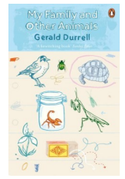
The lost season of love and snow by Jennifer Laam. Based on the fascinating, true story of the wife and muse of Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, Natalya, a woman much admired at court, but would become reviled for her role in Pushkin's death. **Tamara Rusnak**

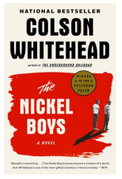
Maybe you should talk to someone: a therapist, her therapist, and our lives revealed by Lori Gottlieb. A behind-the-scenes tour of a therapist's world from the perspective of both a psychotherapist and a patient, who found answers in her client's journeys. (📖) **Carole McMillan**

The midnight library by Matt Haig. Nora has the chance to change her life and undo past mistakes, but must first search within herself on a journey through the Midnight Library to find what will truly fulfill her. (🎧) **Aimee Daly**

Miss Benson's beetle by Rachel Joyce. In post-WWII London, a school teacher impulsively quits her job and sets out with an unlikely companion on an adventure across oceans in search of an insect that may not exist: the golden beetle of New Caledonia. **Joan Tweedie**

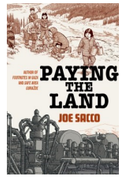
My family and other animals by Gerald Durrell. A comical memoir of his family's five years living on the Greek island of Corfu in the 1930s, with a naturalist's eye for the local flora and fauna. **Kirsten De Launiere**





The nickel boys by Colson Whitehead. For a black boy in the Jim Crow South in the 1960s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy your future. Based on the Dozier Reform School in Florida that operated for over a century. Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize. **Katie Marti**

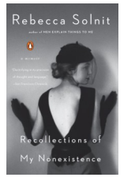
Paying the land by Joe Sacco. Sacco's vivid illustrations use the words of the Dene people of Canada's far north to tell their stories in a startling depiction of the Indigenous struggle to preserve traditions in the face of loss. **Jeff Taylor**



The perfect nanny by Leila Slimani. Follows the relationship between a working French-Moroccan couple and their "perfect" nanny, whose devotion to their children spirals into a psychologically charged descent of jealousy and violence. **Jennifer Mao**

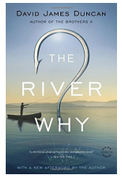
A promised land by Barack Obama. The long anticipated memoir penned by the president who inspired new hope in America while facing many obstacles leading up to and throughout his years in the Oval Office. (📖) **Danielle Stokes Beare**

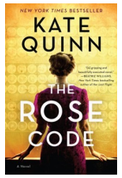
Recollections of my nonexistence: a memoir by Rebecca Solnit. Recalling her formation as a writer and feminist in 1980s San Francisco, the author describes the influences that gave her a voice. **Ryan Dewar**



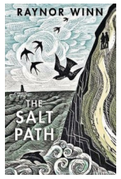
A rising man (Sam Wyndham; 1) by Abir Mukherjee. Wanting a fresh start, Captain Sam Wyndham takes up a post in Calcutta's police force in 1919 as the Empire is starting to crumble, and is soon called to the scene of a murder. **Tony Goodman, Joan Tweedie**

The river why by David James Duncan. Young flyfishing genius Gus Orviston, escaping his world-famous father and cowgirl mother, embarks on a wilderness quest for meaning that presents him with an unexpected task. **Mark Turner**

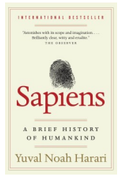




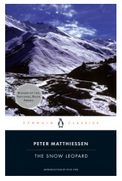
The rose code by Kate Quinn. As England prepared for war, three women were hired to break German codes and translate their secrets. Years later, the friendship is resurrected by a mysterious, encrypted letter. (🎧) **Roxanne Kingsbury**



The salt path by Raynor Winn. In a true story of what is lost and found, Raynor and Moth Winn, faced with Moth's terminal illness and losing their farm, embark on a life-affirming journey walking the 630-mile South West Coast Path in England. **Shona Lazin**

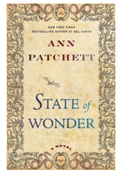


Sapiens: a brief history of humankind by Yuval Noah Harari. The story of how an insignificant ape became ruler of Earth, capable of splitting the atom, flying to the Moon, and manipulating life's genetic code. (🎧) (📖) **Tony Goodman, Laura Miller, Joan Tweedie**

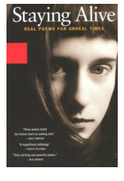


The snow leopard by Peter Matthieson. On his 85-day Himalayan trek in the 1970s, Matthieson searches for the elusive snow leopard while seeking the Lama of Shey, a holy man living in an isolated monastery. **Stewart Hill**

Spinning silver by Naomi Novik. In this retelling of the Rumpelstiltskin tale, Miryem's father's inability to collect his debts prompts her to take matters into her own hands, soon gaining a dangerous reputation for turning silver into gold. (🎧) (📖) **Lauren Dreyer**

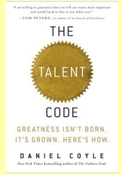


State of wonder by Ann Patchett. Marina Singh is sent into the Amazonian delta to check on a pharmaceutical field team that has been silent for two years, a journey that forces her to confront the ghosts of her past. **Janine Dukes**



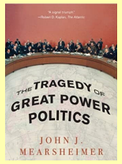
Staying alive: real poems for unreal times edited by Neil Astley. An anthology of 500 contemporary poems exploring themes of passion, spirituality, death, and friendship, with contributions by such poets as Mary Oliver, W. H. Auden, and Maya Angelou. **Stuart Hill**

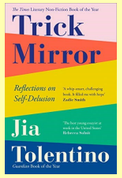
The talent code by Daniel Coyle. Explaining how to grow talent by tapping into a newly discovered brain mechanism, Coyle identifies the three key elements that will allow you to develop your gifts in sports, art, music, math, or just about anything. **Reagan Daly**



The tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris. Based on the true story of an Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor who uses his position as the concentration camp tattooist to help his fellow prisoners survive. (🎧) (📖) **Linda Vanderdonck**

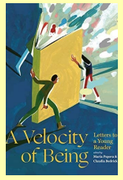
The tragedy of great power politics by John Mearsheimer. Explaining his theory of "offensive realism", Mearsheimer discusses the methods used by states to ensure their survival through military strength and regional dominance. **Tony Goodman**





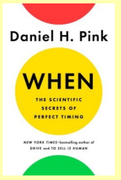
Trick mirror: reflections on self-delusion by Jia Tolentino. Presents nine original essays examining the fractures at the center of culture today, offering insights into the conflicts, contradictions, incentives and changes related to the rise of toxic social networking. **Laurie Parker**

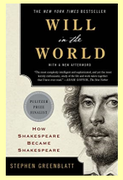
The vanishing half by Brit Bennett. The twin Vignes sisters grew up in a small, southern black community, both running away at age sixteen and taking different paths. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter while the other secretly passes for white, but their fates remain intertwined. (🎧) **Janine Dukes**



A velocity of being: letters to a young reader edited by Maria Popova and Claudia Bedrick. A collection of 121 letters by authors, artists, entrepreneurs, scientists and philosophers, on the impact of books and reading on their lives. **Joan Tweedie**

When: the scientific secrets of perfect timing by Daniel H. Pink. Drawing on research from psychology, biology, neuroscience, and economics, looks at the scientific secrets of good timing and shares practical advice and anecdotes for living a richer, more engaged life. **Ritch Primrose**





Will in the world: how Shakespeare became Shakespeare by Stephen Greenblatt. The author takes us back in time to see, hear and feel how an acutely sensitive and talented boy, surrounded by the rich world of Elizabethan life, rose to become the world's greatest playwright. **Rob Lampard**

Windfall (A Henry Lysyk mystery ; 1) by Byron T.D. Smith. To protect themselves from a mysterious stalker, an accountant, his niece and an artist must investigate a four decades-old hijacking case. **Adrian French**

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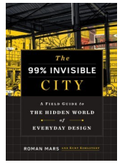
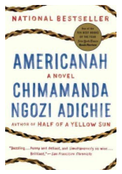


The 99% invisible city: a field guide to the hidden world of everyday design by Roman Mars and Kurt Kohlstedt. Based on the 99% Invisible podcast, this book reveals the unknown stories baked into the buildings we inhabit. **Chris Bateman**

Acts of desperation by Megan Nolan. A debut author presents a novel about love addiction and secret female desire explored through a toxic relationship. **Brad Edgington**

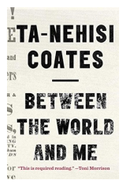
American dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Their lives suddenly transformed into those of migrants, Lydia and Luca take trains north, dangerously making their way to the U.S. to avoid the reach of a terrifying drug cartel. **Aimee Daly**



Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Separated by their ambitions after falling in love in Nigeria under a military dictatorship, Ifemelu experiences triumph and defeat in America, while Obinze endures illegal status in London until the pair reunite in their changed homeland 15 years later. **Ryan Dewar**

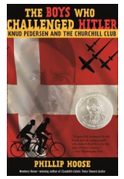
Anxious people by Fredrik Backman. The quirky tale of a crime that never happened, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers with more in common than they ever imagined. **Valerie Pike**

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan. In WWII Italy, young Pino Lella helps Jews escape over the Alps, falls for a beautiful widow and becomes the personal driver of one of the Third Reich's most powerful men. Based on a true story. **Simone Kuklinski**

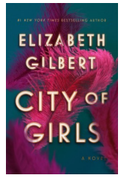


Between the world and me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Written as a letter to his teenaged son, Coates shares his personal experiences in the context of America's racial history and current crisis, in a deeply moving account of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world. **Kim Edgington**

The book of lost names by Kristen Harmel. As a Polish art student in World War II France working to forge identity documents for hundreds of Jewish children fleeing the Nazis, Eva finds that erasing people comes with a price, and tries to find a way to save the true names of those too young to remember who they are. Based on a true story.
Danielle Stokes Beare

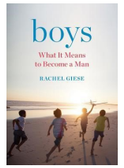


The boys who challenged Hitler: Knud Pederson and the Churchill Club by Philip Hoose. At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, 15-year-old Knud Pedersen and his friends sow the seeds for the Danish resistance. **Kevin Mennie**

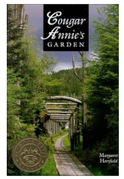


City of girls by Elizabeth Gilbert. Traces the experiences of a theater insider in 1940s New York City, who discovers she does not have to be a "good girl" in order to be a good person. **Lauren Mavrikos**

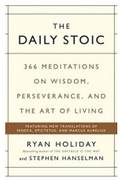
The coddling of the American mind: how good intentions and bad ideas are setting up a generation for failure by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. by Elizabeth Gilbert. A study of how untruths woven into education result in a culture of "safetyism" that interferes with young people's healthy development. **Leanne Hart**



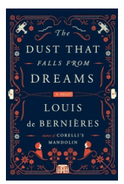
Boys: what is means to become a man by Rachel Giese. A sweeping examination of today's culture of toxic masculinity draws on the perspectives of educators, students and parents to explore how gender stereotypes can hinder social-emotional development in boys. **Denise Lamarche**



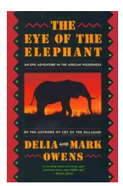
Cougar Annie's garden by Margaret Horsfield. The haunting tale of a five-acre garden in the wilderness of Boat Basin, Vancouver Island. Inaccessible and remote, it has endured for over a century, rich with legend and history, and the life and losses of Ada "Cougar Annie" Rae-Arthur.
David Lynch



The daily stoic : 366 meditations on wisdom, perseverance, and the art of living by Ryan Holiday and Stephen Hanselman. A year of insights and exercises from the ancient Stoics to help readers find the serenity, self-knowledge, and resilience needed to live life well. **Reagan Daly**

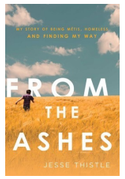


The dust that falls from dreams by Louis de Bernières. This first novel in the Daniel Pitt trilogy reminded me of our first days in Canada, in Penticton, B.C.. It is a family saga, tracing its ups and downs across the 20th century. After distinguished service in the Second World War, the protagonist ends up in Penticton, which he regards as the most wonderful place in the world. **Joan Tweedie**



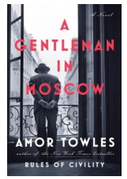
The eye of the elephant: an epic adventure in the African wilderness by Delia and Mark Owens. The authors recount their life in the North Laungwa Valley of Zambia and their battle to save elephants from poachers, which turned into a fight for their own lives. **Allison Weir**

The four winds by Kristin Hannah. Millions are out of work and a drought has devastated the Great Plains in Texas in 1934, where the Dust Bowl has arrived with a vengeance. In this uncertain and dangerous time, Elsa Martinelli fights for the land she loves. **Joan Tweedie**

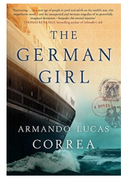


From the ashes: my story of being Metis, homeless, and finding my way by Jesse Thistle. The author shares his journey in foster care, of becoming homeless and addicted, and eventually finding his true identity. **Ritch Primrose**

The forest laird: a tale of William Wallace by Jack Whyte. In London's Smithfield Prison in 1305, condemned patriot William Wallace imparts the remarkable story of the Scottish Wars of Independence to a priest in the pre-dawn hours before his execution.
Bill Buckingham



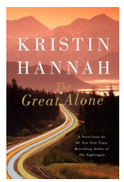
A gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. Deemed an unrepentant nobleman by a Bolshevik tribunal in 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to a life of house arrest in the Hotel Metropol, where he lives in the attic while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history unfold. **Diana Nason**



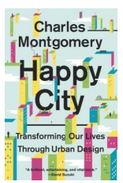
The German girl by Armando Lucas Correa. Stripped of her family's privileges by the Nazi party, Hannah Rosenthal swears loyalty to her best friend, Leo, before boarding the MS St. Louis bound for Cuba, but rumors of a deadly plot force her to make an impossible choice. **Monica Jackson**

Go do some great thing: the Black pioneers of British Columbia by Crawford Kilian. The journey north of Black migrants from San Francisco to B.C. during the 1858 Fraser Gold Rush was one of the most unusual migrations in North American history. Includes new research since the first edition in 1978. **David Lynch**

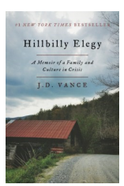
The goldfinch by Donna Tartt. Taken in by a wealthy family after surviving an accident that killed his mother, young Theo Decker reinvents himself and finds his way into the New York art underworld, seeking a rare painting.
Judy Tobacco



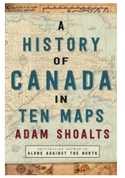
The great alone by Kristin Hannah. When her volatile, former POW father impulsively moves the family to mid-1970s Alaska to live off the land, young Leni and her mother are forced to confront the dangers of their lack of preparedness in the wake of a dangerous winter season. **David Kerr**



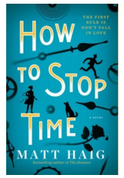
Happy city: transforming our lives through urban design by Charles Montgomery. An investigation of socioeconomic theories of happiness confirms why most modern cities are designed to make us miserable, what we can do to change this, and why we have more to learn from the poor cities than the prosperous ones. **Graham Lilly, Danielle Stokes Beare**



Hillbilly elegy: a memoir of a family and culture in crisis by J.D. Vance. An account of growing up in the Rust Belt, and a broad, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Vance, a Yale Law School graduate, describes what social, regional, and class decline feels like when you are born with it hung around your neck.
Laura Miller



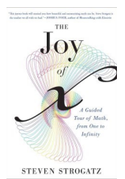
A history of Canada in ten maps: epic stories of charting a mysterious land by Adam Shoalts. Brings to life the characters and the bloody disputes that forged our history, by showing us what Canada looked like before it entered the history books. **Angus Henderson**



How to stop time by Matt Haig. While he may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, owing to a rare condition, Tom Hazard has been alive for centuries. Unfortunately for Tom, the powerful and secretive group that protects people like him has just one rule: never fall in love. **Alicia Schlag**

Humankind: a hopeful history by Rutger Bregman. The popular Dutch historian challenges our conceptions of an innately selfish human race by offering new historical and evolutionary perspectives that argue we are actually hardwired for kindness, trust and cooperation. **Clayton Daum**

The inconvenient Indian: a curious account of Native people in North America by Thomas King. A critical, personal meditation spanning 50 years on what it means to be "Indian"—with all its implications, misconceptions, pain and magic. **Lawrence Wong**



The joy of X: a guided tour of mathematics, from one to infinity by Steven Strogatz. Explains math's big ideas gently and clearly, starting with why numbers are helpful, and moving on to such topics as shapes, calculus, fat tails, and infinity. **Mathew Geddes**

The kitchen house by Kathleen Grissom. Lavinia, orphaned on a journey from Ireland, begins work in the kitchen house of a tobacco plantation and bonds with the slaves who become her adopted family, but her loyalties are later challenged when she moves to the big house.
Linda Vanderdonck

The last painting of Sara de Vos by Dominic Smith. Decades after reluctantly forging the only surviving landscape by a 17th-century female Dutch master, Sara curates an exhibit and risks exposure when both the original and her old forgery arrive.
Tamara Rusnak

Continued... (over)