



Westwood Public Library

Read Wildly

Adult Summer Reading 2026

Step outside your comfort zone —or even just outside your house—and discover something new! Track the books you read for a chance to win weekly prizes and a grand prize basket!



Get all the details here!

June 1st - August 31st



Westwood Public Library

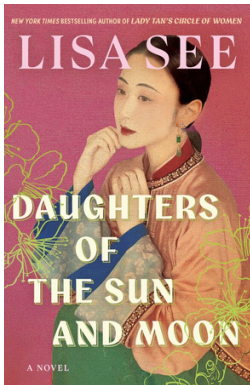
Adult Reading Guide

Summer 2026



the hottest books of the summer!

Big Names, New Books



Daughters of the Sun and Moon
Lisa See

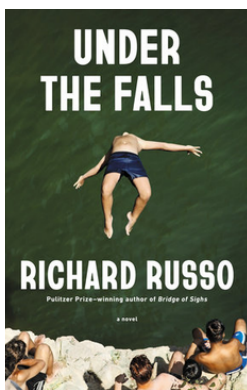
From beloved New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, the story of three Chinese women whose unexpected friendship helps them survive and, despite the odds, thrive, in the turmoil of post-Civil War Los Angeles.

June 9

Under the Falls
Richard Russo

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls* returns with a spellbinding page-turner about a crime in a small town that exposes long-held secrets and betrayals among a group of lifelong friends.

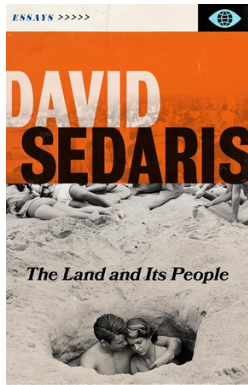
August 11



Land
Maggie O'Farrell

Tomás and his reluctant son, Liam, are working for the great Ordnance Survey project to map the whole of Ireland... A novel about separation and reunion, tragedy and recovery, colonization and rebellion.

June 2



The Land and Its People
David Sedaris

Sedaris investigates what it means to be a traveler, a brother, a lifelong friend... Throughout these essays—at once acerbic and tender, playful and profound—Sedaris shows how much there is to marvel at.

May 26

The Things We Never Say
Elizabeth Strout

Artie is plagued by feelings of isolation... then, one day, Artie learns that life has been keeping a secret from him, one that threatens to upend his entire world.

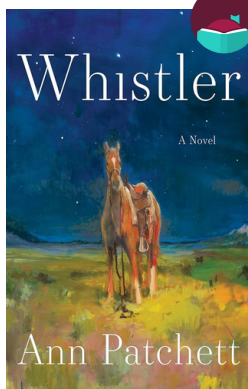
May 5



Whistler
Ann Patchett

Whistler is a story about two adults looking back over the choices they made... how love endures, and how the feeling of being known by one other person, even for a short period of time, can change everything.

June 2



Cool Machine
Colson Whitehead

An exuberantly entertaining novel that brings to life 1980s New York in the magnificent final volume of his Harlem Trilogy. Whitehead paints a portrait of a city in transition.

July 21

Big Little Truths
Liane Moriarty

Follows the same group of women from *Big Little Lies*, a decade later as their children enter high school, forcing them to confront new challenges and the lingering consequences of past secrets.

August 25



The Midnight Train
Matt Haig

For Wilbur his best days were with Maggie, the love of his life on his honeymoon in Venice. Before he gave it all away. He wishes he could go back and live differently. But to do so risks everything...

May 26



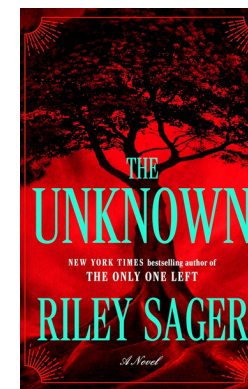
When Jane takes it upon herself to locate the owner of a small dog that has inexplicably turned up on her property, she doesn't anticipate plunging into a dark mystery that takes her a quarter-century into her own past.

June 23

The Unknown
Riley Sager

In 1926, five women disappeared from a remote island in Vermont. Now, one hundred years later, it's happening again. Is the island's alleged supernatural past catching up with the present?

August 4



The Last Mandarin
Louise Penny

An electrifying study of absolute power and voracious greed, political terror and personal conviction... The story of a mother and daughter, as well as a compelling international thriller.

May 12

Looking for hot new e-books and audiobooks without the wait? Keep an eye out for our "Available Now" logo on flyers and social media posts to get your hands on instant downloads!

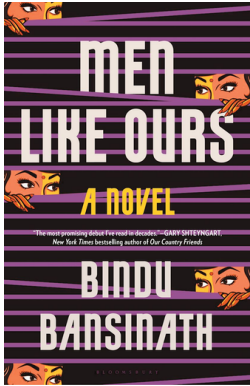


= available for download on the Libby app



Can't-Miss Novels

Across genres & styles



Men Like Ours Bindu Bansinath

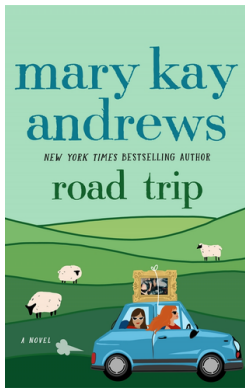
A suspicious death sparks an investigation and heated gossip in this darkly comic and moving story about death, life, and community in a South Asian suburban enclave of New Jersey.

May 12

Road Trip Mary Kay Andrews

Maeve and Therese Dunigan haven't spoken in years... But when their mother's death pulls them back together, they inherit more than just grief... the sisters set out on a journey to Ireland...

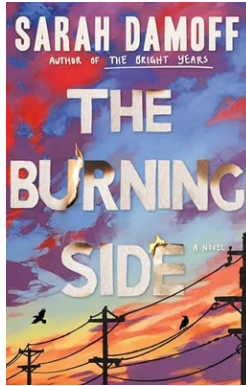
June 2



Sisters of a Halved Heart Nayantara Roy

Mira has found her soulmate in Jack, and is excited to introduce him to her father and sister. But old rivalries and a shocking betrayal upend what was supposed to be a happy ending. An exploration of love, family dynamics and the lies we tell ourselves.

June 2



The Burning Side Sarah Damoff

The story of April and Leo, a couple on the brink of collapse. When their house goes up in flames, family secrets and thorny histories emerge as they are forced to decide what is worth salvaging.

May 19

Villa Coco Andrew Sean Greer

A young man takes an unspecified job with a charismatic elderly Baronessa at her crumbling villa in the Tuscan hills... a bawdy Mediterranean ballad about becoming who we've always wanted to be.

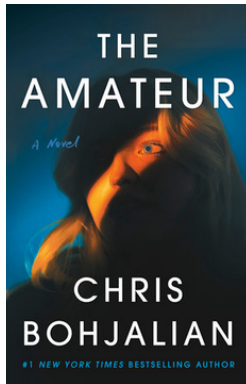
June 9



The Amateur Chris Bohjalian

When a young woman, a golf prodigy, kills a caddy with a stray ball at his country club, the investigation of this freak accident reveals a dark and shocking tale of secret affairs, predatory men, and a teenager on trial.

August 4



The Maidenheads Benny B. Peterson

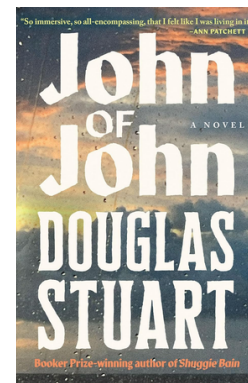
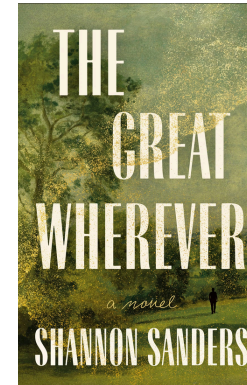
Since they (and their band) broke up a decade ago, Jamie hasn't been able to sing... about the tenacity of first love, the life-changing power of music, and the difficult, necessary work of becoming yourself.

May 26

The Great Wherever Shannon Sanders

An impulsive and heartbroken woman inherits her father's share of a Tennessee farm that is rich in family secrets and occupied with busybody ghosts. A modern masterpiece.

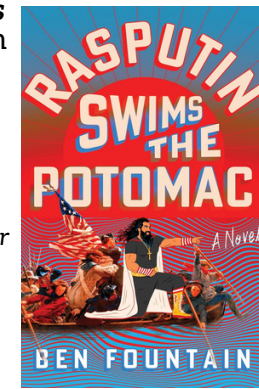
July 7



John of John Douglas Stuart

A young man returning to his Hebridean island home, a portrait of a father's expectations and a son's desires... about duty, passion, and the transformative power of the truth.

May 5



Rasputin Swims the Potomac Ben Fountain

A biting satire of American politics and a searingly intelligent novel about the absurdities of contemporary life, following a professional wrestler with presidential ambitions.

June 2

Enormous Wings Laurie Frankel

At seventy-seven Pepper Mills finds herself pregnant... An urgent novel about female agency and bodily autonomy, morality and mortality.

May 5



Everything was Beautiful and Nothing Hurt Ben Reeves

Travis is death personified living in the modern world. He has grown accustomed to staying detached so that he can do his work; but then he meets a young woman and her daughter and everything changes.

July 7



READING WILDLY
together!
THURSDAY JULY 16 &
AUGUST 20. 6-8 PM.



Bring a book or check out a new one, and join us for two relaxing evenings of quiet reading together on the Main Library patio. Refreshments provided.

Fantasy & Science Fiction



Fishbone Cinderella

Elizabeth Lim

...
A mother and daughter must break their family's curse through trials of war and immigration, love, loss, and redemption in this riveting multi-generational saga with a shimmer of magic.

July 28

Homebound

Portia Elan

...
In this novel of friendship and hard-won hope, four lives are entangled across time by one story, saved to a floppy disk in the 1980s and destined to ripple across the centuries.

May 5

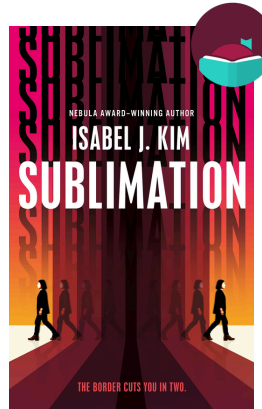


Sublimation

Isabel J. Kim

...
When you immigrate, you leave a copy of yourself behind. One person enters their new country; the other stays trapped at home. Some keep in touch, call each other daily. Others never speak to their other selves again.

June 2

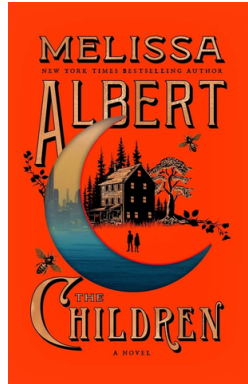


The Children

Melissa Albert

...
The estranged adult children of a legendary author, written into their dead mother's beloved fantasy series, must contend with the vine-like creep of legacy, memory, and magic.

June 2



Stay Buried

Jennifer McMahon

...
Some towns stay isolated for a reason. A queer folk horror in which a woman must confront decades of secrecy and superstition to learn the truth about her mother's death.

August 11



Headlights

CJ Leede

...
Special Agent Daniel Stansfield is ready for a change. Burnt out by the job, it's his last day with the FBI. But before he can turn in his badge, he's summoned back to Denver, the city he ran from four years ago, with a chilling message: it's happening again.

June 9



New Skin

Sarah Wang

...
A scalding, darkly humorous debut following an enmeshed mother-daughter duo, both best friends and enemies, and the plastic surgery addiction that warps their lives into a perilous spiral.

May 12

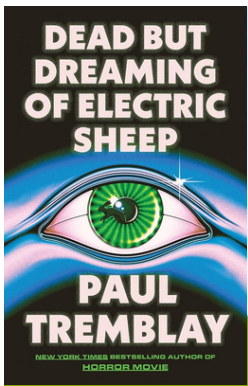


Dead but Dreaming of Electric Sheep

Paul Tremblay

...
Julia's estranged mother offers her a temp job with a payday she can't refuse. One sham interview later, she's offered the job: to chaperone a man in a vegetative state—one with proprietary AI implanted in his head.

June 30



The Unicorn Hunters

Katherine Arden

...
In a desperate gamble to save her throne, a young monarch conceals a secret marriage in the shadows of an enchanted forest—and unknowingly alters the fate of her world.

June 2



Tillinghast

Clare Cavenagh

...
A dark and utterly original literary horror debut, following a priest whose bloodthirsty life has extended far longer than any mere human's—and is upended when a stranger comes to town.

June 23

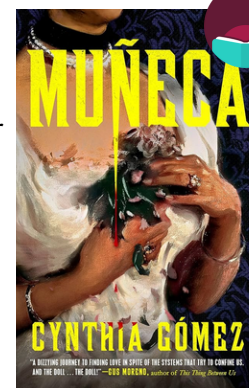


Muñeca

Cynthia Gómez

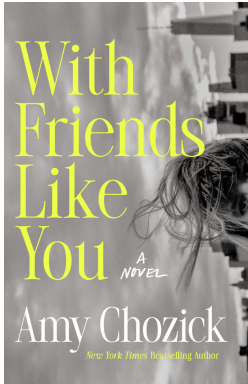
...
A vivid, surreal Gothic about a queer, Latine, working class witch who sets out to rescue a bespelled heiress and loses control of her powers and her heart in the process.

June 2



Horror

Mysteries & Thrillers



With Friends Like You Amy Chozyck

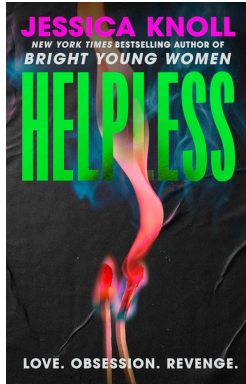
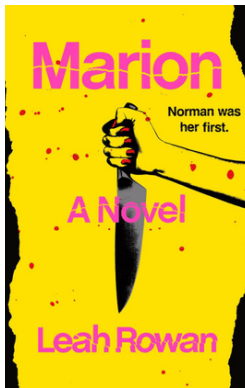
Emily is unmoored as a new mother... She begins to fixate on finding the one person who ever truly understood her: her college roommate Daisy... Is Daisy the key to Emily's happiness or is she unraveling her whole world?

July 21

Marion Leah Rowan

A twist on Hitchcock's iconic classic Psycho — where the leading lady doesn't die, but instead turns the knife on Norm, kicking off a crime spree that turns the silver screen victim into a heroine for our times.

June 2



Helpless Jessica Knoll

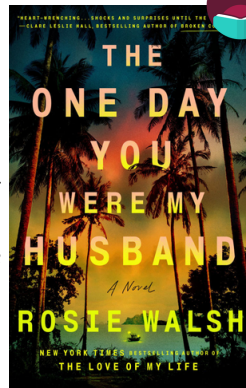
When a former college professor suddenly passes away, Faye and Henry find themselves back on campus for the funeral, circling something old and dangerous. A smoldering psychological thriller with a singular, mind-bending last page.

July 7

The One Day You Were My Husband Rosie Walsh

2010. Carrie and Johan marry on the beach in Thailand. But as the wedding festivities continue, armed men swarm the beach and arrest Johan. A love story with a dark secret at its core.

May 19



The Shippers Katherine Center

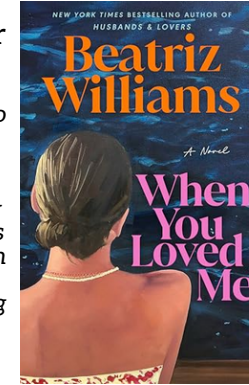
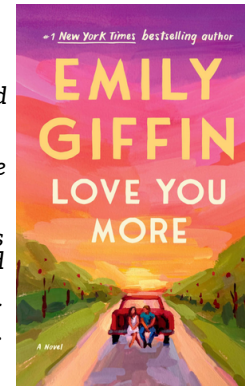
After a lifetime of being bad at love, JoJo decides to solve her issues at her sister's destination wedding on a cruise ship. Only problem is, her sister's busy—so JoJo ropes in her childhood bestie, Cooper, to be her wing man.

May 19

Love You More Emily Giffin

Billie is newly engaged to a man she adores when she receives a call from her first love with news that shatters her world. A story about the twists life throws at us—and how love, in all its forms, has the power to change everything.

July 7



When You Loved Me Beatriz Williams

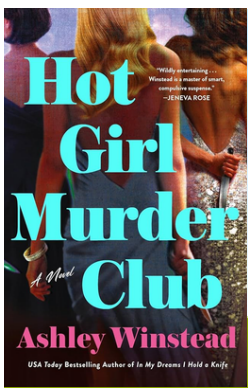
A young widow returns to her late father's New England estate, only to be drawn into the hunt for the rumored pirate treasure that consumed his life.

June 23

Meet Me in Paris Kristin Harmel

Nine Americans in Paris. Seven intertwined love stories. One City of Light. Love Actually meets The Notebook in a tale of love, loss, and finding your way home, all set over the course of one life-changing week in Paris.

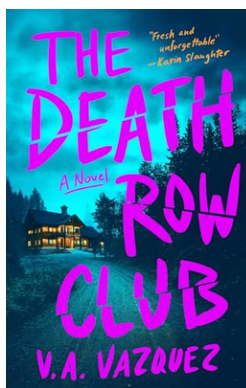
July 28



Hot Girl Murder Club Ashley Winstead

What's a girl got to do to get some fame, a few million record sales, and justice for murder? A buzzy, bloody new thriller about success, sisterhood, and demanding justice...by any means necessary.

July 14



The Death Row Club V.A. Vazquez

A woman is invited to an annual weekend getaway for the adult children of serial killers...but when one of the participants ends up dead, they begin to wonder if someone among them might be carrying on the family traditions.

July 14



Worse Than Strangers Kyleigh Leddy

A modern retelling of Jane Austen's Persuasion set against the backdrop of a cottage on Nantucket. Lily and Rose Gardner's journey begs the question: Can you repeat the past, and is it ever too late to try again?

June 23



Dolly All the Time Annabel Monaghan

A hardworking single mom returns to her seaside hometown and stumbles into a fake dating situation with a wealthy, workaholic scion.

May 26

Love Stories

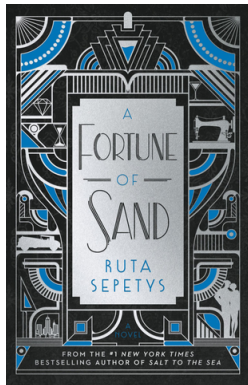
Historical Fiction



The Half Life
Rachel Beanland

...
A story of love, complicity, and awakening—of one woman forced to choose between loyalty to her husband and country and to the Italian locals who show her the high cost of American exceptionalism.

...
July 14



A Fortune of Sand
Ruta Sepetys

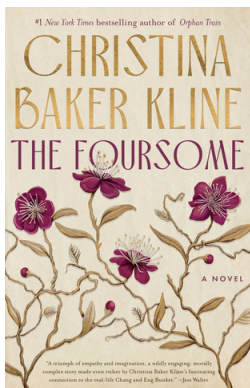
...
The daughter of an automotive magnate escapes to an artistic retreat that holds more secrets—and more intrigue—than she could have ever imagined, in this Prohibition-era novel.

...
May 26

The Foursome
Christina Baker Kline

...
A boldly original reimagining of the astonishing true story of two sisters in nineteenth-century North Carolina — Kline's own distant relatives — who married world-famous conjoined twins from Siam.

...
May 12



A Perfect Hand
Ayelet Waldman

...
A richly drawn, captivating, and endlessly amusing novel of love and subterfuge between a lady's maid and her clandestine lover, set in the country estates of nineteenth-century England.

...
May 19



...
May 5



...
May 12



...
May 12



...
May 12



...
July 7



...
August 4



...
July 7



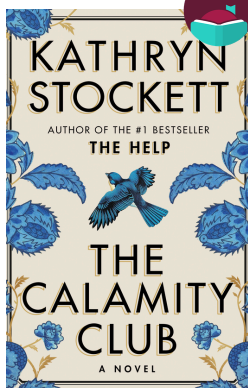
...
July 28



The Young Will Remember
Eve J. Chung

...
A sweeping novel about a correspondent trapped behind enemy lines during the Korean War, and the women who help her find her way home, from the national bestselling author of *Daughters of Shandong*.

...
May 5



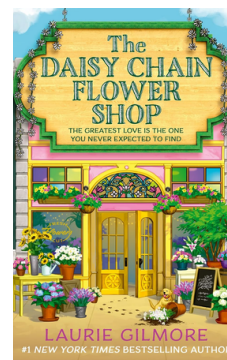
The Calamity Club
Kathryn Stockett

...
The author of *The Help* returns with a bold, big-hearted novel about a group of unbreakable women, fighting for what's rightfully theirs—and the power of friendship to change everything.

...
May 5



...
June 18



...
May 5



...
June 30



...
August 25

Next in the Series

Popular series with new installments coming out this season

Biographies & Memoirs



Monster of a Land Lauren Hough

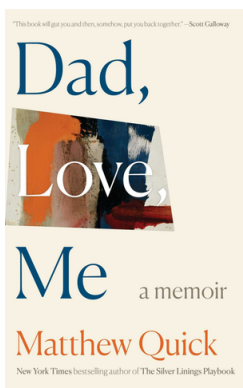
A cross-country journey exploring modern America with observational wit, searing social commentary, and perspective as someone who knows what it's like to truly exist on the margins in this country.

June 16

Dad, Love, Me Matthew Quick

Written in the form of a letter to his ailing father, this debut memoir from the bestselling author of *The Silver Linings Playbook* explores the complicated burden of caring for an abusive parent who is dying.

July 21



Our Knives Will Save US Nephi Craig

Interweaving personal reflection with illuminating cultural insight, Craig offers a vision of hope: one where food is decolonized and cooking is a pathway to healing for all of us.

July 14



Mother Tongue Sara Novic

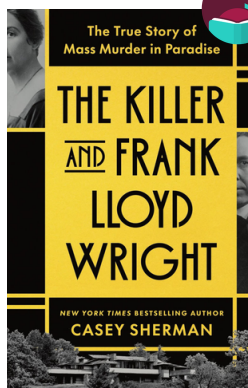
Sara Novic retraces her path out of the hearing world and into the deaf community—and seeks to understand what it means to raise children who are different from her—in this emotionally rich memoir.

May 5

The Killer and Frank Lloyd Wright Casey Sherman

With intimacy and propulsive storytelling, Sherman delivers a portrait of an artist who could not escape the shadows of his own making—and who rose, again and again, from the ashes.

June 9



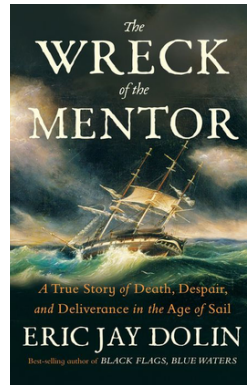
Big Fan Michael Schur

Schur and Posnanski travel the world in a hilarious and heartwarming celebration of fans and the things they love: baseball, basketball, chess, darts, football, futbol, Indigenous North American stickball, pickleball, WWE, Taylor Swift, Star Wars, and more.

May 19



Notable Nonfiction



The Wreck of the Mentor Eric Jay Dolin

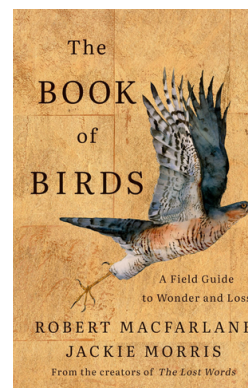
From the best-selling author of *Black Flags*, *Blue Waters* comes the story of the American whaleship *Mentor*, wrecked in 1832 on a remote reef in the western Pacific. Illustrated by more than 100 images and maps.

June 2

The Book of Birds Robert MacFarlane

The Book of Birds is a field guide with a difference: It shows readers not just how to identify birds, but also how to identify with them. A clarion call to halt the rapid depletion of our skies.

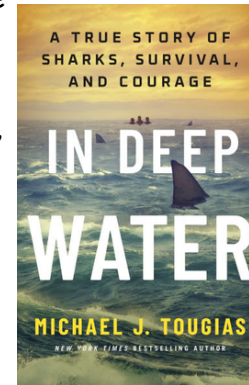
June 9



Blizzard of Lies Dave Wedge

The definitive narrative of a controversial, headline-grabbing tragedy, *Blizzard of Lies* dispels the myths and misinformation around John O'Keefe's death to chronicle a vivid account of a complex case and the lasting emotional toll on all involved.

July 28



In Deep Water Michael J. Tougas

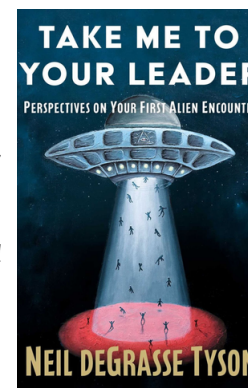
The terrifying true story of a fight for survival for 28 hours in shark-infested waters. Based on interviews with the survivors and the crew of the helicopter who rescued them, a white-knuckle tale of bravery and brotherhood.

June 23

Take Me to Your Leader Neil DeGrasse Tyson

A practical guide for dealing with Alien visitors, an exploration of how it might happen, and a cultural history of our fascination with extraterrestrials.

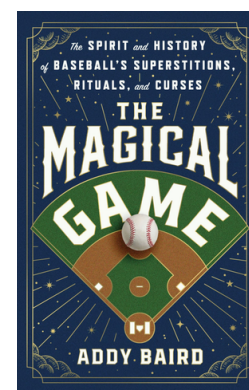
May 12



The Magical Game Addy Baird

This is the story of baseball's rich magical history and the centuries-old culture of superstition in the sport. It is a love letter to the jinxes, curses, rituals and myths of baseball's past and present — and to the mysticism of the game.

June 2



Beach Reads

Stories that take place near the ocean

Down with the Shipmans

Meg Mitchell Moore

...
A delicious summer read that explores the enduring power of family and sister connections. A humorous, heartfelt reminder that home is not a place, but the people who love you, no matter how imperfectly.

June 2

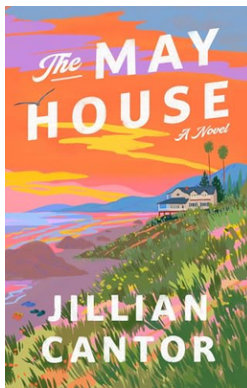


The May House

Jillian Cantor

...
Three adult sisters inherit a beach house on the condition they spend one week together every May, leading to the discovery of family secrets, unexpected romance, and a new understanding of each other.

May 12

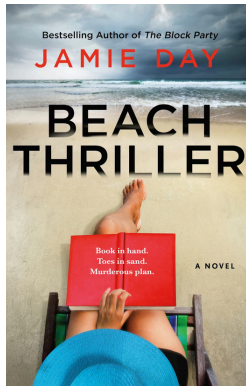


The Shampoo Effect

Jenny Jackson

...
An ambitious young woman insinuates herself into a tight-knit social set, shaking up friendships and marriages in a small seaside town. A frothy novel of love, money, sex, and friendship.

June 30



Beach Thriller

Jamie Day

...
Holly, a struggling writer, is forced from her New York apartment and returns to her family's cottage in the town of Beauport, Massachusetts—a home she hasn't seen in nearly twenty years. Guilt grabs her the moment she arrives.

June 9

Our Perfect Storm

Carley Fortune

...
Frankie and George have been best friends since they were eight years old. They've always clashed... and come back together. One week in paradise to fix their friendship or fall apart in this heart-stopping new novel.

May 5



June Baby

Shannon Garvey

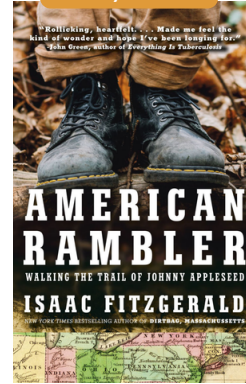
...
In this moving debut novel, set over the course of one transformative summer in the lush, beachy enclave of Block Island, a young woman reckons with love, loss, and the choices she must make to move forward.

May 19



Our Favorite Books of the Summer

Andy's Pick



American Rambler

Isaac Fitzgerald

...
Isaac Fitzgerald sets off into the heart of America, following the path of the legendary Johnny Appleseed on an epic journey that both takes him far from home and brings him closer to it.

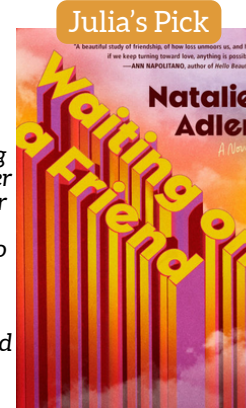
May 12

Waiting on a Friend

Natalie Adler

...
New York City, East Village, 1984. A young woman with the power to see the ghosts of her friends is haunted by the one who refuses to return. A debut of friendship and community during a time of devastation and defiance.

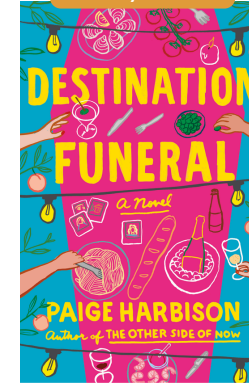
May 26



Julia's Pick



Kristy's Pick



Destination Funeral

Paige Harbison

...
When Babe—the complicated, magnetic matriarch of their teenage summers—dies, four estranged friends return to sleepy Mercy Island. They wake up and discover it's Saturday. Again. And again. And again.

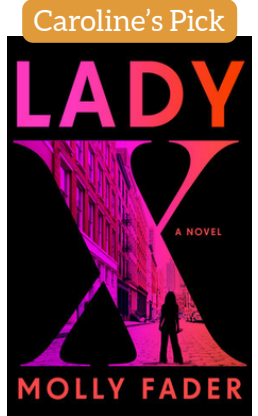
July 21

Lady X

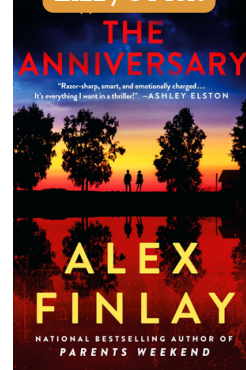
Molly Fader

...
The search for a notorious vigilante exposes the secrets among three generations of women, from contemporary L.A. to gritty 1970s New York, in this novel hailed as "an unputdownable paean to female rage and retribution."

July 14



Lizzy's Pick



The Anniversary

Alex Finlay

...
One night in 1992, the lives of two seventeen-year-olds are changed forever. An utterly compelling story of the hunt for a serial killer. But it's also a heartfelt—and heartrending—novel about fate, innocence lost, and two souls who find that sometimes being broken is the only way for the light to get in.

May 12

Wondering what to

ReadNext?



Fill out our ReadNext form for a bundle of personalized, librarian-curated books in your format of choice!