

Your Next  Great Read

**The Vaster Wilds: A Novel**

By Lauren Groff

“Lauren Groff is at the height of her power as a writer. *The Vaster Wilds* explores how one young woman’s experience of survival defines her. Rich in nuance, gorgeous, and full of the mystery of spirit, this novel meditates on life itself.”

—Deirdre Kidder, Book Passage, Corte Madera, CA

Your Next  Great Read

**Rouge: A Novel**

By Mona Awad

“We all have complicated relationships with family; this book holds a mirror up to a mother-daughter relationship. Obsessed with beauty, this spiral of grief wraps around your throat and you’ll gasp for breath! So raw and superbly genius.”

—Suzanne Lucey, Page 158 Books, Wake Forest, NC

Your Next  Great Read

**Happiness Falls: A Novel**

By Angie Kim

“A fantastic blend of suspense, family relationships, and medical drama makes this book a winner. Mia is an utterly engaging narrator, and the plot twists will leave readers guessing until the final pages.”

—Sarah Rettger, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA

Your Next  Great Read

**The River We Remember: A Novel**

By William Kent Krueger

“Although I love the Cork O’Connor books, I think William Kent Krueger’s absolute best work resides in his stand-alone titles. This book will reside in my heart for quite a time to come. Great message of truth, love, and forgiveness.”

—Katie Lancaster, Back Forty Books, Two Harbors, MN

Your Next  Great Read

**Amazing Grace Adams: A Novel**

By Fran Littlewood

"A moving novel about a mother grappling with a past tragedy and oncoming perimenopause. Estranged from her daughter and with a pending divorce, she fights back and shows her family who she really is and how she will not give up on them. Or herself."

—Alexandria Hammett, Serendipity Books, Chelsea, MI

Your Next  Great Read

**The Book of (More) Delights: Essays**

By Ross Gay

"Oh, to have delights again! No one writes about the dearness of our human frailty with the generosity and good humor of Ross Gay. I can't wait to wear these delights out to the same degree as the first, and become more present in doing so."

—Abbey Paxton, Storyhouse Bookpub, Windsor Heights, IA

Your Next  Great Read

**My Roommate Is a Vampire: A Novel**

By Jenna Levine

"Clever, charming, steamy – all a reader could want from a paranormal romantic comedy. Part *Kate & Leopold*; part *What We Do in the Shadows*; and witty, warm prose that makes it feel refreshing. It sunk its teeth into me and I was a willing victim!"

—Sarah Jackson, The Book & Cover, Chattanooga, TN

Your Next  Great Read

**He Who Drowned the World: A Novel**

By Shelley Parker-Chan

"The perfect follow up to *She Who Became the Sun*. Parker-Chan's latest continues to expertly explore themes of power, desire, and gender queerness. An absolutely riveting and intricate sequel. This book will make you feel all the things!"

—Julia DeVarti, Books Are Magic, Brooklyn, NY

Your Next  Great Read

**Every Drop is a Man's Nightmare: Stories**

By Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

"Overflowing with female sexuality and Hawaiian mythology, *Every Drop is a Man's Nightmare* punches out one fearless story after the next. Kakimoto gives us a raw Hawai'i, one that exists far from the colonized romanticism often promoted."

—Beth Shapiro, Skylark Bookshop, Columbia, MO

Your Next  Great Read

**The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts**

By Loren Grush

"*The Six* introduces us to the real first women astronauts, who faced incredible scrutiny. The awesomeness of space exploration, the Challenger tragedy, the unreasonable press questions – experience it all with this accomplished group."

—Rosemary Pugliese, Malaprop's Bookstore/Café, Asheville, NC

Your Next  Great Read

**The Secret Hours: A Novel**

By Mick Herron

"As the Monochrome is disbanded, two members are slipped info about a mission in Cold War Berlin with serious consequences. Filled with hairpin plot twists, cutting dialogue, and dark humor, this spy novel is my favorite book of 2023 so far."

—Timothy Benz, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH

Your Next  Great Read

**The September House: A Novel**

By Carissa Orlando

"This was a ride! With a seemingly unreliable narrator and a house full of either real or imagined horrors, *The September House* is a story of mental illness, domestic abuse, and the resilience of women. This was an incredibly layered novel."

—Lauren Nopenz Fairley, Curious Iguana, Frederick, MD

Your Next  Great Read

### **The Breakaway: A Novel**

By Jennifer Weiner

"A scenic bike tour, tricky love triangle, emotionally honest family drama, and fascinating food for thought about body image all come together in this breezy summer read with something to say about the joys of early-middle age."

—Jesse Post, Postmark Books, Rosendale, NY

Your Next  Great Read

### **Terrace Story: A Novel**

By Hilary Leichter

"This novel blew me away. Each successive story opens up the world a bit further, digs a bit deeper, much like the space-building theme at the collection's center. I loved these four fables and their exploration of endings and beginnings."

—Santiago Nocera, Greedy Reads, Baltimore, MD

Your Next  Great Read

### **What Kind of Mother**

By Clay McLeod Chapman

"Just when I settled in to the rhythm of this novel, it knocked me off my feet. It did that a couple times, and I absolutely loved it. It is essentially a meditation on parenthood and how that can change a person – for better or worse."

—Daniel Jordan, Pearl's Books, Fayetteville, AR

Your Next  Great Read

### **While You Were Out: An Intimate Family Portrait of Mental Illness in an Era of Silence**

By Meg Kissinger

"Every child, every parent, every sibling – every one of us – must read this book. We *all* share the experience of loving someone with mental illness. We can take a step toward greater compassion by reading Meg's insightful, personal story."

—Beth Stroh, Viewpoint Books, Columbus, IN

Your Next  Great Read

**Fall of Ruin and Wrath**

By Jennifer L. Armentrout

"*Fall of Ruin and Wrath* introduces a compelling and well-designed new world of intuition, rulers who feed on the pleasure of the lowborn, and the terrifying knowledge of what is to come for the people you love. A read you won't want to put down."

—Katie Varner, The Same Page, Claremore, OK

Your Next  Great Read

**Knockout: A Hell's Belles Novel**

By Sarah MacLean

"Imogen, Tommy – that's it, that's the perfect romance. The chemistry between these two leaps off the page! I loved the stakes in this story. Just when you thought this series couldn't get any better, Sarah MacLean knocks it out of the park."

—Destinee Hodge, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC

Your Next  Great Read

**The Fraud: A Novel**

By Zadie Smith

"Zadie Smith is a literary genius. The last time I stopped to marvel at the beauty of a book's writing was in the Neapolitan novels. This has the same notes of immersive world building and rich, complex characters. One of my favorite reads of 2023!"

—Michelle Zhang, BookPeople, Austin, TX

Your Next  Great Read

**Mother-Daughter Murder Night: A Novel**

By Nina Simon

"I adored this twisty thriller set in the beauty of the marshlands of California. A grandmother, mother, and daughter try to solve a murder while also healing their troubled relationships. Highly recommend!"

—Elizabeth Barnhill, Fabled Bookshop & Café, Waco, TX

Your Next  Great Read

**Creep: Accusations and Confessions**

By Myriam Gurba

"Through a historical and literary lens, *Creep* exposes racist dog whistles you may not be aware of, biases you don't even realize, and shines a light on oppression marginalized people face. It is full of heart, humor, and hard truths."

—Alana Haley, Schuler Books, Grand Rapids, MI

Your Next  Great Read

**The Square of Sevens: A Novel**

By Laura Shepherd-Robinson

"Come for the orphaned, Dickensian fortune teller in 18th-century Cornwall and stay for a sweeping epic of Georgian high society, mystery, and divination. Deeply researched and intricate, this is outstanding historical fiction."

—Debra Ginsberg, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Santa Monica, CA

Your Next  Great Read

**Everything/Nothing/Someone: A Memoir**

By Alice Carrière

"*Everything/Nothing/Someone* depicts the non-linear trajectory of mental health, relationships, and memory. Carrière intimately unravels the personal to convey the journey of getting better, even when it doesn't feel like an option."

—Jesse Bartel, BookHampton, East Hampton, NY

Your Next  Great Read

**The Heart of It All: A Novel**

By Christian Kiefer

"*The Heart of It All's* beauty is its subtlety. Set in working-class Ohio, it shows the struggles and grace of people for whom the American Dream has slipped away. This is not a tale of good or evil, it's a bridge to understand our modern times."

—Pat Rudebusch, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA

Your Next  Great Read

**In the Lobby of the Dream Hotel: A Novel**

By Genevieve Plunkett

"*In the Lobby of the Dream Hotel* – a place two lovers who can't be together in the real world might meet – is a beautiful meditation on love, madness, motherhood, and art. Plunkett's writing is achingly gorgeous and Portia is a character for the ages."

–Stefanie Kiper, Water Street Bookstore, Exeter, NH

Your Next  Great Read

**Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution**

By R. F. Kuang

"Finishing a book like this is equal parts pleasure and pain: pleasure in reading something so striking and beautiful juxtaposed by the pain of it ending. Few books have brought tears to my eyes; Kuang's *Babel* is now numbered among them."

–Maxwell Leaning, Paragraphs Bookstore, Mount Vernon, OH

Your Next  Great Read

**Heart of the Sun Warrior**

By Sue Lynn Tan

"This was such a satisfying sequel to *Daughter of the Moon Goddess*. The pacing is fantastic and the story is unpredictably magical and exciting. I really loved the world building and appreciated the romance."

–Hillary Smith, Black Walnut Books, Hudson Falls, NY

Your Next  Great Read

**One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World**

By Michael Frank, Maira Kalman (illus.)

"Saturday after Saturday, Stella Levi's story forms the lively, tragic tale that is *One Hundred Saturdays*. This is the best book I've read all year, and with Maira Kalman's brilliant illustrations it may be the best book of the decade."

–Angie Tally, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC

Your Next



Great Read

### **Our Missing Hearts: A Novel**

By Celeste Ng

"Set in an uncomfortably plausible dystopian near-future, *Our Missing Hearts* pulls no punches. Ng wrestles with how to find hope for ourselves and our children against forces that bend toward authoritarianism and nationalism."

—Allyson Howard, Invitation Bookshop, Gig Harbor, WA

Your Next



Great Read

### **Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six: A Novel**

By Lisa Unger

"This has family drama, secrets and great characters – so clear your weekend. Every book establishes Lisa Unger as a fantastic thriller writer and storyteller. This will bring even more fans in her camp (or cabin?). She is in her prime!"

—Laura Taylor, The Oxford Exchange, Tampa, FL

Your Next



Great Read

### **The Winners: A Novel**

By Fredrik Backman

(Washington Square Press, 9781982112806, \$19.99, Sep. 12, Fiction)

"I savored every page, every word of this well written story of a hockey community; love, death, marriage, human nature, and all for the love of Hockey. Fredrik Backman will take you out of the cold and into your heart."

—Karen Piacentini, Fenton's Open Book, Fenton, MI

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