

**Knitting in the City Series** by Penny Reid  
(FIC REI)

Each book is a standalone, contemporary romantic comedy novel, and follows the misadventures and exploits of seven friends in Chicago, all members of the same knitting group.

- 1 - *Neanderthal Seeks Human*
- 2 - *Friends Without Benefits\**
- 3 - *Love Hacked: A May/December Romance*
- 4 - *Beauty and the Mustache*
- 5 - *Happily Ever Ninja*
- 6 - *Datingish: A Friends to Lovers Romance*
- 7 - *Marriage of Inconvenience*
- 8 - *Neanderthal Seeks Extra Yarns\**

**Once Upon a Con Series** by Ashley Poston  
(Y POS)

Your favorite fairy tales take to the page as geeky, funny, and adorably romantic contemporary young adult novels.

- 1 - *Geekerella\**
- 2 - *The Princess and the Fangirl*
- 3 - *Bookish and the Beast\**

\*Books with \* next to it are the actual books that were picked for the Staff Pick List.

**Staff Pick Reading List:**

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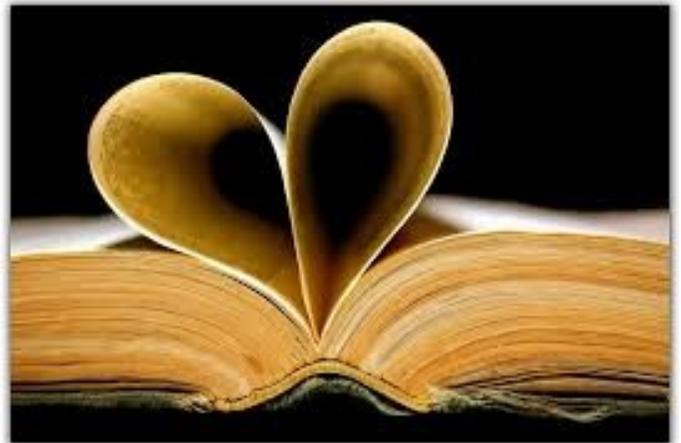


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**STAFF  
PICKS**



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**May 2021**

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our website at  
[www.hersheylibrary.org](http://www.hersheylibrary.org)  
or  
browse our *Staff Picks Binder*  
located near the Public Services  
Desk.

**“Reading makes immigrants of  
us all. It takes us away from home,  
but more important it finds  
homes for us everywhere.”  
- Jean Rhys**

The staff at the Hershey Public Library would like to share with you some of the wonderful books we've been reading this past year.

Enjoy!

Key:

LP (Large Print)                      B (Biography)

cd (audio book on cd)      Pb (paperback)

dmd (playaway)      GN (graphic novel)

© (Debut-new author's first book)

\*Book suggested for book groups

( ) Numbers shown at the end of book summaries in parenthesis are the number of Staff members

who have recommended the book.

**26 Marathons: What I Learned About Faith, Identity, Running and Life from My Marathon Career** by Meb Keflezighi

(796.420 KEF) - *26 Marathons* offers the wisdom Meb has gleaned about life, family, identity, and faith in addition to tips about running, training, and nutrition. He shows runners of all levels how to apply the lessons he's learned to their own running and lives.

**America, the Band: An Authorized Biography** by Jude Warne (782.421 WAR) -

Celebrating the band's fiftieth anniversary, Journalist Jude Warne weaves original interviews with Gerry Beckley, Dewey Bunnell and many others into a dynamic cultural history of America, the band, and America, the nation. This is the first full-length book about the multiplatinum band, which despite selling millions of records was much neglected by critics.

**The Basketball Diaries: The Classic About Growing Up Hip on New York's Mean Streets**

by Jim Carroll (B CAR) - In this memoir, renowned poet and punk rocker, Jim Carroll pens life in the mid 1960's of a 12 to 15 year old rebellious teenager on the unforgiving streets of New York City. This is a diary of unparalleled candor that conveys his alternately hilarious and terrifying teenage existence prowling New York City playing basketball, hustling, stealing, getting high, getting hooked, and searching for something pure. *The Basketball Diaries* was the basis for the film of the same name starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

**Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language** by Gretchen McCulloch

**Warhol** by Blake Gopnik (B WAR) - This is the definitive biography of a fascinating and paradoxical figure and one of the most influential artists of his, or any, age. *Warhol* gives us the most robust and intricate picture to date of a man and an artist who consistently defied easy categorization and whose life and work continue to profoundly affect our culture and society today.

**When the Stars Go Dark** by Paula McClain (FIC MCC, LP FIC MCC) - Weaving together actual cases of missing persons, trauma theory, and a hint of the metaphysical, this propulsive and deeply affecting novel tells a story of fate, necessary redemption, and what it takes, when the worst happens, to reclaim our lives and our faith in one another. \*

**Staff Picks Series**

**Akata Series** by Nnedi Okorafor (Y OKO) Affectionately dubbed "the Nigerian Harry Potter," *Akata Witch* series weaves together heart-pounding tales of magic, mystery, and finding one's place in the world.

- 1 - *Akata Witch*\*
- 2 - *Akata Warrior*

**Dorothy Must Die Series** by Danielle Paige (Y PAI)

*Dorothy Must Die* is an alternate Oz book series that features a new girl from Kansas named Amy Gumm going up against an evil Dorothy Gale who has taken over the Land of Oz and rules it with an iron fist along with her three companions.

- 1 - *Dorothy Must Die*\*
- 2 - *The Wicked Will Rise*
- 3 - *Yellow Brick War*
- 4 - *End of Oz*

**Green Bone Saga Series** by Fonda Lee (FIC LEE)

An Asia-inspired urban fantasy series.

- 1 - *Jade City*\*
- 2 - *Jade War*
- 3 - *Jade Legacy*

Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity. \*

***This Tender Land*** by William Kent Kruger (FIC KRU, LP FIC KRU) - The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. It is an enthralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams, and makes us whole. \*

***Time of the Magicians*** by Wolfram Eilenberger (193 EIL) - A grand narrative of the intertwining lives of Walter Benjamin, Martin Heidegger, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Ernst Cassirer, major philosophers whose ideas shaped the twentieth century.

***Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances*** by Neil Gaiman (FIC GAI) - In this new anthology, Neil Gaiman pierces the veil of reality to reveal the enigmatic, shadowy world that lies beneath. *Trigger Warning* includes previously published pieces of short fiction stories, verse, and a very special *Doctor Who* story that was written for the fiftieth anniversary of the beloved series in 2013 as well *Black Dog*, a new tale that revisits the world of *American Gods*, exclusive to this collection.

***An Unwanted Guest*** by Shari Lapena (FIC LAP, LP FIC LAP, OverDrive e-book/audio book) - In this exciting whodunit, it seems as though we are going back in time slightly to the golden era of Agatha Christie's Poirot novels when a murder is committed in a hotel cut off from the outside world due to a snow blizzard. The author keeps the well-developed twists churning, with each a surprise notch in this ever-evolving plot, and she continues this skillful storytelling until the stunning twist at the end. \*

***The Volunteer: One Man, An Underground Army and the Secret Mission to Destroy Auschwitz*** by Jack Fairweather (940.5318 FAI) - Superbly written and breathtakingly researched, this is the incredible true story of a Polish resistance fighter's infiltration of Auschwitz to sabotage the camp from within, and his death-defying attempt to warn the Allies about the Nazis' plans for a "Final Solution" before it was too late.

(302.23 MCC, OverDrive e-book) - In this book, internet linguist Gretchen McCulloch traces how the web has changed the way we communicate, whether through emoji, lowercase letters, or cat memes and makes a compelling, entertaining argument of how this change is good for the English language as a whole. It is the most up-to-date and comprehensive guide to the way informal internet language has evolved and is evolving.

***Big Lies in a Small Town*** by Diane Chamberlain (FIC CHA, LP FIC CHA) - Two young women living several decades apart are focused on the same mural. One is creating the mural in 1940 and the other is restoring the same mural in 2018. In alternate viewpoints and dual timelines this is a tale of two artists, living 78 years apart in a small Southern town and the mysterious third artist who links them. (2) \*

***Big Summer*** by Jennifer Weiner (FIC WEI, LP FIC WEI, OverDrive e-book/audio book) - A vibrant novel about the complexities of female relationships, the pitfalls of living out loud and online, and the resilience of the human heart, *Big Summer* is a witty, moving story about family, friendship, and figuring out what matters most.

***Book Love*** by Debbie Tung (741.56 TUN) - Delightful comics capture exactly what it feels like to be head-over-heels for hardcovers. And paperbacks! And e-books! And bookstores! And libraries! This book can be found in the comics collection of the library.

***The Bright Side Sanctuary for Animals*** by Becky Mandelbaum (FIC MAN) - *The Bright Side Sanctuary for Animals* poignantly explores the unique love and tension between mothers and daughters and humans and animals alike. Mandelbaum offers a panoramic view of family and forgiveness and of the meaning of home. Her debut reminds us that love provides refuge and underscores our similarities as human beings, no matter how alone or far apart we may feel. ☺ \*

***The Butterfly House*** by Katrine Engberg (FIC ENG) - In *The Butterfly House*, readers travel to beautiful Copenhagen, Denmark, exploring the city alongside two police officers on the hunt for a terrifying killer. A series of murders are rocking the idyllic city of Copenhagen, and it all begins with the discovery of a body in a fountain in the heart of the city.

***A Children's Bible*** by Lydia Millet (FIC MIL) - *A Children's Bible* follows a group of twelve eerily mature children on a forced vacation with their

families at a sprawling lakeside mansion. This prophetic and heartbreaking story of generational divide offers a haunting vision of what awaits us on the far side of Revelation.

***The Color of Air*** by Gail Tsukiyama (FIC TSU) - Alternating between past and present, from the day of the volcano eruption in 1935 to decades prior, *The Color of Air* interweaves the stories of Daniel, Koji, and Mariko to create a rich, vibrant, bittersweet chorus that celebrates their lifelong bond to one another and to their immigrant community. \*

***Consider This: Moments in My Writing Life After Which Everything Was Different*** by Chuck Palahniuk (818.5403 PAL) - In this blend of memoir and insight, bestselling author Chuck Palahniuk shares stories and generous advice on what makes writing powerful and what makes for powerful writing. This is a book for those who want to learn to write dangerously or perhaps just learn about the man who pioneered dangerous writing.

***A Crooked Tree: A Novel*** by Una Mannion (FIC MAN) - One fateful night, 15-year-old Libby's harried single mom orders her sister Ellen, 12, to get out and walk home after their bickering gets to be too much. What follows not only shatters the girls' innocence, but sets off a chain of events that reveals the darkness in their sleepy town. This novel drives home how one moment can change everything. ☺ \*

***Devolution: A Firsthand Account of the Rainier Sasquatch Massacre*** by Max Brooks (FIC BRO) - Part survival narrative, part bloody horror tale, and part scientific journey into the boundaries between truth and fiction, this is a Bigfoot story as only Max Brooks could chronicle it and like none you've ever read before.

***Do You Feel Like I Do?: A Memoir*** by Peter Frampton (B FRA) - *Do You Feel Like I Do?* is the incredible story of Peter Frampton's positively resilient life and career told in his own words for the first time. Frampton unflinchingly takes the reader behind the scenes, strips away the veneer of stardom, and is able to give insight into what it's been like to be this kid from South London who became a rock giant.

***Dumb: Living Without a Voice*** by Georgia Webber (GN B WEB) - Part memoir, part

one another.

***The Remains of the Day*** by Kazuo Ishiguro (FIC ISH, cd FIC ISH, dvd FIC REM) - Ishiguro broke new ground years ago with this slow-moving rumination on the world of an English country-house butler and of his fading, insular world in post-World War II England. Stevens at the end of three decades of service at Darlington Hall, while spending a day on a country drive, embarks on a journey through the past in an effort to reassure himself that he has served humanity by serving the "great gentleman," Lord Darlington. But lurking in his memory are doubts about the true nature of Lord Darlington's "greatness," and much graver doubts about the nature of his own life. \*

***Surviving Savannah*** by Patti Callahan Henry (FIC HEN, LP FIC HEN) - Fans of Christina Baker Kline and Kate Quinn will love this beautiful, richly detailed novel about a lost bit of American maritime history. In a seamless blending of fact and fiction, Patti Callahan has written a meticulously researched deep-dive into the little-known story of a historic shipwreck, better known as the *Titanic of the South*. \*

***Shakespeare for Squirrels*** by Christopher Moore (FIC MOO, OverDrive e-book/audio book) - Shakespeare meets Dashiell Hammett in this wildly entertaining murder mystery from *New York Times* bestselling author Christopher Moore. It is an uproarious, hardboiled take on the play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, featuring Pocket, the hero of *Fool* and *The Serpent of Venice*, along with his sidekick, Drool, and pet monkey, Jeff.

***Sooley*** by John Grisham (FIC GRI, LP FIC GRI, cd FIC GRI) - Grisham has spent the past 30 years churning out legal thrillers, but the pandemic's impact on college sports prompted him to shift his focus to a basketball novel called *Sooley*. The novel follows Samuel Sooleymon, a 17-year-old South Sudanese basketball player who earns a scholarship to a North Carolina University after a civil war erupts in his home country.

***Station Eleven*** by Emily St. John Mandel (FIC MAN, cd FIC MAN) - An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse, *Station Eleven* tells the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great

others that have shaped the lives of some extraordinary women. ☺\*

***The Other Windsor Girl*** by Georgie Blalock (FIC BLA, LP FIC BLA, OverDrive e-book) - In *The Other Windsor Girl*, Georgie Blalock immerses the reader in the delightfully intimate and scandalous royal circle of Princess Margaret and her set. Beautifully written, compulsively readable, and brimming with delicious drama, Blalock's novel illuminates the private side of the British royal family. \*

***Outwitting the Devil: The Secret to Freedom and Success*** by Napoleon Hill (158.1 HIL, cd 158.1 HIL) - Napoleon Hill is most commonly known for his book *Think and Grow Rich*. However, *Outwitting the Devil* is a quicker, easier read and teaches many of the same lessons; Hill's beliefs and ways on how to achieve success.

***Pearls of Wisdom: Little Pieces of Advice That Go a Long Way*** by Barbara Bush (973.928 BUS) - *Pearls of Wisdom* is a poignant reflection on life, love, family, and the world by one of America's most iconic and beloved public figures.

***The Price of Peace: Money, Democracy and the Life of John Maynard Keynes*** by Zachary D. Carter (330.15 CAR) - *The Price of Peace* revives a forgotten set of ideas about democracy, money, and the good life with transformative implications for today's debates over inequality and the power politics that shape the global order.

***The Push*** by Ashley Audrain (FIC AUD, LP FIC AUD) - A psychological thriller about the relationship between mothers and daughters. Before Blythe's daughter is born, she wants to create the deep bond she never had with her own mom. But when Violet arrives, she's convinced something's wrong with her little girl. The tragic events that follow will make you question her sanity and the story she's telling us. \*

***Red Stars*** by Davide Morosinotto (J MOR) - This middle grade mystery adventure, told in a unique format including diary entries, maps and photos, takes readers along on the harrowing journeys of two twelve-year-old siblings, separated just before the Nazi siege of their city, each desperate to reunite with

medical cautionary tale, *Dumb* tells the story of how an urban twentysomething copes with the everyday challenges that come with voicelessness. Webber adroitly uses the comics medium to convey the practical hurdles she faced as well as the fear and dread that accompanied her increasingly lonely journey to regain her life.

***Empty Out the Negative*** by Joel Osteen (248.4 OST) - With the pandemic of 2020 and negativity on the rise, this book is sure to make things a little easier, a little smoother, and a lot more positive. Learn how to release the negative thoughts and feelings that are weighing you down and make room for the good things you should have in your life.

***Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse*** by Aleksander Pushkin (FIC PUS) - Pushkin's masterpiece *Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse* tells the intersecting stories of three men and three women in the Russia of the 1820s, showcasing its author's wit and intelligence throughout his engaging and suspenseful narrative.

***The Fabled Life of Aesop*** by Ian Lendler (J 398.24 LEN) - Honoring the path of a slave, this dramatic picture-book biography and concise anthology of Aesop's most child-friendly fables tells how a child born into slavery in ancient Greece found a way to speak out against injustice by using the skill and wit of his storytelling that has survived for 2,500 years.

***Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart*** by Dion Leonard (636.7 LEO, cd 636.7 LEO) - This is an amazing true story of a man and a little dog who formed an unbreakable bond in the middle of the Gobi desert that changed both of their lives forever. Read this inspiring story and discover how miracles truly are possible while finding your own heart changing as well.

***The French Lieutenant's Woman*** by John Fowles (FIC FOW, OverDrive e-book) - Perhaps the most beloved of John Fowles' internationally bestselling works, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* is a feat of seductive storytelling that effectively invents anew the Victorian novel. Filled with enchanting mysteries and magically erotic possibilities, the novel inspired the hugely successful 1981 film starring Meryl Streep and Jeremy Irons and is today universally regarded as a modern classic. \*

***The Girls in the Stilt House: A Novel*** by Kelly Mustian (FIC MUS) - *The Girls in the Stilt House* is a brilliantly researched, atmospheric page-turner. In a world too cruel to make a place for them, Matilda and Ada become an army of two, fighting a war for their own refuge. This is a gripping novel about friendship, danger, isolation, and the vivid, dripping, moving landscape of a Mississippi swamp. If you loved *Where the Crawdads Sing*, this one is for you. ☺\*

***Goodbye, Columbus*** by Philip Roth (FIC ROT) - *Goodbye, Columbus* explores themes of Jewish identity, class divisions within the Jewish community, spiritual crisis over Judaism, love, sex and relationships, and the struggle for self-knowledge in a young man. Despite its serious subject matter and themes, the novella is characterized by humor, as expressed through the narrator's finely tuned sense of irony in his observations of both his own and his girlfriend's families. \*

***Great Circle*** by Maggie Shipstead (FIC SHI, LP FIC SHI) - *Great Circle* is a relentlessly exciting story about a woman maneuvering her way between tradition and prejudice to get what she wants. Epic and emotional, meticulously researched and gloriously told, *Great Circle* is a monumental work of art. \*

***The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly*** by Sun-Mi Hwang (FIC HWA) - This is an anthem for freedom, individuality and motherhood featuring a plucky, spirited heroine who rebels against the tradition-bound world of the barnyard, *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly* is a novel of universal resonance that also opens a window on Korea, where it has captivated millions of readers.

***Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of An American Family*** by Robert Kolker (616.898 KOL, cd 616.898 KOL, OverDrive e-book/audio book) - This is the heartrending story of a midcentury American family with twelve children, six of them diagnosed with schizophrenia, that became science's great hope in the quest to understand the disease. \*

***Hour of the Witch*** by Chris Bohjalian (FIC BOH, LP FIC BOH, cd FIC BOH) - A twisting, tightly plotted novel of historical suspense from one of our greatest storytellers, *Hour of the Witch* is a timely and terrifying story of socially sanctioned brutality and the original American

witch hunt. It is a story about Mary Deerfield, a suspected witch in 1662 Boston who, while wrestling with her own internal demons and disastrous marriage, raises suspicion that the demons aren't just in her own mind. \*

***Lenny the Lobster Can't Stay for Dinner*** by Finn Buckley (JP BUCKLEY) - A choose-your-own-ending tale of a distinguished lobster and a fateful dinner party. When invited to a fancy dinner party, Lenny brings thoughtful gifts for the hosts and enthusiasm for whatever is in store. But when he's greeted with a pot of boiling water and lobster bibs, Lenny (and readers) must quickly decide: should he stay or go?

***Let Your Mind Run*** by Deena Kastor (796.42 KAS) - *Let Your Mind Run* is a fascinating intimate look inside the mind of an elite athlete, a remarkable story of achievement, and an insightful primer on how the small steps of cultivating positivity can give anyone a competitive edge.

***The Lions of Fifth Avenue*** by Fiona Davis (Fic DAV, LP FIC DAV) - Readers are taken on a journey into the heart of one of New York's most venerable landmarks, the New York Public Library, in a story that follows two generations of strong-minded women, both connected to a mysterious series of rare book thefts. \*

***Modern Fabric Art Bowls*** by Kirsten Fisher (746.46 FIS) - Kirsten Fisher shares her unique artistic vision and instructions on how you can take any piece of fabric and reinvent it using the design of your choice. Perfect to forever display a favorite fabric or quilt block, or provide a thoughtful gift to loved ones.

***The Mystery of Mrs. Christie*** by Marie Benedict (FIC BEN, LP FIC BEN) - This is a thrilling reconstruction of one of the most notorious events in literary history: Agatha Christie's mysterious 11-day disappearance in 1926. Benedict's exploration of Agatha Christie's life and mysterious disappearance will have book club discussions running overtime. \*

***Of Women and Salt*** by Gabriela Garcia (FIC GAR) - From 19th-century cigar factories to present-day detention centers, from Cuba to Mexico, Gabriela Garcia's *Of Women and Salt* is a kaleidoscopic portrait of betrayals personal and political, self-inflicted and those done by