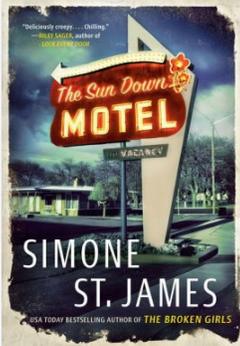




Summer Reading Recommendations



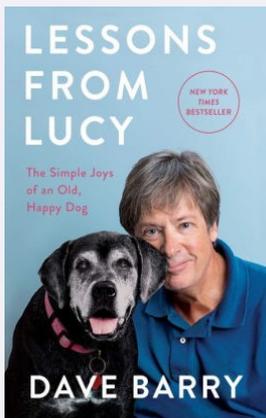
The Sun Down Motel (Suspense/Thriller) by Simone St. James

Upstate New York, 1982. Viv Delaney wants to move to New York City, and to help pay for it she takes a job as the night clerk at the Sun Down Motel in Fell, New York. But something isn't right at the motel, something haunting and scary.

Upstate New York, 2017. Carly Kirk has never been able to let go of the story of her aunt Viv, who mysteriously disappeared from the Sun Down. She decides to move to Fell and visit the motel, where she quickly learns that nothing has changed since 1982. She soon finds herself ensnared in the same mysteries that claimed Viv.

How to Cocktail: Recipes and Techniques for Building the Best Drinks (Food/Drink) by America's Test Kitchens

My Summer Reading Recommendations have always been for members of the staff, for adults. I hope that this book suggestion doesn't offend anyone. For me, creative cocktails have been a fun way to practice social distancing and stay at home. Cocktail making is part art and part science. The first-ever cocktail book from America's Test Kitchen brings a kitchen-tested and perfected approach to the craft of making cocktails. You always want your cocktail to be something special--whether you're in the mood for a simple Negroni, a properly muddled Caipirinha, or a big batch of Margaritas or Bloody Marys with friends.

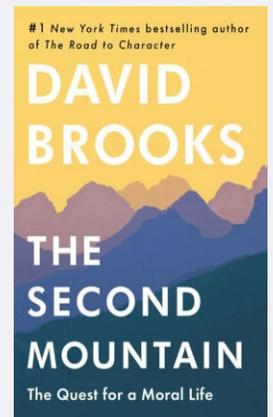


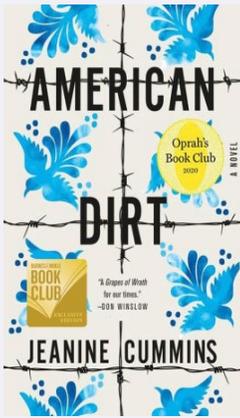
Lessons from Lucy: The Simple Joys of an Old, Happy Dog (Humor) by Dave Barry

AARP may be telling us that we are getting better with age, but humorist Dave Barry isn't buying it. Turning 70, he is not particularly happy with his slower, grayer self. To combat these feelings, Barry turns to his dog Lucy, who is also 70, in dog years. He highlights lessons gleaned from years of watching his dog, like have fun, spend time with people you love, cut back on possessions, and be honest. Between baby boomers, dog lovers, self-help enthusiasts, and humor seekers, this piece is ready to entertain all audiences and book club members.

The Second Mountain: How People Move from the Prison of Self to the Joy of Commitment (Introspection) by David Brooks

This book was recommended to me by Adam Foote. Life, for many of us, follows a two-mountain shape. We get out of school, we start a career, and we begin climbing the mountain. Our goals on this first mountain are the ones culture endorses: to be a success, to make your mark, to experience personal happiness. But when we get to the top of that mountain, something happens. We look around and find the view...unsatisfying. We realize: This wasn't my mountain after all. There's another, bigger mountain out there that is actually my mountain. And so we embark on a new journey. Apparently, Adam found HIS second mountain:)



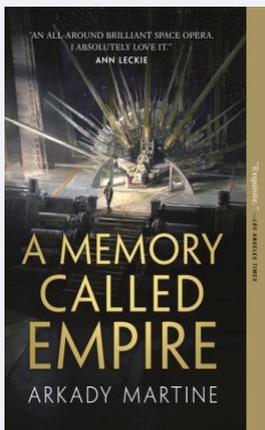


American Dirt (Fiction) by Jeanine Cummins

When advanced copies of this novel came out, many were excited for its full release, as Cummins' tale of immigration captivated readers from the first sentence. I was one of those readers! However, this novel is now mired in controversy (that I don't buy into) since the author herself is neither brown nor an immigrant. Regardless of the controversy, *American Dirt* will change you. As Oprah says, "Everybody who reads this book is actually going to be immersed in the experience of what it means to be a migrant on the run for freedom." I was so personally invested in Lydia and her son, Lucas, that students in the library would ask me what was so interesting about the book. It was that evident that this novel had an impact on me and hopefully you as well.

The Nickel Boys (Fiction) by Colson Whitehead

I have recommended this writer to you before when I encouraged you to read *The Underground Railroad*. Now, with his latest release, *The Nickel Boys*, Whitehead sheds light on the cruel and dehumanizing legacy of the Jim Crow Era. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner. Life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, leading to a decision with repercussions that will echo through the decades. This novel is based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children.

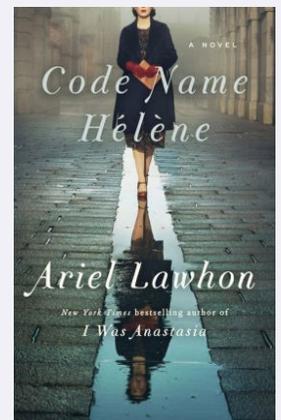


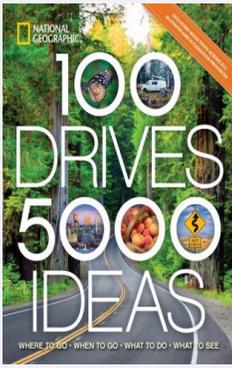
A Memory Called Empire (Science Fiction) by Arkady Martine

The Lsel Ambassador, Mahit Dzmare arrives for her first assignment to Teixcalaan, only to discover that her predecessor is dead and the technology used on Lsel that could allow her to communicate with him is not working. It doesn't take her long to figure out that sabotage and murder are likely involved. With the help of newfound allies and her own abilities, Mahit navigates a political minefield. Revolution from within the Empire begins even as a new threat looms over her home of Lsel. Mahit must protect her home at all costs in this complex world where poetry is the language of history, culture, and communication. Lovers of science fiction who are ready to make the jump from Robert Heinlein, Frank Herbert, or Andre Norton will enjoy this selection.

Code Name Helene ("Women in Focus" Historical Fiction) by Ariel Lawhon

Lawhon's novel dramatizes the valor of a gutsy, real-life woman molded by war, sacrifice, and love. In February of 1944, Nancy Wake, sporting her trademark red lipstick, parachutes into France on a Special Operations Executive mission to organize, fund, arm, and train bands of local resistance fighters in preparation for D-Day. Back in 1936, with increasing dangers posed by Hitler, Nancy is a determined Australian expat journalist embarking on a tantalizing romance with a handsome industrialist, Henri Fiocca. As these separate timelines move forward, they play off one another masterfully, pivoting at just the right moment to augment tension. This novel highlights Nancy's fighting spirit through a propulsive narrative, with her comrades-in-arms as well-rendered secondary characters. Her journey to becoming a fierce, powerful leader is as emotionally stirring as her bond with Henri. This tale illuminates a female character as fierce, driven, and dynamic!



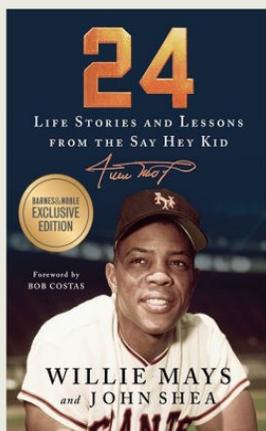
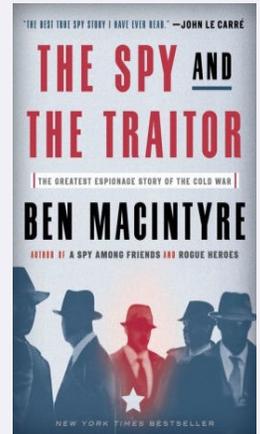


100 Drives, 5000 Ideas: Where to Go, When to Go, What to Do, What to See (Travel) by Joe Yogerst, National Geographic

Buckle up for the road trip of a lifetime: 100 epic journeys through all 50 states and 10 Canadian provinces offering thousands of sites and roadside attractions along the way. From a vineyard route through Northwest wine country to a winter wonderland on Alberta's Icefields Parkway, this informative travel guide offers epic sights, good bites, and pure fun. Pack your car and hit the road to experience 100 drives. You'll find innovative itineraries outlining your route, along with when to go and what to see and do along the way. And there's something here to satisfy every passenger.

The Spy and the Traitor: The Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War (Biography) by Ben Macintyre

This best-selling biography is a portrayal of Oleg Gordievsky, the Russian whose secret work helped hasten the collapse of the Soviet Union. Gordievsky is the son of two KGB agents and the product of the best Soviet institutions. This savvy and sophisticated spy grew to see his nation's communism as both criminal and philistine. He took his first posting for Russian intelligence in 1968 and eventually became the Soviet Union's top man in London, but from 1973 on he was secretly working for MI6. For nearly a decade Gordievsky helped the West turn the tables on the KGB, exposing Russian spies and helping to foil countless intelligence plots, as the Soviet leadership grew increasingly paranoid at the United States' nuclear first-strike capabilities and brought the world closer to the brink of war.



24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid (Sports Memoir) by Willie Mays and John Shea

Widely regarded as the greatest all-around player in baseball history because of his unparalleled hitting, defense and base running, the beloved Willie Mays offers people of all ages his lifetime of experience meeting challenges with positivity, integrity and triumph in *24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid*. This memoir, released this month, is presented in 24 chapters to correspond with his universally recognized uniform number. Willie's memoir provides more than the story of his role in America's pastime. It is also the story of a man who values family and community, engages in charitable causes especially involving children and follows a philosophy that encourages hope, hard work and the fulfillment of dreams.

One Perfect Summer (Romance) by Brenda Novak

When Serenity Alston swabbed her cheek for 23andMe, she joked about uncovering some dark ancestral scandal. The last thing she expected was to discover two half sisters she didn't know existed. Suddenly, everything about her loving family is drawn into question. And meeting these newfound sisters might be the only way to get answers.

The women decide to dig into the mystery together at Serenity's family cabin in Lake Tahoe. With Reagan navigating romantic politics at work and Lorelei staring down the collapse of her marriage, all three women are converging at a crossroads in their lives. Before the summer is over, they'll have to confront the past and determine how to move forward when everything they previously thought to be true was a lie. But any future is easier to face with family by your side.

