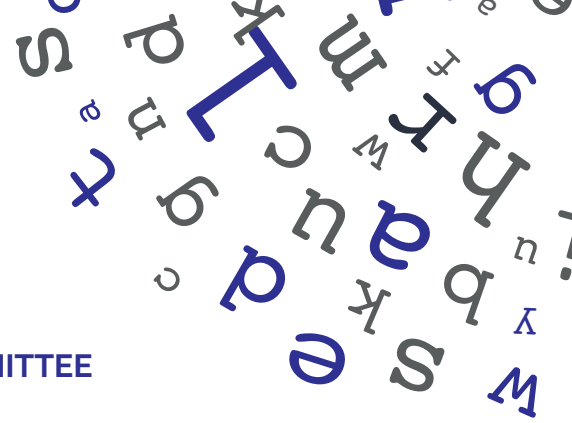




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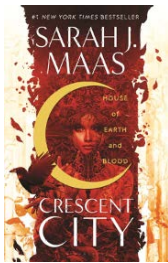


FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE OPLA READERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Jeff Dodge (Chair)**, Vaughan Public Libraries
Emma Primeau (Vice Chair), Oakville Public Library
Sarah Bonish, Mississauga Public Library
Elizabeth Campbell, Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library
Kat Drennan-Scace, Hamilton Public Library
Reagan Kapasi, Toronto Public Library
Laura Peacock, Waterloo Public Library

Fantasy Fiction



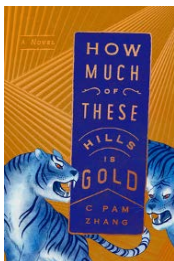
HOUSE OF EARTH AND BLOOD by Sarah J. Maas (2020)

Review by Laura

Urban Fantasy, Series, New Adult, Romance, Fae

Set in a world where your bloodline directly relates to your status and power, a half-fae half-human like Bryce is powerless. So, how did Bryce survive an attack that results in the vicious murder of her best friend Danika, an extremely powerful werewolf in line to become the leader of her pack? That is the first of many mysteries in a labyrinth of intrigue that grows more winding as the story progresses. A gritty urban fantasy and a touch of steamy romance, coupled with dry-humour and witty dialogue make this a must read. For more creature heavy, steamy romances, try **Bitten** by Kelly Armstrong or **High Voltage** by Karen Marie Moning.

Historical Fiction



HOW MUCH OF THESE HILLS IS GOLD by C. Pam Zhang (2020)

Review by Jeff

Literary, Western, China

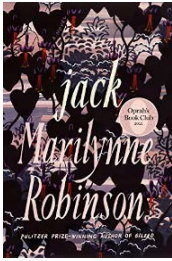
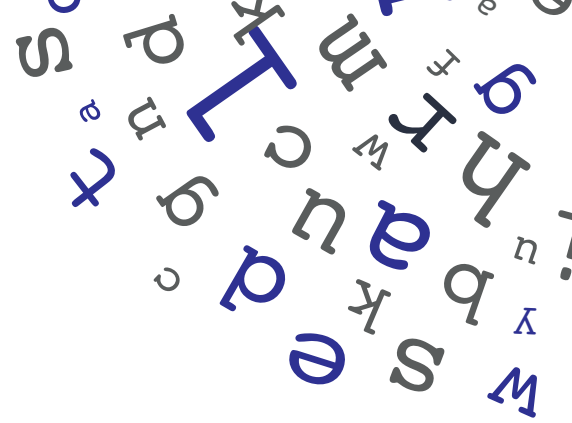
At some point in my reading life I happily stumbled into the niche-orphan-siblings-in-Westerns sub-genre with this debut being the latest addition. Recently orphaned Lucy and Sam are children of Chinese immigrants trying to find their way in a post goldrush west. Looking for a new place to call home, they must rely on each other to survive in a land not always hospitable to outsiders. It's an immigration story which tackles racism, gender issues, corporate greed and environmental destruction all topped off with a healthy dose of adventure. Other historical tales of young orphan siblings are Elizabeth Crook's **The Which Way Tree** (my favourite), **Only Killers and Thieves** (Paul Howarth) and the Newfoundland based **The Innocents** (Michael Crummey).

Committee Comment: Sarah liked this one, too.



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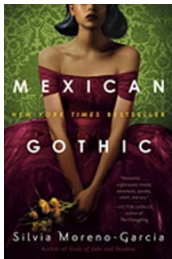
JACK by Marilynne Robinson (2020)

Review by Jeff

Literary, Series, Racism, Love

Those familiar with Robinson's Gilead series know she is not an author to rush through. The focus this time is on Jack - the troubled wayward preacher's son. As an antidote to frantic doom scrolling and the loud, uncivil discourse on social media, we are asked to quiet our minds and seek the sacred in the ordinary and everyday. She examines what it means to live with grace, and whether salvation is open to us all despite our best efforts to often go astray. When someone as wise as Robinson is asking the questions, it's best to listen carefully. At its core it is a beautiful love story between Jack who is white and Delia who is black. In 1950's St. Louis their relationship is considered illegal and the awful scarring consequences of racism are fully explored. Another master of celebrating the ordinary is Kent Haruf.

Horror Fiction

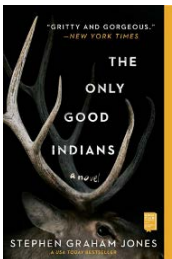


MEXICAN GOTHIC by Silvia Moreno-Garcia (2020) 🍁

Review by Sarah

Own Voices, Horror, Mystery, Historical Fiction, Mexico, Canadian

After receiving a frantic letter from her newlywed cousin, 1950s socialite Noemí Taboada leaves Mexico City and heads to High Place, a mysterious house in the Mexican Countryside. There she finds the Doyles, a strange, tightly knit family with strict rules, living in a grotesque and rotting mansion. The family's patriarch, is fascinated with Noemí, despite what he considers to be her "inferior" blood. When Noemí starts having dreams of doom and blood, she begins to fear for her own life as well as the life of her cousin. For more gothic tales centred around remote houses where strange things happen, try **The Ancestor** by Danielle Trussoni and Tananarive Due's **The Good House**.



THE ONLY GOOD INDIANS by Stephen Graham Jones (2020)

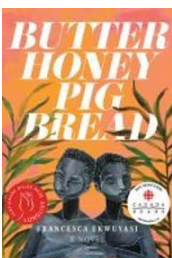
Review by Elizabeth

Indigenous, Own Voices, Horror, Vengeance, Book Club

Four young Indigenous men make a fateful mistake while hunting, which puts them in the path of a vengeful entity. Told with humour, gore, social commentary, and great characterization (even for the entity), this book is a lot. The final section is full of action, and very compelling. If your book club discusses this one, please invite me. Fans of Paul Tremblay will probably like this book.

Committee Comments: Sarah and Reagan liked this one too.

Literary Fiction



BUTTER HONEY PIG BREAD by Francesca Ekwuyasi (2020) 🍁

Review by Elizabeth

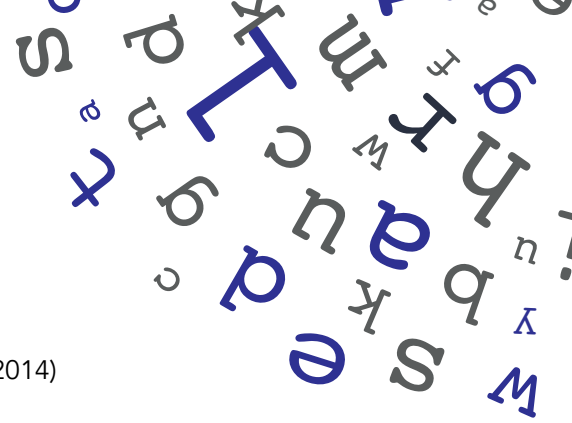
Canada, Nigeria, LGBTQ, Literary

This story tells of the complex relationship between two generations of Nigerian women, a mother Kambirinachi and her twin daughters, Taiye and Kehinde. Through parallel narratives, this is a tale of consequences, trauma, guilt, forgiveness, identity, spirituality and healin. A moving, lyrical debut novel by Ekwuyyas, **Butter Honey Pig Bread** was longlisted for the 2020 Giller Prize and short-listed for Canada Reads 2021. Other books with similar appeal include **Land of Love and Drowning** by Tiphonie Yanique and **The Butterfly Lampshade** by Aimee Bender.



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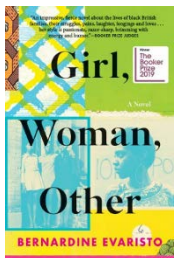


EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU by Celeste Ng (2014)

Review by Sarah

Own Voices, Literary, Book Club

My favourite read of 2020, **Everything I Never Told You** is a moving story about grief, longing, and secrets. The Lee's are a Chinese American family living in small town Ohio in the 1970s. The parents, James and Marilyn, are determined that their favourite daughter Lydia will fulfil all of the dreams they could not pursue. When Lydia's body is pulled from the lake, the Lee family's carefully crafted life begins to fall apart. Jean Kwok's **Searching for Sylvia Lee** also follows a Chinese family as they reckon with the disappearance of their eldest daughter, and in **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold, a teenage daughter's sudden death reveals family tensions.



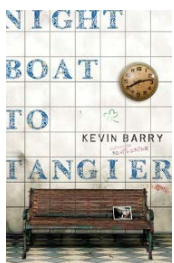
GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER by Bernardine Evaristo (2019)

Review by Elizabeth

Own Voices, Literary, Booker Prize winner, Book Club

A large cast of Black women come together throughout this astonishing book. Some stories are connected, some are not, but all paint a fascinating portrait of Black womanhood in contemporary Britain. Some readers may be uncomfortable with the unconventional style of dialogue, but keep reading for great entertainment. Hint: the character map created by data visualization specialist Mona Chalabi (available online) is very helpful.

Committee Comment: Reagan liked this one, too.



NIGHT BOAT TO TANGIER by Kevin Barry (2019)

Review by Jeff

Ireland, Spain, Crime, Mystery

Meet best friends Maurice and Charlie - two Irish drug dealers past their sell by date. While waiting for Maurice's missing daughter at a Spanish ferry terminal, the two lifetime criminals reminisce about the old days. Heartbreaking and hilarious, Barry's language is top notch, the dialogue dazzles and the reader is gladly yanked into a rough and tumble world. We learn how these two hard cases survived a past of drug smuggling, addiction, romantic betrayals and eruptions of violence (sometimes towards each other) with their friendship (if not all their body parts) intact. **Your House Will Burn** (Steph Cha), **Dodgers** (Bill Beverly) or any Richard Price novels also include crime novel elements but similarly transcend the genre.



SUCH A FUN AGE by Kiley Reid (2019)

Review by Elizabeth

Own Voices, Literary, Book Club

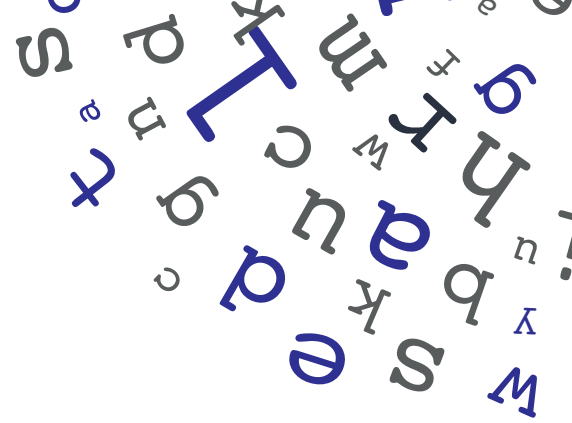
A white social media influencer seeks to atone for a lifetime of unconscious racism by offering various means of support to her 25-year-old, Black babysitter. This book brings to life issues of race, class, misplaced values, parenting, and precarious work. The two main characters are extremely well drawn. The adorable 3-year-old deserves her own book. This would be a great book for book clubs as it offers much to discuss. Readalikes offering similar themes include **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng, and **That Kind of Mother** by Rumaan Alam.

Committee Comment: Sarah liked this one, too.



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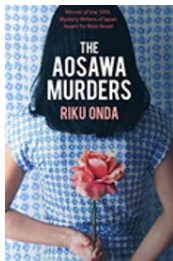
WOMEN TALKING by Miriam Toews (2019) 🍁

Review by Reagan

Canadian, Literary, Feminism

This book will make you angry. "Women's Talking" is based on the truth of a group of Mennonite women in Manitoba who endured years of sexual abuse by men within their own community. Taking place over the course of one night, this group of illiterate women, with few options and who can't even speak the language of the country they reside in, must choose to leave their only home or bear the inevitable future abuse of themselves and their daughters. With masterful ease, Toews' artfully puts the reader in the shoes of people so unlike ourselves. Alongside powerful Canadian writers like Helen Humphreys and Katherine Vermette, Miriam Toews is not to be trifled with.

Mystery Fiction

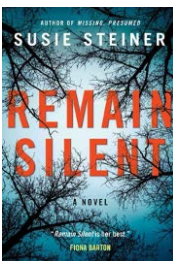


THE AOSAWA MURDERS by Riku Onda (2020)

Review by Sarah

Own Voices, Mystery, Thriller, Japan

A party thrown by the owners of a prominent hospital in a town on the coast of the Sea of Japan, ends in tragedy when 17 people die of cyanide poisoning. The only survivor is the physicians' blind daughter, Hisako. The case is closed after the prime suspect commits suicide, despite many people believing that Hisako played a role in the crime. 10 years later, Makiko Saiga, Hisako's childhood friend and witness to the crime, writes a best selling novel about the murders. The mystery of the murders is slowly revealed through multiple narrators, interviews, and police testimonies. Fans of intricately plotted thrillers may also enjoy Allie Reynolds' **Shiver and Malice** by Kyochiro Kaga.



REMAIN SILENT by Susie Steiner (2020)

Review by Kat

Crime, Britain, Mystery

The third book in the DI Manon trilogy, this British procedural finds DI Manon investigating the murder of a migrant worker. Diving deep into the world of migrant workers in Britain, Manon works to track down migrant workers and those who exploit them. In balance with this mystery is Manon's good humour which keeps the book entertaining and very readable. Manon's exhaustion at having a toddler at home and finding time with her partner, Mark, are relatable and makes DI Manon a great protagonist. Fans of the show **Happy Valley** and authors like Ann Cleeves will enjoy this series.



THE SEARCHER by Tana French (2020)

Review by Elizabeth

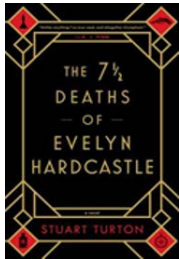
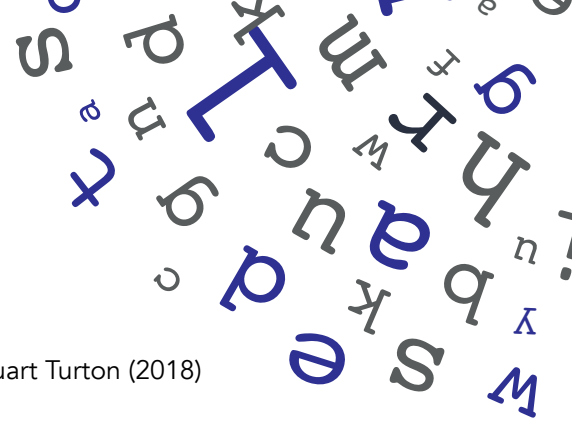
Mystery, Ireland, Fish-out-of-water

This standalone from Tana French finds a retired American police detective struggling to build a new life in a small Irish village. Try as he might to keep his head down, trouble finds him. French's writing is nuanced, emotional and compelling. Every word on the 450 plus pages is worthy. I like to recommend French's books to fans of Kate Atkinson, Ruth Rendell, and Minette Walters.



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THE 7 ½ DEATHS OF EVELYN HARDCASTLE by Stuart Turton (2018)

Review by Sarah

Mystery, Fantasy, Thriller

Groundhog Day but with MURDER! Aiden Bishop is trapped in a time loop and tasked with solving the murder of Evelyn Hardcastle. Every day, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different person and must figure out who he is, and work to stop the murder before the time loop resets at 11pm. Aiden only has 8 days to solve the crime, if he fails, he will die. You will want to stay up all night finishing this intricately plotted and immersive mystery! For more engrossing mysteries, try **The Magpie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz and Lucy Foley's **The Hunting Party**.

Romance Fiction



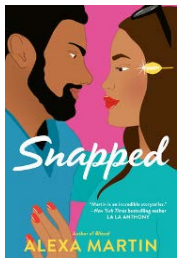
RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE by Casey McQuiston (2019)

Review by Kat

Romance, LGBTQ, Own Voices

It's the political rom-com you've been waiting for! **Red, White & Royal Blue** combines many favourite romance tropes – royalty, frenemies, coming out – into one delightful escapist read. Escaping into a pandemic-free world with a female US President is bliss, let alone the quick-witted banter and growing romance between the first son and England's heir. For more swoony queer romance, try **Conventionally Yours** by Annabeth Albert or **The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue** by Mackenzi Lee.

Committee Comments: Sarah, Reagan and Elizabeth liked this one, too.



SNAPPED by Alexa Martin (2020)

Review by Laura

Sports Romance, Own Voices, Series

Football has always been a big part of Elliot's life. Getting a dream job for her favourite team is worth ignoring the misogynistic and racist comments that come her way. Right? It takes an outwardly cocky quarterback, and his disinterest in staying silent while viewing ongoing racism and cruel treatment of retired players by the league, for Elliot to acknowledge just how much she has been putting up with as a black woman within a white male industry. A slow burn romance, coupled with real life tough topics make this 'light' read a step above the rest. For more romance featuring tough topics try **Get a Life, Chloe Brown** by Talia Hibbert or **Loathe at First Sight** by Suzanne Park.



THE SWITCH by Beth O'Leary (2020)

Review by Laura

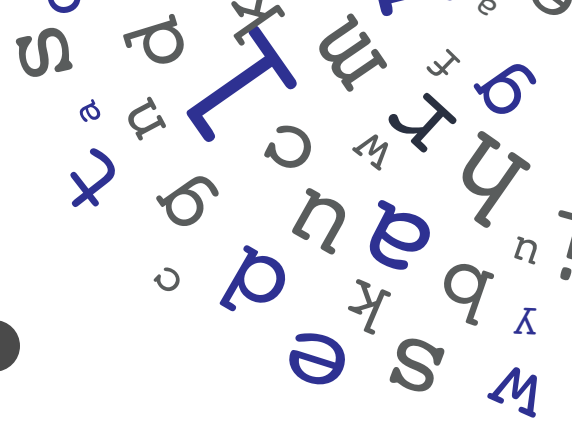
Dual Narrative, British, Feel Good, Bibliotherapy, Book Club

After blowing up a high-pressure presentation, Leena is forced to take a two-month paid sabbatical. At the same time, her grandmother is excited for a new chapter of life, having just gotten a divorce and being ready to mingle. One needs quiet and calm, one needs excitement – why not switch houses, towns, and technology? Two parallel stories of self-discovery lead to different revelations of who you can be and what you value. A feel-good read, with as many touches of sadness as moments of happiness. Try **Firefly Lane** by Kristin Hannah or **Evvie Drake Starts Over** by Linda Holmes for more stories about contemporary life and relationships.

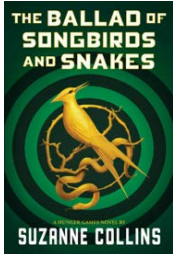


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Science Fiction



THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES by Suzanne Collins (2020)

Review by Laura

Teen, Dystopia, Series, Fantasy

It was hard not to hate President Snow in **The Hunger Games**. But was he always calculating and devilish? Told during the creation and execution of an early iteration of the games - where victors are held in cages at the zoo, with no food or water before they enter the arena - it is clear the games have morphed into a more humane experience over time. As one of the mentors for a District 12 victor, readers are forced to question the Snow they thought they knew through Collins' exceptional humanization of his character. A re-visit, more impactful and resonant than the original series. For more morally ambiguous narrators try **This Savage Song** by Victoria Schwabe or **Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo.

Committee Comment: Kat liked this one, too.



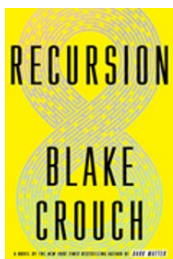
MOON OF THE CRUSTED SNOW by Waubgeshig Rice (2018) 🍁

Review by Laura

Canadian, Indigenous, Post-Apocalyptic, Book Club

When the power goes out and all connection with the outside world goes silent, a Northern Anishinaabe community must come together to survive. Dependent on a grocery delivery that will never come, and with more and more reliance on modern convenience, and less emphasis on traditional survival skills, can they work together to weather the storm? Or will surprising outside influence tear them apart? Full of characters you will root for and ones you will despise, this is a powerful warning against forgetting our past. Try **The Marrow Thieves** by Cherie Dimaline or **Station Eleven** by Emily St. John Mandel for another look at post-apocalyptic worlds, set in Ontario's backyard.

Committee Comment: Sarah liked this one, too.



RECURSION by Blake Crouch (2019)

Review by Sarah

Science Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Book Club

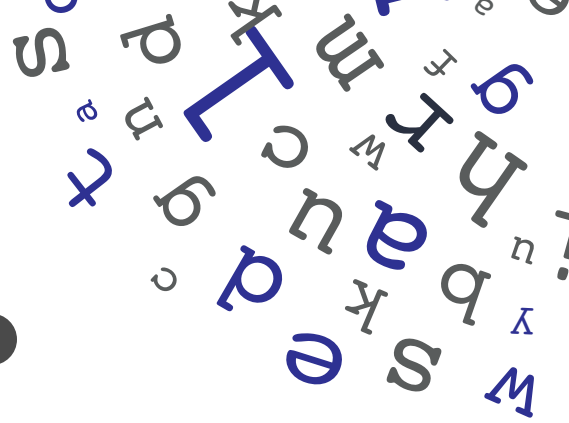
In 2018, NYPD detective Barry Sutton is trying to talk a woman off a ledge who is suffering from False Memory Syndrome, a mysterious ailment that drives its victims crazy with memories of a life that they never lived. 11 years ago, in 2007, Helena Smith, a neuroscientist, is trying to create a machine that will let people preserve and re-live their memories. Eventually their timelines converge and Barry and Helena must work together to save the world. Recursion thrilling sci-fi novel that touches on themes memory, death, the nature of memory, and what happens when people try to manipulate all the above. For more books that play with time and memory, try **The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August** by Claire North and **All Our Wrongs Today** by Elan Mastai

Committee Comments: Kat, Laura and Elizabeth liked this one, too.



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Thriller Fiction

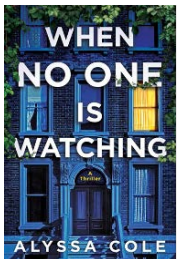


LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND by Rumaan Alam (2020)

Review by Jeff

Mystery, Literary, Suspense, Dread

This slow burn literary thriller perfectly encapsulates the confusion and chaos of 2020. A white family rents a remote getaway aiming for a relaxing retreat - until the black owners show up unannounced seeking refuge in their own home. It turns out a lot has been going down back in the city. In fact, it could even be the world is coming to an end - but without access to tv and internet how is anyone to know? Race, class and family life are all covered as these strangers struggle to coexist. With more questions than answers, the anxiety gets ramped up - is it a natural disaster, a crumbling grid, terrorism or war? **The Bear** (Andrew Krivak) is a good "collapse of civilization" type bookend or if creeping dread is your thing, try Iain Reid.



WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING by Alyssa Cole (2020)

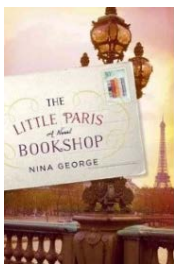
Review by Kat

Thriller, Own Voices, Book Club

Sydney's Brooklyn neighbourhood is changing and fast. It almost seems as though her neighbours of colour are disappearing, being replaced by rich white people. As Sydney investigates what's going on, she begins to suspect something sinister is at work. Bringing together themes of race relations and gentrification, **When No One is Watching** is a tense thriller for fans of **Get Out**. For another strong black voice in thriller fiction, try **My Sister the Serial Killer** by Oyinkan Braithwaite.

Committee Comments: Sarah and Elizabeth liked this one, too.

Women's Fiction



THE LITTLE PARIS BOOKSHOP by Nina George (2013)

Review by Emma

Bibliotherapy, France, Books about Books

The Little Paris Bookshop is sure to delight any reader with a penchant for quirky character-driven stories. This warmhearted novel features Monsieur Jean Perdue, owner and operator of a floating Parisian literary apothecary, located on a barge on the Seine. Perdue spends his days prescribing just the right book to cure the ails of his customers, yet he cannot find a remedy to ease his own loss. Exploring themes of grief, love, literature and the human condition, this book is a gem. You may also enjoy **The Lost and Found Bookshop** by Susan Wiggs and **The storied life of A. J. Fikry** by Gabrielle Zevin.



THE OTHER BENNET SISTER by Janice Hadlow (2020)

Review by Elizabeth

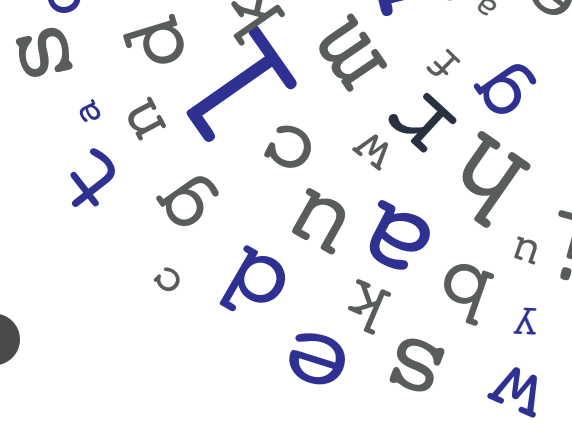
Pride and Prejudice spinoff, Romance, Historical fiction-Regency

This is the story of Mary, the middle Bennet sister. In a household that valued beauty and wit above all other female qualities, Mary grew up feeling unappreciated. Curious and studious, she did not fit well with her sisters and parents. Read along to find out how she came to understand herself, and to see her own value. Author Hadlow is very respectful of Jane Austen's legacy and style. Her story brings dimension to many P&P side characters. If you, like me, want more takes on Mary Bennet, try **The Forgotten Sister** by Jennifer Paynter, Mary B by Katherine J Chen, or (for horror fans) **Pride and Prometheus** by John Kessel.

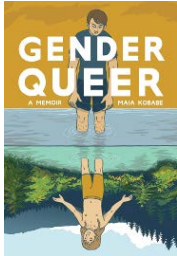


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Non-Fiction



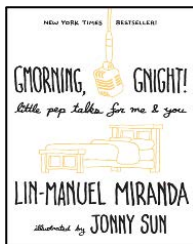
GENDER QUEER by Maia Kobabe (2019)

Review by Kat

Memoir, LGBTQ, Non-Fiction, Graphic Novel, Own Voices

This extremely personal story of discovery is more than a graphic novel memoir, it's a useful guide to gender identity. Readers will cheer as Kobabe (who goes by e/em/eir pronouns) discovers role models, allies, and comes out to eir family. At times lighthearted, awkward and heartbreaking, eir story is deeply relatable, regardless of the reader's sexuality. For another deeply personal graphic memoir, try **Fun Home** by Alison Bechdel or **Kid Gloves** by Lucy Knisley.

Committee Comment: Reagan liked this one, too.



G'MORNING, G'NIGHT: LITTLE PEP TALKS FOR ME & YOU by Lin-Manuel Miranda illustrated by Jonny Sun (2019)

Review by Reagan

Poetry, Inspirational, Mental Health

Before **Hamilton**, Lin-Manuel Miranda inspired folks on Twitter with these cool, concise greetings to start and end your day. For those who still sing **Hamilton** in the shower, the audiobook performed by Miranda himself is not to be missed. Though I do recommend having the print copy in front of you to simultaneously enjoy Johnny Sun's perfectly weird illustrations. A quick read written in a conversational tone, this compilation will bring both comfort and motivation: "Good morning! Face the day! If the day looms too large, kick it in the shins so it has to face you!" Forever earning a place on my bookshelf, this collection was something I didn't know I needed until I found it. For readers who loved Rupi Kaur and Jason Reynolds's **For Every One**, this collection should be up next.



GO TO SLEEP (I MISS YOU): CARTOONS FROM THE FOG OF NEW PARENTHOOD by Lucy Knisley (2020)

Review by Reagan

Graphic, Memoir, Humour, Parenting

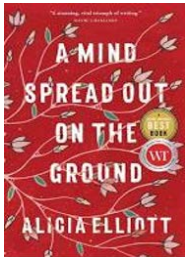
In another social media turned must-own book compilation, Instagram's darling, Lucy Knisley, gives us a glimpse into the weirdly relatable behaviours of first time parents. Wickedly emotional and hilariously spot on, these one-page quips make the day-to-day, sometimes strange, often mundane (but also I hope I don't forget these!) moments enjoyably eternal. For those who love memoirs but haven't dabbled in graphic novels, this book is well-suited, new territory for you to explore. A perfect baby shower gift, a not-so-subtle reminder for parents considering more kids, or an enjoyable souvenir of the gross chaos that is new parenthood. Looking to balance out the real with some fictitious parenting portrayals? For a splash of fun, mosey up to **Nothing To See Here** by Kevin Wilson or dare to experience the darkness of Ashley Audrain's **The Push**.

Committee Comment: Kat liked this one, too.



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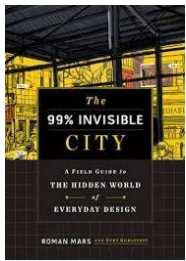


A MIND SPREAD OUT ON THE GROUND by Alicia Elliot (2019) 🍁

Review by Reagan

Indigenous, Canadian, Memoir, Mental Health

Read outside your bubble and lay down for Alicia Elliot's memoir. With the kind of calm anger few writers can adeptly utilize, Elliot's work will leave a lasting impression on even the most "woke" among us. Coming full circle, the author talks about her impoverished childhood with her Indigenous father and white Catholic mother to her own struggles as a parent fighting for Indigenous identity. A deeply personal and insightful torch onto institutional issues of poverty, racism and sexism in Canada, Elliot deserves every ounce of praise she has received. For those looking for more gut-wrenching, personal narratives, please find Nick Sheff's **Tweak: Growing Up On Methamphetamines** and Samara Habib's **We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir**.



99 % INVISIBLE CITY: A FIELD GUIDE TO THE HIDDEN WORLD OF EVERYDAY DESIGN by Roman Mars, Kurt Kohlstedt (2020)

Review by Jeff

Design, Architecture, Urban Planning

This podcast turned fully illustrated book is the perfect travel guide for the pandemic world. With most reviews claiming something like "you'll never look at your city in the same way again" what could be more appealing than fostering a sense of curiosity about the very same streets we all think so familiar while stuck at home. It looks at elements of urban design that are hiding in plain sight, showing us how and why our cities look the way they do while teaching us the value of "always reading the plaques". Similarly thought provoking and rewarding are these two studies of the natural world **Horizon** (the masterful Barry Lopez) and **World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments** (Aimee Nezhukumatathil).

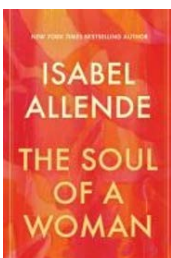


OLDER SISTER, NOT NECESSARILY RELATED by Jenny Heijun Wills (2019) 🍁

Review by Emma

Memoir, Canada, Korea

Through elegant vignettes, Heijun Wills chronicles her journey as a Korean-born adoptee raised in small-town Canada, who reunites with her birth family in her late 20's. With a bittersweet tone and lyrical writing style, Heijun Wills shares her personal story with heart and honesty. Winner of the 2019 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, this novel explores the complexities of transnational and transracial adoption. Memoirs with similar themes include **All You Can Ever Know** by Nicole Chung and **Surviving the White Gaze** by Rebecca Carroll.



THE SOUL OF A WOMAN by Isabel Allende (2020)

Review by Emma

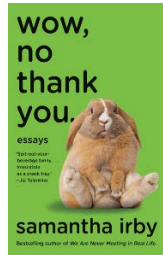
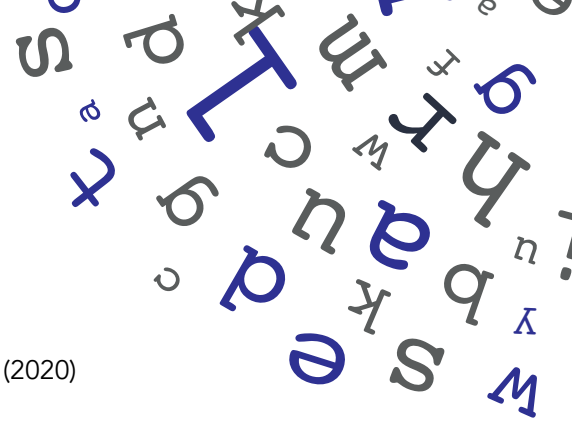
Feminism, Memoir

A fierce feminist since childhood, Allende writes an impassioned and inspiring book surrounding women's issues, past, present and personal. Both a memoir and a call to action, *The Soul of a Women* unravels the harmful realities of the patriarchy and the power of feminism and allyship in creating change. Readalikes include *How to be a Woman* by Caitlin Moran and *Dear Ijeawele, or, A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.



RA in a Day 2021

BEST BETS 2021



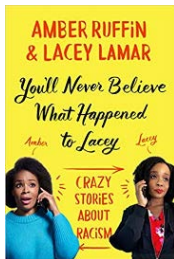
WOW, NO THANK YOU: ESSAYS by Samantha Irby (2020)

Review by Reagan

Humour, Memoir, LGBTQ, Essays

A darkly funny collection of essays about getting uncomfortably older, finding lady love, parenting step kids, and trying to earn a god damn living. Not for the faint of heart, these honestly vulgar discussions about being an overweight, sweaty Midwesterner with GI problems gives new meaning to "own stories" ...and I'm down for more! The comic delivery in the audiobook, which is performed by the author, beckons to be downloaded on your device. Endlessly charming, Irby is the queen of self-deprecation and anxiety, but more importantly someone I want to drink a glass of wine with. Cultural criticism is the perfect quarantine read so you should also turn to Roxanne Gay's **Bad Feminist** and Caitlin Moran's **How To Be a Woman**.

Committee Comment: Sarah likes this one, too.



YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TO LACEY by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar (2021)

Review by Kat

Non-Fiction, Humour, Own Voices

As Ruffin states in the introduction, "When you hear these stories and think, None of these stories are okay, you are right. And when you hear these stories and think, Dang, that's hilarious, you are right. They are both." These stories center around her sister's experiences living and working in Omaha, Nebraska. From going to the doctor's office to working with white colleagues, every story is terrible and often hilarious, thanks to Ruffin's impeccable comedic voice. For more personal and comedic black stories, try **You Can't Touch My Hair** by Phoebe Robinson and Trevor Noah's **Born a Crime**.