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Westwood Public Library

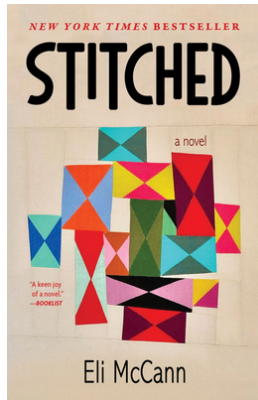
Adult Reading Guide

Fall 2026



80+
new
books

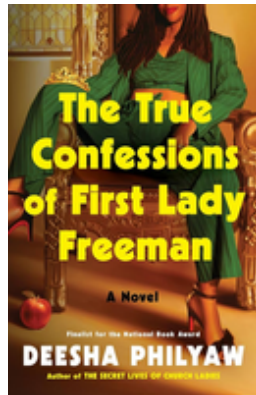
Can't Miss Fiction



Stitched Eli McCann

...
A hilarious story of found family that proves it's never too late to discover who you are. Eli McCann takes readers deep into the cozy but cutthroat world of competitive quilting and the sometimes-messy friendships that shape our lives.

Sept. 8



The True Confessions of First Lady Freeman Deesha Philyaw

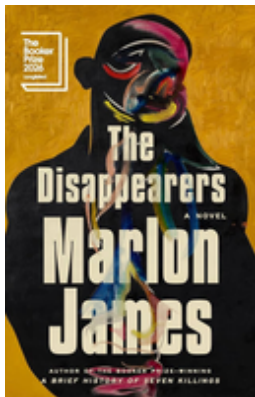
...
The wife of a popular and powerful megachurch pastor upends her charmed "rags-to-Rolex" life when her secret past comes roaring into the spotlight.

Sept. 29

The Disappearers Marlon James

...
A deeply human story of men forced to make compromises to survive what the society they live in demands. It is an unflinching exploration of queer life in Jamaica during the 1980s and 1990s.

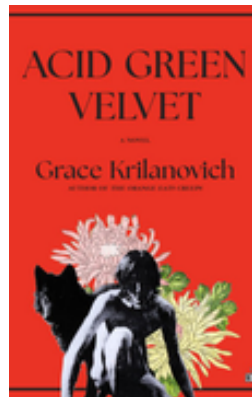
Sept. 1



Acid Green Velvet Grace Krilanovich

...
California freakiness meets Victorian preoccupations with the domestic, pollution and filth, haunted houses, fringe societies, living death, spiritualism, vampiric women, and class parasites.

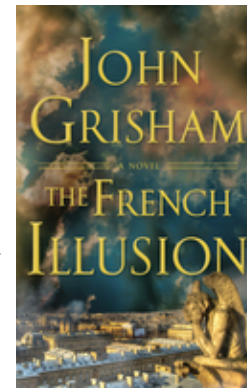
Sept. 8



The French Illusion John Grisham

...
After Paul and Chelsea Tanner's fairytale wedding, their future is full of promise. But their honeymoon to Paris takes a dark, shocking turn when they are kidnapped while on a day trip to the French countryside.

Oct. 13



Partita Barbara Kingsolver

...
The story of a brief, passionate, life-changing love affair, wrapped up in what might be the greatest romance of all: our eternal human longing for art and beauty.

Oct. 6



Hollywood Ending John Green

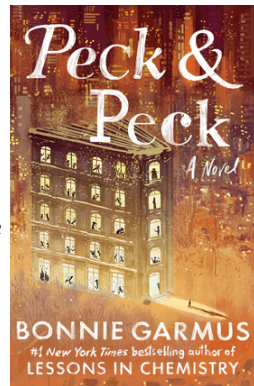
...
For actors Kai and Juniper, being cast in the buzzy biopic *Andy Warhol Never Gets Old* is the opportunity they've been waiting for. A behind-the-scenes Hollywood love story that brilliantly confronts the private cost of a public life.

Sept. 22

Peck & Peck Bonnie Garmus

...
A delightful and tender literary novel set in the publishing world of 1980s New York City. A young man's life turns upside down when he is hired by the most prestigious, secretive, and dysfunctional poetry journal in the world

Oct. 13



Fallow Sarah Anderson

...
Fallow is the story of a young woman who signs up to be the world's first in-house corporate surrogate, then finds herself caught up in a social experiment of another kind.

Sept. 15



Switzzy Emma Cline

...
A mesmerizing portrait of an aging man's last pilgrimage. Switzzy probes the depths of human consciousness, revealing what a man is left with when the accomplishments and compromises that have defined him, and the illusions he's relied on, vanish.

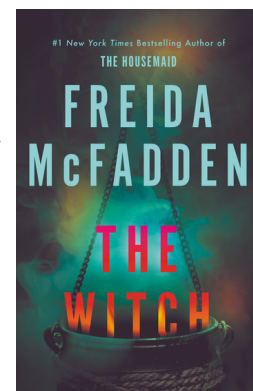
Sept. 8



The Pirate Queen Ariel Lawhon

...
A sweeping historical adventure inspired by Grace O'Malley, the legendary folk heroine who risked everything to defend her people. Lawhon's new action-packed novel channels the untamed beauty and harsh realities of sixteenth-century Ireland.

Sept. 8



The Witch Freida McFadden

...
Every night, the clock stops at exactly 3:41 a.m. The lights flicker without warning. A disembodied voice cries for help outside Julia's bedroom door. A twist-filled thriller about secrets—those we inherit, those we bury, and those people will burn to keep silent.

Oct. 6

Historical Fiction



The Housekeeper Rose Tremain

...
Tremain reimagines Daphne du Maurier, and the origins of her timeless bestseller *Rebecca*. This daring and emotional tale of an illicit affair is narrated by a Mrs. Danowski, housekeeper at Manderville Hall.

Oct. 6

Peregrine Hill Nina de Gramont

...
A Gilded Age New York novel where a forced marriage, family secrets, and the fight for freedom collide in a story about a desperate mother and headstrong daughter navigating a world built on men's appetites and women's silence.

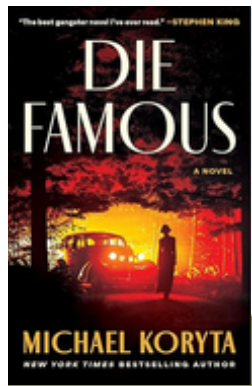
Nov. 10



Die Famous Michael Koryta

...
The Four Winds meets *Bonnie and Clyde* in this exhilarating historical thriller in which an unforgettable mother races to find the gangster she once loved—before the law gets to him first.

Sept. 22



Samantha: The Next Chapter Fiona Davis

...
The next chapter of American Girl Samantha Parkington's story--now an adult searching for justice after her legacy is stolen in New York City in 1920.

Oct. 13

Mystery Play Elizabeth Kostova

...
The last living member of a family of historians who has been hunted by dark forces associated with *Dracula* finds himself in peril at the hands of a new threat in this thrilling novel.

Oct. 13



Music Against the Night Yiyun Li

...
Figures of the past find new life in Yiyun Li's thrillingly imagined saga following two musicians as they mature, study, travel, love, grieve, and, above all, chase their ambitions.

Oct. 13



Family Stories



Taipei Story R.F. Kuang

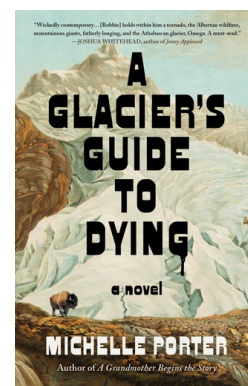
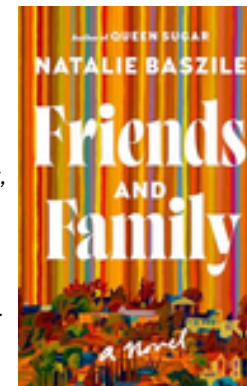
...
What if learning a language can't bring you any closer to the people you're trying to reach? What if you search for your family's history, but your family doesn't want to share? As Lily struggles for answers, her summer becomes a poignant search for understanding.

Sept. 8

Friends and Family Natalie Baszile

...
A piercing examination of friendship and loyalty, two best friends find themselves at odds over their beliefs on race, identity and allyship, especially when it comes to their teenage children.

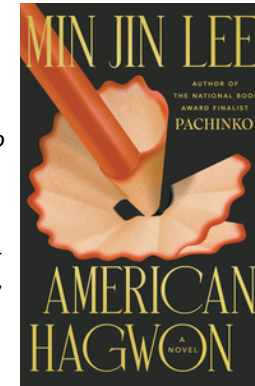
Oct. 6



A Glacier's Guide to Dying Michelle Porter

...
A young Métis man searching for his missing father finds himself arguing with a dying glacier in this compelling and hopeful novel about the burdens and blessings of inheritance.

Nov. 3



American Hagwon Min Jin Lee

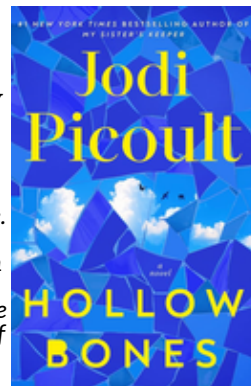
...
An unforgettable, panoramic where the smallest of gestures can have enormous repercussions, where the bonds of family twist but rarely break, and where willful self-sacrifice—for the benefit of loved ones and even strangers—is a kind of prayer.

Sept. 29

Hollow Bones Jodi Picoult

...
On September 11, when Molly was only two months old, her mother went to an appointment at the World Trade Center and never came home. Moving between past and present, this is an epic story of the lies we tell ourselves as we write the narratives of our lives.

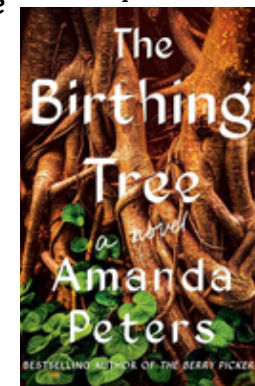
Sept. 15



The Birthing Tree Amanda Peters

...
An unforgettable novel about a woman who must confront her family's buried truths and memories of passionate young love when her grandmother's death leaves her as the only guide to her community's future.

Sept. 1

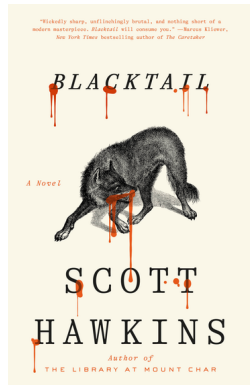


Fantasy & Science Fiction

Blacktail Scott Hawkins

...
A wolf sets out on an epic journey of revenge in this one-of-a-kind dark fantasy. Along the way, it becomes clear that he is more than just a wolf. The Forest God is sleeping, yes. But what will be the price of waking him?

Sep. 1



As You Wake, Break the Shell Becky Chambers

...
Life on the resource-poor planet of Fortune is challenging, but for its inhabitants, it's home. For two of them, Signy and Cora, this home might no longer be enough. The first installment of a heartfelt new duology.

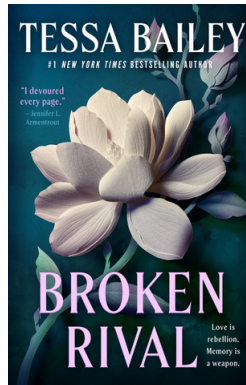
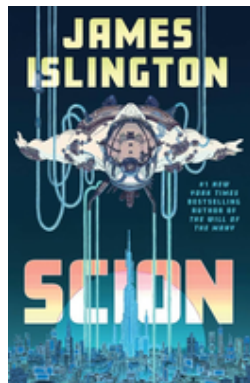
Oct. 13



Scion James Islington

...
Islington's first sci-fi novel in an unmissable new series following the story of Azure, the cybernetically enhanced survivor of an explosion that killed his best friend. An exploration of a secret underworld of crime and world-changing technology.

Sep. 1



Broken Rival Tessa Bailey

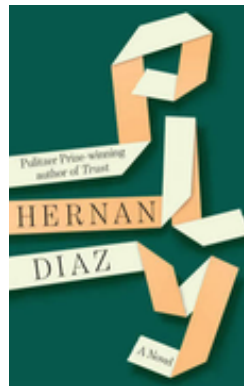
...
A gripping, heated romance about a girl trapped in a new reality, forced to make a choice between two brothers—one who is the high school golden boy, the other sworn to hunt down her kind—time travelers.

Oct. 6

Ply Hernan Diaz

...
Centuries from now, at the dawn of a historical epoch filled with both uncertainty and promise, an orphan is adrift in a city on the brink of transformation. Ply questions the place of technology in the American experiment with a plot that grabs both heart and mind.

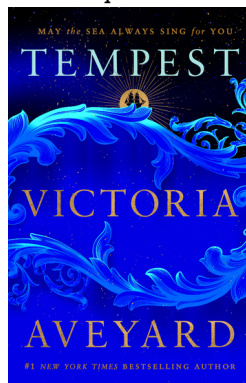
Sep. 29



Tempest Victoria Aveyard

...
An epic adventure of love and betrayal, amid a brutal war for the high seas. A storm is rising on the Lyrian Sea—the question is, what will it leave in its wake?

Sep. 8



Our Cut of Salt Deena Helm

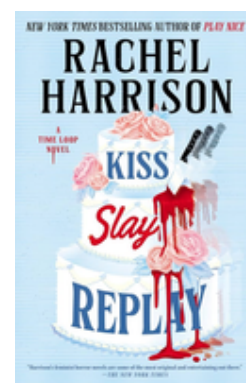
...
Three generations of Palestinian women must put the haunting of their ancestral home to rest, before the secrets of the past drown them all. A powerful look at what it means to make a home, to lose it, and to return, only to find it irrevocably changed.

Sep. 22

Off the Reservation Stephen Graham Jones

...
A ragtag group of activists sets out to repatriate the bones of a Blackfeet boy taken to the infamous Carlisle Indian Industrial School. A haunting novel of survival, reckoning, and redemption.

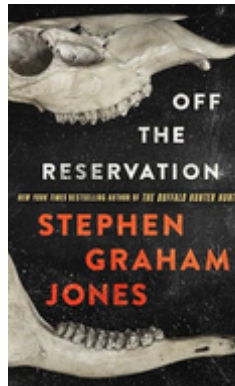
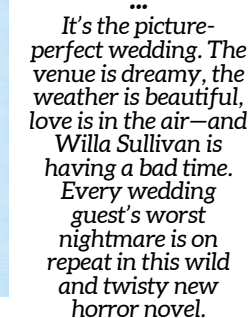
Oct. 13



Kiss Slay Replay Rachel Harrison

...
It's the picture-perfect wedding. The venue is dreamy, the weather is beautiful, love is in the air—and Willa Sullivan is having a bad time. Every wedding guest's worst nightmare is on repeat in this wild and twisty new horror novel.

Sep. 1



Incarnate Alma Katsu

...
Dorothy Wagner takes a job working for a brilliant coder whose company is focused on cutting-edge deepfake technology. A terrifying reimagining of The Picture of Dorian Gray for the internet age.

Sep. 22

Mazywood Tananarive Due

...
The grandson of a famous Black actress from the 1940s and 1950s, now a filmmaker himself, returns to his grandmother's cabin retreat in the California mountains only to encounter the legacy of her rage.

Sep. 22

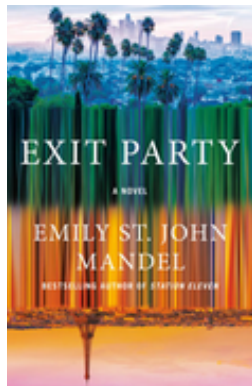


Solace House Will Maclean

...
An addictive and brilliant puzzle-box of a novel—somewhere between The Secret History and House of Leaves—following a group of university students who discover an astonishing secret while clearing out a neglected Victorian mansion.

Oct. 13

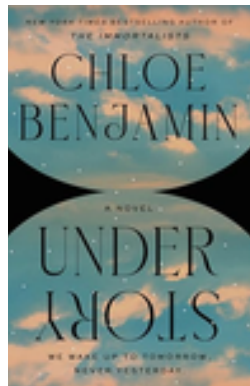
Magical Realism & Speculative



Exit Party
Emily St. John Mandel

2031. America is at war with itself, but for the first time in weeks there is some hope: the Republic of California has been declared, the curfew in Los Angeles is lifted, and everyone in the city is going to a party.

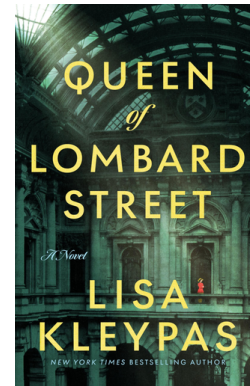
Sep. 15



Under Story
Chloe Benjamin

A love letter to our planet, *Under Story* grapples with the great questions of our time: human hubris, the precarity of the natural world, and the mysterious webs of consciousness that bind us. A modern epic of science and soul, of bravery and redemption.

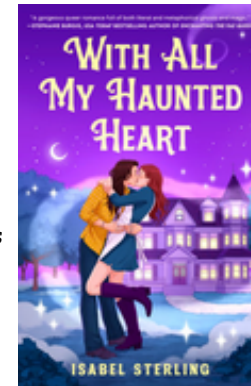
Sep. 1



The Queen of Lombard Street
Lisa Kleypas

A sweeping, richly-layered historical romance about a trailblazing female economist who's determined to build Britain's first women's bank but she must fight financial corruption.

Oct. 20



With All My Haunted Heart
Isabel Sterling

A witch hired to ethically haunt a small-town B&B instead finds herself spellbound by her non-magical client in this cozy and enchanting sapphic romance.

Sep. 8

The Spirits
Bonnie Jo Campbell

It's the night before Christmas. A young woman is haunted by her father's death. Her guilt and grief have estranged her from her community. She has taken refuge in the natural world, but on this anniversary of the tragedy, the supernatural landscape is rattling its chains.

Oct. 13



Paper Ghosts
Sarah Addison Allen

Wester House is full of whispers, old griefs, and uncanny knowing. But when Willamena Wester reaches out to the granddaughter she once pushed away, long-buried truths begin to stir.

Sep. 1



Counting Down to You
Emily Stone

A young woman travels to the Alps to complete her best friend's last request—and finds a love that's closer to home than she realizes.

Oct. 6



See You Next Tuesday
Kate Stayman-London

A heartwarming enemies-to-lovers romance featuring two political staffers who love working on campaigns...almost as much as they hate each other.

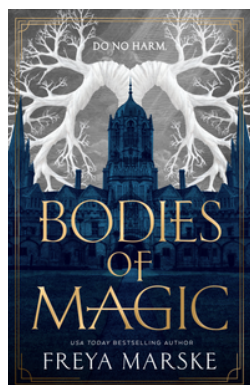
Sep. 8



The Sisters of Crimson House
Melissa Anderson Sweazy

One woman from a long line of psychics who will do anything to save her family legacy and the haunted house she grew up in from an entity threatening to destroy everything she's built. Every house has its secrets.

Sep. 29



Bodies of Magic
Freya Marske

Five scholars. Five secrets. Once corpse. At the Academie of the Grand Duchy of Sieuxer, every mage with the healer's gift has five years to master their power and to prepare for the infamous Grand Exam--a five-day trial whose results will determine their entire future.

Sep. 15



What Happens at Nightfall
Lauren Willig

In the sprawling Gothic expanse of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery, some secrets refuse to stay buried. A delightfully Gothic romantic adventure, complete with a little bit of demon-hunting.

Nov. 17



Bad Words
Rioghnach Robinson

Bad Words lays bare the pull between ambition and integrity, the vulnerability of being seen, and the closeness that can grow in the space between critique and care in this will they/won't they romance.

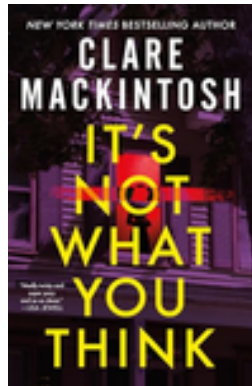
Oct. 6

8

Love Stories

7

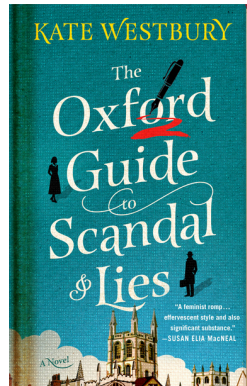
Mysteries & Thrillers



It's Not What You Think
Clare Mackintosh

...
Nadeeka is certain Jamie is having an affair. She knows the signs. She's been here before. But when she arrives home to confront him, Jamie can't explain himself. The house has become a crime scene... Jamie is dead.

Sep. 22



The Oxford Guide to Scandal & Lies
Kate Westbury

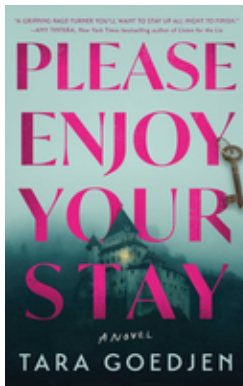
...
Ginevra is eager to prove she's more than a debutante. Sidney is determined to forge a new life for himself. Though they have little in common, the British Security Service is keen to unite her charm with his espionage experience.

Sep. 1

Please Enjoy Your Stay
Tara Goedjen

...
After a true crime podcast reopens her cousin's murder case, a woman must confront her past at a glamorous European castle-turned-hotel where she follows a trail of toxic family secrets and deadly lies.

Oct. 13



The Mystic and the Missing Girl
Vikki VanSickle

...
Reluctant psychic Drew Benson can read tarot cards and get impressions from objects—she just never expected to use her gifts to investigate an infamous cold case.

Sep. 8



Missing Molly
Natalie Barelli

...
Some secrets should never see the light of day, and as far as Rachel is concerned, whatever happened to little Molly is one of them. Rachel has a life now, a boyfriend she loves and a three-year-old daughter she adores, and she will do anything to protect them.

Oct. 20



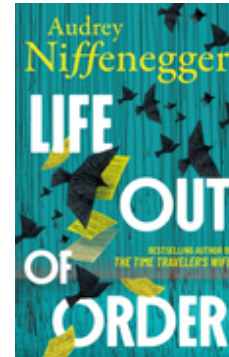
The Paris Files
Eva Jurczyk

...
A whirlwind love affair comes to a halt when one of them disappears and the other is left under scrutiny of the French police. Genie's story doesn't quite hold up—and it sounds like Jacob might not be all he seems either.

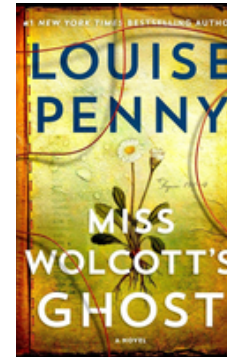
Oct. 6

Next in Series

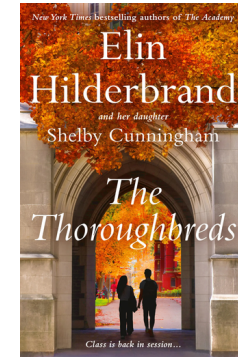
Popular series with new installments coming out this season



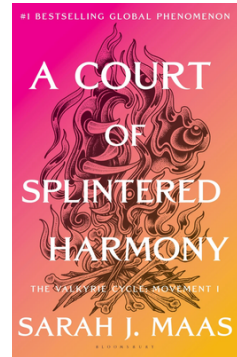
Oct. 6



Oct. 20



Sep. 15



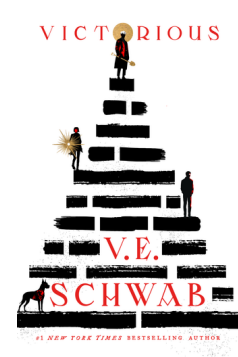
Oct. 27



Sep. 29



Sep. 15



Oct. 6



Dec. 1



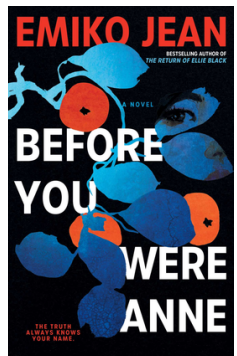
Oct. 6



Oct. 27

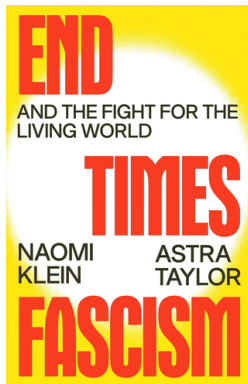


Oct. 6



Sep. 1

Notable Nonfiction



**End Times
Fascism**
Naomi Klein
&
Astra Taylor

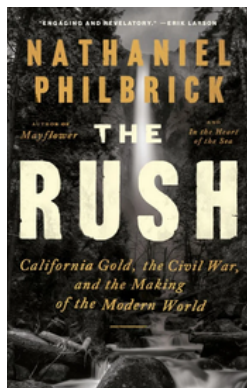
...
A blistering
exposé of the new
far-right
apocalyptic
alliance that's on
the move around
the globe - and
how we resist.

...
Sep. 15

The Rush
Nathaniel
Philbrick

...
A clear, human
story of how a
scramble for wealth
reshaped ideas of
freedom, labor, and
belonging—and how
California's rise
helped push a
fractured nation
toward war.

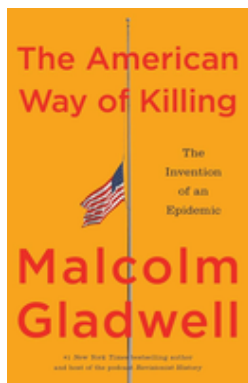
Oct. 6



**The American
Way of Killing**
Malcolm Gladwell

...
A provocative
investigation of
America's epidemic of
gun violence. Malcolm
Gladwell explores the
American "peculiarity"—
how the world's
wealthiest country came
to suffer from a problem
typically only seen in the
world's poorest
countries.

...
Sep. 29



**Artificial
Intimacy**
Sherry Turkle

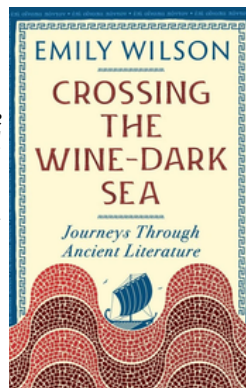
...
An urgent warning
about how our
ever-increasing
reliance on human-
like AI chatbots is
eroding our
capacity for
empathy, caring,
and the very
qualities that make
us human.

...
Sep. 29

**Crossing the
Wine-Dark Sea**
Emily Wilson

...
An introduction to the
wonders of Greek and
Roman literature, a
manifesto for the
value of translation in
a rapidly changing
world, and an
invitation to
encounter ancient
cultures anew.

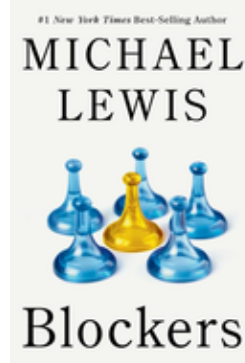
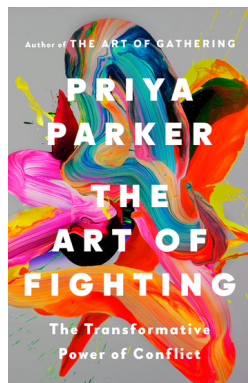
...
Sep. 1



**The Art of
Fighting**
Priya Parker

...
We say we want
community.
Successful teams.
High-performing
colleagues and
workplaces. Dynamic
friend groups. Yet
many of us don't
understand the crucial
element we need to
forge long-lasting
communities in our
lives: healthy conflict.

...
Sep. 8



Blockers
Michael Lewis

...
Blockers is the story of
people who believed
they had a calling,
who were convinced
they were doing
something the country
couldn't do without,
and then discovered
they were no longer
wanted.

Oct. 6

Vibe
Adam Grant

...
Relationships are the
heart of everything
we do. Yet too often
we think fostering the
best collaboration is
about the character of
the parties involved.
In fact the dynamic
between people is
usually more a
property of chemistry
than personality.

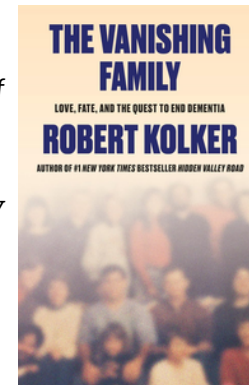
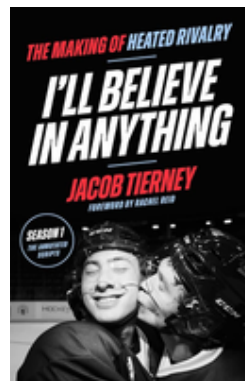
Oct. 13



**I'll Believe in
Anything**
Jacob Tierney

...
An official and
complete collection of
annotated scripts for
Heated Rivalry, with all
new exclusive behind-
the-scenes content. I'll
Believe in Anything
answers all the
questions fans of this
groundbreaking series
have been asking.

Oct. 13



**The Vanishing
Family**
Robert Kolker

...
The Vanishing Family
unfolds like a
heartbreaking thriller,
as the siblings struggle
to cope with terrifying
fates of succumbing
to alzheimer's just as
many of their
relatives have over the
years.

...
Sep. 29

Situated
Angela
Duckworth

...
Highlighting four
essential elements of
successful situations,
Duckworth shows
how high performers
create situations that
make it easier to excel.
She shares how
learning to change her
situation, not herself,
made all the difference.

...
Sep. 1



**The Savage
Mind**
David Treuer

...
A searing exploration
of American violence,
interweaving family
memoir with settler
and Indigenous
history to reveal the
wound at the heart of
our nation—and to
offer hope that the
country, and we,
might be healed.

Oct. 6



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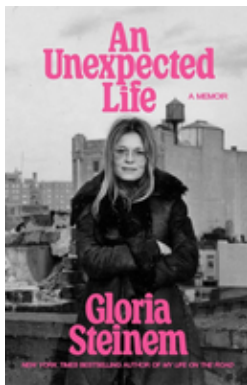


Memoirs

An Unexpected Life

Gloria Steinem

...
Gloria Steinem offers an inspiring and candid memoir of her early life and her path to becoming one of the world's most influential activists and storytellers, alongside an urgent message for new generations about what the next chapters of the fight for equality will demand



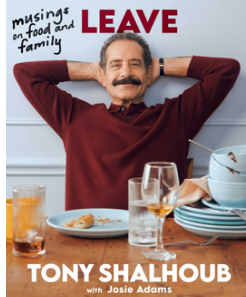
We Thought They'd Never Leave

Tony Shalhoub

...
A delightful narrative of nostalgic remembrances and recollections about gathering at the family table. Tony Shalhoub has gathered delightful stories, memories, and recipes to create this timely, feel-good collection.

Oct. 27

WE THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER LEAVE



Never Say Die

Ke Huy Quan

...
In this stunning and compulsively readable memoir, Ke Huy Quan, tells the story of his journey from Vietnamese refugee to 80s child star to the most inspiring comeback in Hollywood history.

Sep. 15



WORK IN PROGRESS



Work in Progress

Devon Rodriguez

...
The inspiring true story of the self-made, Bronx-born portraitist who overcame all odds to become the most followed artist on social media worldwide.

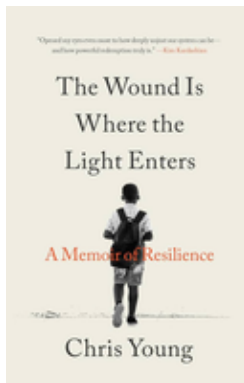
Sep. 29

The Wound is Where the Light Enters

Chris Young

...
The inspiring memoir of a brilliant young man who, sentenced to life in prison, refused to surrender his future—a story so powerful that it transformed even the judge who handed down the sentence.

Aug. 4

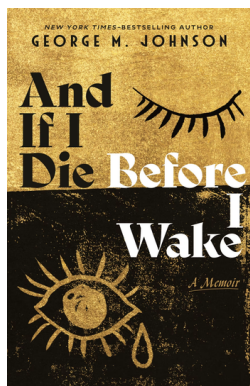


And If I Die Before I Wake

George M. Johnson

...
George M. Johnson is no stranger to death. In this debut adult memoir, readers are invited to witness as they navigate an HIV diagnosis, alcoholism, tremendous loss, and nationwide book bans over the span of 15 years.

Nov. 10



Our Favorite Books of the Fall

Julia's Pick



Public Access Afterworld

Jane Schoenbrun

...
A mysterious realm on the other side of our screens. A dark force that draws victims into its static. The unlikely hero called to save them and herself from this electric hell.

Oct. 27

The Witches of Cambridge

Alice Hoffman

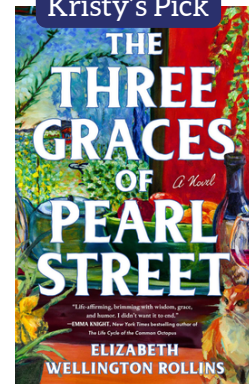
...
"The Witches of Cambridge" follows two brilliant young women in 1950s Cambridge, Massachusetts, as they become immersed in a mysterious secret group of witches at Radcliffe known as the Lilith Society.

Sep. 8

Caroline's Pick



Kristy's Pick



The Three Graces of Pearl Street

Elizabeth Wellington Rollins

...
An Italian American grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter all named after the Roman myth of the Three Graces find their lives—and their secrets—colliding when, after years apart, they come to live under the same roof.

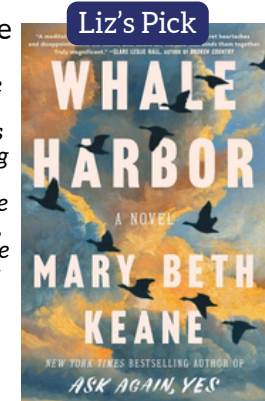
Sep. 1

Whale Harbor

Mary Beth Keane

...
1960s, Ireland. In the wake of tragedy, a father makes choices for his eleven grieving sons. The older brothers will emigrate to England for work, while the younger one will stay behind, but soon go missing. His disappearance will haunt his family across decades.

Oct. 27



Liz's Pick



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