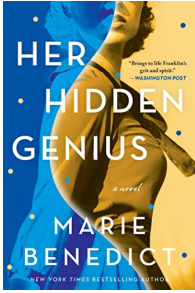
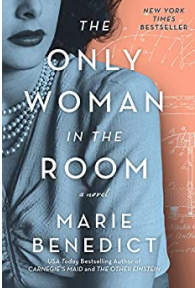
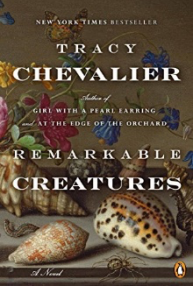
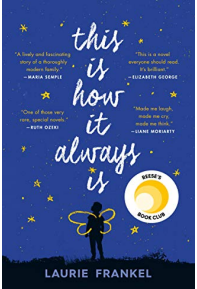

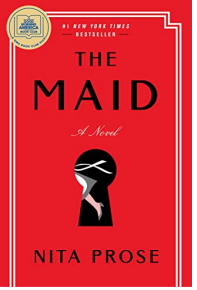



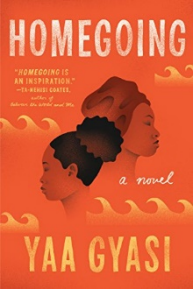
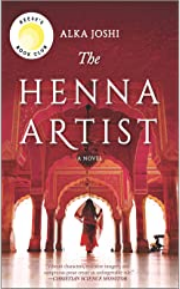
## Best and Worst Books Read in 2022

## Category: Recommended

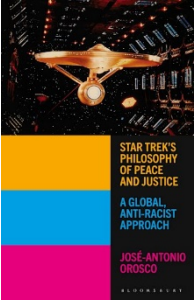
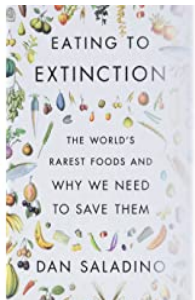

	<p>Benedict M. <i>Her Hidden Genius</i>. Sourcebook Landmarks; 2022.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Historical fiction, story of Rosalind Franklin, discoverer of the structure of DNA”</p>
	<p>Benedict M. <i>The Only Woman in the Room</i>. Sourcebook Landmarks; 2019.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Historical fiction, story of Hedy Lamarr, movie star and scientist inventor of wifi.”</p>
	<p>Chevalier T. <i>Remarkable Creatures</i>. Penguin Books; 2010.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Historical fiction, story of Mary Anning, who had a talent for finding fossils on the coast of England in the early 1800s”</p>

	<p>Frankel L. <i>This is How It Always Is</i>. Thorndike Press; 2017.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Interesting semi-autobiographical story of a family with a transgender child, and how they try to balance everyone’s well-being”</p>
	<p>Haig M. <i>The Midnight Library</i>. Viking; 2020.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“What happens when you die? Maybe you get to live the outcomes of all the other possible choices in your life, and undo all your regrets.”</p>
	<p>Prose N. <i>The Maid</i>. Ballantine Books; 2022.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Probably autistic woman who stumbles across a murder. Story of both mystery and friendship.”</p>
	<p>Taylor J. <i>The Chronicles of St Mary’s #1: Just One Damned Thing After Another</i>. Headline; 2019.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“First in a long series, time-traveling historians who ‘just observe.’ Or not.”</p>

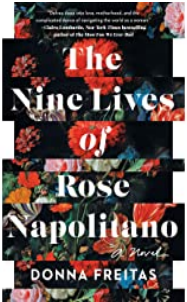
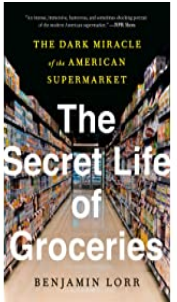
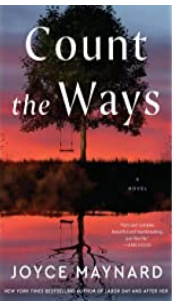
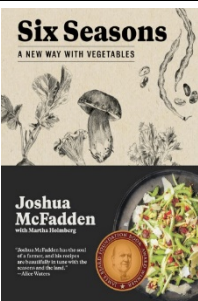
	<p>Barker S. <i>50 Things to See in the Sky</i>. Princeton Architectural Press; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is a small book with easy ‘targets’ for amateur stargazing. It would make a nice gift for a child or teen.”</p>
	<p>Crouch B. <i>Upgrade</i>. Ballantine Books; 2022.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This was a fun read-- a sci-fi thriller.”</p>
	<p>Dickinson T. <i>Nightwatch: A Practical Guide for Viewing the Universe</i>. Firefly Books; 2006.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is a detailed how-to guide for those who want to explore backyard/amateur star gazing. The book is filled with useful charts and gorgeous photographs.”</p>
	<p>Draper S. <i>Out of My Mind</i>. Atheneum Books for Young Readers; 2012.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is an amazing young adult novel about a girl, Melody, with cerebral palsy. It changed how I think about people with disabilities.”</p>

	<p>Draper S. <i>Out of My Heart</i>. Atheneum; 2021.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Isn’t it great when a favorite author comes out with a new novel? This is the follow-up to <i>Out of My Mind</i> and a continuation of Melody’s adventures.”</p>
	<p>Gyasi Y. <i>Homegoing</i>. Vintage; 2016.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“I loved this historical fiction novel set in Ghana that traced many generations of two related families.”</p>
	<p>Hong K. <i>Fridge Love: Organize Your Refrigerator for a Healthier, Happier Life</i>. Harvest; 2022.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“The author is passionate about eating healthy foods, and the book is filled with inspiration and recipes. She has a website and Instagram page (Hello Nutritarian).”</p>
	<p>Joshi A. <i>The Henna Artist</i>. MIRA; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Wonderful historical fiction novel set in 1950s India”</p>


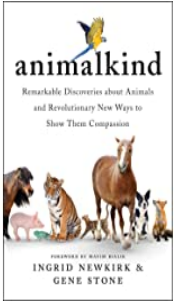
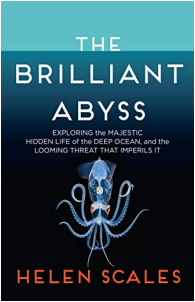
	<p>Joshi A. <i>The Secret Keeper of Jaipur</i>. MIRA; 2021.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Excellent follow-up to <i>The Henna Artist</i>”</p>
	<p>Levesque E. <i>The Last Stargazers: The Enduring Story of Astronomy's Vanishing Explorers</i>. Sourcebooks; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is a fascinating look at the world of astronomy research!”</p>
	<p>MacNeil K. <i>The Wine Bible</i>. 2nd ed. Workman; 2015.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This 900+ book is an amazing and educational reference book about wine. The author travels country by country, highlighting grapes, history, wine, and food of major wine-producing countries. This would be a thoughtful gift for the wine lover in your life. The third edition of this book will be released this fall!”</p>
	<p>McAndrews Cowden M. <i>Plan Grow Harvest Repeat: Grow a Bounty of Vegetables, Fruits, and Flowers by Mastering the Art of Succession Planting</i>. Timber Press; 2022.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Meg is my sister, and she lives in the Twin Cities area. She and her family grow most of their own food in their yard. You can follow her food-growing adventures on Facebook or Instagram (SeedtoFork). This book has beautiful photographs and detailed how-to steps for those who want to get into edible gardening and would make a nice gift.”</p>



	<p>Orosco JA. <i>Star Trek's Philosophy of Peace and Justice: A Global, Anti-Racist Approach</i>. Bloomsbury Academic; 2022.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"This is an academic book that explores some of the major themes of the Star Trek universe, referencing episodes from the different TV series that have been produced."</p>
	<p>Rees C. <i>Miss Graham's Cold War Cookbook</i>. HarperCollins; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"This is a novel set in past-World War II Germany, and the protagonist is a young British woman."</p>
	<p>Saladino D. <i>Eating to Extinction: The World's Rarest Foods and Why We Need to Save Them</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2022.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"The author notes that humans once consumed around 6000 different plants, and of these, only 9 are major staples of our diet today. The author traveled around the world to find people who are cultivating, foraging, and consuming unique varieties of food. It's fun to travel along with him!"</p>
	<p>Shewey J. <i>The Hummingbird Handbook: Everything That You Need to Know About These Fascinating Birds</i>. Timber Press; 2021.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>"I love hummingbirds, and my husband and I plant special plants around our deck to attract them to our yard. This is a wonderful book with beautiful photographs and facts about these amazing birds."</p>

	<p>Simmat B. <i>Wine: A Graphic History</i>. SelfMadeHero; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Humans have been making and consuming wine for thousands of years. This is an interesting book presented in a fun, graphic format. Cheers!”</p>
	<p>Attenberg J. <i>I Came All This Way to Meet You: Writing Myself Home.</i> HarperCollins; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A novelist’s essays about her peripatetic life”</p>
	<p>Bowler K. <i>No Cure for Being Human (and Other Truths I Needed to Hear.)</i>. Random House; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“An English professor facing grim odds after her stage IV cancer diagnosis takes part in a clinical trial.”</p>
	<p>Ely W. <i>Every Deep-Drawn Breath</i>. Scribner; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“An early proponent of patient-centered ICU care recounts his effort to change long-held beliefs about keeping critically ill patients heavily sedated.”</p>

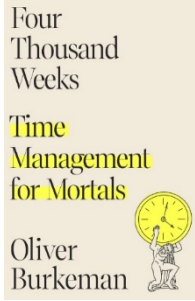

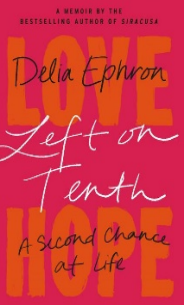
	<p>Freitas D. <i>The Nine Lives of Rose Napolitano</i>. Viking; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Reminded me of <i>Oona Out of Order</i> (that’s a plus). Should a woman who’s never wanted a child have one to save her marriage?”</p>
	<p>Lorr B. <i>The Secret Life of Groceries: the Dark Miracle of the American Supermarket</i>. Avery; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods may not be all we’ve been led to believe.”</p>
	<p>Maynard J. <i>Count the Ways</i>. Wm Morrow; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Marriage, children, and the aftermath”</p>
	<p>McFadden J. <i>Six Seasons: A New Way With Vegetables</i>. Artisan; 2017.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>Innovative (if somewhat complicated) vegetable recipes”</p>

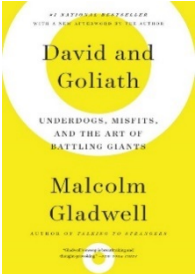
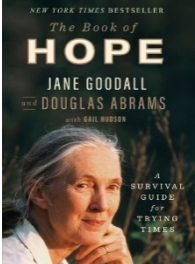
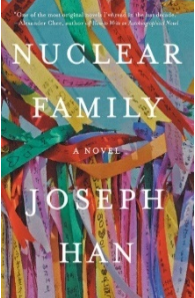
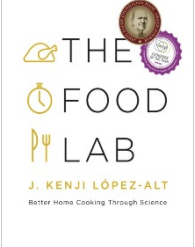
	<p>Spurr E. <i>A Million Things</i>. Text Publishing; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A child tries to deal with a tragedy by herself.”</p>
	<p>Strout E. <i>Oh William!</i> Random House; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“One of my favorite authors. Her imperfect characters with their imperfect relationships and unanswered questions are always believable.”</p>
	<p>Wang W. <i>Chemistry</i>. Knopf; 2017.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“No chapters, just a series of short passages as a grad student tries to make sense of her life”</p>
	<p>Wang W. <i>Joan is Okay</i>. Random House; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“An Asian-American physician (who may have Asperger syndrome) ponders her family and professional relationships against the backdrop of the COVID pandemic.”</p>

	<p>Stein G. <i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i>. Harper; 2019.</p>	<p>Jan Niehaus</p>	<p>“The story is told by a dog! A very smart dog. It's delightful. It is available in print and as an audio recording from the library. And I just now discovered that it has been made into a movie, which I just now requested from my Richmond Heights library. Fun!”</p>
	<p>Newkirk I, Stone G. <i>Animalkind: Remarkable Discoveries About Animals and Revolutionary New Ways to Show Them Compassion</i>. Simon &amp; Schuster; 2020.</p>	<p>Jan Niehaus</p>	<p>“We think we’re so smart (and we are), but this author reveals the amazing level (and types) of intelligence that many animals possess—and not just the usual suspects, eg, dolphins, elephants.”</p>
	<p>Scales H. <i>The Brilliant Abyss</i>. Atlantic Monthly Press; 2021.</p>	<p>Jan Niehaus</p>	<p>“A marine biologist writes about the fantastic creatures and new discoveries about the deep abyss in a way accessible for most readers. Here’s 1 critic’s summary:  A golden era of deep-sea discovery is underway. Revolutionary studies in the deep are rewriting the very notion of life on Earth and the rules of what is possible. In the process, the abyss is being revealed as perhaps the most amazing part of our planet, with a topography even more varied and extreme than its Earthbound counterpart. Teeming with unsuspected life, an extraordinary interconnected ecosystem deep below the waves has a huge effect on our daily</p>

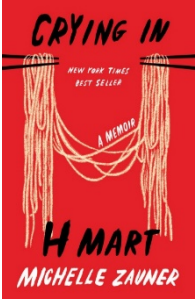
			lives, influencing climate and weather systems, with the potential for much more—good or bad depending on how it is exploited.”
	Multiple authors. <i>Great Ages of Man</i> (21-volume set). Time Life; 1967.	Jo Seltzer	“These books were written by fine historians, and in addition to the text each chapter has an illustrated addendum.”
	Rumi JA. <i>The Illustrated Rumi</i> . Broadway Books; 1997.	Jo Seltzer	“My favorite book of the year”

## Category: Books We Want to Read

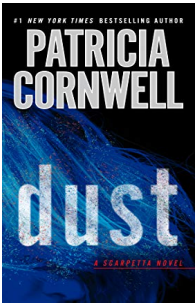
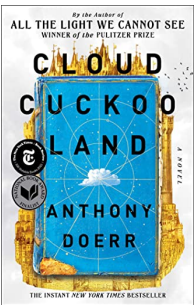
Cover	Citation	Recommended By	Back-of-Book Blurb
	<p>Burkeman O. <i>Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Rejecting the futile modern fixation on ‘getting everything done,’ <i>Four Thousand Weeks</i> introduces readers to tools for constructing a meaningful life by embracing finitude, showing how many of the unhelpful ways we’ve come to think about time aren’t inescapable, unchanging truths, but choices we’ve made as individuals and as a society—and that we could do things differently.”</p>
	<p>Cain S. <i>Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole</i>. Crown; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Sadness is your superpower. In her new masterpiece, the author of the bestselling phenomenon <i>Quiet</i> explores the power of the bittersweet personality, revealing a misunderstood side of mental health and creativity while offering a roadmap to facing grief in order to live life to the fullest.”</p>
	<p>Ephron D. <i>Left on Earth: A Second Chance at Life</i>. Little, Brown and Co; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“In <i>Left on Tenth</i>, Delia Ephron enchants as she seesaws us between tears and laughter, navigating the suicidal lows of enduring cutting-edge treatment and the giddy highs of a second chance at love. “</p>

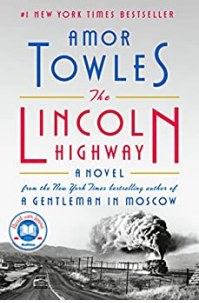
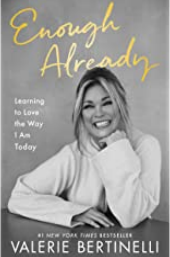
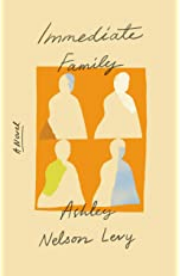
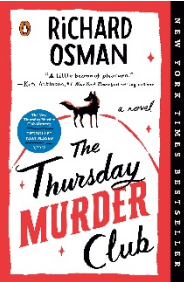
	<p>Gladwell M. <i>Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants</i>. Little, Brown and Co; 2013.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Explore the power of the underdog in Malcolm Gladwell’s dazzling examination of success, motivation, and the role of adversity in shaping our lives, from the bestselling author of <i>The Bomber Mafia</i>.”</p>
	<p>Goodall J, Abrams D. <i>The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times</i>. Celadon;</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“<i>The Book of Hope</i> is a rare and intimate look not only at the nature of hope but also into the heart and mind of a woman who revolutionized how we view the world around us and has spent a lifetime fighting for our future.”</p>
	<p>Han J. <i>Nuclear Family</i>. Catapult; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Set in the months leading up to the 2018 false missile alert in Hawai‘i, Joseph Han’s profoundly funny and strikingly beautiful debut novel is an offering that aches with histories inherited and reunions missed, asking how we heal in the face of what we forget and who we remember.”</p>
	<p>López-Alt K. <i>The Food Lab</i>. WW Norton; 2013.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Winner of the James Beard Award for General Cooking and the IACP Cookbook of the Year Award. The one book you must have, no matter what you’re planning to cook or where your skill level falls.”</p>

	<p>Segura T. <i>I'd Like to Play Alone, Please</i>. Grand Central; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“From Tom Segura, the massively successful stand-up comedian and co-host of chart-topping podcasts “2 Bears 1 Cave” and “Your Mom’s House,” hilarious real-life stories of parenting, celebrity encounters, youthful mistakes, misanthropy, and so much more.”</p>
	<p>Strout E. <i>Lucy By the Sea</i>. Random House; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“From Pulitzer Prize–winning, #1 <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Elizabeth Strout comes a poignant, pitch-perfect novel about a divorced couple stuck together during lockdown—and the love, loss, despair, and hope that animate us even as the world seems to be falling apart.”</p>
	<p>Wright L. <i>The Plague Year: America in the Time of COVID</i>. Knopf Doubleday; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“From the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of <i>The Looming Tower</i>, and the pandemic novel <i>The End of October</i>: an unprecedented, momentous account of Covid-19—its origins, its wide-ranging repercussions, and the ongoing global fight to contain it.”</p>
	<p>Yong E. <i>An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us</i>. Random House; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A ‘thrilling’ (<i>The New York Times</i>), ‘dazzling’ (<i>The Wall Street Journal</i>) tour of the radically different ways that animals perceive the world that will fill you with wonder and forever alter your perspective”</p>

	<p>Zauner M. <i>Crying in H Mart</i>. Knopf Doubleday; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“From the indie rock sensation known as Japanese Breakfast, an unforgettable memoir about family, food, grief, love, and growing up Korean American—“in losing her mother and cooking to bring her back to life, Zauner became herself.”</p>
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Category: Annoying or Disappointing

Cover	Citation	NOT Recommended By	Comments
	<p>Cornwell P. <i>Kay Scarpetta #21: Dust</i>. Berkley; 2013.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Supposed to be a mystery, but spent way too much time on other stuff”</p>
	<p>Doerr A. <i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i>. Scribner; 2021.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“Okay, but very long, and ending did not wrap up as neatly as I thought it should”</p>

	<p>Towles A. <i>The Lincoln Highway</i>. Viking; 2021.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>“OK, but much longer than it needed to be”</p>
	<p>Bertinelli V. <i>Enough Already: Learning to Love the Way I Am Today</i>. Tuxedo Ltd; 2022.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Yes, enough already. Tedious memoir from an actress who’s led a charmed life but still doesn’t really seem (despite the subtitle) to have figured out how to accept herself.”</p>
	<p>Nelson Levy A. <i>Immediate Family</i>. Farrar, Straus and Giroux; 2021.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“I so wanted to like this novel about a US family that adopts a young boy from Thailand. Despite some interesting insights, I thought it failed to live up to its billing.”</p>
	<p>Osman R. <i>The Thursday Murder Club</i>. Penguin Publishing; 2021.</p>	<p>Jo Seltzer</p>	<p>“I am re-reading this for my ‘Murder Mystery’ class at LLI. It is a huge crowd favorite, but I don't love it. (I don't hate it, but think it's a bit snarky.)”</p>

**Podcasts about books and reading:**

39 of the Best Literary and Book Podcasts for Book Lovers

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2021/01/the-best-literary-podcasts-for-book-lovers>

The 27 Best Book Podcasts

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/arts-and-culture/g39137355/best-book-podcasts/>

Podcast Review

<https://podcastreview.org/list/best-book-podcasts/>

26 of the Best Book Podcasts to Listen to When You're Not Reading

<https://www.oprahdaily.com/entertainment/books/g29194023/best-book-podcasts/>

The Best Podcasts for Book Lovers

<https://shereads.com/best-podcasts-for-book-lovers/>

Words in your Ears: the 10 Best Books Podcasts

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2016/nov/07/words-in-your-ears-the-10-best-books-podcasts>

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