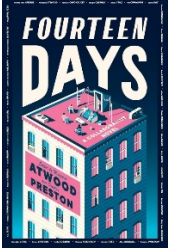
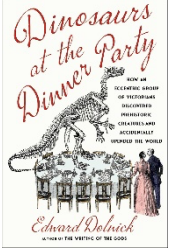
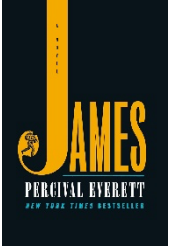
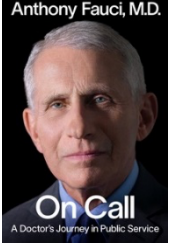
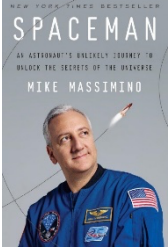
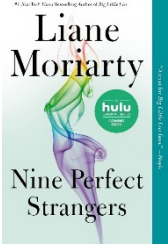
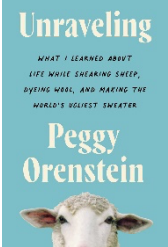
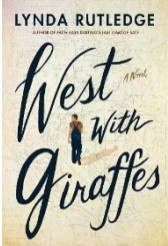


Best and Worst Books Read in 2024

Category: Recommended

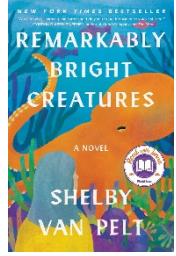
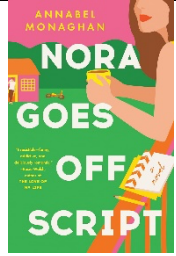
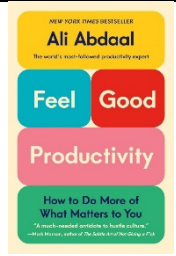
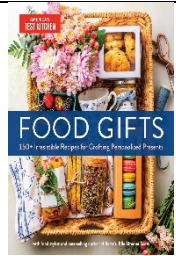
	<p>Atwood M. <i>Fourteen Days</i>. Harper; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Interesting idea, written by many famous authors, vignettes turned into a full novel of two weeks during the COVID lockdowns.”</p>
	<p>Dolnick E. <i>Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party: How an Eccentric Group of Victorians Discovered Prehistoric Creatures and Accidentally Upended the World</i>. Scribner; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Everett P. <i>James</i>. Doubleday; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Fauci A. <i>On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service</i>. Viking; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	

	<p>Francl M. <i>Steeped: The Chemistry of Tea</i>. Royal Society of Chemistry; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Fabulous book with science behind tea and many practical tips. Caused an international incident when published. Disclaimer - written by a good friend of mine.”</p>
	<p>Jewell L. <i>None of This Is True</i>. Random House UK; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Excellent mystery with many twists.”</p>
	<p>Karikó K. <i>Breaking Through: My Life in Science</i>. Crown; 2023.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Fascinating autobiography of VERY non-traditional career path, written write before she won the Nobel prize.”</p>
	<p>Kuang R.F. <i>Yellowface</i>. William Morrow; 2023.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Fascinating look at the slippery slope of ethics and publishing.”</p>
	<p>Lawhon A. <i>The Frozen River</i>. Doubleday; 2023.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Set in Maine, 1789, fascinating and infuriating look into women’s lives at that time.”</p>

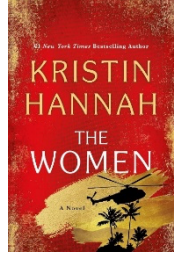
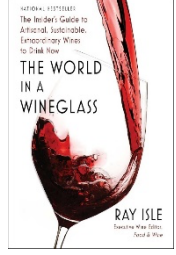
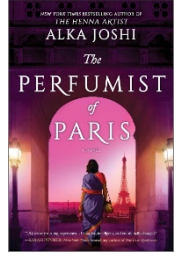
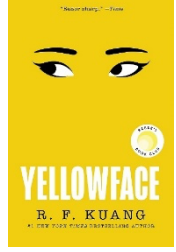
	<p>Massimino M. <i>Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe</i>. Crown Archetype; 2016.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Autobiography.”</p>
	<p>Moriarty L. <i>Nine Perfect Strangers</i>. Flatiron Books; 2019.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Nice sort of mystery with twists right up until the end.”</p>
	<p>Orenstein P. <i>Unraveling: What I Learned About Life While Shearing Sheep, Dyeing Wool, and Making the World's Ugliest Sweater</i>. Harper; 2023.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Rutledge L. <i>West With Giraffes</i>. Lake Union Publishing; 2021.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Depression era psuedo-historical novel, nice portrait of the no-so-nice times.”</p>

 <p>SYMPHONY OF SECRETS Brendan Slocumb</p>	<p>Slocumb B. <i>Symphony of Secrets</i>. Vintage; 2024.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
 <p>OUTLIVE THE SCIENCE & ART OF LONGEVITY PETER ATTIA, MD</p>	<p>Attia P, Gifford B. <i>Outlive: The Science & Art of Longevity</i>. Harmony; 2023.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Loved.”</p>
 <p>ALL THE BEAUTY IN THE WORLD THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART AND ME PATRICK BRINGLEY</p>	<p>Bringley P. <i>All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me</i>. Simon & Schuster; 2023.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Loved.”</p>
 <p>FINLAY DONOVAN ROLLS THE DICE Elle Cosimano</p>	<p>Cosimano E. <i>Finlay Dinoyal Rolls the Dice: A Novel</i>. Minotaur Books; 2024.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Laughed out loud.”</p>
 <p>LESSONS in CHEMISTRY Bonnie Garmus</p>	<p>Garmus B. <i>Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel</i>. Doubleday; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Want everyone to read.”</p>

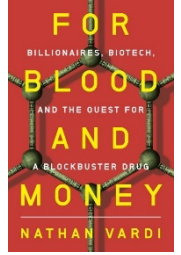
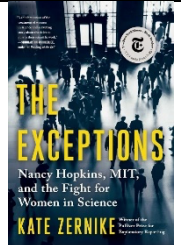
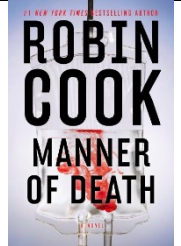
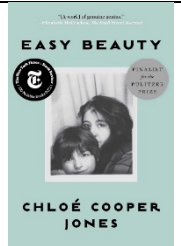
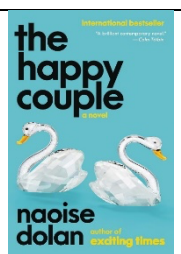
	<p>Jenkins Reid T. <i>Carrie Soto is Back</i>. Ballantine Books; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Want everyone to read.”</p>
	<p>Sims ST, Yeager S. <i>Next Level: Your Guide to Kicking Ass, Feeling Great, and Crushing Goals Through Menopause and Beyond</i>. Rodale Books; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Wish you [I] could discuss with the author.”</p>
	<p>Shapiro D. <i>Signal Fires</i>. Knopf; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Wish you [I] could discuss with the author.”</p>
	<p>Zevin G. <i>Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow</i>. Knopf; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Loved.”</p>

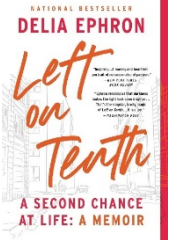
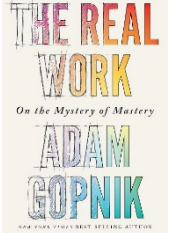

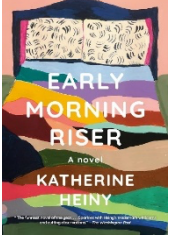
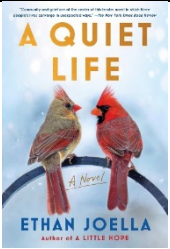
	<p>Van Pelt S. <i>Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel</i>. Ecco; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Will give to your [my] child or grandchild at the appropriate age.”</p>
	<p>Monaghan A. <i>Nora Goes Off Script</i>. G.P. Putnam's Sons; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Would take to that deserted island.”</p>
	<p>Abdaal A. <i>Feel-Good Productivity: How to Do More of What Matters to You</i>. Celadon Books; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“I enjoyed reading about some of the tips to bring more joy into your life.”</p>
	<p>America's Test Kitchen. <i>Food Gifts: 150+ Irresistible Recipes for Crafting Personalized Presents</i>. America's Test Kitchen; 2024.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Homemade gifts are the best, especially gifts from the kitchen. This book is filled with good recipes to prepare and gift to friends and family as well as suggestions for packaging the gifts. We recently assembled the pancake mix recipe and gave it as a host gift with some maple syrup (it was much appreciated!).”</p>



	<p>Barr N. <i>Track of the Cat</i> (Anna Pigeon #1). Berkley; 2003. <i>A Superior Death</i> (Anna Pigeon #2). <i>Ill Wind</i>. (Anna Pigeon #3). Berkley; 2003. <i>Firestorm</i> (Anna Pigeon #4). Berkley; 2008. <i>Endangered Species</i> (Anna Pigeon #5). Berkley; 2008.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“These are the first 5 books in a series written by a former female U.S. National Park ranger. Anna Pigeon is a female Park ranger, and these books are murder mysteries set in several different parks.”</p>
	<p>Bourdain A. <i>Kitchen Confidential: Adventures in the Culinary Underbelly</i>. Ecco; 2007.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“(Nonfiction)-- a fascinating look into restaurant kitchens by the late chef.”</p>
	<p>Enerson Wood T. <i>The President's Wife</i>. Sourcebooks Landmark; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is a beautifully written book about Edith Wilson, Woodrow's wife.”</p>
	<p>Graubart C. <i>Zucchini Love: 43 Garden-Fresh Recipes for Salads, Soups, Breads, Lasagnas, Stir-Fries, and More</i>. Storey Publishing; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“We receive zucchini or yellow squash from our CSA, Fair Shares, continuously for almost 4 months, so I'm always looking for new recipes. I've tried a few from this cookbook already, including a delicious cold zucchini-leek soup.”</p>

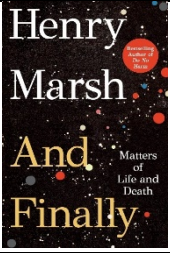
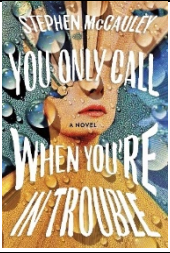
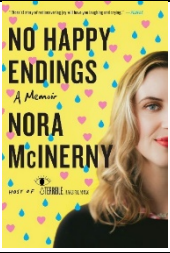
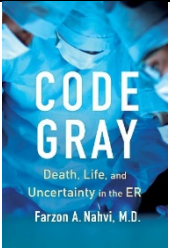
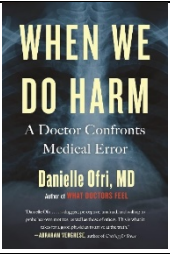
	<p>Hannah K. <i>The Women</i>. St Martin's Press; 2024.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"I absolutely loved this book, the story of Army nurses serving in Vietnam. I can't wait to read more books by this author."</p>
	<p>Isle R. <i>The World in a Wineglass: The Insider's Guide to Artisanal, Sustainable, Extraordinary Wines to Drink Now</i>. Scribner; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"Written by <i>Food & Wine</i> magazine's Wine Editor, Ray Isle, this is an around-the-world tour of vintners and the interesting wines that they are making. It would make a nice holiday gift for a wine explorer/lover. My husband and I used this book to plan our summer 2024 trip to our favorite wine regions in Germany and France. Cheers!"</p>
	<p>Joshi A. <i>The Perfumist of Paris</i>. MIRA; 2024.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"This is the 3rd book in a trilogy, and I loved it just as much as the other books in the series."</p>
	<p>Kuang R.F. <i>Yellowface</i>. William Morrow; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"I couldn't put this book down! I found it fascinating to read as a writer."</p>

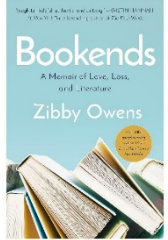
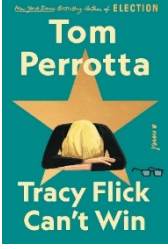
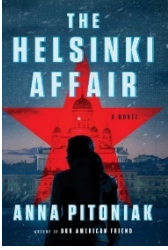
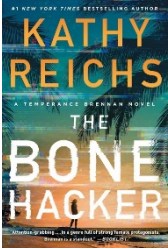
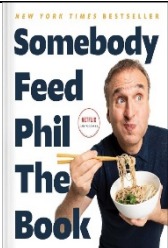
	<p>Land S. <i>Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education</i>. Atria/One Signal Publishers; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“A nonfiction book about the author's experiences as a single parent balancing work, college, and parenthood.”</p>
	<p>Landau AJ. <i>Leave No Trace</i>. Thomas and Mercer; 2024.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is book #1 in a series of thrillers set in U.S. National Parks. I'm looking forward to reading more books in this series!”</p>
	<p>Mankoff R. <i>How About Never-- Is Never Good for You? My Life in Cartoons</i>. Henry Holt and Co; 2014.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This was a fascinating look behind the scenes at <i>The New Yorker</i> comic division.”</p>
	<p>Schwalbe W. <i>Books for Living</i>. Knopf; 2016.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This book will lead you to make a list of other good books to read!”</p>
	<p>Strout E. <i>Tell Me Everything</i>. Random House; 2024.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is book #5 in the Amgash series, set in Maine, and I loved it.”</p>



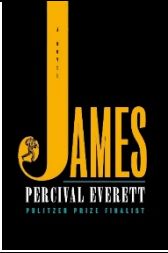

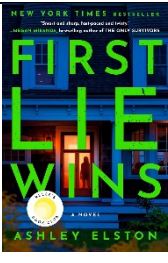
	<p>Vardi N. <i>For Blood and Money: Billionaires, Biotech, and the Quest for a Blockbuster Drug</i>. W.W. Norton & Co; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“I loved this book and the insights into the pharmaceutical industry!”</p>
	<p>Zernike K. <i>The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science</i>. Scribner; 2023.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“A riveting history of gender discrimination against female MIT faculty members. This book may make you angry (and very appreciative for those who went ahead of us).”</p>
	<p>Cook R. <i>Manner of Death</i>. G.P. Putnam’s Sons; 2023.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Although this is written in his usual somewhat clunky style, the author nonetheless produces another interesting plot depicting the intersection of health care and greed.”</p>
	<p>Cooper Jones C. <i>Easy Beauty: A Memoir</i>. Avid Reader Press; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A professor with sacral agenesis advocates to be seen as a person with a disability rather than a disabled person.”</p>
	<p>Dolan N. <i>The Happy Couple</i>. HarperCollins; 2023.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Celine and Luke are in love and about to get married...or maybe not.”</p>

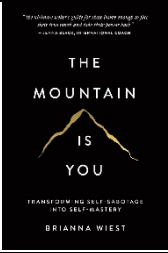
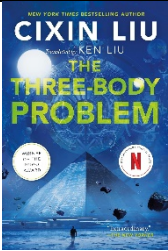
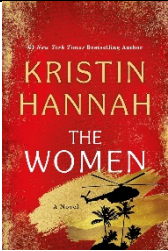
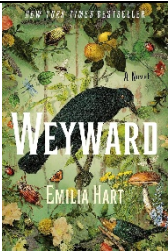
	<p>Ephron D. <i>Left on Tenth: A Second Chance at Life. A Memoir.</i> Little, Brown & Co; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Detailed (and sob-inducing) account of cancer treatment from the screenwriter of <i>You’ve Got Mail</i> and other favorites.”</p>
	<p>Gopnik A. <i>The Real Work: On the Mystery of Mastery.</i> Liveright; 2023.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A <i>New Yorker</i> writer investigates what goes into mastering different fields, including magic, drawing, and dance. He finds both curious connections and delight in these various pursuits.”</p>
	<p>Hardy M. <i>Like A Mother.</i> Crooked Lane Books; 2024.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“In the ‘Mommy Dearest’ category.”</p>
	<p>Heiny K. <i>Early Morning Riser.</i> Alfred A. Knopf; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“I really liked this slice-of-life book about the interrelationships of a small-town’s residents. Believable characters in believable situations.”</p>
	<p>Joella E. <i>A Quiet Life.</i> Scribner; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Every time I sat down with this book, I imagined adding ‘of Desperation’ to the title as the characters dealt with loss. Sad but ultimately inspiring.”</p>

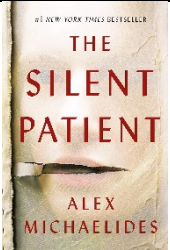
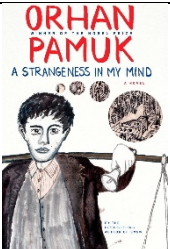
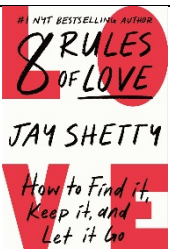
	<p>Kay A. <i>This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Young Doctor</i>. HarperCollins; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“An occasionally disgusting but very funny account of physician training.”</p>
	<p>Kimball C. <i>Milk Street Cookish: Throw It Together</i>. Little, Brown & Co; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Easy and tasty recipes that even a non-cook like me can manage.”</p>
	<p>Kinsella S. <i>Christmas Shopaholic</i>. The Dial Press; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Another in the series about Becky Bloomwood and her escapades as she prepares to host her family’s Christmas. Fluffy and fun!”</p>
	<p>Lancaster J. <i>Welcome to the United States of Anxiety: Observations From a Reforming Neurotic</i>. Little A; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Very different from her earlier books while retaining flashes of her trademark humor. She applies Maslach’s hierarchy of needs to address our collective angst. Though published during the pandemic, it remains relevant.”</p>
	<p>Lin-Greenberg K. <i>You Are Here</i>. Counterpoint; 2023.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“The interconnected stories of employees and visitors at a dying mall. Reminded me of Elizabeth Strout (that’s a plus).”</p>

	<p>Marsh H. <i>And Finally: Matters of Life and Death</i>. St. Martin's Publishing Group; 2023.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>"A retired neurosurgeon's account of his life before and after a diagnosis of advanced cancer."</p>
	<p>McCauley S. <i>You Only Call When You're in Trouble</i>. Henry Holt and Co; 2024.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>"Architect Tom has always picked up the pieces for his dysfunctional family. He's now rethinking his responsibilities to them."</p>
	<p>McInerny N. <i>No Happy Endings: A Memoir</i>. William Morrow; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>"The host of the <i>Terrible, Thanks for Asking</i> podcast discusses life after the death of her husband."</p>
	<p>Nahvi FA. <i>Code Gray: Death, Life, and Uncertainty in the ER</i>. Simon & Schuster; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>"A look at how physicians treat patients when they don't have all the answers, with a focus on the COVID-19 pandemic."</p>
	<p>Ofri D. <i>When We Do Harm: A Doctor Confronts Medical Error</i>. Beacon Press; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>"Well-written history of the research into medical errors, interspersed with patient stories."</p>

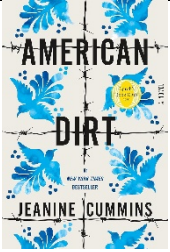
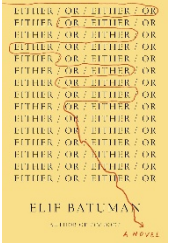

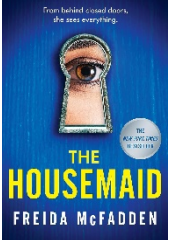
	Owens Z. <i>Bookends: A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Literature</i> . Little A: 2022.	Leslie Neistadt	“The title says it all.”
	Perrotta T. <i>Tracy Flick Can't Win</i> . Scribner; 2022.	Leslie Neistadt	“The sequel to <i>Election</i> . Tracy Flick is now an assistant principal in line for a promotion if only those stubborn stars will finally align.”
	Pitoniak A. <i>The Helsinki Affair</i> . Simon & Schuster; 2023.	Leslie Neistadt	“Engrossing spy thriller.”
	Reichs K. <i>The Bone Hacker</i> . Scribner; 2023.	Leslie Neistadt	“The latest in a series (on which the TV show <i>Bones</i> was based) by a forensic anthropologist. Fascinating science and engaging mysteries.”
	Rosenthal P. <i>Somebody Feed Phil: The Book</i> . Simon Element; 2022.	Leslie Neistadt	“Companion to the Netflix series. Phil loves everything involving people, travel, and food. A good read when you're feeling hopeless about society...”

	Sittenfeld C. <i>Rodham</i> . Random House; 2020.	Leslie Neistadt	“Intriguing mix of fiction and nonfiction that considers ‘what if’ Hillary and Bill had never married.”
	Van Tulleken C. <i>Ultra-Processed People: The Science Behind Food That Isn't Food</i> . WW Norton & Co; 2023.	Leslie Neistadt	“Scary but informative account of why so many of the common foods we eat are potentially harmful.”
	Elliott P. <i>James</i> . Doubleday; 2024.	Jan Niehaus	“It is the story (more or less) of Huckleberry Finn told by the slave Jim. The author's presentation of the dialects is brilliant -- a perfect illustration of what we now call ‘code switching.’”
	Young W. <i>The Shack</i> . Windblown Media; 2007.	Crystal O’Neil	“I've read it multiple times after my brother enjoyed it so much, he sent me a copy.”
	Elston A. <i>First Lie Wins</i> . Pamela Dorman Books; 2024.	Pranali Pathare	“Book I loved. This is a spy thriller that is unexpectedly good. Hard to put down!”

	<p>Wiest B. <i>The Mountain is You</i>. Thought Catalog Books; 2020.</p>		<p>“Book that I will give my child at the appropriate age. This is a good spiritual read.”</p>
	<p>Cixun L. <i>The Three-Body Problem</i>. Tor Books; 2016.</p>	<p>Ginger Peschke</p>	<p>“I don’t usually read science fiction but enjoyed this one and plan to read the other two books in the trilogy. An important aspect of the plot is the Cultural Revolution in China, and I was surprised how freely the author (who lives in China) seemed to be able to discuss that. What I’d want to discuss with him, if a truly open conversation were possible, is how free he was to describe this time period, limitations to what he could say about it, etc.”</p>
	<p>Hannah K. <i>The Women</i>. St Martin’s Press; 2024.</p>	<p>Janaine Prata</p>	<p>“Want everyone to read.”</p>
	<p>Hart E. <i>Weyward</i>. St Martin’s Press; 2023.</p>	<p>Janaine Prata</p>	<p>“Loved.”</p>

 <p>THE SILENT PATIENT ALEX MICHAELIDES</p>	<p>Michaelides A. <i>The Silent Patient</i>. Celadon Books; 2019.</p>	<p>Janaine Prata</p>	<p>“Can’t stop thinking about.”</p>
 <p>ORHAN PAMUK A STRANGENESS IN MY MIND</p>	<p>Pamuk O. <i>A Strangeness in My Mind</i>. Knopf; 2015.</p>	<p>Janaine Prata</p>	<p>“Would take to that deserted island.”</p>
 <p>8 RULES OF LOVE JAY SHETTY How to Find it, Keep it, and Let it Go</p>	<p>Shetty J. <i>8 Rules of Love: How to Find It, Keep It, and Let It Go</i>. Simon & Schuster; 2023.</p>	<p>Janaine Prata</p>	<p>“Will give to your [my] child or grandchild at the appropriate age.”</p>

Not Recommended

	<p>Cummins J. <i>American Dirt: A Novel</i>. Flatiron Books; 2020.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Hated.”</p>
	<p>Batuman E. <i>Either/Or</i>. Penguin Press; 2022.</p>	<p>Agnella Izzo Matic</p>	<p>“Hated.”</p>
	<p>Wong A. <i>Dear Girls: Intimate Tales, Untold Secrets & Advice for Living Your Best Life</i>. Random House; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Er, not so much. Stories about her life as a stand-up were interesting, but the sleazier bits were tedious and seemingly not at all appropriate for girls unless the intended message was ‘Don’t do what I did.’”</p>
	<p>McFadden F. <i>The Housemaid</i>. Grand Central Publishing; 2022.</p>	<p>Ginger Peschke</p>	<p>“I enjoyed the very beginning, and I figured out one twist fairly early, but the gaslighting and cruelty were too much for me. Reminded me a little of <i>The Wife Between Us</i> (which IIRC had less extreme cruelty, but similar twists and gaslighting).”</p>