

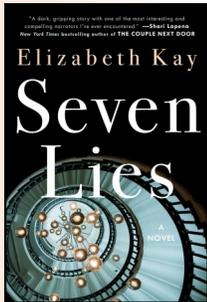


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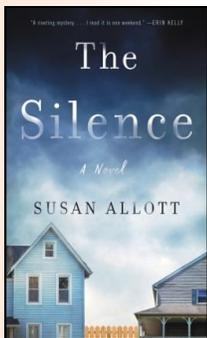
### FICTION



#### **SEVEN LIES BY ELIZABETH KAY**

**(PICKED BY SP)**

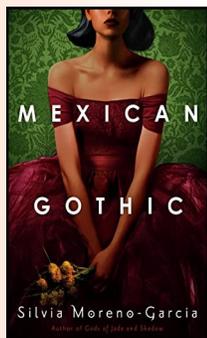
Growing up, Jane and Marnie shared everything. They knew the other's deepest secrets. But when Marnie falls in love, things begin to change. Because Jane has a secret: she loathes Marnie's wealthy, priggish husband. So when Marnie asks if she likes him, Jane tells her first lie. After all, even best friends keep some things to themselves. If she had been honest, then perhaps her best friend's husband might still be alive today... For, of course, it's not the last lie. In fact, it's only the beginning... *Seven Lies* is Jane's confession of the truth—her truth. Compelling, sophisticated, chilling, it's a seductive, hypnotic page-turner about the tangled, toxic friendships between women, the dark underbelly of obsession and what we stand to lose in the name of love. (352 pgs)



#### **THE SILENCE BY SUSAN ALLOTT**

**(PICKED BY SLS)**

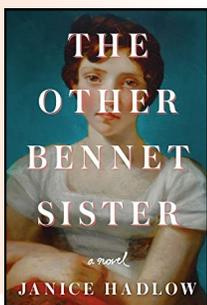
It is 1997, and Isla Green is awakened by a call in the middle of the night: her father phoning from Sydney. Thirty years ago, in the summer of 1967, the Green's next-door neighbor Mandy disappeared. At the time, it was thought she fled a broken marriage and gone to start a new life; but now Mandy's family is trying to reconnect, and there is no trace of her. Isla's father Joe was allegedly the last person to see her alive, and now he's under suspicion of murder. Isla unwillingly plans to go back to Australia for the first time in a decade to support her father. Isla's parents, Louisa and Joe, had emigrated from England - a move that had left Louisa miserably homesick while Joe embraced his new life. Next door, Steve and Mandy were equally troubled. Mandy didn't want a baby, even though Steve was desperate to become a father. The more Isla asks about the past, the more she learns about both young couples and the secrets each marriage bore. And is there another secret in this community, one which goes deeper into Australia's colonial past, which has held them in a conspiracy of silence? (300 pgs)



#### **MEXICAN GOTHIC BY SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA**

**(PICKED BY SLS & MG)**

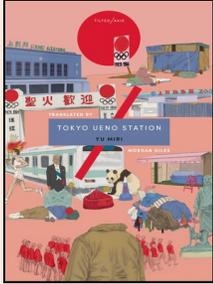
After receiving a frantic letter from her newlywed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, Noemí Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. Her cousin's husband, a handsome Englishman, is a stranger, and Noemí knows little about the region. Noemí is also an unlikely rescuer: She's a glamorous debutante more suited for cocktail parties than amateur sleuthing. But she's also tough, smart and not afraid: not of her cousin's new husband, who is both menacing and alluring; not of his father, and not even of the house itself, which begins to invade Noemí's dreams with visions of blood and doom. Her only ally in this inhospitable abode is the family's youngest son. Shy and gentle, he seems to want to help Noemí but might also be hiding dark knowledge of his family's past. For there are many secrets behind the walls of High Place. The family's once colossal wealth and faded mining empire kept them from prying eyes, but as Noemí digs deeper she unearths stories of violence and madness. (320 pgs)



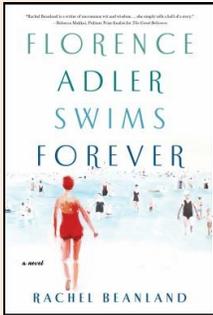
#### **THE OTHER BENNET SISTER BY JANICE HADLOW**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

Mary, the bookish ugly duckling of *Pride and Prejudice*'s five Bennet sisters, emerges from the shadows and transforms into a desired woman with choices of her own. What if the frustrated intellectual, the marginalized middle daughter, the plain girl who takes refuge in her books, eventually found the fulfillment enjoyed by her prettier, more confident sisters? Ultimately, Mary's journey is like that taken by every Austen heroine. She learns that she can only expect joy when she has accepted who she really is. She must throw off the false expectations and wrong ideas that have combined to obscure her true nature and prevented her from what makes her happy. Only when she undergoes this evolution does she have a chance at finding fulfillment and clarity to recognize her partner when he presents himself—and only at that moment is she genuinely worthy of love. (480 pgs)

**TOKYO UENO STATION BY YU MIRI****(PICKED BY KT)**

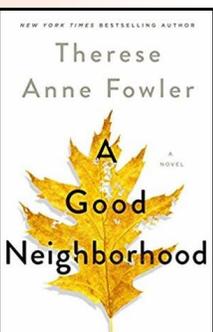
Born in Fukushima in 1933, the same year as the Emperor, Kazu's life is tied by a series of coincidences to Japan's Imperial family and to one particular spot in Tokyo, the park near Ueno Station – the same place his unquiet spirit now haunts in death. It is here that Kazu's life in Tokyo began, as a laborer in the run up to the 1964 Olympics, and later where he ended his days, living in the park's vast homeless 'villages', traumatized by the destruction of the 2011 tsunami and enraged by the announcement of the 2020 Olympics. (180 pgs)

**FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER BY RACHEL BEANLAND** **(PICKED BY MG)**

*Atlantic City, 1934.* Every summer, Esther and Joseph Adler rent their house out to vacationers escaping to "America's Playground" and move into the small apartment above their bakery. This is the apartment where they raised their two daughters, Fannie and Florence. Now Florence has returned from college, determined to spend the summer training to swim the English Channel, and Fannie, pregnant again after recently losing a baby, is on bedrest for the duration of her pregnancy. After Joseph insists they take in a mysterious young woman whom he recently helped emigrate from Nazi Germany, the apartment is bursting at the seams. Esther only wants to keep her daughters close and safe but some matters are beyond her control. When tragedy strikes, Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth—at least until Fannie's baby is born—and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies, bringing long-buried tensions to the surface that reveal how quickly the act of protecting those we love can turn into betrayal. (320 pgs)

**ALL OF US BY A.F. CARTER****(PICKED BY BS)**

*All of Us* is a riveting thriller with six compelling protagonists—who all share one body. Though legally she is Carolyn Grand, in practice she is Martha, a homemaker who cooks and cleans for her "family," Victoria, a put-together people person, Serena, a free spirit, Kirk, a heterosexual man, Eleni, a promiscuous risk-taker, and Tina, a manifestation of what is left of Carolyn after years of childhood sexual abuse. As they jockey for control of their body, all the personalities also work together to avoid being committed to a psychiatric facility. But Carolyn's tenuous normal is shattered when Hank Grand, the man who abused her and leased her out to pedophiles, is released from prison. Soon he begins stalking her, bringing back painful memories for all of the personalities. When Hank is murdered in a seedy hotel room, Carolyn is immediately a prime suspect. But the man has other shady dealings, and the burden of proof weighs heavy on the police—especially when, propelled by demons of his own, one of the detectives assigned to the case finds his way into Carolyn's very solitary life. (208 pgs)

**A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD BY THERESE ANNE FOWLER****(PICKED BY SM)**

In Oak Knoll, a verdant, tight-knit North Carolina neighborhood, professor of forestry and ecology Valerie Alston-Holt is raising her bright and talented biracial son. Xavier is headed to college in the fall, and after years of single parenting, Valerie is facing the prospect of an empty nest. All is well until the Whitmans move in next door - an apparently traditional family with new money, ambition, and a secretly troubled teenaged daughter. Thanks to his thriving local business, Brad Whitman is something of a celebrity around town, and he's made a small fortune on his customer service and charm, while his wife, Julia, escaped her trailer park upbringing for the security of marriage and homemaking. With little in common except a property line, these two very different families quickly find themselves at odds: first, over an historic oak tree in Valerie's yard, and soon after, the blossoming romance between their two teenagers. (311 pgs)

**SOMETHING SHE'S NOT TELLING US BY DARCEY BELL****(PICKED BY KT)**

Charlotte has everything in life that she ever could have hoped for: a doting husband, a small flower shop, and her sweet, smart five-year-old daughter, Daisy. When younger brother Rocco introduces his new girlfriend to Charlotte and her family, they are cautiously optimistic that she could be The One. But as Rocco and Ruth's relationship becomes more serious, Ruth's apparent obsession with Daisy grows more obvious. Then Daisy is kidnapped, and Charlotte is convinced there's only one person who could have taken her. Ruth has never had much, but now she's finally on the verge of having everything she's ever dreamed of. The only obstacle standing in her way is Charlotte, whose attitude swerves between politely cold and outright hostile. Charlotte watches over her daughter with a desperate protectiveness that sends chills down Ruth's spine. Ruth knows that Charlotte has a deeply-buried secret, the only question is: what? A surprise outing with Daisy could be the key to finding out, and Ruth knows she must take the chance while she has it—for everyone's sake. (320 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

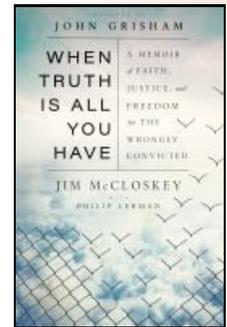
AUGUST 2020



## NON-FICTION

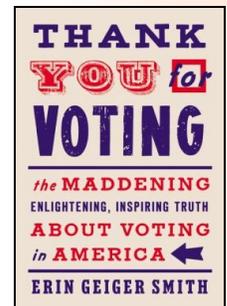
### **WHEN TRUTH IS ALL YOU HAVE BY JIM MCCLOSKEY (PICKED BY SMC)**

A former management consultant, Jim McCloskey had grown disenchanted with the business world; he enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary at the age of 37. His first assignment in 1980 was as a chaplain at Trenton State Prison, where he ministered to some of the most violent offenders in the state. Among them was Jorge de los Santos, a heroin addict who'd been convicted of murder years earlier. De los Santos swore to McCloskey that he was innocent—and, over time, McCloskey came to believe him. With no legal or investigative training to speak of, McCloskey threw himself into the man's case. Two years later, he successfully effected his exoneration. He would go on to establish Centurion Ministries, the first group in America devoted to overturning wrongful convictions. Together with a team of forensic experts, lawyers, and volunteers, Centurion has freed 63 prisoners and counting. *When Truth Is All You Have* is McCloskey's inspirational story as well as the stories of the unjustly imprisoned for whom he has advocated. (320 pgs)



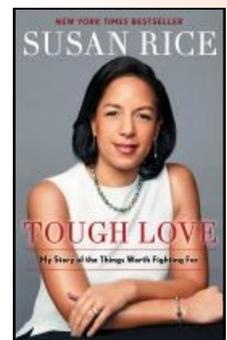
### **THANK YOU FOR VOTING BY ERIN GEIGER SMITH (PICKED BY MG)**

Voting is a prized American right and a topic of debate from the earliest days of the country. Then why do so many Americans choose not to vote, and what can we do about it? The problem, Geiger Smith contends, is a lack of understanding about our electoral system and a need to make voting more accessible. *Thank You for Voting* is her look at the voting process. Geiger Smith expands our knowledge about our democracy—including attempts to suppress newly enfranchised voters' impact, state prohibitions against felons voting, charges of voter fraud and voter suppression, and other vital issues. She explains topics such as polling, news literacy, gerrymandering and the Electoral College. She also explores how age, race, and socioeconomic factors influence turnout. She reveals how get-out-the-vote movements innovatively use technology and grassroots techniques to energize first-time voters. (256 pgs)



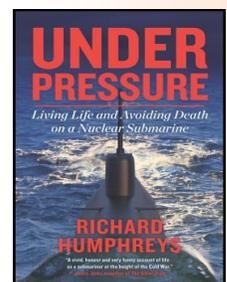
### **TOUGH LOVE BY SUSAN RICE (AUTOBIOGRAPHY) (PICKED BY SM)**

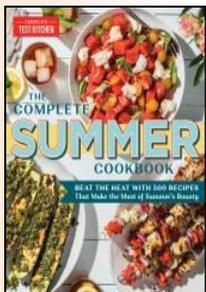
Susan Rice—National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations—delivers an inspiring account of a life in service to family and country. Mother, wife, scholar, diplomat, and fierce champion of American interests and values, Rice connects the personal and the professional. Taught early, with tough love, how to compete and excel as an African American woman in settings where people of color are few, Susan shares wisdom learned along the way. She served throughout the Clinton administration, becoming one of the nation's youngest assistant secretaries of state. Rice provides an insider's account of some of the most complex issues confronting the United States over three decades, ranging from the genocide in Rwanda to a secret channel to Iran, the Ebola epidemic, and the opening to Cuba during the Obama years. She reveals previously untold stories behind recent national security challenges, including confrontations with Russia and China, the war against ISIS, and the U.S. response to Russian interference in the 2016 election. *Tough Love* culminates with an appeal to the American public to bridge our dangerous domestic divides in order to preserve our democracy and sustain our global leadership. (496 pgs)



### **UNDER PRESSURE BY RICHARD HUMPHREYS (PICKED BY SLH & SMC)**

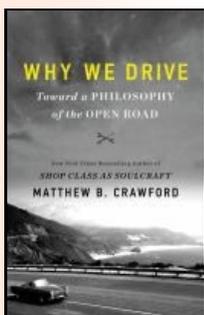
As a restless and adventurous 18-year-old, Richard Humphreys joined the Royal Navy submarine service. For five years during the Cold War, he served on the nuclear sub *HMS Resolution*. Nothing could have prepared him for life beneath the waves. He existed in a world without natural light, surrounded by 140 other men, all eating the same food, breathing the same air, smelling the same putrid smells and surviving together in some of the most forbidding conditions imaginable. Based on Humphreys' firsthand experience, *Under Pressure* is the candid, visceral and incredibly entertaining account of what it's like to live, work, sleep and eat - and stay sane - in one of the most extreme man-made environments on the planet. (304 pgs)





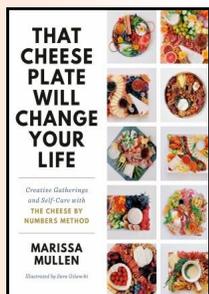
***THE COMPLETE SUMMMER COOKBOOK –AMERICA’S TEST KITCHEN (PICKED BY PB)***

When fresh produce beckons but you haven't much energy to respond, these recipes help you settle into a more relaxed kind of cooking designed to keep you and your kitchen cool. Untether yourself from the oven with make-ahead meals best served cold (or at room temp). Fix-and-forget recipes made in the electric pressure cooker won't steam up the kitchen. Equally easy are dinner salads. Barely more effort are fresh summer recipes requiring the briefest stint in a pan, such as Beet and Carrot Noodle Salad with Chicken. You'll find all you need for casual patio meals prepared entirely on the grill. Throw a fantastic cookout with easy starters, frosty drinks, and picnic must-haves like Picnic Fried Chicken and Buttermilk Coleslaw. Visited the farmers' market? Find ideas for main dishes as well as sides inspired by the seasonal bounty, plus the best fruit desserts worth turning on the oven for. To end your meal on a cooler note, turn to a chapter of icebox desserts and no-bake sweets. (464 pgs)



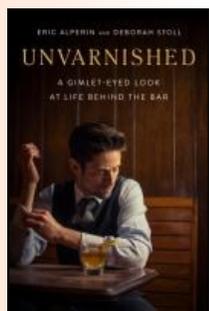
***WHY WE DRIVE BY MATTHEW CRAWFORD (PICKED BY SLH & SLS)***

Once we were drivers, the open road alive with autonomy, adventure and speed. Today we are as likely to be in the back seat of an Uber as behind the wheel ourselves. Tech giants are hurling us toward a “self-driving” future. Are we destined, then, to become passengers, not drivers? *Why We Drive* reveals that much more may be at stake than we might think. The *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, philosopher-mechanic Matthew B. Crawford—a University of Chicago PhD who owned his own motorcycle shop- now uses driving as a window through which to view the broader changes wrought by technology on all aspects of contemporary life. Crawford investigates the driver’s seat as one of the few remaining domains of skill, exploration and freedom. Crawford grounds the narrative in his own experience in the garage and behind the wheel, recounting his decade-long restoration of a vintage Volkswagen as well as his journeys to thriving automotive subcultures across the country. (368 pgs)



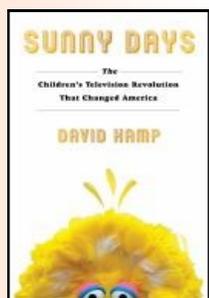
***THAT CHEESE PLATE WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE BY MARISSA MULLEN (PICKED BY SLH)***

With her gorgeous, show stopping cheese boards, Marissa Mullen takes cheese to a whole new level. Her simple, step-by-step Cheese by Numbers method breaks the cheese plate down into its basic components—cheese, meat, produce, crunch, dip, garnish—allowing you to create stunning spreads for any occasion. According to Mullen, cheese plates can be a form of artistic self-care, like flower arranging or meditative coloring books—but you can eat the results! *That Cheese Plate Will Change Your Life* celebrates the ways in which cheese brings people together, and how crafting a cheese plate can be a creativity-bolstering act. With fifty exquisite, easy-to-make cheese plates for all dietary preferences, this book will teach you how to relax, enjoy, and indulge-- to find your cheesy bliss. (304 pgs)



***UNVARNISHED BY ERIC ALPERIN (PICKED BY SLH)***

When it opened a decade ago, the Los Angeles speakeasy The Varnish—owned, designed, and managed by award-winning cocktail aficionado Eric Alperin—quickly became the standard bearer for modern bars. *Unvarnished* is a candid look at the workings of a bar, and the foundation of The Varnish’s success: attention to hospitality and an abiding belief in the nobility of service. Alperin pushes back against the prevailing conceit that working in the service industry is something people do because they failed at another career. At the book’s center are the 100 recipes a young Jedi bartender must know before their first shift at The Varnish, along with examples of building drinks by the round. A sexy, gritty, honest look at the glamour-less work of a glamorous job, *Unvarnished* will take its place among the classics of the service set. (320 pgs)



***SUNNY DAYS BY DAVID KAMP (PICKED BY BS)***

Writer David Kamp tells the engrossing, behind-the-scenes story of the cultural heroes who created the beloved children’s TV programs *Sesame Street*, *The Electric Company*, *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*, *Free to Be...You and Me*, and *Schoolhouse Rock!* They collectively transformed American childhood for the better, teaching kids about diversity, the ABCs, and feminism through a fun, funky 1970s lens. Kamp interviewed such *Sesame Street* figures as Joan Ganz Cooney, Lloyd Morrisett, Sonia Manzano, Emilio Delgado, Loretta Long, Bob McGrath, and Frank Oz, along with *Free to Be’s* Marlo Thomas and *The Electric Company’s* Rita Moreno—and in *Sunny Days*, he explains how these and other like-minded individuals found their way into children’s television not for fame or money, but to make a difference. (352 pgs)