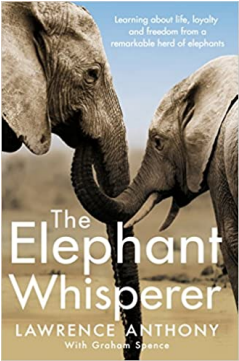
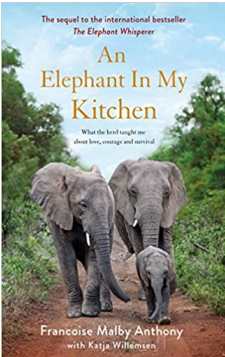
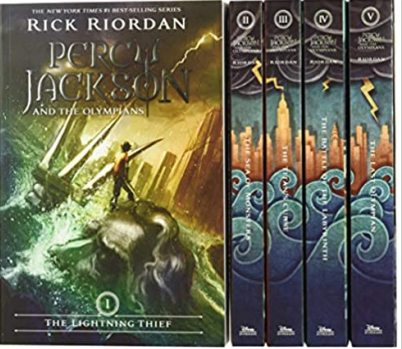
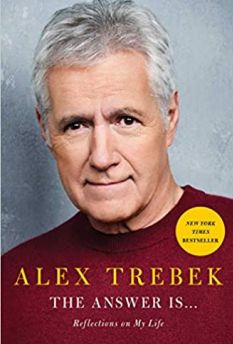

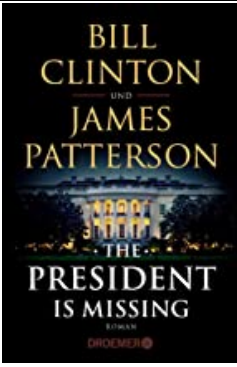

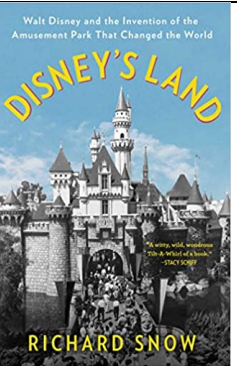


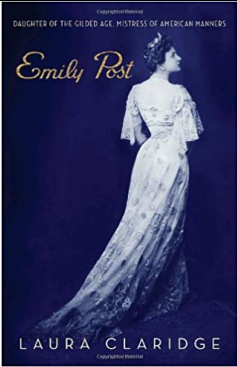
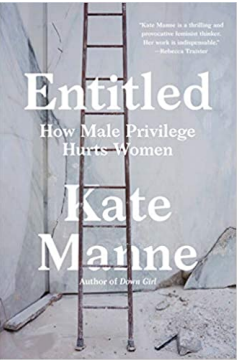

Best and Worst Books Read in 2020

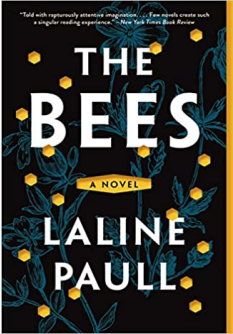
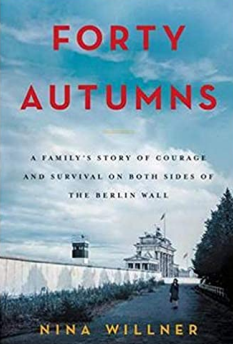
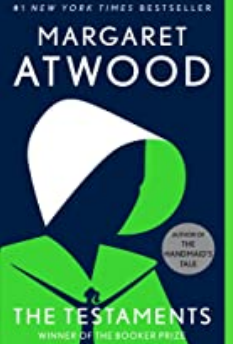
Category: Recommended

Cover	Citation	Recommended By	Comments
	<p>Anthony L. <i>The Elephant Whisperer</i>. Basingstoke, UK: Pan Macmillan UK; 2017.</p>	<p>Anne Altepeter</p>	<p>"I'll state upfront that I love elephants; they are incredible creatures on many levels. So, it is not a surprise that when I stumbled upon "The Elephant Whisperer" by Lawrence Anthony, I had to read it. This book is about South African conservationist Lawrence Anthony and how he agreed to take on a herd of badly behaving elephants that otherwise were going to be put down. This true story made me both laugh and cry, and opened my eyes to the horrors of poaching. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves nature and the four-legged creatures we are blessed to have on this planet with us."</p>
	<p>Malby-Anthony F. London, UK: Sidgwick & Jackson; 2018.</p>	<p>Anne Altepeter</p>	

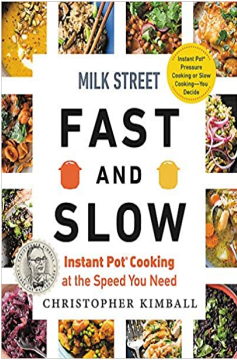
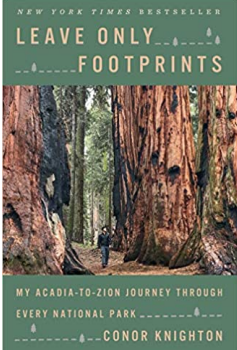
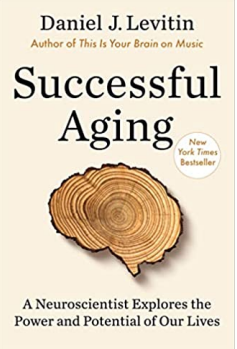
	<p>Riordan R. <i>Percy Jackson and the Olympians</i> series. Burbank, CA: Disney-Hyperion; 2014.</p>	<p>Anne Altepeter</p>	
	<p>Trebek A. <i>The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life</i>. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster; 2020.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>De Havilland O. <i>Every Frenchman Has One</i>. New York, NY: Crown Archetype; 2016.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	


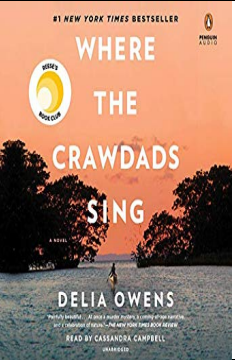

	<p>Clinton B, Patterson J. <i>The President Is Missing</i>. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Co; 2018.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Warner J. <i>Minding Her Manners: The Life and Times of Emily Post</i>. New York, NY: Golgotha Press; 2016.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Snow R. <i>Disney's Land: Walt Disney and the Invention of the Amusement Park That Changed the World</i>. New York, NY: Scribner; 2019.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	


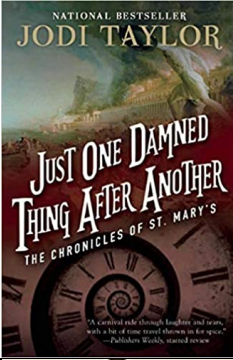
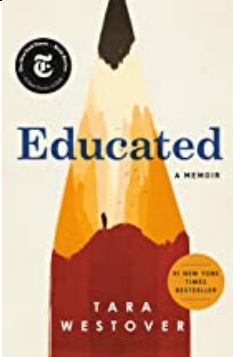
	<p>Claridge L. <i>Emily Post: Daughter of the Gilded Age, Mistress of American Manners</i>. New York, NY: Random House; 2008.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Manne K. <i>Entitled: How Male Privilege Hurts Women</i>. New York, NY: Crown; 2020.</p>	<p>Rosanne Benson</p>	<p>“There was this one chapter in the book “Entitled” which made me feel less crazy about medical care. The book chapter talked about how women are viewed as caregivers, not the recipients of care – so they are generally treated poorly during their own emergency or routine medical events. I’m oversimplifying the complex material of the chapter, but it sure was eye-opening.”</p>
	<p>Hunter E. <i>Warrior Cats</i> collection. New York, NY: HarperCollins; 2019.</p>	<p>Susan Kim</p>	

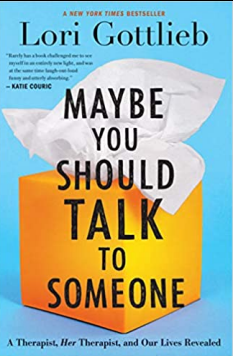
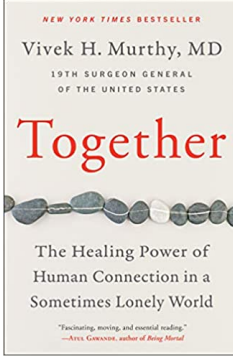
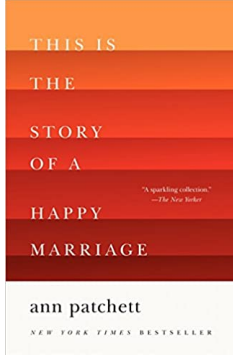
	<p>Paul L. <i>The Bees</i>. New York, NY: Ecco; 2015.</p>	<p>Susan Kim</p>	
	<p>Willner N. <i>Forty Autumns: A Family's Story of Courage and Survival on Both Sides of the Berlin Wall</i>. New York, NY: William Morrow; 2016.</p>	<p>Melissa Kinsey</p>	<p>"I loved <i>Forty Autumns</i>, by Nina Willner. It's the true story of a German family separated by the Berlin Wall. The narrative begins just after World War II. Don't be put off by the ad copy—it's not a spy story. The fact that one family member became a military intelligence officer is incidental and has little to do with the events recounted in the book."</p>
	<p>Atwood M. <i>The Testaments</i>. New York, NY: Anchor; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews Lisa Balbes</p>	<p>Joanne: "Fiction: sequel to <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>. Right before I read this, I re-read <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>. Both books are spectacular, and now I'm looking forward to catching the Hulu series."</p>

	<p>Craft J. <i>New Kid</i>. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Fiction: graphic novel. This is a story about being the new kid at school when you don’t look like everyone else.”</p>
	<p>Doyle G. <i>Untamed</i>. New York, NY: The Dial Press; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: Liberating book from a motivational speaker”</p>
	<p>Gawande A. <i>The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right</i>. London, UK: Picador; 2011.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: How checklists can prevent errors and save time”</p>

	<p>Kimball C. <i>Milk Street Fast and Slow: Instant Pot Cooking at the Speed You Need</i>. New York, NY: Voracious; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: cookbook. After borrowing this from the library and jotting down 30+ recipes to copy, I just decided to buy the book. 😊”</p>
	<p>Knighton C. <i>Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park</i>. New York, NY: Crown; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: CBS News Correspondent visits all 61 U.S. National Parks in one year—great for “armchair” travel during the pandemic.”</p>
	<p>Levitin DJ. <i>Successful Aging: A Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our Lives</i>. New York, NY: Dutton; 2020.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“It’s a how-to guide about living a long, productive life. In summary: exercise, maintain a social network, don’t stop working/volunteering, appreciate your accumulated wisdom and knowledge, eat a healthy diet.”</p>

	<p>Morgenstern E. <i>The Starless Sea</i>. New York, NY: Anchor; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Fiction: If you enjoyed her wonderful book, <i>The Night Circus</i>, you may also like this fantasy.”</p>
	<p>Owens D. <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>. New York, NY: G.P. Putnam’s Sons; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“This is a magical novel set in a small town on the North Carolina coast. If you like nature/wildlife, you will appreciate this book and its setting. This is the author's first novel, and I hope she writes more books!”</p>
	<p>Patchett A. <i>The Dutch House</i>. New York, NY: Harper; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Fiction: It’s wonderful when a favorite author comes out with a new book!”</p>

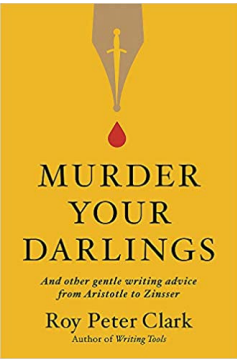
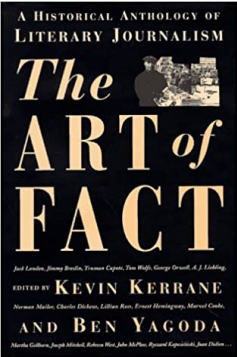
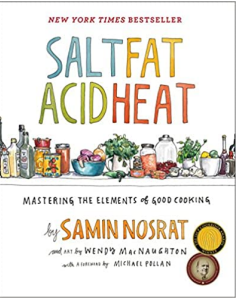
	<p>Sohm A, Muhlke C. <i>Wine Simple: A Totally Approachable Guide from a World-Class Sommelier</i>. New York, NY: Clarkson Potter; 2019.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: This is a fun book about wine! There are many illustrations and it’s easy to read. Cheers!”</p>
	<p>Taylor J. <i>Just One Damned Thing After Another</i>. San Francisco, CA: Night Shade; 2016.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Fiction: Book #1 in a series. The book title pretty much sums up the year 2020 so far. It is book #1 of a delightful time travel series!”</p>
	<p>Westover T. <i>Educated</i>. New York, NY: Random House; 2018.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews</p>	<p>“Nonfiction: This is a beautifully written memoir by a young woman who grew up in Utah as the child of survivalists.”</p>

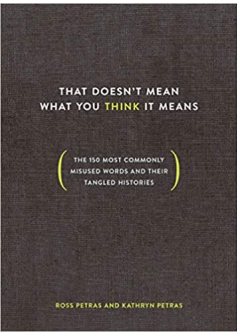
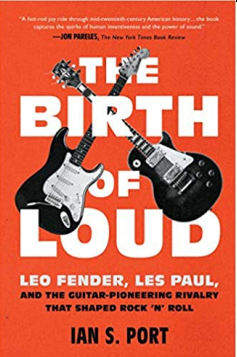
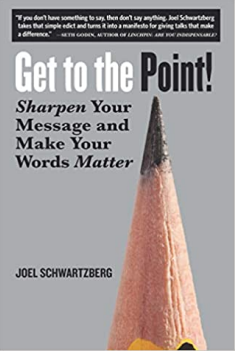
	<p>Gottlieb L. <i>Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed.</i> New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A therapist discusses her patients and what it’s like to be a therapist in therapy.”</p>
	<p>Murthy V. <i>Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World.</i> New York, NY: Harper Wave; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“In the midst of the pandemic, it’s all the more important that we remember to connect with one another.”</p>
	<p>Patchett A. <i>This is the Story of a Happy Marriage.</i> New York, NY: Harper Perennial; 2014.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Collected essays and magazine articles that address topics ranging from training for the LAPD to the attempt to ban the reading of one of her books at Clemson to why her 2nd marriage is so much better than her 1st”</p>

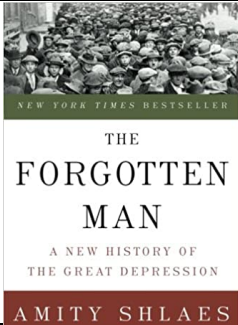
	<p>Napolitano A. <i>Dear Edward</i>. New York, NY: The Dial Press; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“A preteen is the sole survivor of a plane crash”</p>
	<p>Altman E. <i>Motherland: A Memoir of Love, Loathing, and Longing</i>. New York, NY: Random House; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“No matter what your relationship with your mother is or was, you’ll be glad you weren’t this mother’s offspring...”</p>
	<p>Coates TN. <i>The Water Dancer</i>. New York, NY: Penguin; 2019.</p>	<p>Veronika Redmann</p>	<p>“Intense, beautiful character development and stunning work of fiction based on the historical legacy of the underground railroad”</p>

	<p>Harper J. <i>Force of Nature</i>. New York, NY: Flatiron Books; 2018.</p>	<p>Jo Seltzer</p>	
	<p>McKinty A. <i>The Cold, Cold Ground</i>. Ashland, OR; 2019.</p>	<p>Jo Seltzer</p>	
	<p>Caro R. <i>Working</i>. New York, NY: Knopf; 2019.</p>	<p>Susan Sunderman</p>	<p>“An amazing memoir from perhaps the greatest biographer of our time (definitive works on Robert Moses and Lyndon Johnson). Winner of two Pulitzer Prizes in Biography, this book describes Caro’s incredible and painstaking work ethic, as well as his complete dedication to his craft. A must for anyone who loves biographies and the process of creating the best.”</p>

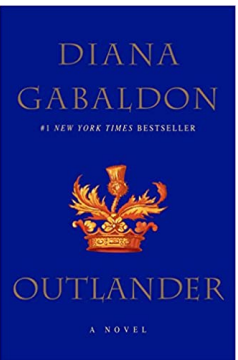
	<p>Kolker R. <i>Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family</i>. New York, NY: Doubleday; 2020.</p>	<p>Susan Sunderman</p>	<p>“Although not always an easy read due to the heartrending subject matter, I found this book impossible to put down. The story of a mid-century middle class family of 12 children, 6 of whom developed symptoms of schizophrenia, is not only an absorbing personal tale but also a well-researched investigation into the history the illness and the development of treatment options, including the pharmaceutical industry’s involvement.”</p>
	<p>Sedaris D. <i>The Best of Me</i>. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Co; 2020.</p>	<p>Susan Sunderman</p>	<p>“Rejoice Sedaris fans! The humorist’s latest volume is a collection of his writing is one of his best. If you don’t know his work, this is a great place to start.”</p>
	<p>Spiegel M. <i>Sidney Lumet: A Life</i>. New York, NY: St Martin’s Press; 2019.</p>	<p>Susan Sunderman</p>	<p>“For anyone interested in great movies (<i>12 Angry Men</i>, <i>Serpico</i>, <i>Network</i>, <i>Long Day’s Journey into Night</i>, <i>Dog Day Afternoon</i>) and moviemaking, this biography is a great read!”</p>

	<p>Clark RP. <i>Murder Your Darlings: And Other Gentle Writing Advice from Aristotle to Zinsser</i>. New York, NY: Little Brown, Spark. 2020.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Loved AND want everyone to read”</p>
	<p>Kerrane K. <i>The Art of Fact: A Historical Anthology of Literary Journalism</i>. New York, NY: Scribner; 1997.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Want everyone to read AND will give to your [my] child or grandchild at the appropriate age”</p>
	<p>Nosrat S. <i>Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking</i>. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster; 2017.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Would take to that deserted island”</p>

	<p>Petras R. <i>That Doesn't Mean What You Think It Means: The 150 Most Commonly Misused Words and Their Tangled Histories</i>. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press; 2018.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Can’t stop thinking about”</p>
	<p>Port IS. <i>The Birth of Loud: Leo Fender, Les Paul, and the Guitar-Pioneering Rivalry That Shaped Rock 'n' Roll</i>. New York, NY: Scribner; 2019.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Looking forward to diving into later”</p>
	<p>Schwartzberg J. <i>Get to the Point: Sharpen Your Message and Make Your Words Matter</i>. San Francisco, CA: 2017.</p>	<p>Scott Thompson</p>	<p>“Looking forward to diving into later”</p>

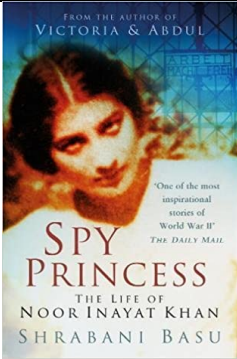
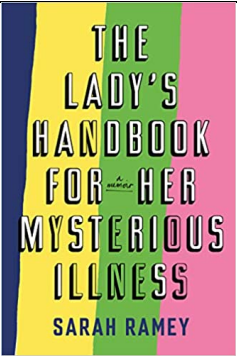
	<p>Schlaes A. <i>The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression</i>. New York, NY: Harper Perennial: 2008.</p>	<p>Tom Wolf</p>	<p>“The book centers on the key people in the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations who shaped policy during the 1929-1939 period. Think it’s a timely book given today’s economy and because it talks about the people shaping the policy more than just a dry resuscitation of the facts.”</p>
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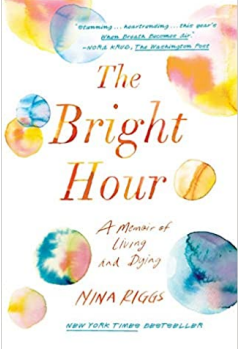
Category: Series for a Pandemic

Cover	Citation	Recommended By	Comments
	<p>Gabaldon D. <i>Outlander</i> (series). New York, NY: Delacorte Books; 1991.</p>	<p>Raishelle Day and Betsy Frick</p>	<p>Raishelle: “Yes, it is a television series based on books written by Diana Gabaldon beginning in 1988. Let me be clear for anyone that hasn't dipped their toe into the video series - Careful viewing is recommended, as I would give Season 1 (2014) an 'X' rating for sexual content. The following seasons have the scenes toned down quite a bit, thankfully. Actually, season 1 caused a delay in my reading the first novel, as I wasn't looking for this level of descriptive material. Book 1 - <i>Outlander</i> is not nearly as graphic as the video. While not one of my top novel reads, the historical research and additional usage of foreign languages does provide quite a bit of interest to keep my attention. Warning there are currently eight long novels in the series with number 9 about to be</p>

			<p>released; and with number 10 to be the final novel. The television/video series does follow the books with great acting and scene/clothing designs. Each season has kept with one book of the series as far as I can tell. Good series for a pandemic.”</p> <p>Betsy: “I’ve just finished re-reading all of the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon. Better the second time around!”</p>
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Category: Annoying or Disappointing

Cover	Citation	NOT Recommended By	Comments
	<p>Basu S. <i>Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan</i>. Cheltenham, UK: The History Press; 2008.</p>	<p>Lisa Balbes</p>	
	<p>Ramey S. <i>The Lady's Handbook for her Mysterious Illness: A Memoir</i>. New York, NY: Doubleday; 2020.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“The author’s screed against the medical establishment regarding her years-long search for diagnoses of her many, many ailments”</p>

	<p>Riggs N. <i>The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying</i>. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster; 2018.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“This got great reviews but left me curiously unmoved, I think because the author devoted more pages to discussing other writers’ approaches to their illnesses than hers to her own.”</p>
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Category: Not Necessarily Literature to Stand the Test of Time But Fun Reads Nonetheless

Cover	Citation	Recommended By	Comments
	<p>Colgan J. <i>The Bookshop on the Shore</i>. New York, NY: William Morrow; 2019.</p>	<p>Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Chick lit for sure, but you’ll find yourself rooting for the heroine”</p>
	<p>Murata S. <i>Convenience Store Woman</i>. New York, NY: Grove Press; 2018.</p>	<p>Joanne McAndrews (2019) and Leslie Neistadt</p>	<p>“Just as quirky and appealing as I expected based on Joanne’s comments”</p>

More that Lisa Balbes read:

Abraham D. *A Game of Thrones: The Graphic Novel*. Volume 3. New York, NY: Bantam; 2014.

Ahern C. P.S. *I Love You*. New York, NY: Hachette Books; 2004.

Auel JM. *The Clan of the Cave Bear*. New York, NY: Bantam; 2005.

Auel JM. *The Valley of the Horses*. New York, NY: Bantam; 2005.

Backman F. *A Man Called Ove*. New York, NY: Atria Books; 2014.

Baggini J. *The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten: And Ninety-Nine Other Thought Experiments*. London, UK: Granta Books; 2005.

Beyer KW. *Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press; 2009.

Bennett B. *The Vanishing Half*. New York, NY: Riverhead Books; 2020.

Blum D. *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*. New York, NY: Penguin Books; 2011.

Brown G. *Dirt to Soil: One Family's Journey Into Regenerative Agriculture*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing; 2018.

Brown J. *African American Women Chemists*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2011.

Clear J. *Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones*. Avery; 2018.

Crawford DH. *Viruses: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2018.

Crenshaw D. *Invaluable: The Secret to Becoming Irreplaceable*. New York, NY: Jossey-Bass; 2010.

Doudna JA, Sternberg SH. *A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books; 2018.

Fisher T. *The Wives*. New York, NY: Graydon House; 2019.

García Márquez G. *Love in the Time of Cholera*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf; 1988.

Grames J. *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*. New York, NY: Ecco; 2019.

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