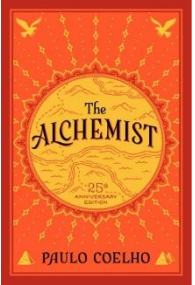
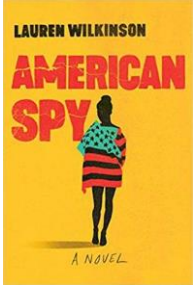
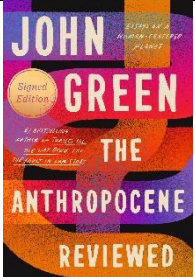



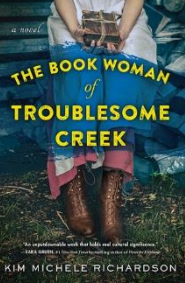


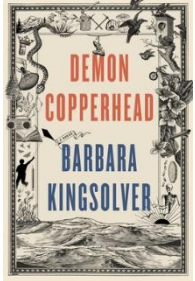
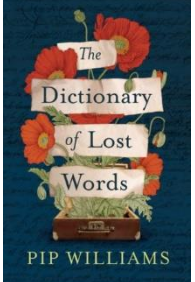
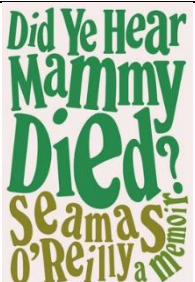
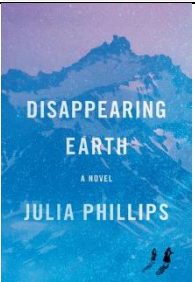
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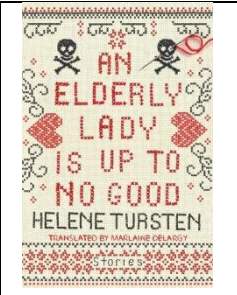
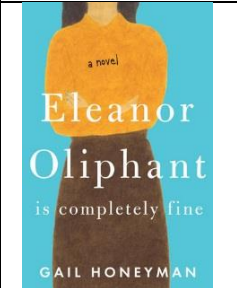
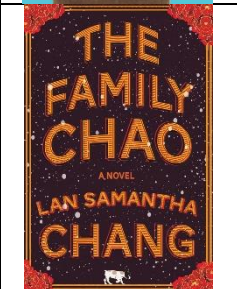
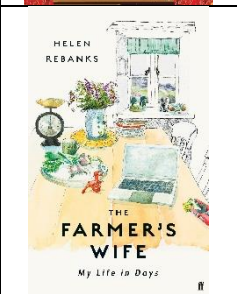
Book Cover	Title/ Author/ Publication Date/ Pages/ Rating	Summary
	<p><i>The Alchemist</i> Paulo Coelho 1988 182 pages 3.88 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Paulo Coelho's enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and soul-stirring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried near the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles in his path. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.</p>
	<p><i>American Spy</i> Laura Wilkinson 2019 292 pages 3.52 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>It's 1986, and Marie Mitchell is an intelligence officer with the FBI. She's brilliant, but she's also a young black woman working in an old boys' club. Her career has stalled out, she's overlooked for every high-profile squad, and her days are filled with monotonous paperwork. So when she's given the opportunity to join a shadowy task force aimed at undermining Thomas Sankara, the charismatic, revolutionary president of Burkina Faso, she says yes. Yes, even though she secretly admires the work Thomas is doing for his country. Yes, even though she is still grieving over the mysterious death of her sister. Yes, even though a furious part of her suspects she's being offered the job because of her appearance and not her talent. In the year that follows, Marie will observe Thomas, seduce him, and ultimately have a hand in the coup that will bring him down. But doing so will change everything she believes about what it means to be a spy, a lover, a sister, and a good American.</p>
	<p><i>The Anthropocene Reviewed</i> John Green 2021 293 pages 4.36 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction essays</p>	<p>The Anthropocene is the current geological age, in which human activity has profoundly shaped the planet and its biodiversity. In this remarkable symphony of essays adapted and expanded from his ground-breaking, critically acclaimed podcast, John Green reviews different facets of the human-centered planet -- from the QWERTY keyboard and Halley's Comet to Penguins of Madagascar -- on a five-star scale.</p>

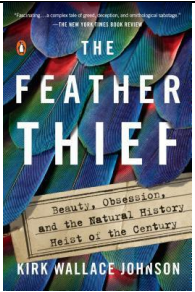

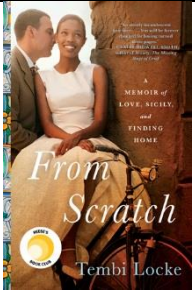
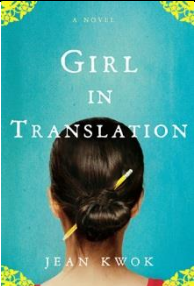
	<p><i>The Bean Trees</i> Barbara Kingsolver 1988 232 pages 3.93 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Clear-eyed and spirited, Taylor Greer grew up poor in rural Kentucky with the goals of avoiding pregnancy and getting away. But when she heads west with high hopes and a barely functional car, she meets the human condition head-on. By the time Taylor arrives in Tucson, Arizona, she has acquired a completely unexpected child, a three-year-old American Indian girl named Turtle, and must somehow come to terms with both motherhood and the necessity for putting down roots. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in apparently empty places.</p>
	<p><i>The Best We Could Do</i> Thi Bui 2017 329 pages 4.37 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction graphic novel</p>	<p>An intimate look at one family's journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to their new lives in America. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui's story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent -- the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love. Despite how impossible it seems to take on the simultaneous roles of both parent and child, Bui pushes through.</p>
	<p><i>Black Cake</i> Charmaine Wilkerson 2022 385 pages 4.14 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves. Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor's true history, and fulfill her final request to "share the black cake when the time is right"? Will their mother's revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?</p>
	<p><i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> Kim Michele Richardson 308 pages 4.26 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.</p>

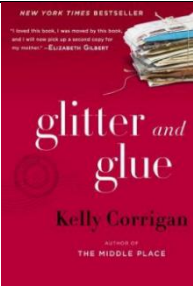
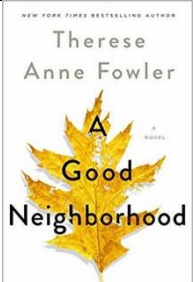
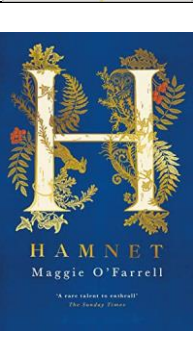
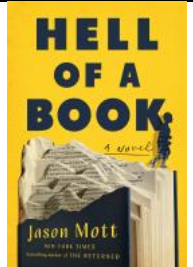
	<p><i>The Boys in the Boat</i> Daniel Brown 2013 416 pages 4.35 stars Nonfiction</p>	<p>This nonfiction book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936. The emotional heart of the story lies with one rower, Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows not for glory, but to regain his shattered self-regard and to find a place he can call home. The crew's trust in each other is what makes them a victorious team.</p>
	<p><i>The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett</i> Annie Lyons 2020 372 pages 4.33 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Eudora Honeysett is done with this noisy, moronic world. She has witnessed the indignities and suffering of old age and has lived a full life. At eighty-five, she isn't going to leave things to chance. Her end will be on her terms. With one call to a clinic in Switzerland, a plan is set in motion. Then she meets ten-year-old Rose Trewidney, a whirling, pint-sized rainbow of color and sparkling cheer. All Eudora wants is to be left alone to set her affairs in order. Instead, she finds herself embarking on a series of adventures with the irrepressible Rose and their affable neighbor, the recently widowed Stanley. While the trio of unlikely BFFs grow closer and anxiously await the arrival of Rose's new baby sister, Eudora is reminded of her own childhood -- of losing her father during World War II and the devastating impact it had on her entire family. In reflecting on her past, Eudora realizes she must come to terms with what lies ahead. But now that her joy for life has been rekindled, how can she possibly say goodbye?</p>
	<p><i>Butcher</i> Joyce Carol Oates 2024 352 pages Not yet rated Fiction</p>	<p>In this harrowing story based on authentic historical documents, we follow the career of Dr. Silas Weir, "The Father of Gyno-Psychiatry," as he ascends from professional anonymity to national renown. Humiliated by a disastrous procedure, Weir is forced to take a position at the New Jersey Asylum for Female Lunatics, where he reigns. There, he is allowed to continue his practice, unchecked for decades, making a name for himself by focusing on women who have been neglected by the state -- women he subjects to the most grotesque modes of experimentation. As he begins to establish himself as a pioneer of 19th-century surgery, Weir's ambition is fueled by his obsessive fascination with a young Irish indentured servant named Brigit, who becomes not only Weir's primary experimental subject, but also the agent of his destruction.</p>
	<p><i>Carnegie's Maid</i> Marie Benedict 2018 283 pages 3.82 stars Fiction</p>	<p>In the industrial 1860s at the dawn of the Carnegie empire, Irish immigrant Clara Kelly finds herself in desperate circumstances. Looking for a way out, she seeks employment as a lady's maid in the home of the prominent businessman Andrew Carnegie. Soon, the bond between Clara and her employer deepens into love. But when Clara goes missing, Carnegie's search for her unearths secrets and revelations that lay the foundation for his lasting legacy. With captivating insight and stunning heart, this book tells the story of one lost woman who may have spurred Andrew Carnegie's transformation from ruthless industrialist into the world's first true philanthropist.</p>

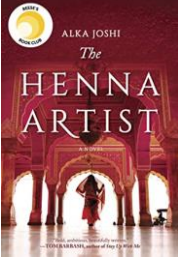
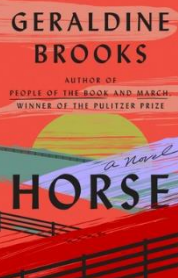
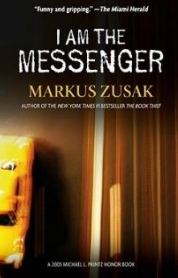
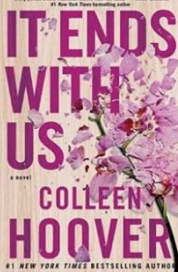
	<p><i>The Christmas Train</i> David Baldacci 2004 260 pages 3.59 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington D.C. to L.A in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures and holiday magic. He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special he believed he had lost. <i>The Christmas Train</i> is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags with as much wisdom as mischief ... and shows how we <i>do</i> get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during this season of miracles.</p>
	<p><i>Conviction</i> Denise Mina 2019 376 pages 3.57 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>It's just a normal morning when Anna's husband announces that he's leaving her for her best friend and taking their two daughters with him. With her safe, comfortable world shattered, Anna distracts herself with someone else's story: a true-crime podcast. That is until she recognizes the name of one of the victims and becomes convinced that only she knows what really happened. With nothing left to lose, she throws herself into investigating the case. But little does she know, Anna's past and present lives are about to collide, sending everything she has worked so hard to achieve into freefall.</p>
	<p><i>Crying in H Mart</i> Michelle Zauner 2021 256 pages 4.27 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>Michelle Zauner tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band -- ad meeting the man who would become her husband -- her Korean-ness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.</p>
	<p><i>The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes</i> Leonard Goldberg 2017 305 pages 3.55 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>1914. Joanna Blalock's keen mind and incredible insight lead her to become a highly-skilled nurse, one of the few professions that allow her to use her finely-tuned brain. But when she and her ten-year-old son witness a man fall to his death, apparently by suicide, they are visited by the elderly Dr. John Watson and his charming, handsome son, Dr. John Watson Jr. Impressed by her forensic skills, they invite her to become the third member of their investigative team. Caught up in a Holmesian mystery that spans from hidden treasure to the Second Afghan War of 1878-1880, Joanna and her companions must devise an ingenious plan to catch a murderer in the act while dodging familiar culprits, Scotland Yard, and members of the British aristocracy. Unbeknownst to her, Joanna harbors a mystery of her own. The product of a one-time assignation between the now dead Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler, the only woman to ever outwit the famous detective, Joanna has unwittingly inherited her parents' deductive genius.</p>

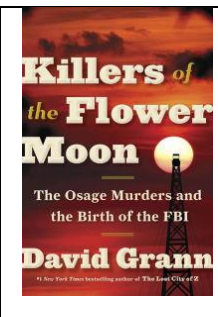
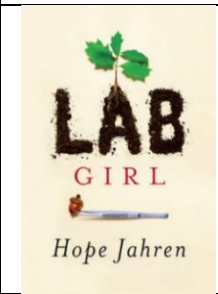
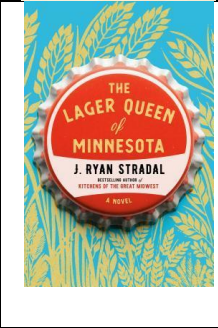
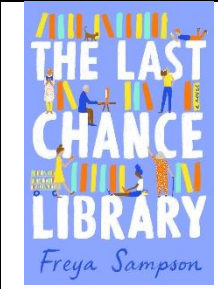
	<p><i>Demon Copperhead</i> Barbara Kingsolver 2022 560 pages 4.51 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.</p>
	<p><i>The Dictionary of Lost Words</i> Pip Williams 2020 384 pages 4.03 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Esme is born into a world of words. She spends her childhood in the “Scriptorium,” a garden shed in Oxford where a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. One day a slip of paper containing the word “bondmaid” flutters to the floor. Esme rescues the slip and stashes it in an old wooden case that belongs to her friend, Lizzie, a young servant in the big house. Esme begins to collect other words from the Scriptorium that are misplaced, discarded or have been neglected by the dictionary men. Esme realizes that some words are considered more important than others, and that words and meanings relating to women’s experiences often go unrecorded. While she dedicates her life to the OED, secretly, she begins to collect words for another dictionary: The Dictionary of Lost Words.</p>
	<p><i>Did Ye Hear Mammy Died?</i> Seamas O’Reilly 2022 190 pages 4.21 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>After the untimely death of his mother, five-year-old Séamas O’Reilly and his ten siblings were left to the care of their loving but beleaguered father. O’Reilly and the rest of his rowdy clan learn to cook, clean, do the laundry, and struggle to keep the household running smoothly. They turn into adults in the absence of the woman who had held them together. Through it all, the lovable, ginger-haired O’Reilly regales us with his combination of wit, absurdity, and tenderness, creating a charming and unforgettable portrait of an oddly gigantic family’s search for some semblance of normalcy.</p>
	<p><i>Disappearing Earth</i> Julia Phillips 2019 312 pages 3.87 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>One August afternoon, on the shoreline of the north-eastern edge of Russia, two sisters are abducted. In the ensuing weeks, then months, the police investigation turns up nothing. Echoes of the disappearance reverberate across a tightly woven community, with the fear and loss felt most deeply among its women. Set on the remote Siberian peninsula of Kamchatka, this novel draws us into the world of an astonishing cast of characters, all connected by an unfathomable crime. We are transported to vistas of rugged beauty – densely wooded forests, open expanses of tundra, soaring volcanoes and the glassy seas that border Japan and Alaska – and into a region as complex as it is alluring, where social and ethnic tensions have long simmered, and where outsiders are often the first to be accused.</p>

	<p><i>An Elderly Lady Is Up to No Good</i> Helene Tursten 2018 178 pages 3.79 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Maud is an irascible 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends, and no qualms about a little murder. Ever since her darling father's untimely death when she was only eighteen, Maud has lived in the family's spacious apartment in downtown Gothenburg rent-free, thanks to a minor clause in a hastily negotiated contract. Now in her late eighties, Maud contents herself with traveling the world and surfing the net from the comfort of her father's ancient armchair. Maud handles a crisis with a local celebrity who has her eyes on Maud's apartment, foils the engagement of her long-ago lover, and disposes of some pesky neighbors. But when the local authorities are called to investigate a murder in her apartment complex, will Maud be able to avoid suspicion, or will Detective Inspector Irene Huss see through her charade?</p>
	<p><i>Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</i> Gail Honeyman 2017 327 pages 4.31 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one.</p>
	<p><i>The Family Chao</i> Lan Samantha Chang 2022 303 pages 3.37 stars Fiction</p>	<p>The residents of Haven, Wisconsin, have dined on the Fine Chao Restaurant's delicious Americanized Chinese food for thirty-five years, happy to ignore any unsavory whispers about the family owners. But when brash, charismatic, and tyrannical patriarch Leo Chao is found dead -- presumed murdered -- his sons discover that they've drawn the exacting gaze of the entire town. The ensuing trial brings to light potential motives for all three brothers: Dagou, the restaurant's reckless head chef; Ming, financially successful but personally tortured; and the youngest, gentle but lost college student James.</p>
	<p><i>The Farmer's Wife</i> Helen Rebanks 2023 319 pages 3.94 stars Nonfiction</p>	<p>As dawn breaks on the farm, Helen Rebanks makes a mug of tea, relishing the few minutes of quiet before the house stirs. Within the hour the sounds of her husband, James, and their four children will fill the kitchen. There are also six sheepdogs, two ponies, 20 chickens, 50 cattle and 500 sheep to care for. Helen is a farmer's wife. Hers is a story that is rarely told, despite being one we think we know. Weaving past and present, Helen shares the days that have shaped her. This is the truth of those days: from steering the family through the Beast from the East and the local authority planning committee, to finding the quiet strength to keep going, when supper is yet to be started, another delivery man has assumed he needs to speak to the "man of the house," and she would rather punch a cushion than plump it.</p>

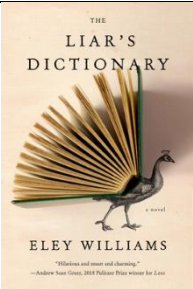
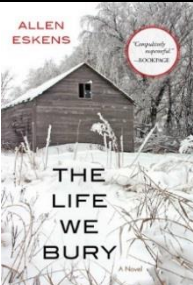
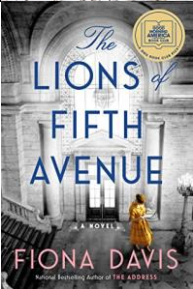
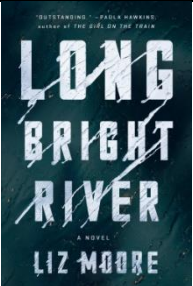
	<p><i>The Feather Thief</i> Kirk Wallace Johnson 2019 336 pages 4.01 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>In 2009, twenty-year-old American flautist Edwin Rist boarded a train for a suburban outpost of the British Museum of Natural History. Home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world, the Tring museum was full of rare bird specimens whose gorgeous feathers were worth staggering amounts of money to the men who shared Edwin's obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Once inside the museum, the champion fly-tier grabbed hundreds of bird skins and escaped into the darkness. Two years later, Kirk Wallace Johnson was waist high in a river in northern New Mexico when his fly-fishing guide told him about the heist. He was soon consumed by the strange case of the feather thief. What would possess a person to steal dead birds? Had Edwin paid the price for his crime? What became of the missing skins? In his search for answers, Johnson was catapulted into a years-long, worldwide investigation.</p>
	<p><i>Finding Love at Hedgehog Hollow</i> Jessica Redland 2020 354 pages 4.43 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>As Samantha Wishaw watches the love of her life marry another woman, she's ready to give up hope of finding her happy ever after. But when a chance encounter leads Sam to find friendship in Thomas - a lonely, grumpy elderly widower living at derelict Hedgehog Hollow -- her life is about to change forever. Glad to have a distraction from family feuds and matchmaking, Sam vows to fulfill Thomas and his wife, Gwendoline's, dreams of restoring Hedgehog Hollow to its former glory, and to open a hedgehog rescue center. Throwing herself into the task at hand, little does Sam realize that the keys to love and happiness may also be found at Hedgehog Hollow, when she least expects it.</p>
	<p><i>From Scratch: A Memoir of Love, Sicily and Finding Home</i> Tembi Locke 2019 339 pages 3.89 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>It was love at first sight when Tembi met professional chef, Saro, on a street in Florence. There was just one problem: Saro's traditional Sicilian family did not approve of him marrying a black American woman, an actress no less. However, the couple, heartbroken but undeterred, forges on. They build a happy life in Los Angeles, with fulfilling careers, deep friendships and the love of their lives: a baby girl they adopt at birth. Eventually, they reconcile with Saro's family just as he faces a formidable cancer that will consume all their dreams. This book chronicles three summers Tembi spends in Sicily with her daughter, Zoela, as she begins to piece together a life without her husband in his tiny hometown hamlet of farmers. Where once Tembi was estranged from Saro's family and his origins, now she finds solace and nourishment—literally and spiritually—at her mother in law's table.</p>
	<p><i>Girl in Translation</i> Jean Kwok 2010 290 pages 3.96 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult patches of her life like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition. Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.</p>

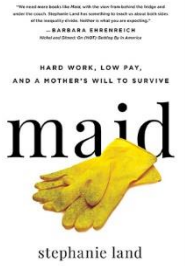


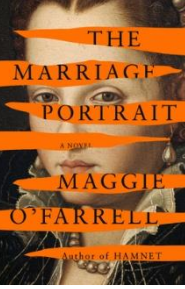
	<p><i>Glitter and Glue</i> Kelly Corrigan 2014 224 pages 3.79 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>When Kelly Corrigan was in high school, her mother neatly summarized the family dynamic as “Your father’s the glitter but I’m the glue.” This meant nothing to Kelly, who left childhood sure that her mom -- with her inviolable commandments and proud stoicism -- would be nothing more than background chatter for the rest of Kelly’s life, which she was carefully orienting toward adventure. After college, armed with a backpack, her personal mission statement, and a wad of traveler’s checks, she took off for Australia to see things and do things and Become Interesting. This is a book about the difference between travel and life experience, stepping out and stepping up, fathers and mothers. But mostly it’s about who you admire and why, and how that changes over time.</p>
	<p><i>A Good Neighborhood</i> Therese Anne Fowler 2020 311 pages 3.82 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In Oak Knoll, a tight-knit North Carolina neighborhood, professor of forestry and ecology Valerie Alston-Holt is raising her bright and talented biracial son, Xavier, who is headed to college in the fall. All is well until the Whitmans move in next door - an apparently traditional family with new money, ambition, and a secretly troubled teenaged daughter. Thanks to his thriving local business, Brad Whitman has made a small fortune on his customer service and charm, while his wife, Julia, escaped her trailer park upbringing for the security of marriage and homemaking. With little in common except a property line, these two very different families quickly find themselves at odds: first, over an historic oak tree in Valerie's yard, and soon after, the blossoming romance between their two teenagers.</p>
	<p><i>Hamnet</i> Maggie O’Farrell 2020 305 pages 4.3 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>A short, piercing, deeply moving novel about the death of Shakespeare's 11 year old son Hamnet -- a name interchangeable with Hamlet in 15th century Britain -- and the years leading up to the production of his great play. England, 1580. A young Latin tutor--penniless, bullied by a violent father - falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman -- a wild creature who walks her family's estate with a falcon on her shoulder and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer. Agnes understands plants and potions better than she does people, but once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose gifts as a writer are just beginning to awaken when his beloved young son succumbs to bubonic plague. A luminous portrait of a marriage, a shattering evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a hypnotic recreation of the story that inspired one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.</p>
	<p><i>Hell of a Book</i> Jason Mott 2021 323 pages 4.06 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>An African-American author sets out on a cross-country book tour to promote his bestselling novel. This is also the story of Soot, a young Black boy living in a rural town in the recent past, and The Kid, a possibly imaginary child who appears to the author on his tour. Throughout, these characters' stories build and build and as they converge, they astonish. For while this heartbreaking and magical book entertains and is at once about family, love of parents and children, art, and money, there always is the tragic story of a police shooting playing over and over on the news. Who has been killed? Who is The Kid? Will the author finish his book tour, and what kind of world will he leave behind</p>

	<p><i>The Henna Artist</i> Alka Joshi 2020 384 pages 4.3 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist -- and confidante -- to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own. Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid the jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and her livelihood. As she pursues her dream of an independent life, she is startled one day when she is confronted by her husband, who has tracked her down these many years later with a high-spirited young girl in tow -- a sister Lakshmi never knew she had. Suddenly the caution that she has carefully cultivated as protection is threatened. Still she perseveres, applying her talents and lifting up those that surround her as she does.</p>
	<p><i>Horse</i> Geraldine Brooks 2022 401 pages 4.28 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In 1850, an enslaved groom and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that carries the horse to record-setting victories. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse -- one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.</p>
	<p><i>I Am the Messenger</i> Markus Zusak 2006 357 pages 4.02 stars</p> <p>YA Fiction</p>	<p>Ed Kennedy is an underage cabdriver without much of a future. He's pathetic at playing cards, hopelessly in love with his best friend, Audrey, and utterly devoted to his coffee-drinking dog, the Doorman. His life is one of peaceful routine and incompetence until he inadvertently stops a bank robbery. That's when the first ace arrives in the mail. That's when Ed becomes the messenger. Chosen to care, he makes his way through town helping and hurting (when necessary) until only one question remains: Who's behind Ed's mission?</p>
	<p><i>It Ends with Us</i> Colleen Hoover 2016 385 pages 4.40 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Lily feels a spark with a gorgeous neurosurgeon named Ryle Kincaid. Ryle is assertive, stubborn, maybe even a little arrogant. He's also sensitive, brilliant, and has a total soft spot for Lily. Lily can't get him out of her head. But Ryle's complete aversion to relationships is disturbing. Even as Lily finds herself becoming the exception to his "no dating" rule, she can't help but wonder what made him that way in the first place. As questions about her new relationship overwhelm her, so do thoughts of Atlas Corrigan -- her first love and a link to the past she left behind. He was her kindred spirit, her protector. When Atlas suddenly reappears, everything Lily has built with Ryle is threatened.</p>

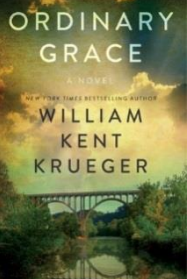

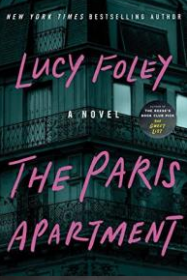
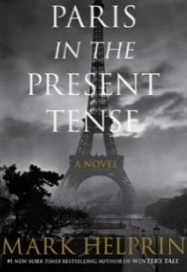
	<p><i>Killers of the Flower Moon</i> David Grann 2017 359 pages 4.09 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. One Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, watched as her family was murdered. Her older sister was shot. Her mother was then slowly poisoned. And it was just the beginning, as more Osage began to die under mysterious circumstances. As the death toll surpassed more than twenty-four Osage, the newly created F.B.I. took up the case, in what became one of the organization’s first major homicide investigations. But the bureau was then notoriously corrupt and initially bungled the case.</p>
	<p><i>Lab Girl</i> Hope Jahren 2016 290 pages 4.03 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>Scientist Hope Jahren has built three laboratories in which she’s studied trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Her first book is a revelatory treatise on plant life—but it is also so much more. This is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren’s stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom’s labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science and learned to perform lab work done “with both the heart and the hands”; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.</p>
	<p><i>The Lager Queen of Minnesota</i> J. Ryan Stradal 2019 349 pages 4.01 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>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. Where Edith has a heart as big as Minnesota, Helen’s is as rigid as a steel keg. Yet one day, Helen finds she needs some help herself. 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?</p>
	<p><i>The Last Chance Library</i> Freya Sampson 2021 336 pages 3.75 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Lonely librarian June Jones has never left the sleepy English village where she grew up. But when her library is threatened with closure, June is forced to emerge from behind the shelves to save the heart of her community. Joining a band of eccentric yet dedicated locals in a campaign to keep the library, June opens herself up to other people for the first time since her mother died. It just so happens that her old school friend Alex Chen is back in town and willing to lend a helping hand. The kindhearted lawyer’s feelings for her are obvious to everyone but June, who won’t believe that anyone could ever care for her in that way. To save the place and the books that mean so much to her, June must finally make some changes to her life. For once, she’s determined not to go down without a fight. And maybe, in fighting for her cherished library, June can save herself, too.</p>

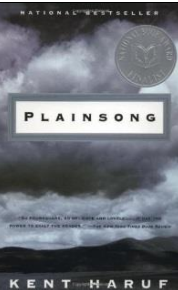
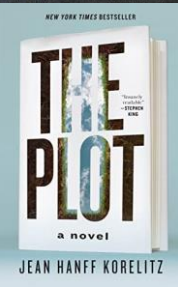

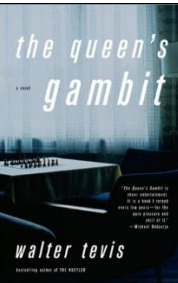
	<p><i>Last Letter from Juliet</i> Melanie Hudson 2019 304 pages 4.47 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>A daring WWII pilot who grew up among the clouds, Juliet Caron’s life was one of courage, adventure -- and a love torn apart by war. Every nook of her Cornish cottage is alive with memories just waiting to be discovered. Katherine Henderson has escaped to Cornwall for Christmas, but she soon finds there is more to her holiday cottage than meets the eye. And on the eve of Juliet’s 100th birthday, Katherine is enlisted to make an old lady’s final Christmas wish come true.</p>
	<p><i>Less</i> Andrew Sean Greer 2017 273 pages 3.73 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world. Question: How do you arrange to skip town? Answer: You accept them all. What would possibly go wrong? Arthur Less will almost fall in love in Paris, barely escape to a Moroccan ski chalet from a Saharan sandstorm, and encounter, on a desert island in the Arabian Sea, the last person on Earth he wants to face. Somewhere in there: he will turn fifty. Through it all, there is his first love. And there is his last.</p>
	<p><i>Let's Take the Long Way Home</i> Gail Caldwell 2010 209 pages 3.94 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>Gail Caldwell has written a powerful and moving memoir about her coming-of-age in mid-life, and her extraordinary friendship with the author Caroline Knapp -- fellow writers, AA members, dog lovers, and observers of life. In her younger years, Caldwell defined herself by rebellion and independence, a passion for books, and an aversion to intimacy and a distrust of others. Then while living in Cambridge in her early 40s, Caldwell adopts a rambunctious puppy named Clementine. On one of their bucolic walks, she meets Caroline and her dog, Lucille, and both women’s lives change forever.</p>
	<p><i>Library Book</i> Susan Orlean 2018 336 pages 3.98 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, “Once that first stack got going, it was ‘Goodbye, Charlie.’” The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?</p>


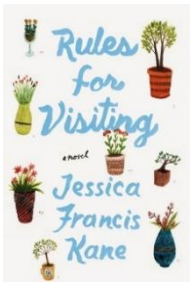
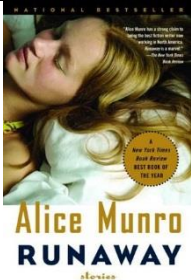
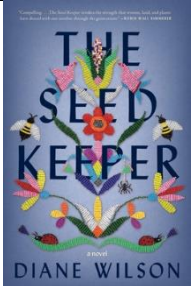
	<p><i>Liar's Dictionary</i> Eley Williams 2021 288 pages 3.44 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Peter Winceworth, Victorian lexicographer, is toiling away at the letter S for Swansby's multivolume Encyclopaedic Dictionary. His disaffection compels him to insert unauthorized fictitious entries into the dictionary in an attempt to assert some sense of individual purpose and artistic freedom. In the present day, Mallory, a young intern employed by the publisher, is tasked with uncovering these mountweazels before the work is digitized. She also has to contend with threatening phone calls from an anonymous caller. Is the change in the definition of marriage really that upsetting? And does the caller really intend for the Swansby's staff to 'burn in hell'? As these two narratives combine, both Winceworth and Mallory discover how they might negotiate the complexities of the often nonsensical, relentless, untrustworthy, hoax-strewn, and undefinable path we call life. This book celebrates the rigidity, fragility, absurdity, and joy of language.</p>
	<p><i>The Life We Bury</i> Allen Eskens 2014 303 pages 3.96 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p><i>The Life We Bury</i> is a mystery novel about a young college student whose assignment in a biography class leads him to investigate a thirty-year-old murder. He finds inconsistencies in the case and realizes the convicted murderer may have been wrongfully accused. This engaging narrative explores the concepts of justice, honesty, and responsibility as Joe seeks to uncover the truth hidden in the past.</p>
	<p><i>The Lions of Fifth Avenue</i> Fiona Davis 2020 354 pages 3.92 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>It's 1913, and Laura Lyons and her husband -- the superintendent of the New York Public Library -- are raising two children in an apartment within the grand building. When Laura applies to the Columbia Journalism School, she finds herself drawn to the Heterodoxy Club -- a radical, all-female group in which women are encouraged to share their opinions on women's rights. When valuable books are stolen from the library, she's forced to confront her shifting priorities. In 1993, Sadie Donovan struggles with the legacy of her grandmother, the famous essayist Laura Lyons, especially after she's wrangled a job as curator at NYPL. When rare manuscripts begin disappearing, Sadie teams up with a private security expert to uncover the culprit. Things unexpectedly become personal when the investigation leads Sadie to some truths about her own family heritage.</p>
	<p><i>Long Bright River</i> Liz Moore 2020 482 pages 4.04 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In a Philadelphia neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. One, Kacey, lives on the streets in the vise of addiction. The other, Mickey, walks those same blocks on her police beat. They don't speak anymore, but Mickey never stops worrying about her sibling. Then Kacey disappears, suddenly, at the same time that a mysterious string of murders begins in Mickey's district, and Mickey becomes dangerously obsessed with finding the culprit -- and her sister -- before it's too late. Alternating its present-day mystery with the story of the sisters' childhood and adolescence, this novel is at once heart-pounding and heart-wrenching: a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate.</p>

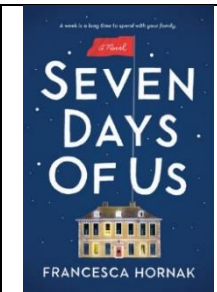
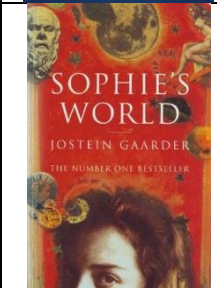
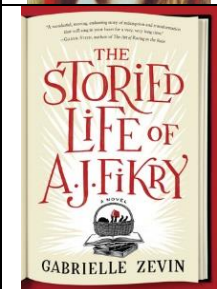
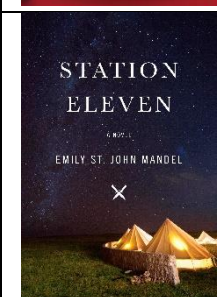
	<p><i>Maid</i> Stephanie Land 2019 270 pages 3.73 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>At 28, Stephanie Land's plans of breaking free from the roots of her hometown in the Pacific Northwest to chase her dreams of attending a university and becoming a writer, were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unplanned pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet. Stephanie worked days and took classes online to earn a college degree and began to write relentlessly. This book explores the secret underbelly of upper middle class Americans and the reality of what it's like to be in service to them. "I'd become a nameless ghost," Stephanie writes about her relationship with her clients, many of whom do not know her from any other cleaner, but who she learns plenty about. As she begins to discover more about her clients' lives, she begins to find hope in her own path. This is Stephanie's story, but it's not hers alone. It is an inspiring testament to the strength, determination, and ultimate triumph of the human spirit.</p>
	<p><i>Manhattan Beach</i> Jennifer Egan 2017 438 pages 3.63 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Anna Kerrigan accompanies her father to visit Dexter Styles, a man who is crucial to the survival of her father and her family. She is mesmerized by the sea beyond the house and by some charged mystery between the two men. Years later, her father has disappeared and the country is at war. Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. She becomes the first female diver, the most dangerous and exclusive of occupations, repairing the ships that will help America win the war. At a nightclub, she meets Dexter Styles again, and begins to understand why her father might have vanished.</p>
	<p><i>Many Hands Make Light Work</i> Cheryl Stritzel McCarthy 2019 289 pages 4.38 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>The rollicking true story of a family of nine children growing up in Ames, Iowa in the '60s and '70s. Cheryl and her siblings are the offspring of an eccentric professor father and unflappable mother. Mindful of their ever-expanding family's need for cash, her parents begin acquiring tumbledown houses in campus-town, to renovate and rent. Dad, is supremely confident his offspring can do anything, whether he's there or not. Mom, an organizational genius, manages nine children so deftly that she finds the time -- and heart -- to take in student boarders, who stir their own offbeat personalities into this unconventional household. The kids, meanwhile, pour concrete, paint houses, and, at odd moments, break into song, because instead of complaining, they sing as they work, like a von Trapp family in painters' caps.</p>
	<p><i>The Marriage Portrait</i> Maggie O'Farrell 2022 355 pages 4.03 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Florence, the 1550s. Lucrezia, third daughter of the grand duke, is comfortable with her obscure place in the palazzo. But when her older sister dies on the eve of her wedding, Lucrezia is thrust unwittingly into the limelight: the duke is quick to request her hand in marriage, and her father just as quick to accept on her behalf. Having barely left girlhood behind, Lucrezia must now enter an unfamiliar court whose customs are opaque and where her arrival is not universally welcomed. Perhaps most mystifying of all is her new husband himself, Alfonso. As Lucrezia sits in constrictive finery for a painting intended to preserve her image for centuries to come, one thing becomes worryingly clear. In the court's eyes, she has one duty: to provide the heir who will shore up the future of the Ferranese dynasty. Until then, for all her rank and nobility, the new duchess' future hangs entirely in the balance.</p>

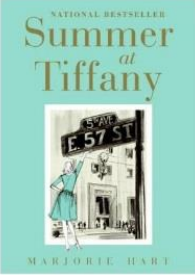
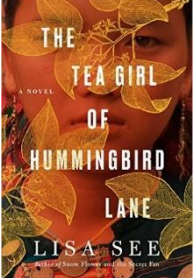

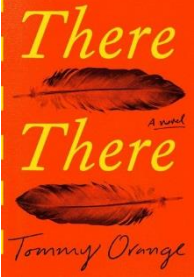
	<p><i>The Memory of Lavender and Sage</i> Aimee K. Runyan 2024 368 pages 4.12 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Food critic Tempèsta Luddington lost her beloved mother at the age of thirteen. When her father passes fifteen years later, Tempèsta is left a modest remembrance from her mother. Lost in grief and hoping to reconnect with her memories and her mother’s past, she uses the money to buy a ramshackle manor house in Sainte-Colombe, a small village in Provence, where her mother had grown up. Her welcome is cold at best, and she finds herself wondering if the entire experiment was a mistake. Yet she stays, slowly learning that her mother’s legacy was more than just a nest egg. Through her mother and the village, Tempèsta learns the value of community and friendship, the importance of self-confidence, and the power of love and trust. What’s more, she sees for herself that there is magic and beauty in the everyday -- even something as simple as a sprig of lavender and sage.</p>
	<p><i>Matrix</i> Lauren Groff 2021 260 pages 3.79 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Cast out of the royal court by Eleanor of Aquitaine, deemed too coarse and rough-hewn for marriage or courtly life, 17-year-old Marie de France is sent to England to be the new prioress of an impoverished abbey, its nuns on the brink of starvation and beset by disease. At first taken aback by the severity of her new life, Marie finds focus and love in collective life with her singular and mercurial sisters. In this crucible, Marie steadily supplants her desire for family, for her homeland, for the passions of her youth with something new to her: devotion to her sisters, and a conviction in her own divine visions. Marie, born the last in a long line of women warriors and crusaders, is determined to chart a bold new course for the women she now leads and protects. But in a world that is shifting and corroding in frightening ways, one that can never reconcile itself with her existence, will the sheer force of Marie's vision be bulwark enough?</p>
	<p><i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> Agatha Christie 1926 286 pages 4.2 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Roger Ackroyd knew too much. He knew that the woman he loved had poisoned her brutal first husband. He suspected also that someone had been blackmailing her. Then, tragically, came the news that she had taken her own life with an apparent drug overdose. However, the evening post brought Roger one last fatal scrap of information, but before he could finish reading the letter, he was stabbed to death. Luckily one of Roger’s friends and the newest resident to retire to this normally quiet village takes over—none other than Monsieur Hercule Poirot.</p>
	<p><i>One Day</i> Gene Weingarten 2019 384 pages / 3.98 stars Nonfiction</p>	<p>On New Year's Day 2013, Gene Weingarten asked three strangers literally to pluck a day, month, and year from a hat. That day turned out to be Sunday, December 28, 1986. Weingarten spent the next six years proving that there is no such thing. That Sunday turned out to be filled with comedy, tragedy, implausible irony, and startling moments of human connection, along with evocative foreshadowing of momentous events yet to come. Lives were lost. Lives were saved. Lives were altered in overwhelming ways. Many of these events never made it into the news; they were private dramas in the lives of private people. They were utterly compelling. One Day asks and answers the question of whether there is even such a thing as "ordinary" when we are talking about how we all lurch and stumble our way through the daily, daunting challenge of being human.</p>

	<p>Ordinary Grace William Kent Krueger 2013 307 pages 4.21 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson’s Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder. Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family— which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother— he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.</p>
	<p>Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline 2013 278 pages 4.15 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Nearly eighteen, Molly Ayer knows she has one last chance. Just months from "aging out" of the child welfare system, and close to being kicked out of her foster home, a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvie and worse. Vivian Daly, 91, has lived a quiet life on the coast of Maine. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance.</p>
	<p>The Paris Apartment Lucy Foley 2022 360 pages 3.69 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Jess needs a fresh start. She’s broke and alone, and she’s just left her job under less than ideal circumstances. Her half-brother Ben didn’t sound thrilled when she asked if she could crash with him for a bit, but he didn’t say no, and surely everything will look better from Paris. Only when she shows up – to find a very nice apartment, could Ben really have afforded this? – he’s not there. The longer Ben stays missing, the more Jess starts to dig into her brother’s situation, and the more questions she has. Ben’s neighbors are an eclectic bunch, and not particularly friendly. Jess may have come to Paris to escape her past, but it’s starting to look like it’s Ben’s future that’s in question.</p>
	<p>Paris in the Present Tense Mark Helprin 2017 394 pages 4.05 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Seventy-four-year-old Jules Lacour -- a maître at Paris-Sorbonne, cellist, widower, veteran of the war in Algeria, and child of the Holocaust -- must find a balance between his strong obligations to the past and the attractions of life and love in the present. Jules is confronted headlong by a series of challenges, forcing him to grapple with his complex past and find a way forward. He risks fraud to save his terminally ill infant grandson, matches wits with a renegade insurance investigator, is drawn into an act of savage violence, and falls deeply, excitingly in love with a young cellist a third his age. Against the backdrop of Paris, he forges a denouement that is staggering in its humanity, elegance, and truth.</p>

	<p><i>Plain Song</i> Kent Haruf 2000 301 pages 4.02 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>In the small town of Holt, Colorado, a high school teacher is confronted with raising his two boys alone after their mother retreats first to the bedroom, then altogether. A teenage girl -- her father long since disappeared, her mother unwilling to have her in the house -- is pregnant, alone herself, with nowhere to go. And out in the country, two brothers, elderly bachelors, work the family homestead, the only world they've ever known. From these unsettled lives emerges a vision of life, and of the town and landscape that bind them together -- their fates somehow overcoming the powerful circumstances of place and station, their confusion, curiosity, dignity and humor intact and resonant.</p>
	<p><i>The Plot</i> Jean Hanf Korelitz 2021 336 pages 3.90 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist. Today, he's teaching in a third-rate MFA program. When his student Evan Parker announces he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book in progress is a sure thing. But Evan Parker's first novel is never published. When Jacob discovers that his former student has died, he writes the novel himself. Soon, Jake is wealthy, famous, praised and read all over the world. At the height of his glorious new life, an e-mail arrives: You are a thief, it says. As Jake struggles to understand his antagonist and hide the truth from his readers and his publishers, he begins to learn more about his late student, and what he discovers both amazes and terrifies him. Who was Evan Parker, and how did he get the idea for his "sure thing" of a novel? What is the real story behind the plot, and who stole it from whom?</p>
	<p><i>Poverty, by America</i> Matthew Desmond 2023 284 pages 4.28 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>The United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages? Sociologist Matthew Desmond shows how affluent Americans knowingly and unknowingly keep poor people poor. Those who are financially secure exploit the poor, driving down their wages while forcing them to overpay for housing and access to cash and credit. We prioritize the subsidization of our wealth over the alleviation of poverty, designing a welfare state that gives the most to those who need the least. And we stockpile opportunity in exclusive communities, creating zones of concentrated riches alongside those of concentrated despair.</p>
	<p><i>Queen's Gambit</i> Walter Tevis 1983 243 pages 4.22 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>When she is sent to an orphanage at the age of eight, Beth Harmon soon discovers two ways to escape her surroundings, albeit fleetingly: playing chess and taking the little green pills given to her and the other children to keep them subdued. Before long, it becomes apparent that hers is a prodigious talent, and as she progresses to the top of the US chess rankings she is able to forge a new life for herself. But she can never quite overcome her urge to self-destruct. For Beth, there's more at stake than merely winning and losing.</p>

	<p>The Reading List Sara Nisha Adams 2021 368 pages 4.09 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Widower Mukesh lives a quiet life after losing his beloved wife. He shops every Wednesday, goes to Temple, and worries about his granddaughter, Priya, who hides in her room reading while he watches nature documentaries. Aleisha is a bright but anxious teenager working at the local library. She discovers a list of novels she's never heard of before on a crumpled-up piece of paper in the back of <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>. Intrigued, she decides to read every book on the list. As the books transport Aleisha from the painful realities she's facing at home, she passes along the reading list to Mukesh who is desperate to forge a connection with his bookworm granddaughter. Slowly, the shared books create a connection between two lonely souls.</p>
	<p>Rules for Visiting Jessica Francis Kane 2019 289 pages 3.76 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>At forty, May Attaway is more at home with plants than people. Over the years, she's turned inward, finding pleasure in language, her work as a gardener, and keeping her neighbors at arm's length while keenly observing them. But when she is unexpectedly granted some leave from her job, May is inspired to reconnect with four once close friends. She knows they will never have a proper reunion, so she goes, one-by-one, to each of them. A student of the classics, May considers her journey a female Odyssey. What might the world have had if, instead of waiting, Penelope had set out on an adventure of her own? This novel is a woman's exploration of friendship in the digital age. Deeply alert to the nobility and the ridiculousness of ordinary people, Though she gets a taste of viral online fame, May chooses to bypass her friends' perfectly cultivated online lives to instead meet them in their messy analog ones. Ultimately, May learns that a best friend is someone who knows your story -- and she inspires us all to master the art of visiting.</p>
	<p>Runaway Alice Munro 2003 335 pages 3.98 stars</p> <p>Short Stories</p>	<p>A collection of extraordinary stories about love and its infinite betrayals and surprises, from the title story about a young woman who, though she thinks she wants to, is incapable of leaving her husband, to three stories about a woman named Juliet and the emotions that complicate the luster of her intimate relationships. In Munro's hands, the people she writes about -- women of all ages and circumstances, and their friends, lovers, parents, and children -- become as vivid as our own neighbors. It is her miraculous gift to make these stories as real and unforgettable as our own.</p>
	<p>The Seed Keeper Diane Wilson 2021 372 pages 4.32 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Rosalie Iron Wing grew up in the woods with her father, Ray, a former science teacher who told her stories of the origins of the Dakota people. When Ray doesn't return from checking his traps, Rosalie is sent to live with a foster family in nearby Mankato. Many years later, Rosalie returns to her childhood home. A widow and mother, she has spent the previous two decades on her white husband's farm, finding solace in her garden even as the farm is threatened first by drought and then by a predatory chemical company. A grieving Rosalie begins to confront the past. She learns what it means to be descended from women who have protected their families, their traditions, and a precious cache of seeds through generations of hardship and loss, through war and the insidious trauma of boarding schools.</p>

	<p><i>Seven Days of Us</i> Francesca Hornak 2017 368 pages 3.69 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>It's Christmas, and for the first time in years the entire Birch family will be under one roof. Even Emma and Andrew's elder daughter -- who is usually off saving the world -- will be joining them at Weyfield Hall, their aging country estate. But Olivia, a doctor, having just returned from treating an epidemic abroad, must stay in quarantine for a week and so, too, should her family. For the next seven days, the Birches are locked down, cut off from the rest of humanity -- and even decent Wi-Fi -- and forced into each other's orbits. In close proximity, not much can stay hidden for long, and as revelations and long-held tensions come to light, nothing is more shocking than the unexpected guest who's about to arrive.</p>
	<p><i>Sophie's World</i> Jostein Gaarder 1991 403 pages 3.94 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>One day fourteen-year-old Sophie Amundsen comes home from school to find in her mailbox two notes, with one question on each: "Who are you?" and "Where does the world come from?" From that irresistible beginning, Sophie becomes obsessed with questions that take her far beyond what she knows of her Norwegian village. Through those letters, she enrolls in a kind of correspondence course, covering Socrates to Sartre, with a mysterious philosopher, while receiving letters addressed to another girl. Who is Hilde? And why does her mail keep turning up? To unravel this riddle, Sophie must use the philosophy she is learning -- but the truth turns out to be far more complicated than she could have imagined.</p>
	<p><i>The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry</i> Gabrielle Zevin 2014 260 pages 3.99 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died; his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history; and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. He is isolating himself from all the people of Alice Island -- from Chief Lambiase, the well-intentioned police officer; from Ismay, his sister-in-law; from Amelia, the Knightley Press sales rep. Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. And then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore. Its unexpected arrival gives A.J. the opportunity to make his life over. It doesn't take long for the locals to notice the change overcoming A.J., for the wisdom of all those books to become again the lifeblood of A.J.'s world. Or for everything to twist again into a version of his life that he didn't see coming.</p>
	<p><i>Station Eleven</i> Emily St. John Mandel 2014 333 pages 4.07 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time -- from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains -- this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people: the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet.</p>

	<p><i>Summer at Tiffany</i> Marjorie Hart 2007 258 pages 3.67 stars Nonfiction</p>	<p>In 1945, Marjorie Jacobson and her best friend, Marty Garrett, arrive fresh from the Kappa house at the University of Iowa to New York City hoping to find summer positions as shopgirls. They find jobs as pages at Tiffany & Co., becoming the first women to ever work on the sales floor. Hart takes us back to the magical time when she and Marty rubbed elbows with the rich and famous; pinched pennies to eat at the Automat; experienced nightlife at La Martinique; and danced away their weekends with dashing midshipmen. Between being dazzled by Judy Garland's honeymoon visit to Tiffany, celebrating VJ Day in Times Square, and mingling with Cafe society, she fell in love, learned unforgettable lessons, made important decisions that would change her future, and created the remarkable memories she now shares with all of us.</p>
	<p><i>The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane</i> Lisa See 2017 384 pages 4.28 stars Fiction</p>	<p>In their remote mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. For the Akha people, ensconced in ritual and routine, life goes on as it has for generations -- until a stranger appears at the village gate in a jeep, the first automobile any of the villagers has ever seen. As Li-yan comes into herself, leaving her village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive parents. Despite her privileged childhood, Haley wonders about her origins. Across the ocean Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Over the course of years, each searches for meaning in the study of Pu'er, the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for centuries.</p>
	<p><i>Then She Was Gone</i> Lisa Jewell 2018 359 pages 4.05 stars Fiction</p>	<p>Ellie Mack was the perfect daughter. She was fifteen, the youngest of three. She was days away from an idyllic post-exams summer vacation, with her whole life ahead of her. And then she was gone. Now, her mother Laurel Mack is trying to put her life back together. It's been ten years since her daughter disappeared, seven years since her marriage ended, and only months since the last clue in Ellie's case was unearthed. So when she meets an unexpectedly charming man in a cafe, no one is more surprised than Laurel at how quickly their flirtation develops into something deeper. Before she knows it, she's meeting Floyd's daughters -- and his youngest, Poppy, takes Laurel's breath away. Because looking at Poppy is like looking at Ellie. And now, the unanswered questions she's tried so hard to put to rest begin to haunt Laurel anew.</p>
	<p><i>There There</i> Tommy Orange 2018 294 pages 3.99 stars Fiction</p>	<p>A multigenerational story about violence and recovery, memory and identity, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people. It tells the story of twelve characters, each of whom have private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. Jacquie Red Feather is newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind in shame. Dene Oxendene is pulling his life back together after his uncle's death and has come to work at the powwow to honor his uncle's memory. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield has come to watch her nephew Orvil, who has taught himself traditional Indian dance through YouTube videos and has come to the powwow to dance in public for the very first time. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and unspeakable loss.</p>

	<p><i>This Tender Land</i> William Kent Krueger 2019 450 pages 4.39 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>1932, Minnesota -- the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O'Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent's wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift. With the feel of a modern classic, this novel is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole.</p>
	<p><i>The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry</i> Rachel Joyce 2012 320 pages 3.91 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Meet Harold Fry, recently retired. He lives in a small English village with his wife, Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. One morning, within the stack of mail is a letter addressed to Harold in a shaky scrawl from a woman he hasn't seen or heard from in twenty years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. Harold pens a quick reply and, leaving Maureen to her chores, heads to the corner mailbox. But then, as happens in the very best works of fiction, Harold has a chance encounter, one that convinces him that he absolutely must deliver his message to Queenie in person. And thus begins the unlikely pilgrimage. Harold Fry is determined to walk six hundred miles from Kingsbridge to the hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed because, he believes, as long as he walks, Queenie Hennessey will live.</p>
	<p><i>We Had a Little Real Estate Problem</i> Kliph Nesteroff 2021 319 pages 4.11 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>Comedy historian Kliph Nesteroff focuses on one of comedy's most significant and little-known stories: how, despite having been denied representation in the entertainment industry, Native Americans have influenced and advanced the art form. The account begins in the late 1880s, when Native Americans were forced to tour in wild west shows as an alternative to prison. The book then looks at the life and work of figures such as Cherokee humorist Will Rogers and Charlie Hill. Also profiled are several contemporary comedians, including Jonny Roberts; Kiowa-Apache comic Adrienne Chalepah; and the 1491s, a sketch troupe whose satire is smashing stereotypes to critical acclaim. As Ryan Red Corn, the Osage member of the 1491s, says: "The American narrative dictates that Indians are supposed to be sad. It's not really true and it's not indicative of the community experience itself. Laughter and joy is very much a part of Native culture."</p>
	<p><i>We Heard it when We Were Young</i> Chuy Renteria 2021 221 pages 4.31 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>West Liberty was the first majority Hispanic town in Iowa. Chuy Renteria tells the story of a young boy, first-generation Mexican American, who is torn between cultures: between immigrant parents trying to acclimate to midwestern life and a town that is, by turns, supportive and disturbingly antagonistic. Renteria looks past the public celebrations of diversity to dive into the private tensions of a community reflecting the changing American landscape. There are culture clashes, breakdancing battles, fistfights, quinceaneras, vandalism, adventures on bicycles, and souped-up lowriders, all set to an early 2000s soundtrack. Renteria and his friends struggle to find their identities and reckon with intergenerational trauma and racism in a town trying to do the same.</p>

	<p><i>When We Believed in Mermaids</i> Barbara O'Neal 2019 352 pages 4.24 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>Josie Bianci was killed years ago on a train during a terrorist attack. It's what her sister, Kit, an ER doctor in Santa Cruz, has always believed. Yet all it takes is a few heart-wrenching seconds to upend Kit's world. Live coverage of a club fire in Auckland has captured the image of a woman stumbling through the smoke and debris. Her resemblance to Josie is unbelievable. With it comes a flood of emotions that Kit finally has a chance to put to rest by finding the sister who's been living a lie. Kit begins her journey with the memories of the past. Now, if two sisters are to reunite, it can only be by unearthing long-buried secrets and facing a devastating truth that has kept them apart far too long. To regain their relationship, they may have to lose everything.</p>
	<p><i>Where the Forest Meets the Stars</i> Glendy Vanderah 2019 332 pages 4.12 stars</p> <p>Fiction</p>	<p>After the loss of her mother and her own battle with breast cancer, Joanna Teale returns to her graduate research on nesting birds in rural Illinois, determined to prove that her recent hardships have not broken her. She throws herself into her work, until her solitary routine is disrupted by the appearance of a mysterious child who shows up at her cabin barefoot and covered in bruises. The girl calls herself Ursa, and she claims to have been sent from the stars to witness five miracles. With concerns about the child's home situation, Jo reluctantly agrees to let her stay. Jo enlists the help of her reclusive neighbor, Gabriel Nash, to solve the mystery of the charming child. But the more time they spend together, the more questions they have. How does a young girl not only read but understand Shakespeare? Why do good things keep happening in her presence? And why aren't Jo and Gabe checking the missing children's website anymore?</p>
	<p><i>Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?</i> Caitlin Doughty 2019 232 pages 4.13 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>Everyone has questions about death. Author and mortician Caitlin Doughty answers the most intriguing questions she's ever received about what happens to our bodies when we die. In a brisk, informative, and morbidly funny style, Doughty explores everything from ancient Egyptian death rituals and the science of skeletons to flesh-eating insects and the proper depth at which to bury your pet if you want Fluffy to become a mummy. Featuring an interview with a clinical expert on discussing these issues with young people -- the source of some of our most revealing questions about death -- this book confronts our common fear of dying with candid, honest, and hilarious facts about what awaits the body we leave behind.</p>
	<p><i>A Woman of No Importance</i> Sonia Purnell 2019 352 pages 4.14 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her." This spy was Virginia Hall, a young American woman -- rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg -- who talked her way into the spy organization deemed Churchill's "ministry of ungentlemanly warfare," and, before the United States had even entered the war, became the first woman to deploy to occupied France. Virginia Hall was one of the greatest spies in American history, yet her story remains untold.</p>

	<p><i>The Woman They Could Not Silence</i> Kate Moore 2021 560 pages 4.31 stars</p> <p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>1860: As the clash between the states rolls slowly to a boil, Elizabeth Packard, housewife and mother of six, is facing her own battle. The enemy sits across the table and sleeps in the next room. Her husband of twenty-one years is plotting against her because he feels increasingly threatened - by Elizabeth's intellect, independence, and unwillingness to stifle her own thoughts. So Theophilus makes a plan to put his wife back in her place. One summer morning, he has her committed to an insane asylum. The horrific conditions inside the Illinois State Hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois, are overseen by Dr. Andrew McFarland, a man who will prove to be even more dangerous to Elizabeth than her traitorous husband. But most disturbing is that Elizabeth is not the only sane woman confined to the institution. There are many rational women on her ward who tell the same story: they've been committed not because they need medical treatment, but to keep them in line -- conveniently labeled "crazy" so their voices are ignored. No one is willing to fight for their freedom and, disenfranchised both by gender and the stigma of their supposed madness, they cannot possibly fight for themselves. But Elizabeth is about to discover that the merit of losing everything is that you then have nothing to lose.</p>
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