

Highlighted

***A Drop of Corruption* by Robert Jackson Bennett**

***Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins**

***So Far Gone* by Jess Walter.**

***The Buffalo Hunter* by Stephen Graham Jones.**

***Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil* by V.E. Schwab.**

***The River has Roots* by Amal El-Mohtar**

***Katabasis* by R. F. Kuang.**

***Greenteeth* by Molly O'Neill**

***Lucky Day* by Chuck Tingle.**

***Everything Is Tuberculosis* by John Green.**

***A Fine Line Between Stupid and Cleaver* by Rob Reiner and cocreators Christopher Guest, Michael McKean, and Harry Shearer / *Smell the Book* by Marty DiBergi with Nigel Tufnel, David St. Hubbins, and Derek Smalls.**

***Alchemised* by SenLinYu.** Alchemist Helena Marino, a prisoner with amnesia, fights to survive in a necromancy-ridden world as the ruthless High Reeve attempts to unearth the vital secrets hidden within her missing memories.

***Shadow Ticket* by Thomas Pynchon.** Milwaukee 1932: private eye Hicks McTaggart searches for a Wisconsin cheese fortune heiress, but he's shanghaied onto a transoceanic liner to Hungary. Before he finds her, he will be entangled with Nazis, Soviet agents, British counterespies, swing musicians, practitioners of the paranormal, and outlaw motorcyclists.

***The Intruder* by Frieda McFadden.** In the middle of a storm, a girl appears on Casey's doorstep, obviously in need of help, but soon things take a violent turn.

***The Impossible Fortune: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery* by Richard Osman.** As wedding plans unfold and personal struggles linger, the Thursday Murder Club reunites when a guest vanishes and a suspicious partner hint at something valuable--and deadly--leading Joyce, Elizabeth, Ron and Ibrahim into a tangled case of coded secrets and high-stakes deception.

***The Widow* by John Grisham.** Already struggling at work and at home, rural Virginia attorney Simon Latch finds himself accused of her murder after he secures wealthy widow

Fiction

Book summaries courtesy of [Novelist](#).

Eleanor Barnett's secret inheritance only to see her fortunes unravel in the wake of a car crash.

***Gone Before Goodbye* by Harlan Coben and Reese Witherspoon.** Maggie McCabe has always lived life at the edge, and it was all going to plan until a series of tragedies led to her medical license being revoked. Maggie is thrown a lifeline by a former colleague, an elite plastic surgeon whose anonymous clientele demands absolute discretion along with the best care money can buy. When one of the world's most mysterious men requires unconventional medical assistance, Maggie - one of the few surgeons in the world skilled enough to take the job - fulfills her end of the agreement. But when the patient suddenly disappears while still under her care, Maggie must become a fugitive herself - or she will be the next one who is... gone before goodbye.

***Remain: A Supernatural Love Story* by Nicholas Sparks, and M Night Shyamalan.** After his sister's death and his treatment at a psychiatric facility, New York architect Tate moves to a Cape bed-and-breakfast, where he has an immediate connection with Wren; but hate and greed fester below the surface of Wren's life, and Tate must unearth the truth about the past.

***Twice* by Mitch Albom.** Young Alfie Logan can rewind any moment for a do-over--but must accept the results of his second try; having navigated through adolescence and finding

seemingly lasting love with Gianna, he must confront an impossible choice when his power unravels during a casino arrest.

***What We Can Know* by Ian McEwan.** Young Alfie Logan can rewind any moment for a do-over--but must accept the results of his second try; having navigated through adolescence and finding seemingly lasting love with Gianna, he must confront an impossible choice when his power unravels during a casino arrest.

***The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong.** In the struggling town of East Gladness, Connecticut, nineteen-year-old Hai is saved from despair by Grazina, an elderly widow with dementia, forging an unexpected bond that reshapes their lives and reveals dynamics of love, memory, and resilience on the margins of society.

***We Do Not Part* by Han Kang.** As Kyungha braves a treacherous snowstorm on Jeju Island to save her injured friend's pet, she unwittingly embarks on a journey that blurs reality and memory, uncovering a hidden chapter of Korean history and the enduring power of friendship amidst forgotten violence.

***Antidote* by Karen Russell.** In a Dust Bowl-era Nebraska town burdened by the Great Depression and its dark past, a witch guarding memories, a grieving athlete, a cursed farmer, and a photographer with a time-bending camera grapple with buried secrets and the consequences of a nation's forgotten history.

***Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi**

Adichie. Chiamaka is a Nigerian travel writer living in America. Alone in the midst of the pandemic, she recalls her past lovers and grapples with her choices and regrets. Zikora, her best friend, is a lawyer who has been successful at everything until—betrayed and brokenhearted—she must turn to the person she thought she needed least. Omelogor, Chiamaka’s bold, outspoken cousin, is a financial powerhouse in Nigeria who begins to question how well she knows herself. And Kadiatou, Chiamaka’s housekeeper, is proudly raising her daughter in America—but faces an unthinkable hardship that threatens all she has worked to achieve.

***Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins.**

It's the 50th annual Hunger Games and as the games begin, District 12 tribute Haymitch Abernathy realizes he's been set up to fail, but something in him wants to fight, in the fifth book in the Hunger Games series.

***Flesh* by David Szalay.** From Booker Prize winner David Szalay, a propulsive, hypnotic novel, about a traumatized man whose future is derailed by a series of events that he is unable to control.

***The Dream Hotel* by Laila Lalami.** Sara has just landed at LAX, returning home from a conference abroad, when agents from the Risk Assessment Administration pull her aside and inform her that she will soon commit a crime.

Using data from her dreams, the RAA's algorithm has determined that she is at imminent risk of harming the person she loves most: her husband. For his safety, she must be kept under observation for twenty-one days. The agents transfer Sara to a retention center, where she is held with other dreamers, all of them women trying to prove their innocence from different crimes.

***The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* by Kiran**

Desai. A spellbinding story of two young people whose fates intersect and diverge across continents and years—an epic of love and family, India and America, tradition and modernity.

***Stone Yard Devotional* by Charlotte Wood.** A woman abandons her city life and marriage to return to the place she grew up, finding solace in a small religious community hidden away on the stark plains of the Monaro....Disquiet interrupts this secluded life with three visitations. First comes a terrible mouse plague, each day signaling a new battle against the rising infestation. Second is the return of the skeletal remains of a sister who left the community decades before to minister to deprived women in Thailand, then disappeared, presumed murdered. Finally, a troubling visitor to the monastery pulls the narrator further back into her past.

***Heartwood* by Amity Gaige.** Heartwood takes you on a gripping journey as a search and

rescue team race against time when an experienced hiker mysteriously disappears on the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

***I, Medusa* by Ayana Grey.** Meddy has spent her whole life as a footnote in someone else's story. Out of place next to her beautiful, immortal sisters and her parents—both gods, albeit minor ones—she dreams of leaving her family's island for a life of adventure. So, when she catches the eye of the goddess Athena, who invites her to train as an esteemed priestess in her temple, Meddy leaps at the chance to see the world beyond her home.

***Bog Queen* by Anna North.** A monumental discovery sets off a clash of worlds, past and present, over the fate of the land that holds us.

***The Hounding* by Kenobe Purvis.** The Crucible meets *The Virgin Suicides* in this debut about five sisters in a small village in 18th century England whose neighbors are convinced they're turning into dogs. Even before the rumors about the Mansfield girls begin, Little Nettlebed is a village steeped in the uncanny, from strange creatures on the river's shores to ravens on the roofs of people about to die. But when the villagers hear barking, and one claims to see the Mansfield sisters transform before his eyes, the allegations spark fascination and fear like nothing before. The truth is that the inhabitants of Little Nettlebed have never much liked the Mansfield girls.

***The Sunflower Boys* by Sam Wachman.** A poignant coming-of-age story about a young boy wrestling with his sexuality as war breaks out in modern Ukraine.

***The Phoenix Pencil Company* by Allison King.** A hidden and nearly forgotten magic of Reforging pencils, bringing the memories they contain back to life--holds the power to transform a young woman's relationship with her grandmother, and to mend long-lost connections across time and space.

***Who Knows You by Heart* by C J Farley.** Octavia Crenshaw, a Jamaican-American coder in Manhattan, leaves her nonprofit job for a lucrative role at a big tech firm. As one of a few Black employees, she is aware of things that seem to escape her coworkers: strange glitches, cryptic remarks, and a hidden floor in the corporation's headquarters. She joins forces with Walcott - an attractive but irritating Black coder - on a secret AI storytelling project designed to eliminate bias that could make its developers rich. But as their chemistry grows, they uncover a toxic secret about their employer - something that they can't unlearn, or overlook, but must overcome.

***The Eleventh Hour* by Salman Rushdie.** Rushdie turns his extraordinary imagination to life's final act with a quintet of stories that span the three countries in which he has made his work--India, England, and America--and feature an unforgettable cast of characters.

***Good Dirt* by Charmaine Wilkerson.** Ebby Freeman's life unravels when her brother is killed and a centuries-old family heirloom is shattered but years later, while fleeing a public breakup, she uncovers how that lost, shattered jar may hold secrets to her future.

***Beg, Borrow, or Steal* by Sarah Adams.** Romance writer Emily Walker finds herself in a love-hate relationship with her neighbor and former nemesis, Jack Bennett, when he threatens to expose her secret identity in the new novel from the best-selling author of *The Rule Book*.

***A Sea of Unspoken Things* by Adrienne Young.** After her twin brother Johnny's tragic death, James returns to their hometown to settle his affairs where she begins to uncover the dark secrets he left behind, some of which may involve his best friend and her ex-lover, Micah.

***Isola* by Allegra Goodman.** Inspired by a real 16th-century heroine, an orphaned and betrayed young woman, Marguerite, is marooned on a desolate island with her lover, where she must confront nature's harshness and her own strength in a desperate fight for survival.

***Salt Water* by Katy Hayes.** Here are adventures and shipwrecks, raspy storytellers and the fishy meals that sustain them. After describing the process of beating an octopus with branches to soften up its flesh, Pla writes,

"These are dishes that must be seen as a last resort." Pla inflects the mundane with the hidden rhythms of power sculpting culture, so that a hot supper is never just food--it embodies economic precarity and environmental erosion along with its own peculiar flavor.

***The Jackal's Mistress* by Chris Bohjalian.** In this Civil War love story, inspired by a real-life friendship across enemy lines, the wife of a missing Confederate soldier discovers a wounded Yankee officer and must decide what she's willing to risk for the life of a stranger.

***How to Seal Your Own Fate* by Kristen Perrin.** Present day: Annie Adams is just settling into life in Castle Knoll when local fortune teller Peony Lane crosses her path and shares a cryptic message. When Peony Lane is found dead only hours later inside the locked Gravesdown Estate, Annie quickly realizes that someone is out to make her look guilty while silencing Peony at the same time. Sixty years earlier, teenage Frances Adams finds herself caught between two men, both of whom are keeping secrets from her.

***Maine Characters* by Hannah Orenstein.** From beloved author Hannah Orenstein, this love letter to lake life is "the Parent Trap for adults," the story of two half-sisters who meet for the first time at their father's cabin in Maine after his unexpected death.

***The Listeners* by Maggie Stiefvater.** January 1942. The Avallion Hotel & Spa offers luxury in West Virginia. General manager June Porter Hudson has guided the Avallion through the first pangs of war. The Gilfoyles, the hotel's owners, have trained her well. But when the family heir makes a secret deal with the State Department to fill the hotel with captured Axis diplomats, June must persuade her staff to offer luxury to Nazis. With a smile. Meanwhile FBI Agent Tucker Minnick is searching for a spy among the detainees. Without firing a single shot, the diplomats have brought the war directly to her.

***Murder Takes a Vacation* by Laura Lippman.** Former private investigator and middle-aged widow Muriel Blossom's vacation on a Parisian river cruise turns into a deadly international mystery -- that only she can solve.

***Maggie; or, A Man and a Woman Walk into a Bar* by Katie Yee.** A woman discovers her husband is having an affair with someone named Maggie. A short while after, her chest starts to ache, and it's not heartbreak - it's a tumor, which she calls Maggie. The narrator embarks on a journey of grief, healing, and reclamation, talking to and getting acquainted with Maggie (the tumor). She creates a "Guide to My Husband: A User's Manual" for Maggie (the other woman), and turns her children's bedtime stories into retellings of Chinese folklore passed down by her own mother, in an attempt to make them fall in love with their

shared culture - and to maybe save herself in the process. A master class in transforming personal tragedy into a form of defiant comedy.

***Dead Husband Cookbook* by Anielle Valentine.** When infamous chef, restaurateur, and television personality Maria Capello's husband died, the media circus was intense...and quick to cast the blame. Whispers claimed Maria murdered her husband to build her culinary empire on his bones. Yet for the past few decades, the Capello family maintained their stoney silence--until now. Thea Woods has no idea why she was chosen to work with Maria on her sure-to-be-infamous memoir, but she doesn't question her luck. Spirited away to the Capello's rustic upstate farm, she's soon embroiled in the mystery. Something's not quite right with the close-knit clan, and Damien Capello isn't the only one to go mysteriously missing over the years.

Nonfiction

***Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism* by Sarah Wynn-Williams.** Sarah Wynn-Williams tells the wrenching but fun story of Facebook, mapping its rise from stumbling encounters with juntas to Mark Zuckerberg’s reaction when he learned of Facebook’s role in Trump’s election. She experiences the challenges and humiliations of working motherhood within a pressure cooker of a workplace, all while Sheryl Sandberg urges her and others to “lean in.”

***The Fate of the Day: The War for America, Fort Ticonderoga to Charleston, 1777-1780* by Rick Atkinson.** Prize-winning historian Rick Atkinson provides a riveting narrative covering the middle years of the Revolution. Stationed in Paris, Benjamin Franklin woos the French; in Pennsylvania, George Washington pleads with Congress to deliver the money, men, and materiel he needs to continue the fight. In New York, General William Howe, the commander of the greatest army the British have ever sent overseas, plans a new campaign against the Americans—even as he is no longer certain that he can win this searing, bloody war.

***Memorial Days: A Memoir* by Geraldine Brooks.** Many cultural and religious traditions expect those who are grieving to step away from the world. In contemporary life, we are more often met with red tape and to-do lists. This is exactly what happened to Geraldine Brooks when her partner of more than three decades, Tony Horwitz – just sixty years old

and, to her knowledge, vigorous and healthy – collapsed and died on a Washington, D. C. sidewalk. A spare and profoundly moving memoir that joins the classics of the genre, *Memorial Days* is a portrait of a larger-than-life man and a timeless love between souls that exquisitely captures the joy, agony, and mystery of life.

***On Muscle: The Stuff That Moves Us and Why It Matters* by Bonnie Tsui.** In *On Muscle*, Bonnie Tsui brings her signature blend of science, culture, immersive reporting, and personal narrative to examine not just what muscles are but what they mean to us. Tsui also traces how muscles have defined beauty—and how they have distorted it—through the ages, and how they play an essential role in our physical and mental health.

***A Marriage at Sea* by Sophie Elmhirst.** Maurice and Maralyn make an odd couple. What if they quit their jobs, sold their house, bought a boat, and sailed away? In June 1972, they set sail. All went well, until deep in the Pacific, a breaching whale knocked a hole in their boat, and it sank beneath the waves. Alone together for months in a tiny rubber raft, starving and exhausted, Maurice and Maralyn must find not only ways to stay alive but ways to get along, as their inner demons emerge, and their marriage is put to the greatest of tests.

***Desi Arnaz: The Man Who Invented Television* by Todd S. Purdum.** An illuminating biography of Desi Arnaz, the visionary, trailblazing Cuban American who revolutionized television and brought laughter to millions as Lucille Ball's beloved husband on *I Love Lucy*, leaving a remarkable legacy that continues to influence American culture today.

***How to Share an Egg: A True Story of Hunger, Love, and Plenty* by Bonny Reichert.**

A chance encounter with a perfect bowl of borscht in Warsaw set Bonny on a journey to unearth her culinary lineage, and she began to dig for the roots of her food obsession, dish by dish. Stepping into the kitchen to connect her past with her future, the author recounts the defining moments of her life in a poignant tale of scarcity and plenty: her colorful childhood in the restaurant business, the crumbling of her first marriage and the intensity of young motherhood, her decision to become a chef, and that life-altering visit to Poland.

***Murderland: Crime and Bloodlust in the Time of Serial Killers* by Caroline Fraser.** Fraser grew up in the shadow of Ted Bundy, the most notorious serial murderer of women in American history, surrounded by his hunting grounds and mountain body dumps, in the brooding landscape of the Pacific Northwest. But in the 1970s and '80s, Bundy was just one perpetrator amid an uncanny explosion of serial rape and murder across the region. Why

so many? Why so weirdly and nightmarishly gruesome? Why the senseless rise and then sudden fall of an epidemic of serial killing?

***Daughters of the Bamboo Grove* by Barbara Demick.** On a warm day in September 2000, a woman named Zanhua gave birth to twin girls in a small hut behind her brother's home in China's Hunan province. The twins, Fangfang and Shuangjie, were welcome additions to her family but also not her first children. Living under the shadow of China's notorious one-child policy, Zanhua and her husband decided to leave one twin in the care of relatives, hoping each toddler on their own might stay under the radar. But, in 2002, Fangfang was violently snatched away. The family worried they would never see her again, but they didn't imagine she could be sent as far as the United States.

***Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton.** In February 2021, Dalton stumbles upon a newborn hare—a leveret—that had been chased by a dog. Fearing for its life, she brings it home, only to discover how difficult it is to rear a wild hare, most of whom perish in captivity from either shock or starvation. Through trial and error, she learns to feed and care for the leveret with every intention of returning it to the wilderness.