mother and I look into the camera, Father gazes off to his left.
June sun casts shadows below our squinting eyes and
shields our vulnerability from the camera's lens.

Mother's face reflects stoic acceptance,
Father's mouth hints a wary smile.
A forced grin belies my anxiety.

Mother wears a short-sleeved, frayed dress,
one hand snuggled in her right torn pocket,
her hair bobby-pinned behind each ear.

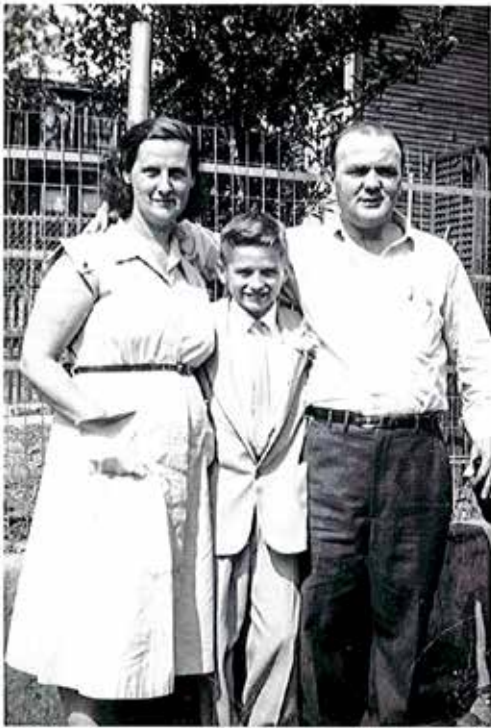
Father's white shirt open at the collar,
dark rumpled pants held up by a belt
below a protruding stomach.
He clasps a bottle of beer in his left hand,
extended away from his side, an attempt
to hide it from the camera's eye.
His right arm around the back of my head,
his hand rests on my mother's left shoulder.

I wear a suit, white shirt, and narrow tie.
A white carnation on my left lapel,
its fragile edges crumpling against my father's side.

Does the camera's lens discern that I am the lapel flower,
crushed between my father's unpredictable rage
and my mother's despair?

Is the camera able to sound us, as in navigation,
to plumb the hidden depth of our love?

© David C. Weiss





Turning Over the Reins

by David C. Weiss

Helios steers his sun chariot daily east to west across the cerulean sky.
His son Phaethon pleads to pilot alone his father's majestic carriage.

Helios, wanting to protect his son, warns that not even Zeus,
the supreme god and protector of humankind, would dare to drive it,
as the chariot is fiery hot and the horses breathe out flames.
But Phaethon is adamant and Helios reluctantly hands him the reins.

Phaethon gives a quick snap to the restraints and the immortal steeds
lunge forward, obediently continuing their solar orbit.

But Phaethon cannot restrain the power of his father's horses,
plunging the chariot and rider toward earth.

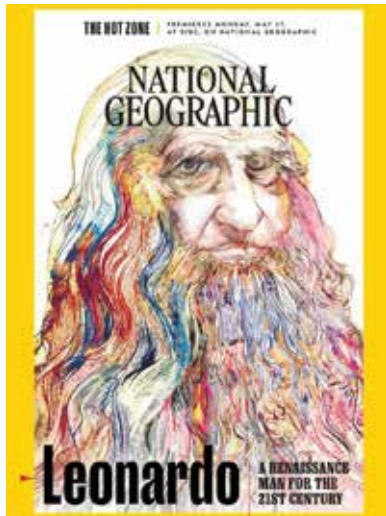
Zeus, sensing the danger, hurls a thunderbolt, slaying Phaethon,
saving earth, and preserving the fiery carriage to continue
its unalterable journey across the sky.

Like Helios, I tried to protect my son from hazarding himself
in the world, fearing cosmic forces would plunge him to earth.

But unlike Phaethon, he harnessed the power of his impulsiveness,
now coursing his own orbit, bringing joy to his father's heart.

© David C. Weiss

PERIODICAL PERUSING



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
by K.S.

"Leonardo's Enduring Brilliance" by Claudia Kalb explores the astounding legacy and sheer brilliance of Leonardo da Vinci, and the relevance of his achievements 500 years later in our world today. In less than 40 pages, the author can barely skim the surface, but she manages to leave the reader overawed. Not only did Leonardo pioneer new techniques in art, he left many pages of his notebooks detailing his experiments, observations and inventions in fields ranging from music to science, anatomy and engineering. The notebooks are crammed full of incredible diagrams and intricate notes written in mirror script from right to left. The ultimate perfectionist, Leonardo spent his life asking questions and then looking for answers. Claudia Kalb describes how important Leonardo's work has been throughout the ages and continues to be today. Many examples are given as to how modern day scientists, cardiologists and other surgeons, musicians and others are applying Leonardo's observations and philosophy in ways that are sure to astonish.



ELLERY QUEEN
MYSTERY MAGAZINE
by E.D.

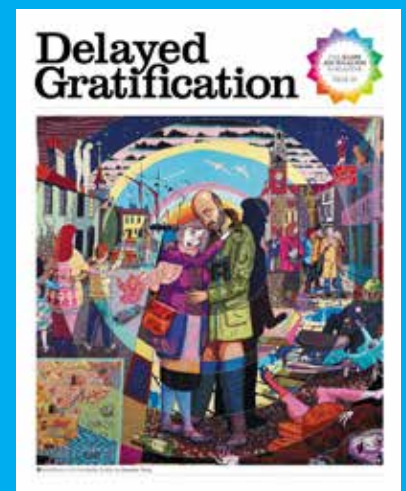
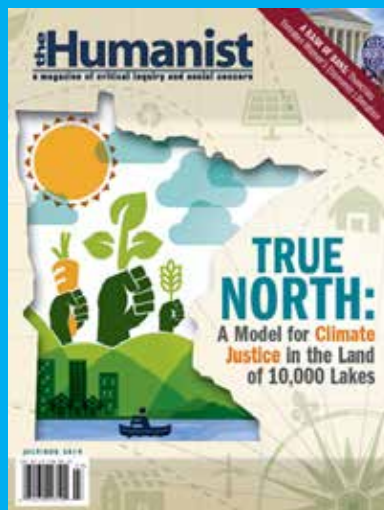
For *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* March/April 2019 issue, the first short story features Joyce Carol Oates' "The Women Friends". Oates is known to gather inspiration from real events. In "The Women Friends," she takes her inspiration from terror attacks.

"The Women Friends" begins with a description of the bond that exists between two women, Francine and Sylvie. Both women have known each other since they were four years old, married a year apart, and had kids at almost exactly the same time.

The unexpected nature of the terror attacks is the scariest aspect of the story. Oates skillfully uses the friendship between the two women as a literary device to build upon the psychology of someone who has gone through a traumatic experience—the relationship cut short, the guilt, the anxiety, the loneliness, and the memory that forces one to live through the harrowing terror event over and over again. After the terror attack, Oates' main character, Francine, suffers from "pain and nausea, insomnia, and a curious mild dislocation of time."

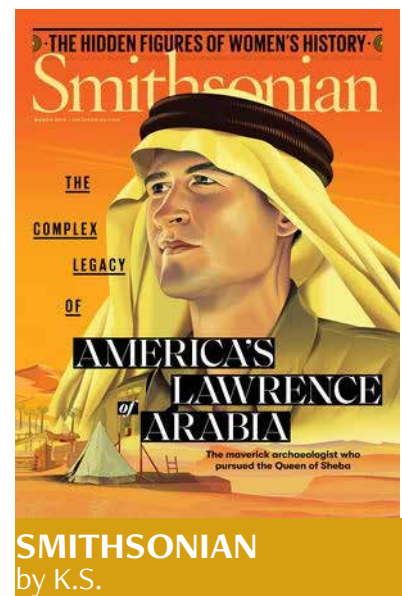
Oates' writing style is simple and brooding with a cadence that never loses its tension. "The Women Friends" offers a penetrating perspective on the lives of those who have survived terrorism.

The Jul-Sep issue of the UK-based magazine *Positive News*, new to our shelves, features an article on Joe Harkness' healing experience fostered through birdwatching after experiencing a period of suicidal thoughts and alcohol abuse. After finding that spending time in nature and attending to birds played a larger part in his recovery than more traditionally prescribed approach, Harkness began a blog to connect others with this form of ecotherapy. The article highlights the growing awareness in scientific and popular literature that time spent in nature benefits us physically, mentally, and spiritually. The root of this healing power does not rest only with the birds themselves; it is also the act of slowing down, breathing fresh air, and experiencing awe—giving oneself over to noticing the surrounding world in detail. The part of the article that resonates most with me is Harkness' notion that birdwatching can be such an effective therapy method because it allows us to come out of ourselves for a period of time, to be present without an overwhelming internal focus. The capability of the human mind to perform an amazing array of mental acrobatics may be one of our greatest assets, but the ability to just stop thinking and be is tremendously powerful. Perhaps a salvation.



Part of the 2019 “Smithsonian year of music,” Justin Davidson’s article features Rhiannon Giddens, a musician from North Carolina, who has described her collaborative recording, “songs of our native daughters,” as “part of a larger movement to reclaim the black female history of this country.” Giddens was born in 1977 to a black mother and white father. After her parents separated, she and her sister traveled back and forth between the two halves of the family in their segregated county. She studied opera at Oberlin College before taking up contra dancing and Scottish song and learning to play banjo and bluegrass fiddle. As she raises her children in Limerick, Ireland, she uses her music to explore her culture and roots. She creates new music from old and chronicles the history of her state, telling the stories of women and slaves through song, dance and instrumental music, as well as connecting the many origins of folk music in North Carolina, be they from Africa, the Caribbean, Spain or elsewhere.

Many of Giddens’ songs are an important reminder of women’s history and slavery in her state, made heart-wrenching as through her songs she imagines herself in the hearts of the slave women and children she sings about. Her music is beautiful and fascinating and the stories she tells through her artistry are so powerful, it is critical they are retold and refreshed for us and for generations to come.



BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Current resources on climate change

by M.G.



Scientific American March 2019

“The Weather Amplifier” by Michael Mann

Michael Mann is a professor of atmospheric science and director of Penn State’s Earth System Science Center. The article discusses the present irregularities of the jet stream in detail. Mann suggests that the extreme effects will calm over the next few decades but pick up with a vengeance around 2050.

Aperture #234 Spring 2019

“Earth”

The entire issue is dedicated to the Anthropocene age and while it appears to be nearly all photography, there are short essays with each area covered, from the California wildfires to the tsunamis in Japan, to plastic waste, and many other areas of climate change disruption and impacts. The photography is often stunning and provocative, like Walrus Hunt (page 77) and David Benjamin Sherry’s works of the natural wonders of the southwest. This includes a Bill McKibben essay.

Scientific American April 2019 (Three articles)

“A Low-Tech Climate Fix” by Han de Groot

One tree can store an average of about 48 pounds of carbon in a year. An expansion of this fact is the focus of de Groot’s short article. Forest conservation and restoration can help us achieve 37 percent of our goal of limiting warming to two degrees celsius over preindustrial levels.

“Coral Reefugees”

Paleoecologists in Australia have found (by carbon dating) that coral reefs in ancient times migrated great distances to subtropical waters from equatorial waters at times of major temperature changes. This gives them hope that the Great Barrier Reef will begin this movement and that scientists can make the cooler areas hospitable to encourage coral growth.

“Beyond Seawalls” by Rowan Jacobsen

As hurricanes are projected to be stronger and more frequent, ecologists have been intensely studying the use of concrete, steel, and rock barriers to protect the

Climate change has an everlasting impact on the environment we live in. It affects people’s lives as well as the flora and fauna all over the world. These recent articles explore the ripple effect of climate change as well as demonstrate how some scientists and governments are taking action. All articles may be found in the Adult Services magazine area.

shorelines, and comparing them to natural barriers like marshes and mangroves. Wave energy is much more intense against a solid barrier and causes it to buckle at the bottom. It is billions of dollars cheaper to restore or plant natural barriers after a storm. Wetlands are said to have prevented \$625 million in damages after hurricane Sandy. The article has many more examples and study results.

Foreign Affairs July/Aug 2018

“Warming World” by Joshua Busby

Busby focuses on problems that will be worsened by non-cooperative governments in the struggle for nations to survive the fast approaching climate crises. These include climate wars over water and precious resources for used to manufacture solar panels, batteries, advanced technologies, shipping lanes impacted as polar ice melts, and food/arable soils. The U.S. And China are responsible for more than 40% of global emissions requiring vastly better cooperation if we are to survive.

Foreign Affairs March/April 2019

“Less Than Zero” by Fred Krupp, Nathaniel Keohane, and Eric Pooley

Starting with a strong statement of urgency, the article explores various technologies to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These are under the heading of “negative emissions technologies” (NETS) and include reforesting farmland, direct air capture, carbon mineralization (bringing the rock up to react with CO₂), and pumping CO₂ underground (taking the CO₂ to the rock). Other than reforestation, the cost of development and implementation is wildly high. Time is of the essence and these technologies are not going to be available as we need them. The authors suggest that introducing a profit motive will make farmers and agribusinesses more likely to plant trees and regenerate their soils to increase carbon capture.

MIT Technology Review May/June 2019

“Welcome to Climate Change”

Perhaps the strongest, most realistic statements about climate change yet published. A provocative and sobering reading experience.

MOST UNFORGETTABLE BOOKS FROM OUR SHELVES TO YOURS

How time flies! We asked our staff members what are the most unforgettable books they've read this year so far. Here is what they said.

ENICA

Samanta Schweblin's *Mouthful of Birds* is one of the most unforgettable books I've read this year. It's a collection of twenty short stories that explores the deepest abyss of the human psyche, weaving between the realm of the real and the strange. These surreal stories serve as a twisted representation of the reality we live in, questioning societal structures, norms, attitudes, and expectations. The titular story, "Mouthful of Birds," delves into parental roles and fears by telling the story of a divorced couple dealing with their child who decides to eat live birds. "The Heavy Suitcase of Benavides," the final story, tells the tale of a man named Benavides who murders his wife and stuffed her in a suitcase. When he confesses to his crime, people view it as the most wonderful art. *Mouthful of Birds* is nothing like any book I've read before. Schweblin homes in on the tangible aspects of our world, turns reality on its head, and conjures multi-faceted stories with vivid imagery.



NORA



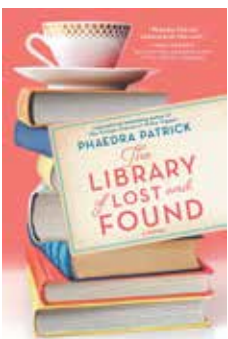
"And then?" asked Cora
And then everything, said Finn."

With these words, Emma Hooper begins a novel of bleak circumstances with a surge of hopeful adrenaline. *Our Homesick Songs* tells the story of the Connor family, as their small fishing village falls apart when all the fish disappear. Young Cora and Finn watch the villagers, including their own parents, migrate to the mainland in order to survive. Finn and Cora's resilience and inventiveness glows throughout the narrative, as the mythology of their family unfolds through a time-hopping structure. Music is the soul of the world Hooper builds, and never would I have expected a novel to so brilliantly echo its musical inspirations. Yet, through repeated refrains, the Scottish ballad "The Water is Wide" holds up the story, carries it forth on waves to its breathtaking finale.

While I've been immersed in a wealth of wonderful fiction this year, I've also been delighted to discover a medley of new poets. Ada Limón's most recent poetry collection, *The Carrying*, walks the line between candid conversation and beautiful craft. The poet vulnerably confronts race, infertility, and, perhaps most memorably, learning to love the ghost (and cats) of her husband's dead ex, giving voice in her poems to her Latinx and female identities but also to her own particularities. Limón unearths pain and ugliness but as she writes, "I am a hearth of spiders these days: a nest of trying," implicitly promising to persist. After absorbing these poems, I hope there is more to follow, that she indeed "will / never get over making everything / such a big deal."



KAREN



The Library of Lost and Found by Phaedra Patrick stands out as one of my favorite reads of the year. The lead character, Martha Storm, spends her days volunteering at her local library and dedicating her life to a multiplicity of tasks to help others. She is taken for granted and often feels invisible. The mundane monotony of her routines is shattered by the arrival of a library book that is dedicated to Martha by her grandmother, who was also her best friend. The disturbing thing is, that her grandmother wrote these words three years after her death, thirty years ago. Intrigued, Martha sets out to resolve the mystery of the book and the story of her grandmother's life. In exploring her family history, Martha uncovers an extraordinary secret that transforms her life and redefines her relationships with everyone she has ever known and loved.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Looking for summer reading challenge (SRC) book recommendations?
Here is a list from our staff.*

Jessica Francis Kane's *Rules for Visiting* combines a dose of wit with a plethora of botanical facts as gardener May Attway undertakes a journey to reconnect with a set of old friends. While May covers quite a bit of mileage in her odyssey, the book makes equal mental strides as she contemplates whether the kind of hospitality Odysseus received in myth is possible in this day and age. The novel feels light but emotionally affecting, inviting readers to question what it means to know or care about people in a world where over-connectedness and Twitter feeds actually lead to disconnect. You can know the growth habits of a tree, you can feel its bark, you can seek solace in it. And May does. But are there still ways to know a friend so deeply in the age of social media? As May's story unfolds, her reasons for self-isolation and difficulty forming new bonds are slowly revealed. Kane cleverly provides self-help advice in fictional form, as her flora-loving character navigates what it means for us both to relate to others and to accept who we are and what we've been through. ~NORA



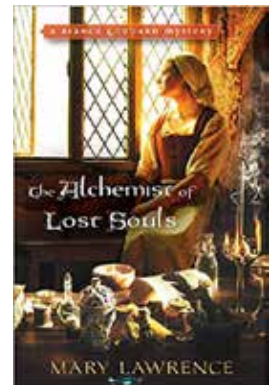
SRC CATEGORY: A BOOK PUBLISHED IN 2019

Set in Lithvas, a fictional country in Eastern Europe, Naomi Novik's *Spinning Silver* follows the story of a moneylender's daughter as she strives to survive in medieval England. Living in abject poverty, Miryem decides to take over her father's failing money-lending business. She is so successful at it that soon she attracts the attention of the Saryk king (the king of winter), who wants Miryem to turn his silver into gold. *Spinning Silver* is ambitious in both its writing style and its themes. Novik's re-telling of the classic German folktale, *Rumpelstiltskin*, is heightened by playing with fairytale tropes and deconstructing them by writing a more involved and complex story. At its core, the novel emphasizes the strength, intellect, and tenacity of women facing insurmountable adversities. Three of the main voices in the book are women—Miryem (the main character), Wanda (a peasant), and Irina (the tsarina). The common thread among the three main heroines is their struggle with social restrictions and expectations based on race, class, and gender. Novik's *Spinning Silver* is a fantasy novel full of nuanced ideas that highlight our complexities. Novik might have set her novel in an imaginary world and peppered it with fantastical elements, but it deftly reflects our own. ~ENICA



SRC CATEGORY: A MODERN RE-TELLING OF A CLASSIC STORY, FAIRYTALE, OR FOLKTALE

Set in 1544 London, *The Alchemist of Lost Souls* is the latest Bianca Goddard mystery by local author Mary Lawrence. The absorbing tale of murder and intrigue, based around a magical, glowing stone, is enhanced by its rich, historical detail, as well as by the inclusion of colorful medieval words interspersed throughout. The author vividly depicts life in Tudor London, inspiring readers to imagine what life was really like without modern sanitation, household appliances and medical knowledge. Superstition, magic and fantastical elements are pervasive and feel very authentic. I enjoyed a deepening acquaintance with Bianca, her relationships and her empathy with the people in her life. The river Thames courses through the novel and becomes a part of its exciting denouement. I found myself caught up in Bianca's world and holding my breath to the very end. ~KAREN

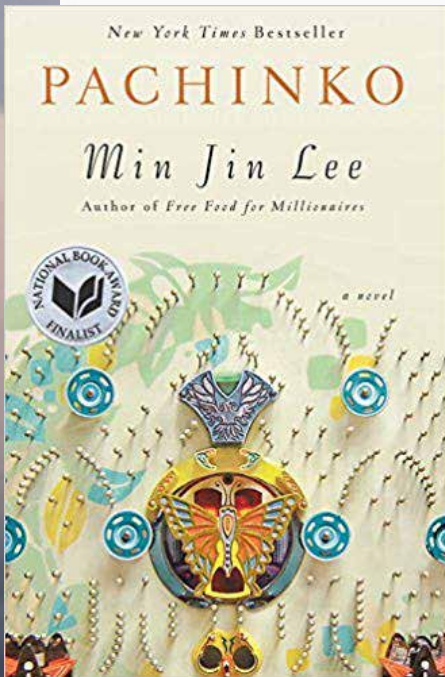


SRC CATEGORY: A BOOK BY A MAINE AUTHOR

WALKER'S BOOKSHELF STARRED REVIEWS

PACHINKO BY MIN JIN LEE

by E.D.



“History has failed us, but no matter” is the opening line of Min Jin Lee’s novel *Pachinko*. This sweeping, historical, and immersive family saga delves deeply into the experiences of Korean immigrants in Japan between 1910 and 1989.

The story begins in a small fishing village in Yeongdo, Korea. There, we are introduced to fishermen, farmers, and vendors who make up the village. Among them is a man named Hoonie, who was born with a cleft lip and a twisted foot. Despite his physical deformities, Hoonie is respected throughout the village. He marries Yangjin, the daughter of a farmer who lost everything during the Japanese colonial rule in Korea. Hoonie and Yangjin have one daughter, Sunja, whom they shower with love and affection.

Sunja becomes the most integral character in *Pachinko* and the heart by which the story is propelled forward. By choosing to tell a story through the lens of an average Korean family, Min Jin Lee gives us a glimpse of Korea’s rich culture and how Koreans were affected during Japanese colonialism as well as during and after World War II.

The characters are portrayed with remarkable humanity and authenticity. We see most of them experience overwhelming hardships. Sunja and her parents lived through abject poverty. When Sunja, along with her husband, emigrates to Osaka, Japan, she, as well as her fellow Koreans, are treated horribly by others (Japanese and Koreans alike), forcing them to live in impoverished circumstances, to endure discrimination as well as racism, and to succumb to desperate situations—prostitution, gangs, crimes—in order to survive.

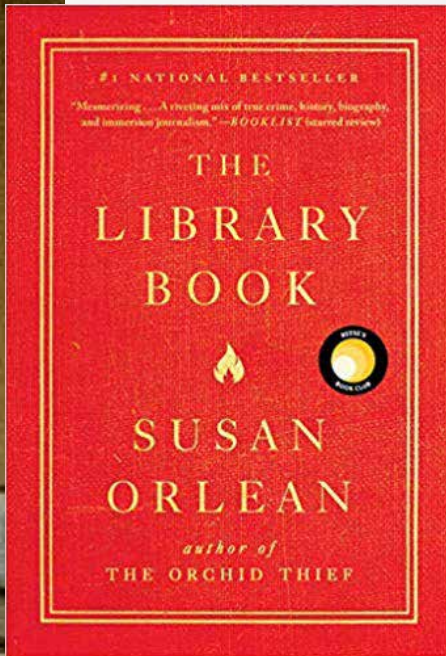
In an interview with PBS, Lee mentions how fiction allows her to deftly explore people’s complexities and contradictions. Lee recognizes that one cannot simply describe a person within the category of good and evil, black and white, light and dark. In *Pachinko*, even though Koreans experience maltreatment in Japan, the Japanese characters in the book are not portrayed as contemptible people. In point of fact, there were Japanese who also suffered at the time, especially those who showed empathy towards Koreans. Moreover, Lee shows how other Koreans take advantage of their fellow Koreans. They do it not out of malintent, but for their desperate need to survive.

Lee creates well-rounded and fully realized human characters. As readers, we find ourselves deeply and emotionally invested in them, the relationships they create, and the fates they hold. If books are bridges by which we can put ourselves into someone else’s shoes, Lee profoundly changes the way we connect to literature. In an article from the *The Atlantic*, Lee says that she’s “interested in creating radical empathy through art.” This radical empathy is evident throughout *Pachinko*. As we slowly start to partake in the character’s misfortunes and triumphs, our views shift; then, we realize that these fictional characters reflect real people.

Lee’s writing style is straightforward. She lets her characters and their story be the focal point of her narrative. Furthermore, she examines Korean identity with depth and integrity. At its core, *Pachinko* is a tale of hope and forgiveness. It is a book that shows how one can catch a glimpse of a glimmer of light through the dark times. It is a story of people rising above the injustices and inequities they have experienced. *Pachinko* is one of those rare books that will transcend time.

THE LIBRARY BOOK BY SUSAN ORLEAN

by N.C.



Journalist Susan Orlean's most recent book is entitled *The Library Book*, but it's hard to slap a call number on this one. When her son embarked on a school project to interview a city librarian, Orlean found herself navigating wisps of smoke to tell the story of the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire. Orlean's attempt to wrap her mind around the fabrications and theatrics of prime suspect Harry Peak weaves in and out of a history of the library and present-day fieldwork that covers urban development, architectural planning, social infrastructures, and misogynistic hiring practices.

Orlean's fieldwork takes form as both active investigation and quiet resonance. She digs into newspapers, follows current Los Angeles Public Library staff, and interviews Peak's relatives. She also pauses through to inhabit the history she tells. One short chapter finds her hesitantly burning a copy of *Fahrenheit 451* on a California hilltop to understand the smell and sensation of a book amidst fire. Another moment finds

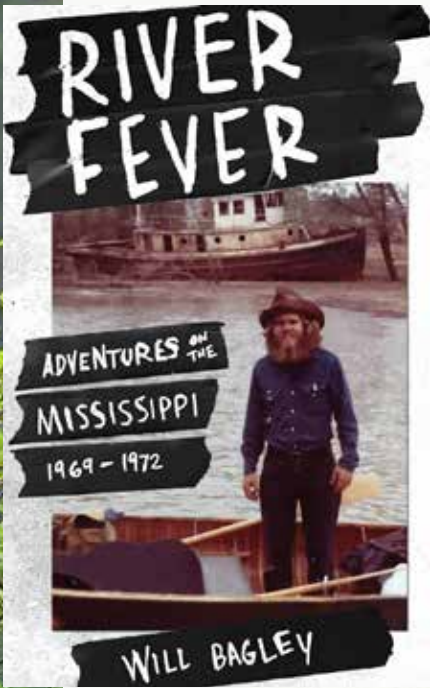
her just listening to the sounds in the library. Sounds are in abundance in institutions that have a "porous" relationship with society—places to "soften solitude" and collect memory. She recognizes both their role as part of community and conversation but also as repositories and stages for the personal—whether the personal as conveyed through a writer's words on the shelf or through mother and child visiting and creating memories.

The Library Book manages to cover the AIDS crisis, the psychology of lying, theories of arson, a criminal investigation, the legal process, the anatomy of a profession, a history of both Los Angeles and its library system, women's history, homelessness, and personal memories. But if it all seems like too much to fit between two covers, Orlean's success is that when the last word is read, there is a sense of having just traversed the stacks, passed through the autobiographies, glimpsed at the spines of the architecture books, paused in the psychology section, and spread out the history books in the reading room before exiting the library doors with a bounty. Orlean is not quiet about her love of libraries and the role that they can play in preserving memory and allowing stories to persist; in fact, she celebrates them as harbingers of immortality. Where the tribute to libraries is strongest, is in the subtler recognition that such a multidisciplinary story can only be told because of the kind of access to information that our public libraries provide.

When *The Library Book* ends, the Los Angeles Public Library is back in action and actively humming along, but it is not the only library that has been rebuilt in the course of these pages. It is the place that Orlean builds up through memory that most resonates: the story she unearths of magical journeys to the Bertram Woods Public Library with her now deceased mother that serves as the most joyful celebration of what libraries can be.

RIVER FEVER BY WILL BAGLEY

by M.G.



When I met Will Bagley and his partner Suzy Snyder in mid-October, 1969 just north of Memphis, I was going down the Mississippi River with my husband Roger. We had built a 35 ft. trimaran sailboat and were heading for Florida. We left Lorain, Ohio on September 9th en route to Chicago and had come through sometimes harrowing events as we sailed through the Great Lakes—Erie, Huron, and Michigan. We merged onto the Mississippi from the Illinois River with a 1700 mile stretch to reach New Orleans.

While we met Will and Suzy only a few times on the river, our shared experiences were a durable bond that carried our friendship over 50 years. We lost touch for most of that time but reconnected a few years ago when I discovered a Will Bagley on Wikipedia, where the article mentioned the formative Mississippi River trip.

When I finally reached Will, he told me he had re-read his extensive journals every decade or so, thinking he would tell the story as a novel. Now in his 70's, he felt an urgency to tell the real story. I had also kept a journal which I then sent to him. Roger had taken the only picture of the raft, which is the only photo in *River Fever*.

Since Mark Twain's *Life on the Mississippi*, I have not read a more compelling, rollicking, informative, and at times, terrifying story of a river adventure until now. Will's engaging, descriptive prose leaves you with a visceral understanding of how the Mississippi's massive flow of water feels, looks, moves, churns, and even tastes. You will meet the inhabitants of the towns and cities along its banks. You will experience a river rise of 27 feet, brought about by heavy rains, with trees, tires, barrels, logs, boards, rope, an occasional appliance, and general refuse rushing by. Strong currents made approaching concrete and steel bridge abutments a gut-wrenching event.

Only after reading *River Fever*, did I learn that Will went down the river again the following year in a 12' rowboat. There is one appalling incident involving an encounter with a towboat and barges that left me sleepless for hours after finishing the book. I expect it was disturbing in the extreme for Will to re-live it in writing.

To travel over 1800 plus miles on the Mississippi, in a wooden box tied to barrels, and having barely any money takes courage and tremendous spirit. Many told him he was "nuts", but as he says, he had "river fever" from an early age. He freely admits to youthful arrogance and foolhardiness.

After years of mis-steps and working at employment of many types, Will evolved into a respected, prolific, sometimes controversial, award-winning historian of the old West.

THE DRY BY JANE HARPER

by M.D.



When I feel like reading an atmospheric and gritty crime novel, I often find myself searching through the desolate cold and snowy landscapes that are the hallmark of Scandinavian and Nordic noir. I then came across Australian journalist Jane Harper's gripping debut novel, *The Dry*. It perfectly illustrated that the blazing heat of the Australian outback is just as good a setting as the arctic north for a thrilling mystery story.

Set in the parched outback of southern Australia, *The Dry* opens with the horrific murder of the Hadler family. Luke Hadler is immediately suspected of killing both his wife and son before killing himself. To the residents of Kiewarra, it appears that Luke committed this heinous act because he was on the verge of losing his family's farm. A seemingly endless drought has decimated the town of Kiewarra. Residents are struggling both financially and emotionally. When Federal Agent, and former resident, Aaron Falk returns home for the Hadler family's funeral, he is met by Kiewarra's townspeople with barely concealed hostility.

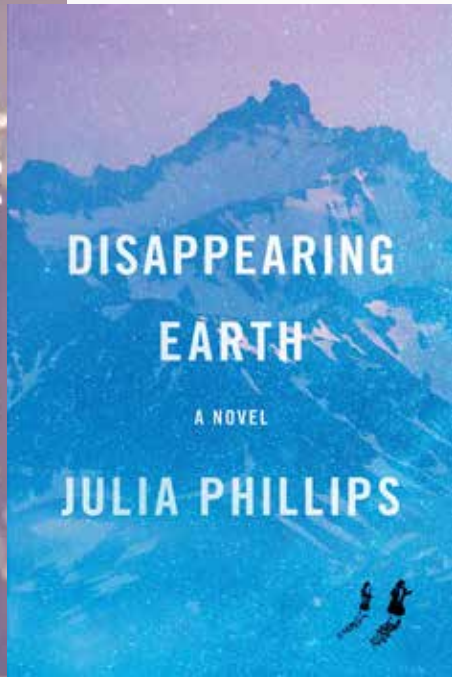
Falk, it turns out, was Luke Hadler's best friend growing up and together they were at the center of a childhood scandal when a friend of theirs was found dead in a river. Despite wanting to flee Kiewarra because of all the unwelcome attention, Falk ends up investigating the death of the Hadler family and soon finds himself unearthing secrets and unwanted memories that will alter the lives of everyone, including Falk himself.

Taking inspiration from Australia's "Millennium drought" (1996-2010), Jane Harper sets the stage for a story that is brimming with tension: farmers on the verge of poverty, rivers that have run dry, and neighbors feuding with one another. The sweltering heat of the drought is felt on every page – it is stifling, it is suffocating, and yet it is what makes the book believable and utterly captivating. The story's premise, the setting, and the atmosphere reminds one of a classic western where a stranger shows up in town and their presence stirs up a hornet's nest. The fact that this is Jane Harper's first foray into crime fiction makes the novel even more impressive.

The Dry provides a glimpse into the psychological impact a drought can have on a small farming community. Jane Harper worked as a journalist for 13 years and her eye for details, both large and small, has helped her produce an astounding page-turner. With its unexpected plot twists, *The Dry* will keep you gritting your teeth and guessing to the very end. It is not surprising that a film adaptation is currently in production.

DISAPPEARING EARTH BY JULIA PHILLIPS

by N.C.



“Without her girls, all she had was this breathlessness. Terrible as it was—and it was, it was—it was all she had left to mother.”

This is the loss upon which Julia Phillips’ breathtaking debut novel *Disappearing Earth* pivots: two young sisters on Russia’s Kamchatka peninsula go missing, and while rumors of a kidnapping swirl, their mother Marina faces a desolate horizon without her beloved daughters. The story that follows, rather than being a thrilling rush through the investigation, provides a month by month glimpse into the lives of different women in the orbit of the tragedy. Marina herself does not appear until ten months in, though her daughters are a thread throughout each story, a haunting spectre in the back of each woman’s mind.

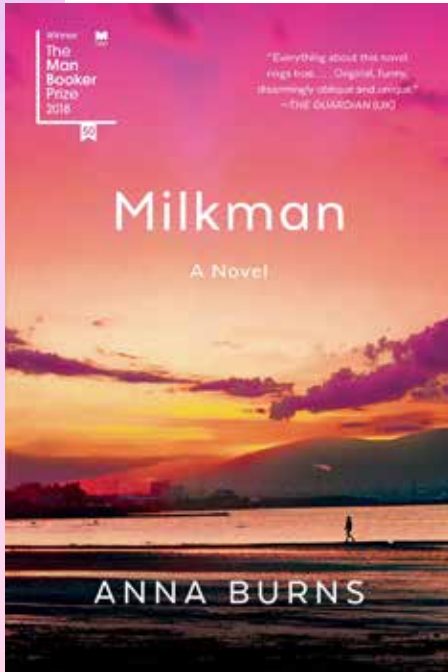
The women’s stories focus not only on the personal, but on both the physical terrain of the peninsula and the underlying social and political currents. Phillips is attentive to the tensions between the white Russians and darker-skinned natives and the intergenerational conflict born of the older residents’ memory of a time when the peninsula was a closed military zone and protected from perceived external threats. The structural racism is made manifest in the experience of Alla Innokentevna, an indigenous woman whose own daughter’s disappearance received none of the media frenzy that resulted from the disappearance of the white Russian girls at the book’s beginning. There is also an additional layer of misogyny throughout, with men’s impulses and decisions falling like a shadow across the women’s paths.

Phillips herself is from Brooklyn, NY and traveled to Kamchatka to live for two years. To write a novel so beautifully and profoundly connected to its landscape—to the people, to the culture, to the earth—is a testament not only to the power of a writer’s craft but also to the power of the human mind and body to be fully present and aware of the world. During her time in Kamchatka, the author conversed with the people, engaging with them in order to understand their perspectives. In the resultant work, she does not try to lay claim to a people or a culture, but rather mines their experiences for elements of the universal. With these larger frameworks in place, Phillips fills them with particularities—the minutiae, sometimes odd, that comprise a life as lived.

In one chapter, a nurse becomes widowed for the second time in an almost rhythmic disorientation that seeps into the narrative. She returns home to a space populated by evidence of her husband’s life: “On the bedside table, there was his book. His glass of water—she picked that up and drank it. She put the empty glass on his side of the blanket, and the book there, too. They made little dents in the wool.” *Disappearing Earth* has a sweeping feel, but it is these little dents in the wool, the impact of small details, that hold the novel together and define its topography.

MILKMAN BY ANNA BURNS

by E.D.



Winner of the 2018 Man Booker Prize and 2019 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, Anna Burns' *Milkman* follows the story of an eighteen-year old unnamed narrator, exploring what her life is like in a community living under oppression and divided by conflict.

Even though Anna Burns does not specify where and when the novel is set, one could easily surmise that it takes place in Northern Ireland in the 1970s during the height of The Troubles. In fact, Burns' novel is devoid of any specific details or proper nouns. The eighteen-year old unnamed narrator is referred to as "Middle Sister"; her younger sisters are "wee sisters"; her potential lover is "maybe-boyfriend"; communities and countries are known as community "over the border" or country "over the water." By choosing not to give any names or specifics, Burns depicts a fractured community stripped of its identity. The political conflict forces people to place one another into categories— "us" against "them"—which results in the depersonalization of violence. Any digression from what is considered

"normal" is an act of rebellion. For instance, when Middle Sister starts reading while walking, the community places her under the category of "beyond-the-pales."

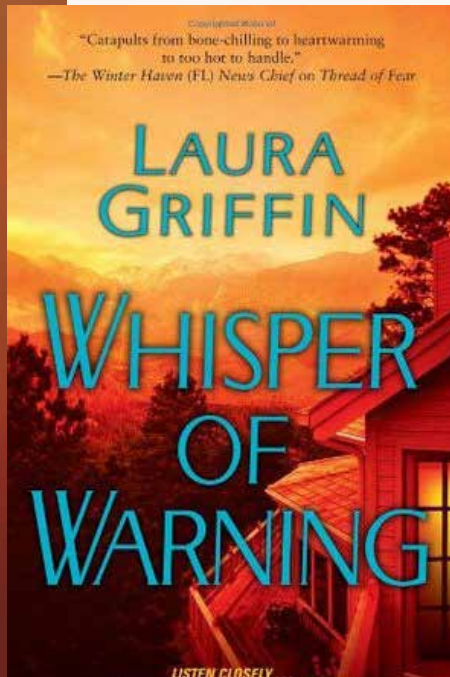
Bombings and shootings are considered mundane by the community where Middle Sister lives. Everyone witnesses these horrendous acts so often they become part of the daily gossip. Even though *Milkman* is an exaggeration of a besieged and conflicted community, one could easily compare it to current times. *Milkman* deftly examines how sexism and violence towards women psychologically and physically transforms a person.

Milkman's triumph lies in the voice of its narrator, Middle Sister. It is fresh, original, witty, and satirical without losing the seriousness and urgency that the story is trying to convey. The narration is dense with long sentences that take a bit of settling into, but don't let this aspect of the book dissuade you from reading it. Once you've gotten used to Burns' writing style, you will find that the book is incredibly engaging.

At its core, Anna Burns' *Milkman* is about the importance of freedom and one's personal identity—how easily it can be stripped from a person by an outside force inciting terror. In a society rife with violence and political conflict, to survive is to not lose sight of one's humanity, even if it means being one of "beyond-the-pales." *Milkman* deserves all the acclaim it has received.

WHISPER OF WARNING BY LAURA GRIFFIN

by M.D.



Recently, I came across a box of old paperbacks in my closet at home. Among a host of John Grisham, Jeffrey Deaver, and David Baldacci books was one of Laura Griffin's early titles, *Whisper of Warning* (2010 RITA Winner for Best Romantic Suspense Novel). Having never read anything by Laura Griffin before – and always loving a good romantic mystery – I decided to spend a pleasant weekend giving it a go.

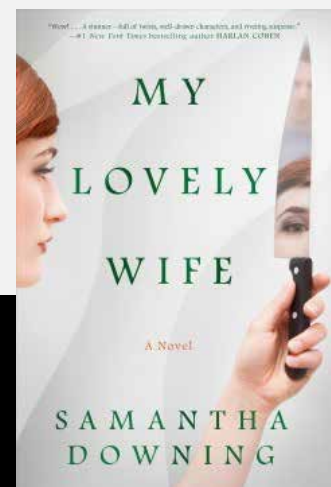
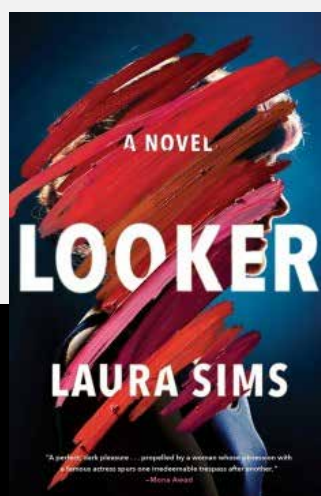
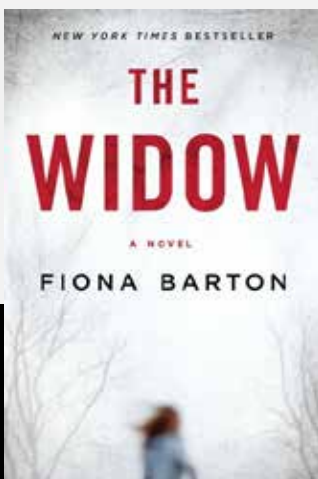
Whisper of Warning tells the story of Courtney Glass – a beautiful hairdresser who is wrongfully implicated in the murder of her ex-lover. Will Hodges is a rookie detective assigned to her case. Fresh from the war in Afghanistan, Will is initially skeptical about the evidence that points to Courtney having killed her ex-lover. Despite being immediately attracted to her, Will attempts to maintain a degree of professional distance. He soon realizes that despite her beautiful appearance, Courtney has had a very difficult life, one marred by countless bad decisions. While Will believes that Courtney did not kill her ex-lover, he is not completely convinced. Things are made even more difficult because the facts of the case are rather muddled. Things become dangerous

when the killer targeting Courtney strikes and Courtney flees Austin to save herself. Will, realizing both that Courtney is innocent and that he is in love with her, tries to track her down before the killer does.

The characters in *Whisper of Warning* are easy to quickly recognize. It is clear from the first chapter that Courtney and Will, despite being absolute opposites, are bound to be attracted to one another. The relationship between Courtney and Will is the primary focus of the novel and it is easy for the reader to identify with both characters since their feelings and emotions are easily relatable.

Whisper of Warning is a suspenseful novel. The suspense is gradually built up and the reader is never quite sure what is going to happen to the main characters. While *Whisper of Warning* is suspenseful, it is never bleak. It has a light air to it. The tone is consistent throughout the novel and it builds to an effective and rewarding climax. It is both colorful and complex, which makes it a very enjoyable read.

READ-ALIKES



WHAT'S UP WITH TECH?

by E.D.

LAPTOPS IN THE LIBRARY



Soon, the library will loan laptops for patron use. The laptops are for library-use only and cannot be taken out of the library.

HOW TO BORROW?

A valid photo I.D. and a library card are required. Laptops can be checked out for two hours. You may ask the Reference Desk for more information.

IS MY PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Yes, it is. The library understands the importance of privacy and security. A special program is in place to ensure that all personally identifiable information is removed once the laptop reboots.

FREE ONLINE TUTORIALS AND COURSES



Keeping up with different trends for personal, academic, and professional development can be a daunting task. Here is a list of helpful resources to get you started.

LearningExpress Library

An eLearning solution for students and professionals, LearningExpress Library provides interactive tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards, and articles for academic skill-building, standardized test preparations, and career development.

Digital Maine Library, Maine's online resource provided by the Maine State Library and Maine InfoNet, grants access to LearningExpress Library. You may learn more about this resource by going to our website (<https://walkerlibrary.org>) and clicking the **RESEARCH** button.

GCFglobal

A program of the Goodwill Community Foundation and Goodwill Industries of Eastern North Carolina, GCFglobal offers online tutorials ranging from Microsoft Office Suite to reading, math, and science-related subjects.

Link: <https://edu.gcfglobal.org>

edX (also known as Massive Open Online Courses or MOOCs)

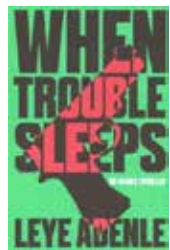
Founded by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), edX is a non-profit platform for education and learning. edX serves as an aggregator for online courses offered by other universities. Most online courses, by themselves, are free; however, if you are thinking of enrolling in any of edX's programs and degrees, such as MicroMasters or XSeries, there are fees attached.

Link: <https://www.edx.org/>

NEW MATERIALS FICTION

When Trouble Sleeps

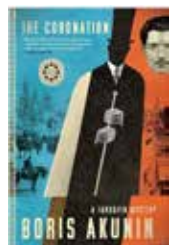
by Leye Adenle



Amaka returns in this gripping sequel to *Easy Motion Tourist*, and finds herself caught in a seedy web of politics, violence and sex. Having caught the attention of Chief Oo and his hired thugs, Amaka must outwit them all to survive (publisher).

The Coronation

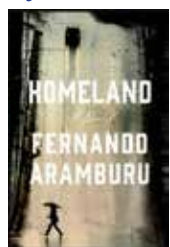
by Boris Akunin



A Russian version of Sherlock Holmes, Erast Fandorin is here nearly bested by criminal mastermind Dr. Lind. It's a madcap race to rescue the kidnapped son of Russian prince Georgii Alexandrovich, with the demanded ransom (BookList).

Homeland

by Fernando Aramburu



Describes the story of two Basque families, who were friends for generations, but who became bitter enemies after the father of one is killed by ETA militants during the violent insurgency that plagued the region from the 1980s to 2011.

The Lost Night

by Andrea Bartz



A chance discovery of a 10-year-old video shares disturbing insights into the suicide of a college classmate who may have been murdered on a hazy drunken night, a revelation that compels one woman to determine her own role.

Bellini and the Sphinx

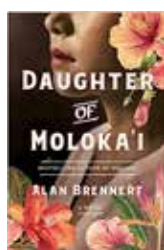
by Tony Bellotto



Originally published in Portuguese in 1995, Bellotto's series opener introduces Remo Bellini, a private eye in the tradition of Spade and Marlowe but distinctively Brazilian (Kirkus Review).

Daughter of Moloka'i

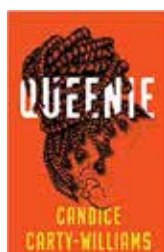
by Alan Brennert



Follows the story of quarantined leprosy patient Rachel Kalama's daughter, Ruth, who is raised by adoptive Japanese parents on a California grape farm before her unjust internment during World War II.

Queenie

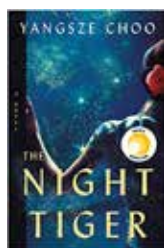
by Candice Carty-Williams



Constantly compared to her white middle-class peers, a young Jamaican-British woman in London makes a series of questionable decisions in the aftermath of a messy breakup before challenging herself to figure out who she wants to be.

The Night Tiger

by Yangsze Choo



A vivacious dance-hall girl in 1930s colonial Malaysia is drawn into unexpected danger by the discovery of a severed finger, which is being sought by a young houseboy.

The Winter Sister

by Megan Collins



Haunted by her sister's unsolved death 16 years earlier, Sylvie returns home to care for her ailing mother and navigates complicated feelings of suspicion and guilt when she encounters her late sister's former boyfriend.

The Which Way Tree

by Elizabeth Crook



Surviving a panther attack that kills her mother and leaves her with scars, a tenacious young woman resolves to find and kill the unusually aggressive cat with the assistance of a charismatic Mexican-American, a haunted preacher, her traumatized half-brother and an old hunting dog.

Loch of the Dead

by Oscar de Muriel



Edinburgh's most famed detective duo—"Nine-Nails" McGray and Inspector Ian Frey—face their most metaphysical mystery yet, as they investigate a series of crimes surrounding the miraculous waters in the remote Loch Maree.

Diary of a Dead Man on Leave

by David Downing

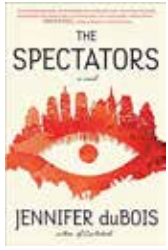


Stumbling across the hidden diary of a boarder who had been a father figure to him half a century earlier, Walter discovers the man's life-risking undercover work as an anti-Nazi Moscow spy. By the author of the Jack McColl series.

FICTION

The Spectators

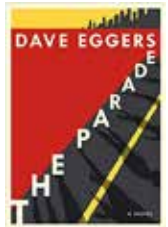
by Jennifer duBois



A controversial talk-show host who has made his living by exposing bizarre societal secrets on live television finds his own past brought into question when the young perpetrators of a mass shooting declare themselves his devoted fans.

The Parade

by Dave Eggers



Sent to oversee the completion of a highway that symbolizes an important armistice between two halves of a war-torn state, two foreign contractors are forced to confront the absurdities and dire consequences of their roles in forging peace (publisher).

Mala Vida

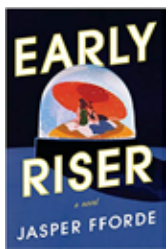
by Marc Fernandez



A crime-solving radio reporter teams up with a former-prostitute cross dresser now working as a private eye to look into missing children who were snatched and trafficked under the Franco regime in Latin America.

Early Riser

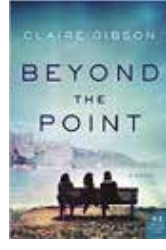
by Jasper Fforde



The author of the Nursery Crimes series imagines the reader as a first-winter employee with the misfit Winter Consuls, who protect the world's hibernating masses until an outbreak of viral nightmares starts triggering mysterious deaths.

Beyond the Point

by Claire Gibson



Duty. Honor. Country. That's West Point's motto, and every cadet who passes through its stone gates vows to live it. But on the eve of 9/11, as Dani, Hannah and Avery face four grueling years ahead, they realize they'll only survive if they do it together (publisher).

Hold Fast Your Crown

by Yannick Haenel



A man writes an enormous screenplay on the life of Herman Melville. Not a single producer is interested in it. One day, someone gives him the phone number of the great American filmmaker Michael Cimino. A meeting is arranged in New York. What follows is a series of crazy adventures through Ellis Island, the Musée de la Chasse in Paris, and a lake in Italy (publisher).

The Lost Man

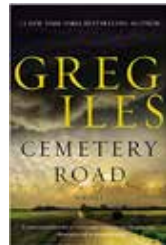
by Jane Harper



Meeting at the remote fence line separating their cattle ranches on an isolated belt of the Australian outback, two brothers navigate the haunting realities of the isolation that ended their third brother's life.

Cemetery Road

by Greg Iles



His father's terminal illness, his family's struggling newspaper, and a politically charged murder trial force a Washington journalist to return to his small Mississippi hometown.

Black Leopard, Red Wolf

by Marlon James



Hired to find a mysterious boy who disappeared three years before, Tracker joins a search party that is quickly targeted by deadly creatures in the first novel of a new trilogy from the author of *A Brief History of Seven Killings*.

Stalker

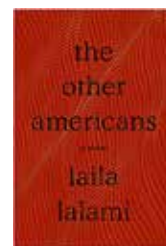
by Lars Kepler



When the police receive video clips of women who later fall victim to violent murders, a criminal psychiatrist and hypnotist needs the help of Detective Joona Linna, who has been missing for over a year and is presumed dead.

The Other Americans

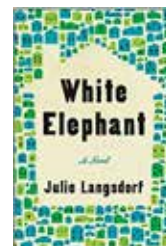
by Laila Lalami



The suspicious death of a Moroccan immigrant impacts the lives of a diverse cast of characters, including his jazz-composer daughter, an undocumented witness and an Iraqi War veteran.

White Elephant

by Julie Langsdorf



When the owner of a gaudy monstrosity of a house compromises suburban aesthetics to sell the property, his fed-up neighbors stumble over private challenges to orchestrate an increasingly hostile, laugh-out-loud turf war.

FICTION

Lost Children Archive

by Valeria Luiselli



A mother and father set out with their two children, a boy and a girl, driving from New York to Arizona in the heat of summer. Their destination: Apacheria,

the place the Apaches once called home (publisher).

Woman 99

by Greer Macallister



Going undercover to rescue her wrongly committed sister from a notorious asylum, Charlotte uncovers a dangerous secret about the institution and why their fellow inmates were put away.

Smoke and Ashes

by Abir Mukherjee



Haunted by his memories of the Great War, Captain Sam Wyndham is battling a serious addiction to opium that he must keep secret from his superiors in the Calcutta police

force.

The Dragonfly Sea

by Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor



Ayaana embarks from Pate, off the coast of Kenya, on a dramatic ship's journey to the Far East, where she will discover friends and enemies, be seduced by the charming but unreliable scion of a powerful Turkish business family, reclaim her devotion to the sea, and come to find her own tenuous place amid a landscape of beauty, violence, and surprising joy.

Swift Vengeance

by T. Jefferson Parker



Tracking a mysterious killer who has been targeting drone operators, PI Roland Ford strikes an uneasy alliance with an FBI agent who is haunted by Bureau failures.

Call Me Evie

by J.P. Pomare



Evie and her uncle Jim have just moved to an isolated cabin in a remote beach town—a far cry from their hometown of Melbourne. But Evie isn't her real name. And Jim

isn't really her uncle. J.P. Pomare explores the fragility of memory and the potential in everyone to hide the truth—even from themselves (publisher).

The Huntress

by Kate Quinn



Stranded behind enemy lines, brave bomber pilot Nina Markova becomes the prey of a lethal Nazi murderess known as the Huntress and joins forces with a Nazi hunter and

British war correspondent to find her before she finds them.

Daisy Jones & the Six

by Taylor Jenkins Reid



Singer Daisy Jones meets Billy Dunne of the band The Six. The two rising 70s rock-and-roll artists are catapulted into stardom when a producer puts them together, a decision that is complicated by a pregnancy and the seductions of fame.

The Affairs of the Falcóns

by Melissa Rivero



Fleeing the economic and political strife of 1990s Peru, undocumented factory worker Ana struggles to support her family while fending off the challenges of discrimination, sexual harassment and a loan shark's criminal enforcers.

A Woman is No Man

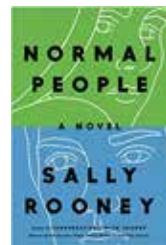
by Etaf Rum



Three generations of Palestinian-American women in contemporary Brooklyn are torn by individual desire, educational ambitions, a devastating tragedy, and the strict mores of traditional Arab culture.

Normal People

by Sally Rooney



The unconventional secret childhood bond between a popular boy and a lonely, intensely private girl is tested by character reversals in their first year at a Dublin college that render one introspective and the other social but self-destructive.

The American Agent

by Jacqueline Winspear



When Catherine Saxon, an American correspondent reporting on the war in Europe, is found murdered, news of her death is concealed by British authorities. Serving as a linchpin between Scotland Yard and the Secret Service, Robert MacFarlane pays a visit to Maisie Dobbs, seeking her help (publisher).

NON-FICTION

Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations by Ronen Bergman



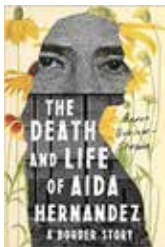
A political and military analyst for Israel's daily newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, presents an assessment of Israel's state-sponsored assassination programs that evaluates the protective beliefs that are instituted into every Israeli citizen, the role of assassination in the state's history and the ethical challenges of Israel's policies on targeted killings.

Unbecoming: A Memoir of Disobedience by Anuradha Bhagwati



A memoir from a former U.S. Marine captain discusses her experiences facing misogyny, racism, and injustice and subsequent fight to bring historic change to the military, including the lifting of the ban on women in combat roles.

The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story by Aaron Bobrow-Strain



On the surface, this compelling account traces an undocumented teen mother and her struggles navigating life in the face of violence, assault, and deportation. However,

Bobrow-Strain does not present Aida Hernandez's story as a representation of the immigrant experience, but more of a mirror, or prism, on attitudes and policies concerning U.S. immigration (Michael C. Miller, *Library Journal*).

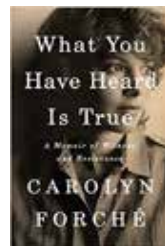
Shoot for the Moon: The Space Race and the Extraordinary Voyage of Apollo 11

by James Donovan



Published to coincide with the mission's 50th anniversary, a meticulously researched account of the Apollo 11 program also examines its astronauts, flight controllers and engineers, as well as its role in shaping the Mercury and Gemini missions.

What You Have Heard Is True: A Memoir of Witness and Resistance by Carolyn Forché



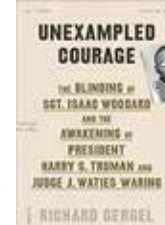
What You Have Heard Is True is a memoir about a young woman's brave choice to engage with horror in order to help others. Written by one of the most gifted poets of her generation, this is the story of a woman's radical act of empathy, and her fateful encounter with an intriguing man who changes the course of her life.

Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel by Matti Friedman



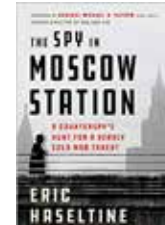
The story of a ragtag unit known as the Arab Section, which was conceived in Palestine during World War II by British spies and Jewish militia leaders, and which eventually became the nucleus of the Mossad, Israel's vaunted intelligence agency (publisher).

Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring by Richard Gergel



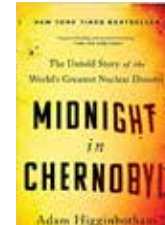
Documents the 1946 case of decorated African-American veteran Isaac Woodard, whose victimization by police brutality prompted Harry Truman to establish the first presidential commission on civil rights and order desegregation in the U.S. armed forces (publisher).

The Spy in Moscow Station: A Counterspy's Hunt for a Deadly Cold War Threat by Eric Haseltine



The thrilling, true story of the race to find a leak in the United States Embassy in Moscow before more American assets are rounded up and killed (publisher).

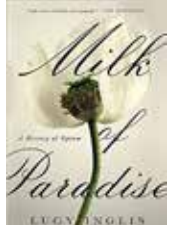
Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster by Adam Higginbotham



Draws on 20 years of research, recently declassified files and interviews with first-person survivors in an account of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster that also reveals how propaganda and secrets have created additional dangers.

NON-FICTION

Milk of Paradise: A History of Opium by Lucy Inglis



With this latest work, Inglis presents an intriguing world history of the appearance, spread, use, and abuse of the opium poppy and substances derived from it from prehistory through today. There are more than 400 species of opium. It first surfaced in the West but was lost to the East during the Dark Ages only to resurface again in Europe in the 18th century. Within a century, it was a scourge in both East and West (David Keymer, *Library Journal*).

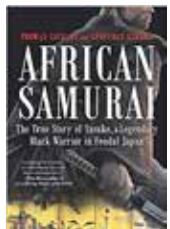
Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe



In 1972, Jean McConville, single mother of ten, was believed to be an informant for the British army. For that reason, she was kidnapped by a group of masked IRA (Irish Republican Army) members and never heard from again. Three decades later, her remains were uncovered (Timothy Berge, *Library Journal*).

African Samurai: The True Story of Yasuke, a Legendary Black Warrior in Feudal Japan

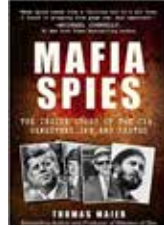
by Thomas Lockley & Geoffrey Girard



Traces the remarkable life story of history's first foreign-born samurai, detailing his near-mythical journey from a boy soldier in late-16th-century

Northern Africa to the heights of Japanese society, where his presence triggered cultural riots.

Mafia Spies: The Inside Story of the CIA, Gangsters, JFK, and Castro by Thomas Maier



Mafia Spies is the definitive account of America's most remarkable espionage plots ever—with CIA agents, mob hitmen, “kompromat” sex, presidential indiscretion, and James Bond-like killing devices together in a top-secret mystery full of surprise twists and deadly intrigue (publisher).

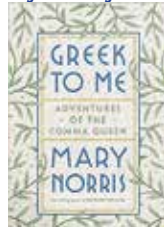
L.E.L.: The Lost Life and Scandalous Death of Letitia Elizabeth Landon, the Celebrated “Female Byron”

by Lucasta Miller



Miller crafts a fascinating narrative that is as much about the volatile ways in which gender intersects with cultural practices, including drug addiction, sexuality, colonialism, and creativity as it is about her provocative subject, Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1802-38), aka L.E.L. By writing the life story of this post-Romantic novelist and poet, as known by her initials as her full name, Miller draws attention to how the poet's liminal cultural and literary position contributed to forming her identity (Emily Bowled, *Library Journal*).

Greek To Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen by Mary Norris



New Yorker copy editor Norris (*Between You and Me*), known for her Comma Queen videos on grammar and style, once again takes readers on an entertaining, erudite, and altogether delightful journey fueled by the love of language (*Publisher's Weekly*).

Baseball Epic: Famous and Forgotten Lives of the Dead Ball Era by Jason Novak



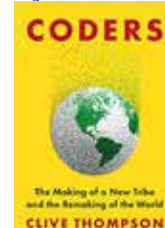
In this work of cartoon revisionist history, Jason Novak explores the little-talked-about dead ball era of baseball and the men and women who shaped its course. Ranging from mischievous in-game antics to the racial barriers being crossed well before Jackie Robinson, these miniature biographies highlight the joys and struggles, both on and off the field, of the unsung heroes who played pro ball before it was a profession (publisher).

Skeleton Keys: The Secret Life of Bone by Brian Switek



A study by paleontologist Switek examines the human body's collection of 206 (or so) bones from a myriad of perspectives. Switek begins by tracing the origins of various structures in the skeleton back to the distant past. For him, “the very arrangement of our skeletons is a mosaic woven through evolutionary time” that he traces through the development of bone, jaws, limbs, ears, and more, noting “there is no single moment when our bodies became distinctly human” (*Publisher's Weekly*).

Coders: The Making of a New Tribe and the Remaking of the World by Clive Thompson



Technology journalist Thompson delivers again with this well-written narrative on coders, individual histories, and the culture of coder life, at home and work (Jesse A. Lambertson, *Library Journal*).

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Dull Margaret

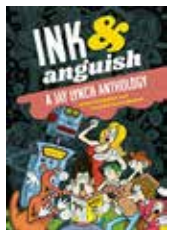
by Jim Broadbent and Dix



Inspired by Dulle Griet (aka “Mad Meg”), Pieter Bruegel the Elder’s 16th-century painting of a “strong, intense woman striding determinedly across a violent landscape.” The Dulle Griet painting shows a breastplated woman with a sword in one hand in front of the mouth of hell, and Broadbent uses that single, vivid image as a launching point to explore what the rest of Dull Margaret’s bleak existence may have been like (publisher).

Ink and Anguish: A Jay Lynch Anthology

by Jay Lynch, Ed Piskor, and Patrick Rosenkranz



The career of Jay Lynch cartoonist, satirist, and counterculture archivist spanned more than six decades. All his signature Nard ‘n’ Pat stories from *Bijou Funnies* are featured in this volume. There are also samples of his trading card illustrations (for *Garbage Pail Kids* and other *Topps Chewing Gum* series) and his paintings (publisher).

Letter to Survivors

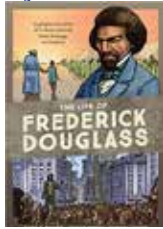
by G  b  



A haunting and darkly funny post-apocalyptic graphic novel that follows an unusual postal worker on his very bizarre mail route. Amid the blasted rubble of a once-perfect suburb, a hazmat-suited postman delivers the mail, aloud. He shouts his letters down a vent to the bunker-bound family below.

The Life of Frederick Douglass

by David F. Walker



A graphic novel biography of the escaped slave, abolitionist, public speaker, and most photographed man of the nineteenth century, based on his autobiographical writings and speeches, spotlighting the key events and people that shaped the life of this great American (publisher).

Nanjing: The Burning City

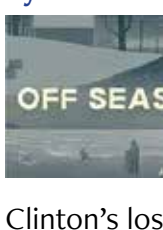
by Ethan Young



After the bombs fell and shook the walls of Nanjing, the Imperial Japanese Army entered and seized the Chinese capital. Through the dust of the demolished buildings, screams echo off the rubble. Two abandoned Chinese soldiers are trapped and desperately outnumbered inside the walled city. In the face of horror, they’ll learn that resistance and bravery cannot be destroyed by the enemy (publisher).

Off Season

by James Sturm



Off Season charts one couple’s divisive separation during Bernie Sanders’s loss to Hillary Clinton, Clinton’s loss to Donald Trump, and the disorienting months that followed. We see a father navigating life as a single parent and coping with the disintegration of a life-defining relationship. Amid the upheaval lie tender moments with his kids: a sleeping child being carried in from the car, Christmas-morning anticipation, a late-night cookie after a temper tantrum and fallible humans drenched in palpable feelings of grief, rage, loss, and overwhelming love (publisher).

Terms and Conditions

by R. Sikoryak



R. Sikoryak tackles the monstrously and infamously dense legal document, iTunes Terms and Conditions, the contract everyone agrees to but no one reads. In a word for word 94-page adaptation, Sikoryak hilariously turns the agreement on its head—each page features an avatar of Apple cofounder and legendary visionary Steve Jobs juxtaposed with a different classic strip such as Mort Walker’s *Beetle Bailey*, or a contemporary graphic novel such as Craig Thompson’s *Blankets* or Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis* (publisher).

The Sea

by Rikke Villadsen



Rikke Villadsen makes her English language debut with this story of a sailor that is playfully creepy and oddly beautiful. A fisherman’s life traversing the ocean is full of danger and surprise, but even the most experienced seafarer would not be ready to pull up their net after they’ve caught a newborn baby and a talking fish (publisher)!

Wrath of Fantomas

by Julie Rocheleau



Freely adapted from the work of Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre, with a plot worthy of the best black novels, Rocheleau plunges the reader into the Paris of the 1910s and provokes terror and fascination by resuscitating *Fantomas*, the evil character with a hundred faces (publisher).

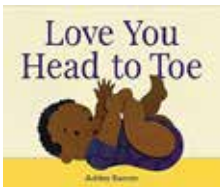
PICTURE BOOK

I Love My Colorful Nails by Alicia Acosta



Ben used to like painting his nails but when his schoolmates started laughing at him, his dad decided to show his support by painting his own nails, too. This is a story inspired by true events (publisher).

Love You Head to Toe by Ashley Barron



Pairing creative rhyming similes with cut-paper collage art, *Love You Head to Toe* is an adorable book that compares newborn babies to baby animals on every page. Bright, playful illustrations show a different baby and a different species of animal, both engaged in similar behavior (publisher).

Tomorrow Most Likely by Dave Eggers



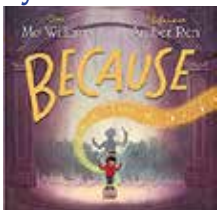
Rather than focusing on going to bed—and what kid wants to think about going to bed?—this book explores all of the dreamy, wonderful, strange things the next day might bring (publisher).

Poetree by Shauna LaVoy Reynolds



The snow has melted, the buttercups are blooming, and Sylvia celebrates winter's end by writing a poem. She ties her poem to a birch tree, hoping that it doesn't count as littering if it makes the world more beautiful. But when she returns, a new poem is waiting for her (publisher).

Because by Mo Willems



Mo Willems, a number one New York Times best-selling author and illustrator, composes a powerful symphony of chance, discovery, persistence, and magic in this moving tale of a young girl's journey to center stage (publisher).

JUVENILE FICTION

Peter & Ernesto: The Lost Sloths by Graham Annable



Peter and Ernesto loved their tree. Then a hurricane came and blew it away! Now Peter, Ernesto, and the rest of their sloth friends must venture into the jungle to find a new—great—tree. But the jungle is full of dangers, including angry ants, slithering snakes, and a ravenous jaguar (publisher)!

The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James by Ashley Herring Blake



When Sunny St. James receives a new heart, she decides to set off on a “New Life Plan”: 1) do awesome amazing things she could never do before; 2) find a new best friend; and 3) kiss a boy for the first time. Her “New Life Plan” seems to be racing forward, but when she meets her new best friend Quinn, Sunny questions whether she really wants to kiss a boy at all (publisher).

Lenny's Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee



Lenny's younger brother has a rare form of gigantism and while Lenny's fiercely protective, it isn't always easy being the sister of 'the giant.' A book about finding good in the bad that will break your heart while raising your spirits in the way that only a classic novel can.

The Becket List: A Blackberry Farm Story by Adele Griffin



When New York City native Becket Branch moves to the country with her family to help run her grandmother's farm and store, she finds that new friends, hostile chickens, sour lemonade and mischief are only the beginnings of her new life.

To Night Owl From Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer



Initially unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, eleven, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a break-up. Told entirely through emails.

YOUNG ADULT

Internment

by Samira Ahmed



Set in a horrifying near-future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an internment camp for Muslim

American citizens (publisher).

The Quiet You Carry

by Nikki Barthelmess



When seventeen-year-old Victoria Parker is suddenly placed into foster care, she struggles to find words for the abuse that upended her life.

The Shadow Glass

by Rin Chupeco



In this series conclusion, Tea must make decisions and sacrifices that will impact the fate of everyone in the Eight Kingdoms. Questions of

good, evil, right, and wrong loom large as she begins to question everyone around her—and even her own sanity (*School Library Journal*).

In the Key of Nira Ghani

by Natasha Deen



Nira wants to become a musician, but her Guyanese parents want her to focus on becoming a scientist or doctor, a situation that causes her

trouble just as she tries to navigate relationships with friends, enemies, and a crush.

Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc

by David Elliott



Told through medieval poetic forms and in the voices of the people and objects in Joan of Arc's life, (including her family and even the trees, clothes, cows, and candles

of her childhood), *Voices* offers an unforgettable perspective on an extraordinary young woman (publisher).

Beware the Night

by Jessika Fleck



Enduring a life of cruel servitude on her island home, 17-year-old Veda joins a dangerous revolution to fight against injustice and the boy she loves (publisher).

Comics Will Break Your Heart

by Faith Erin Hicks



Miriam's grandfather sold his rights to the comic book series

TomorrowMen back in the 1960's, and Miriam's family has struggled financially ever since.

When the heir to the fortune of the TomorrowMen series shows up in town, Miriam finds herself in a Romeo and Juliet story of her own as she begins falling for him.

Some Girls Bind

by Rory James



Genderqueer adolescent Jamie and her gay friend, Levi, come out to her brother Steve, who encourages them to seek acceptance from friends and family (publisher).

A Stitch in Time

by Daphne Kalmar

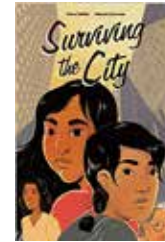


In 1927 Vermont, eleven-year-old Donut, recently orphaned after the death of her beloved pops, stands to lose everything. She learns her Aunt Agnes plans to move her to

Boston, but little does her aunt know that Donut has no intentions of leaving her friends or her home.

Surviving the City

by Tasha Spillett & Natasha Donovan



Surviving the City is a story about womanhood, friendship, colonialism, and the anguish of a missing loved one.

Miikwan and Dez are best friends. Miikwan is Anishinaabe; Dez is Inninew. Together, the teens navigate the challenges of growing up in an urban landscape (publisher).

Girls on the Verge

by Sharon Biggs Waller



Camille, seventeen, gives up her spot at a prestigious theater camp to drive from Texas to New Mexico to get an abortion, accompanied by her friends Annabelle and

Bea.

White Rose

by Kip Wilson



Tells the story of Sophie Scholl, a young German college student who challenges the Nazi regime during World War II as part of the White Rose, a non-violent

resistance group.

VIDEO GAMES

Yoshi's Crafted World Nintendo Switch



Jump into a new Yoshi adventure in a world made of everyday objects—like boxes and paper cups! As Yoshi, you'll leap up high, gulp down enemies, and set out on a treasure hunt to find all the different collectables.

New Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe Nintendo Switch



Join Mario, Luigi, and Pals for single-player or multiplayer fun anytime, anywhere! Take on two family-friendly, side-scrolling adventures with up to three friends as you try to save the Mushroom Kingdom.

The Longest 5 Minutes Nintendo Switch



Our hero faces the origin of all evil, the Demon King himself, but suddenly loses all memories of his adventure. Our hero tries to regain his priceless memories before it's too late, but the Demon King stands before him, his power unyielding!

Octopath Traveler Nintendo Switch



Eight travelers. Eight adventures. Eight roles to play in a new world. And now, you can enjoy all of them in the new demo. Step into the shoes and live the stories of each of the eight travelers and freely explore the world of Orsterra.

Kirby's Extra Epic Yarn Nintendo 3DS



One ticked-off sorcerer just banished Kirby, warping the poor puffball to a yarn world in need of saving. The twist? Having a yarn body is epic! Kirby can transform into knitted wonders like tanks and flying saucers.

Mario & Luigi: Bowser's Inside Story + Bowser Jr.'s Journey Nintendo 3DS



Laugh your way through a hilarious story told from three perspectives! Search the Mushroom Kingdom for a cure as Bowser, explore his innards as the Mario Bros., and discover the untold story of Bowser Jr.'s Journey.

LEGO Marvel Collection PS4



The LEGO® Marvel Collection features three action-packed LEGO Marvel games: LEGO Marvel Super Heroes, LEGO Marvel's Avengers, and LEGO Marvel Super Heroes 2, plus all season pass content for each game!

Naruto to Boruto: Shinobi Striker PS4



The Naruto franchise is back with a brand new experience in *Naruto to Boruto: Shinobi Striker*! This new game lets gamers battle as a team of 4 to compete against other teams online! *Shinobi Striker* is also built from the ground up in a completely new graphic style.

Kingdom Hearts III PS4



Kingdom Hearts III tells the story of the power of friendship and light vs. darkness as Sora and his friends embark on a perilous adventure. Set in a vast array of Disney and Pixar worlds, *Kingdom Hearts* follows the journey of Sora, an unknowing heir to a spectacular power.

Spyro Reignited Trilogy Xbox One



The original roast master is back! Same sick burns, same smoldering attitude, now all scaled up in stunning HD. Spyro is bringing the heat like never before in the *Spyro Reignited Trilogy* game collection.

Dreamworks Dragons: Dawn of New Riders Xbox One

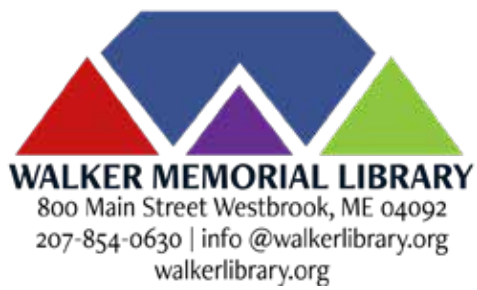


A new heroic dragon and rider are taking to the skies and only you can help them defeat the evil villains who destroyed a dragon sanctuary created by Hiccup, Toothless, and his dragon riders.

Jump Force Xbox One



For the first time ever, the most famous manga heroes are thrown into a whole new battleground: our world. Uniting to fight the most dangerous threat, the jump force will bear the fate of the entire humankind.



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