

# **BOOK GIFT GUIDE**



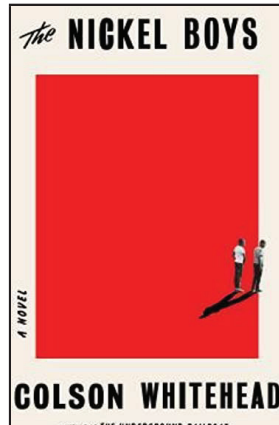
## **2020**

**[PageAfterPage.org/Book\\_Gift\\_Guide](https://PageAfterPage.org/Book_Gift_Guide)**

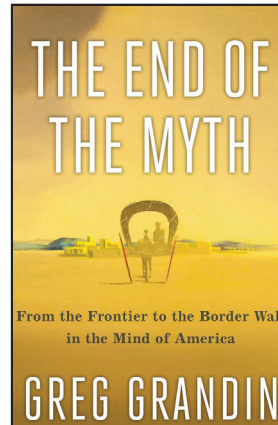
# AWARD WINNERS

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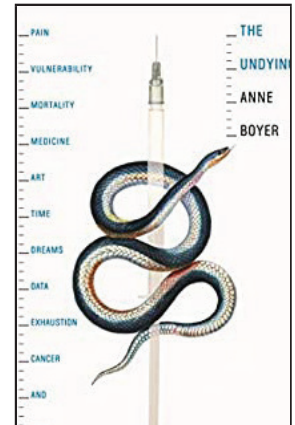
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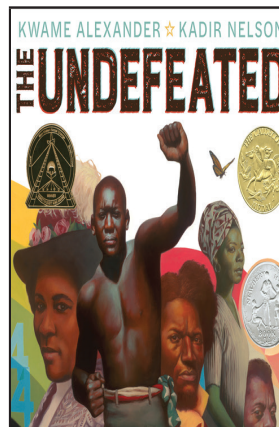
**PULITZER PRIZE  
FOR FICTION**



**PULITZER PRIZE  
FOR NONFICTION  
(TIE)**



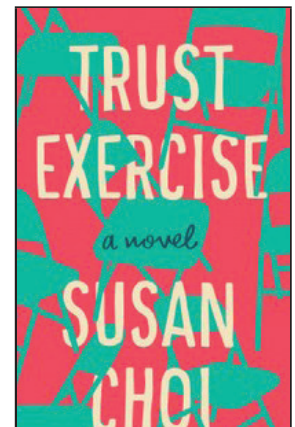
**PULITZER PRIZE  
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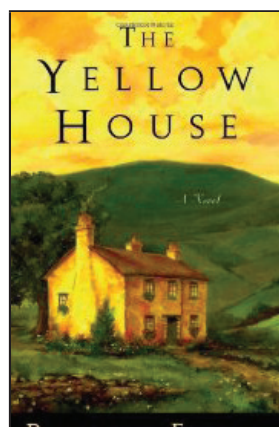
**CALDECOTT  
MEDAL WINNER**



**NEWBERY  
MEDAL WINNER**



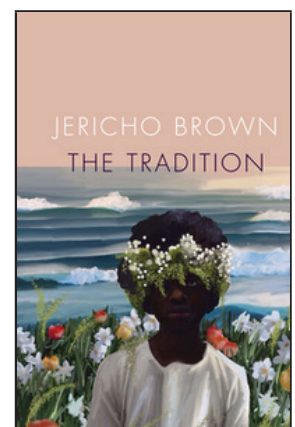
**NATIONAL BOOK  
AWARD FOR FICTION**



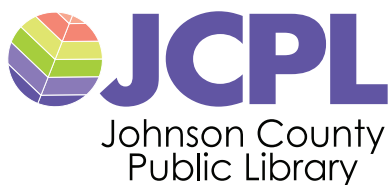
**NATIONAL BOOK  
AWARD FOR NONFICTION**



**NATIONAL BOOK  
AWARD FOR  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
LITERATURE**



**NATIONAL BOOK  
AWARD FOR POETRY**



*The Book Gift Guide 2020  
is a list compiled by the staff  
at Johnson County Public  
Library.*

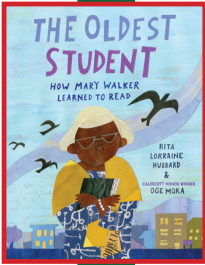
*Johnson County Public Library  
does not profit from the  
purchase of any of book titles  
listed in this publication.*

# Early Readers



## **“Don’t Worry, Little Crab” by Chris Houghton**

Little Crab and Very Big Crab live in a tiny rock pool near the sea. Today they’re going for a dip in the big ocean. ‘This is going to be so great,’ says Little Crab, splish-splashing and squelch-squelching along, all the way to the very edge. Then comes a first glance down at the waves. WHOOSH! Maybe it’s better if they don’t go in? With vivid colors, bold shapes and his trademark visual humor, Chris Houghton shows that sometimes a gentle ‘don’t worry, I’m here’ can keep tentative little crabs sidestepping ahead--and help them discover the brilliant worlds that await when they take the plunge.



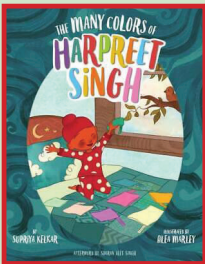
## **“The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read” by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora**

A picture book biography sharing the inspiring and incredible true story of the nation’s oldest student, Mary Walker, who learned to read at the age of 116.



## **“Like the Moon Loves the Sky” by Hena Khan**

In this moving picture book, author Hena Khan, shares her wishes for her children: “Inshallah you find wonder in birds as they fly. Inshallah you are loved, like the moon loves the sky.” With vibrant illustrations and prose inspired by the Quran, this charming picture book is a heartfelt and universal celebration of a parent’s unconditional love.



## **“The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh” by Supriya Kelkar**

Harpreet loves wearing different colors and he loves matching his patka to his outfits, but when his family moves to a new place, Harpreet begins wearing white every day because he just wants to disappear.

*Recommended by DARCY, WHITE RIVER BRANCH*



## **“Lift” by Minh Le and Dan Santat**

When Iris’s elevator button-pushing is disrupted by a new member of the family, she’s pretty put out. That is, until the sudden appearance of a mysterious new button opens up entire realms of possibility, places where she can escape and explore on her own. But when she’s forced to choose between going at it alone or letting her little brother tag along, Iris finds that sharing a discovery with the people you love can be the most wonderful experience of all.

# Juvenile **Ages 8-12**



## **"Alone in the Woods" by Rebecca Behrens**

Rising eighth-graders Jocelyn and Alex, former best friends forced together on a family vacation, must cooperate to survive when they get lost in the Wisconsin Northwoods.



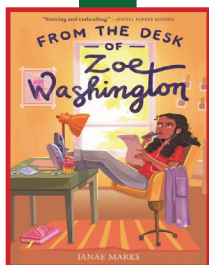
## **"A Place at the Table" by Saadia Faruqi**

Sixth-graders Sara, a Pakistani American, and Elizabeth, a Jewish girl, connect in an after-school cooking club and bond over food and their mothers' struggles to become United States citizens.



## **"Stand Up, Yumi Chung!" by Jessica Kim**

When 11-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.



## **"From the Desk of Zoe Washington" by Janae Marks**

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her 12th birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.



## **"Midnight on Strange Street" by K.E. Ormsbee**

After a tight-knit group of friends on a glowboarding team discovers each has telepathic abilities, they catch the attention of Mr. Jensen, the most powerful man in Callaway, Texas, and extraterrestrial forces, as well.

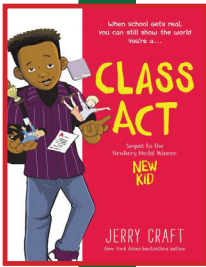


## **"Black Brother, Black Brother" by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison, studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.



# Graphic Novels



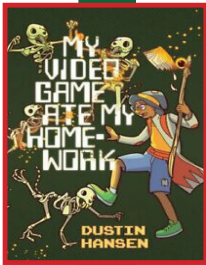
## **“Class Act” by Jerry Craft**

Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn’t afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works, that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted. To make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids and is finding it hard not to withdraw, even as their mutual friend Jordan tries to keep their group of friends together.



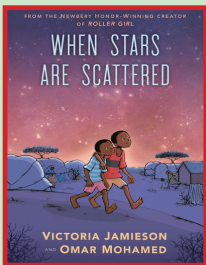
## **“Diana, Princess of the Amazons” by Shannon Hale**

Eleven-year-old Diana, the gangly, sometimes clumsy, only child on the island of Themyscira, struggles to live up to the high Amazonian standards and longs for someone her own age whom she can talk to.



## **“My Video Game Ate My Homework” by Dustin Hansen**

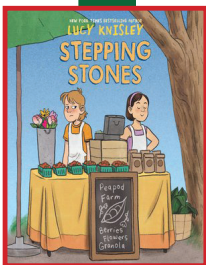
Dewey Jenkins wants to have the top science project in class to avoid summer school and win a state-of-the-art virtual reality video game, but after his friend Ferg accidentally breaks the console, they accidentally trigger the device, finding themselves transported inside a video game.



## **“When Stars Are Scattered” by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed**

Heartbreak, hope and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings.

**Recommended by SARAH, LIBRARY SERVICES CENTER**



## **“Stepping Stones” by Lucy Knisley**

Jen moves out to the country and has to put up with her mom and her mom’s new boyfriend, as well as his kids. Suddenly part of a larger family in a new place, Jen isn’t sure there is a place for her in this different world.



## **“Act” by Kayla Miller**

Olive is excited to start sixth grade: new teachers, new experiences and a field trip to the big city with her best buds! But when Olive finds out that a school policy is keeping some kids from going on the trip, she decides to act. She’s prepared to do whatever it takes to be heard—even if it means running against Trent and Sawyer, two of her closest friends, in the student council election! With intense campaign competition and emotions running high, can Olive make a big change and keep her friends?

**Recommended by ANDREA, FRANKLIN BRANCH**

# Teen / YA



## **“Clap When You Land” by Elizabeth Acevedo**

Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people. In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance – and Papi's secrets – the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.



## **“The Life and (Medieval) Times of Kit Sweetly” by Jamie Pacton**

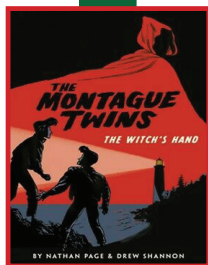
Working as a wench - i.e. waitress - at a cheesy medieval-themed restaurant in the Chicago suburbs, Kit Sweetly dreams of being a knight like her brother. She has the moves, is capable on a horse and desperately needs the raise that comes with knighthood, so she can help her mom pay the mortgage and hold a spot at her dream college.



## **“By the Book” by Amanda Sellet**

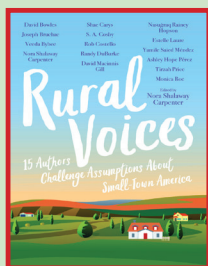
As a devotee of classic novels, Mary Porter-Malcolm knows all about Mistakes That Have Been Made, especially by impressionable young women. So when a girl at her new high school nearly succumbs to the wiles of a notorious cad, Mary starts compiling the “Scoundrel Survival Guide,” a rundown of literary types to be avoided at all costs.

*Recommended by AMY H., WHITE RIVER BRANCH*



## **“The Montague Twins: The Witches Hand” by Nathan Page and Drew Shannon**

Orphaned teens, Pete and Al Montague, and their adopted sister, Charlie, already known for solving mysteries in their small New England town, begin studying magic as they investigate a disappearance connected to a 17th-century witch.



## **“Rural Voices: 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Town America” by Maggie Stiefvater**

A collection of stories about small towns, back roads, first love, show pigs, college and high school drama. The diversity in this collection - Black teens, LatinX teens, LGBTQ teens, Indigenous teens and a wheelchair user really helped round out this collection and help make it fresh.

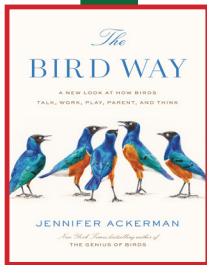
*Recommended by ERIN, CLARK PLEASANT BRANCH*



## **“Superman Smashes the Klan” by Gene Luen Yang**

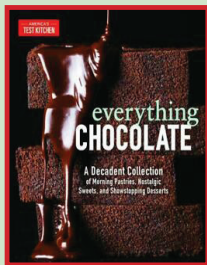
When Dr. Lee moves his family to Metropolis, his son Tommy adjusts to the new neighborhood while daughter Roberta feels out of place, so when the evil Klan of the Fiery Cross begins a string of terrorist attacks on the city, Superman fights them, and Roberta and Superman soon learn to embrace their own unique features that set them apart.

# Adult Nonfiction



## **“The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent and Think” by Jennifer Ackerman**

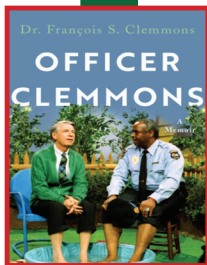
“There is the mammal way and there is the bird way.” This is one scientist’s pithy distinction between mammal brains and bird brains: two ways to make a highly intelligent mind. But the bird way is much more than a unique pattern of brain wiring, and lately, scientists have taken a new look at bird behaviors they have, for years, dismissed as anomalies or mysteries.



## **“Everything Chocolate: A Decadent Collection of Morning Pastries, Nostalgic Sweets, and Showstopping Desserts” by America’s Test Kitchen**

This is the book you need when you want to pretend on a Saturday afternoon that you’re planning for your signature bake on the Great British Baking Show. Chocolate lovers will adore this cookbook that ranges from simple recipes to fancy-dancy elegant desserts.

**Recommended by LISA, LIBRARY SERVICES CENTER**



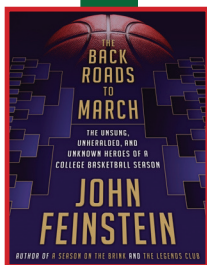
## **“Officer Clemmons: More Than a Song” by Dr. Francois S. Clemmons**

An intimate debut memoir by the Grammy Award-winning artist who famously played “Officer Clemmons” on “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” traces his Oberlin College music studies, his embrace of his sexual orientation and his life-changing chance encounter with Fred Rogers.



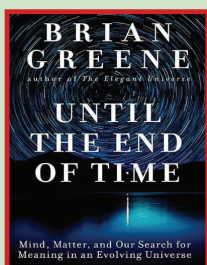
## **“Shuttle, Houston: Life in the Center Seat of Mission Control” by Paul Dye**

From the longest-serving Flight Director in NASA’s history comes a revealing account of high-stakes Mission Control work and the Space Shuttle program that has redefined our relationship with the universe.



## **“The Back Roads to March: The Unsung, Unheralded and Unknown Heroes of a College Basketball Season” by John Feinstein**

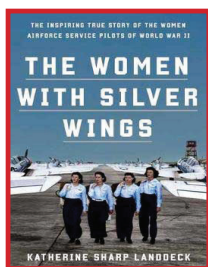
Sports journalist John Feinstein returns to his first love--college basketball--with a fascinating and compelling journey through a landscape of unsung, unpublicized and often unknown heroes of Division-1 college hoops.



## **“Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe” by Brian Greene**

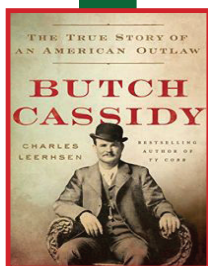
Brian Greene, best-selling author and Director of Columbia University’s Center for Theoretical Physics, takes us on an engaging, accessible tour of the cosmos and our quest to understand and find meaning in it.

**Recommended by TODD, TRAFALGAR BRANCH**



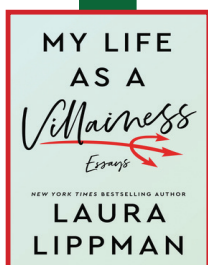
**“The Women with Silver Wings: The Inspiring True Story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II” by Katherine Sharp Landdeck**

Tells the true story of the daring female aviators who helped the United States win World War II—only to be forgotten by the country they served.



**“Butch Cassidy: The True Story of an American Outlaw” by Charles Leerhsen**

A portrait of the notorious Wild West outlaw separates facts from folklore to discuss Robert Leroy Parker’s impoverished early life, humane approaches to crime, partnership with Harry “The Sundance Kid” Longabaugh and flight from the Pinkerton Agency.



**“My Life as a Villainess: Essays” by Laura Lippman**

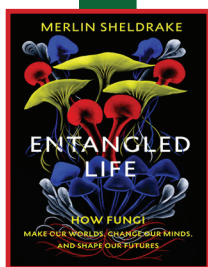
A New York Times best-selling author, and a journalist for many years, collects her recent essays exploring motherhood as an older mom, her life as a reader, her relationships with her parents, friendship and more.



**“You Can Only Yell at Me for One Thing at a Time: Rules for Couples”**

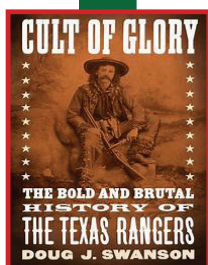
**by Patricia Marx; illustrated by Roz Chast**

This guide will make you laugh, remind you why your relationship is better than everyone else’s, and solve all your problems.



**“Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures” by Merlin Sheldrake**

Citing the ubiquitous role of fungi in the environment, a scientific tour of examples ranging from yeast to psychedelics reveals the complex fungi networks that link plants together and make most biological life processes possible.

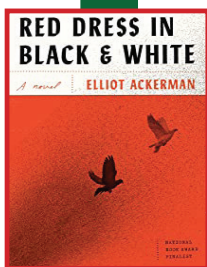


**Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers by Doug J. Swanson**

A 21-century reckoning with the legendary Texas Rangers that does justice to their heroic moments while also documenting atrocities, brutality and corruption.

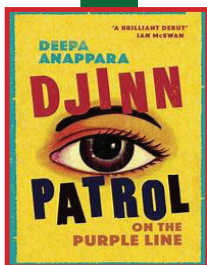


# Adult Fiction



## **“Red Dress in Black and White” by Elliot Ackerman**

The author of *Waiting for Eden* presents a timely novel set in the course of a single day in Istanbul that depicts how an American woman's efforts to leave her influential Turkish husband become complicated by political corruption.



## **“Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line” by Deepa Anappara**

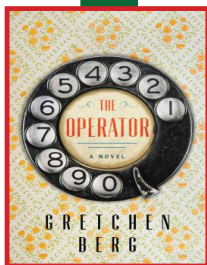
A 9-year-old reality-television enthusiast in India uses crime-show approaches to investigate the disappearance of a classmate, before additional abductions shatter life in his sprawling city home.



## **“The Vanishing Half” by Brit Bennett**

Separated by their embrace of different racial identities, two mixed-race identical twins reevaluate their choices as one raises a black daughter in their southern hometown while the other passes for white with a husband who is unaware of her heritage. Weaving back and forth through time, Bennett expertly tells an intergenerational story of secrets, lies and the impact of trauma on a family.

*Recommended by LIZ, FRANKLIN BRANCH*



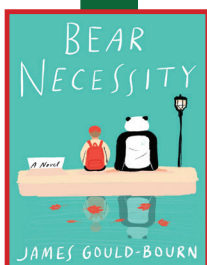
## **“The Operator” by Gretchen Berg**

A 1950s Ohio switchboard operator who eavesdrops on her neighbors' conversations uncovers unexpected secrets when she decides to investigate a malicious rumor that threatens to upend her carefully ordered life.



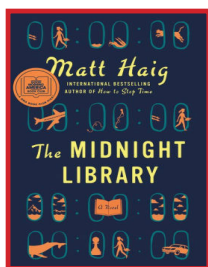
## **“The Secret Guests” by Benjamin Black**

The secret World War II relocation of the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret to an old estate in Ireland becomes subject to the devastations of the Blitz, the resentments of grieving townspeople and suspicions about the girls' true identities.



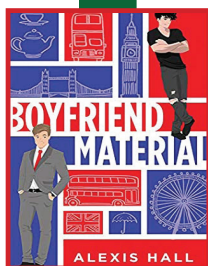
## **“Bear Necessity” by James Gould-Bourn**

After taking an impulse job as a dancing bear mascot, Danny is not recognized by his young son, who begins opening up to the bear about his mother's death a year earlier. Filled with a colorful cast of characters, *Bear Necessity* is a refreshingly unpretentious and ultimately uplifting story of a father and son reconnecting in the most unlikely of circumstances.



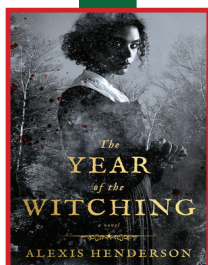
### **“The Midnight Library” by Matt Haig**

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?



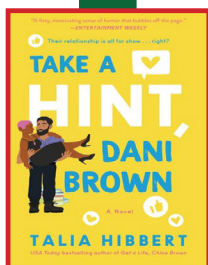
### **“Boyfriend Material” by Alexis Hall**

Fabricating a respectable relationship with a man with whom he shares nothing in common when his rock-star father’s comeback leads to unwanted attention, Luc stages publicity-friendly dates that become complicated by all-too-real feelings.



### **“The Year of the Witching” by Alexis Henderson**

Observing a life of strict submission to minimize discrimination for her mixed heritage, Immanuelle discovers dark truths about her community’s church and her late mother’s secret relationship with the spirits of four witches.



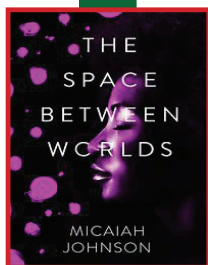
### **“Take a Hint, Dani Brown” by Talia Hibbert**

A young woman agrees to fake-date her friend after a video of him “rescuing” her from their office building goes viral.



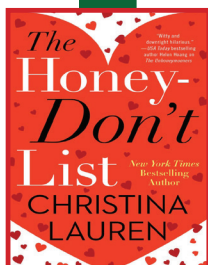
### **“And Now She’s Gone” by Rachel Howzell Hall**

When a desperate family implores her to track down a woman who may not want to be found, Grayson Sykes unravels violent secrets that embroil her in an increasingly dangerous game of cat and mouse.



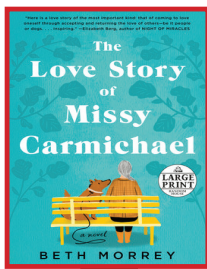
### **“The Space Between Worlds” by Micaiah Johnson**

A cross-dimensional examination of identity, privilege and belonging follows the adventures of a rare survivor whose counterparts in other realities have died and who stumbles on a dangerous secret threatening her new home and fragile place in it.



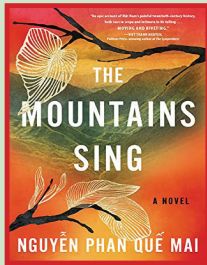
### **“The Honey-Don’t List” by Christina Lauren**

Accompanying a reality-show couple on a book-signing tour, a country girl who desperately needs her job and an MIT engineer fall for each other behind the scenes while struggling to keep their employers’ rocky marriage intact.



### **“The Love Story of Missy Carmichael” by Beth Morrey**

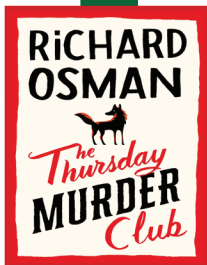
Reevaluating her past upon finding herself alone at age 79, Missy forges unexpected ties with two strangers and their spirited dog, discovering the power of friendship, family and self-forgiveness along the way.



### **“The Mountains Sing” by Phan Que Mai Nguyen**

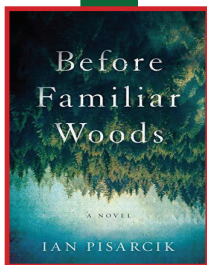
Years after a family is forced by Vietnam’s Communist Land Reforms to abandon their farm; a granddaughter comes of age as her loved ones depart for the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

*Recommended by AMY H., WHITE RIVER BRANCH*



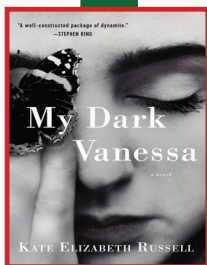
### **“The Thursday Murder Club” by Richard Osman**

Meeting weekly in their retirement village’s Jigsaw Room to exchange theories about unsolved crimes, four savvy septuagenarians propose a daring but unorthodox plan to help a woman rookie cop solve her first big murder case.



### **“Before Familiar Woods” by Ian Pisarcik**

In the wake of the murder of three boys and the disappearance of their fathers, a woman and a war veteran uncover devastating secrets in the backwoods town of North Falls, Vermont.



### **“My Dark Vanessa” by Kate Elizabeth Russell**

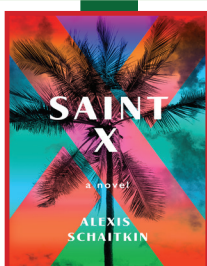
Asked to help defend an older high-school English teacher with whom she had an affair at age 15, Vanessa struggles to choose between her romantic teen illusions and harrowing adult perceptions.



### **“Home Before Dark” by Riley Sager**

Twenty-five years after her father published a wildly popular nonfiction book based on her family’s rushed exit from a haunted Victorian estate, naysayer Maggie inherits the house and begins renovations only to make a number of disturbing discoveries. Chapters alternate between Maggie’s present day experiences in the house and excerpts from her father’s book. So good – readers will never see the ending coming.

*Recommended by ERIN, CLARK PLEASANT BRANCH*



### **“Saint X” by Alexis Schaifkin**

When a brief but fateful encounter brings her together with one of the men originally suspected of killing her sister, Claire, hoping to gain his trust and learn the truth, forms an unlikely attachment with this man whose life is forever marked by the same tragedy.