

Pat is an avid reader of Canadian fiction but enjoys any story that is well told.

**Buffy Sainte-Marie:
The Authorized Biography**

Andrea Warner
781.62 SAI



Buffy Sainte-Marie has been performing since the 1960s and is still going strong at the age of 77. This book chronicles her remarkable life as a musician and an activist. I was amazed to discover how many familiar songs she has written and how innovative she is as an artist. I was equally dismayed to read about the discrimination she faced as a female Indigenous musician/activist. An honest, heartbreaking, inspiring portrait of a Canadian-born legend.

Small Great Things

Jodi Picoult
FICTION PIC



An African-American obstetric nurse encounters a white supremacist couple who requests that she not touch their baby. Through a series of circumstances, the nurse is charged in the baby's death. This book challenges readers to examine unconscious racism and microaggression from multiple perspectives. The characters are nuanced and the story will spark interesting conversations about race and prejudice. A brave choice of topic and a cut above Picoult's usual fare.

Leila likes smart, quirky writing. She has a penchant for graphic novels, postmodern fiction, minority literatures and anything that makes her repeatedly laugh out loud.

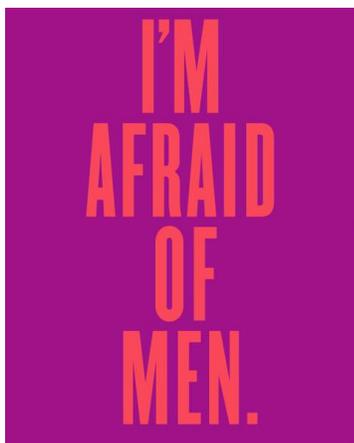
The Little Snake

A. L. Kennedy
FICTION KEN



Written to mark the 75th anniversary of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic

The Little Prince, Kennedy takes a minor character from that story and writes a touching modern fable that's entirely her own. When a girl befriends a mysterious golden snake, their lives are forever changed and intertwined. This is a quick read that nevertheless meditates deeply on friendship, love, death and draws timely parallels to the refugee experience. It made me smile even while it was breaking my heart. Highly recommend!



I'm Afraid of Men

Vivek Shraya
306.768 SHR



A slim but powerful meditation on gender and toxic masculinity from the perspective of Canadian artist, poet and transgender woman of colour, Vivek Shraya.

This Wound Is a World

Billie-Ray Belcourt
821 BEL



"There are days when being in life feels like consenting to the cruelties that hold up the world" writes poet and author Billie-Ray Belcourt from Driftpile Cree Nation, who tackles queerness, colonialism, love, sex and trauma in this powerful collection of poetry. With

poems like "The Creator is Trans," "Colonialism: A Love Story," and "Okcupid," Belcourt's writing is at once deeply personal and highly political. Winner of the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize and a 2018 Indigenous Voices Award.

Ehlan enjoys reading Young Adult novels, historical and gothic fiction, as well as novels involving magic realism.

The City of Brass

S. A. Chakraborty
FICTION CHA



In this brilliantly imagined historical fantasy, Nahri, a young con artist in 18th-century Egypt, discovers she's the last descendant of a powerful family of djinn healers. Filled with humor, adventures and well-rounded characters, this beautifully written book will take you on a wild ride, making you laugh and keeping you entertained. With this first novel, Chakraborty proves herself a master storyteller in the way she weaves Middle Eastern lore and traditions with her tale of adventure.

SYMBOL CHART

-  Audiobook CD
-  Book
-  Downloadable Audiobook
-  DVD
-  eBook
- A** Large Print
- TB** Talking Book

Fiona enjoys beautiful writing on pretty much any topic. She is also a sci-fi fan with a soft spot for historical and travel fiction.

Educated

Tara Westover
921 W536



Westover's experience growing up in a Mormon survivalist family was unconventional, to say the least. Doctors and their medicine were shunned, education was delivered at home and family secrets were scrupulously guarded. Mental health issues went undiagnosed. Westover eventually escaped her family, and her journey from isolated Idaho mountain top to Oxford University, where she receives a PhD, is compelling reading and, at times, harrowing. The audiobook is also very good. Highly recommended.

Sheila likes a range of novels, fun mysteries, biographies, cultural histories and travel.

Once Upon a River

Diane Setterfield
FICTION SET



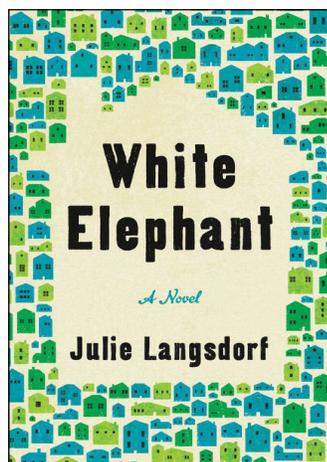
Different pubs have different specialties; the Swan is known for its storytelling. Set on the Thames, an injured stranger enters the pub one dark winter night holding the drowned body of a child in his arms. When the mute girl stirs to life, the stories begin. Who is she? Where did she come from? Where does she belong? And who is the stranger? This book conjures up the best in storytelling.

No Way Home: A Memoir of Life on the Run

Tyler Wetherall
921 W539



Written by the daughter of a man on the FBI's most wanted list, this is a book about a life on the run. Never knowing the real story behind her father's tales, or able to tell anyone who she is, Wetherall struggles to maintain family ties and structure without ever setting down roots. This is truly a story about love, loss and self-discovery.



Seven Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle

Stuart Turton
MYSTERY TUR



Turton takes the classic murder mystery structure and injects time warps, body switching and crazy characters to create a murder mystery unlike any other. The plot is intricately layered and all-around amazing—there will be no figuring out this ending. Winner of the Costa First Novel Award 2018.

White Elephant

Julie Langsdorf
FICTION LAN



The fun starts when a large behemoth of a house is built in quaint Willard Park, a Norman Rockwell-type town with Sears Catalogue houses, funky coffee shops and trees lovingly planted to commemorate important events. Soon, it is neighbour versus neighbour with town hall meetings, building moratoriums, uprooted trees, shady high jinks and scandalous romantic dalliances. A hilarious view of human nature perfect for summer reading.

Allison K. enjoys a wide variety of books, but her passion is speculative fiction (fantasy, science fiction, horror, etc.) that introduces interesting new takes on the genre.

The Secret History

Donna Tartt
FICTION TAR



A group of misfits brought together under an eccentric yet charismatic

classics professor become close at their cozy college, but as they slip farther away from the boundaries of normal morality, their dark secrets—both shared and personal—begin to overwhelm them. A thriller of death, obsession and philosophy.

Ninefox Gambit

Yoon Ha Lee
SCIENCE FICTION LEE



The first book in a fascinating new sci-fi trilogy. Kel Cheris is a disgraced soldier given the task of reclaiming a tactically important fortress for the Hexarchate, a massive space empire that controls most of the known universe. To do so, she is forced to rely on the knowledge and skill of the great strategist Shuos Jedao, who has never lost a battle, but is also insane.

Vicious

Victoria Schwab
FICTION SCH



In this dark take on the superhero genre, Schwab introduces us to Eli and Victor, two brilliant and ambitious college students who accidentally figure out how to give themselves superpowers—albeit at a great cost. As Eli's fame increases and Victor is branded a villain, the former friends become locked in a struggle where each wants to destroy the other...at any cost.

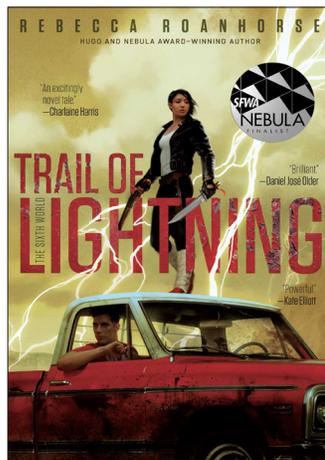
Certain Dark Things

Silvia Moreno-Garcia
FICTION MOR



If you're tired of the same old vampire novels, look no further. Moreno-Garcia's take on a world full of vampires threatening a city in Mexico and the relationship between a young trash-picker and a vampire on the run is a fresh and engrossing read that brings new life to stories about the undead.

Sarah F. loves reading science fiction and fantasy as well as non-fiction books about technology and mythology.



Trail of Lightning
Rebecca Roanhorse
FICTION ROA



A gripping post-apocalyptic novel steeped in Navajo legend and culture, this first novel from Roanhorse features Maggie Hoskie, a supernatural monster hunter. Maggie has to work with temperamental allies and dangerous trickster gods to hunt down a murderer. There are strange occurrences, gifted characters and a fascinating core mystery. Ideal for fans of urban fantasy.

Dread Nation
Justina Ireland
TEEN IRE



A zombie adventure set in an alternative 19th-century United States in which the Civil War was never won. The young heroine, Jane McKeene, is a student at a black women's combat school learning the skills to protect her future mistress. Born shortly after the dead rose, Jane has never known life without constant vigilance and fear. Full of rich historic details, conspiracy and a great cast of characters.

Meditation for Fidgety Skeptics: A 10% Happier How-To Book
Dan Harris
158.12 HAR



Harris has followed up his successful

book *10% Happier* with a practical guide to meditation. He approaches the common myths and misconceptions that prevent people from taking up a regular meditation practice and includes great stories of those he encounters on a cross-country meditation tour. You'll also find meditations to try.

Vicki finds herself reading a lot about planning for the end of life these days. Her family thinks that she's weird but she's okay with that.

KPI Checklists: Develop Meaningful, Trusted, KPIs and Reports Using Step-by-step Checklists

Bernie Smith
658.4 SMI



Don't let the snack size of this book fool you—it serves up a full meal. If you don't have time for a deep dive into Key Performance Indicators and need to get the job done, Smith's book is the place to start. It's full of templates, simple diagrams and checklists to create consistent, meaningful measurements for just about any business or sector. With an emphasis on practicality and process, you will learn how to conduct a workshop with the right players and hopefully avoid some of the identified roadblocks.

Tara reads whimsical books and anything that sheds light on the human condition.

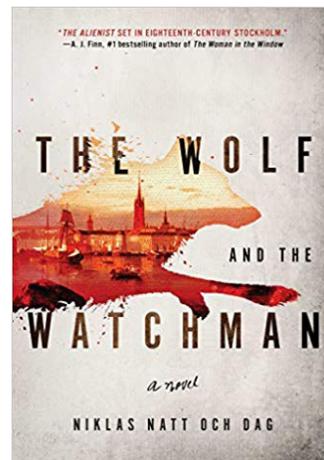
The Library Book
Susan Orlean
027.4 ORL



Orlean applies wit, insight, curiosity and compassion in this work of immersive journalism about the catastrophic 1985 Los Angeles Public Library fire. While this book begins as a true crime mystery, Orlean intersperses history, biography and stories of the transformative power of libraries. Full disclosure: I work at the Library, believe in the mission of libraries and love libraries. While I am biased, I approached *The Library Book* warily and was won over within the first few

pages as her description of libraries rings true. A perfect read for all booklovers.

Steve likes to read fiction, sci-fi, fantasy, paranormal thrillers and the occasional paranormal romance.



The Wolf and the Watchman
Niklas Natt och Dag
MYSTERY NAT

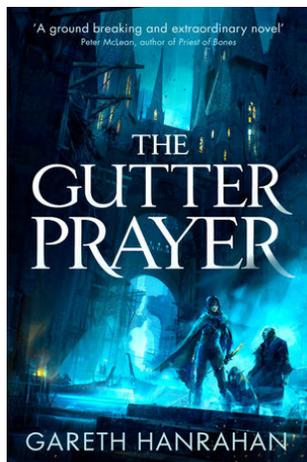


A mystery set in 1793 Stockholm. Mikel Cardell, a former watchman, discovers a limbless corpse in a lake. Cecil Winge, a lawyer, enlists Cardell to investigate the crime and identify the victim. Kristofer Blix, a young man, and Anna-Stina, a young woman, enter the story to illustrate the brutality of every day in 1793 Stockholm and to unfurl the details of the victim and the crime. A must read for fans of Nordic Noir.

Tilly and the Crazy Eights
Monique Gray Smith
FICTION GRA



A group of First Nations elders decide to embark on a bucket-list road trip. Tilly becomes the bus driver taking the Crazy Eights to their destination, the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in New Mexico with stops in Las Vegas, Sedona and the Grand Canyon. A powerful "feel good" novel exploring the characters' personal histories, challenges, health, relationships and triumphs while they push their boundaries and form friendships. Written with humour, honesty and compassion.



AI goes through eclectic phases, but currently finds himself focusing on fantasy and satire.

The Gutter Prayer

Gareth Ryder-Hanrahan
FICTION RYD



A city-state caught in the crossfire between warring gods and a trio of criminals forced into an unlikely alliance to save the day. In a show of world-building par excellence, the author has crafted a city noir with a personality of its own, while the denizens that inhabit its lower reaches would not be out of place in a Lovecraft story. One of my favourite books of 2019 (already).

A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World

C.A. Fletcher
FICTION FLE



The End of the World, but not like you've seen it before. Griz is an Outlier, one of the last remnants of humankind, living on the outskirts of what we once called civilization. When a trader shows up and steals Griz's dog, he takes it upon himself to track the thief down. He is unfamiliar with the outside world, though, and takes on a voyage of discovery and danger that will rock his young life.

Allison J. loves to read, watch and listen to science fiction, fantasy, YA and #ownvoices LGBTQ and Indigenous fiction. They adore stories about time travel and artificial intelligence and love finding new best friends in the pages of a book.

A Closed and Common Orbit

Becky Chambers
SCIENCE FICTION CHA



This creative and engaging space opera will draw you into the stories of lifelike and lovable characters Pepper and Sidra, who both have big dreams and bigger secrets that propel them onto adventurous paths. Chambers explores the implications of artificial intelligence, friendship, trust and self-expression in thoughtful and nuanced ways reminiscent of Anne Leckie's popular *Ancillary Justice* trilogy. Although this is the second book in the *Wayfarers* series, the story stands alone.

Ingrid spends too much time reading and worrying about other people's (often fictional) lives.

Tell the Machine Goodnight

Katie Williams
FICTION WIL



If you were in charge of a machine that gave personal recommendations for happiness, would you use it on yourself? What about on your depressed teenage son? Pearl's clients pay big to see what the machine says. But at home, her son refuses to use it. Would it make him—or Pearl—happier in the end? This debut novel is striking in its critique of society's pursuit of happiness; it's clever, unpredictable and describes a future world that's not too far from ours.

Her Body and Other Parties

Carmen Maria Machado
PB FICTION MAC



This collection of short stories is a treasure of magical realism that showcases slightly eerie tales of women's experiences. Centred on identity, power and sexuality, Machado's ground-breaking surrealist tales are haunting in their portrayals of odd experiences and life's crises. Her innovative images linger long after the pages of this book are closed.

Amanda gravitates to coming-of-age stories, especially ones with suspense or magic in the mix.

The Lonely Hearts Hotel

Heather O'Neill
FICTION ONE



The story of Rose and Pierrot, soulmates abandoned at the same cruel orphanage in 1914, whose talents for music, dance and comedy may provide them an escape from misery. O'Neill has a gift for showing us a new way to observe the ordinary and for infusing her tale with an intoxicating aura of magic.

Shoplifters

DVD FOREIGN SHO



A brilliant film. Midway into what seems a meandering consideration of impoverished and marginalized characters comes the subtle dawning that we've made incorrect assumptions about them. With the twist, the movie becomes a deeply moving contemplation of family.



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