

THE CHECKOUT

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ARTWORK BY SUE K.

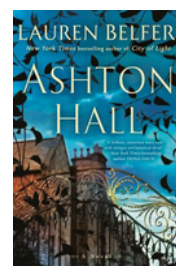
HELLO LIBRARY LOVERS!

BY NICOLE B.

Thank you to everyone who read our first issue, sent in a review, and/or let us know you found your next good book from our suggestions! We really enjoyed putting the first issue together and are excited to bring you our fall issue. We have a wide-range of reviews for you this time, including reviews of young adult literature and even a children's graphic novel to maybe nudge you to read something a little different than what you may normally pick up. Reading is all about the adventure, so here's hoping we help to take you on that next great journey!

NEW & BELOVED TITLES FROM LAUREN BELFER

BY SUE K.



For all you Western New York fans of Lauren Belfer, she has a brand new novel out. It's called *Ashton Hall* and though it is a bit of a departure from her other books, it is a great historical-style fiction set in a centuries-old manor house. When a skeleton is found in a closed-off section of the house, the suspense begins as the characters go back in time to discover the cause of death.

Anyone living in Buffalo cannot miss Belfer's debut novel, *City of Light*, set in a fictionalized version of the Buffalo Seminary, with a huge cast of real Western New Yorkers mixed in with her carefully crafted fictional ones. If you ever wanted to know who all our streets are named after, *City of Light* is an entertaining way to find out. Belfer has a real ability to flesh out her lead female protagonists and their complex relationships with their elite male peers.

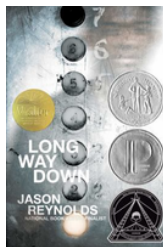
In her second book, *A Fierce Radiance*, a mother goes up against the medical establishment on behalf of her child. *A Fierce Radiance* gives a fascinating picture of the development of penicillin in the waning days of World War II. The subject hit very close to home. My father who was born in 1926, lost a brother in the 1920s to a minor injury which went septic and caused his death at age five. Any book you try by Lauren Belfer will be an unforgettable experience!

FIND ALL HER TITLES AT
THE LIBRARY WITH THIS
LINK!



YA FOR EVERYONE

(EVEN PEOPLE WHO WERE BORN IN THE 20TH CENTURY. GASP!)



BY CHRISTINA L.

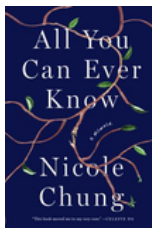
Long Way Down
by Jason Reynolds

Did you ever read a book by a new (or new to you) author and immediately knew you would be forever changed? The kind of writer, storyteller, ahhh just pure brilliance that has you feeling like you are witnessing one of the all-time greats in real time. Enter: Jason Reynolds. The kind of middle-grade and YA (young adult) writer that should be read everywhere.

This novel, written in verse, offers a poignant view into the mind of a young man who is grieving the loss of his brother. It's a glimpse into a situation no person should have to travel through. I feel this story needs to be read. Even if you were alive back in the mid to late 1900s!

MEMORABLE MEMOIR

BY JILL J.



All You Can Ever Know: A Memoir
by Nicole Chung

Adoption is complex; transracial adoption even more so. Nicole Chung was born to Korean-American parents, and was adopted by a white family from a largely white community. Chung's adoptive parents claim to be color-blind, but as she grows older, this leaves her feeling alienated and misunderstood by the only family she's ever known. When Chung herself becomes pregnant, she wants to get in touch with her Korean roots and finds her father, step-mother, and sister. She and her sister Cindy develop a close bond, and Cindy details the abuse she suffered at the hands of their mother and their parents' volatile relationship. All You Can Ever Know is beautifully written and a fascinating story of identity and what makes a family.

FROM LIFE TO FICTION

BY SUE K.



The Hummingbird
by Stephen Kiernan

A book which has landed in my top ten lifetime favorite books is Stephen Kiernan's *The Hummingbird*. The title refers to a small woodcarving of the bird, given to a hospice nurse after the death of her patient. The story moves from that patient to wind a fascinating three-part story of the nurse and her husband, suffering severe PTSD from three tours in Afghanistan; the current patient, a war history professor dying alone; and a Japanese fighter pilot who dropped a firebomb in the Pacific Northwest during the Second World War. One of my favorite parts of reading historically-based fiction is to read the author's notes at the end of a great story. Stephen Kiernan was a journalist, which greatly enhances his novels in their attention to detail and characters. He based *The Hummingbird* on an actual Japanese fighter pilot, who did drop a bomb in the damp woods of Oregon. The bomb fizzled out on its own, but the pilot returned to Oregon several times after the war to plant a grove of trees in the forest lands outside Brookings, Oregon and bequeathed his samurai sword to the town library. The novel remained so vividly in my mind that I went to coastal Oregon a few years later and found the sword but could not get to the grove due to severe fire damage to the logging road. The trip brought the novel alive in a new way. Kiernan's latest book, *Universe of Two*, is similarly based on a real person, Charles Fisk, who worked on the detonator team for the atomic bomb project at Los Alamos. Another great read, it explores a scientist and his wife as they deal with the moral fallout from their lives and work. Both are great opportunities to meet Stephen Kiernan!

NEWLY TRANSLATED



BY MICHAELA M.

All the Lovers in the Night
by Mieko Kawakami

This haunting novel from Japanese writer Mieko Kawakami follows Fuyoko Irie, a freelance proofreader in her mid-30s who lives alone in a small Tokyo apartment and dedicates all her time to work (apart from her yearly birthday walk at night). Ill at ease in the world, Fuyoko has little to say and even fewer people to say it to, save for her editor, Hijiri, a confident career woman who takes a liking to her.

When Fuyoko meets an older physics teacher named Mitsutsuka, she starts to see the possibility for her life to change and for future relationships to form. But as she tries to crawl her way out of solitude, it becomes clear that it will not be easy or linear. Fuyoko, still living in the wake of long-buried memories, turns to drinking to get through even the most mundane interactions.

Playing with themes of memory and modern womanhood, All the Lovers in the Night is dream-like, heartbreaking, and at times opaque, but makes for a quick read. By the time you've reached the last page, this story—and its lonely narrator—will be hard to forget.

PROJECT ROMANCE

BY CHRISTINA L.

The Bodyguard
by Katherine Center

When I think of contemporary fiction authors, Katherine Center is the reigning queen of romantic comfort reads. Her new book The Bodyguard offers all those sweet and savory moments we look for as fellow romance enthusiasts. My favorite thing Katherine Center does is challenge gender norms and roles! I know you think... but it's romance... come on! Whether it's a female firefighter working her way up the ranks or a kick-ass bodyguard flipping her new crush (swoon!) onto the ground, Center's female characters break the mold. You can find comfort in knowing the end will be wrapped up neatly with a bow; however, the baby girl's present may come beautifully staged in blue paper.

CHAUCER'S TALE IN A WOMAN'S WORDS



BY KAREN B.

The Good Wife of Bath
by Karen Brooks

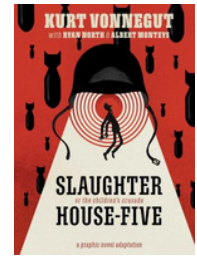
The Canterbury Tales, written by Geoffrey Chaucer in late 14th century England, is a collection of stories told by travelers on a pilgrimage. One tale in particular, that of the Wife of Bath, has captured the imagination of many because it purports to demonstrate what women really want: power or control. This book is a work of historical fiction that imagines how the real woman it may have been based on might have lived her life. It gives voice to her circumstances, her outlook on life, her boisterous personality, and her rise and fall from wealth through her five marriages. It portrays her as a clever businesswoman, first as a weaver and cloth merchant, and then as the proprietor of a brothel. The cast of characters is wide and deep. We meet Chaucer himself as well as farmers, social climbers, wife beaters, clerics, thieves, and pimps. The wife survives them all, although with many excruciating setbacks along the way. This book is full of humor, heartache, strong personalities, and many turns of fortune. It entertains and enlightens. It is definitely worth a read for anyone interested in the lives of medieval women.



RECOMMENDED GRAPHIC NOVEL ADAPTATION

BY JILL J.

Slaughterhouse-Five, or the Children's Crusade (Graphic Novel Adaptation)
by Kurt Vonnegut, adapted by Ryan North



I was initially skeptical when I saw that there was a graphic novel adaptation of one of my favorite books, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, but this blew my expectations out of the water. If you're familiar with the source material, you know that *Slaughterhouse-Five* is a nonlinear narrative—time and our narrator jump around from the bombing of Dresden during World War II, to optometry school in Ilium, New York, to the planet Tralfamadore. This graphic adaptation handles the surreal aspects of the story deftly, with both humor and gravity. Even if you're not generally a reader of graphic novels, give this one a try, especially if you're a Vonnegut fan.

TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT CHILDREN'S GRAPHIC NOVELS— THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN!

BY CHLOE S.

Marshmallow & Jordan
By Alina Chau



Influenced by her life growing up in Hong Kong in a Chinese-Indonesian family, Alina Chau's graphic novel follows Jordan, the captain and star shooter of her middle school's basketball team who recently started using a wheelchair after an accident.

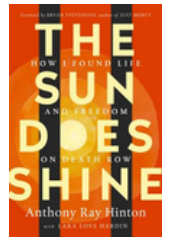
After leaving school one day, she finds a magical but injured elephant named Marshmallow on the playground. She brings him into her home to heal and Marshmallow becomes adored by all. With a new elephant mascot, Jordan has to grapple with the harsh reality of not being able to compete with her basketball team at nationals since regulations don't allow wheelchairs on the court.

Through her adventures with Marshmallow and navigating the ups and downs of middle school life, she finds her way to a new sport: water polo. She's happy to compete again, but balancing her old and new life becomes an even bigger challenge when a drought threatens her entire community and reveal a secret Marshmallow is hiding.

The story of going up against the odds and unconditional friendship will touch those of all ages. Soft and stunning watercolor artwork by Chau really brings everything to life - you can almost taste the delicious food throughout. There's even a glossary in the back so you can learn Indonesian phrases, what's in the delicious treats, and see concept art for the novel.

INCARCERATION NATION

BY NICOLE B.



Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

This book is a powerful journey into the formation of the Equal Justice Initiative and the past and current state of incarceration of the poor and those who are wrongly accused. Through personal stories and experiences as a lawyer working with death row inmates, Stevenson illustrates the many corruptions and disadvantages the law has against the poor and, often, people of color. It's a moving account that will challenge your preconceived notions on who incarcerated people are and the circumstances that led to their imprisonment.

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton

As a companion to reading Just Mercy, I highly recommend reading this book, written by a death row inmate who ended up working with Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative. Wrongly convicted, Hinton spent 27 years on death row before being exonerated in 2015. Against all odds, Hinton was able to keep hope of freedom despite decades of horrors and confinement. His positive spirit and utter determination under what seemed like hopeless circumstances are an inspiration, but can make anyone wonder what life he could have led if he wasn't robbed of his freedom. How many others out there are in similar circumstances and how can we go on knowing such injustices occur every day? An important and thought-provoking book.

For further reading, check out the Equal Justice Initiative website at <https://eji.org/>.



ARTWORK BY SUE K.



EDITOR- IN-CHIEF



BY CHLOE S.

Park Avenue Summer
by Renee Rosen



Fictional Alice Weiss sets foot in New York City in 1965 to cross paths with real-life Helen Gurley Brown, the first female editor-in-chief of Cosmopolitan magazine. An aspiring photographer, she sees her job as Brown's assistant as her ticket out of the Midwest and into the glamorous editorial world.

Once in, she sees the reality behind the photoshoots, expensive luncheons, and grandeur. With romantic flings and office drama that threatens the existence of the magazine, Alice also has to come to terms with her mother's death and the secrets surrounding her family.

The novel delves into some factual events that occurred surrounding the launch of the magazine when Brown was brought on, including a racy leaked internal memo.

Overall, the novel balances real events and the story of Alice very well. The struggles and emotions are real, and show how hard the path to achieving dreams can be.

KILLER THRILLER

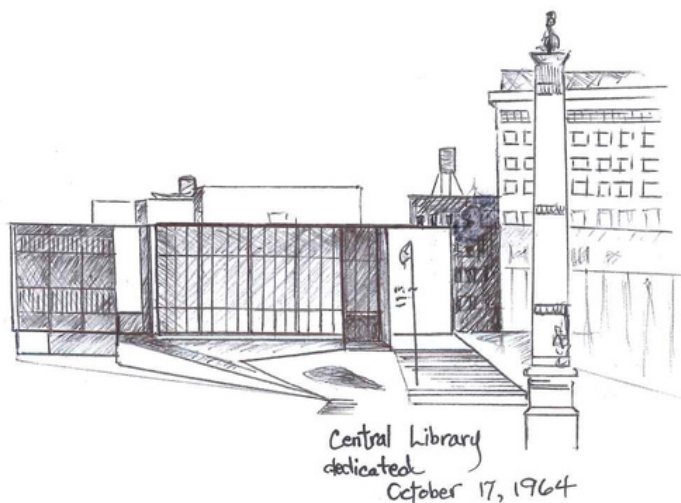


BY JILL J.

The Old Woman with the Knife
by Gu Byeong-Mo



The title says it all—this is a story about an old woman. With a knife, of course. Hornclaw has been an assassin for 40 years, and she's ready to retire. An unexpected friendship with a local doctor and his family, corporate bureaucracy, and threats on her own life are getting in the way. The Old Woman with the Knife is a thriller, but it's also witty and sweet at times, and wickedly fun to read.



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

A MUST LISTEN

BY NICOLE B.



Not for the prudish or faint of heart, this audiobook, read by Stephanie Johnson (Tanqueray) and with an introduction by Brandon Stanton (Humans of New York), is a captivating, hilarious, and heartfelt reminiscing of the larger-than-life burlesque dancer. Her journey from a difficult, unloving home in Albany to New York City and the not-so-hidden world of go-go and exotic dancing is raw, honest, and full of "spill the tea" moments you won't soon forget. To hear Stephanie tell her own story makes you instantly see why she is so charismatic and you'll wonder how one person could fit so many experiences in one lifetime. It's a love letter to resilience, to the strength of a Black woman in a largely white-dominated world, and it's an ode to the old New York City, with all its grit and not-so-family-friendly history.

I highly recommend listening to Stephanie tell her story on the audiobook version. The end includes a bonus interview between Stephanie and Brandon that is not to be missed. Then check out the Humans of New York website to see where she was rediscovered as one of New York's hidden gems.

Available on audio on



Libby.

A PUMA NAMED WAYRA



BY KAREN B .

The Puma Years
by Laura Coleman

This book is part memoir, part wildlife sanctuary story. Taking place mainly in Bolivia, it tells of the author's involvement in the rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals. The author is a British woman who met other wildlife supporters from around the world at this South American sanctuary that saves pumas, jaguars, monkeys, birds, and all sorts of other jungle animals. The animals are either being illegally trafficked, were cast off from circuses or other performance venues, or were erstwhile pets. The author bonded especially with Wayra, a puma that could not fully adapt to the wild and so needed to be cared for in the sanctuary. Full of the privations of life in a jungle with its dirt, insects, and a lack of plumbing and fresh food, the author changed as a person as a result of volunteering at the sanctuary. She found a purpose in life in caring for these animals and in making the wider world aware of their plight. Still committed to this cause, she continues to this day to be involved with its work. For anyone interested in better understanding human connections to wildlife and the environment, this book is sure to inspire.

INTO THE PAST

BY REBECCA K .

Murder in the Marais
By Cara Black

Aimee Leduc is a Parisian private investigator specializing in computer security who is tasked to find someone from an old photograph taken during World War II. Her findings bring her down a rabbit hole into crimes and murders, both past and present, in the Marais, a historically Jewish district in the fourth arrondissement. Along with being a complex thriller, this book sheds more light on what it was like to be Jewish during the Nazi occupation of Paris, after liberation, and in the 1990s. This is the first in a series of Aimee Leduc mysteries that take place in various areas of Paris.

THE CHECKOUT: FALL 2022

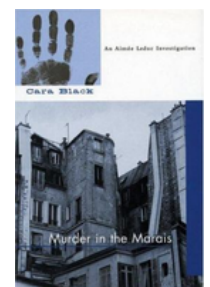
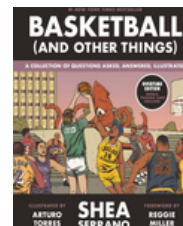
OTHER THINGS



BY JILL J .

Hip-Hop (And Other Things)
by Shea Serrano

If you've ever had the 2Pac vs. Biggie debate, this book is for you. (It's Biggie by a hair for me.) If you've ever had deep thoughts about Missy Elliott's album Supa Dupa Fly or wanted a play-by-play of the 1995 Source Awards, likewise. Featuring Shea Serrano's hilarious, conversational, and meticulously-researched essays and Arturo Torres's incredible and sometimes off-the-wall illustrations, this is a must-read for any fan of rap and hip-hop. And if you're similarly interested in basketball or movies, check out the other two titles that make up the And Other Things trilogy: Basketball (And Other Things) and Movies (And Other Things) by the same author/illustrator duo.



ISSUE #2

REEL REVIEWS



The Northman

(2022, directed by Robert Eggers)

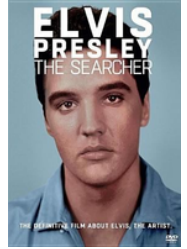


Bleak. Desolate. Isolated. Surreal. The physical geography of Iceland features heavily in this film based on a Norse legend set in the tenth century. It includes not only the Icelandic singer Björk (see the last issue of The Checkout for a review of Icelandic music), but also a cast of already or soon to be well known actors (Alexander Skarsgård, Nicole Kidman, Claes Bang, Ethan Hawke, Anya Taylor-Joe, Willem Defoe).

This film is a tale of filial duty and vengeance gone awry. In this story, the son who feels duty bound to avenge his father's death at the hands of his own brother must first save his own life and grow up before he can fulfill his oath. His journey takes him far afield to the land of the Slavs where he meets a woman who will become his future helpmate. Disguising himself as a slave, he finds his way back to his mother and to her new husband, his uncle. What awaits him is a different version of the story he lived as a child, and he is forced to make a terrible decision about revenge or surviving to nurture his own family.

The uniqueness of this film lies in the director's attempt to make the setting look fully authentic through clothing, housing, tribal ceremonies, and language that most likely would have been used by Norse people in this time period. For anyone interested in Viking history, Iceland, or in simply being removed from present day worries for a couple of hours, this film can provide that respite. It can also help us ponder the violence of our own history as a species, the unquenchable need for survival, and the ongoing need for nurturing our better instincts.

(REVIEW BY KAREN B.)



Elvis Presley: The Searcher

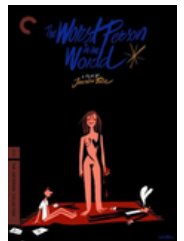
(2018, directed by Thom Zimny)

All the buzz surrounding the King with the new Baz Luhrmann film Elvis sparks a deep-dive into his history.

The Searcher is a two-part documentary on the star that is one of the most comprehensive, A-Z timeline of his life. From his childhood in Mississippi, serving in World War II, to going national with conniving manager Col. Tom Parker, everyone from new listeners to die-hard fans will take away something new from the documentary.

Twenty never-before-seen interviews with those closest to Elvis are included. Pricilla Presley also contributes to commentary throughout, providing a personal touch to the highs and lows of his life. A must-watch for all fans of music and pop culture as a whole, you will want to book a trip to Graceland after watching.

(REVIEW BY CHLOE S.)



The Worst Person in the World

(2021, directed by Joachim Trier)

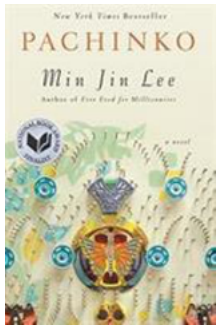
Directed by Joachim Trier, The Worst Person in the World is the latest of the Norwegian filmmaker's projects set in Oslo; it was also nominated for an International Feature Oscar just this year. The film follows Julie, a woman in her late 20s navigating the modern world and struggling to decide who she should be.

Over the course of four years, we see Julie go from studying medicine to discovering a passion for photography. She finds love with two different men: a comic-book artist 15 years her senior named Aksel and a barista named Eivind, who both bring their share of complications. The film also takes plenty of unexpected twists and turns—much like life.

This movie is a refreshing take on young adulthood that manages to be an unconventional romantic comedy and a poignant character study at the same time. Patrons can now find the Criterion Collection edition of The Worst Person in the World through the library!

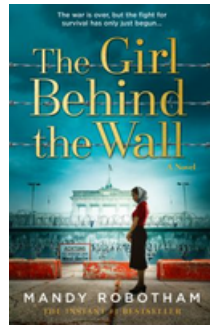
(REVIEW BY MICHAELA M.)

QUICK TAKES



Pachinko
By Min Jin Lee

This book is a sweeping saga that tells the story of a Korean family in Japan over four generations in the 20th century. Full of drama, pain, and endurance, the characters in this novel take on a life of their own in a reader's mind.



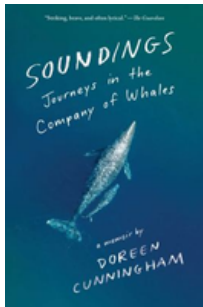
The Girl Behind the Wall
By Mandy Robotham

Two twin sisters are inadvertently separated and then forced to remain apart from each other for decades. This story of perseverance, strength, and ultimately reunion takes place in both East and West Berlin beginning with the construction of the Wall in 1961 and ending with its destruction in 1990.



Sabrina
by Nick Drnaso

This graphic novel follows the aftermath of the disappearance of a woman named Sabrina. The tragedy makes national news as her boyfriend Teddy slips further into a web of online conspiracy theories. What unfolds is a devastating but pointed snapshot of our current climate and all its discontents.



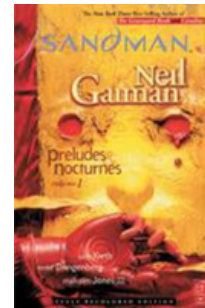
Soundings: Journeys in the Company of Whales
by Doreen Cunningham

A journalist and mother takes her young child on a trip to follow gray whale migration, all the while reminiscing about motherhood, love, lūpiat culture and the earth. A beautiful ode to nature, fallibility, and resilience.



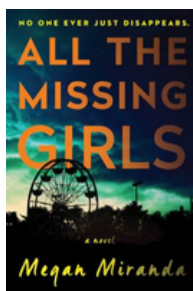
The Matrix: A Novel
by Lauren Groff

A rollicking revisionist ride into the 12th century, this novel tells an imagined tale about Marie de France, a real-life nun. Born of a rape by a French king, she is sent to England (then a backwater country), but she rises to the challenge and becomes a force to be reckoned with.



Sandman (series)
by Neil Gaiman

The whole Sandman series by Neil Gaiman is worth a read, whether you are in the midst of the new Netflix series or not. All the various artists and colorists give each book a fantastically varied look while the many facets of the saga unfold. Plus the introductions in each book are great and written by many famous names.

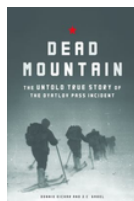


All the Missing Girls
by Megan Miranda

A missing-person thriller that stands out from the crowd with its nonlinear storytelling. All the Missing Girls scratches the thriller itch without becoming predictable, and had me riveted to the very last page.

PATRON RECOMMENDATIONS

Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story of the Dyatlov Pass Incident
by Donnie Eichar



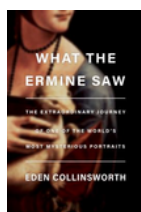
UFO? Bigfoot? Avalanche? Radioactive test? Russian military operation? Meteor strike?

On February 1-2, 1959 nine experienced hikers perished under mysterious circumstances in the Ural Mountains of Russia. All nine were eventually discovered dead in various stages of undress having slashed their way out of their tent in the middle of the night. Six died from hypothermia, two due to chest trauma, and one from a fractured skull. What could have made these nine friends so panicked as to leave the relative safety of their tent and brave the -22 °F stormy weather woefully underdressed in the middle of the night?

Donnie Eichar does a wonderful job patching together the facts of the case through research and interviews with family and friends of the hikers, and he even retraces their footsteps on what later was named Dyatlov Pass after the leader of the doomed hike. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and though we'll never really know for sure what exactly happened on that mountain, the conclusion that Eichar comes to definitely seems like the most plausible cause of the tragedy.

(Review by Stephen C.)

What The Ermine Saw : The Extraordinary Journey of Leonardo da Vinci's Most Mysterious Portrait
by Eden Collinworth



In 1486, the Duke of Milan commissioned Leonardo da Vinci to paint a portrait of his mistress Cecilia Gallerani. The resulting painting, Lady with an Ermine (an ermine is a variety of short-tailed weasel), would go on to travel the world and enter the orbit of many prominent (and evil) historical figures. This book tracks the journey of Lady with an Ermine as it leaves Milan with Cecilia, disappears from public view for 264 years, is purchased by a Polish Prince as a gift for his mother, somehow survives multiple wars and escapes unscathed from both the Nazis and from behind the Iron Curtain of Soviet-era Russia. Less so about the painting itself, this book is really about the fascinating characters whose stories are intertwined with the journey of Lady with an Ermine and without whom this work of art would likely no longer exist.

(Review by Stephen C.)

We Begin at the End
by Chris Whitaker



This book has been on my radar for awhile now. In the beginning I had to get used to Whitaker's style, sparse and fragmented sentencing. As you continue you notice that it is a perfect complement to this story. We Begin at the End is equally a crime story, a thriller, and a coming-of-age novel, and so literary it begs to be read more than once. The characters are all real and multidimensional, perfectly named to foreshadow storyline. You will meet Walk, the small-town police chief, clinging to the past and always doing the right thing until he doesn't. Then there is the young girl, Duchess Day Radley, the outlaw--so reminiscent of To Kill a Mockingbird's Scout in depth and maturity. Almost every character is both flawed and noble in their own right. Some will stay with you long after the story ends.

This book is both hopeless and hopeful. A 30-year-old event that creates a never ending chain of events.

I won't give any plot points away, I can only gush that this is the best book I read in 2021.

(Review by Sue G.)

The Shadow of the Gods
by John Gwynne



If you have never read John Gwynne before, this is a wonderful series with which to begin. Epic fantasy when it is done well is heart pounding. Three different narratives, three different quests, each so well developed and all leading to The Battle Plain where the old gods died. No spoilers here, there is evil trying to remake the world and heroes trying to save it. I can only say when it ended I turned the page hoping for more. I just finished the second book, The Hunger of the Gods, and it is equally as good. Great series.

(Review by Sue G.)

The Latecomer
by Jean Hanff Korelitz



Wow! This is a long, multi-layered story of the Oppenheimer family and their messy relationships. Beautifully written, it grabbed me from page one and didn't let go. College student Salo Oppenheimer is the driver when a car flips and causes the death of two passengers. This event is the catalyst that impacts almost every aspect of this complicated family. Spanning over 40 years, we watch the emotionally-paralyzed Salo and the ineffective Johanna parent their three distant IVF triplets. Only when a fourth child grows up, the latecomer, does the family come full-circle. So worth reading, and I'm definitely a fan of Jean Hanff Korelitz.

(Review by Sue G.)

MAGAZINES ON LIBBY

BY NICOLE B.

Ok all my magazine-loving friends, you have got to try the relatively new magazine collection on Libby! Right at your fingertips, you can have access to a plethora of popular magazines, both their current issue and multiple past issues, and it doesn't cost a thing! No matter if you're interested in the hot new gossip on Harry Styles, a long-form article in the New Yorker, or a new recipe from Taste of Home, Libby has something for everyone.

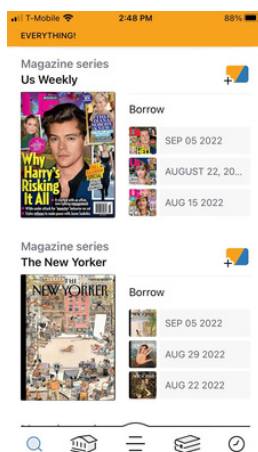
You like Rolling Stone magazine? They have it!

Family Handyman? Yep!

Vogue? You betcha!

Car & Driver? Outside? The New York Review of Books? National Geographic? Yes, yes, yes, and yes! Libby even has those special interest magazines you see at the drug and grocery stores that you always want to buy but don't.

Over the years, the price of magazines has gotten prohibitively expensive, and many have gone digital or are no longer available in stores. With Libby you can have free access to all those great titles again. Rediscover the world of magazines with Libby!



BEYOND DANCING

BY SUE K.

Out of the Corner
by Jennifer Grey



Though I am not generally one to read memoirs, my love of the movie Dirty Dancing compelled me to read Jennifer Grey's latest, Out of the Corner. The title is a direct reference to probably the most famous line from that movie. But as she put it in an interview, the book written over many years is her attempt to clear the air concerning all the negative press she has accumulated with her radical nose jobs and her tragic car crash with Matthew Broderick. As a child of Hollywood A-listers Joel Grey and Jo Wilder, she has quite a fascinating life story of her own. Dirty Dancing was her big breakthrough, but she had already been in previous movies and seemed set for a long career when she unknowingly derailed it with her botched second nose surgery, which completely changed her face so much people did not recognize her. With her famous boyfriends Matthew Broderick and Johnny Depp, she continued to garner all the wrong kind of press and was the sole conscious witness to the car accident with Broderick which caused the death of two people. All this she tells with candid and engaging writing which is by turns serious and gently funny. All in all she has taken great lessons from her life including the painful bits and comes out on top of her game.

WORTH A LISTEN: CARNEGIE HALL 1970

REVIEW BY CHLOE S.



This iconic Neil Young live set was released earlier this year as part of an ongoing archival project the legendary artist has been embarking on.

Recorded on December 4, 1970, Young performed 23 songs in a solely acoustic set. This CD is mixed from the original tapes from the show, being heard for the first time since that day. The set list is the perfect mash-up of deep cuts and staples everyone knows from his days spent with rock supergroup Buffalo Springfield, Crosby Stills Nash & Young (CSNY) and his solo career.

Standout moments on this record include "Sugar Mountain," where you can hear Neil poke fun at the audience to try to get them to clap along better, and "Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing" from Buffalo Springfield, stripped down to raw emotion. Listening from front to back, you can hear Young, already well established by that point, bare his soul in a new way that still moves you all these years later.

MUST-READ MEMOIR



ARCTIC ADVENTURE



BY CHLOE S.

I'm Glad My Mom Died
by Jennette McCurdy

A headline-grabbing title and a book no store is able to keep stocked on their shelves, this bestseller is worth all the hype.

Whether you grew up watching iCarly, know her from her podcast Empty Inside, or love to read memoirs, McCurdy's is one that will stay with you long after you read it. Her writing is brilliant and puts you in the room with her, reliving the highs and lows she has experienced.

She finds humor and peace through the memoir, despite her abusive mother whose actions earn the title, dysfunctional family life, anorexia, and alcoholism. At times, it is hard to read and you are left with your mouth open wondering what more can this poor woman go through. It also gives a glimpse into the acting world and how ruthless it can be for those that love acting, let alone for those like McCurdy who never wanted to do it in the first place.

You'll be relieved to know that she is in the best place she has ever been now thanks to therapy and this book, which has helped her heal and will surely help many others to heal from their own trauma. Best read in one-sitting, this is worth the long waiting pool wait!

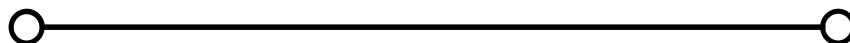
BY KAREN B.

The Arctic Fury
by Greer Macallister

The mythical Northwest Passage, long sought by Arctic explorers as a way to navigate the top of the world, serves as the backdrop for this book of historical fiction. It weaves together a story of Arctic exploration and courtroom drama all in one tale. It begins in the U.S. in 1854 with the wife of a missing British explorer hiring an all-female rescue crew to go find her lost husband. The protagonist, Virginia Reeve, is depicted as a fierce female leader who is more than capable of taking on this mission. Needless to say, many pitfalls and dangers beset the crew, weather conditions become horrific, and starvation looms. Horrible decisions must be made, lives are lost, and survival becomes the ultimate goal. Upon return, Virginia must then face murder charges. Information buried about Virginia's past comes to light during the trial that further threatens her life. At this point, the remaining survivors of the perilous Arctic journey must come to her defense in order to overcome the prejudices of the court and save each other. This book is a thrilling adventure story set in the past, but with a cast of characters full of courage that still resonates today.

THE CHECKOUT STAFF

Christina L., Chloe S., Jill J., Karen B. Michaela M., Nicole B., Nicole D., Rebecca K., Sue K., and Stuart R.



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