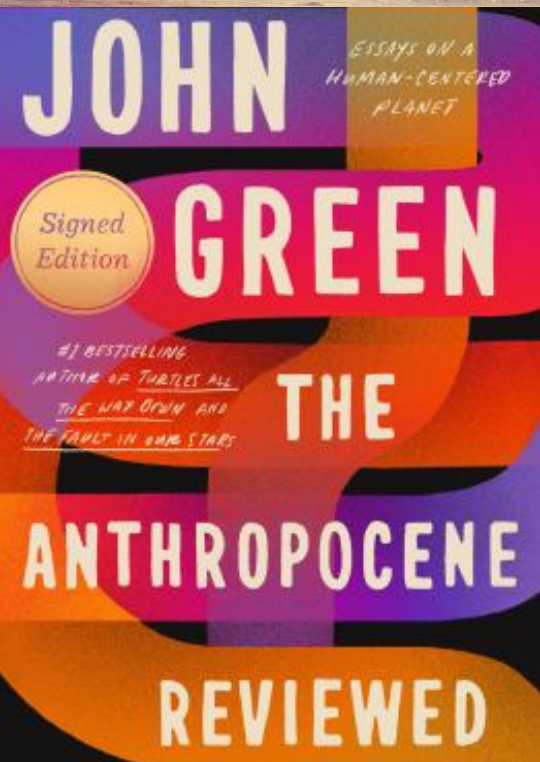


# STAFF PICKS

Winter  
2022



Aurora  
Public  
Library  
District



## THE ANTHROPOCENE REVIEWED

John Green

The Anthropocene is the current geological age, in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his groundbreaking podcast, John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet.

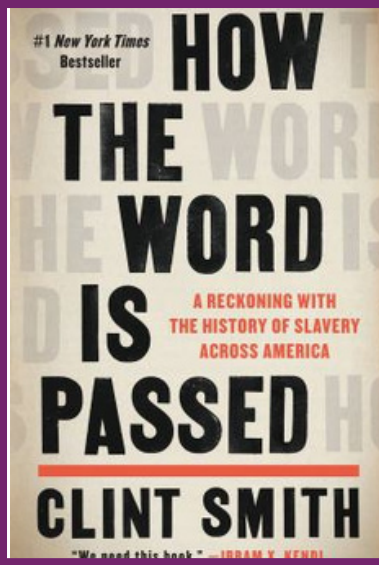
Adult Non-Fiction

## A THOUSAND WELCOMES

Mary Lee Donovan

Introduces scenes of hospitality and the word for "welcome" in more than twelve languages and cultures.

Children's Picture Book



## HOW THE WORD IS PASSED

Clint Smith

Beginning in his own hometown of New Orleans, Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable tour of monuments and landmarks - those that are honest about the past and those that are not - that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nations collective history, and ourselves.

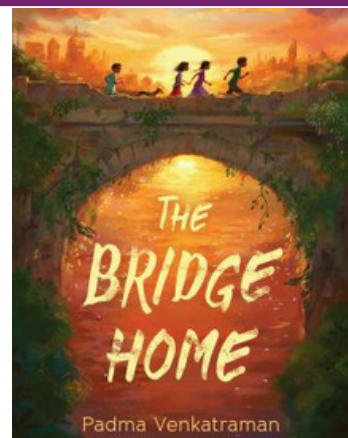
Adult Non-Fiction

## THE BRIDGE HOME

Padma Venkatraman

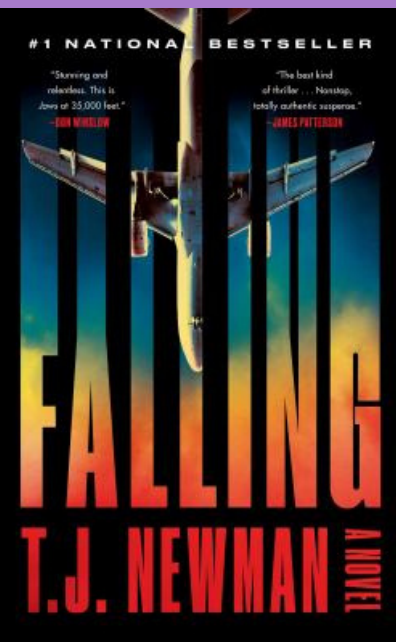
Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Chennai, India.

Middle Grade Fiction



Padma Venkatraman

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

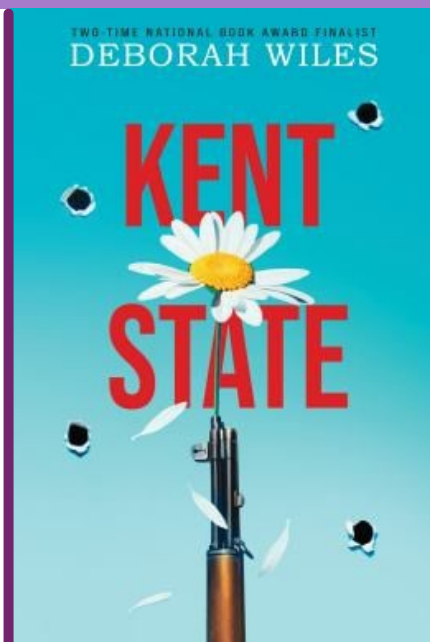


## FALLING

T.J. Newman

Thirty minutes before a flight to New York, the family of the pilot is kidnapped and in order for them to live, all 143 passengers onboard must die.

Adult Fiction



## KENT STATE

Deborah Wiles

Told from different points of view-- protesters, students, National Guardsmen, and "townies"-- recounting the story of what happened at Kent State in May 1970, when four college students were killed by National Guardsmen.

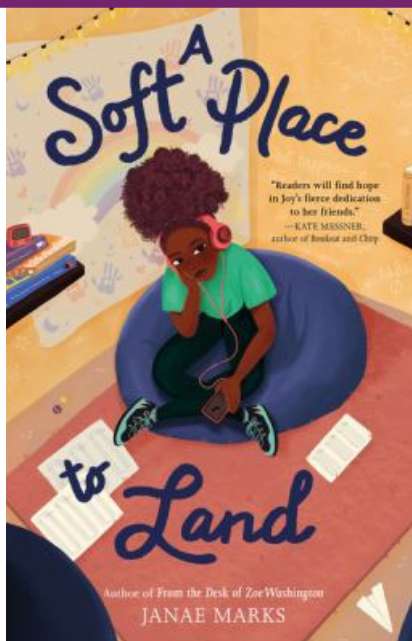
Teen Fiction

## A SOFT PLACE TO LAND

Janae Marks

Twelve-year old Joy dreams of writing music for the movies, but first she has to survive her family's move into a small apartment when her father loses his job.

Middle Grade Fiction

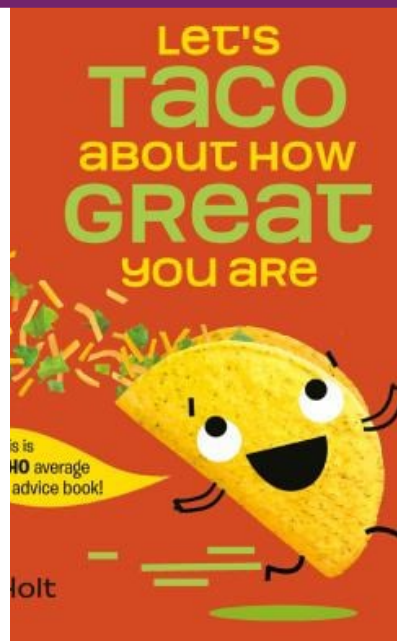


## LET'S TACO ABOUT HOW GREAT YOU ARE

Bob Holt

A food-themed, pun-filled book of advice and encouragement for children.

Children's Picture Book

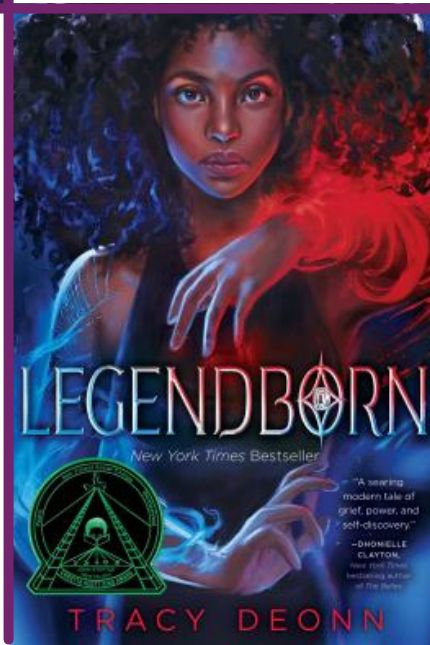


## THE BEST OF ME

David Sedaris

For more than twenty-five years, David Sedaris has been carving out a unique literary space, virtually creating his own genre. Now, for the first time collected in one volume, the author brings us his funniest and most memorable work.

Adult Non-Fiction



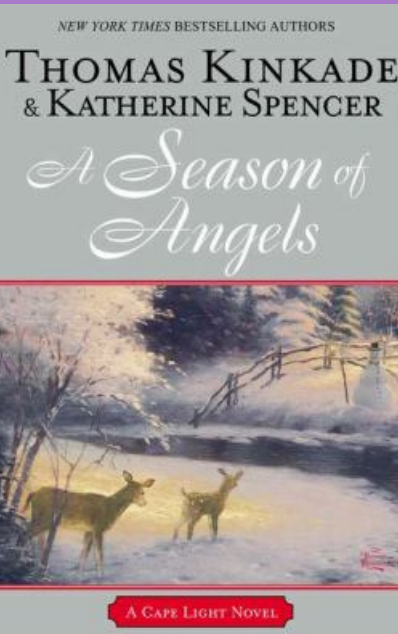
## LEGENDBORN

Tracy Deonn

After her mother dies, sixteen-year-old Bree wants nothing to do with her childhood home. A residential program for high schoolers at UNC-Chapel Hill seems like the perfect escape--until Bree witnesses a magical attack. A failed mind-wiping unlocks Bree's own magic and a buried memory.

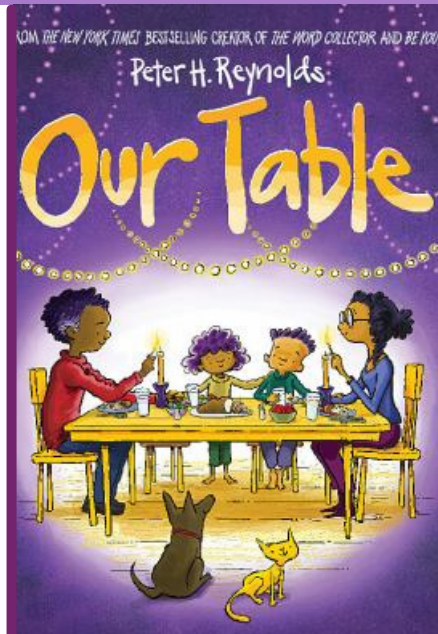
Teen Fiction

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks



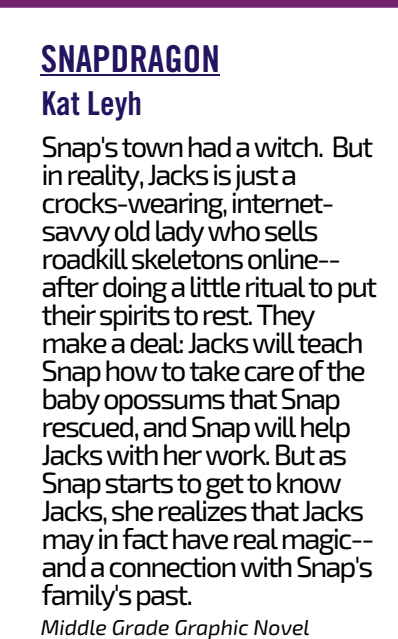
## **A SEASON OF ANGELS: A CAPE LIGHT NOVEL** Thomas Kinkadee & Katherine Spencer

Adele Morgan has made a few mistakes in her life. After a serious medical scare, she realizes that her greatest regret is that she sat idly by while a petty dispute tore her family apart. She has returned to Cape Light determined to mend the relationship between her feuding sons and bring everyone together for the holidays. A daunting challenge even for a mother's brave and loving heart.  
*Adult Fiction*



## **OUR TABLE** Peter H. Reynolds

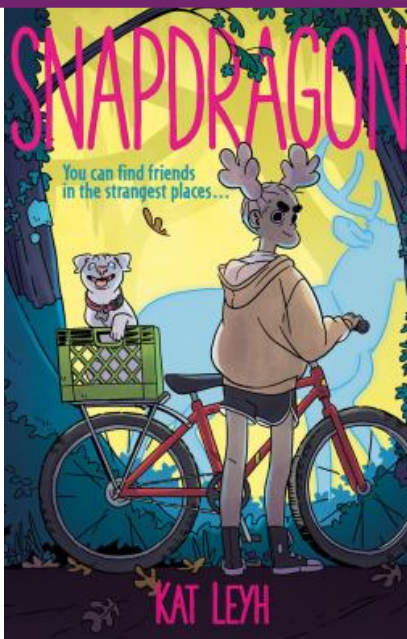
Violet longs for the time when her family was connected. They used to gather at the table, with food and love, to make memories, share their lives, and revel in time spent together. But now her family has been drifting apart, and with nobody to gather around it, the table grows smaller and smaller. Can Violet remind her family of the warmth of time spent together, and gather around the table once more?  
*Children's Picture Book*



## **SNAPDRAGON** Kat Leyh

Snap's town had a witch. But in reality, Jacks is just a crocks-wearing, internet-savvy old lady who sells roadkill skeletons online--after doing a little ritual to put their spirits to rest. They make a deal: Jacks will teach Snap how to take care of the baby opossums that Snap rescued, and Snap will help Jacks with her work. But as Snap starts to get to know Jacks, she realizes that Jacks may in fact have real magic--and a connection with Snap's family's past.

*Middle Grade Graphic Novel*



## **BUT FIRST, WE NAP!** David Miles & Darya Dremova

Sloth wants to nap. Rabbit doesn't. Who will win in the end? For every parent who's struggled to get their child to nap, *But First, We Nap* is a hilarious book to replace the naptime wrestle. Funny illustrations depict Rabbit upping his antics while the ever-patient sloth repeats, "But first, we nap." Finally worn out, Rabbit gives in, and the pair--and hopefully your child--snuggle and nod off. The perfect book for nap time!

*Children's Board Book*

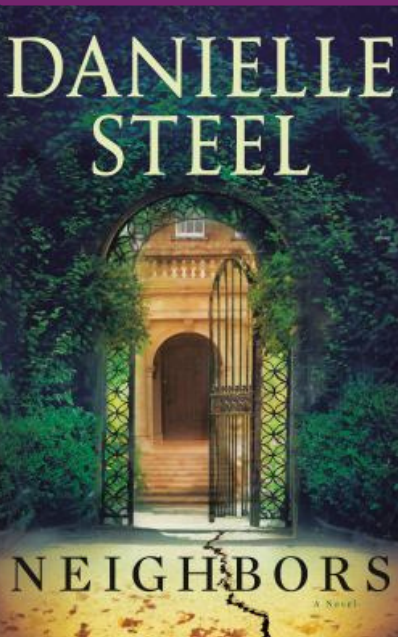


## **WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A REBOZO?**

Carmen Tafolla

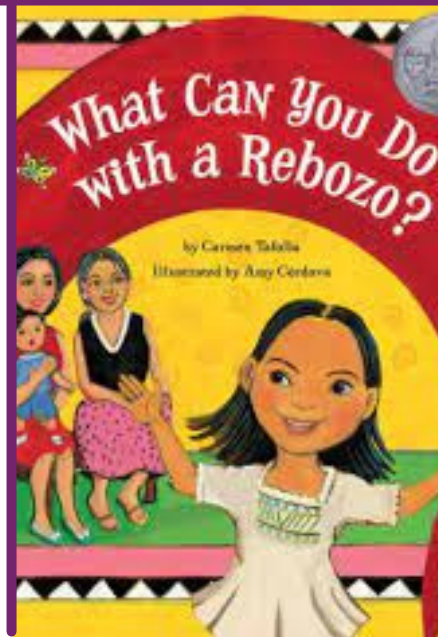
A spunky young girl explains the many uses of her mother's red rebozo, a traditional Mexican woven shawl.

*Children's Picture Book*

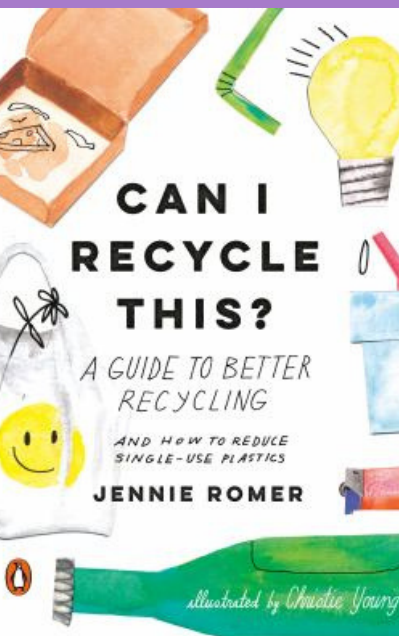


## **NEIGHBORS** Danielle Steel

"Meredith White was one of Hollywood's most recognizable faces. But a personal tragedy cut her acting career short and alienated her from her family. For the last fifteen years, Meredith has been living alone in San Francisco with two trusted caretakers. Then, on a muggy late summer day, a massive earthquake strikes. Without a moment's hesitation, Meredith invites her stunned and shaken neighbors into her mostly undamaged home as the recovery begins.  
*Adult Fiction*



# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

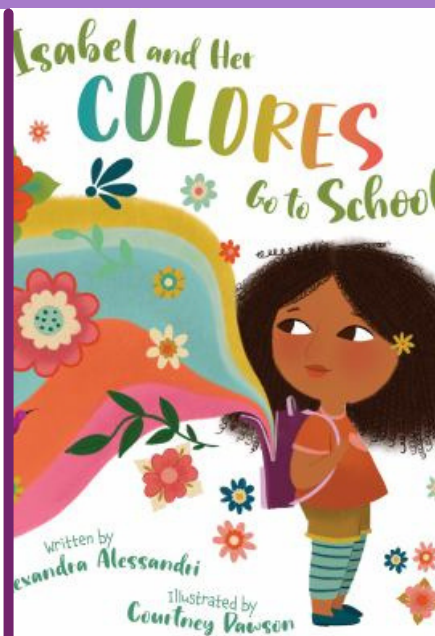


## CAN I RECYCLE THIS?

Jennie Romer

This practical guide to recycling includes a look at how recycling actually works, how to better handle the waste we produce, the way rules differ in every municipality and which common household objects can or cannot be recycled.

Adult Non-Fiction



## ISABEL AND HER COLORES GO TO SCHOOL

Alexandra Alessandri

English just feels wrong to Isabel. She prefers her native Spanish. As she prepares for a new school, she knows she's going to have to learn. Her first day is uncomfortable, until she employs her crayons and discovers there's more than one way to communicate with new friends.

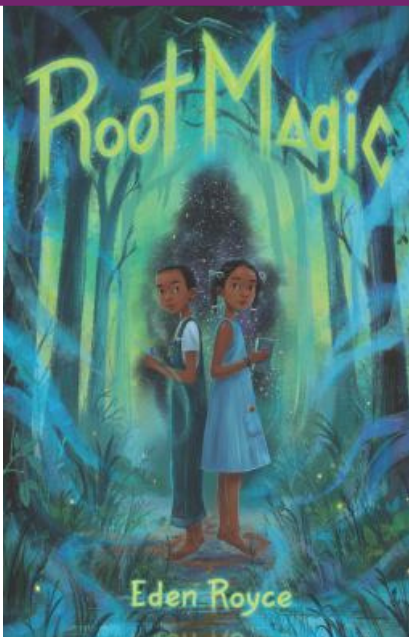
Children's Picture Book

## ROOT MAGIC

Eden Royce

It's 1963, and things are changing for Jezebel Turner. Her beloved grandmother has just passed away. The local police deputy won't stop harassing her family. With school integration arriving in South Carolina, Jez and her twin brother, Jay, are about to begin the school year with a bunch of new kids. But the biggest change comes when Jez and Jay turn eleven and their uncle, Doc, tells them he's going to train them in rootwork.

Middle Grade Fiction

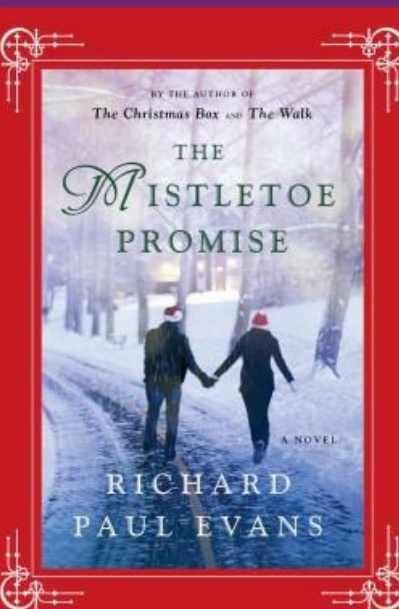
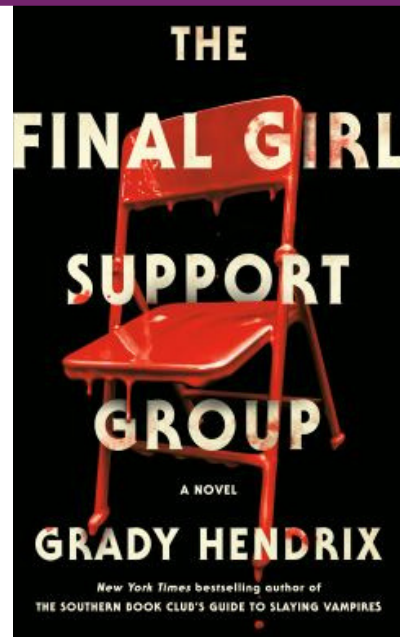


## THE FINAL GIRL SUPPORT GROUP

Grady Hendrix

In horror movies, the final girls are the ones left standing when the credits roll. They made it through the worst night of their lives...but what happens after? Lynnette Tarkington is a real-life final girl who survived a massacre. For more than a decade, she's been meeting with five other final girls and their therapist in a support group, working to put their lives back together. Then one woman misses a meeting, and their worst fears are realized...

Adult Fiction

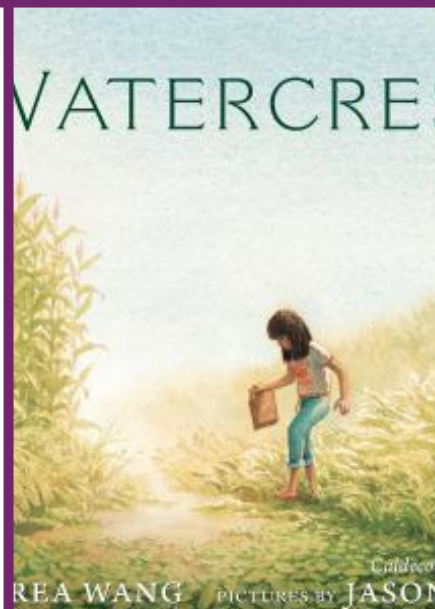


## THE MISTLETOE PROMISE

Richard Paul Evans

Alone and distrustful after a bitter divorce, Elise surprises herself by accepting a proposition from a man who lives in her building that they pretend to be a couple for the weeks preceding the Christmas holiday.

Adult Fiction



## WATERCRESS

Andrea Wang

Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents.

Children's Picture Book

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

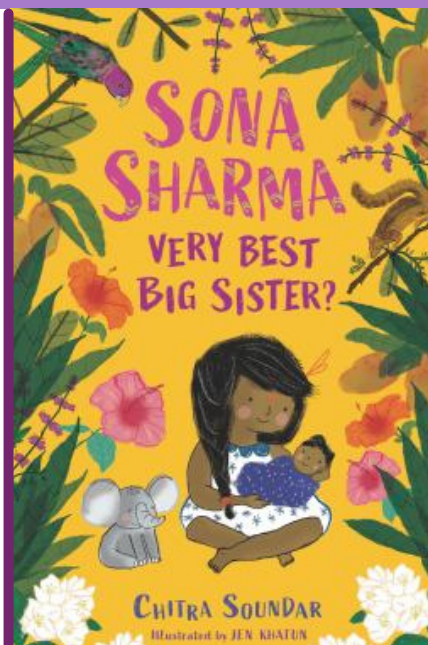


## LOOKING FOR JUMBIES

Tracey Baptiste

Mama says jumbies exist only in stories. So Naya sets out on a nighttime adventure to find out for herself ... Naya is sure that jumbies are real. Some have big mouths. Or thick fur. Or glowing skin. Or sharp teeth. Kind of like her new friends...

Children's Picture Book



## SONA SHARMA, VERY BEST BIG SISTER

Chitra Soundar

Sona is not sure how she feels about a new baby in the family until the baby-naming ceremony, during which she is determined to find the best name for her new brother or sister.

Children's Young Fiction

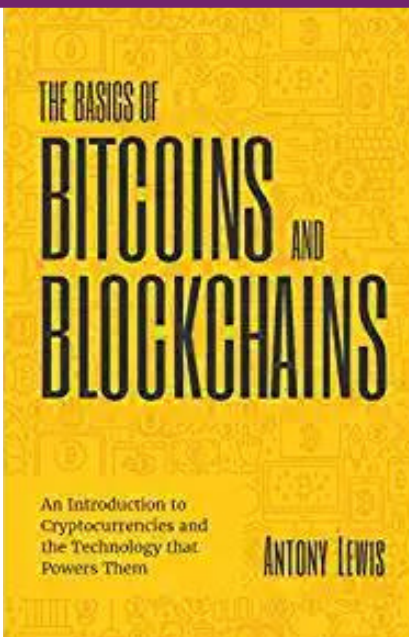
## THE BASICS OF BITCOINS AND BLOCK CHAINS

Antony Lewis

There's a lot of information on cryptocurrency and blockchains out there. But, for the uninitiated, most of this information can be indecipherable. The Basics of Bitcoins and Blockchains aims to provide an accessible guide to this new currency and the revolutionary technology that powers it.

Adult Non-Fiction

\*Only available as an ebook, use [LINKin](#) for other options

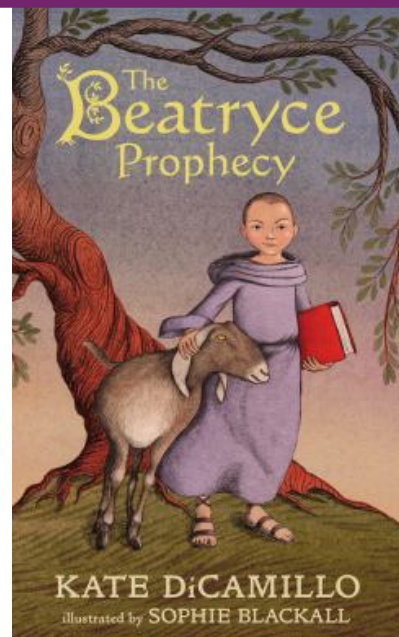


## THE BEATRICE PROPHECY

Kate DiCamillo

In a time of war, a mysterious child appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Gentle Brother Edik finds the girl, Beatrice, curled in a stall, wracked with fever, coated in dirt and blood, and holding fast to the ear of Answelica the goat. As the monk nurses Beatrice to health, he uncovers her dangerous secret, one that imperils them all--for the king of the land seeks just such a girl, and Brother Edik, who penned the prophecy himself, knows why.

Middle Grade Fiction



"A brilliant, biting, hilarious new novel. The Hating Game will take the romance world by storm. One of the best I've read ever!" —KRISTAN HOLLAND, New York Times bestselling author

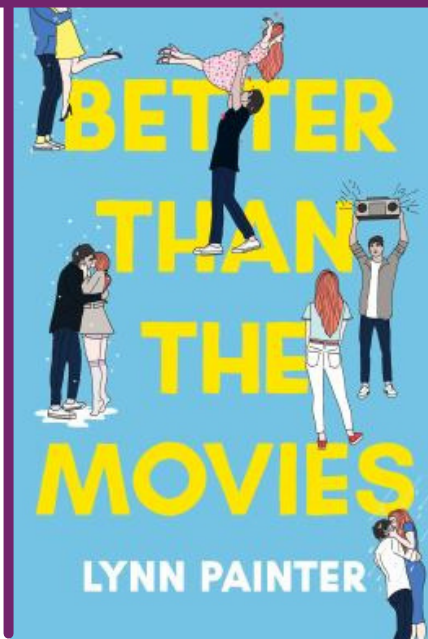


## THE HATING GAME

Sally Thorne

Lucy Hutton and Joshua Templeman hate each other. Not dislike. Not begrudgingly tolerate. Hate. Now up for the same promotion, their battle of wills has come to a head and Lucy refuses to back down when their latest game could cost her her dream job...But the tension between Lucy and Joshua has also reached its boiling point, and Lucy is discovering that maybe she doesn't hate Joshua. And maybe, he doesn't hate her either. Or maybe this is just another game.

Adult Fiction



## BETTER THAN THE MOVIES

Lynn Painter

Michael, to whom Liz Buxbaum gave her heart long ago, has returned but to get his attention and, perhaps, a prom date she must scheme with her nemesis Wes, her next-door neighbor.

Teen Fiction

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks



## THE PRINCESS WHO SAVED HERSELF

**Greg Pak**

The Princess Who Saved Herself reinvents the princess myth for a new generation, telling the story of an awesome kid who lives with her pet snake and plays rock 'n' roll all day to the huge annoyance of the classical guitarist witch who lives down the road. Hijinks, conflicts, and a fun reconciliation ensues! Based on the beloved song by internet superstar musician Jonathan Coulton.

*Middle Grade Graphic Novel*

**Mhairi McFarlane**  
INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

## *Just Last Night*



*Two best friends. One missed chance.  
A night that changes everything.*

## JUST LAST NIGHT

**Mhairi McFarlane**

When one night changes everything between her and her best friends, Eve wonders if she really knew them at all as her future veers in a surprising new direction when someone from the past comes back into her life.

*Adult Fiction*

## ORDINARY GRACE

**William Kent Krueger**

Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

*Adult Fiction*

## ORDINARY GRACE

A NOVEL

WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER



## MASTERING BITCOIN

**Andreas M. Antonopoulos**

Mastering Bitcoin is your guide through the seemingly complex world of bitcoin, providing the knowledge you need to participate in the internet of money. Whether you're building the next killer app, investing in a startup, or simply curious about the technology, this revised and expanded second edition provides essential detail to get you started.

*Adult Non-Fiction*  
\*Only available as an e-audiobook, use LINKin for other options



Andreas M. Antonopoulos

## *Battle Royal*

LUCY PARKER

## BATTLE ROYAL

**Lucy Parker**

After being kicked off a baking competition show by judge Dominic De Vere, successful London baker Sylvie Fairchild returns to "Operation Cake" as a judge, setting off an intense rivalry and maybe a bit of romance.

*Adult Fiction*

From the author of *THE BRIDGE HOME*

## BORN BEHIND BARS

A NOVEL BY  
Padma Venkatraman

## BORN BEHIND BARS

**Padma Venkatraman**

In Chennai, India, after spending his whole life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, nine-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and has to figure out how to survive on his own in the outside world.

*Middle Grade Fiction*

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

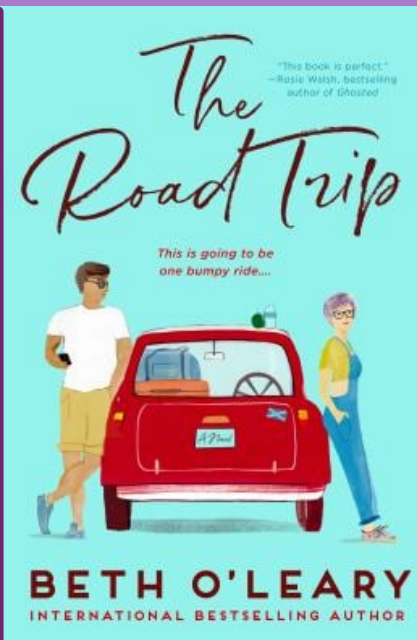


## SÉ LO QUE QUIERES

**Samantha M. Bailey**

En una fracción de segundo, la vida de Morgan Kincaid cambia para siempre. Ella iba de regreso a casa cuando una madre le pide que detenga a su bebé, después se lo entrega en brazos. Antes de que Morgan pudiera detenerla, la perturbada mamá salta justo enfrente del tren que entraba a la estación. La policía detiene a Morgan para un interrogatorio. Para probar su inocencia, Morgan tendrá que investigar los últimos días de la vida de Nicole.

Adult Spanish Fiction

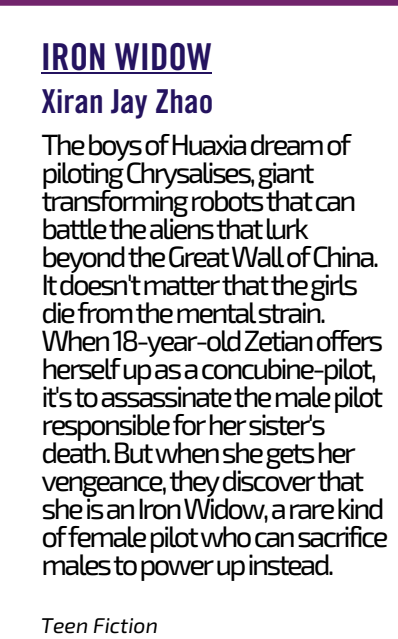


## THE ROAD TRIP

**Beth O'Leary**

Four years ago, Dylan and Addie fell in love. Two years ago, their relationship ended. They haven't spoken since. Today, Dylan's and Addie's lives collide again. Addie and Dylan crash cars at the start of the journey to their friend's wedding. They and their passengers set off across Britain. Dylan and Addie are forced to confront the choices they made that tore them apart--and ask themselves whether that final decision was right.

Adult Fiction

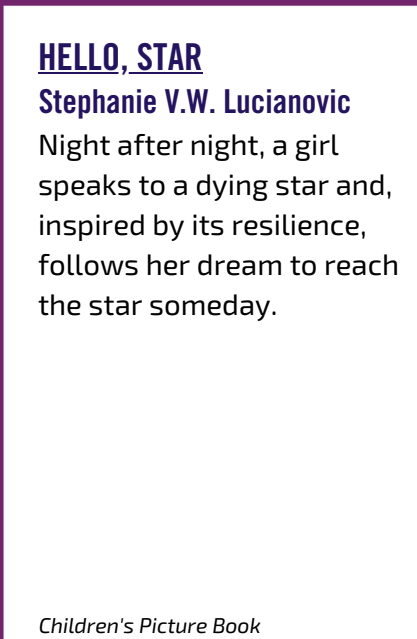


## IRON WIDOW

**Xiran Jay Zhao**

The boys of Huaxia dream of piloting Chrysalises, giant transforming robots that can battle the aliens that lurk beyond the Great Wall of China. It doesn't matter that the girls die from the mental strain. When 18-year-old Zetian offers herself up as a concubine-pilot, it's to assassinate the male pilot responsible for her sister's death. But when she gets her vengeance, they discover that she is an Iron Widow, a rare kind of female pilot who can sacrifice males to power up instead.

Teen Fiction

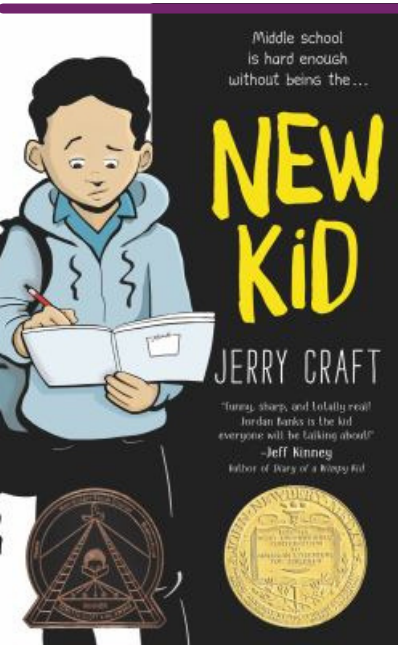


## HELLO, STAR

**Stephanie V.W. Lucianovic**

Night after night, a girl speaks to a dying star and, inspired by its resilience, follows her dream to reach the star someday.

Children's Picture Book

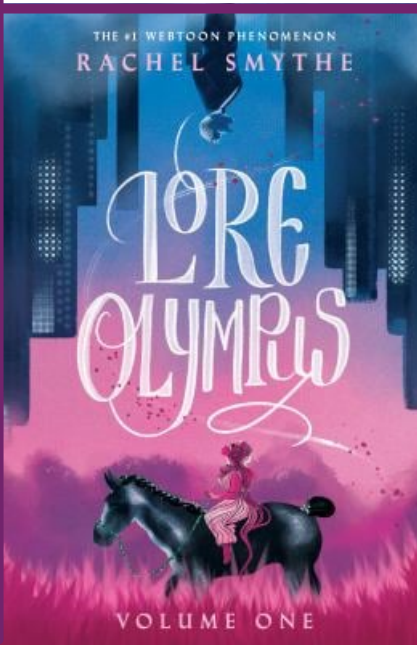


## NEW KID

**Jerry Craft**

After his parents send him to a prestigious private school known for its academics, Jordan Banks finds himself torn between two worlds.

Middle Grade Graphic Novel



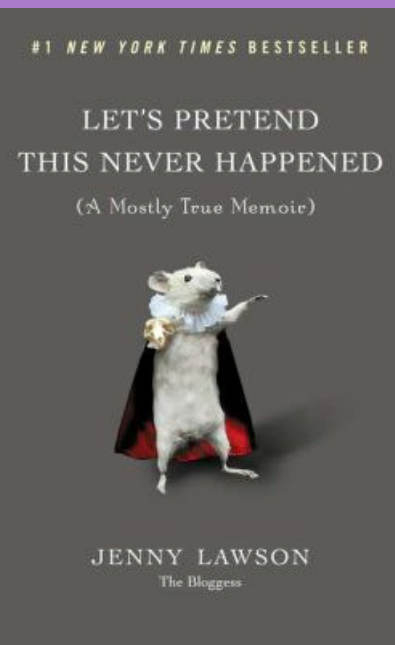
## LORE OLYMPICS

**Rachel Smythe**

Persephone, young goddess of spring, is new to Olympus. Her mother, Demeter, has raised her in the mortal realm, but after Persephone promises to train as a sacred virgin, she's allowed to live in the fast-moving, glamorous world of the gods. When her roommate, Artemis, takes her to a party, her entire life changes: she ends up meeting Hades and feels an immediate spark with the charming yet misunderstood ruler of the Underworld.

Adult Graphic Novel

# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

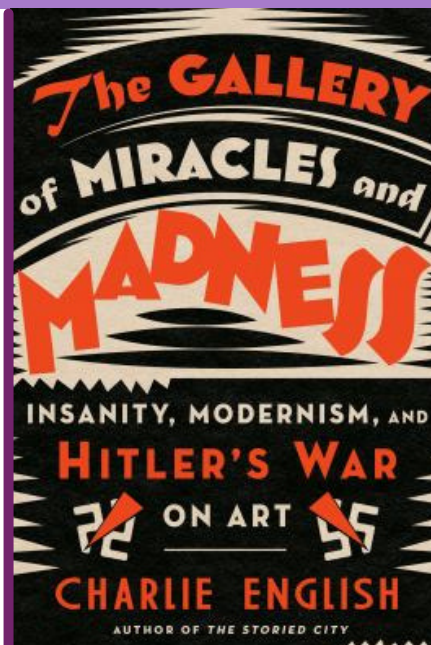


## LET'S PRETEND THIS NEVER HAPPENED (A MOSTLY TRUE MEMOIR)

Jenny Lawson

In an illustrated memoir, the creator of the Bloggess blog shares humorous stories from her life, including her awkward upbringing in Texas and her relationship with her husband.

Adult Non-Fiction

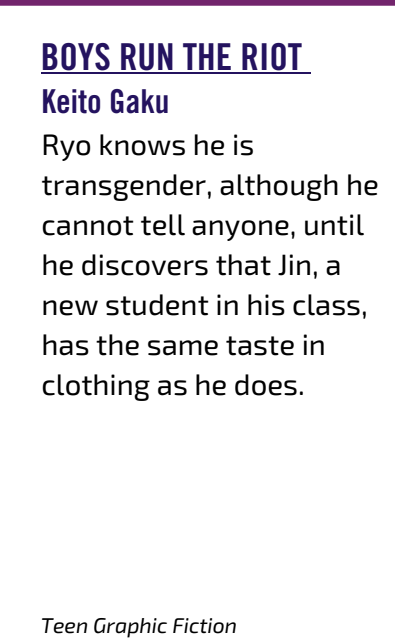


## THE GALLERY OF MIRACLES AND MADNESS: INSANITY, MODERNISM, AND HITLER'S WAR ON ART

Charlie English

The untold story of Hitler's war on "degenerate" artists and the mentally ill that served as a model for the "Final Solution."

Adult Non-Fiction



## BOYS RUN THE RIOT

Keito Gaku

Ryo knows he is transgender, although he cannot tell anyone, until he discovers that Jin, a new student in his class, has the same taste in clothing as he does.

Teen Graphic Fiction

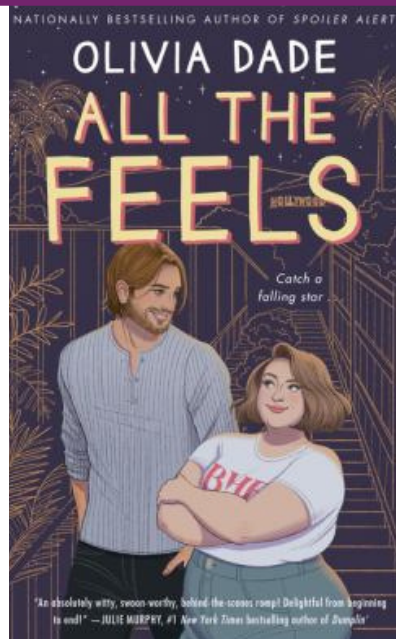


## ALL THE FEELS

Olivia Dade

After his involvement in a bar fight, a fading TV star winds up under the care of a former ER therapist who finds herself falling hard for him.

Adult Fiction-

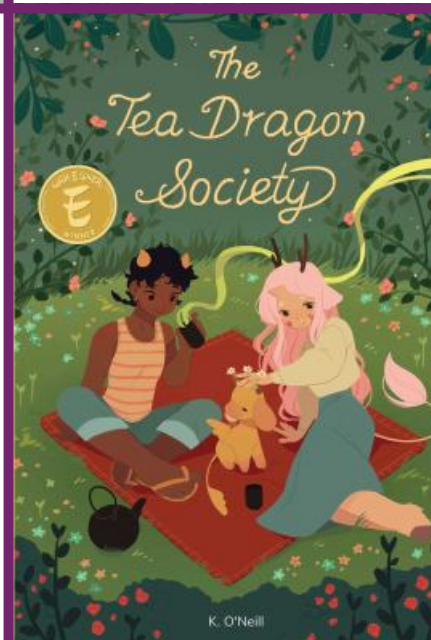


## THE LINE TENDER

Kate Allen

Following a tragedy that further alters the course of her life, twelve-year-old Lucy Everhart decides to continue the shark research her marine biologist mother left unfinished when she died years earlier.

Middle Grade Fiction



## THE TEA DRAGON SOCIETY

Katie O'Neill

After discovering a lost Tea Dragon in the marketplace, apprentice blacksmith Greta learns about the dying art form of Tea Dragon caretaking from the kind tea shop owners.

Middle Grade Graphic Novel



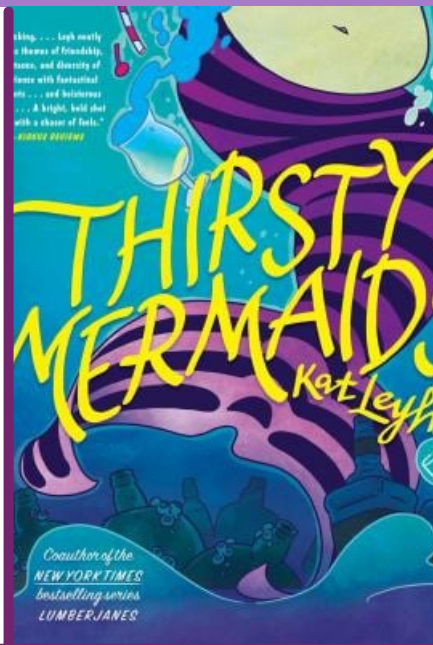
# Winter 2022 Staff Picks



## ONE LAST STOP Casey McQuiston

August doesn't believe in much. She doesn't believe in psychics, or easily forged friendships, or finding the kind of love they make movies about. And she certainly doesn't believe her ragtag band of new roommates, her night shifts at a 24-hour diner, or her subway commute full of electrical outages are going to change that. But then, there's Jane. Beautiful, impossible Jane. And when August realizes her subway crush is displaced in time from the 1970s—she thinks maybe it's time to start believing.

Adult Fiction



## THIRSTY MERMAIDS Kat Leyh

Fresh out of shipwreck wine, three tipsy mermaids decide to magically masquerade as humans and sneak onto land to indulge in much more drinking and a whole lot of fun in the heart of a local seaside tourist trap. But the good times abruptly end the next morning as, through the haze of killer hangovers, the trio realizes they never actually learned how to break the spell, and are now stuck on land for the foreseeable future.

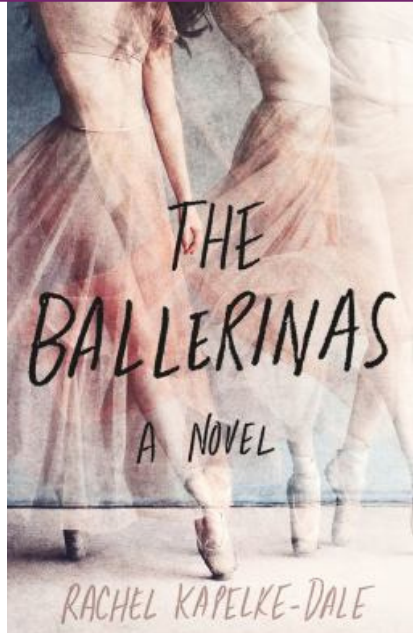
Adult Graphic Novel



## THE BALLERINAS Rachel Kapelke-Dale

Thirteen years ago, Delphine Léger abandoned her prestigious soloist spot at the Paris Opera Ballet for a new life in St. Petersburg—taking with her a secret that could upend the lives of her best friends. Now Delphine has returned to her former home and to the legendary Palais Garnier Opera House, to choreograph the ballet—and to make things right with her former friends. But Delphine quickly discovers that things have changed while she's been away...and some secrets can't stay buried forever.

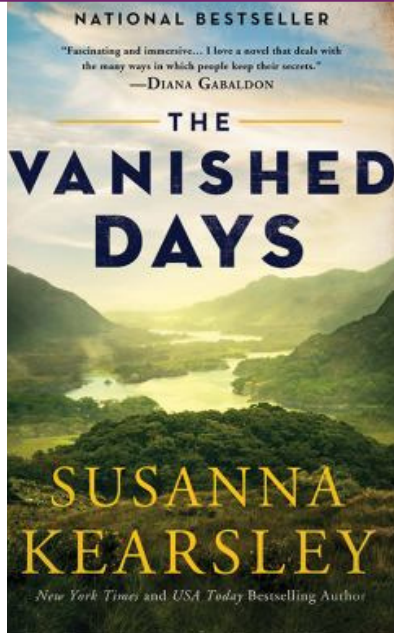
Adult Fiction



## THE VANISHED DAYS Susanna Kearsley

In the autumn of 1707, when the young widow of a Darien sailor comes forward to collect her husband's wages, her claim is challenged. One of the men assigned to investigate has only days to decide if she's honest, or if his own feelings are blinding him to the truth. Set at the cusp of the eighteenth century, in the midst of the Jacobite Rebellion, *The Vanished Days* is a brilliantly told story of espionage, loyalties divided, boundless courage and enduring love.

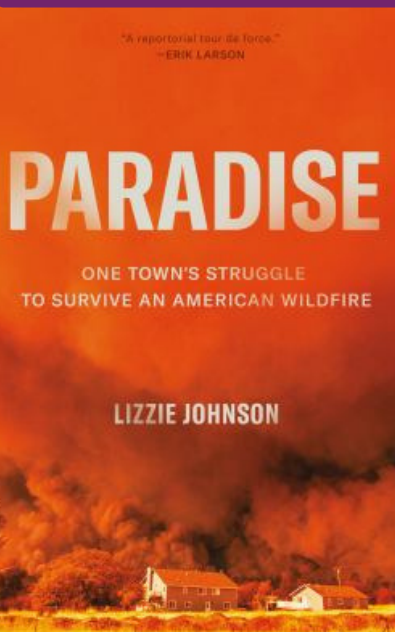
Adult Fiction



## SISTERS IN ARMS Kaia Alderson

Grace Steele and Eliza Jones may be from completely different backgrounds, but when it comes to the army, they are both starting from the same level. Not only will they be among the first class of female officers the army has even seen, they are also the first Black women allowed to serve. When they finally make it overseas, Grace and Eliza will at last be able to do their part for the country they love, whatever the risk to themselves. Based on the true story of the 6888th Postal Battalion.

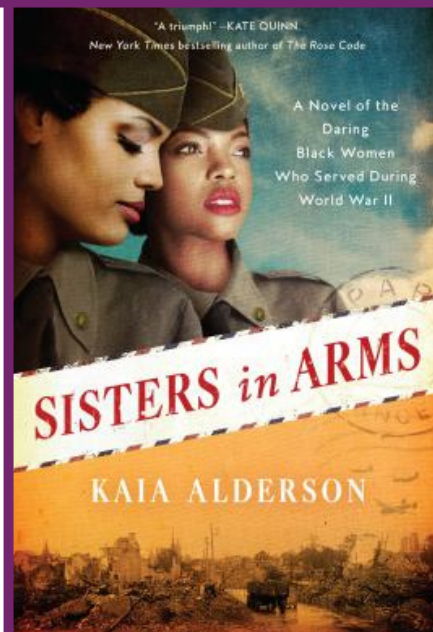
Adult Fiction



## PARADISE: ONE TOWN'S STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AN AMERICAN WILDFIRE Rachel Kapelke-Dale

The definitive firsthand account of California's Camp Fire—the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century—and a riveting examination of what went wrong and how to avert future tragedies as the climate crisis unfolds.

Adult Non-Fiction



# Winter 2022 Staff Picks

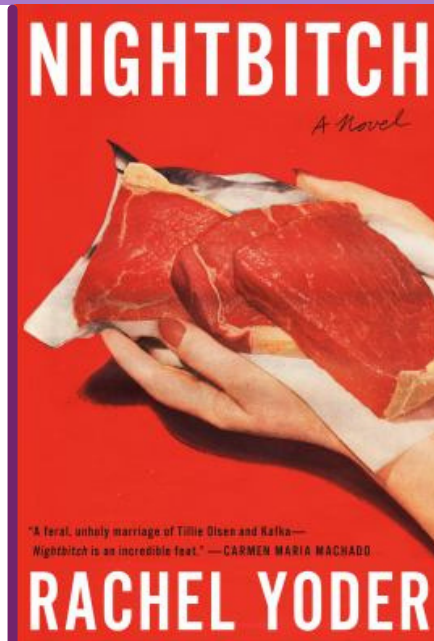


## THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT

Walter S. Tevis

Eight year-old orphan Beth Harmon is quiet, sullen, and by all appearances unremarkable. That is, until she plays her first game of chess. Her senses grow sharper, her thinking clearer, and for the first time she feels herself fully in control. By the age of sixteen, she's competing for the U.S. Open championship. But as Beth hones her skills on the professional circuit, the stakes get higher, her isolation grows more frightening, and the thought of escape becomes all the more tempting.

Adult Fiction



## NIGHTBITCH

Rachel Yoder

An artist turned stay-at-home mom becomes convinced that she is turning into a dog and, as her symptoms intensify, struggles to keep her alter-canine-identity a secret, until she meets a group of mothers who may also be more than what they seem.

Adult Fiction