

THE CHECKOUT

FALL 2023

ISSUE #6

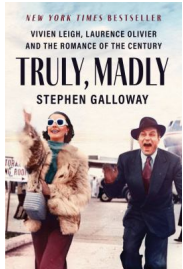
A REVIEW SOURCE WRITTEN BY LIBRARY PATRONS FOR LIBRARY PATRONS



A PUBLICATION
OF THE
KENMORE
BRANCH
LIBRARY

OLD HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE

BY CHLOE S.



Truly, Madly: Vivien Leigh, Laurence Olivier, and the Romance of the Century by Stephen Galloway

A made-for-the-movies love affair that captured an entire generation, Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier first met when they were both married to other people. Nothing could keep them apart, and the first truly global celebrity couple everyone gushed over was born despite the scandalous circumstances of their relationship.

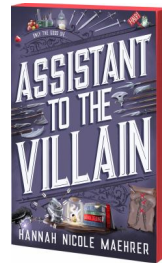
This book, written by the former executive editor of The Hollywood Reporter, goes into incredible detail about both actors' lives from birth to death, painting a full portrait of their marriage, careers, and everything in between. If you think you know everything there is about the two of them, think again. I would be shocked if you didn't learn something new from this.

Leigh, known for her performance in *Gone with The Wind*, suffered from undiagnosed bipolar disorder which significantly affected her career and relationship with Olivier, ultimately leading to their wild, long-spanning affair to end. This is one of the most interesting arcs in the book, with historical context of the disease, to how it was one of the main factors in their tumultuous relationship ending.

Any TCM lover should pick this up immediately!

NEW & NOTEWORTHY


BY EMILY L.,
GUEST REVIEWER



Assistant to the Villain by Hannah Nicole Maehrer

I cannot stress enough how much I love this book, and how much I want every fantasy romance reader to pick this up. Hannah Nicole Maehrer's *Assistant to the Villain* follows 23-year-old Evie Sage who accepts a job as the personal assistant to the terrifying Villain in order to provide for her poor family. Despite what the job title suggests, Evie comes to love both her job as well as the gruff man she is working for. However, when almost every single one of their evil plots fail to succeed, both Evie and the Villain must work together to find the mole in their carefully constructed organization and make them pay. Utilising amazing tropes that many romance readers love, Maehrer's *Assistant to the Villain* offers a refreshing new take on fantasy villains that I personally have never seen before, while also keeping everything light and fun so it really is a breeze to read through. If you're looking for a story that feels like "book candy," this is definitely the kind of story you want to read.

TITLE	
LIBRARY TIP #1	
DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REQUEST BOOKS, MOVIES, AND CDS FROM LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY? SIGN UP FOR AN INTERLIBRARY LOAN ACCOUNT TODAY!	

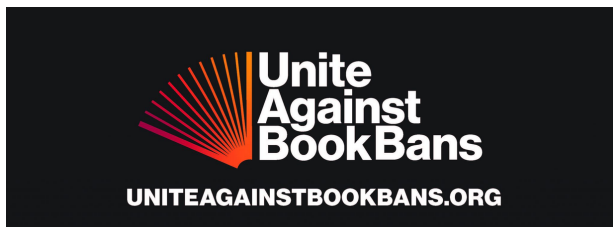


READ A BANNED BOOK

BY REBECCA K.



Crank by Ellen Hopkins is even more timely now than it was when it was written in 2004. Every parent's worst nightmare, other than catastrophic illness, is that their child will fall victim to drugs. This story is just that. Kristina, a model student and teenager who began testing her limits, went on a visit to see her deadbeat father and returned under the spell of "the monster," "The monster" is crystal meth and while using it, she begins a downward spiral of use, deceit, and degradation. Kristina starts as an average, slightly dorky girl, who begins to realize that she craves the life of her drug alter-ego Bree, who is outspoken, carefree, and fearless. This story, cleverly told in free verse, is a raw and honest window into drug use and addiction. Instead of being banned for its candid portrayal, it should be required reading. The situations that happen to Kristina, while shocking, are told in such a way that they are not overly sensational but nonetheless real. Its straightforwardness is compelling and absolutely heartbreaking given that the story is loosely based on the author's own daughter's struggle with addiction. It does end with a glimmer of hope until you realize that it is the first in a trilogy.

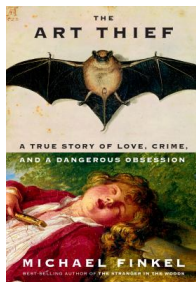


USE THIS QR CODE TO LEARN ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF BOOK BANS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST CENSORSHIP



ATTIC OF STOLEN TREASURES

BY STEPHEN C., GUEST REVIEWER



The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession
by Michael Finkel

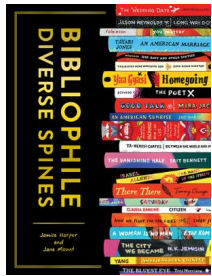
In March 1995, Stéphane Breitwieser was a sporadically employed, 23-year-old French man living in his mother's attic with his girlfriend, Anne-Catherine Kleinklaus. He, with the help of Kleinklaus, was also about to embark on a years-long career as an art thief that would end with 239 works of art going missing from 172 European museums with a total value of \$2 billion.

Through interviews with most of the main players of this fascinating story, the author is able to piece together a complicated timeline that revolves mostly around spur-of-the-moment thefts of historically important objects. These were not the well-planned (or planned at all) elaborate heists seen in movies. Instead, the pair would enter smaller local museums during open hours and leave with whatever caught their eye, usually down Breitwieser's pants or in Kleinklaus's oversized purses. The pair would then return, past the blind eye turned by Breitwieser's mother, to their attic room with the priceless treasure and display it there for their eyes only.

Each theft the author recounts has you on the edge of your seat because surely the audacious thief will be caught this time, and even after he is arrested, his trial and those of his accomplices are just as dramatic. Along the way we are also introduced to numerous artworks and their stories, leaving us to wonder about the greatest question of all: where are they now?

MARGINALIZED VOICES

BY KAREN B.



Bibliophile: Diverse Spines by Jamise Harper and Jane Mount

This is a gem of a book! Not necessarily meant to be read front to back, it is instead a book to browse and ponder. Styling itself a “miscellany,” its purpose is to offer an array of diverse books and book information to readers looking for their next read to move them beyond their own comfort zone. It fills an important place in the world of readers’ advisory services because it highlights works that reflect marginalized voices in literature. Between these covers, readers can find suggestions for new books to read that span contemporary fiction, historical fiction, speculative fiction, romance, coming-of-age stories, mysteries and horror, young adult titles, graphic novels, poetry, and cookbooks, among others. Brief entries include a sentence or two for each recommendation, followed by illustrations of book covers, writers, bookstores, and important book people. All of this information is accompanied by the well-known posters of piled book covers drawn by Jane Mount and the inspiring informative text written by Jamise Harper. Authors from diverse backgrounds and multicultural backgrounds shine in these pages as recommended sources. Highly recommended for all readers looking to widen their own horizons through their reading.

A MUST SEE!

BY STUART R.



A great documentary featuring esteemed biographer Robert Caro and his world-famous editor, Robert Gottlieb. Caro, now in his late 80s, is working on the last of his multi-volume biography of Lyndon Johnson. Caro initially became famous fifty years ago for his critically acclaimed, *The Power Broker*, the biography of New Yorker Robert Moses.

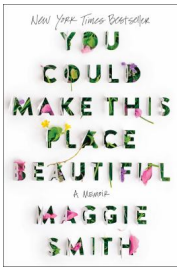
Turn Every Page is descriptive of Caro’s work ethic. For example, Caro and his wife, his one and only researcher, moved to Texas for three years while working on the first volume of the Johnson biography. He felt that in order to do justice to his work, he had to track down and interview many of the significant people who interacted with Johnson during the first part of his life. This is only one example of his meticulous research.

Regarding *The Power Broker*, editor Gottlieb had to cut several hundred thousand words, not because they weren’t relevant, but because it would have been difficult to bind the book. As it turned out *The Power Broker* is over 1,000 pages in length.

Gottlieb also was editor for Joseph Heller, famous for writing *Catch-22*. He was also editor for Leon Uris who initially became well-known for writing *Exodus*. His follow up book was *Mila 18*. Heller’s original title for his book was *Catch-18m* but Gottlieb felt that the title was too close to Uris’s *Mila 18*. They agreed to change the title of Heller’s book to *Catch-22*. The rest is history!

BITTERSWEET

BY NICOLE B.



You Could Make This Place Beautiful by Maggie Smith

Divorce is brutal. Maggie Smith's memoir of her recent divorce and the aftermath lay bare what many people go through when our assumed "happily ever after" does not pan out as expected. The hurt is real, the confusion, the anger and sadness, and you feel it all along with the author as she navigates raising her children and rediscovering herself through the process. What I found interesting was her acknowledgement that Generation X women (the author is in her late 40s) were encouraged to be strong, independent professionals, yet often still take on the traditional roles of homemaker and caretaker--often creating an unsustainable imbalance in relationships. Whatever factors that led to the ending of her marriage, it is her rumination, growth, and creation of a new life that are most compelling. Life for all of us is a mixture of good and bad--bittersweet (as is the name of a cabin Smith's family used to vacation at), and that seems to be the overlying theme of her journey and this book.



The Delaware Park Rose Garden built in 1917 is just one of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy gardens.

ARTWORK BY SUE K.

THE CHECKOUT: FALL 2023

THE LAFAYETTE LEGACY

BY KAREN B.



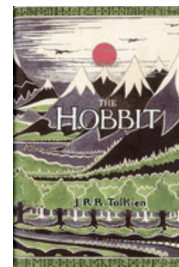
The Women of Chateau Lafayette by Stephanie Dray

Lafayette, the French soldier who played an outsized role in the Revolutionary War, holds hero status in both France and the U.S. As a person who devoted his life to liberty, his ideals were born and nurtured in a castle in rural France. This castle acts as both a home and a symbol of liberty to three women whose stories are told in this novel. The first is his wife, Adrienne. She not only followed, but often surpassed her husband in courage during wartime. After devoutly supporting the American cause, she then became a voice for liberty in the French Revolution, often to her own peril. Her sacrifices were beyond imagining. The second woman is Beatrice Chanler, an American story in her own right, who equally supported liberty by rescuing and caring for orphans in the castle during WWI against enormous odds. The third woman, Marthe, a fictional teacher/artist/forgery at the castle, embodies liberty during WWII by personally defying both Nazis and French collaborators to her own personal detriment in pursuit of bigger ideals. The three women lived at the castle at different points in time, but all three have much to teach readers about courage and steadfastness in times of great danger.

ISSUE #6

CLASSICALLY FANTASTIC

BY SHAWN S., GUEST REVIEWER



When I finished *The Hobbit* and saw that it had over 3.7 million ratings on Goodreads, I could completely understand why! This is truly the cream of the crop as far as fantasy goes, and it has inspired countless other fantasy stories for decades. Before reading the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, I thought it best to start with the prequel, and *The Hobbit* did not disappoint! I loved that despite finding the ring and having the power of invisibility thrust onto him, Bilbo Baggins never forgot who he was despite going through major character changes. He always held on to his own personal sense of morality, which was challenged by the others he encountered during his adventure, but never lost. He proved to Gandalf and the dwarves by the end of the book that he was an invaluable part of the adventure, and it had little to do with the ring. Bilbo Baggins, as a hobbit, reminded the others he was traveling with that good cheer, good food, comfort, and friendship should be just as valued as fighting valor or the dragon Smaug's hoarded treasure.

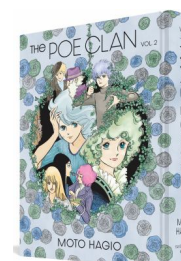
Despite his hobbit nature, Bilbo tapped into his Took lineage to fully immerse himself in the adventure. I believe this shift happened when Bilbo killed a warg by himself. This gave him a sense of agency and bravery for the rest of the adventure, even when Gandalf decided to leave them on their own during the latter half. In Gandalf's absence, Bilbo proved to be an amazing leader for his friends. And he continued to be a leader when he returned home by refusing to be bothered by the judgements of other hobbits.

The Hobbit will always remain a classic both for what it has done for the fantasy genre as well as the much loved and well-developed characters it portrays. I can't wait to see the story of the ring continue with Frodo in *Lord of the Rings*.



HAUNTING VAMPIRE TALE

BY CHLOE S.



The Poe Clan Vol.1 and Vol. 2
by Moto Hagio

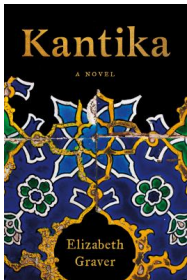
Reminiscent of a classic Anne Rice or V.C. Andrews story, these graphic novels revolve around a group of vampires called the Poe Clan. Edgar and Marybelle, a pair of human siblings, come across the clan by accident, where they have lived in a village of roses for centuries while feeding on the energy of the living.

Initiated into the clan too young and stuck forever at adolescence, these immortals touch the lives of the humans they simultaneously love and feed off of while exploring what it means to live and to die.

Written in the 1970s, these were translated into English for the first time recently. With dreamlike art and classic Gothic themes, both volumes are a great pick for anyone who loves horror and hasn't tried a graphic novel before. Great story, groundbreaking art panels, and vampires--do I need to say more?

SING!

BY KAREN B.



Kantika
by Elizabeth Graver

“Kantika” means “song” in Ladino, a Judeo-Spanish language spoken by Sephardic Jews. Probably less well-known than the Yiddish spoken by Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews, Ladino has an equally tragic history as the language of the Jews expelled by Spain during the Inquisition around 1500. Nevertheless, it is the binding agent that keeps families together, and this novel puts its presence to good use. It tells the story of Rebecca Cohen, a Sephardic Jew born at the start of the 20th century in what was then called Constantinople in the Ottoman Empire (now present day Istanbul, Turkey). Rebecca is a singer. She sings the Ladino songs of her people throughout her life. This story follows the course of her life from a wealthy childhood in Turkey, to refugee status in Spain as a young adult, to becoming a bride again as a young mother in Cuba, to her final stops in the United States. Drawn against a background of tumult and uprooting, the novel also shines a light on personal triumphs and tragedies. Sadness and joy are both ever present in the songs she sings. Highly recommended!



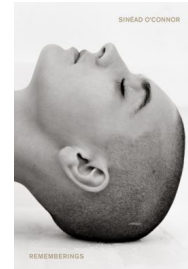
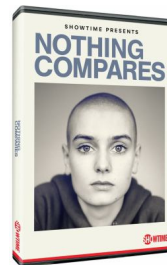
The RiverRock Garden in Riverside Park follows the original minnow pond designed by the Olmsted Firm. Rocks and small boulders outline the “pool” of pebbles and an inner border of native plants.

ARTWORK BY SUE K.

THE CHECKOUT: FALL 2023

THANK YOU FOR HEARING ME

BY NICOLE B.



It feels like Sinéad O’Connor has always existed in my consciousness- a rough sketch of a person who was controversial to me in ways both alluring and confusing. I was a teenager when she became infamous for ripping up a picture of Pope John Paul II on Saturday Night Live, and from there she became more of a concept than a person. I did not understand the full complexity of what she was trying to tell us at the time, and what our entire society refused to hear.

Now that I am older, and with all of what we know now, I truly appreciated watching the *Nothing Compares* documentary and then listening to the audiobook version of her memoir, *Rememberings*. I just happened to watch the documentary a couple weeks before her death, and it made me realize how much I had accepted her cruel societal shunning as normal. Although she does say in both the documentary and her memoir that the SNL incident did not derail her career, but put her more on the path to the career she wanted (not stardom, but protest singing), I am still uneasy at how we treat people who say uncomfortable truths.

Maybe after watching the documentary and listening to Sinéad tell her story in her own words, the next time someone has something to say, we can all take a moment and listen.

LISTEN TO
THE
AUDIOBOOK
ON



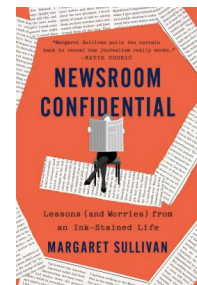
Libby.

ISSUE #6

LOCAL NEWS

BY KAREN B.

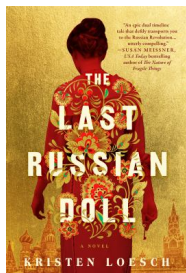
Newsroom Confidential: Lessons (and Worries) from an Ink-Stained Life by Margaret Sullivan



Margaret Sullivan, nationally known journalist from Buffalo, has written this book as both a memoir and a warning. It describes how the Watergate investigations inspired her to work on her high school and college newspapers, and then become an intern at the Buffalo News. Her rise at the Buffalo News took her to the very top of her profession in Western New York when she became editor-in-chief. After a decades-long career in Buffalo, she then left to become the public editor at the New York Times, a position that allowed her to represent readers in the role of an outside voice critiquing the news reporting at the paper. Following that, she became a media columnist at the Washington Post, a position that gave her the opportunity to observe and critique all aspects of the national media in a regular column. The warning in the book comes from her worries about the future of democracy given the eroding public trust in the media. She offers her insight on why this has happened and how to potentially fix it. Written in clear and concise language, this book offers readers plenty of opportunities to ponder not only the future of journalism, but the future of the nation.

WOMEN ARE MORE THAN PORCELAIN DOLLS

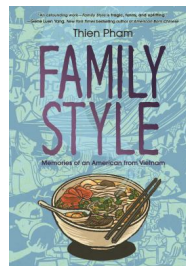
BY REBECCA K.



The Last Russian Doll by Kristen Loesch is a sweeping drama that jumps around in time, starting around the 1917 Russian Revolution and ending at the dissolution of the USSR. The novel focuses primarily on Tonya, who, in a changing Imperial Russia, has to learn to navigate from a world lost into an increasingly foreign and challenging existence. It also follows a young Russian émigré, Rosie, who has many questions and much internal turmoil as she finds herself back in a world that is recognizable but on the verge of change. As an evolving young person she starts to realize that all she thought is not how it was and that those closest to you are far more complex than once realized. When we are small we forget that our parents had lives before us and their trauma and experiences shape our lives. The story, embellished with fairytales and porcelain dolls, evokes many different emotions and makes you aware of the resilience of humans.

AMERICAN VALUE

BY NICOLE B.



Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam by Thien Pham

This beautiful and powerful memoir of Thien Pham's journey from refugee to American citizen is a graphic novel I would encourage everyone to read. The beginning is disturbing and unsettling--giving a true glimpse at what some immigrants go through to come to America. Nothing is easy, everything is difficult and yet Thien's memoir shows the strong community that is often built from our newest residents. The book is honest and frank about the pull some feel between their home culture and their American identity, and how many of those issues are never resolved. Also interlaced in Thien's story is the importance different foods played into his experiences growing up, making this a book that will truly capture your senses.

LIES AND TRUTH

BY SUE K.



Michael Koryta's newest mystery *An Honest Man* digs deeply into a mass murder aboard a luxury yacht seen floating along the coast of a small island town in Maine. To his misfortune, the one discovering the bloody interior of the boat is a man who murdered his father and did his time in jail for the crime. Koryta explores the realms of what is actual, what is corrupt to its core, and how actual truth sometimes cannot save victims and perpetrators of crime. The book shines a light on the effects of lobster fishing ban on a small community, child abuse and human trafficking, and the effects of rampant corruption at the state and local levels. The characters all live in shades of truth and lies. There are no clean answers in this tangle, but the honest man of the title brings great humanity and sacrifice to this story.

LOCAL SOUNDS

BY CHLOE S.



Delivery
by Mikaela Davis

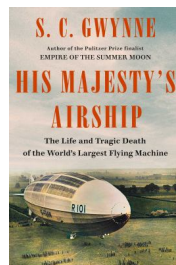
Mikaela Davis is a classically trained harpist from Rochester with a genre-bending sound that is explored in her debut album *Delivery*. From 60s pop-soaked melodies, psychedelia, and driving folk rock, you would never expect a harpist to go there but she does!

In "Emily," she uses the harp as an acoustic guitar in the stripped-down ballad, then plucks away as if it was a distorted electric guitar in "A Letter I'll Never Send," with foot-tapping bass and synths.

Songs and stories about self-doubt, creativity, and insight into why she abandoned grad school to go full-time as a musician, *Delivery* is a great introduction into her genius! Her latest release, *And Southern Star*, is unfortunately not at the library yet but a great follow-up to this album.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF A BAD IDEA

BY STEPHEN C., GUEST REVIEWER



His Majesty's Airship: The Life and Tragic Death of the World's Largest Flying Machine
by S. C. Gwynne

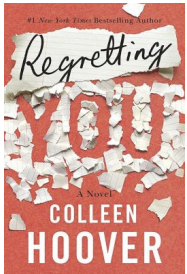
During World War I, 77 of the 115 German-made airships sent on bombing raids over Britain were shot down or damaged so heavily that they became inoperable. Despite this less than stellar success rate and the visual evidence of the horrible fate that dying on a downed airship brought, Britain and later the U.S. couldn't get into the airship business fast enough. This large-scale denial of seemingly obvious evidence is just the first in a long line of bizarre and dangerous decisions that eventually lead to numerous deaths and delusion on a global scale.

In *His Majesty's Airship: The Life and Tragic Death of the World's Largest Flying Machine*, S.C. Gwynne tells not only the story of R101, the airship that is the culmination of years of research and development (and failure) in the British airship program, but also gives a history of the invention and public fascination with airships. Along the way we meet a cast of unique characters from all walks of life that play a part, large and small, in the eventual fate of R101 and the airship industry as it was.

This book is a fascinating glimpse into a point in history when the airship was the undisputed future of global travel and the drama-filled tragedies that put that dream to an end.

HOLY HOOVER!



BY CHRISTINA L.



Regretting You
by Colleen Hoover

Colleen Hoover is so hot right now! Everywhere I go, her books are taking over the shelves! I do enjoy some of her stories, and *Regretting You* is my favorite title thus far. This one starts with a tragic and questionable car accident that leaves Morgan and her teenage daughter, Clara, to pick up the pieces. With their worlds turned upside down, Morgan and Clara begin to grow apart and find solace in their own romantic relationships. As the true details of the car accident come to light, both Morgan and Clara must decide if they can put their lives back together or let their family's tragic past pull them apart for good. This one delves deep into the emotional mother and daughter relationship, with all the usual angst and steamy moments we expect from Hoover.

LIBRARY TIP #2
SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR A LIST OF BORROWER'S
CURRENT EVENTS AT
THE KENMORE LIBRARY
(CLICK ON THE
"WHAT'S HAPPENING"
TAB)



TIMELESS AND TRUE

BY CHLOE S.

Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words
by Joni Mitchell and Malka Marom

One of the greatest artists ever gives a glimpse into her inner thoughts through interviews with fellow musician Malka Marom. Notoriously private, the free-flowing conversation between her and Joni spans years--from their first meeting in 1966 to 2012. Decades of life, art, and the creative process are topics of discussion, told through the interview, lyrics, artwork, and more.

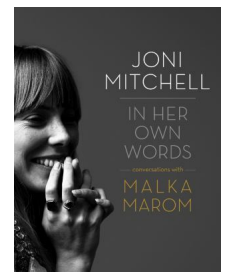
Although this could use some more context surrounding certain conversations, this a great pick for fans of Joni Mitchell or anyone interested in the artistic process.

THE WEAVER, THE SLAVE, AND THE QUEEN IN VIKING NORWAY

BY SUE K.

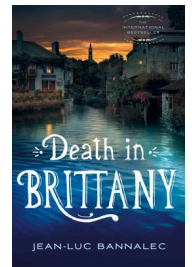


The Weaver and the Witch Queen by Genevieve Gornichec is a great history lesson on Viking culture in the midst of a compelling story. In her author blurb on the book jacket, Gornichec says "she earned her degree in history from Ohio State University but she got as close to majoring in Vikings as she possibly could". Her meticulous research brings that world to life while it draws you into the complex friendship of three young women. The three vowed to join their lives together right before they are torn in different directions by violence and witchcraft. There is a fascinating side character who gives us a look at the experience of a trans man in an era which did not even have the language to describe his life. The quiet awareness and acceptance of him by his peers was extraordinary, and probably not always the norm in a martial violent culture like the Vikings. The experiences of the three women main characters flies in the face of what most women of that culture were subjected to as well.



A MYSTERY IN BRITTANY

BY KEN W.



Death in Brittany by Jean-Luc Bannalec is the first of a series of mysteries that takes place in Brittany (a part of North Western France). Chief inspector Dupin, the police captain who leads the investigations in all of the series is introduced as a caffeine-addicted captain who transferred from Paris for undisclosed reasons and has come to value the Breton quality of life.

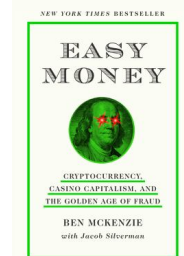
After a brief introduction to the inspector, we find that he is called to the scene of a murder and we learn as much about the way he processes the investigation as we do about the victim. The reader is involved in this process as well as the inspector's love for food and his enchantment with Brittany. The complicated interaction between Dupin and those he leads is sometimes comical other times tense. He often finds it difficult to interact with some of his colleagues, but has great respect for others. He is characterized as a non-conformist and often seems to succeed in interactions that you would expect to get him in trouble, (with the help of loyal assistants he truly values).

His unique approach to solving the puzzle and a few false leads end in a culmination of the correct solution to the murder. Follow along carefully as this author weaves a complicated mesh of clues until the mystery's solution. You will also gain valuable knowledge of this area of France and become aware of its unique character.



AN UNREGULATED, UNLICENSED CASINO? WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

BY STEPHEN C., GUEST REVIEWER



Early on in Easy Money: Cryptocurrency, Casino Capitalism, and the Golden Age of Fraud by Ben McKenzie & Jacob Silverman the authors have the following exchange as they prepare to dive into the research for the book:

McKenzie: What genre are we working in?

Silverman: True crime, layered over with as much absurdity as you can handle. This is a Coen brothers movie we're living, man.

This perfectly sums up a fascinating book on the giant Ponzi scheme that is the cryptocurrency market. Just when you think you've come across the most outlandish detail in the story of crypto there's another laughable moment just around the corner. This well-researched book is not only informative but at times hilarious all while remaining utterly compelling.

In one of the more riveting chapters, McKenzie is granted an interview with Sam Bankman-Fried while he was still the darling of finance (and lining the pockets of members of Congress) before the collapse of his digital currency exchange FTX and his incarceration on charges of fraud and money laundering. The excerpts from this bizarre interview make you wonder how the majority of people didn't see this industry for the house of cards that it was before it was too late.

This is an excellent read for anyone interested in financial fraud, Ponzi schemes or even someone looking to understand how cryptocurrency, in theory at least, works.

REEL REVIEWS

Barbie

(2023, directed by Greta Gerwig)



RESERVE YOUR
SPOT ON THE
HOLD LIST
TODAY!
DVD COMES OUT
2/29/24

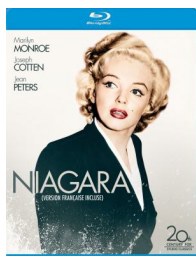
Margot Robbie is a Barbie girl in a Barbie world that isn't all smiles in the blockbuster film directed by Greta Gerwig. Everyday for Robbie's Stereotypical Barbie is filled with fun, multiple outfit changes, and a choreographed disco party until she starts to get sudden thoughts of death and flat feet. Disillusioned by Barbieland, she sets off to the real world to see what is causing her to "malfunction" while Ken (Ryan Gosling) hitches a ride.

All the buzz and acclaim around this film is real! From the to-scale set and props, musical numbers, and even highlighting controversies surrounding Barbie and crew like the discontinued pregnant Midge doll, everything is right on the money. Combined with the poignant look on what it means to be human, this truly shows how Barbie is much more than a doll.

(REVIEW BY CHLOE S.)

Niagara

(1953, directed by Henry Hathaway)



This neo-noir filmed in our backyard over the border catapulted Marilyn Monroe into stardom. She plays Rose Loomis, who is vacationing at what was the honeymoon capital of the world at the time--Niagara Falls! Her older husband George (Joseph Cotton) is a bit of a downer, and she befriends a couple also honeymooning in the area--Polly and Ray Cutler (Jean Peters and Casey Adams). During their stay, Polly catches Rose in the arms of another man and things take a dark, sinister turn.

(REVIEW BY CHLOE S.)



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

Liquor Store Dreams, A Documentary Film

(2022, directed by So Yun Um)



Self-proclaimed "liquor store babies," co-stars So Yun Um and Danny Park are first generation American children born to Korean immigrant parents, who did the best they could with inadequate opportunities by running liquor stores in Black and Brown communities. Set in Los Angeles, the film follows the stories of two generations of Korean families: both the Korean parents who immigrated to the U.S. and their children who are coming up as the next generation. I think we will be hearing about this documentary a lot in the coming year. It offers an intimate, poignant, and important discussion of the complex racial landscape experienced in downtown L.A. I was taken deeper to examine the range of perspectives on racial equity through the lens of some remarkable human beings. A must watch.

The film is streaming on PBS and available on various other streaming platforms. Check out the trailer and follow the Skid Row Market on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CrOea4rpsjz/?ref=dpnac7bxpko>

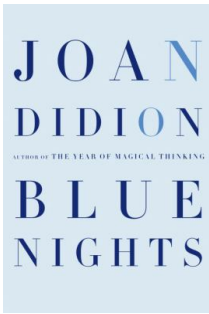


https://youtu.be/vM_Rs78KRh8



(REVIEW BY CHRISTINA L.)

QUICK TAKES



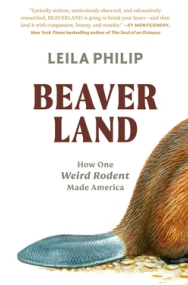
Blue Nights
by Joan Didion

Musings on life, death, parenting, and what it means to remember from an acclaimed writer who lost both her husband and daughter in a short period.



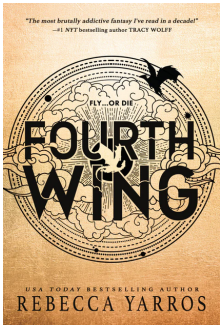
Künstlers in Paradise
by Cathleen Schine

A heartfelt story that focuses on the relationship between a directionless grandson, Julien, and his eccentric yet pragmatic grandmother, Mamie. As the two cohabitate, Julien learns of Mamie's remarkable life as a Jewish émigré and about himself as well. A great multigenerational read.



Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America
by Leila Philip

Following fur trappers and traders, conservationists, and other “beaver believers,” Philip explores the lives and impact of one of North America’s strangest and most important animals.



Fourth Wing
by Rebecca Yarros

Dragons, romance, adventure, and surprises. What's not to enjoy?! A page-turner that is difficult to put down and leaves you wanting more. Being a reader who regularly leans toward fantasy adventure romance, it is not easy to surprise me, and at the end I definitely was.



Blood and Ash (series)
by Jennifer Armentrout

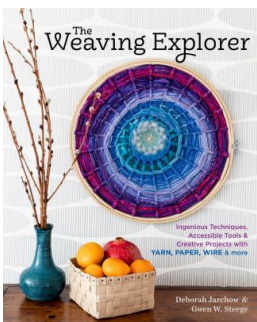
This series is a hefty undertaking but well worth the time spent, with characters carefully drawn and fleshed out across the cataclysmic events across multiple kingdoms. The books in order are: From Blood and Ash, A Kingdom of Flesh and Fire, The Crown of Gilded Bones, The War of Two Queens, and A Soul of Ash and Blood.



Ultimate Guide to Barbie

Go behind the scenes of the film of the year with a closer look at the Dreamhouse set, how the script was developed, the doll's history, and more.

AVAILABLE ON

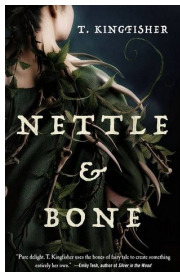


The Weaving Explorer
by Deborah Jarchow and Gwen W. Steege

The subtitle says it all: “Ingenious techniques, accessible tools & creative projects with yarn, paper, wire & more.” This handy craft book seems especially designed for beginners who want to learn how to weave without expensive looms and other equipment. It gives learners clear pictures and simple directions for how to create many clever items with beautiful designs. Highly recommended for all would-be weavers.

A FAIRLY HARROWING TALE

BY JILL J.



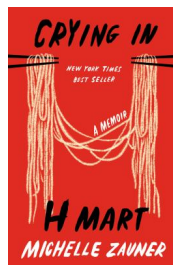
Nettle & Bone
by T. Kingfisher

Marra is a 30-year-old nun with a secret identity: she's actually a princess. The youngest daughter in her family and uninterested in marrying, Marra is sent off to a convent to live a peaceful life without political intrigue. Her two older sisters, however, do not fare so easily. The first dies in a fall, and the second--pregnant, frail, married to the same man--issues Marra a dire warning: Make sure you aren't next. Our princess is now on a mission to kill the evil and abusive Prince Vorling, save her sister, and prevent her small nation from being swept up in war.

The characters are what makes this story so unusual and charming, and unlike any other fairy tale reimagining I've read before. Agnes the reluctant fairy godmother, the dust-wife and her demonically-possessed chicken, Fenris the exiled knight, and Bonedog, the dog made of (you guessed it!) bones are a motley crew of skewed fairytale archetypes who form Marra's group to depose Vorling and save her sister. Along the way, they encounter long-dead kings, cannibals, and an absolutely terrifying wooden marionette. If you're looking to read a new take on some classic fairy tale tropes, *Nettle & Bone* is the book for you.

MEMORABLE MEMOIR



BY IZZY B., GUEST REVIEWER



The memoir genre is becoming a close personal friend of mine. I love losing myself in someone else's story, recognizing myself in someone else's experience, and being faced with the raw honesty of perspectives I couldn't have ever imagined. I'm also a very nosy person, so I think that helps too. This is why, despite my admittedly immature but stubborn dislike of assigned reading (for a current college class I'm taking), I really enjoyed *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner. Zauner's childhood was mostly spent with her mother, a stern but loving woman from Seoul who showed her love to her daughter almost exclusively through food. However, the memory of how they shared Korean food and cultural practices is bittersweet as she reflects on how their close relationship was fractured by their disagreement over what Michelle's future should be. Her mother, Chongmi, strongly refused to accept her ambitions as a musician, and their relationship was almost destroyed before Chongmi was diagnosed with cancer. Put back into full perspective, Michelle then embodied her mother's perfect caretaker, fulfilling all of her expectations and conforming into the ideal daughter to encourage her mother to hold on. But when Chongmi finally passes after unsuccessful and extensive chemotherapy, Michelle reflects on her relationship with her mother, her career ambitions, her relationship to Korean culture, and who she truly wants to be. This book was visceral, descriptive, and heartwrenching every step of the way, and an amazing testament to the very personal memories that ultimately founded her well-known indie band, Japanese Breakfast. Also, if you loved this book as much as I did, or if you just like the sound of the plot, or if you're a Japanese Breakfast fan, or if you're going to Babel anyway, visit Zauner at the upcoming Babel event at the Just Buffalo Literary Center!

LIBRARY TIP #3

DID YOU KNOW AS A NEW YORK STATE RESIDENT YOU CAN GET A NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD, GIVING YOU ACCESS TO THEIR WIDE ARRAY OF DIGITAL RESOURCES? USE THIS QR CODE TO FIND OUT HOW!

JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER **BABEL** 2023-2024

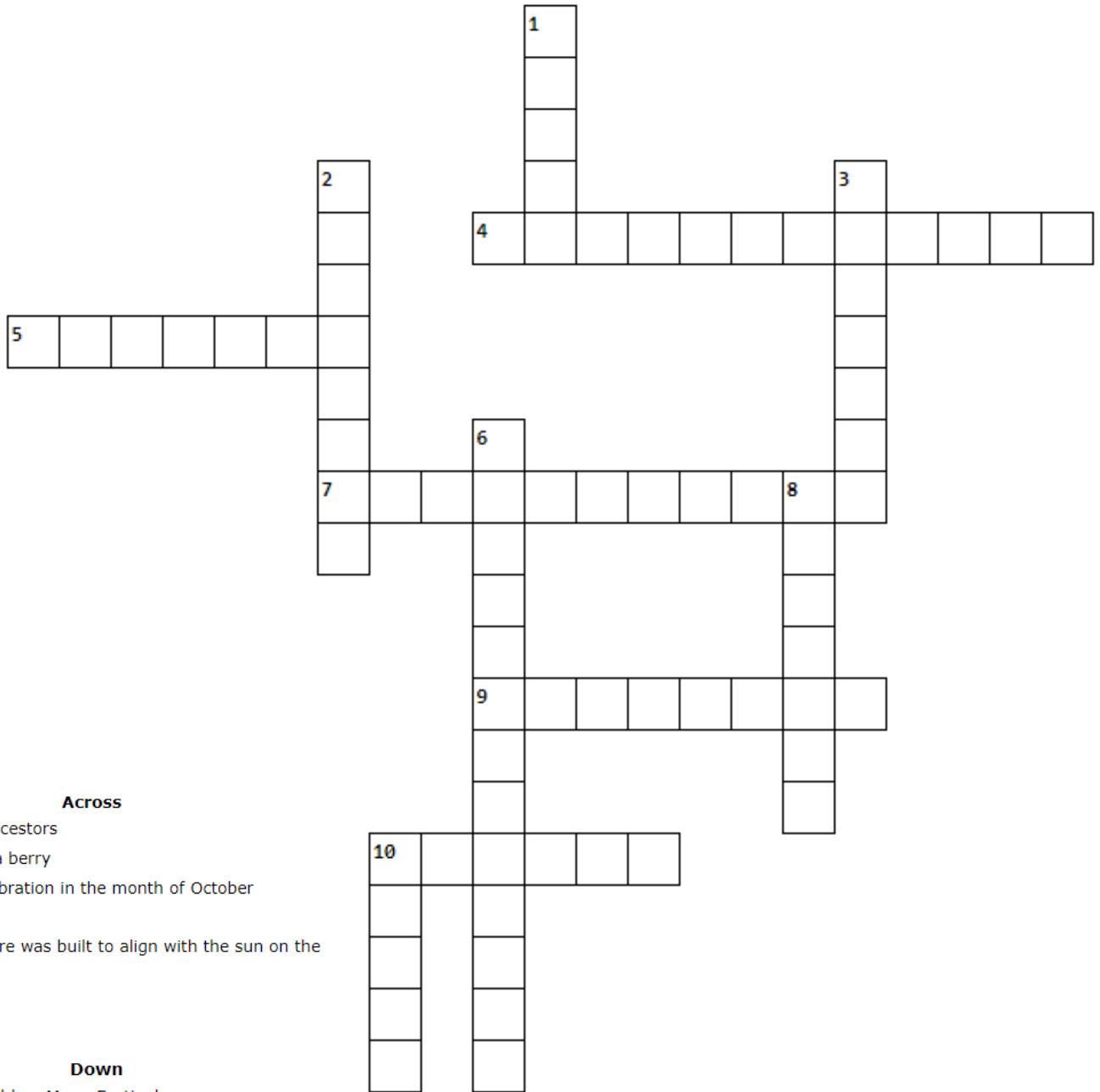
 Jhumpa Lahiri Fri / Oct 6 / 2023	 Michelle Zauner Thu / Nov 9 / 2023
 John Irving Thu / Mar 21 / 2024	 Kiese Laymon Thu / Apr 25 / 2024

VISIT THE JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION BABEL SERIES AND OTHER EVENTS



PILATES?! OH.. YOU MEAN PIE AND LATTES

BY REBECCA K.



Across

- 4. celebration of ancestors
- 5. Fall fruit that is a berry
- 7. Big German celebration in the month of October
- 9. _____ Equinox
- 10. Ancient structure was built to align with the sun on the fall equinox

Down

- 1. What country holds a Moon Festival
- 2. Most popular spice in the fall
- 3. What US state has the best fall foliage
- 6. Most popular Halloween candy in New York State
- 8. Ancient festival that is the basis for Halloween
- 10. Pumpkin _____ Latte



ATTENTION MUSIC LOVERS & SUPREME COURT AFICIONADOS!

BY STUART R.

Get great music at our Kenmore Library. Many "gems" not on our shelves are available in the Erie County Library System and can be sent here. I've been able to access two "classics" from the piano literature: J.S. Bach Two Part Inventions and Clementi Sonatinas Opus 36. I've been working on pieces from each book.

Need help ordering piano literature? Our great staff is always available to help.

Important Reminder!

We have subscriptions to the New York Times Sunday Edition and the New York Review of Books. I just read a great piece in the current Sunday Opinion Section of the September 10th edition of the New York Times by Aaron Carroll, MD, Chief Health Officer of Indiana University. He talks about his own long-term struggles with anxiety, depression, and obesity without taking medication. I was impressed and emotionally moved by his openness and transparency. Finally, he decided to try to manage his symptoms with medication and fortunately, he obtained relief in both areas even though he was unable to explain why these medications work.

Another great piece is in the July 17th edition of the New York Review of Books by Harvard Law Professor Emeritus of Constitutional Law, Laurence Tribe, where he reviews five recent books regarding the Supreme Court.

Thanks so much to our great library staff for adding this critically acclaimed periodical to our great magazine collection.

REFLECTIONS FROM A BOOK LOVER

BY STUART R.

It's great being a member of the Checkout crew! I look forward to our monthly meetings. It is really important for me to be a part of a group of like-minded people, and our discussions are very lively. People are very kind, friendly, intelligent, and broadminded, and there is no snobbery or intellectual one-upmanship. The group is led by our head librarian. She is a great facilitator who brings out the best in us. Consider joining--I think you will find it very fulfilling!

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR STAFF?
MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 1ST
THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM AT
THE KENMORE LIBRARY

CROSSWORD (ANSWERS)

ACROSS:

4. Day of the Dead
5. Pumpkin
7. Oktoberfest
9. Autumnal
10. Sphinx

DOWN:

1. China
2. Cinnamon
3. Vermont
6. Sour Patch Kids
8. Samhain
10. Spice

THE CHECKOUT STAFF

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

WANT TO SUBMIT A REVIEW?

SEND TO KNM@BUFFALOLIB.ORG, SUBJECT LINE "THE CHECKOUT SUBMISSION."

SUBMISSIONS WILL BE POSTED PER DISCRETION OF THE LIBRARY. SUBMISSIONS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT OR LENGTH.