

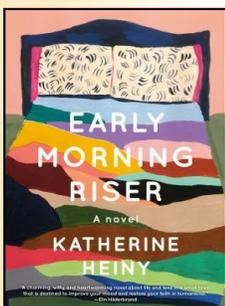


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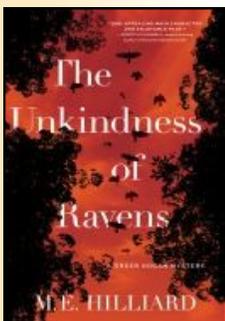
### FICTION



#### **EARLY MORNING RISER BY KATHERINE HEINY**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

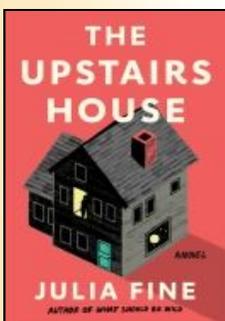
Jane falls in love with Duncan easily. He is charming, good-natured, and handsome but unfortunately, he has also slept with nearly every woman in Boyne City, Michigan. Jane sees Duncan's old girlfriends everywhere—at restaurants, at the grocery store, even three towns away. While Jane may be able to come to terms with dating the world's most prolific seducer of women, she wishes she did not have to share him quite so widely. His ex-wife, Aggie, still has Duncan mow her lawn. His coworker, Jimmy, comes and goes from Duncan's apartment at the most inopportune times. But any notion Jane had of love and marriage changes with one terrible car crash. Soon Jane's life is permanently intertwined with Duncan's, Aggie's, and Jimmy's, and Jane knows she will never have Duncan to herself. But could it be possible that a deeper kind of happiness is right in front of Jane's eyes? (336 pgs)



#### **THE UNKINDNESS OF RAVENS BY M.E. HILLIARD**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

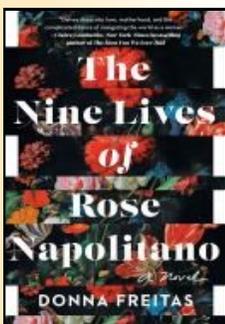
Greer Hogan is a librarian and an avid reader of murder mysteries. She also has a habit of stumbling upon murdered bodies. The first was her husband's, and the tragic loss led Greer to leave New York behind for a new start in the Village of Raven Hill. But her new home becomes less idyllic when she discovers her best friend sprawled dead on the floor of the library. Was her friend's demise related to two other deaths that the police deemed accidental? Do the residents of this insular village hold dark secrets about another murder, decades ago? Does a serial killer haunt Raven Hill? Though Greer admires the masters of deduction she reads about in books, she never expected to have to solve a mystery herself. Fortunately, she possesses a quick wit and a librarian's natural resourcefulness. But will that be enough to protect her from a brilliant, diabolical murderer? (336 pgs)



#### **THE UPSTAIRS HOUSE BY JULIA FINE**

**(PICKED BY KT)**

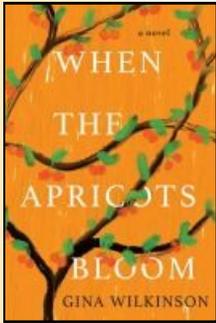
Ravaged and sore from giving birth to her first child, Megan is mostly raising her newborn alone while her husband travels for work. Physically exhausted and mentally drained, she's also wracked with guilt over her unfinished dissertation—a thesis on mid-century children's literature. Enter a new upstairs neighbor: the ghost of quixotic children's book writer Margaret Wise Brown—author of the beloved classic *Goodnight Moon*—whose existence no one else will acknowledge. It seems Margaret has unfinished business with her former lover, the once-famous socialite and actress Michael Strange, and is determined to draw Megan into the fray. As Michael joins the haunting, Megan finds herself caught in the wake of a supernatural power struggle—and until she can find a way to quiet these spirits, she and her newborn daughter are in terrible danger. (304 pgs)



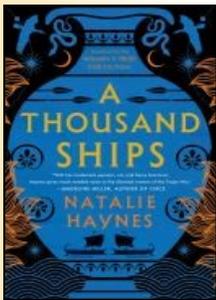
#### **THE NINE LIVES OF ROSE NAPOLITANO BY DONNA FREITAS**

**(PICKED BY MG)**

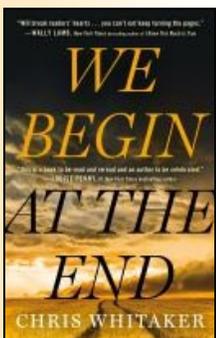
Rose Napolitano is fighting with her husband, Luke, about prenatal vitamins. She promised she'd take them, but didn't. He promised before they got married that he'd never want children, but now he's changed his mind. Their marriage has come to rest on this one question: Can Rose find it in herself to become a mother? Rose is a successful professor and academic. She's never wanted to have a child. The fight ends, and with it their marriage. But then, Rose has a fight with Luke about the vitamins—again. This time the fight goes slightly differently, and so does Rose's future as she grapples with whether she can indeed give up the one thing she thought she knew about herself. Can she reimagine her life in a completely new way? That reimagining plays out again and again in each of Rose's nine lives, just as it does for each of us as we grow into adulthood. What are the consequences of our biggest choices? How would life change if we let go of our preconceived ideas of ourselves and became someone completely new? (384 pgs)

**WHEN THE APRICOTS BLOOM BY GINA WILKINSON****(PICKED BY KT)**

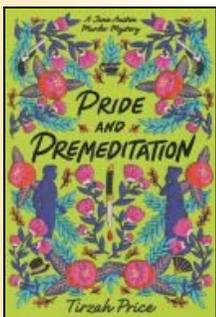
At night, in Huda's fragrant garden, a breeze sweeps in from the desert encircling Baghdad, and carrying warning of visitors at her gate. Huda, a secretary at the Australian embassy, lives in fear of the mukhabarat—the secret police who watch and listen for any scrap of information that can be used against America and its allies. They have ordered her to befriend Ally Wilson, the deputy ambassador's wife. Huda has no wish to be an informant, but fears for her teenaged son, who may be forced to join a deadly militia. Nor does she know that Ally has dangerous secrets of her own. Huda's former friend, Rania, enjoyed a privileged upbringing as the daughter of a sheikh. Now her family's wealth is gone, and Rania too is battling to keep her child safe and a roof over their heads. As the women's lives intersect, their hidden pasts spill into the present. Facing possible betrayal at every turn, all three must trust in a fragile, newfound loyalty, even as they discover how much they are willing to sacrifice to protect their families. (304 pgs)

**A THOUSAND SHIPS BY NATALIE HAYNES****(PICKED SLS)**

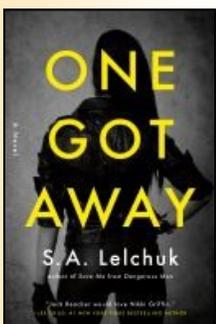
In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen. From the Trojan women whose fates now lie in the hands of the Greeks, to the Amazon princess who fought Achilles on their behalf, to Penelope awaiting the return of Odysseus, to the three goddesses whose feud started it all, these are the stories of the women whose lives, loves, and rivalries were forever altered by this long and tragic war. *A Thousand Ships* puts the women, girls and goddesses at the center of the Western world's great tale ever told. (368 pgs)

**WE BEGIN AT THE END BY CHRIS WHITAKER****(PICKED BY SLS)**

Walk has never left the coastal California town where he grew up. He may have become the chief of police, but he's still trying to heal the old wound of having given the testimony that sent his best friend, Vincent King, to prison decades before. Now, thirty years later, Vincent is being released. Duchess is a thirteen-year-old self-proclaimed outlaw. Her mother, Star, grew up with Walk and Vincent. Walk is in overdrive trying to protect them, but Vincent and Star seem bent on sliding deeper into self-destruction. Star always burned bright, but that light has dimmed, leaving Duchess to parent not only her mother but her five-year-old brother. A fortysomething-year-old sheriff and a thirteen-year-old girl may not seem to have a lot in common. But they both have come to expect that people will disappoint you, loved ones will leave, and if you open your heart it will be broken. So when trouble arrives with Vincent King, Walk and Duchess find they will be unable to do anything but usher it in. (384 pgs)

**PRIDE AND PREMEDITATION BY TIRZAH PRICE****(PICKED BY SP)**

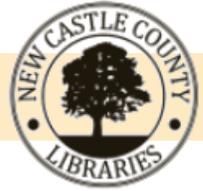
When a scandalous murder shocks London high society, seventeen-year-old aspiring lawyer Lizzie Bennet seizes the opportunity to prove herself, despite the interference of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, the stern young heir to the prestigious firm Pemberley Associates. Convinced the authorities have imprisoned the wrong person, Lizzie vows to solve the murder on her own. But as the case—and her feelings for Darcy—become more complicated, Lizzie discovers that her dream job could make her happy, but it might also get her killed. (368 pgs)

**ONE GOT AWAY BY S.A. LELCHUK****(PICKED BY SM)**

Nikki Griffin, a private-investigator when she isn't running her small bookstore, is on a case. The matriarch of one of the wealthiest San Francisco families has been defrauded by a con-man, and her furious son enlists Nikki to find the money. And find the con-man. Nikki isn't a fan of men who hurt women. Her secret mission, born of revenge and trauma, is to do everything she can to remove women from dangerous situations—and to punish the men responsible. As Nikki follows the trail toward the con-man, she realizes that no one involved is telling her the whole truth. When the case overlaps with her attempt to protect a woman in trouble, and Nikki's own life is put in danger, Nikki has to make terrible choices about who to save—and how to keep herself alive. (295 pgs)

# STAFF PICKS

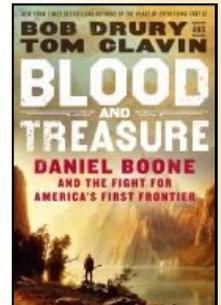
JUNE 2021



## NON-FICTION

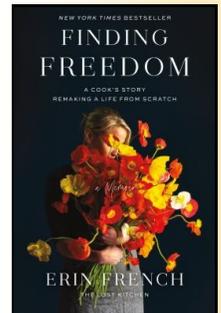
### ***BLOOD AND TREASURE* BY BOB DRURY & TOM CLAVIN (PICKED BY SMC)**

It is the mid-eighteenth century, and in the 13 colonies founded by Great Britain, anxious colonists desperate to conquer and settle North America's "First Frontier" beyond the Appalachian Mountains commence a series of bloody battles. This is the setting of *Blood and Treasure*, and the guide to this epic narrative is America's first and arguably greatest pathfinder, Daniel Boone—not the coonskin cap-wearing caricature of popular culture but the flesh-and-blood frontiersman and Revolutionary War hero whose explorations into the forested frontier beyond the great mountains would become the stuff of legend. It is the story of the brutal birth of the United States told through the eyes of both the ordinary and larger-than-life men and women, white and red, who witnessed it. (383 pgs)



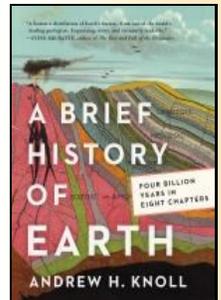
### ***FINDING FREEDOM* BY ERIN FRENCH (PICKED BY SM & SLH)**

Long before The Lost Kitchen became a world dining destination with every seating filled the day the reservation book opens each spring, Erin French was a girl roaming barefoot on a 25-acre farm, a teenager falling in love with food while working the line at her dad's diner and a young woman finding her calling as a professional chef at her tiny restaurant tucked into a 19th century mill. This memoir invites readers to Erin's corner of her beloved Maine to share the real person behind the "girl from Freedom" fairytale, and the not-so-picture-perfect struggles that have taken every ounce of her strength to overcome, and that make Erin's life triumphant. In *Finding Freedom*, Erin opens up to the challenges, stumbles, and victories that have led her to the exact place she was meant to be, telling stories of multiple rock-bottoms, of survival as a jobless single mother, of pills that promised release but delivered addiction, of a man who seemed to offer salvation but in the end ripped away her very sense of self. And of the beautiful son who was her guiding light as she slowly rebuilt her personal and culinary life. (304 pgs)



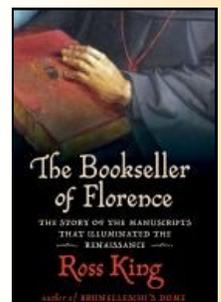
### ***A BRIEF HISTORY OF EARTH* BY ANDREW KNOLL (PICKED BY MG)**

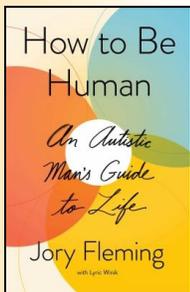
Odds are, where you're standing was once cooking under a roiling sea of lava, crushed by a towering sheet of ice, rocked by a nearby meteor strike, or perhaps choked by poison gases, drowned beneath ocean, perched atop a mountain range, or roamed by fearsome monsters. Probably most or even all of the above. The story of our home planet and the organisms spread across its surface is far more spectacular than any Hollywood blockbuster, filled with enough plot twists to rival a bestselling thriller. But only recently have we begun to piece together the whole mystery into a coherent narrative. Drawing on his decades of field research and up-to-the-minute understanding of the latest science, renowned geologist Andrew H. Knoll delivers a rigorous yet accessible biography of Earth, charting our home planet's epic 4.6 billion-year story. (272 pgs)



### ***THE BOOKSELLER OF FLORENCE* BY ROSS KING (PICKED BY SLH & SLS)**

The Renaissance in Florence conjures images of beautiful frescoes and elegant buildings—the dazzling handiwork of the city's skilled artists and architects. But equally important for the centuries to follow were Florence's manuscript hunters, scribes, scholars, and booksellers. At the heart of this activity was Vespasiano da Bisticci. At a time when all books were made by hand, over four decades Vespasiano produced and sold many hundreds of volumes from his bookshop, which also became a gathering spot for debate and discussion. His books were works of art in their own right, copied by talented scribes and illuminated by the finest miniaturists. Vespasiano reached the summit of his powers as Europe's most prolific merchant of knowledge when a new invention appeared: the printed book. By 1480, the king of the world's booksellers was swept away by this epic technological disruption. (496 pgs)





### **HOW TO BE HUMAN BY JORY FLEMING**

**PICKED BY SMC**

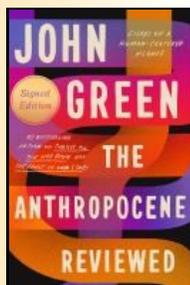
As a child, Jory Fleming was wracked by uncontrollable tantrums, had no tolerance for people, and couldn't manage the outside world. Slightly more than a decade later, he was bound for England, selected to attend one of the world's premier universities. *How to Be Human* explores life amid a world constructed for neurotypical brains when yours is not. Instead of dwelling on Jory's limitations, those who inhabit the neurotypical world will begin to better understand their own. Jory makes a compelling case for logical empathy based on rational thought, asks why we tolerate friends who see us as a means to an end, and explains why he believes personality is a choice. Join Jory and Lyric as they examine what it means to be human and ultimately how each of us might become a better one. (192 pgs)



### **EVERYTHING IS FINE BY VINCE GRANATA**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

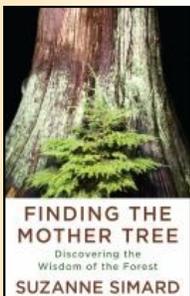
Vince Granata remembers standing in front of his suburban home in Connecticut the day his mother and father returned from the hospital with his three new siblings in tow. He had just finished scrawling their names in orange chalk on the driveway: Christopher, Timothy, and Elizabeth. Twenty-three years later, Vince was a thousand miles away when he received the news that his younger brother, Tim, propelled by unchecked schizophrenia, had killed their mother in their childhood home. Devastated by the grief of losing his mother, Vince is also consumed by an act so incomprehensible that it overshadows every happy memory of life growing up in his seemingly idyllic middle-class family. In this vibrant combination of personal memoir and journalism, Vince examines the disease that irrevocably changed his family's destiny. As he painstakingly pieces together Tim's story, Vince begins the process of recovering the image of his remarkable mother and salvaging his love for his brother. (304 pgs)



### **THE ANTHROPOCENE REVIEWED BY JOHN GREEN**

**(PICKED BY MG)**

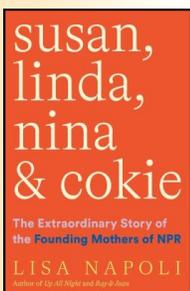
The Anthropocene is the current geologic age, in which humans have profoundly reshaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his groundbreaking podcast, bestselling author John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet on a five-star scale—from the QWERTY keyboard and sunsets to Canada geese and *Penguins of Madagascar*. Funny, complex, and rich with detail, the reviews chart the contradictions of contemporary humanity. As a species, we are both far too powerful and not nearly powerful enough, a paradox that came into sharp focus as we faced a global pandemic that both separated us and bound us together. (304 pgs)



### **FINDING THE MOTHER TREE BY SUZANNE SIMARD**

**(PICKED BY BS)**

Simard brings us into her world of the trees in which she illuminates the vital truth that trees are not simply the source of timber or pulp. Forests are cooperative creatures connected through underground networks with communal lives not that different from our own. Trees elicit warnings and mount defenses, compete and cooperate with one another with characteristics ascribed to human intelligence, traits that are the essence of civil societies—and at the center of it all, the Mother Trees: the mysterious, powerful forces that connect and sustain the others that surround them. Simard writes of her own life, born and raised into a logging world in the rainforests of British Columbia. As she writes of her scientific quest, she writes of her own journey making us understand how deeply human scientific inquiry exists beyond data and technology. (368 pgs)



### **SUSAN, LINDA, NINA & COKIE BY LISA NAPOLI**

**(PICKED BY SM)**

In the years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, women in the workplace still found themselves relegated to secretarial positions or locked out of jobs entirely. This was especially true in the news business, a backwater of male chauvinism where a woman might be lucky to get a foothold on the "women's pages." But when a pioneering nonprofit called National Public Radio came along in the 1970s, and the door to serious journalism opened a crack, four remarkable women came along and blew it off the hinges. *Susan, Linda, Nina, and Cokie* is Lisa Napoli's account of these four women, their deep and enduring friendships, and the trail they blazed to becoming icons. Cokie Roberts was born into a political dynasty and felt a tug toward public service. Susan Stamberg was the first woman to anchor a nightly news program and pressed for accommodations to balance work and home life. Linda Wertheimer fought her way to a scholarship and a spot on-air. And Nina Totenberg, the network's legal affairs correspondent, invented a new way to cover the Supreme Court. (288 pgs)