

Holiday Gift Guide

The ancient Roman poet Martial recommended "Metamorphoses" on parchment as a Saturnalia gift...

... Dickens and his peers traded ghost stories around a Yule log...

... Iceland celebrates Jólabókaflóð (or Christmas Book Flood), every Christmas.

Giving each other books to read while cuddled up by a fire is one of the oldest holiday traditions around.

Celebrate this tradition with your loved ones this year!

This gift guide will help you get started!

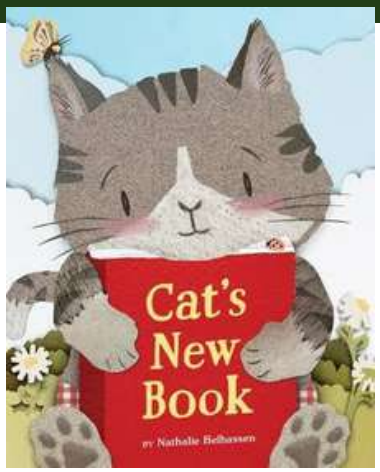
Recommendations were made by the diverse and well-read staff of the Amarillo Public Library, who are here to help you find great reads all year long.

From all of us here at the Amarillo Public Library,

Happy Holidays!



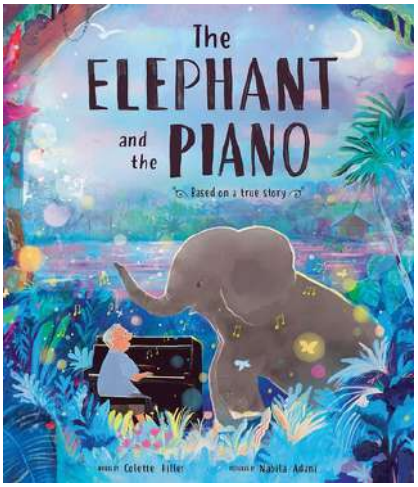
For Reading to Your Kids



Cat's New Book

By Nathan Bellhassen

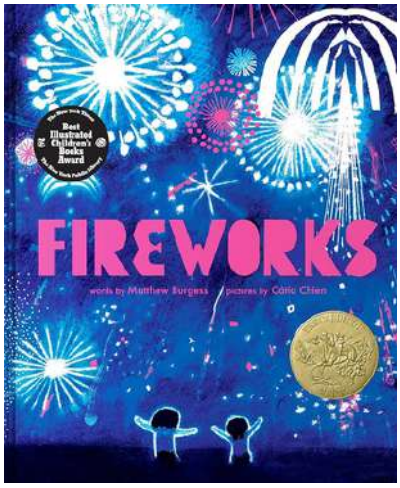
Celebrate the joys of reading and sharing with Cat and all the friends he makes through the magic of stories.



The Elephant And The Piano

By Colette Hiller

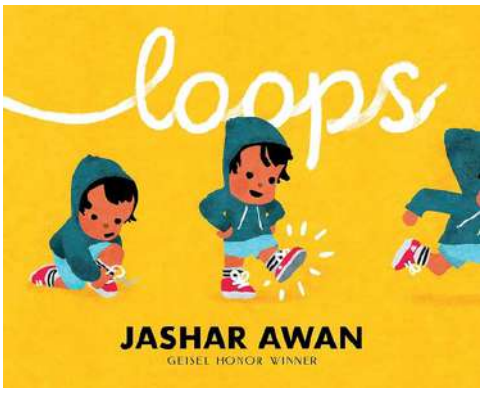
An incredible and uplifting true story about how music has healed troubled elephants in a sanctuary in Thailand.



Fireworks

By Matthew Burgess

POP! As a hot day sizzles into evening, everyone on stoops and sidewalks looks skyward on this special summer night —the Fourth of July!



Loops

By Jashar Awan

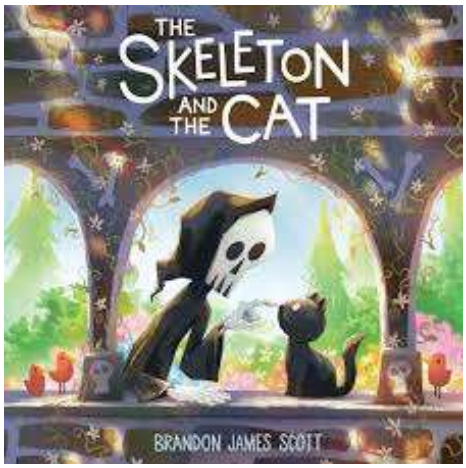
This big kid is wearing his first pair of big-kid shoes, the kind with laces!



Serafina Makes Waves

By Matthew Burgess

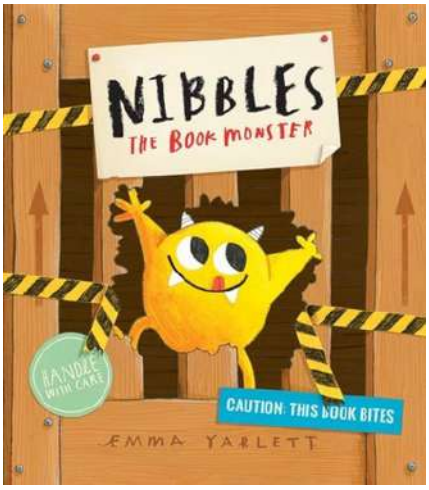
This purr-fectly adorable picture book introduces an irresistibly over-the-top new kitty character who's ready to make a big splash!



The Skeleton and The Cat

By Brandon James Scott

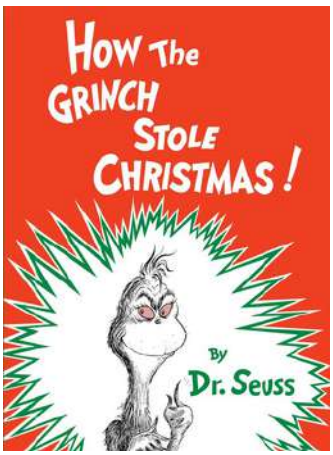
Skeleton lives alone in lonesome bliss. She reads books, drinks tea, and tends to her garden. it's simple and peaceful. Until, one day, a cat knocks on Skeleton's door.



Nibbles The Book Monster

By Emma Yarlett

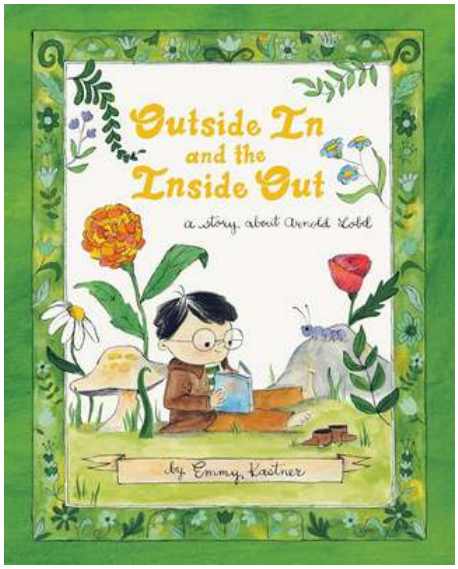
Nibbles is a very naughty book monster—he's chomping, munching, and nibbling his way through fairy tales that don't belong to him!



How the Grinch Stole Christmas

By Dr. Seuss

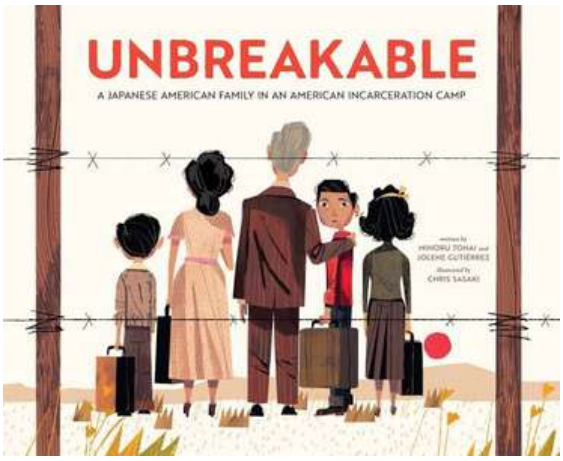
The Whos down in Whoville loved Christmas a lot. But The Grinch, who lived just north of Whoville, did not.

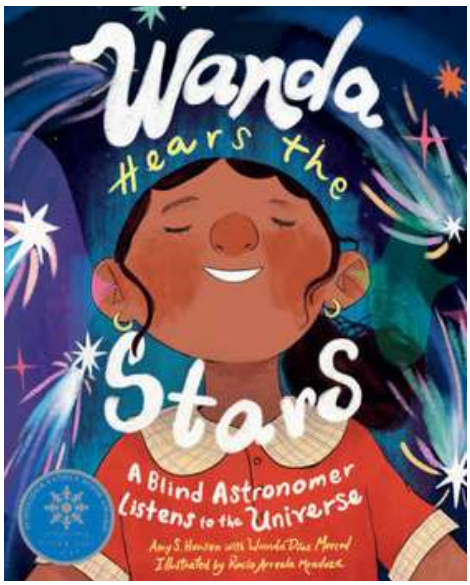


Outside In and the Inside Out
By Emmy Kastner
A thoughtful and whimsical picture book about Arnold Lobel, award-winning creator of Frog and Toad.

A Horn Book Fanfare Best Book of 2025

Unbreakable: A Japanese American Family in an American Incarceration Camp
By Minoru Tonai, Jolene Gutiérrez
A powerful, emotional, and ultimately uplifting picture book about the real-life experience of a Japanese American boy incarcerated with his family during World War II.

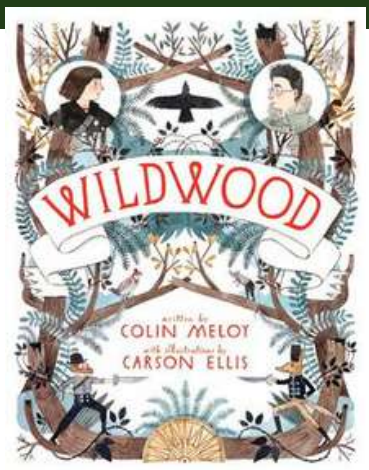




Wanda Hears the Stars:
A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe
By Amy S. Hansen, Wanda Díaz Merced
A nonfiction picture book biography of astrophysicist Wanda Díaz Merced and how losing her sight didn't stop her from studying the stars.

2026 Schneider Family Book Award Winner

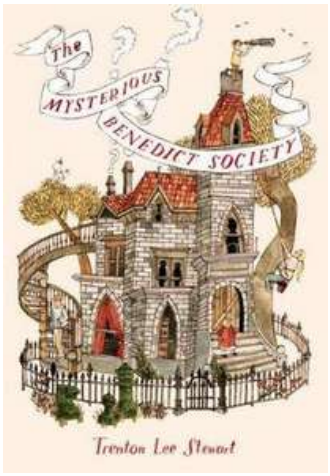
For Kids Who Love Reading



Wildwood

By Colin Meloy

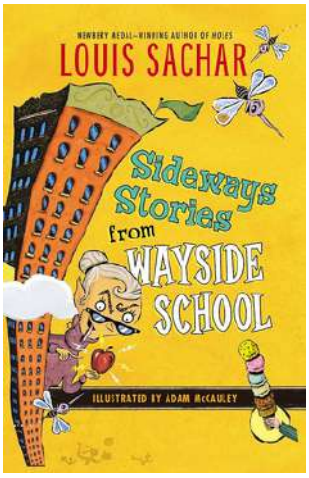
In Wildwood, Prue and her friend Curtis uncover a secret world in the midst of violent upheaval—a world full of warring creatures, peaceable mystics, and powerful figures with the darkest intentions.



The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Trenton Lee Stewart

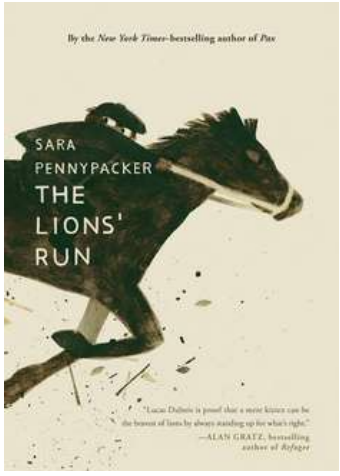
Four children go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.



Sideways Stories From Wayside School

By Louis Sachar

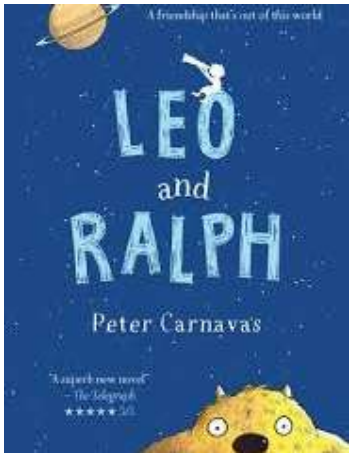
There was a terrible mistake—Wayside School was built with one classroom on top of another, thirty stories high. (The builder said he was sorry.) Maybe that's why all kinds of funny things happened at Wayside—especially on the thirteenth floor.



The Lion's Run

By Sara Pennypacker

An orphan during WWII discovers unexpected courage within himself when he joins the Resistance. From the acclaimed author of the classic *PAX*.



Leo and Ralph

By Peter Carnavas

From award-winning storyteller Peter Carnavas comes this stellar novel about space, starting over, and the best friend you could ever imagine.

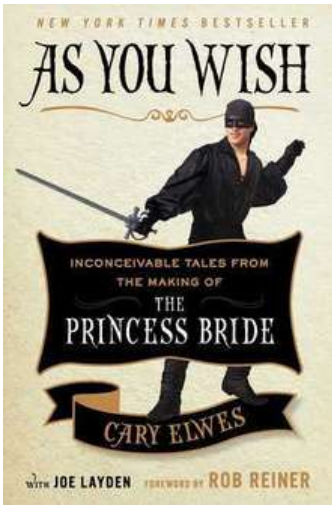


Phoenix

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

The first book in a fresh, uplifting series about a young girl learning to find joy again through the love of an unexpected horse.

Read it Before You Watch It!



As You Wish:
Inconceivable Tales from the Making of The Princess Bride

By Cary Elwes

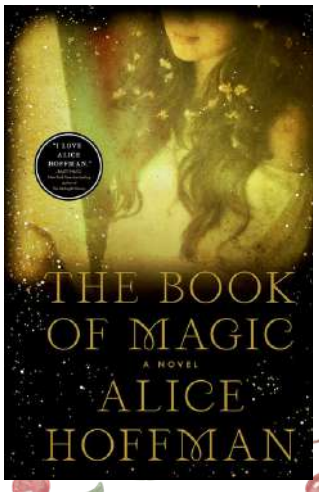
If you'd like to know a little more about the making of *The Princess Bride* as seen through the eyes of a young actor who got much more than he bargained for, along with the rest of this brilliant cast, then ...*as you wish.*

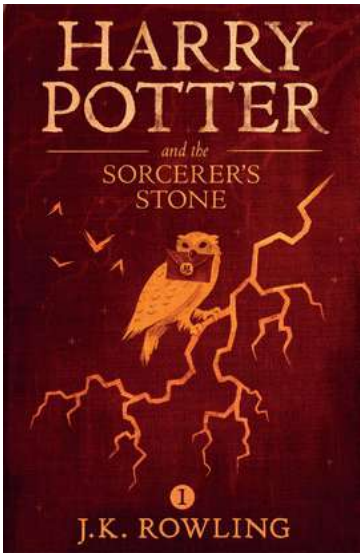
The Book Of Magic

By Alice Hoffman

Master storyteller Alice Hoffman brings us the conclusion of the Practical Magic series in a spellbinding and enchanting final Owens novel brimming with lyric beauty and vivid characters.

Inspired the film: *Practical Magic 2*!



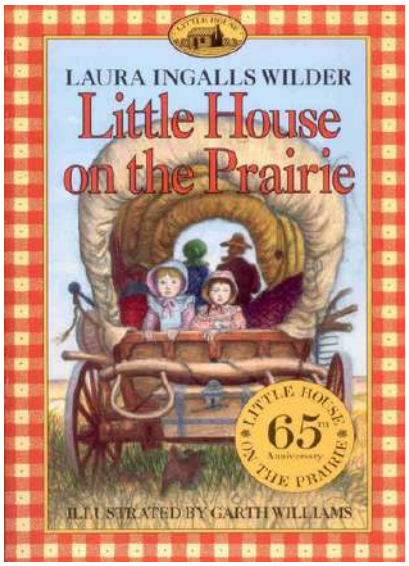


Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

By JK Rowling

On Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!

Coming soon to TV: *Harry Potter*

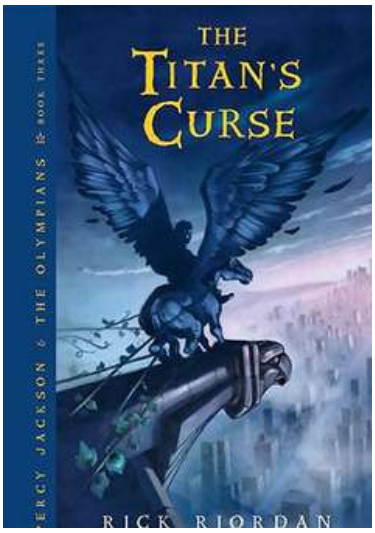


Little House On The Prairie

By Laura Ingalls Wilder

Pa Ingalls decides to sell their little log house, and the family sets out for Indian country! They travel from Wisconsin to Kansas, and there, finally, Pa builds their little house on the prairie.

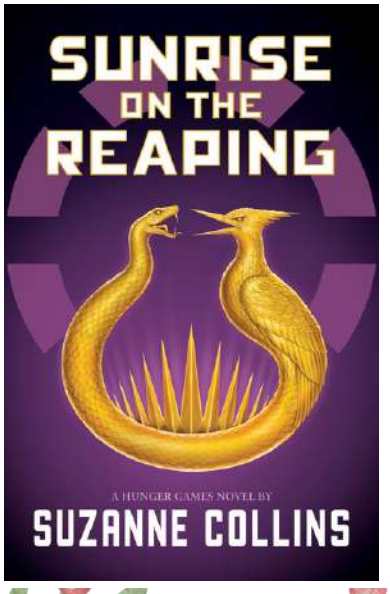
Inspiration for the new TV series!



The Titan's Curse by Rick Riordan

Percy's friend Annabeth is missing, a goddess is in chains, and only five half-blood heroes can defeat a doomsday monster.

Inspired the TV Series: *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*!

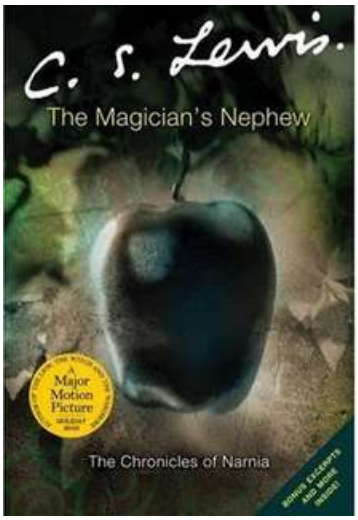


Sunrise On The Reaping

By Suzanne Collins

When you've been set up to lose everything, what's left to fight for? As the 50th Hunger Games begin, Haymitch Abernathy knows he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight... and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.

Inspiration for the film of the same title!



The Magician's Nephew by CS Lewis

Before there was a wardrobe, a lamppost, and a little faun carrying an umbrella, there was a boy named Digory saving his friend Polly after his magician uncle whisked her away to a world where magic is real, beasts can talk, and an ancient evil awakens.

New movie coming soon!



Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow

By Tom King

It's Supergirl like you've never seen her before, in a character-defining sci-fi/fantasy masterpiece from ***Mister Miracle*** writer Tom King and ***Wonder Woman*** artist Bilquis Evely!

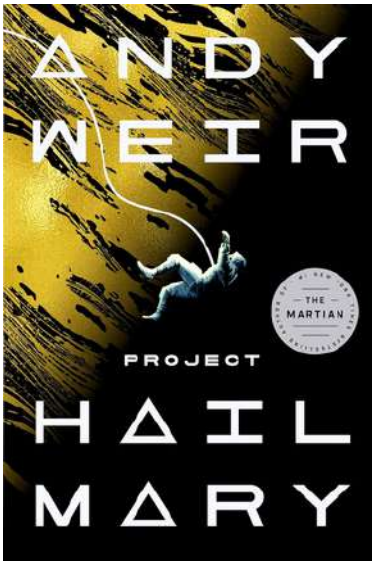
Inspiration for the 2026 *Supergirl*!



Secret Wars by Jonathan Hickman

The interdimensional Incursions have eliminated each and every dimension one by one—and now, despite the best efforts of the scientists, sages, and superhumans of both dimensions, the Marvel Universe and Ultimate Universe have collided with one another...and have been destroyed!

Inspired the upcoming film: *Avengers: Doomsday*!



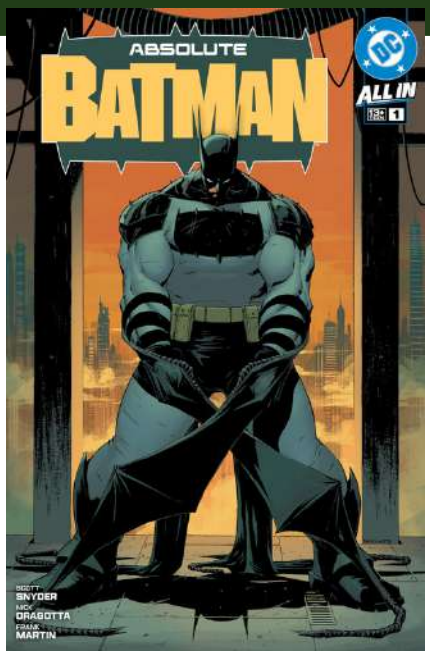
Project Hail Mary

By Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and Earth itself will perish.

Inspiration for the hit film!

For Superheros & Sidekicks



Absolute Batman
By Scott Snyder
Without the mansion…without the money…without the butler…
what's left is the Absolute Dark Knight!

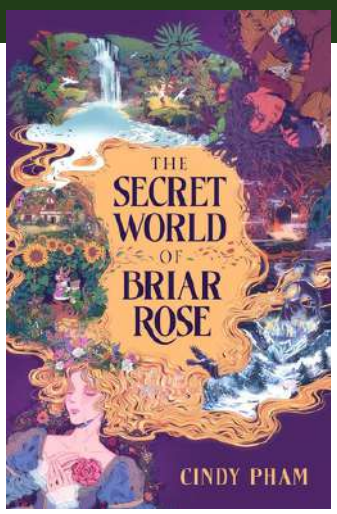


Absolute Wonder Woman
By Kelly Thompson
Without the island paradise…without the sisterhood that
shaped her…without a mission of peace…what's left is the
Absolute Amazon!



Absolute Superman
By Jason Aaron
Without the fortress…without the family…without a home…
what's left is the Absolute Man of Steel!

For Teens and Young Adults



The Secret World of Briar Rose

By Cindy Pham

One hundred years have passed since the last heir of Gyldan fell into eternal slumber and doomed the once-mighty kingdom to poverty and invasion. At least, that's what the fairy tales claim.

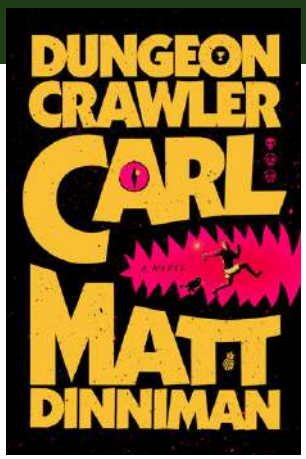


Be Yourself (And Other Bad Advice)

By Meredith Walker

Being a teen girl can be confusing and frustrating—luckily Meredith Walker created this guide to show how to dig deep, find what's important to you, and use that authenticity to make the world a better place. Featuring a foreword from Amy Poehler!

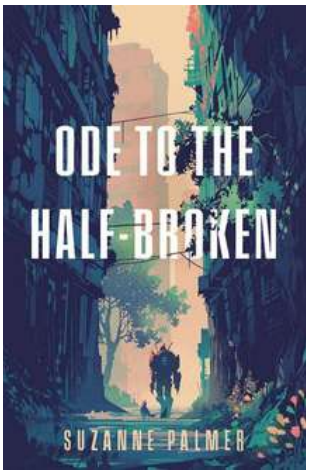
Aliens and Robots!



Dungeon Crawler Carl

By Matt Dinniman

The apocalypse will be televised! Welcome to the first book in the wildly popular and addictive Dungeon Crawler Carl series.



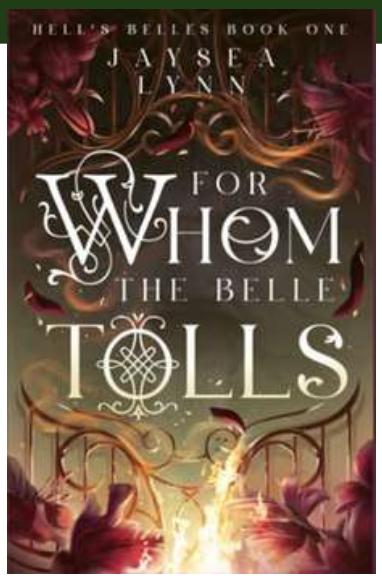
Ode To The Half-Broken

By Suzanne Palmer

Forty years ago, the world nearly ended.

Be is an old robot who was there, and doesn't want to think about what happened, or what role they played in that conflict. Someone out there, though, has not forgotten about them...

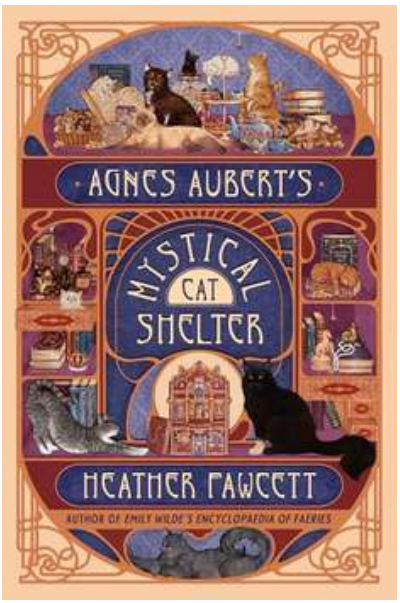
For Romantasy Lovers...



For Whom The Belle Tolls

By Jaysea Lynn

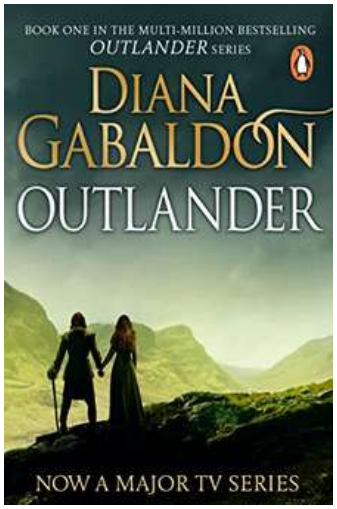
Sentenced to Hell, Lily arrives with a mix of dread and curiosity. She discovers a realm where deities queue for coffee, fae traverse realms, and souls find new beginnings.



Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter

By Heather Fawcett

Agnes Aubert has devoted her life to finding forever homes for stray cats. Now it's the shelter that needs a new home. And the only landlord who will rent a space to a cat rescue is a mysterious man called Havelock—who also happens to be the world's most infamous magician. Havelock is cantankerous and eccentric, but not *not* handsome, and no, Agnes absolutely does not feel anything but disdain for him.

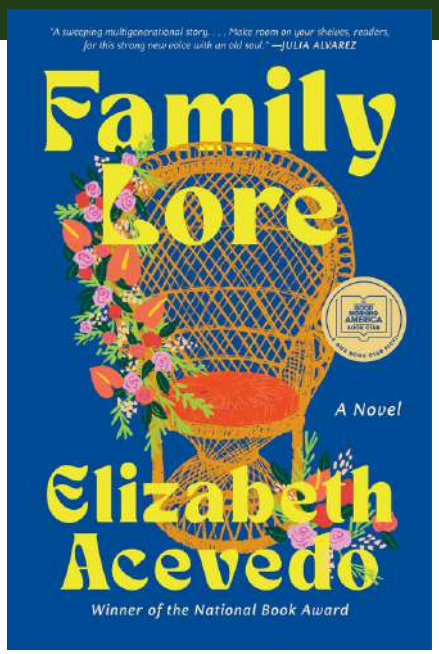


Outlander

By Diana Gabaldon

In 1945, Claire Randall, a former combat nurse, is hurled back in time by forces she cannot understand. She is catapulted into the intrigues of lairds and spies that may threaten her life ...and shatter her heart. For here, James Fraser, a gallant young Scots warrior, shows her a passion so fierce and a love so absolute that Claire becomes a woman torn between fidelity and desire.

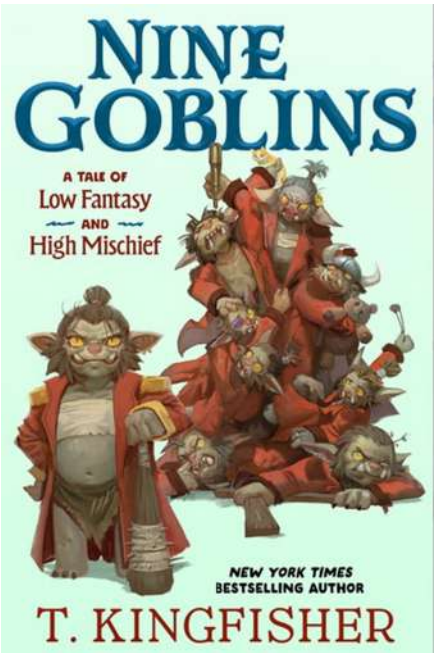
...Fantasy Lovers...



Family Lore

By Elizabeth Acevedo

From bestselling, National Book Award-winning author Elizabeth Acevedo comes her first novel for adults, the story of one Dominican-American family told through the voices of its women as they await a gathering that will forever change their lives.

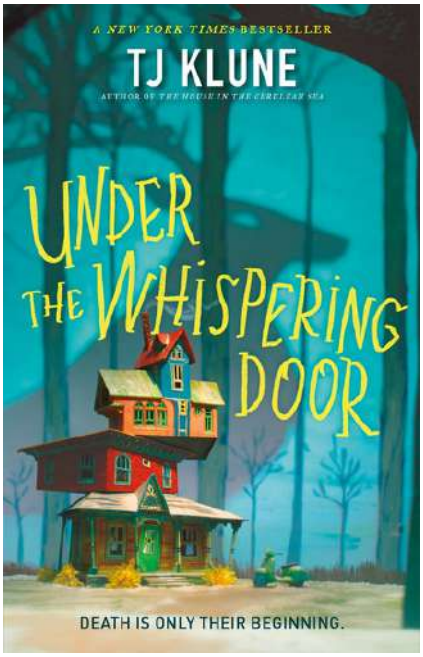


Nine Goblins

By T. Kingfisher

Goblins don't kill people for fun, no matter what the propaganda posters say. And when a troop of goblins lands behind enemy lines, goblin sergeant Nessilka must figure out how to get them home in one piece.

Unfortunately, between them and safety lies a forest full of elves, trolls, monsters, and that most terrifying of creatures…a human being.



Under The Whispering Door

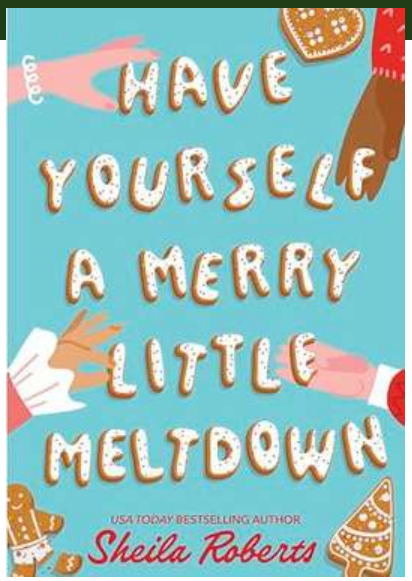
By TJ Klune

When a reaper comes to collect Wallace from his own funeral, Wallace begins to suspect he might be dead.

And when Hugo, the owner of a peculiar tea shop, promises to help him cross over, Wallace decides he's definitely dead.

But even in death he's not ready to abandon the life he barely lived, so when Wallace is given one week to cross over, he sets about living a lifetime in seven days.

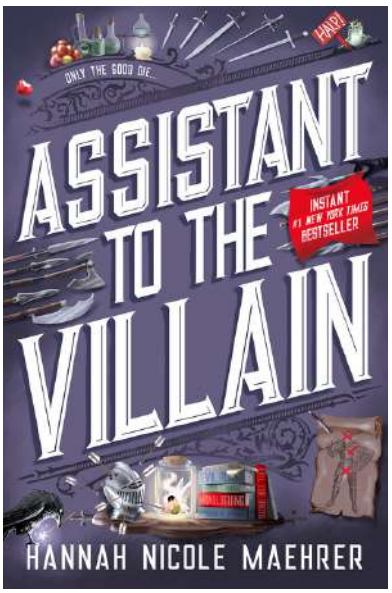
...and Romance Lovers!



Have Yourself A Merry Little Meltdown

By Shelia Roberts

Bestselling author Sheila Roberts is back with another crowd-pleasing and heartwarming holiday romance full of family, love, and a little bit of intrigue, as a debut novelist tries to keep her author identity secret from the family members who inspired her offbeat characters.

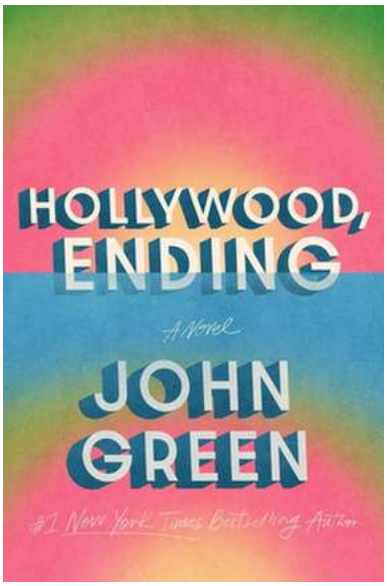


Assistant to the Villain

By Hannah Nicole Maehrer

With ailing family to support, Evie Sage's employment status isn't just important, it's vital. So when a mishap with Rennedawn's most infamous Villain results in a job offer—naturally, she says yes. No job is perfect, of course, but even less so when you develop a teeny crush on your terrifying, temperamental, and undeniably hot boss.

Don't find evil so attractive, Evie.

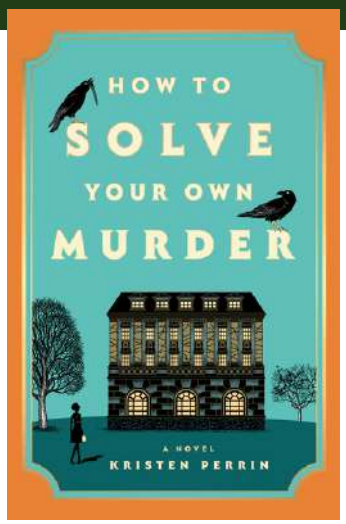


Hollywood Ending

By John Green

For rising young actors Kai Laramie and Juniper Castillo, being cast in the buzzy biopic "Andy Warhol Never Gets Old" is the opportunity they've been waiting for. They're on the verge of breaking out, and maybe even falling in love. Soon the movie is blowing up and so are their lives—in exciting but also terrifying ways.

Need to know Whodunnit?



How To Solve Your Own Murder

By Kristen Perrin

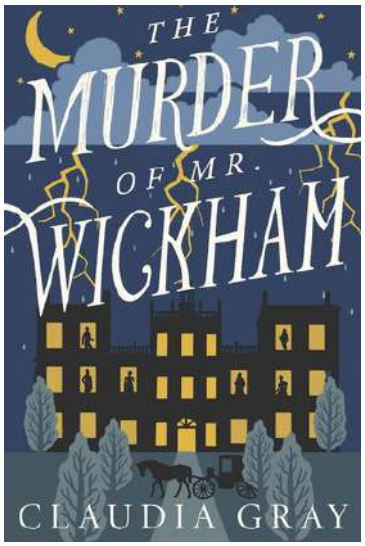
For fans of *Knives Out*, a fun mystery about a woman who spends her entire life trying to prevent her foretold murder only to be proven right sixty years later, when she is found dead in her sprawling country estate. Now it's up to her great-niece to catch the killer.



She Fell Away

By Lenore Hash

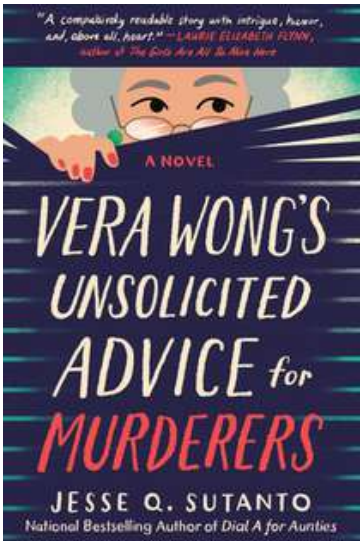
In this gripping thriller, a diplomat must confront the ghosts of her past as she searches for a missing American woman in a pulse-pounding race against time.



The Murder of Mr. Wickham

By Claudia Gray

A summer house party turns into a whodunit when Mr. Wickham, one of literature's most notorious villains, meets a sudden and suspicious end in this mystery featuring Jane Austen's leading literary characters.



Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice For Murderers

By Jesse Q. Sutanto

No one investigates a crime better than a suspicious mother with plenty of free time! That's why, after finding a corpse in her tea shop, Vera Wong is convinced she can do a better job investigating than anyone else.

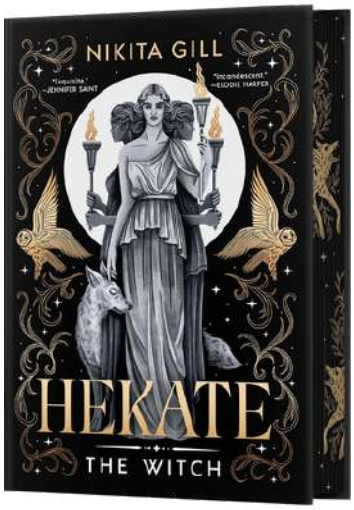
Greek Myths Retold



I, Medusa

By Ayana Gray

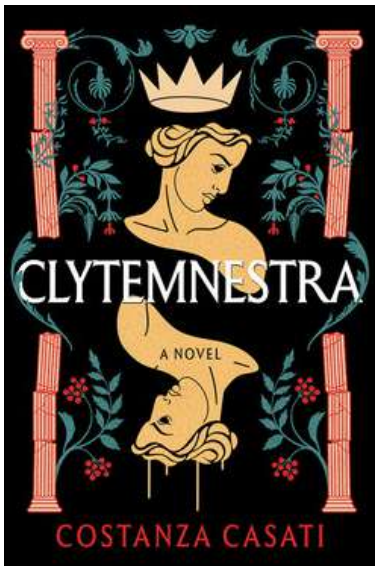
From *New York Times*-bestselling author Ayana Gray comes a new kind of villain origin story, reimagining one of the most iconic monsters in Greek mythology as a provocative and powerful young heroine.



Hekate, The Witch

By Nikita Gill

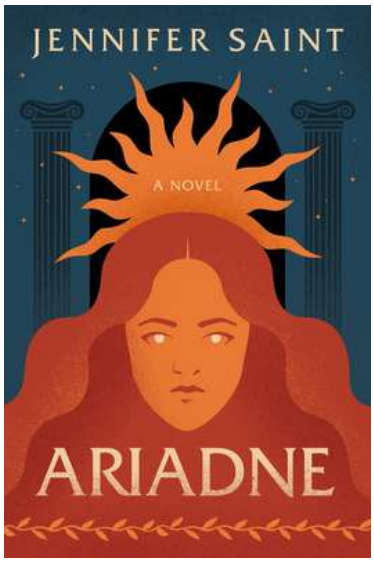
A propulsive, electrifying and enraging retelling of the life of Greek goddess Hekate, child of war turned all-powerful goddess of witchcraft and necromancy.



Clytemnestra

By Costanza Casati

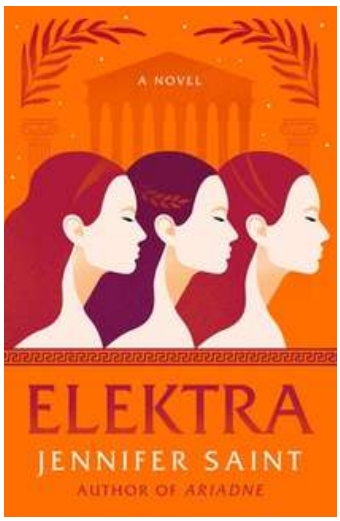
As for queens, they are either hated or forgotten. She already knows which option suits her best...



Ariadne

By Jennifer Saint

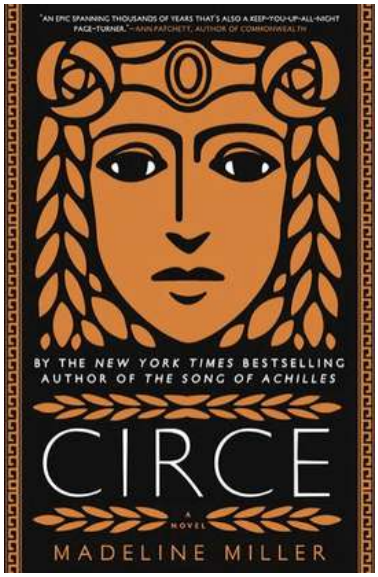
Ariadne, Princess of Crete, grows up greeting the dawn from her beautiful dancing floor and listening to her nursemaid's stories of gods and heroes. But beneath her golden palace echo the ever-present hoofbeats of her brother, the Minotaur, a monster who demands blood sacrifice.



Elektra

By Jennifer Saint

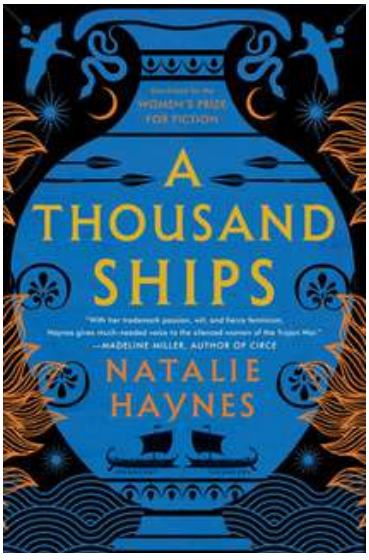
The House of Atreus is cursed. A bloodline tainted by a generational cycle of violence and vengeance. This is the story of three women, their fates inextricably tied to this curse, and the fickle nature of men and gods.



Circe

By Madeline Miller

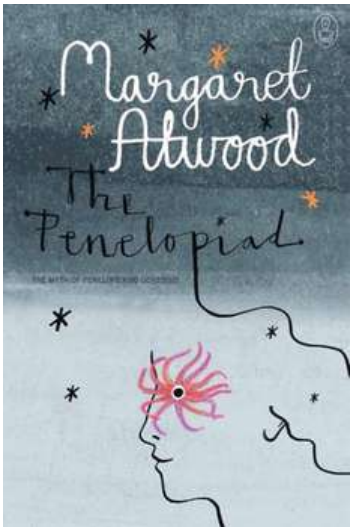
In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child—neither powerful like her father nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power: the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves.



A Thousands Ships

By Natalie Haynes

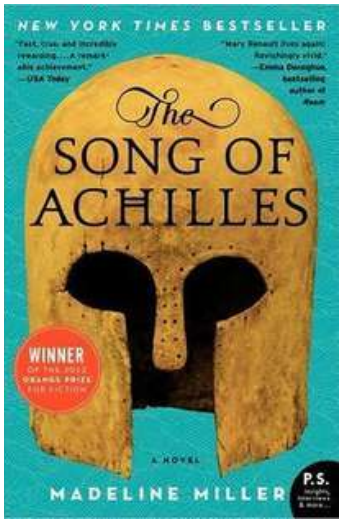
In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen. These are the stories of the women whose lives, loves, and rivalries were forever altered by this long and tragic war.



The Penelopiad

By Margaret Atwood

In Homer's account in The Odyssey, Penelope—wife of Odysseus and cousin of the beautiful Helen of Troy—is portrayed as the quintessential faithful wife, her story a salutary lesson through the ages. Margaret Atwood has chosen to give the telling of it to Penelope to ask “What was Penelope *really* up to?”

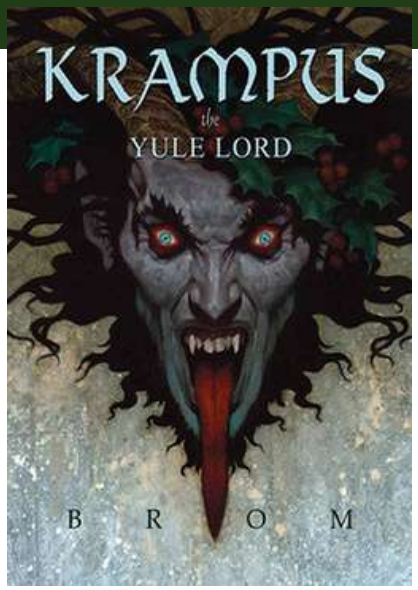


The Song Of Achilles

By Madeline Miller

Achilles, "the best of all the Greeks," son of the cruel sea goddess Thetis and the legendary king Peleus, is strong, swift, and beautiful, irresistible to all who meet him. Patroclus is an awkward young prince, exiled from his homeland after an act of shocking violence. Brought together by chance, they forge an inseparable bond, despite risking the gods' wrath.

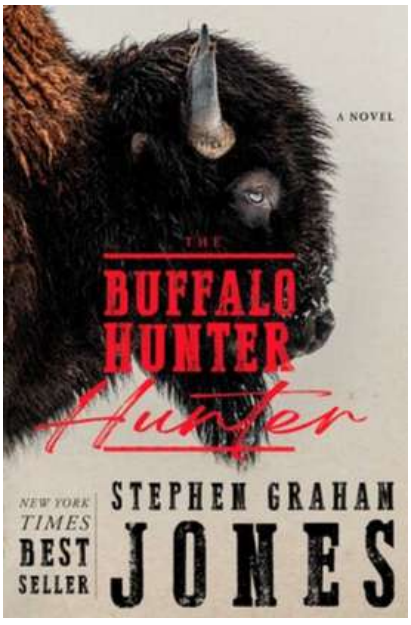
For Horror Fans



Krampus:
The Yule Lord

By Brom

Santa Claus, my dear old friend, you are a thief, a traitor, a slanderer, a murderer, a liar, but worst of all you are a mockery of everything for which I stood. You have sung your last ho, ho, ho, for I am coming for your head. . . . I am coming to take back what is mine, to take back Yuletide . . .

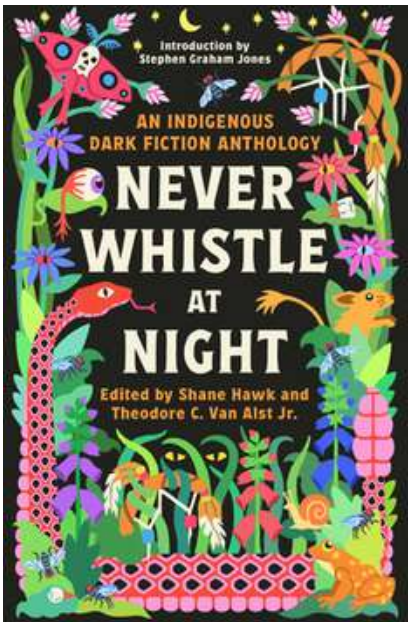


The Buffalo Hunter Hunter

By Stephen Graham Jones

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Only Good Indians* comes a tale of the American West, writ in blood.

This chilling historical novel is set in the nascent days of the state of Montana, following a Blackfeet Indian named Good Stab as he haunts the fields of the Blackfeet Nation looking for justice.



Never Whistle at Night:
An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology

Edited By Shane Hawk, Theodore C. Van Alst Jr.

Many Indigenous people believe that one should never whistle at night. This belief takes many forms, but what all these legends hold in common is the certainty that whistling at night can cause evil spirits to appear—and even follow you home



Starling House

By Alix E. Harrow

A grim and gothic new tale from author Alix E. Harrow about a small town haunted by secrets that can't stay buried and the sinister house that sits at the crossroads of it all.

Witchcraft For Wayward Girls

By Grady Hendrix

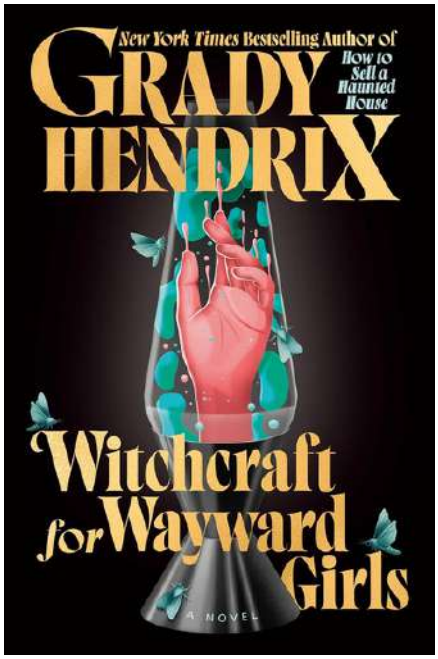
They call them wayward girls.

They're sent to the Wellwood House, where every moment of their day is controlled.

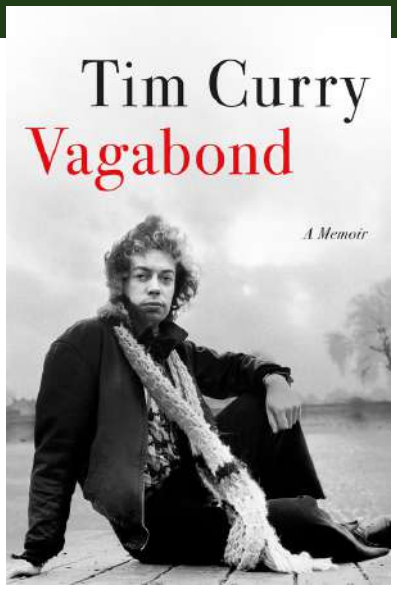
Then Fern meets a librarian who gives her a book about witchcraft, and power is in the girls' hands for the first time in their lives. But power is never given freely.

There's always a price to be paid.

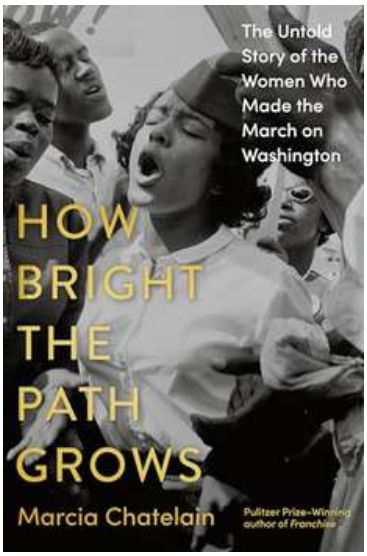
And it's usually paid in blood.



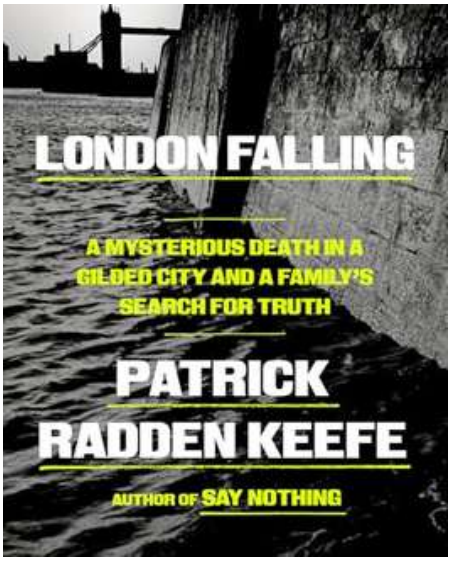
Memoirs & Biographies



Vagabond
By Tim Curry
This memoir is a celebration of Tim Curry's life's work, and a testament to his profound impact on the entertainment industry as we know it today.

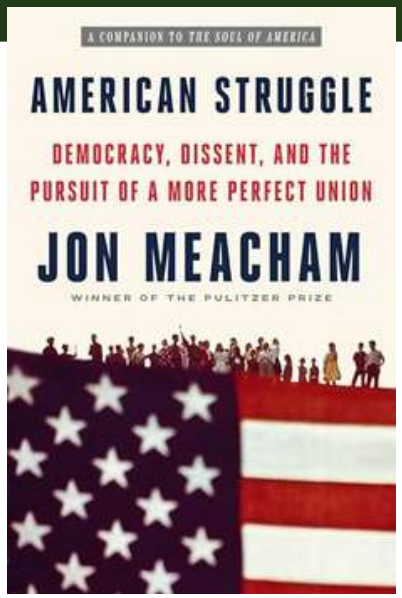


How Bright the Path Grows:
The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the March on Washington
By Marcia Chatelain
From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Franchise comes the little-known story of the pioneering
Black women artists & activists who were seen, but barely heard, at the 1963 March on Washington.



London Falling:
A Mysterious Death in a Gilded City
& A Family's Search for Truth
By Patrick Radden Keefe
A spellbinding account of a family devastated by the sudden death of their nineteen-year-old son, only to discover that he had created a secret life which drew him into the dangerous criminal underworld that lies beneath London's glittering surface

Politics and Getting Involved



American Struggle: Democracy, Dissent, & The Pursuit of a More Perfect Union

An Anthology By Jon Meacham

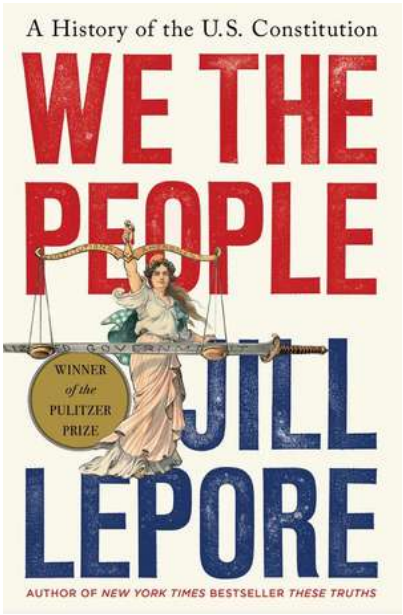
The author of *The Soul of America* unites centuries of essential American voices to understand our national debates and divisions from 1619 to the present, with his signature commentary on the consequential speeches, letters, and essays that led us to this moment.



Lead from the Outside: How to Build Your Future and Make Real Change

By Stacey Abrams

Lead from the Outside is the handbook for outsiders, written with an eye toward the challenges that hinder women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and millennials ready to make change.



We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution

By Jill Lepore

Jill Lepore, Harvard professor of history and law, offers a wholly new history of the Constitution by recounting centuries of attempts, mostly by ordinary Americans, to realize its promise.