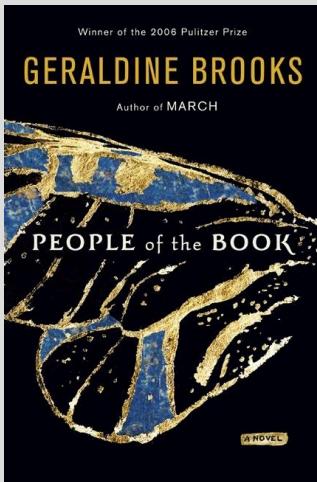




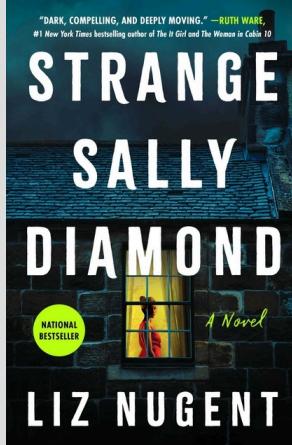
Ellen's PICKS

For books read in January 2026

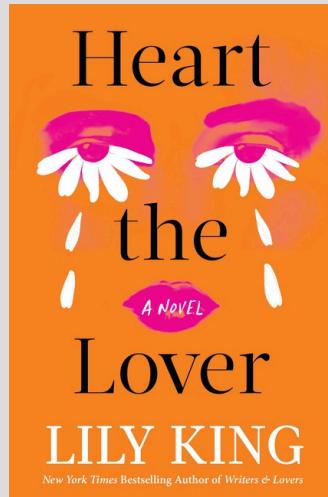


This is a dense book. One plot line is about Hanna Heath whose job is a rare book conservationist, and her time spent verifying whether or not the book called the Haggadah is the actual Hebrew manuscript created in 15th century Spain and now discovered in a Sarajevo museum. The other parts of the story tell the history of the book - who started the beautiful drawings and script within.

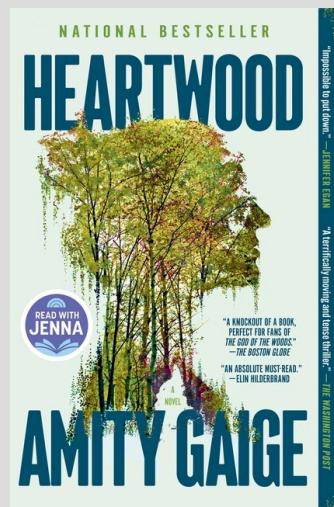
What a great mystery! Sally Diamond does not remember much about her traumatic childhood. She knows that her adoptive parents made her life as comfortable as possible until they both died. Then Sally starts to learn the truth about her past.



★ = my favorite choice



It is about three young people (one woman, two men) who meet in college as they are trying to figure out who they are, who they want to be and what the right path should be as they grow into adults. At the same time they are creating bonds that last for decades. It is about first love and loss. My first 5 star of 2026.



I love books about the Appalachian Trail. This is about Valerie a woman and nurse who is trying to get her head straight after experiencing the harrows of hospitals during the Covid pandemic. She hikes the trail but goes missing. We have two other strong female characters- Bev the warden in charge of the search and Lena an older woman confined to a wheelchair and obsessed with the missing hiker.