

# THE CHECKOUT

SPRING 2024

ISSUE #8

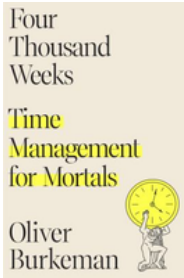
A REVIEW SOURCE WRITTEN BY LIBRARY PATRONS FOR LIBRARY PATRONS



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
KENMORE  
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# SLOW DOWN...TIME IS TICKING

BY CHRISTINA L.



## Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals

by Oliver Burkeman

With another new year swiftly moving along, I decided to try a new book in the self-help genre. Enter: Oliver Burkeman's **Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals**. After picking it up, I quickly realized that this is not your run-of-the-mill time management book. Burkeman did not recommend waking up insanely early and completing a long list of unsustainable tasks (meditation, journaling, rigorous exercise, egg whites, yoga, followed by more egg whites) before completing a skillfully curated to-do list...all with insatiable gratitude. Nope, none of that!

Instead, I was reminded of my limited existence and encouraged to embrace my finitude by living a present-focused life. Burkeman dove just deep enough into the philosophical history of time, and how its creation has worked to create a culture of stress, anxiety, and deep-rooted fears of missing out. Although we know we can't do it all (I have certainly tried, my friends), **Four Thousand Weeks** helped me direct my attention to the things that matter most. There are, of course, a few key guidelines for making lists and tips on completing needed tasks each day. We must keep on "adulting" and trying to maintain some sense of order in the mess of life. However, I am seriously considering other options because it turns out adulting is really, really hard. I digress.

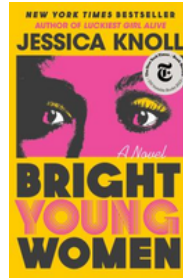
The final takeaway I gleaned from this book was liberating. Beware of the efficiency trap. We are all going to die in roughly four thousand weeks. That said, you had better think clearly about who you give time to, what you direct your attention to during that time, and perhaps more importantly, what you step away from, to ensure you are living a personally fulfilling life YOU want, not what society, culture, or your social media feed considers successful and complete.

Both the book and audiobook are available at the library.

THE CHECKOUT: SPRING 2024

# FEMINIST THRILLER

BY CHLOE S.



## Bright Young Women

by Jessica Knoll

In a new take on a serial killer story, **Bright Young Women** is told from the victims' point of view. The book opens in 1978, hours before The Defendant attacks a Florida sorority house. Sorority president Pamela survives and is the only one to have seen his face as he flees. As she begins to help investigators and put her own life back together, she comes in contact with Tina, who claims her missing friend from across the country was also attacked by the same man. The two come together to search for answers and self discovery.

The Defendant is never named in the book, but there is a real-life serial killer the author is referencing. I won't reveal who it is, but if you can deduce who it is you might be put off by the story as the author takes liberty and changes quite a bit about crimes, victims, etc. The jumps in timeline and victim points-of-view can also be choppy to read at times, but overall this is something different to pick up compared to your typical thriller novel.

TITLE

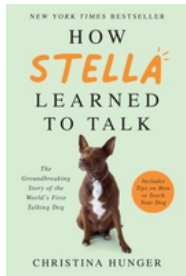
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ISSUE #8

# TEACH YOUR DOG TO SPEAK

BY KEN W.



**How Stella Learned To Talk** by Christina Hunger is a fascinating book about how a speech-language pathologist helped her dog learn how to communicate with humans. She uses experiences gained from working with children who have significant language development delays. Christina uses paw-sized buttons programmed to say words that Stella, her dog, can push to let her know what she wants. Stella starts using single words and then learns to put two or more together to express more complicated meanings. She outlines what she started out to accomplish and how she proceeded to use the knowledge of language development to help Stella communicate. Christina keeps adding new buttons to the board to help Stella increase the way she can communicate. The astounding part of the book was how Stella moved from expressing creature comfort wants like going outside or wanting to eat, to expressions of emotional feelings and even time concepts. Having seen first-hand how my dog was able to learn routine and consequence, I was fascinated by the scope of concrete communication she taught her dog to use. Unfortunately, my current dog is deaf so this means is not available to us.

# ATTENTION BOOK LOVERS & BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

BY STUART R.

## The Book Club Journal: All the Books You've Read, Loved and Discussed

Great for anyone who wants to write a review and/or keep a record of what they read. Subdivided into the following categories: analysis, rating, book club notes, and my biggest take away. Also a great section on recommended reading lists and making the best of your book club experience.



AVAILABLE ONLINE AT TALKING LEAVES BOOKS

# TIME TRAVELING ROMANCE CANNOT BE RUSHED

BY LISA S.



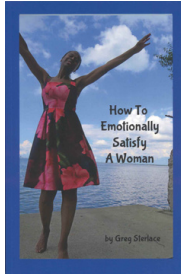
## The Seven Year Slip

by Ashley Poston

Sometimes a place can be so filled with memories and nostalgia that it feels magical, but for Clementine, her late aunt's Brooklyn apartment really is magic. **The Seven Year Slip** is a quirky romance that takes you on a journey through the space-time continuum, proving that love, much like time, knows no bounds. After the loss of her larger-than-life aunt, Clementine is grappling through grief as she moves into her aunt's beloved apartment to try and start anew. When a man appears in her kitchen one day, convinced that her aunt has allowed him to rent a room for the summer, Clementine wonders if the tall tales her aunt told her about this special space were actually true. As it turns out, Iwan, her new roommate, is not only a kind, handsome, up-and-coming chef who has a way with lemons, he's also from seven years in the past. Reading a novel that uses a forced proximity trope in past and present timelines is a treat and will make you fall in love with how these two fall in love. Between bites of lemon pie and lessons of past heartache, Clementine and Iwan start to see a future together--a not-so-distant future for Clementine. When the two find each other in the present, it's not a picture-perfect reunion. Iwan is a different man than he was seven years ago, and Clementine isn't sure if she's in love with present Iwan or past Iwan. This novel skillfully balances moments that will make you giggle, with earnest reflections on loss, love, and creating a life you're proud to live.

# LOCAL EDGE

BY NICOLE B.



A good test to anyone's "street cred" on being a Buffalonian can be illustrated with one question: "You know Greg Sterlace, right?"

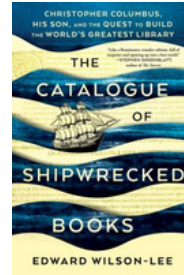
Greg has been a staple on the Buffalo underground cultural scene for decades--you may have seen him playing in one of his various punk bands around WNY, starring on his irreverent '90s public access show "The Greg Sterlace Show," going to one of his film openings at the North Park, or more recently, sitting down to read one of his books.

His subjects are varied (The Beatles, movies, Trump, Dylan) but my personal favorite is **Manson in Hell**--an interesting take on the Manson obsession told in interview form. As you're reading it, you can almost picture a Frost/Nixon-type exchange, just with very different (or maybe not so different) characters. His most recent book, **How to Emotionally Satisfy a Woman**, is a guide on how men can better treat the women in their lives and a call to arms for a change in bad male behavior. Anyone who's ever met Greg will know that among his artistic endeavors, there's always a slight distortion of reality, a questioning of societal norms, and a push out of rigid boundaries of conventional thought. Besides the benefit of supporting a local author, Greg's dry humor and tongue-in-cheek cultural commentary are always a pleasure, and his books are worth the read for this reason alone.



# THE UNIVERSAL LIBRARY

BY KAREN B.



## The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books

by Edward Wilson-Lee

This book is a delightful dive into pure history. Its lengthy subtitle, in the style of early printed books, sums it up well: Christopher Columbus, His Son, and the Quest to Build the World's Greatest Library. It describes the life of Hernando Colón, Columbus' illegitimate younger son, who envisioned and started building a universal library meant to contain all printed books in all languages and on all subjects. This meticulously researched biography shines a light not only on the man, but also the tumultuous world he lived in during his lifetime (1488-1539). Hernando, the dreamer, accompanied his father on his fourth and final trip to the New World at the age of 14. During this journey, he encountered ferocious storms, shipwrecks, mutiny, hostile natives, his father's episodes of blindness and delirium, and his father's return to Spain in chains. At the same time, he also experienced his father's maniacal compulsions to learn new navigational techniques and maritime skills in a time when the concepts of longitude and latitude and the magnetic poles were not yet known. Hernando ingested all these experiences and put them to use in his own career as a Renaissance man in cartography, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, botany, and the nascent book trade. Over the course of his lifetime, Hernando collected over 15,000 printed books, as well as pamphlets, music scores, and art prints. He further compiled lists of holdings (including a catalog of shipwrecked books), summaries of book contents, and subject guides meant to distribute knowledge of this library to the world. What remains of his collection lives on in the cathedral of Sevilla, a testament to his dream of universal access to knowledge.

# IF WISHES...

BY CHRISTINA L.



## The Good Part

by Sophie Cousins

Have you ever just wanted to skip through the typical messy part of early adult life? Like living with lousy roommates, terrible first dates, or landing your dream job only to find out you will be fetching coffee all day? Well, 26-year-old Lucy Young has had it with life, and when she desperately stumbles on an old wishing machine late one night she simply asks to “skip to the good part of life.” Well, guess what? Lucy wakes up the following morning to find herself working as a successful television producer with a handsome husband, two kids, and even a comma in her bank account! But is this really the good part of her life, and if so, what did she miss by skipping right to this place and time? Sophie Cousins nailed it with this one. I could not put it down! It has a bit of magic, tons of laugh-out-loud moments, and friendships that will warm your heart.

# THE BOOK OF ROSE

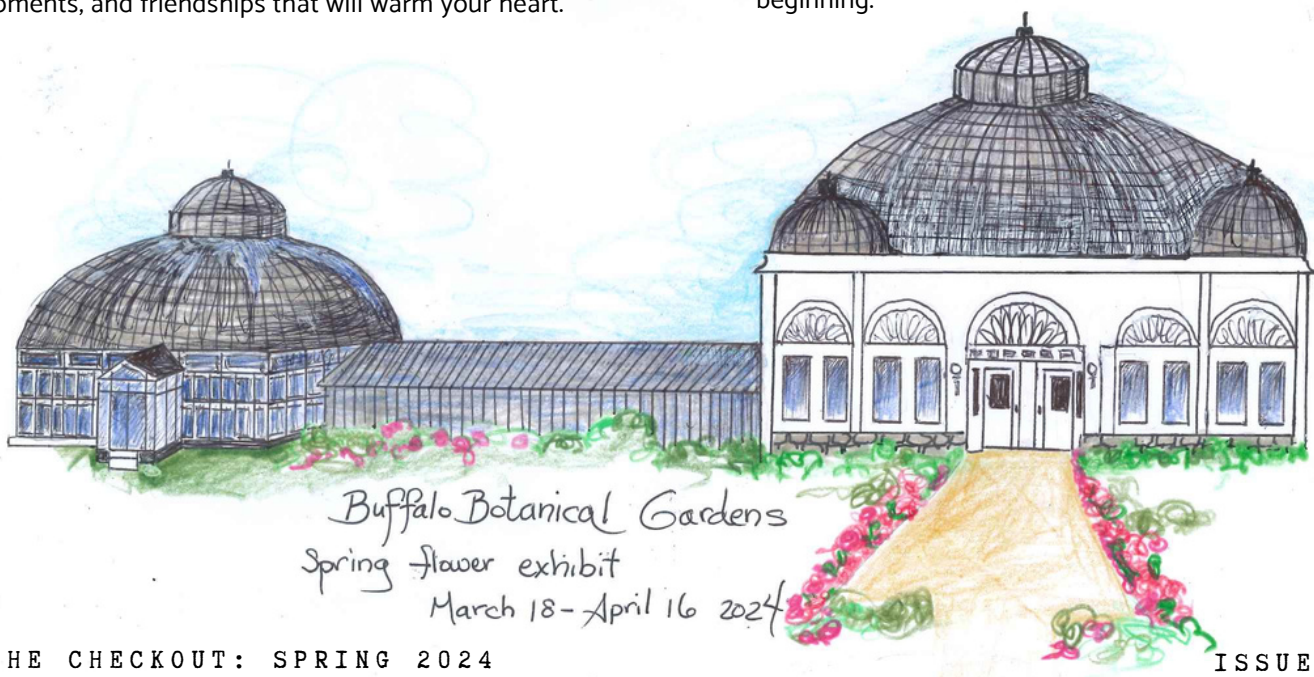
BY JILL J.



## Camp Damascus

by Chuck Tingle

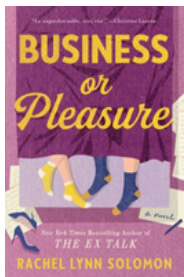
Something is wrong with Rose Darling. Her memory is spotty (didn't her bedroom used to have a door?), she's seeing things (things with scraggly hair and whited-out eyes), and she has severe indigestion (if that's what you call vomiting flies). Rose lives in Nevertown, Montana, home of Camp Damascus, a gay conversion camp that boasts an astounding 100% success rate. After a fateful party, things begin to unravel for Rose and she discovers that her demonic visions aren't just hallucinations--demons are real and have something to do with the camp. Along the way, she pieces her fragmented memory together and realizes that not only is she gay, but she and her girlfriend attended Camp Damascus. With those dual breakthroughs, Rose is on mission to save the other campers from the awful fate to which she was subjected, but to put an end to the camp itself. Written with both humor and horror, this book was a wild ride from the beginning.



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

# ROMANCE ON THE ROAD

BY LISA S.



## Business or Pleasure

by Lynn Solomon

**Business or Pleasure** is a quirky rom-com that opens with the perfect book lovers' meet cute --two strangers locking eyes at a bookstore bar. What more could we ask for? Chandler, a ghostwriter, and Finn, an ex-actor, spend an evening together that feels full of potential, but ends on a less-than-satisfying note. Chandler is ready for Finn to be a memory of the past, but the universe isn't quite done with these two yet as the opportunity for Finn to write Chandler's debut memoir arises. The novel unfolds as the pair navigate a fandom convention tour across the country where Finn regales fans with tales of his time as a nerdy character on a cult TV show, and Chandler tries to get a sense of Finn's voice and backstory to write on his behalf. The chemistry between our main characters heats up more in each city along the tour and you're rooting for their happy ending well before they are. From getting stranded at a creepy doll-themed B&B in Ohio, to singing karaoke in Reno, their trip becomes the canvas for Solomon to paint hilarious strokes of romance. As the tour ends and ink on their book dries, the lines between business and pleasure have been well blurred and the two need to decide if they want to keep building a future together.

THE CHECKOUT: SPRING 2024

# LOST IN A MAZE

BY SUE K.



## The Clinic: a novel

by Cate Quinn

Cate Quinn's latest novel is a twisty maze of surprises, set in an elite rehab facility set somewhere in the Pacific Northwest. In her opening notes, Quinn reveals this novel as her first written sober after a successful stay in rehab herself. Knowing that fact gives the story a twist of its own, but cannot really redeem this overly ambitious thriller. Her celebrity patients and the staff and owners of the clinic are a bit over the top and add a complexity to the novel I found hard to really dig into. Maybe in an attempt to add unexpected twist to her thriller, Quinn introduces too many characters but without sufficient depth to get the reader to invest in their fates. While I root for her sobriety and mourn the generally poor results rehabs provide for their clients (the statistics she weaves into the story are pretty chilling despite the amounts of money thrown at the problem), I could not emotionally invest in her story or her characters and came away from the book lost in all the alleys and plot twists.

LIBRARY TIP #2

DID YOU KNOW LIBRARIES HAVE CHROMEBOOK KITS AND HOTSPOTS THAT CAN BE CHECKOUT OUT? USE THESE QR CODES TO SEE WHAT'S AVAILABLE OR TO PUT IN A REQUEST!

CHROMEBOOK KITS

HOTSPOTS

ISSUE #8

# QUEEN AND KING

BY SUE K.



Juan Gomez-Jurado has written two books in his Antonia Scott trilogy. The first, **Red Queen** came out in 2018 introducing the world to his genius savant, Antonia Scott. She is the Red Queen of the title, assisting a stealth crime-fighting team under the mysterious Mentor. She has off-the-charts IQ, which was enhanced by very dubious tests which make her mental life a living hell but left her with skills that help solve the most complex crimes. In the Red Queen, she is partnered with a disgraced but moral cop, Jon Gutierrez, who has nothing left to lose when he is offered the deal protecting Antonia while she solves a hugely complex crime. The pairing is brilliant and serves both characters as they come to rely on each other over and against both the criminals and the law enforcement egos they have to work around. The second book in the trilogy was just released, called **Black Wolf**. I can't wait to see what this unlikely pair tackles next. If you liked Lisbeth Salander in Steig Larsson's **The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**, you will love Antonia Scott.



# REVIEWING THE REVIEWERS

BY KAREN B.



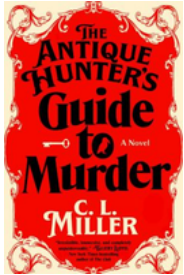
## The New York Times Book Review: 125 Years of Literary History

Edited by Tina Jordan and Noor Qasim

This coffee table book came out in 2021 to celebrate the New York Times Book Review's existence since 1896. Like other celebratory tomes, it is filled with vintage photographs, reprints of original columns, and plenty of text devoted to original book reviews appearing in its pages that offer highlights of these years. To their credit, the editors also included some not-so-celebratory words concerning books that the NYT Book Review did not deem worthy for review upon publication but which went on nevertheless to win literary prizes or turn into bestsellers. The editors also admit that attitudes towards what might constitute the "best books" have changed over time, sometimes dramatically so. What has not changed, apparently, is human nature when it comes to criticizing or praising the written works of others. The nastiness of some of these reviews understandably inspired rage by authors, along with humor and sarcasm from readers of both the reviews themselves and the books they referred to. On the other hand, some of these reviews offered profound insights into and about the books reviewed, and often seem to be works of literature themselves in terms of content, style, and tone. Whether you do indeed believe that the NYT Book Review has shaped what Americans have been reading for the last 125 years (as they claim), or you view them instead as rather pompous and somewhat antiquated literary gatekeepers (or perhaps see them in both roles), chances are that you will be both enlightened and entertained by this book.

# DELIGHTFUL DUO MYSTERY DEBUT

BY JULIE  
ANN D.



## The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder

by C.L. Miller

The debut book from author C.L. Miller titled **The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder** is a classic whodunit novel, along the likes of Agatha Christie...with a little Indiana Jones thrown in! It features charming Freya Lockwood and her glamorous Aunt Carole meeting a cast of contentious characters at an antiques retreat on the English countryside to find the killer of their mentor and friend Arthur Crockleford. He died under mysterious circumstances and left a series of clues for them to follow that will also help them locate an invaluable piece from Freya's past. She was once a tracker of stolen antiques with Arthur, but an event 20 years ago altered her career path. Now faced with a divorce and an empty nest, Freya gladly delves back into the hunt. Everyone in the story is a suspect or a criminal trading antiquities, and both characters work together to find out the truth. The writing style is a little repetitive with recaps of the plot, and a little clunky without flow, but it's still entertaining. The references to real antiques are evidence that Miller loves history and is knowledgeable in the antique business. Before this, she was an editorial assistant and researcher for antique guides! The story is told from multiple viewpoints, no one is who they say they are, and each person's agenda slowly reveals itself. The strong female characters are delightful, and it was refreshing to see them rebuilding themselves after divorce and death. I look forward to reading about them in more cozy mysteries!



# WHAT HAPPENS IN EL CAMPO

BY JILL J.



## Boys Weekend

by Mattie Lubchansky

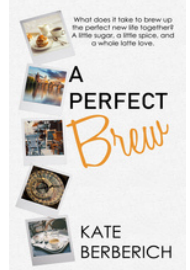
Sammie is still a newly-out transfemme when they get invited to their old friend Adam's bachelor weekend in El Campo, a high-tech, anything-goes resort on the floating Pacific Garbage Patch that is surrounded by flesh-eating monsters (naturally). Adam claims to be accepting of Sammie, but never corrects his friends' constant microaggressions and misgendering, and ignores Sammie's attempts to have an honest conversation, but that's not the least of Sammie's problems. Their group slowly seems to be losing any semblance of personality and individuality, and they're all wearing the same fleece vests and talking about the end of the world. **Boys Weekend** tackles many subjects and themes at once: gender identity, changing relationships, self-acceptance, pyramid schemes, tech-bro culture, and eldritch horror. This is such a unique graphic novel that it's hard to sum up in a few sentences, so if you're even on the fence about reading, check it out. (PS, author and illustrator Mattie Lubchansky is a member of the very cool NYC-based punk band Faith/Void--check them out, too!).



# LOOK LOCAL FOR SNUGGLY ROMANCE! AN INTERVIEW WITH KATE BERBERICH



BY JULIE ANN D.



For anyone that may have missed local romance author Kate Berberich's presentation at the Kenmore Library in February, here's a little insight to her and her story telling...

So far you have two novellas out, **Picture Imperfect** and **A Perfectly Imperfect Holiday**. They focus on Lacey and Dan, both with a troubled past who fall head over heels for each other. What made you want to write a romance series? Did you write the first one and feel the characters have more of a story to tell? How many do you have planned in advance for the **Destination Romance** series?

A first novel is an adventure in "Can I really do this?" but towards the end of the editing process, a dear friend mentioned that she'd like to read more about Dan and Lacey. I brainstormed a couple of ideas, mentioned them to my editor, and Destination Romance was born. My current plan is three novels connected by two novellas.

Is there a book or author that inspired you to be a writer?

SO MANY! I was the kid who always had a book with me and got in trouble for reading under the edge of my desk at school. I was totally one of those girls who wanted to grow up to be Jo March.

In **Picture Imperfect** Lacey says, "I like romance, but I want there to be an actual story happening. I want the women to do something, not be window dressing" (page 63). I imagine this comes from you? Do you feel you'd achieved that with her strong independent character? Is she based on someone you know?

Lacey is inspired by a lot of strong female characters who never got their happily-ever-after because they were in the wrong story. I grew up seeing gender and genre lines rigidly enforced in media. Female characters were strong OR the love interest. The story was adventure OR romance. I like that those lines are becoming blurred now.

In your books there are very few characters, and it makes it feel more intimate, almost as if the reader is on vacation with the characters. The travel settings in the Destination Romance series are very specific. Do you like traveling? Have you been to all of those places? Did you have a favorite, or is there one place you hope to write about in the future?

I've never actually traveled abroad. I do tons and tons of research for the locations in the Destination Romance stories, plus I have a dear friend who grew up as an Army brat and later lived in Europe for years who (very!) patiently answers my questions. I've also worked in the hospitality industry, so all the hotel mayhem in **A Perfectly Imperfect Holiday** is patterned off real events. Someday I'd love to visit London to see all the usual things, plus Angels, the largest costume house in the world.

With your historical costuming background, would you ever write a historical romance?

Possibly, although I think I'd be more tempted to write time travel, rather than a strict historical.

I saw you will be filling in the blanks between **Picture Imperfect** and **A Perfectly Imperfect Holiday** with **A Perfect Brew**, when can we expect that novella?

**A Perfect Brew** is scheduled for release in digital format July 3, 2024.

Look no further for a snuggly romance series!  
We can't wait to see what Lacey and Dan's next adventure is!

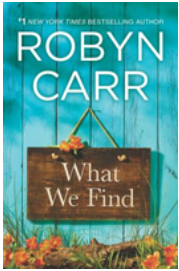
Make sure to check out Kate's next author talk at the Kenmore Library on Thursday, April 25th at 6:30pm!

KATE  
BERBERICH'S  
BOOKS ARE  
ALSO  
AVAILABLE ON



# FROM BOOK TO SCREEN

BY PAT P.



## What We Find by Robyn Carr

A friend recommended the Sullivan's Crossing TV show on CW during the writer's strike. Local actor Chad Michael Murray is in it. During the credits, it referenced the book the show was based on. As books tend to be better than the movies, I sought out the novel and I was not disappointed. The first season was all about this novel, **What We Find**. The characters were well-developed and the plot was interesting. I quickly moved on to the remaining four novels and it seems I wasn't the only one as someone has checked out two of them in the few minutes it took me to get to the library after confirming they were on the shelf!

# A TWISTED TALE

BY PAT P.



## The Buffalo Butcher: Jack the Ripper in the Electric City by Robert Brighton

This novel caught my eye on a Facebook post. A Jack the Ripper-type assailant was killing women in Buffalo during the Pan-American Expo. It was definitely more graphic than I had expected but did fit as the story developed. The book really depicted the sad state of the options women had to get decent employment and the fates they suffered.

THE CHECKOUT: SPRING 2024

# ART HEIST

BY KAREN B.



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## The Lost Van Gogh

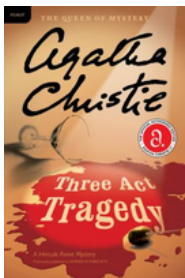
by Jonathan Santlofer

Cultural heritage crime comes alive in this thriller that unlocks the sleazy underworld of lucrative art thievery past and present. A Van Gogh painting created at the end of the artist's life and not seen since is the focus of this story. During WWII, it was painted over to save it from becoming either a blood antiquity to illegally fund the war, or to become the personal property of Nazi higher-ups who publicly denounced "degenerate art" but privately collected it for its high financial value. Its rightful owner, a French Jewish private art collector, was forced to sell it before he was sent to a concentration camp. The lost Van Gogh surfaces when a contemporary artist and his art historian girlfriend unknowingly buy it at an antique shop and then discover it hidden underneath the false exterior. They enlist the help of a private investigator to ascertain its authenticity. Art gallery curators, conservation experts, art dealers, and art critics populate this novel, some of whom lack a moral compass to accompany their subject expertise. Added into the mix are other private investigators and INTERPOL professionals, along with the historical figures who encountered the original painting. The fast-paced plot makes for a compelling page-turner. Shifting rapidly from past to present, and from one present scene to another, the reader is swept up in a need to know if the painting will be returned to its rightful owners. Heartily recommended for all fans of crime fiction, art heists, and art history.

ISSUE #8

# WHODUNNIT AND ALSO WHYDUNNIT?

BY STEPHEN C.



## Three Act Tragedy

by Agatha Christie

The curtain rises on our performance. Slowly an egg-shaped man hailing from Belgium takes the stage. He will guide us to tonight's grisly conclusion.

### First Act - Suspicion

Beloved actor Sir Charles Cartwright hosts a dinner party at his home. Among the guests is of course world famous detective Hercule Poirot along with friends, neighbors and acquaintances of Sir Charles. By the end of the night one guest will be dead, possibly poisoned, but with no proof.

### Second Act - Certainty

Now in Monte Carlo, Sir Charles and Poirot learn of a second death at another party with a nearly identical guest list as the first. The men return to England and, along with a young woman named Egg who only has eyes for Sir Charles, begin to investigate the seemingly impossible poisonings. Along the way they collect clues pertaining to a missing butler and an asylum patient who seems to be involved, though no one is sure how.

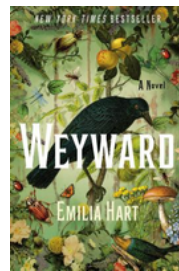
### Third Act - Discovery

Hercule Poirot takes center stage. How can he possibly reveal the identity of the killer based on the evidence discovered?

I found this earlier entry in the Poirot series interesting because, until the last act, the detective takes more of an observer role than an active participant in the investigation. I would highly recommend the Poirot series to anyone looking for excellent stories with intriguing puzzles that don't necessarily need to be read in order.

# A NEW VOICE IN WITCH LIT

BY JULIE ANN D.



## Weyward

by Emilia Hart

Over the years, I've read a lot of witch books--it's probably my favorite subject since I discovered Cotton Mather's Salem witchcraft trials in high school many, many moons ago. So you can imagine my delight reading the debut novel **Weyward** by Emilia Hart with its fresh take on the witch genre. It follows three women from the Weyward family who are separated by centuries, but lead parallel lives. They discover their penchant for healing and their bond with nature, specifically insects and crows. These women walk the same paths with their miraculous gifts and are linked to each other often being called "witch." Hart writes, "Witch...is a word invented by men, a word that brings power to those who speak it but not those it describes." Heartbreakingly, these three women are abused and haunted by their experiences. The writing is raw and exposes what goes on behind closed doors, but with the help of nature and support of family and friends, they conquer their assailants and become strong liberated survivors. If that makes them "witches," then I relish the term. The jumping timelines merge seamlessly, and the characters' resilience is inspiring. Also notable is **Weyward's** reference to **Lolly Willows** by Sylvia Townsend Warner published in 1926, a superb unconventional witch story, and considered one of the first "witch-lit" books. I'm looking forward to Hart's next book slated for publication in January 2025 called **The Sirens**.



# REEL REVIEW: A FUTURE CHRISTMAS CLASSIC?!

BY CHRISTINA L.



## The Holdovers

(2023, directed by Alexander Payne)

Set in the 1970s, **The Holdovers** follows a group of students stuck at a New England boarding school over break. Led by their curmudgeonly professor, played by Paul Giamatti, students are forced to face the various reasons they are away from family over the holiday. The Holdovers captivated my viewing with a classic cinematic feel, complex characters, and a unique storyline. It's worth the watch!

# PAS DE DEUX WITH DEATH

BY CHLOE S.



## The Dance of the Dolls

by Lucy Ashe

A psychological thriller set in pre-war 1930s London, **The Dance of the Dolls** follows twin ballerinas Clara and Olivia Marionetta rehearsing for Coppélia, a ballet about a young doctor who becomes obsessed with a life-sized doll. Both sisters are adored by men in their lives, both known and unknown. As rehearsals begin, one sister fears she is being watched and everything unravels into a terrifying climax. Caroline Kepnes's "You" meets "Black Swan" in this debut novel that is hard to put down and one of my favorite reads of the year thus far!

# WELCOME TO THE REVIEW OF WELCOME TO THE O.C.

BY STEPHEN C.



## Welcome to the O.C.: The Oral History

by Alan Sepinwall

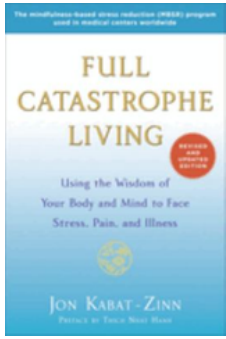
The year was 2003. The Iraq War had begun. The Human Genome Project was completed. Singer Olivia Rodrigo was born. More importantly though, a young man from Chino first encountered a Newport lawyer who would change both of their lives forever.

In **Welcome to the O.C.: The Oral History** Alan Sepinwall does a masterful job of sitting back and allowing the main players of the cast and crew to tell their story in their own words. While at times the drama behind the scenes could rival what made it on the screen, the overwhelming feeling of everyone involved is one of gratitude and wonder. The book is broken into four main sections, one each for the four seasons of the show, which makes you feel as though you're experiencing the whirlwind in real time with the cast and crew. Whether it's the incredible Beatlemania-type highs of the first season, the afterglow of season two, the "meh" of season three, or the "what even is this?" (but in a kind of good way) of season four, the reader feels as though they're along for the ride.

Sepinwall also includes a fascinating section describing how the show transformed the indie music landscape and gave bands like Death Cab for Cutie, Phantom Planet, Modest Mouse, and Bright Eyes a major network platform to get their music heard. Whether or not this was a good thing for all involved is still up for debate but, good or bad, things were never the same.

This is a fascinating read for the casual or more than casual fan of the show or even anyone looking for some early 2000s pop culture nostalgia.

# QUICK TAKES



**Full Catastrophe Living (2nd edition)**  
by Jon Kabat-Zin

Absolutely the best book on mindfulness, meditation, and related subjects by the creator of The Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program at the University of Massachusetts.



**Jane Eyre**  
by Charlotte Brontë

An orphan deemed plain and unbearable grows up and finds love in this coming-of-age classic novel.



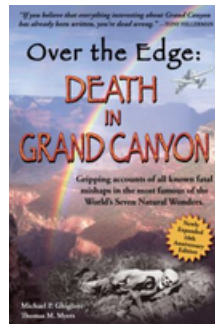
**Delilah Green Doesn't Care**  
by Ashley Herring Blake

Delilah Green intends to keep her return home for her estranged stepsister's wedding brief and emotionally distant, but accidentally falls in love with her sister's best friend in the process. Now Delilah has to face the complexities of female friendships, discrimination, and tangled sisterly bonds.



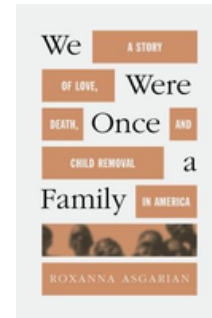
**Never Ending Man Hayao Miyazaki**  
(Documentary, 2016, directed by Kaku Arakawa)

A look at the creative process and madness of the Academy Award-winning director and animator as he approaches retirement age.



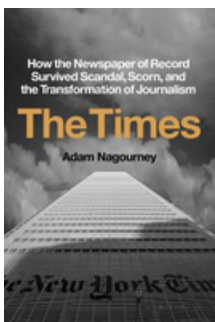
**Over the Edge: Death in Grand Canyon**  
by Michael P. Ghiglieri & Thomas M. Myers

For everything you ever wanted to know about all the ways there are to die at Grand Canyon National Park, this book is for you. Exhaustively, and at times a bit humorously, the two authors chronicle all the known and documented deaths and near deaths from falls, drownings, plane crashes and pure stupidity since the mid-1870s.



**We Were Once a Family: a Story of Love, Death and Child Removal in America**  
by Roxanna Asgarian

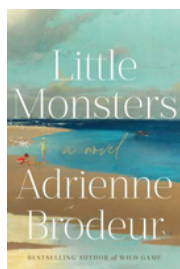
An in-depth and devastating look into the foster care and adoption system in America, and a must-read for understanding how dysfunctional agencies, courts, and laws can lead to traumatic outcomes for the very children and families they aim to protect.



**The Times**  
by Adam Nagourney

This was a real page turner--I couldn't put it down and it reads like a novel. This book talks about the trials and tribulations of the New York Times from 1977-2016. There are great character studies of editors, reporters, and publishers. It's amazing how this organization functions so effectively given the level of conflict and disagreement among and between upper level management and staff.

## A CAPE COD NOVEL



BY KEN W.

Little Monsters by Adrienne Brodeur is a book available at the Kenmore Library as a Lucky Day book selection (and also in the regular catalog). The novel takes place in several locations on Cape Cod and relates information about a family that has had a complicated past. The title refers to the brother and sister of that family and how their marine biologist father referred to them. Their mother died shortly after the daughter was born. The lives of the children are complicated in part due to the loss of their mother and their father has bipolar disorder, so the chronicles of what they experience is a bit like a roller coaster ride.

There is also another plot twist thrown in that complicates everything even further. Much of the interaction culminates around the 70th birthday party given for the father. The author weaves the experiences of the characters in an intricate web that leads to a dramatic outcome at the party. Cape Cod is a favorite place that I have experienced on a personal level. The author paints a picture that fits in nicely with what I encountered there. Her descriptions of the sea and land there are integrated well with the story line.

### LIBRARY TIP #3

INTERESTED IN BORROWER'S  
TAKING A DEEP DIVE  
INTO LEARNING  
SOMETHING NEW? TRY  
THE GREAT COURSES  
SERIES! AVAILABLE  
AT LIBRARIES AND  
THROUGH



## A FIERY ADDITION TO THE CRESCENT CITY SERIES



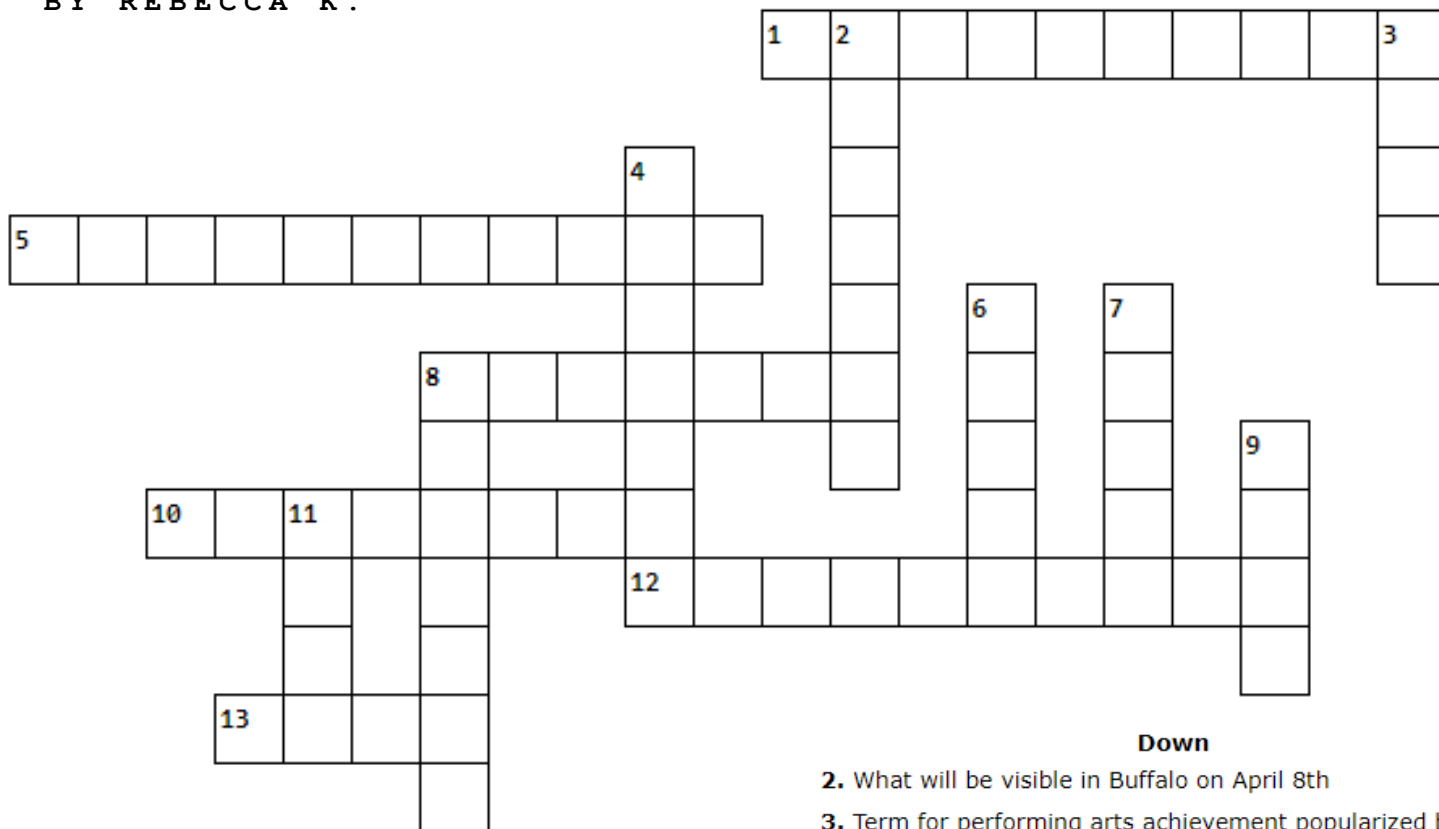
BY LISA S.

House of Flame and Shadow (Crescent City #3)  
by Sarah J. Maas

Get ready for a rollercoaster ride with the latest installment in the Crescent City series. We've followed our main character Bryce through the first two books as she discovers her best friend was murdered trying to expose the manipulative magical beings that have been governing their people for a millennium, and that other worlds exist outside of their own. **House of Flame and Shadow** kicks off with Bryce finding herself stranded in an unfamiliar world, and she must rely on her witty charm and magic prowess to find a way back home to free her people and save her soulmate. Fans of Sarah J. Maas were chomping at the bit for this release after a giant cliffhanger at the end of the second book that introduced a crossover storyline to Maas's other series A Court of Thorns and Roses. Read along to find out how Bryce finds her way home to expose their powerful captures and tries not to get everyone killed in the process. If this doesn't sound interesting to you, don't worry, there are about 10 other story lines that might strike your fancy. It wouldn't be difficult to argue there are too many side quests and characters vying for your attention in this book. Brace yourself, you will be entertained, and you will get whiplash.

# OH YES, OH YES IT'S SPRINGTIME

BY REBECCA K.



### Across

- 1. Goddess of spring; married to Hades
- 5. shared bath between 2 bedrooms or nursery rhyme characters
- 8. "April \_\_\_\_\_ ..." cont'd 4 Down
- 10. Allergy most associated with spring
- 12. What Shakespearean character said "Beware the Ides of March"
- 13. Baby animal that can be used to describe admiration

### Down

- 2. What will be visible in Buffalo on April 8th
- 3. Term for performing arts achievement popularized by sitcom 30 Rock
- 4. "bring May \_\_\_\_\_".
- 6. An alternative to hunting "Wabbits"
- 7. Animal that brings candy once a year
- 8. Composer of The Moldau
- 9. Name of both the middle Bennet daughter and Miss Lennox
- 11. Song and place to exercise



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

# A COZY BREW OF FANTASY AND FRIENDSHIP

BY LISA S.



**Legends & Lattes**  
by Travis Baldree

Before you crack open this book, do yourself a favor and grab a tasty pastry, brew a cup of coffee, and block off your afternoon because you're about to experience a new level of cozy. Or better yet, head to your favorite coffee shop and fully immerse yourself in the setting where this story unfolds. In the world that inspires Dungeons and Dragons (no prior knowledge necessary) our main character, Viv, is an orc and swordswoman distancing herself from a past of mercenary violence. Viv's dream is to open a coffee shop, a delicacy known by few in this world, and she thinks she has the blueprints, mindset, and bit of magic needed to make it happen. This story follows Viv's journey to build her shop, but more importantly, to forge the friendships needed to make her coffee dreams come to life. You'll marvel at the creativity of a local carpenter, the brilliance of an unassuming and adorable baker, and the business savvy of a barista who not only helps the shop succeed, but helps Viv make peace with her past. This found family and a few other misfits help Viv through the pressures of building a business, and dealing with the aftermath of great loss. Baldree strikes a unique balance of moving the plot along while indulging in descriptions of some of the most charmingly mundane moments that make up everyday life. The joy of catching up with a friend, listening to music, and the smell of fresh cinnamon rolls apparently transcends worlds.

# WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE

BY STUART R.



Several years ago my stepdaughter recommended the novelist and short story writer Jhumpa Lahiri. I loved everything she wrote.

Ms. Lahiri spoke at UB recently. Unfortunately, I had a scheduling conflict and could not attend. I knew that she had moved to Italy with the goal to become fluent in the language so she could write in Italian. Earlier this year, while browsing in the new fiction section of our library, I came across a short story collection entitled Roman Stories and I got right into it! I not only highly recommend it, but based on my experience I feel that the reader can't go wrong with anything this author has written.

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

## CROSSWORD (ANSWERS)

ACROSS: 1. Persephone; 5. Jack and Jill; 8. Showers;  
10. Hay Fever; 12. Soothsayer; 13. Fawn

DOWN: 2. Eclipse; 3. EGOT; 4. Flowers; 6. Ducks; 7. Bunny;  
8. Smetana; 9. Mary; 11. YMCA

# 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?

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

