

The background of the entire image is a close-up, high-angle shot of a large pile of books. The spines and pages of the books are visible, creating a textured, layered effect. The colors of the book covers and pages range from light beige to dark brown, with some colorful patterns on the spines. Overlaid on this background is the text 'STAFF PICKS' in a large, bold, white font with a thick black outline. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance as if they are floating above the books. The word 'STAFF' is on the top line and 'PICKS' is on the bottom line. The letters are decorated with colorful, stylized patterns in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange, particularly around the edges and within the letters themselves.

# STAFF PICKS

OUR FAVORITE  
BOOKS, MOVIES, AND  
MORE FROM 2024!

# ROMANCE

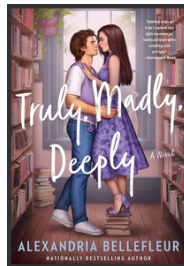
## **Love at first book by Jenn McKinlay (book)**

I love the Irish setting and that the main character goes to work for her favorite author. It made me laugh and cry. - Merideth (Tech Services)



## **Truly, Madly, Deeply by Alexandria Bellefleur**

Sparks fly between romance novelist Truly and divorce attorney Colin when their combative guest hosting gig on a dating podcast leads to an ongoing series where the two debate the finer points of love and romance. A spicy and captivating enemies-to-lovers story. - Lexie (Assistant Director)



## **The Pairing by Casey McQuiston (book)**

Exes Theo and Kit, shocked to see each other on a food and wine tour across multiple romantic destinations, compete to see who can hook up with the most locals and rediscover their connection along the way. Steamy, sumptuous, and heartfelt. - Lexie (Assistant Director)



## **The Long Game by Elena Armas (Book)**

I found the characters complex and the tension that Armas built throughout the entire story came to a very satisfying ending. I don't do this often but I think that I reordered the newest title in this series.

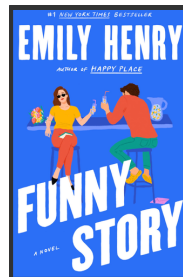
- Brittany (Outreach)



## **Funny Story by Emily Henry (Book)**

"Funny Story" is all about finding your own way, owning your truth, and allowing yourself to be vulnerable! I cannot wait to read more by Henry in the future but will try to pace myself!

- Brittany (Outreach)



## **Summertime Punchline by Betty Corrello (Book)**

My heart is so unbelievably sad that I have finished this book. "Summertime Punchline" is a heartbreakingly funny debut title by Betty Corrello.

- Brittany (Outreach)



# MYSTERY

## **Two sides to every murder by Danielle Valentine**

This book tells the story from 2 points of view interspersed with details about the murder. There is a twist at the end I did not see coming. I couldn't put the book down and read it in 2 days.

- Merideth (Tech Services)



## **Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir**

This book is often summed up as "lesbian necromancers in space", and it is that, but so much more! The story of a competition between necromancers from rival planets to see who can become an immortal champion for the emperor, this gothic fantasy is filled with suspense, twists, and a ton of humor. - Lexie (Assistant Director)

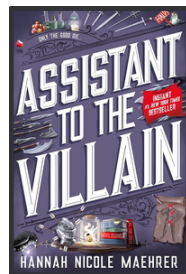


# SCI-FI & FANTASY

## **Assistant to the Villain by Hannah Nicole Maehrler (book)**

Evil grumpy villain hires a sunshine happy bumbling assistant. Chaos and romance ensue!

- Stephanie (Information Services)



## **Last Day on Mars by Kevin Emerson**

This book may be my favorite book of all time. It has no trouble switching between vast, cosmic scales and scenes of two or three characters, and keeps you wondering, "What happens next?". Would recommend to anyone. - Eli (Teen Advisory Board member)



## **Fourth Wing by Tamsyn Muir**

Quiet and fragile Violet Sorrengail, who thought she was destined for a life as a scribe, is shocked to be assigned to the position of dragon rider at Basgiath War College. When both the dragons and her fellow cadets want to kill her, Violet must search deep down for strength and power she never knew she had. With compelling characters and engaging world-building, it's impossible to put down. - Lexie (Assistant Director)



## **The Circus Infinite by Khan Wong**

Jes, an asexual empath with gravity manipulation powers, runs from scientists that tortured him. During his time on the run, Jes joins the circus, hiding in plain sight. But when a powerful crime boss finds the bounty on his head, he offers Jes an offer he can't refuse. Can his new found family protect Jes from the horrors of the lab? - Ainsley (Teen Advisory Board member)





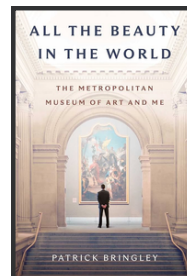
### ***The Martian by Andy Weir***

Hilarious and Nail-biting. I'll just sum it up; this book is perfect if you're looking for something to keep you on the edge of your seat. It's a book you can't put down, let alone want to. - Khloe (Teen Advisory Board Member)



### ***All the beauty in the world : the Metropolitan museum of art and me by Patrick Bringley***

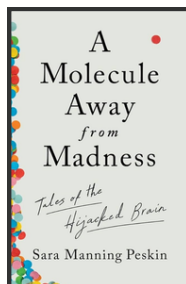
A memoir about Bringley's ten years working as a guard at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, brings new meaning to the term "art appreciation." "... [The book] reminds us of the importance of learning not "about art, but from it." This is art appreciation at a profound level." - Malavika (Library Trustee)



## NON-FICTION

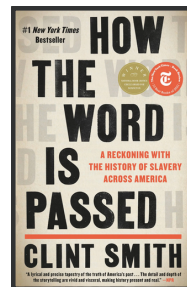
### ***A molecule away from madness : tales of the hijacked brain by Sara Manning Peskin***

The author teaches clinical neurology at the University of Pennsylvania. Peskin weaves personal stories from her patients and their families into the history of researchers uncovering these illnesses.  
- Malavika (Library Trustee)



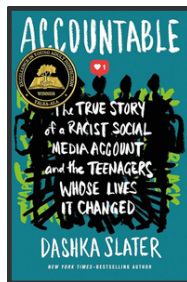
### ***How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith***

Prepare for a deep dive into the history of slavery in the United States in Smith's riveting text. Each chapter explores slavery from a different perspective and a different point in time from the Middle Passage years through emancipation to slavery-by-another-name in our criminal justice system. - Michael (Library Trustee)



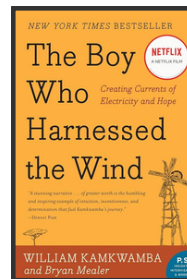
### ***Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It Changed by Dashka Slater***

This is a must read for everyone who cares about their communities, but especially for teens, parents, teachers, and school administrators. I find myself thinking about this book constantly.  
- Amber (Youth Services)



### ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba***

William uses innovation and ingenuity to build a windmill that generates electricity for his family's home in Malawi, Africa, while also facing famine in the early 2000s. An amazing true story!  
- Beth (Information Services)





### ***The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel* by Kati Marton**

Born in post-WW II Hamburg, Germany, but raised in Communist East Germany until the wall fell in 1989, Merkel transformed herself from a serious laboratory physicist into the most powerful, female head of state in the world from 2005 to 2021. This book explores a remarkable world leader. - Michael (Library Trustee)



### ***Heartstopper* by Alice Oseman**

This story is perfect. I have no notes and I, respectfully, don't want to hear anyone else's.  
- Claire (Information Services)

Heartstopper is a MUST-READ, and let me tell you, when you pick up these books, you won't be able to put them down! Alice Oseman never let the book get dull or uneventful. There is always something happening and it gets you feeling like you're living in the character's shoes. - Khloe (Teen Advisory Board member)



### ***The Mighty Red: a novel* by Louise Erdrich**

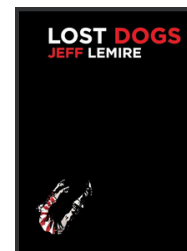
Erdrich continues to broaden and deepen her collection of novels which explore contemporary Native Americans facing the challenges of life in the United States. She also explores issues related to big Ag and its benefits and degradation of lives and land in the Dakota Red River Valley.

- Michael (Library Trustee)



### ***Lost Dogs* by Jeff Lemire (graphic)**

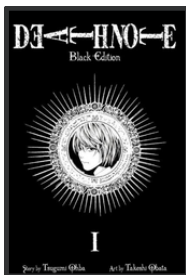
This was a new to me read (but Jeff Lemire's first published work). The story is tragic emphasized by the stark black and white art with touches of red. I've been a fan of Jeff Lemire's for years, this story was no exception. - Ash (Customer Service)



## GRAPHIC NOVELS

### ***Deathnote***

Dark fantasy, Manga, Detective  
- Adora (Teen Advisory Board member)



### ***Mexikid: a Graphic Memoir* by Pedro Martín**

I love Graphic memoirs, and Pedro Martín's is the perfect mix of nostalgia, laughter and tears. He takes the reader along on a big family trip to visit Mexico with the purpose of preparing his abuelito for moving to California. - Amber (Youth Services)



***The Secret History of Black Punk: Record Zero* by Raeghan Buchanan** (graphic)

This reads like a zine and includes a brief history of black musicians shaping punk culture. The art is fantastic, with pops of color to accentuate the storytelling. - Ash (Customer Service)



***Witch Hat Atelier* by Kamome Shirahama**

Everyone knows witches are born, not taught-- but young Coco learns otherwise after spying on a witch preparing a spell. The whimsical art and world building make this a charming read.

- Elena (Information Services)



## YOUNG ADULT

***The Witch and The Beast* by Kousuke Satake**

The mage Ashaf and his witch-cursed partner Guideau travel the world, solving mysterious cases involving magic. The unique, detailed art fleshes out a dark fantasy world where witches are very real... and very dangerous. - Elena (Information Services)



***Before We Disappear* by Shaun David Hutchinson**

The setting of the 1908 Seattle Worlds Fair is so fun and interesting for this mix of real (and fake) magic, clever scheming, and a sweet love story.

- Anna (Customer Service)



***What's Wrong? Personal Histories of Chronic Pain and Bad Medicine* by Erin Williams**

This graphic novel includes the stories of four women in addition to the author's own story detailing the struggles of living with chronic illnesses and the difficulties they found in seeking treatment. Even if you've never experienced chronic illness this book is a worthwhile read to gain insight into what others face.

- Ash (Customer Service)



***Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham**

I absolutely adore this beautiful and fun graphic novel about a high school girl discovering her strength by throwing herself into a new hobby (both as a way to find and then avoid romance...) And there is a big, dramatic twist AND a romp through Italy AND a hilarious grandma! - Amber (Youth Services)



### ***Sabriel* by Garth Nix**

- Ian (Teen Advisory Board Member)



### ***The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline (book)**

Indigenous people of North America are struggling to survive in a futuristic climate-change ravaged world. They are being hunted for their ability to dream. This book should be required reading.

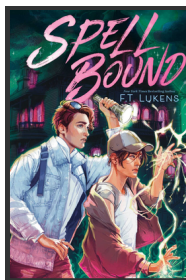
- Stephanie (Information Services)



### ***Spellbound* by F.T. Lukens**

F.T. Lukens never misses and with original and interesting worldbuilding and magic system, found family, grumpy x sunshine, and a nonbinary main character, this book is no different!

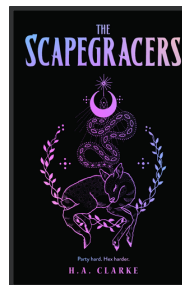
- Anna (Customer Service)



### ***The Scapegracers* by Hannah Abigail Clarke**

For if you like The Craft but wish that they didn't turn out to be evil. You get to follow and root for these teenage witches as they come into their power and form their coven.

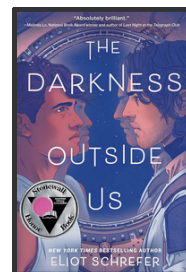
- Anna (Customer Service)



### ***The Darkness Outside Us* by Eliot Schrefer**

Went into it expecting a cute space romance (which I did get) but was quickly surprised and intrigued by a psychological thriller that kept me thinking and talking about this book long after I put it down.

- Anna (Customer Service)



### ***We Are All So Good at Smiling* by Amber McBride**

Fantasy, Extraordinary, & BBOAT (Best Book of All Time) Recommended for: People who struggle with their imagination and reality colliding and people who like fantasy and action.

- Khloe (Teen Advisory Board Member)





# CHILDREN'S BOOKS

## ***Cranberry Autumn* by Wende and Harry Devlin**

It was a wonderful fall tale from the New England states! - Kathryn (Special Collections)



## ***I love you all the time* by Deborah Farmer Kris**

Reading this book together with my young child reminds both of us that we love each other through the ups and downs of every day.

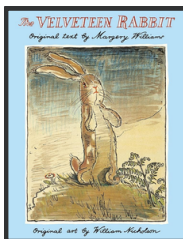
- Kathryn (Special Collections)



## ***The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams**

It was a sweet book about children's toys.

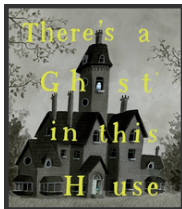
- Kathryn (Special Collections)



## ***There's a Ghost in this House* by Oliver Jeffers**

This book has a unique visual presentation with translucent pages for maximum ghostliness. Oliver Jeffers always creates stunning children's books!

- Ash (Customer Service)



# MOVIES & TV

## ***I Saw The TV Glow***

Cerebral, disturbing, and horrific. I can't watch again until I've forgotten how uncomfortable I was while watching the first time. - Claire (Information Services)



## ***Junji Ito Maniac: Japanese Tales of the Macabre***

Brings the darkness of the human mind to life with myths, legends, ghosts, or a broken mind twisted by tragedy. Every episode shows a different type of horror you never knew you would be afraid of.

- Adora (Teen Advisory Board member)



## ***Lost Track of Time* | Fu Liu Nian**

What would you do if you had a second chance at life? For Lu An Ran, waking up 10 years in the past is a chance to seek vengeance on the man who destroyed her family. A perfect watch for fans of period dramas or revenge stories! - Elena (Information Services)



### **Maryland - DVD**

A woman has died on Isle of Man. Her 2 daughters go there to try to figure out why their mother was there and find she had another life neither knew about. The sisters do not get along but while there find a way to work out their differences. I enjoyed the characters, the drama, and the surprises. - Merideth (Tech Services)



### **Potion Permit**

Cozy game where you are a healer sent to a small town to make potions to help the residents. For those of us who want cozy games without it being a farming sim. The low-stakes gentleness makes this game compulsively playable for hours on end, and I did exactly that. - Emily (Tech Services)



### **Thelma**

"After getting conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, Thelma enlists the help of an old friend and sets out to take back what's hers." I enjoyed this movie for its silly humor and tender moments. - Joanna (Tech Services)



### **The legend of Zelda: Echoes of wisdom**

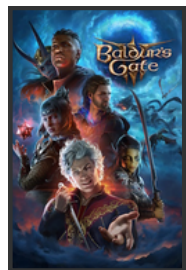
- Claire (Information Services)



## VIDEO GAMES

### **Baldur's Gate 3**

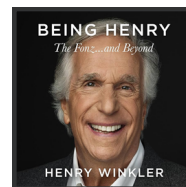
My most played video game of 2023 and 2024! The numerous choices, expansive map, and 8 romanceable characters make this fantasy RPG worth replaying several times. - Elena (Information Services)



## AUDIO BOOKS

### **Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond by Henry Winkler**

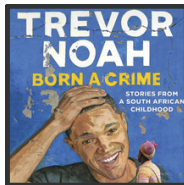
This audiobook is narrated by the author himself, Henry Winkler. A delightful book about a man who is kind, truthful and self-deprecating.  
- Rachel (Information Services)



***Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah*** (Audiobook)

Noah's memoir was heartbreakingly beautiful with snippets of comedic moments. As a fan of Trevor Noah, I am so glad that I got around to reading this title and highly recommend it!

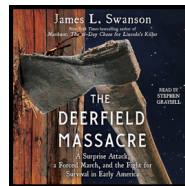
- Brittany (Outreach)



***The Deerfield Massacre: a surprise attack, a forced march, and the fight for survival in early America***  
by James L. Swanson

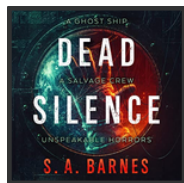
This non-fiction book details the events of February 29, 1704 and the resulting aftermath. It was fascinating to learn more about this historical period.

- Joanna (Tech Services)



***Dead Silence*** by S.A. Barnes

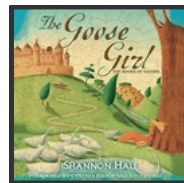
High stakes outer space heist of a luxury Titanic inspired luxury spaceship that's holding a dirty secret of what happened when it went missing 20 years ago. The narrator is fantastic, and I was sucked in from the very beginning. - Emily (Tech Services)



***The Goose Girl*** by Shannon Hale

It is a fantastic fantasy story about a young princess finding herself and her place.

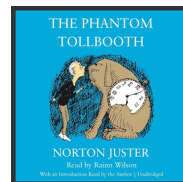
- Kathryn (Special Collections)



***The Phantom Tollbooth*** by Norton Juster

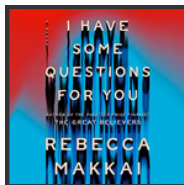
This book is fun and intellectually stimulating for adults and children alike!

- Kathryn (Special Collections)



***I Have Some Questions For You***  
by Rebecca Makkai

Bodie Kane is back at her boarding school, but now as a teacher. She's teaching a class about podcasts and one of her students wants to do a podcast on the girl that was murdered at the school in 1995. That student was Bodie's roommate. - Rachel (Information Services)



***The Heiress*** by Rachel Hawkins

The Heiress is about a woman, Ruby McTavish that dies, leaving her adopted son the heir to the family fortune. But Cam is not interested in the money, even though his wife is. A trip back to the family home brings up family secrets and Ruby's life is questioned.

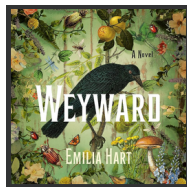
- Rachel (Information Services)





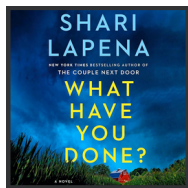
### **Weyward by Emilia Hart**

Three Weyward women from different time periods are fighting to keep themselves alive and safe. This book is full of magic, female resilience, and elements of the supernatural. - Stephanie (Information Services)



### **What Have You Done? By Shari Lapena**

Diana Brewer is found dead in a farm field. At seventeen, she had her whole life ahead of her. Who would murder her? Everyone is a suspect in this small town. - Rachel (Information Services)



## PODCAST

### **Edge of Sleep**

What do you do when a global pandemic strikes and you'll die if you fall asleep? Follow a ragtag group of people just trying to stay awake and alive. Don't close your eyes. - Emily (Tech Services)

Scary, Dramatic, Immersive. This podcast does include dark, adult topics such as mental disorders and self-harm, so this isn't at all for kids

- Ainsley (Teen Advisory Board member)



## MUSIC

### **brat - Charli xcx**

Don't judge a brat by its cover! This album is about a lot more than having fun, it's also a vulnerable look at being a woman and the doubts and insecurities that come along with it. An album you can dance to and cry to.

- Tessa (Marketing)



### **Harry's House - Harry Styles**

Introspective, funky, new-wave. Meow. This album is so fire, very peppy and vibey. Its giving mcm british pop :-)

- Charlotte (Teen Advisory Board Member)



### **Juno - Remi Wolf**

- Claire (Information Services)



### **Stick Season - Noah Khan**

So good! If you like nostalgic, heart wrenching lyrics plus a unique voice, listen to this! Plus if you like New England + the Midwest, give it a try!

- Charlotte (Teen Advisory Board Member)

