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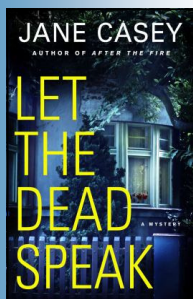
Readers' Advisory Committee

STAFF PICKS

SEPTEMBER 2017

To find on the web go to www.nccde.org/libraries and click on "What Do I Read Next"

FICTION



LET THE DEAD SPEAK BY JANE CASEY

(PICKED BY SLS)

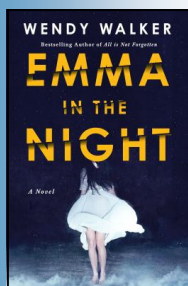
When eighteen-year-old Chloe Emery returns to her West London home she finds her mother missing, the house covered in blood. Everything points to murder, except there's no sign of the body. London detective Maeve Kerrigan and the homicide team turn their attention to the neighbors. The ultra-religious Norrises are acting suspiciously; their teenage daughter and Chloe Emery definitely have something to hide. Then there's William Turner, once accused of stabbing a schoolmate and the neighborhood's favorite criminal. Is he merely a scapegoat, or is there more behind the charismatic façade? As a body fails to materialize, Maeve must piece together a patchwork of testimonies and accusations. Who is lying, and who is not? And soon Maeve starts to realize that not only will the answer lead to Kate Emery, but more lives may hang in the balance. (352 pages)



MRS. FLETCHER BY TOM PERROTTA

(PICKED BY SM)

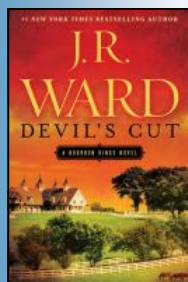
Eve Fletcher is trying to figure out what comes next. A forty-six-year-old divorcee whose only child has just left for college, Eve is struggling to adjust to her empty nest when one night her phone lights up with a text message, "U R my MILF!" Over the months that follow, that message comes to obsess Eve. While leading her all-too-placid life—serving as Executive Director of the local senior center by day and taking a community college course on Gender and Society at night—Eve can't curtail her own interest in a porn website called MILFateria.com. Before long, Eve's online fixations begin to spill over into real life, revealing new romantic possibilities that threaten to upend her quiet suburban existence. Meanwhile, at the state college, Eve's son Brendan—a jock and aspiring frat boy—discovers that his new campus isn't nearly as welcoming to his hard-partying lifestyle as he had imagined. Brendan is floundering in a college environment that challenges his white-dude privilege and shames him for his outmoded, chauvinistic ideas of sex. As the New England autumn turns cold, both mother and son find themselves enmeshed in morally fraught situations that come to a head on one fateful November night. (309 pages)



EMMA IN THE NIGHT BY WENDY WALKER

(PICKED BY SLS)

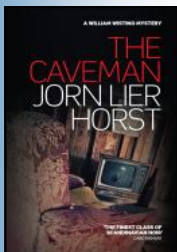
One night three years ago, the Tanner sisters disappeared: fifteen-year-old Cass and seventeen-year-old Emma. Three years later, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Her story is one of kidnapping and betrayal, of a mysterious island where the two were held. But to forensic psychiatrist Dr. Abby Winter, something doesn't add up. Looking deep within this dysfunctional family Dr. Winter uncovers a life where boundaries were violated and a narcissistic parent held sway - where one sister's return might just be the beginning of the crime. (320 pages)



DEVIL'S CUT BY J.R. WARD

(PICKED BY KT)

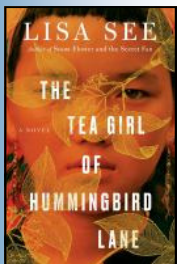
At first, the death of William Baldwine, the head of the Bradford family, was ruled a suicide. But then his eldest son and sworn enemy, Edward, came forward and confessed to his murder. Now in police custody, Edward mourns not the disintegration of his family or his loss of freedom . . . but the woman he left behind. Lane Baldwine was supposed to remain in his role of playboy, forever in his big brother Edward's shadow. Instead he has become the new head of the family and the company. Convinced that Edward is covering for someone else, Lane and his true love, Lizzie King, go on the trail of a killer—only to discover a secret that is as devastating as it is game-changing. As Lane rushes to discover the truth, the lives of everyone at Easterly will never be the same again. For some, this is good; for others, it could be a tragedy beyond imagining. Only one thing's for certain: Love survives all things. Even murder. (416 pages)



THE CAVEMAN BY JORN LIER HORST

(PICKED BY LD)

For four months Viggo Hansen's body has been sitting, undiscovered in front of his television, close to the home of Chief Inspector William Wisting. Has Norwegian society become so coarsened that no one cares? Wisting's journalist daughter, Line, wants to know. Wisting suspects a serial killer is at work, but for how long and across how many countries? When the CIA finally gets involved the stakes rise and tensions mount, until the final deadly race against time with Line's life at stake. (352 pages)



THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE BY LISA SEE

(PICKED BY SM)

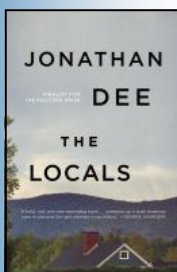
Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. One day a jeep appears at the village gate—the first automobile any of them have seen—and a stranger arrives. In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city. After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl. Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations. (384 pages)



DEADFALL BY LINDA FAIRSTEIN

(PICKED BY SM)

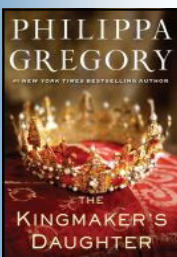
Amid concrete and skyscrapers, the Wildlife Conservation Society works to preserve and protect the animal kingdom both within and beyond the borders of the five boroughs. But dangerous creatures don't always have claws and fangs, as Assistant DA Alexandra Cooper knows all too well. Predators lurk close to home, and in the aftermath of the shocking drive-by murder of an important city employee - someone Alex has worked with for years- she must discover who the bigger snake is: the killer or the victim. From bribes to secret societies, from big-game hunting to the illegal animal trade, from New York City zoos to behind closed doors in government buildings, Alex will have her work cut out for her if she wants to uncover the truth and uphold the integrity of the office she has so proudly served. (400 pages)



THE LOCALS BY JONATHAN DEE

(PICKED BY SM)

Mark Firth is a contractor and home restorer in Howland, Massachusetts, who feels opportunity passing his family by. After being swindled by a financial advisor, what future can Mark promise his wife and their young daughter? He finds himself envying the wealthy weekenders in his community whose houses sit empty all winter. Philip Hadi used to be one of these people. But in the nervous days after 9/11 he flees New York and hires Mark to turn his Howland home into a year-round "secure location" from which he can manage billions of dollars of other people's money. Inspired by Hadi, Mark looks around for a surefire investment: the mid-decade housing boom. Over Karen's objections, and teaming up with his troubled brother, Gerry, Mark starts buying up local property with cheap debt. Then the town's first selectman dies suddenly, and Hadi volunteers for office. He soon begins subtly transforming Howland in his image—with unexpected results for Mark and his extended family. (400 pages)



THE KINGMAKER'S DAUGHTER BY PHILIPPA GREGORY

(PICKED BY BMC)

Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick is the most powerful magnate in fifteenth-century England. Without a son and heir, he uses his daughters, Anne and Isabel as pawns in his political games, and they grow up to be influential players in their own right. At the court of Edward IV, Anne grows from a delightful child to become ever more fearful and desperate when her father makes war on his former friends. Married at age fourteen, she is soon left widowed and fatherless, her mother in sanctuary and her sister married to the enemy. Anne manages her own escape by marrying Richard, Duke of Gloucester, but her choice will set her on a collision course with the overwhelming power of the royal family and will cost the lives of those she loves most in the world. (417 pages)

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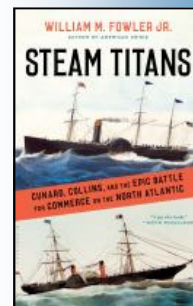
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NON-FICTION

STEAM TITANS BY WILLIAM FOWLER

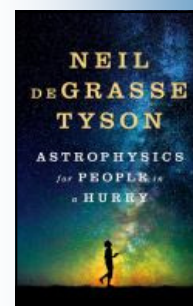
(PICKED BY SLH)

Between 1815 and the 1860s, steam travel delivered a sea change in oceanic transportation, transforming the Atlantic into a pulsating highway, dominated by ports in Liverpool and New York. The Anglo-American “partnership” fueled development worldwide; it also gave rise to a particularly intense competition. *Steam Titans* tells the story of a transatlantic fight to wrest control of the globe's most lucrative trade route. Two men—Samuel Cunard and Edward Knight Collins—and two nations wielded the tools of technology, finance, and politics to compete for control of a commercial lifeline that spanned the North Atlantic. Each competitor sent to sea the fastest, biggest, and most elegant ships in the world, hoping to earn the distinction of being known as “the only way to cross.” Historian William M. Fowler brings to life the spectacle of this generation-long struggle for supremacy. (288 pages)



ASTROPHYSICS FOR PEOPLE IN A HURRY BY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON (PICKED BY KS)

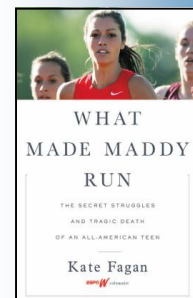
What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson. But today, few of us have time to contemplate the cosmos. So Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day. *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* will reveal just what you need to be fluent and ready for the next cosmic headlines: from the Big Bang to black holes, from quarks to quantum mechanics, and from the search for planets to the search for life in the universe. (222 pages)



WHAT MADE MADDY RUN BY KATE FAGAN

(PICKED BY SMC)

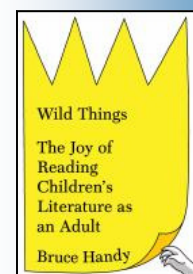
If you scrolled through the Instagram feed of 19-year-old Maddy Holleran, you would see a perfect life: a freshman at an Ivy League school, recruited for the track team, who was also beautiful, popular, and fiercely intelligent. But when Maddy began her long-awaited college career, her parents noticed that previously indefatigable Maddy became withdrawn, and her thoughts centered on how she could change her life. In spite of thousands of hours of practice and study, she contemplated transferring from the school that had once been her dream. What started as a profile of a successful young athlete whose life ended in suicide became so much larger when Fagan started to hear from other college athletes also struggling with mental illness. This is the story of Maddy Holleran's life, and her struggle with depression, which also reveals the mounting pressures young people, and college athletes in particular, face to be perfect, especially in an age of relentless connectivity and social media saturation. (320 pages)

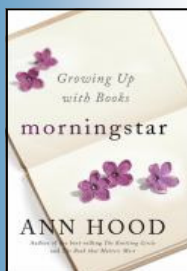


WILD THINGS BY BRUCE HANDY

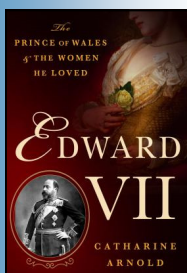
(PICKED BY SLS)

In *Wild Things*, *Vanity Fair* contributing editor Bruce Handy revisits the classics of every American childhood, from fairy tales to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and explores the back stories of their creators. Along the way, Handy learns what *The Cat in the Hat* says about anarchy and absentee parenting, and why Ramona Quimby is as true an American icon as Tom Sawyer or Jay Gatsby. It's a profound, eye-opening experience to reencounter books that you once treasured after decades apart. A clear-eyed love letter to the greatest children's books and authors from Louisa May Alcott and L. Frank Baum to Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, Mildred D. Taylor, and E.B. White, *Wild Things* will bring back fond memories for readers of all ages, along with a few surprises." (336 pages)



**MORNINGSTAR BY ANN HOOD****(PICKED BY SH & SLS)**

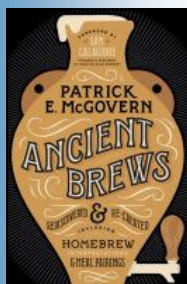
Growing up in a mill town in Rhode Island, in a household that didn't foster the love of literature, Hood nonetheless learned to channel her imagination and curiosity by devouring *The Bell Jar*, *Marjorie Morningstar*, *The Harrod Experiment*, and other works. These titles introduced her to topics that could not be discussed at home: desire, fear, sexuality, and madness. Later, *Johnny Got His Gun* and *The Grapes of Wrath* influenced her political thinking as the Vietnam War became news; *Dr. Zhivago* and *Les Misérables* stoked her ambition to travel the world. With characteristic insight and charm, Hood showcases the ways in which books gave her life and can transform—even save—our own. (192 pages)

**EDWARD VII BY CATHARINE ARNOLD (BIOGRAPHY)****(PICKED BY SMC)**

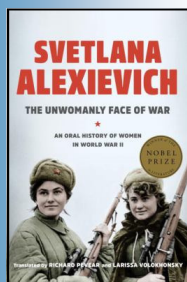
Edward Prince of Wales, better known as "Bertie," was the eldest son of Queen Victoria. Charming and dissolute, he was a larger-than-life personality with king-size appetites. A lifelong womanizer, Bertie conducted his countless liaisons against the glittering backdrop of London society, Europe, and the stately homes of England in the second half of the 19th century. Bertie's lovers were beautiful, spirited, society women who embraced a wide field of occupations. There was Lillie Langtry, the simple Jersey girl who would become an actress and producer; bisexual French actress Sarah Bernhardt, celebrated for her decadent appeal and opium habit; and one of Bertie's most intriguing liaisons - American heiress Jennie Churchill, unhappy wife of Sir Randolph Churchill and mother of Sir Winston. While the scandals resulting from his affairs—from suicides to divorces—were blights on the royal family, Bertie would become a surprisingly modern monarch. His major accomplishment was transforming the British monarchy into the modern institution that we know today. (291 pages)

**WHAT SHE ATE BY LAURA SHAPIRO****(PICKED BY SH & SLH)**

Most biographers pay little attention to people's attitudes toward food. Once we ask how somebody relates to food, we find a whole world of different ways to understand her. Each of the six women in this group portrait was famous in her time, and most are still famous in ours; but nobody has told their lives from the point of view of the kitchen and the table. They include Dorothy Wordsworth, whose food story transforms our picture of the life she shared with her poet brother; Rosa Lewis, the Edwardian-era Cockney caterer who cooked her way up the social ladder; Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady and protector of the worst cook in White House history; Eva Braun, Hitler's mistress, who challenges our warm associations of food, family, and table; Barbara Pym, whose witty books upend a host of stereotypes about postwar British cuisine; and Helen Gurley Brown, the editor of *Cosmopolitan*, whose commitment to "having it all" meant having almost nothing on the plate except a supersized portion of diet gelatin. (320 pages)

**ANCIENT BREWS BY PATRICK MCGOVERN****(PICKED BY SLH)**

Early beverage-makers must have marveled at the magical process of fermentation. Interweaving archaeology and science, McGovern leads us on his adventures to China, Turkey, Egypt, Italy, Scandinavia, Honduras, Peru, and Mexico. We share in his laboratory discoveries, including an early Neolithic "cocktail" from China made of wild grapes, hawthorn fruit, rice, and honey; an elite New World cacao beverage that gods and kings delighted in. These liquid time capsules defied modern conventions by mixing wines, beers, meads, and botanicals together into heady, delicious extreme beverages. Homebrew interpretations of each ancient beverage and culturally appropriate matching meal recipes are provided, transporting our senses and imaginations "back to the future." (336 pages)

**THE UNWOMANLY FACE OF WAR BY SVETLANA ALEXIEVICH****(PICKED BY SMC)**

In *The Unwomanly Face of War*, Alexievich chronicles the experiences of the Soviet women who fought on the front lines, on the home front, and in the occupied territories. These women—more than a million in total—were nurses and doctors, pilots, tank drivers, machine-gunners, and snipers. They battled alongside men, and yet, after the victory, their efforts and sacrifices were forgotten. When the Swedish Academy awarded her the Nobel Prize, it cited her invention of "a new kind of literary genre," describing her work as "a history of emotions . . . a history of the soul." Alexievich traveled thousands of miles and visited more than a hundred towns to record these women's stories. Together, this symphony of voices reveals a different aspect of the war—the everyday details of life in combat left out of the official histories. (384 pages)