

Book	Author	What's it About	Link to Review	Recommended By
James	Perceval Everett	The story of Huck Finn, told from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved man who journeys down the Mississippi with Huck. The author gives Jim a rich interior life, portraying him as a literate, thoughtful and resourceful man. The novel explores themes of race, freedom and storytelling itself.	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/11/books/review/percival-everett-james.html	Marthe Scott Michelle Noble
Small Things Like These	Claire Keegan	Set in a small Irish town in the weeks leading up to Christmas 1985, it follows a man who discovers unsettling truths about a local convent and its treatment of unmarried mothers. Themes of kindness, moral courage and the weight of silence in the face of injustice are explored.	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/25/books/review/small-things-like-these-claire-keegan-book-club.html	Marthe Scott Joan Beveridge
The Lost Apothecary	Sarah Penner	A dual timeline historical mystery that weaves together the stories of 3 women in 18th century London. Nella runs a secret apothecary that dispenses poison to women seeking to free themselves from abusive men. Her fate entwines with a young girl who enters her shop. In the present, we find	https://bookclubchat.com/books/review-the-lost-apothecary-by-sarah-penner/?utm_source=chatgpt.com	Chris Scandrett

		Caroline, who discovers a mysterious vial and seeks to uncover its secrets.		
The Monk of Mokha	Dave Eggers	A nonfiction story which reads like fiction that follows the real life journey of a Yemeni-American man raised in San Francisco. He becomes fascinated by the forgotten coffee industry in Yemen and travels there to work with farmers to revive the industry. Plans are thrown into chaos when civil war breaks out leaving him trapped.	https://daveeggers.net/monkofmokha	Chris Scandrett
More or Less Maddy	Lisa Genova	A novel about a young woman diagnosed with bipolar disorder during her freshman year at NYU. Grappling with her new reality, Maddy discovers a passion for stand-up comedy, using humour to help her navigate her condition. An intimate look at mental health, identity and the pursuit of one's passions amidst life's challenges.	https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/lisa-genova/more-or-less-maddy/	Michelle Noble

<p>My Father's House</p>	<p>Joseph O'Connor</p>	<p>Historical thriller based on the true story of Hugh O'Flaherty, an Irish priest in Nazi occupied Rome during WW II. As the Gestapo hunts down Jews, Allied soldiers and political refugees, O'Flaherty secretly organizes an escape network from within the Vatican. He plans a daring escape mission to save lives, knowing that exposure would mean certain death. The novel highlights the power of resistance and humanity in the face of oppression.</p>	<p>https://www.bookshelldiscovery.com/books/book-review-my-fathers-house-joseph-occonnor</p>	<p>Brye Bonner</p>
<p>Old Babes in the Woods</p>	<p>Margaret Atwood</p>	<p>A book of short stories that explore themes of love, loss, memory and the passage of time. A central thread follows a long married couple as they navigate aging, companionship and grief. Other stories range from poignant to playful, touching on relationships, family, and the complexities of human nature. The collection offers a meditation on life's small moments and enduring connections</p>	<p>https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/books/margaret-atwood-s-new-book-old-babes-in-the-wood-includes-some-of-the-best/article_1716364c-92a7-5e68-9103-fbe11e1b86c2.html</p>	<p>Brye Bonner</p>

Hotline	Dmitri Nasrallah	<p>A novel set in mid-1980s Montreal, told from the perspective of Muna Heddad, a single-mother immigrant fleeing war-torn Lebanon with her son. She takes a job at a weight-loss centre hotline and as she listens to callers' struggles, she remains silent about her own past and the hardships she faces in a new country. Hotline is, "a love letter to resilience, to the immigrant experience and to Montreal."</p>	https://mtlreviewofbooks.ca/reviews/dimitri-nasrallah-hotline/	Maureen MacQuarrie
There are Rivers in the Sky	Elif Shafak	<p>The book, "traverses time, space, mythology, history and science" all linked by water, with the rivers Thames and Tigris playing major roles.</p> <p>It follows the lifespan of a raindrop as it is consumed, subsumed and transformed across continents and centuries.</p> <p>Unlikely characters are united through vibrant recurring motifs, coincidences, and thematic parallels.</p>	https://www.washingtonindependentreviewofbooks.com/bookreview/there-are-rivers-in-the-sky	Maureen MacQuarrie Nancy McFadden

Juice	Tim Winton	<p>A bit Dystopian, a bit Cli-Fi (Climate-Fiction), Juice opens on an unnamed narrator carrying a mute child across a vaguely Australian landscape. They pull up at an abandoned mining station to find someone is already there- a figure with a crossbow, who is mistrustful of strangers. Taken captive and forced to talk in exchange for water, the protagonist seeks to explain himself to the bowman.</p> <p>The hellscape is worthy of Mad Max or Cormac McCarthy's The Road. Bleak but beautifully written.</p>	https://www.readings.com.au/product/9781761344893/juice--tim-winton--2024--9781761344893	Deb Price
Klara and the Sun	Kazo Ishiguro	<p>Set in the near future, the novel follows Klara, an Artificial Friend designed to provide companionship to children. She is chosen by Josie, an intelligent and sickly girl and becomes deeply devoted to her. As Klara observes human emotions, she begins to question what it means to love and be loved. The novel explores themes of loneliness, hope, and the ethical dilemmas of AI in a world shaped by technology and social divides.</p>	https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/23/books/review/klara-and-the-sun-kazuo-ishiguro.html	Deb Price
Permanent Astonishment	Thompson Highway	Autobiography of a Cree Canadian writer	https://freefallmagazine.ca/review-of-toms	Pam Redfern

		and musician (Thompson Highway), who tells the story of his upbringing with his nomadic Cree family in Northern Manitoba. He also gives an insightful and measured account of his nine years in residential school.	on-highways-permanent-astonishment/	
The Great Alone	Kristen Hannah	A novel about love, survival and resilience set in the wilds of Alaska. We find Leni, a 13 year old girl whose parents move to a remote homestead in 1974 hoping for a fresh start. Her father, a Vietnam War vet with PTSD is hoping to heal himself. But as winter sets in, his volatility worsens, turning their home into a dangerous place. As Leni and her mother fight to survive both the wilderness and domestic abuse, she discovers strength, love and the meaning of home.	https://novelnotions.net/2020/05/13/the-gr-eat-alone/	Pam Redfern
The Berry Pickers	Amanda Peters	A novel set in the 1960s. A Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq family goes to Maine to pick berries. Their 4 year old daughter disappears leaving no trace. She is raised under another name, unaware of her	https://www.harpercollins.ca/9781443468183/the-berry-pickers/	Jan Beddoe

		<p>true origins while her brother is haunted by guilt over her disappearance.</p>		
A Good Wife	Samra Zafar	<p>A memoir about Zafar's journey from a forced child marriage in Pakistan to an abusive life in Canada, and ultimately, her escape and empowerment. Despite hardship and cultural challenges, she pursues her education in secret eventually becoming a powerful advocate for women's rights.</p>	<p>https://quillandquire.com/review/a-good-wife-escaping-the-life-i-never-chose/</p>	Jan Beddoe
Tell Me Everything	Elizabeth Strout	<p>This novel centers of Bob, a semi retired lawyer, and his wife Margaret, a Unitarian minister. Their seemingly tranquil life conceals underlying tensions. This novel also connects characters from former Strout books including Olive Kitteridge and Lucy Barton.</p>	<p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/books/2024/09/10/elizabeth-strout-tell-me-everything-review/ https://www.independent.com/2024/10/16/book-review-tell-me-everything-by-elizabeth-strout/</p>	Lorna MacGregor
The Poisonwood Bible	Barbara Kingsolver	<p>The novel, set in 1959, follows a missionary family in the Belgian Congo and their struggles as they attempt to impose their beliefs on a culture they don't understand. As the father becomes obsessed with converting the villagers, the family faces cultural clashes, personal transformations, and</p>	<p>https://chick-who-reads-everything.com/2024/04/02/the-poisonwood-bible-book-review/</p>	Sarah Harrison

		tragic consequences.		
Sandwich	Catherine Newman	<p>The novel centers on “Rocky”, a 55 year old navigating the challenges of being ‘sandwiched’ between her aging parents and her adult children. The novel follows the family during their week together on Cape Cod. Affable husband Nick, grown-up kids and Rocky’s elderly parents are all introduced. A blend of wit and warmth, the inevitability of change, the complexities of family ties, and the grace required to navigate life’s transitions.</p>	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/18/books/review/sandwich-catherine-newman.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare	Sarah Harrison
The Rose Code	Kate Quinn	<p>The novel follows three women who come together when they join some of Britain’s top minds at Bletchley Park during WW II. As they work towards breaking German military codes, they offer a look at the secret tasks of those involved and the personalities that are suited to the work. Romance and heartache are intertwined throughout, including one woman’s romance with Prince Philip. In 1947, they reunite to root out a traitor who had worked with them. A well written book that moves quickly and</p>	https://tobyasmith.com/2022/03/01/the-rose-code-by-kate-quinn-independent-book-review-historical-fiction-world-war-ii/	Ginny Leuty

		engages the reader.		
All the Beauty in the World	Patrick Bingley	Following the death of his brother, the author, Bingley, leaves his position at the New York Times to become a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Through his interactions with both the artworks and his colleagues, he finds solace and gains insights into life, grief and the universal quest for meaning.	https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/mar/05/patrick-bingley-all-beauty-world-museum-guard-moma-interview	Joan Beveridge
The Reason You Walk	Wab Kinew	This memoir follows Kinew's journey as he walks alongside his father, a residential school survivor and respected indigenous leader, during his final days. Through their shared experiences and conversations, Kinew reflects on his father's legacy, the impact of colonialism, and the power of cultural healing.	https://www.cbc.ca/books/the-reason-you-walk-1.4011915?_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar	Cindy Rusak
Table for Two	Amor Towles	A collection of short stories and a novella set in various time periods and locations, featuring characters navigating the complexities of human relationships, social class, and personal aspirations. With themes of love, ambition and fate, the collection offers a mix of charm, irony and emotional depth.	https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/30/books/review/amor-towles-table-for-two.html	Nancy McFadden
