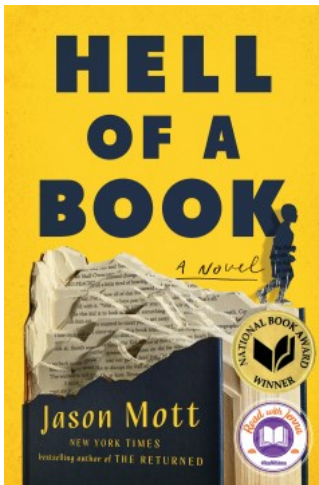
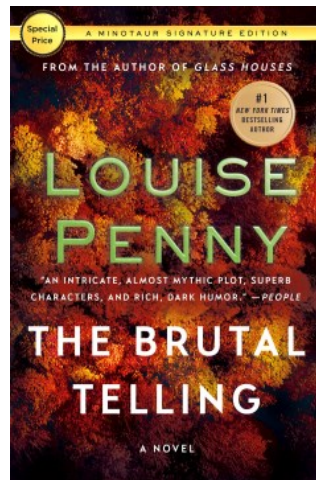




# Ellen's PICKS



This is a super creative yet heart-wrenching story of a Black author promoting his best-selling novel while in the midst of an emotional crisis. You will meet The Kid (is he real or imaginary?) and Soot (a young Black boy whose has his own family stories to tell). Intertwined in his travels, our author is bombarded with news of police killings and violence all while trying to process the losses in his own life.



I will never stop recommending Penny's Inspector Gamache series and I am already dreading when I run out of them! This book is #5 which takes place back in Three Pines, with our favorite cast of characters. Do not read when hungry, the food descriptions are divine and although they are murder mysteries, you will find yourself laughing out loud at times. Yes, you need to read them in order.



## 4 Star May Reads



I know author Lian Dolan from her many years on the podcast Satellite Sisters. Dolan has written a few books, including *The Sweeney Sisters* (also fabulous), but this month I read: **Lost and Found in Paris** - a young woman finds herself abruptly single when her husband discloses he has another family with kids (yikes!!) She decides to take advantage of a work opportunity to travel to Paris, where the real adventure begins! Part rom-com, part art-heist adventure, you will enjoy the many colorful characters in this book. I would describe it as light and fun, but not "fluff".

In **The Marriage Sabbatical** - a longtime married couple decides to follow their own separate dreams which will require them spending 9 months and thousands of miles apart. The husband is off motorcycling in South America, while the wife takes up jewelry design in Santa Fe. You will encounter her new fascinating friends, an adorable dog, cute boutique shops, flamenco dancing and of course Santa Fe itself! It is never too late to learn new things about life and about yourself. I loved the true real world issues Dolan writes about in this book - I really connected with it.