



## Staff Picks



Looking for some book suggestions from the experts? Want to find a new book buddy? Or just get to know your local librarians better?

Here are a few of *our* favorite things!

### Reference Recommends...

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

"A great story with a funny main character and amazing world building. A mashup of sci-fi, mystery, and horror with queer themes."

#### **Red, White, and Royal Blue** by Casey McQuiston

"A sweet and steamy LGBTQ romance. Awesome and diverse characters, snappy dialogue, and generally hilarious."

#### **To Be Taught if Fortunate** by Becky Chambers\*

"A short, stand alone dip into the space opera genre by a great author. Awesome descriptions and world building."

—Christina

#### **Author Jeffrey Archer**

"The Harry Clifton series is great if you like family sagas."

#### **Pendergast Series** by Preston and Child

"Terrific thrillers with a spooky twist."

#### **Authors Joseph Finder, Alan Furst, Tess Gerritsen, and Ruth Ware**

"All masters of action and suspense."

—Deb

#### **Author Margaret Atwood**

"Whether she's writing fiction, poetry, sci-fi, historical fiction, or short stories, the indomitable Atwood never disappoints. She's an expert on the human condition and the lives of women past, present, and future. Yet no matter how grim the subject matter, she always manages to inject some of her famous wit."

#### **Circe** by Madeline Miller

"If you think you know Circe, the famous witch from the Odyssey, think again. Miller is a masterful storyteller and her prose is truly gorgeous. Her take on the life of one of history's greatest villains will have you questioning everything you thought you knew about one of the oldest stories ever told."

—Jenna

#### **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration** by Isabel Wilkerson

"Between 1915 and 1970, millions of Black Americans left the Jim Crow South to points north and west, seeking better lives and true freedom. This book follows three people in their journeys, from Mississippi to Chicago, from Florida to Harlem, and from Louisiana to California. This is a beautifully written account of how cities were transformed by what they brought with them: Southern food, faith, and culture, and drive, discipline, and hard work."

#### **Disappearing Earth** by Julia Phillips

"This excellent story gives a twist on the standard mystery. A girl is abducted in a Russian town -- as the months go by, the story follows a few different characters as they go about their lives and are directly or indirectly affected by the disappearance. This is a fascinating glimpse into life in Russia, with the kidnapping always in the background... until suddenly, it isn't. A very satisfying read."

—Katy

### Circulation is obsessed with...

#### **Detective Varg Series** by Alexander McCall-Smith

"Totally enjoyable and stress-free reading!"

#### **The Last House Guest** by Megan Miranda

"It's summertime in Maine. A local girl and a summer girl become friends. One is found dead. A suspenseful read with twists!"

#### **The Other People** by C.J. Tudor

"A father is convinced that he has seen the daughter that everyone else thinks was murdered years ago. Another riveting read by one of my favorite authors."

—Allison



#### **Possession** by A.S. Byatt

"A wonderful narrative that goes back and forth between two modern academics and a pair of Victorian writers they are researching who may have been lovers. Mystery, romance, and historical details make for a great read."

#### **The Red Garden** by Alice Hoffman

"Great example of Hoffman at her best—a variety of characters over the course of three hundred years that share a special garden."

#### **Garden Spells** by Sarah Addison Allen

"For lovers of magical realism, Allen's debut about a Southern family with special gifts."

#### **Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood\*

"The first book in the Maddaddam trilogy, it tells the story of Snowman who is trying to survive in a world that has been devastated by ecological and scientific disasters."

—Angela

#### **The Night Circus** by Erin Morgenstern

"Fanciful, magical and engrossing."

#### **The Poppy Wife** by Caroline Scott

"Historical fiction, moving, profound loss and love."

#### **After the Flood** by Kassandra Montag\*

"Apocalyptic, futuristic, despair & hope."

#### **Love and Ruin** by Paula McLain

"Historical fiction. Great insight into Ernest Hemingway and his third wife, journalist Martha Gellhorn."

—Barbara

#### **The Innocents** by Michael Crummey and **The Unseen** by Roy Jacobsen

"The former novel is set in a remote Newfoundland fishing village in the late 1800s and the latter is set on a Norwegian island in the early 1900s and the first book in the Ingrid Barroy trilogy. These Canadian and Norwegian novels are poignant, austere, compelling depictions of a lost way of life."

**Tularosa by Michael McGarrity**

“Ex-Santa Fe Chief of Detectives Kevin Kerney teams up with Capt. Sara Brannon in search of a missing soldier in the White Sands Missile Range: Fast action, snappy dialogue, stolen artifacts and intriguing characters.”

**Charlie Resnik Series by John Harvey**

“British police procedurals.”

**Marley by Jon Clinch**

“An inventive and darkly compelling backstory of Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley.”

—Deirdre

**Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon**

“I've read every book she has written so far. She's a great author for fans of historical fiction. This book was based on the life of Nancy Wake who was an Australian woman who was a spy in France during World War II She was one of the most decorated women of the war.”

**The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott**

“This is about how Dr. Zhivago was smuggled out of the USSR.”

**A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness\***

“Really liked this one! Difficult to classify, but I guess you would say historical fantasy about witches, vampires and demons. I loved all of the characters. I read it during quarantine and I couldn't put it down. Looking forward to the next 2 books in the series.”

—Erin

**The Coldest Warrior by Paul Vidich**

“New novel by espionage author *Paul Vidich*. Delves into the dark side of intelligence, when a CIA looks into a cold case from the 1950s—with fatal consequences. What I love about this kind of book, plenty of twists and turns!”

**The Black Witch by Laurie Forest**

“It's the first in a series of books about a young girl who is destined to strike the most evil force in the world but she doesn't have a clue as to how. What I love about this book is it's pure fantasy.”

**The Pioneer Woman Cooks: The New Frontier, 112 Fantastic Favorites for Everyday Eating by Ree Drummond**

“I love all her cookbooks because Ree uses everyday ingredients that we all have in our pantry to make delicious dishes!”

—Maira

**The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins**

“The new *Hunger Games* novel. It answers the question of why President Snow is the way he is.”

**Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black**

“Takes place during the Nazi invasion of France before the Americans got into the war. It's the story of an American woman who the British send to assassinate Hitler, expecting her to fail. A fast paced thriller about a woman using her wits to defy the odds and survive.”

—Sandy

**Youth Services suggests...**

**Crazy Rich Asians Trilogy by Kevin Kwan**

“This series throws you headfirst in the over indulgent lives of a wealthy family in Singapore and how living a modern life butts heads with duty and family tradition. Laugh out loud funny all while being heartwarming and eye opening to this part of the world. You will be rolling your eyes and shaking your head as new money meets old money and social climbers will DO ANYTHING to be part of the in crowds. Ten times better than the movie.”



**Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup by John Carreyrou**

“An inside look in Elizabeth Holmes' multi-billion dollar biotech startup that bamboozled professors, employees, board members and investors into believing her product would revolutionize the way we detect diseases. So many twists and turns that your head will be spinning all while thanking your lucky stars that her masquerade was caught! You won't be able to put this book down.”

—Carly

**The Woman Inside by E.G. Scott\***

“Secrets and revenge by husband and wife. Page-turner all the way.”

**After Anna by Lisa Scottoline**

“Domestic violence thriller with a husband accused of murder. Very emotional. Lots of searching for the truth brings a dark side to this book. HOLD your breath at the ending.”

—Mary

**Good Omens by Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett**

“Now streaming as a star-studded miniseries on Amazon Prime! A fantastical comedy about the end of the world. Perfectly mismatched friends—one a demon, the other an angel—set out to balance the scales between good and evil, thereby protecting the world from the end of times. Add in eight bikers of the apocalypse, a witch-hunter, a witch, a hellhound named Dog, and you're in for a good time!”

**The Diabolic by S.J. Kincaid**

“A Sci-Fi Adventure with a butt-kicking female lead! In a future world where technology has been outlawed by the church, spaceships are crumbling and the elite upper class are in danger all the time. Meet Nemesis—an assassin in disguise—masquerading amongst the elite in order to protect the one she loves. To survive, Nemesis will need to act like everyone else. But what does it mean to be human? *And who will she kill next?*”

**Three Dark Crowns by Kendare Blake**

“With three amazing characters, it's hard to pick a favorite! YA Fantasy. In each generation, three queens are born with a special gift. One is an elemental, who can harness the fury of nature. One a poisoner, born with the innate ability to survive the deadliest venom. And the last a naturalist, who can bend animals to her will. Yes, three gifted queens are born in each generation. But only one can survive to take the throne...”

—Sarah

**Cataloging can't get enough of...**

**Low Country Summer Series by Mary Alice Monroe\***

“Three sisters raised by different family members under various circumstances, as adults they are now working on reconnecting to each other and their grandmother on Sullivan's Island, SC. Mary Alice Monroe has an easy relaxing read in her style. You can almost feel the summer breeze and warmth of the sun. Best to read the series in order as each sister begins to show their strengths and weakness and realize that they all had difficult times. “

**Author Kate Morton**

“Her style is historical fiction with a mystery to be unraveled in current times.”

—Patricia

**Our Director digs...**

**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson**

“A historical novel about the 1930s Kentucky Pack Horse Library project. It's also a great choice for book groups, and is available on HOOPLA!”

—Karen

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\*=No physical copy at Blackstone, but is available through our Overdrive or Hoopla catalogs