

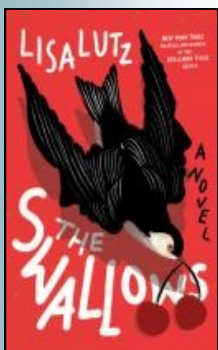


Libraries

STAFF PICKS

To find book suggestions on the web go to www.nccde.org/374

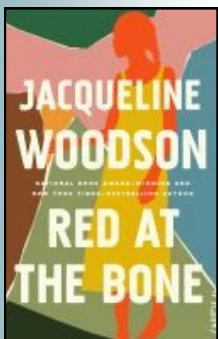
FICTION



THE SWALLOWS BY LISA LUTZ

(PICKED BY KT & SM)

What do you love? What do you hate? What do you want? It starts with this simple writing prompt from Alex Witt, Stonebridge Academy's new creative writing teacher. When the students' answers raise disturbing questions of their own, Ms. Witt knows there's more going on at the school than the faculty wants to see. She soon learns about The Ten--the students at the top of the school's social hierarchy--as well as their connection to something called The Darkroom. Ms. Witt can't remain a passive observer. She finds the few girls who've started to question the school's "boys will be boys" attitude and incites a resistance that quickly becomes a movement. As the school's secrets begin to trickle out, a boys-versus-girls skirmish turns into an all-out war, with deeply personal--and potentially fatal--consequences for everyone involved. Lisa Lutz's blistering, timely tale shows us what can happen when silence wins out over decency for too long--and why the scariest threat of all might be the idea that sooner or later, girls will be girls. (368 pgs)



RED AT THE BONE BY JACQUELINE WOODSON

(PICKED BY KT)

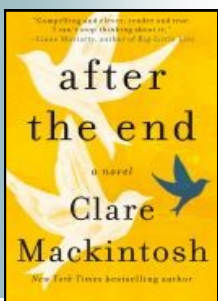
As the book opens in 2001, it is the evening of sixteen-year-old Melody's coming of age ceremony in her grandparents' Brooklyn brownstone. Making her entrance to the music of Prince, she wears a special custom-made dress. Sixteen years earlier, that very dress was measured and sewn for Melody's mother, for her own ceremony-- a celebration that ultimately never took place. Unfurling the history of Melody's parents and grandparents to show how they all arrived at this moment, Woodson considers not just their ambitions and successes but also the costs, the tolls they've paid for striving to overcome expectations and escape the pull of history. As it explores sexual desire and identity, ambition, gentrification, education, class and status, and the life-altering facts of parenthood, *Red at the Bone* most strikingly looks at the ways in which young people must so often make long-lasting decisions about their lives--even before they have begun to figure out who they are and what they want to be. (208 pgs)



THE SECRETS WE KEPT BY LARA PRESCOTT

(PICKED BY SLS)

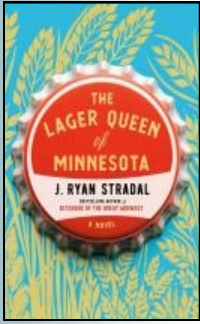
At the height of the Cold War, two secretaries are pulled out of the typing pool at the CIA and given the assignment of a lifetime. Their mission: to smuggle *Doctor Zhivago* out of the USSR, where no one dares publish it, and help Pasternak's magnum opus make its way into print around the world. Glamorous and sophisticated Sally Forrester is a seasoned spy who has honed her gift for deceit all over the world--using her magnetism and charm to pry secrets out of powerful men. Irina is a complete novice, and under Sally's tutelage quickly learns how to blend in, make drops, and invisibly ferry classified documents. *The Secrets We Kept* combines a legendary literary love story--the decades-long affair between Pasternak and his mistress and muse, Olga Ivinskaya, who was sent to the Gulag and inspired *Zhivago's* heroine, Lara--with a narrative about two women empowered to lead lives of intrigue and risk. (368 pgs)



AFTER THE END BY CLARE MACKINTOSH

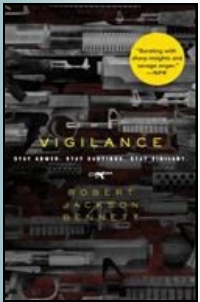
(PICKED BY SM)

Max and Pip are the strongest couple you know. They're best friends, lovers--unshakable. But then their son gets sick and the doctors put the question of his survival into their hands. For the first time, Max and Pip can't agree. They each want a different future for their son. What if they could have both? A gripping and propulsive exploration of love, marriage, parenthood, and the road not taken, *After the End* brings one unforgettable family from unimaginable loss to a surprising, satisfying, and redemptive ending and the life they are fated to find. Mackintosh helps us to see that sometimes the end is just another beginning. (400 pgs)



THE LAGER QUEEN OF MINNESOTA BY J. RYAN STRADAL (PICKED BY

Two sisters, one farm. A family is split when their father leaves their shared inheritance entirely to Helen, his younger daughter. Despite baking award-winning pies at the local nursing home, her older sister, Edith, struggles to make what most people would call a living. So she can't help wondering what her life would have been like with even a portion of the farm money her sister kept for herself. With the proceeds from the farm, Helen builds one of the most successful light breweries in the country, and makes their company motto ubiquitous: "Drink lots. It's Blotz." Where Edith has a heart as big as Minnesota, Helen's is as rigid as a steel keg. Meanwhile, Edith's granddaughter, Diana, grows up knowing that the real world requires a tougher constitution than her grandmother possesses. She earns a shot at learning the IPA business from the ground up—will that change their fortunes forever, and perhaps reunite her splintered family? (384 pgs)



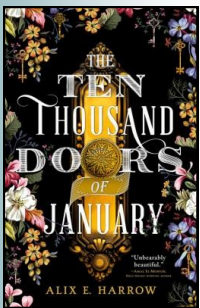
VIGILANCE BY ROBERT JACKSON BENNETT (PICKED BY KT)

The United States. 2030. John McDean executive produces "Vigilance", a reality game show designed to make sure American citizens stay alert to foreign and domestic threats. Shooters are introduced into a "game environment," and the survivors get a cash prize. The TV audience is not the only one who's watching though, and McDean soon finds out what it's like to be on the other side of the camera. (192 pgs)



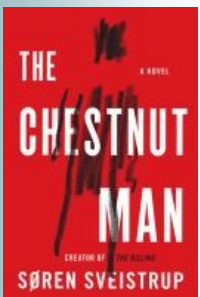
THE FLATSHARE BY BETH O'LEARY (PICKED BY BS)

Tiffany and Leon share an apartment. Tiffany and Leon have never met. After a bad breakup, Tiffany Moore needs a place to live. Fast. And cheap. But the apartments in her budget have her wondering if astonishingly colored mold on the walls counts as art. Desperation makes her open-minded, so she answers an ad for a flatshare. Leon, a night-shift worker, will take the apartment during the day, and Tiffany can have it nights and weekends. He'll only ever be there when she's at the office. In fact, they'll never even have to meet. Tiffany and Leon start writing each other notes - first about what day is garbage day, and politely establishing what leftovers are up for grabs, and the evergreen question of whether the toilet seat should stay up or down. Even though they are opposites, they soon become friends. And then maybe more. But falling in love with your roommate is probably a terrible idea...especially if you've never met. (400 pgs)



TEN THOUSAND DOORS OF JANUARY BY ALIX HARROW (PICKED BY SLH)

In a sprawling mansion filled with peculiar treasures, January Scaller is a curiosity herself. As the ward of the wealthy Mr. Locke, she feels little different from the artifacts that decorate the halls: carefully maintained, largely ignored, and utterly out of place. Then she finds a strange book. A book that carries the scent of other worlds, and tells a tale of secret doors, of love, adventure and danger. Each page turn reveals impossible truths about the world and January discovers a story increasingly entwined with her own. (384 pgs)



THE CHESTNUT MAN BY SØREN SVEISTRUP (PICKED BY SLS)

If you find one, he's already found you. A psychopath is terrorizing Copenhagen. His calling card is a "chestnut man"—a handmade doll made of matchsticks and two chestnuts—which he leaves at each bloody crime scene. Examining the dolls, forensics makes a shocking discovery—a fingerprint belonging to a young girl, a government minister's daughter who had been kidnapped and murdered a year ago. A tragic coincidence—or something more twisted? To save innocent lives, a pair of detectives must put aside their differences to piece together the Chestnut Man's gruesome clues. Because it's clear that the madman is on a mission that is far from over. And no one is safe. (528 pgs)

STAFF PICKS

OCTOBER 2019



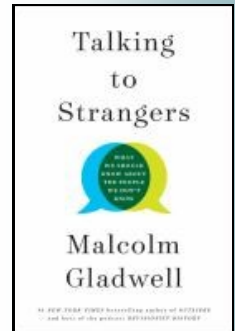
Libraries

NON-FICTION

TALKING TO STRANGERS BY MALCOLM GLADWELL

(PICKED BY SM)

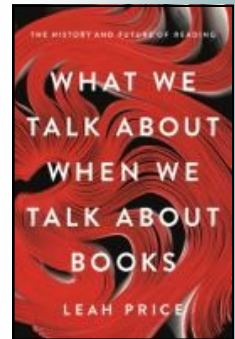
In July 2015, a young black woman named Sandra Bland was pulled over for a minor traffic violation in rural Texas. Minutes later she was arrested and jailed. Three days later, she committed suicide in her cell. What went wrong? *Talking to Strangers* is all about what happens when we encounter people we don't know, why it often goes awry, and what it says about us. How do we make sense of the unfamiliar? Why are we so bad at judging someone, reading a face, or detecting a lie? Why do we so often fail to 'get' other people? Through a series of puzzles, encounters and misunderstandings, Gladwell takes us on a journey through the unexpected. You will read about the spy who spent years undetected at the highest levels of the Pentagon, the man who saw through the fraudster Bernie Madoff, the suicide of the poet Sylvia Plath and the false conviction of Amanda Knox. You will discover that strangers are never simple. (400 pgs)



WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BOOKS BY LEAH PRICE

PICKED BY (SH&SL)

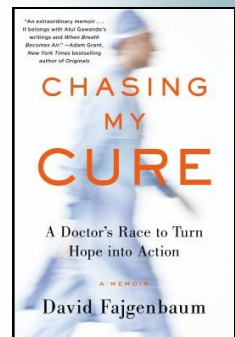
Do you worry that you've lost patience for anything longer than a tweet? If so, you're not alone. Digital-age pundits warn that as our appetite for books dwindles, so too do the virtues in which printed, bound objects once trained us: the willpower to focus on a sustained argument, the curiosity to look beyond the day's news, the willingness to be alone. The shelves of the world's great libraries, though, tell a more complicated story. Examining the wear and tear on the books that they contain, English professor Leah Price finds scant evidence that a golden age of reading ever existed. From the dawn of mass literacy to the invention of the paperback, most readers already skimmed and multitasked. Print-era doctors even forbade the very same silent absorption now recommended as a cure for electronic addictions. The evidence that books are dying proves even scarcer. In encounters with librarians, booksellers and activists who are reinventing old ways of reading, Price offers fresh hope to bibliophiles and literature lovers alike. (224 pgs)



CHASING MY CURE BY DAVID FAJGENBAUM

(PICKED BY BS)

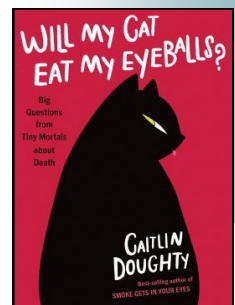
David Fajgenbaum was a former Georgetown quarterback nicknamed the Beast in medical school, where he was also known for his unmatched mental stamina. But things changed dramatically when he began suffering from inexplicable fatigue. In a matter of weeks, his organs were failing and he was read his last rites. Miraculously, Fajgenbaum survived—eventually being diagnosed with a form of Castleman disease, an extremely deadly and rare condition that acts like a cross between cancer and an autoimmune disorder. Fajgenbaum turned his desperate hope for a cure into concrete action: he studied his own charts and tested his own blood samples, looking for clues that could unlock a new treatment. He came up with an ambitious plan to crowdsource the most promising research questions and recruit world-class researchers to tackle them. More than five years later, a treatment that he identified has induced a tentative remission and his novel approach to collaborative scientific inquiry has become a blueprint for advancing rare disease research. (256 pgs)

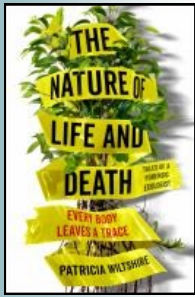


WILL MY CAT EAT MY EYEBALLS? BY CAITLIN DOUGHTY

(PICKED BY BS)

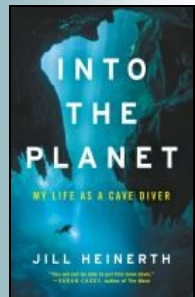
In *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*, Doughty blends her mortician's knowledge of the body and the intriguing history behind common misconceptions about corpses to offer factual, hilarious, and candid answers to thirty-five distinctive questions posed by her youngest fans. Doughty details lore and science of what happens to, and inside, our bodies after we die. Why do corpses groan? What causes bodies to turn colors during decomposition? And why do hair and nails appear longer after death? Readers will learn the best soil for mummifying your body, whether you can preserve your best friend's skull as a keepsake, and what happens when you die on a plane. *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?* shows us that death is science and art, and only by asking questions can we begin to embrace it. (222 pgs)





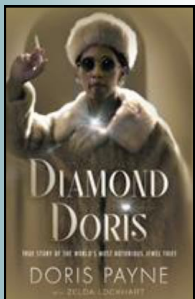
***THE NATURE OF LIFE AND DEATH* BY PATRICIA WILTSHIRE (PICKED BY BS)**

From mud tracks on a quiet country road to dirt specks on the soles of walking boots, forensic ecologist Patricia Wiltshire uses her decades of scientific expertise to find often-overlooked clues left behind by criminal activity. She detects evidence and eliminates hypotheses armed with little more than a microscope. Wiltshire's remarkable accuracy has made her one of the most in-demand police consultants in the world. A riveting blend of science writing and true-crime narrative, *The Nature of Life and Death* details Wiltshire's journey from college professor to crime fighter. She introduces us to the unseen world all around us and underneath our feet: plants, animals, pollen, spores, fungi, and microbes that we move through every day. Her story is a testament to the power of persistence and reveals how our relationship with the vast natural world reaches far deeper than we might think. (304 pgs)



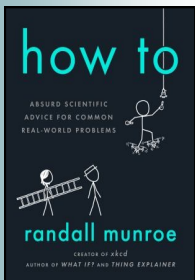
***INTO THE PLANET* BY JILL HEINERTH (PICKED BY SH)**

From one of the top cave divers working today—and one of the very few women in her field—*Into the Planet* blends science, adventure, and memoir to bring readers face-to-face with the terror and beauty of earth's remaining unknowns and the extremes of human capability. Jill Heinerth—the first person in history to dive deep into an Antarctic iceberg and leader of a team that discovered the ancient watery remains of Mayan civilizations—has descended farther into the inner depths of our planet than any other woman. She takes us into the harrowing split-second decisions that determine whether a diver makes it back to safety, the prejudices that prevent women from pursuing careers underwater, and her endeavor to recover a fallen friend's body from the confines of a cave. Heinerth also works with biologists discovering new species, physicists tracking climate change, and hydrogeologists examining our finite freshwater reserves. (288 pgs)



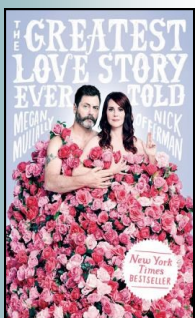
***DIAMOND DORIS* BY DORIS PAYNE (PICKED BY SLH)**

Growing up during the Depression in West Virginia, Doris Payne was told her dreams were unattainable for poor black girls like her. Doris vowed to turn the tables after the owner of a jewelry store threw her out when a white customer arrived. Payne began shoplifting small pieces of jewelry from local stores. Over the course of six decades, her talents grew with each heist. Becoming an expert world-class jewel thief, she daringly pulled off numerous diamond robberies and her Jewish boyfriend fenced the stolen gems to Hollywood celebrities. Doris's criminal exploits went unsolved well into the 1970s. Eventually realizing Doris was using him, her boyfriend turned her in. But even prison couldn't contain Doris who cleverly used nuns as well as various ruses to help her break out. With her arrest in 2013 in San Diego, Doris's fame skyrocketed when media coverage of her astonishing escapades exploded. Today, at eighty-seven, Doris, as bold and vibrant as ever, lives in Atlanta. (288 pgs)



***HOW TO: ABSURD SCIENTIFIC ADVICE* BY RANDALL MUNROE (PICKED BY SLS)**

How To is an instruction manual for taking everyday problems and using science and creative thinking to turn them into much bigger and more exciting problems. From changing a lightbulb to throwing a pool party, it describes unusual ways to accomplish common tasks, and analyzes what would happen to you if you tried them. In addition to being a profoundly unhelpful self-help book, it's an exercise in applying math, science, and research to ordinary problems, and a tour through some of the strange and fun science underlying the world around us. (304 pgs)



***THE GREATEST LOVE STORY EVER TOLD* BY MEGAN MULLALLY (PICKED BY KT)**

The year: 2000. The setting: Los Angeles. An actress had agreed to star in a random play, and a scenic carpenter had said he would attempt a supporting role in the selfsame pageant. At the first rehearsal, she surveyed her fellow cast members, determining if any of the men might qualify to provide her with a satisfying fling. Her gaze fell upon the carpenter, and like a bolt of lightning, the thought struck her: No dice. Yet, unbeknownst to our protagonists, Cupid had merely set down his bow and picked up a rocket launcher. The players were Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman, and the resulting romance, once it ignited, was . . . epic. It resulted in a coupling that has endured to this day. They came from completely different families, endured a significant age difference, and were separated by the gulf of several social strata. But much more were the values they held in common: respect, decency, the ability to mention genitalia in almost any context, and an abiding obsession with the songs of Tom Waits. This is not only the intoxicating book that Mullally's and Offerman's fans have been waiting for, it might just hold the solution to the greatest threat facing our modern world: the single life. (269 pgs)