

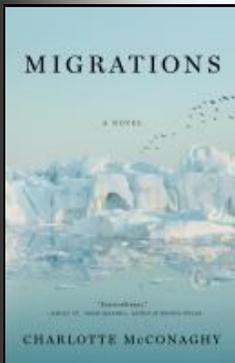


Staff Picks Digital and Print Edition

Go to www.lib.de.us to find out how!



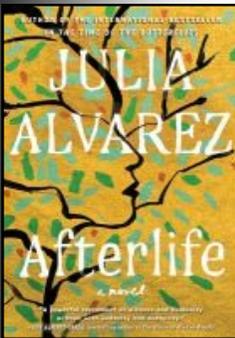
FICTION



MIGRATIONS BY CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY

(PICKED BY SLS)

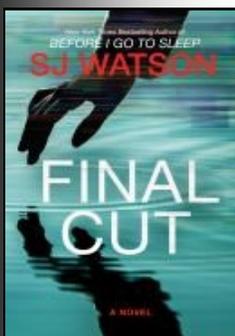
Franny Stone has always been a wanderer. By following the ocean's tides and the birds that soar above, she can forget the losses that have haunted her life. But when the wild she so loves begins to disappear, Franny can no longer wander without a destination. She arrives in remote Greenland with one purpose: to find the world's last flock of Arctic terns and follow them on their final migration. She convinces Ennis Malone, captain of the *Saghani*, to take her onboard, winning over his salty, eccentric crew with promises that the birds she is tracking will lead them to fish. As the *Saghani* fights its way south, Franny's new shipmates begin to realize that the beguiling scientist in their midst is not who she seems. Battered by night terrors, accumulating a pile of letters to her husband, and dead set on following the terns at any cost, Franny is full of dark secrets. When the story of her past begins to unspool, Ennis and his crew must ask themselves what Franny is really running toward—and running from. (256 pgs)



AFTERLIFE BY JULIA ALVAREZ

(PICKED BY KT)

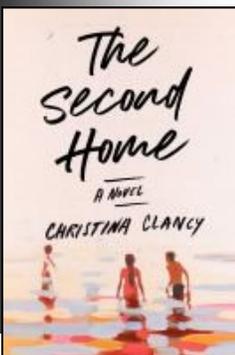
Antonia Vega, the immigrant writer at the center of *Afterlife*, has had the rug pulled out from under her. She has just retired from the college where she taught English when her beloved husband, Sam, suddenly dies. And then more jolts: her bighearted but unstable sister disappears, and Antonia returns home one evening to find a pregnant, undocumented teenager on her doorstep. Antonia has always sought direction in the literature she loves—lines from her favorite authors play in her head like a soundtrack—but now she finds that the world demands more of her than words. *Afterlife* is a compact, nimble, and sharply droll novel. Set in this political moment of tribalism and distrust, it asks: What do we owe those in crisis in our families, including—maybe especially—members of our human family? How do we live in a broken world without losing faith in one another or ourselves? And how do we stay true to those glorious souls we have lost? (256 pgs)



FINAL CUT BY SJ WATSON

(PICKED BY BS)

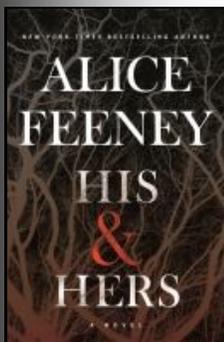
For generations Blackwood Bay, a quaint village in northern England, has been famous only for the smuggling that occurred along its coastline centuries ago, but then two local girls disappear bringing the town a fresh and dark notoriety. When Alex, an ambitious documentary filmmaker, arrives in Blackwood Bay, she intends to have the residents record their own stories as her next project. But instead of a quaint community, Alex finds a village blighted by economic downturn and haunted by a tragedy that overshadows every corner. Alex pushes on with her work, but secrets old and new rise to the surface, raising tensions and suspicions in a town already on edge. Alex's work takes her to dark places and uncomfortable truths which threaten to lead to a deadly unravelling. (355 pgs)



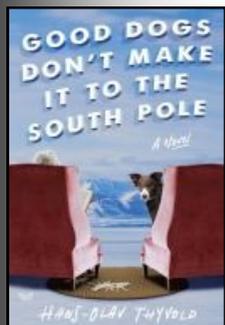
THE SECOND HOME BY CHRISTINA CLANCY

(PICKED BY SM)

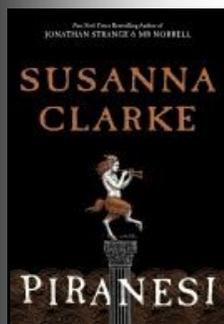
After a disastrous summer spent at her family's summer home on Cape Cod, seventeen year old Ann Gordon is left harboring a secret that changes her life forever, and creates a rift between her sister, Poppy, and their adopted brother, Michael. Now, fifteen years later, her parents have died, and Ann and her sister Poppy are left to decide the fate of the old Wellfleet home that's been in the Gordon family for generations. While they both love the house, they decide to sell it and move forward. But then Michael re-enters their lives with a legitimate claim to a third of the estate. He wants the house. But more than that, he wants to set the record straight about that long ago summer. Reunited after years apart, these very different siblings are forced to decide if they can continue to be a family—and in the process, they'll discover that the house might be the glue that holds them together. (341 pgs)

**HIS & HERS BY ALICE FEENEY****(PICKED BY SP)**

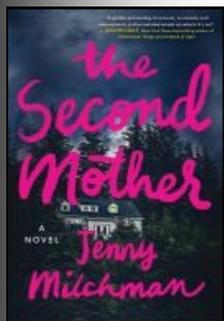
Anna Andrews finally has what she wants. Almost. She's worked hard to become the main TV presenter of the BBC's lunchtime news, putting work before friends, family, and her now ex-husband. So, when someone threatens to take her dream job away, she'll do almost anything to keep it. When asked to cover a murder in Blackdown—the sleepy countryside village where she grew up—Anna is reluctant to go. But when the victim turns out to be one of her childhood friends, she can't leave. It soon becomes clear that Anna isn't just covering the story, she's at the heart of it. DCI Jack Harper left London for a reason, but never thought he'd end up working in a place like Blackdown. When the body of a young woman is discovered, Jack decides not to tell anyone that he knew the victim, until he begins to realize he is a suspect in his own murder investigation. One of them knows more than they are letting on. Someone isn't telling the truth. Alternating between Anna's and Jack's points of view, *His & Hers* is a fast-paced, complex, and dark puzzle that will keep readers guessing until the very end. (304 pgs)

**GOOD DOGS DON'T MAKE IT TO THE SOUTH POLE BY HANS THYVOLD (PICKED BY KT)**

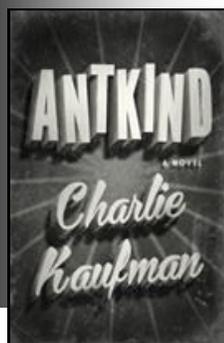
Tassen has always been a one-man dog. When his human companion, Major Thorkildsen, dies, Tassen and Mrs. Thorkildsen are left alone. Tassen mourns Major by eating too many treats, and Mrs. T by drinking too much. But the two unexpectedly find common ground in researching Roald Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole led by a pack of intrepid dogs. But the quiet days Tassen and Mrs. T spend together at the library researching the explorer's arctic adventure are disrupted by the arrival of her son and daughter-in-law. Eager to move in to the Major's spacious house, they plan to send Mrs. T to a nursing home. As he contemplates his own fate, Tassen shudders to think what might happen to him! Yet Tassen and Mrs. T aren't about to give up. Inspired by Roald Amundsen and his dogs, this unlikely pair are ready to take on anything life throws at them. (320 pgs)

**PIRANESI BY SUSANNA CLARKE****(PICKED BY MG)**

Piranesi's house is no ordinary building: its rooms are infinite, its corridors endless, its walls are lined with thousands upon thousands of statues, each one different from all the others. Within the labyrinth of halls an ocean is imprisoned; waves thunder up staircases, rooms are flooded in an instant. But Piranesi is not afraid; he understands the tides as he understands the pattern of the labyrinth itself. He lives to explore the house. There is one other person in the house—a man called The Other, who visits Piranesi twice a week and asks for help with research into A Great and Secret Knowledge. But as Piranesi explores, evidence emerges of another person, and a terrible truth begins to unravel, revealing a world beyond the one Piranesi has always known. (245 pgs)

**THE SECOND MOTHER BY JENNY MILCHMAN****(PICKED BY MG)**

Julie Weathers isn't sure if she's running away or starting over, but moving to a remote island off the coast of Maine feels right for someone with reasons to flee her old life. The sun-washed, sea-stormed speck of land seems welcoming, the lobster plentiful, and the community close and tightly knit. She finds friends in her nearest neighbor and Callum, a man who appears to be using the island for the same thing as she: escape. But as Julie takes on the challenge of teaching the island's children, she comes to suspect that she may have traded one place shrouded in trouble for another, and she begins to wonder if the greatest danger on Mercy Island is its lost location far out to sea, or the people who live there. (464 pgs)

**ANTKIND BY CHARLIE KAUFMAN****(PICKED BY TA)**

B. Rosenberger Rosenberg, neurotic and underappreciated film critic, stumbles upon a hitherto unseen film made by an enigmatic outsider - a film he's convinced will change his career trajectory and rock the world of cinema to its core. His hands on a three-month-long stop-motion masterpiece that took its reclusive auteur ninety years to complete, B. knows that it is his mission to show it to the rest of humanity. The only problem: The film is destroyed, leaving him the sole witness to its inadvertently ephemeral genius. All that's left of this work of art is a single frame from which B. must somehow attempt to recall the film that just might be the last great hope of civilization. Thus begins a mind-boggling journey through the hilarious night-marescape of a psyche as lushly Kafkaesque as it is atrophied by the relentless spew of Twitter. Desperate to impose order on an increasingly nonsensical existence, B. scrambles to recreate the lost masterwork while attempting to keep pace with an ever-fracturing culture of "likes" and arbitrary denunciations that are simultaneously his bete noire and his raison d'etre. (720 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

OCTOBER 2020

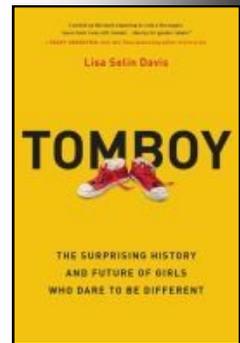


NON-FICTION

TOMBOY BY LISA SELIN DAVIS

(PICKED BY SM)

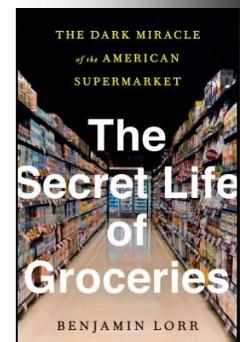
Lisa Selin Davis's *Tomboy* explores the history, and imagines the future, of girls who defy societal expectations based on their gender. *Tomboy* is a revealing dive into the forces that have shifted and narrowed our ideas of what's normal for boys and girls, and for kids who don't fall neatly into either category. It looks at tomboyism from a Victorian ideal to a twenty-first century fashion statement, chronicling the evolution of the pink/blue divide and what motivates those who cross or straddle it to gender independence-and who they grow up to be. Davis talks to experts from clothing designers to psychologists, historians to neuroscientists, and tomboys from 8 to 80, to illuminate debates about what is masculine and feminine; what is biological versus socially constructed; what constitutes the categories of boy and girl; and the connection between tomboyism, gender identity, and sexuality. Ultimately, *Tomboy* is a celebration not just of tomboys but of gender diversity itself, and of those who resist the pressure of gender norms and summon the courage to live as their true selves. (336 pgs)



THE SECRET LIFE OF GROCERIES BY BENJAMIN LORR

(PICKED BY MG)

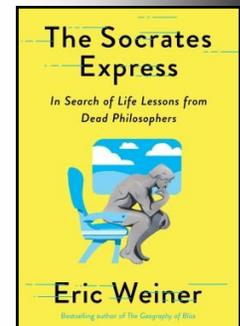
This book is an investigation into the human lives at the heart of the American grocery store. What does it take to run the American supermarket? How do products get to shelves? Who sets the price? Who suffers the consequences of increased convenience and efficiency? In this expose, Benjamin Lorr pulls back the curtain on this highly secretive industry. Combining deep sourcing and immersive reporting, Lorr leads a wild investigation in which we learn: the secrets of Trader Joe's success from Trader Joe himself, why truckers call their job "sharecropping on wheels", what it takes for a product to earn certification labels like "organic" and "fair trade", the struggles entrepreneurs face as they fight for shelf space, essential tips, tricks, and traps for any new food business, the truth behind the alarming slave trade in the shrimp industry and much more. (336 pgs)



THE SOCRATES EXPRESS BY ERIC WEINER

(PICKED BY SLS & SMC)

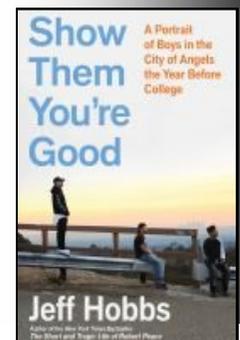
We turn to philosophy for the same reasons we travel: to see the world from a different perspective, to unearth hidden beauty, and to find new ways of being. We want to learn how to embrace wonder. Face regrets. Sustain hope. Eric Weiner combines his twin passions for philosophy and global travel in a pilgrimage that uncovers surprising life lessons from great thinkers around the world, from Rousseau to Nietzsche, Confucius to Simone Weil. Traveling by train he journeys thousands of miles, making stops in Athens, Delhi, Wyoming, Coney Island, Frankfurt, and points in between to reconnect with philosophy's original purpose: teaching us how to lead wiser, more meaningful lives. From Socrates and ancient Athens to Simone de Beauvoir and twentieth-century Paris, Weiner's chosen philosophers and places provide important signposts as we navigate today's chaotic times. (352 pgs)

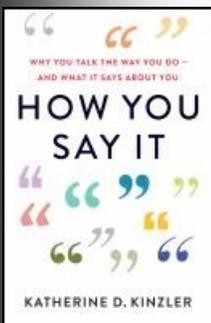


SHOW THEM YOU'RE GOOD BY JEFF HOBBS

(PICKED BY SMC)

Four teenage boys are high school seniors at two very different schools in Los Angeles. Jeff Hobbs captures the challenges and triumphs of being a young person confronting the future - both their own and the cultures in which they live. Combining complex social issues with the compelling experience of the individual, Hobbs takes us deep inside these boys' worlds. The foursome includes Tiofilo, a skateboarder harboring serious ambitions to attend an elite college despite a father who doesn't believe in him; Carlos, son of undocumented delivery workers, who aims to follow in his brother's footsteps and attend Yale; Own, ambivalent about high school but still yearning to fulfill the expectations of his successful and loving parents; and Sam, devoted member of the academic decathlon team who lives in a tiny cramped apartment with his Chinese mother and Jewish father and cannot wait to have some independence. Filled with portraits of secondary characters, this masterwork of immersive journalism is both intimate and profound and destined to ignite conversations about class, race, expectations, cultural divides, and even the concept of fate. (352pgs)

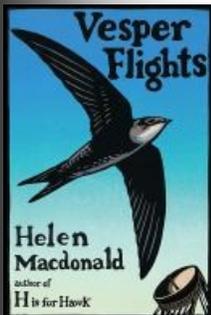




How You Say It BY KATHERINE KINZLER

(PICKED BY SLH)

We gravitate toward people like us; it's human nature. Race, class, and gender shape our social identities, and thus who we perceive as “like us” or “not like us”. But one overlooked factor can be even more powerful: the way we speak. As psychologist Katherine Kinzler reveals, the way we talk is central to our social identity because our speech largely reflects the voices we heard as children. We can change how we speak to some extent, whether by “code-switching” between dialects or learning a new language. But for the most part, we are forever marked by our native tongue—and are hardwired to prejudice others by theirs, often with serious consequences. Your accent alone can determine the economic opportunity or discrimination you encounter in life, making speech one of the most urgent social-justice issues of our day. Our linguistic differences present challenges, Kinzler shows, but they also can be a force for good. Humans can benefit from being exposed to multiple languages—a paradox that should inspire us to master this ancient source of tribalism, and rethink the role that speech plays in our society. (256 pgs)



VESPER FLIGHTS BY HELEN MACDONALD

(PICKED BY SLH)

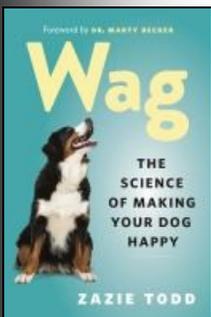
In *Vesper Flights*, Helen Macdonald brings together a collection of her best loved essays, along with new pieces on topics ranging from nostalgia for a vanishing countryside to the tribulations of farming ostriches to her own private vespers while trying to fall asleep. Meditating on notions of captivity and freedom, immigration and flight, Helen invites us into her most intimate experiences: observing songbirds from the Empire State Building as they migrate through the Tribute of Light, watching tens of thousands of cranes in Hungary, seeking the last golden orioles in Suffolk's poplar forests. She writes with heart-tugging clarity about wild boar, swifts, mushroom hunting, migraines, the strangeness of birds' nests, and the unexpected guidance and comfort we find when watching wildlife. (288 pgs)



LOOKING FOR MISS AMERICA BY MARGOT MIFFLIN

(PICKED BY SLH)

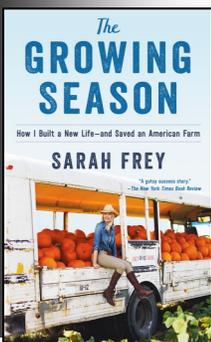
Looking for Miss America is a fast-paced narrative history of a curious and contradictory institution. From its start in 1921 as an Atlantic City tourist draw to its current incarnation as a scholarship competition, the pageant has indexed women's status during periods of social change. This ever-changing institution has been shaped by war, evangelism, the rise of television and reality TV, and, significantly, by contestants who confounded expectations. Spotlighting individuals, Margot Mifflin shows how women made hard bargains even as they used the pageant for economic advancement. The pageant's history includes, crucially, those it excluded; the notorious Rule Seven, which required contestants to be “of the white race,” was retired in the 1950s, but no women of color were crowned until the 1980s. *Looking for Miss America* examines the heady blend of capitalism, patriotism, class anxiety, and cultural mythology that has fueled this American ritual. (320 pgs)



WAG BY ZAZIE TODD

(PICKED BY BS)

Wag bridges the gap between human and canine by demystifying the inner lives of dogs to share evidence-based advice for making them happy. Acclaimed blogger Zazie Todd distills the latest canine science and shares recommendations from leading veterinarians, researchers, and trainers to cultivate a rewarding and respectful relationship with your dog—which offers many benefits for you, your family, and your four-legged friend. (304 pgs)



THE GROWING SEASON BY SARAH FREY

(PICKED BY SLH & SMC)

The youngest of her parents' combined twenty-one children, Sarah Frey grew up on a struggling farm in southern Illinois, often having to grow, catch, or hunt her own dinner alongside her brothers. She spent much of her early childhood dreaming of running away to the big city. At fifteen, she moved out of her family home and started her own fresh produce delivery business with nothing more than an old pickup truck. Two years later, when the family farm faced inevitable foreclosure, Frey took over the farm, and created her own produce company. Refusing to play by traditional rules, at seventeen she began talking her way into suit-filled boardrooms, making deals with the nation's largest retailers. Her early negotiations became so legendary that Harvard Business School published some of her deals as case studies, which have turned out to be favorites among its students. Today, her family-operated company, Frey Farms, has become one of America's largest fresh produce growers and shippers, with farmland spread across seven states. *The Growing Season* tells the story of how a scrappy rural childhood gave Frey the grit and resiliency to take risks that paid off in unexpected ways. (272 pgs)