

# JCL New Release Extravaganza Winter/Spring 2022

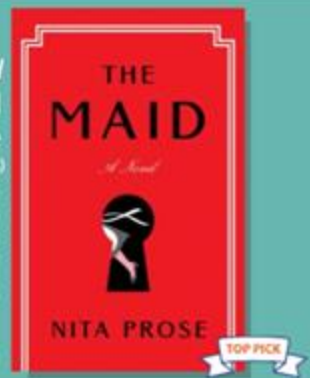
Gregg Winsor, Readers' Advisory Librarian  
Johnson County Library



*The Maid*  
A Novel  
by Nita Prose  
(Ballantine Books)

"As a maid in a posh hotel, Molly is very proud of her work and the care she takes of the guests, even though she often has difficulty navigating social cues. When she finds a wealthy guest dead, she never imagines she has the keys to uncover a killer, and finds, after the death of her beloved Gran, there are many people willing to help her. For fans of *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* and *How Lucky?*"

—Jennifer Winberry, Hunterdon County Library, Flemington, NJ  
Novel list read-alike: *Pretty as a Picture* by Elizabeth Little



January 2022 - The top ten books published this month that library staff across the country love.

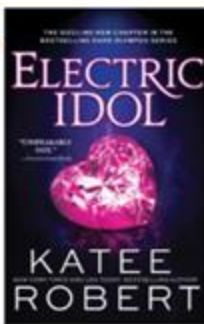


*The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections*

A Novel  
by Eva Jurczyk  
(Poisoned Pen Press)

"When the director of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections suffers a stroke, Liesl is put in charge. Then a newly acquired manuscript goes missing, and Liesl's leadership is questioned. A fast read that features older and imperfect characters, and addresses mental illness. For fans of *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* and *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*."

—Alison Zaya, Lowell Library, Lowell, MA  
Novel list read-alike: *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón



*Electric Idol*

by Katee Robert  
(Sourcebooks Casablanca)

"A fantastic, modern retelling of the old myth of Psyche and Eros. Their romance is lovely, exploring the trope of fake relationships and forced marriage while both characters are struggling to make it out alive. For those who loved *Neon Gods* and *Lore Olympus*."

—Brenna Timm, High Plains Library District, Greeley, CO  
Novel list read-alike: *Dark Desires* series by Zaya Cox



*A Flicker in the Dark*

A Novel  
by Stacy Willingham  
(Minotaur Books)

"Chloe knows what it's like to be judged and whispered about, and how it feels to have your family torn apart by a serial killer: your own father. Now on the 20th anniversary of the murders, bodies start turning up, and she finds herself in the middle of the investigation. Unique, riveting, and thrilling. For fans of Jennifer McMahon and Laura Lippman."

—Shelle Taylor, Iredell County Library, Statesville, NC  
Novel list read-alike: *Dark Places* by Gillian Flynn



*Must Love Books*  
by Shauna Robinson  
(Sourcebooks Landmark)



*The Overnight Guest*

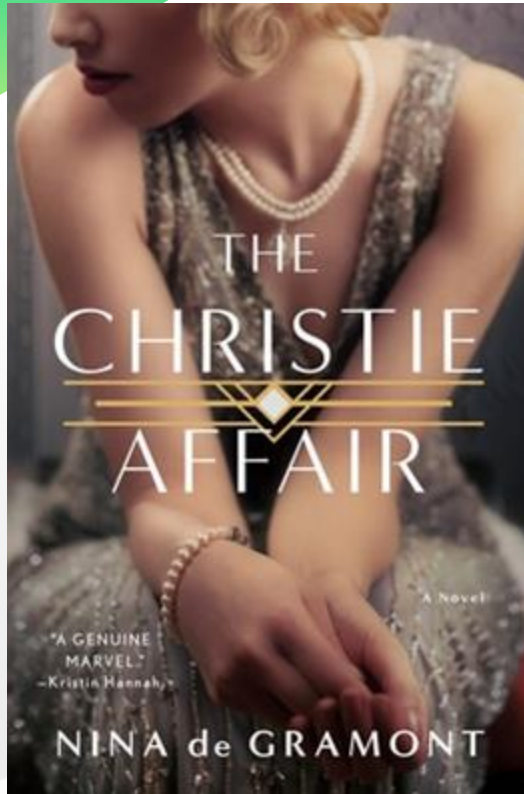
A Novel  
by Heather Gardenkauf



*Reckless Girls*

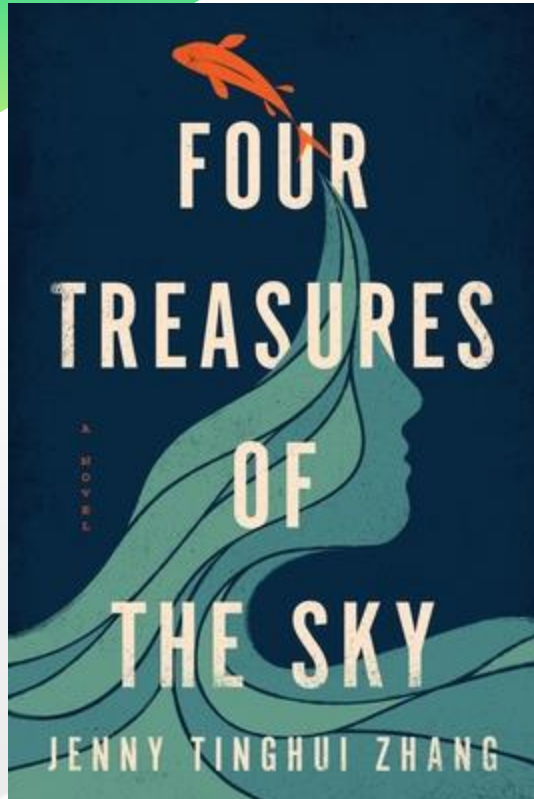
A Novel  
by Rachel Hawkins

# THE CHRISTIE AFFAIR - NINA DE GRAMONT 2.1.22



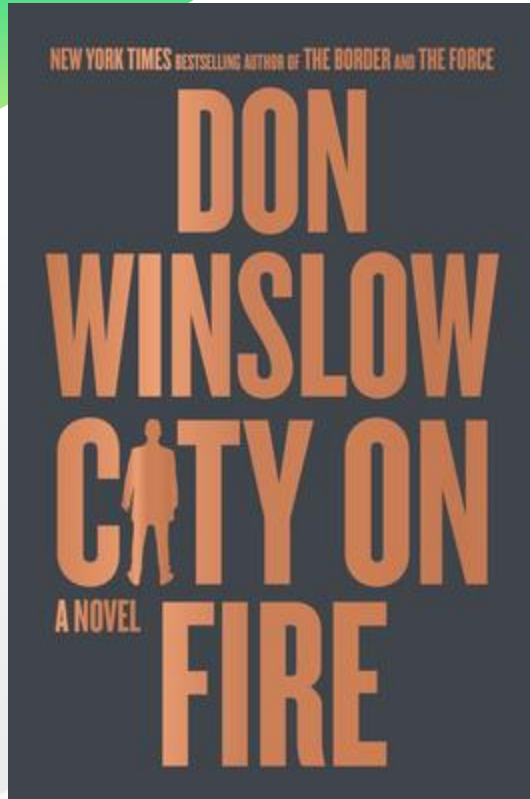
- ▶ A historical mystery based on the real-life 11-day disappearance of the author in 1926 that transfixed the world
- ▶ Told from the point of view of Christie's husband's mistress, Nan O'Dea, after he announces he's leaving Christie
- ▶ Two narratives: Christie and O'Dea
- ▶ Descriptive upper-class British world full of backbiting, intrigue, and secrets

# JENNY TINGHUI ZHANG - FOUR TREASURES OF THE SKY 4.5.22



- ▶ Gorgeous historical fiction about a Chinese woman who was kidnapped and sent to America in 1880s despite Chinese Exclusion Act, to this date the only law that bans a specific set of people from immigrating to the U.S.
- ▶ Must reinvent herself to survive, going from town to town in search of freedom and self-identity.
- ▶ A heartbreaking story with uplift at the end.
- ▶ Readalike for Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*

# CITY ON FIRE - DON WINSLOW 4.26.22



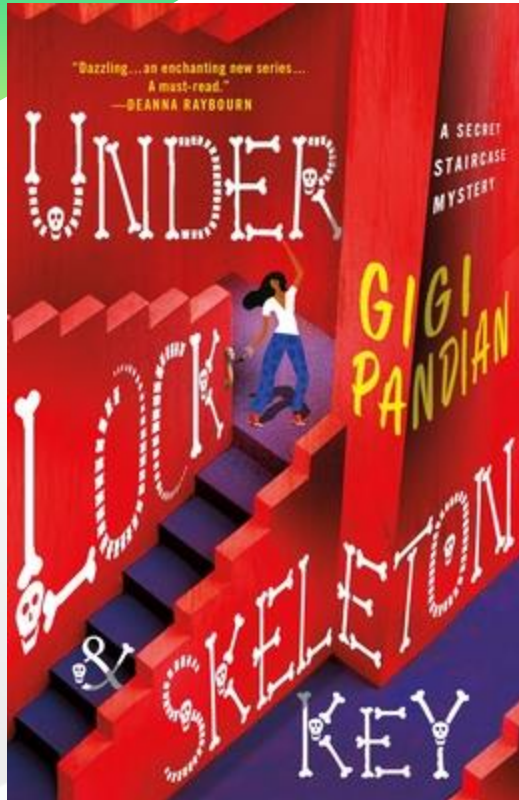
- ▶ A beautiful woman sparks a war between rival Italian and Irish crime families in Providence, Rhode Island, during the 1980s.
- ▶ Danny Ryan, scion of one of the families, must choose his destiny.
- ▶ A loose interpretation of the Trojan War. Operatic in style, immensely quotable, and compulsively readable, Winslow is master of cinematic style

# MERCY STREET - JENNIFER HAIGH 2.1.22



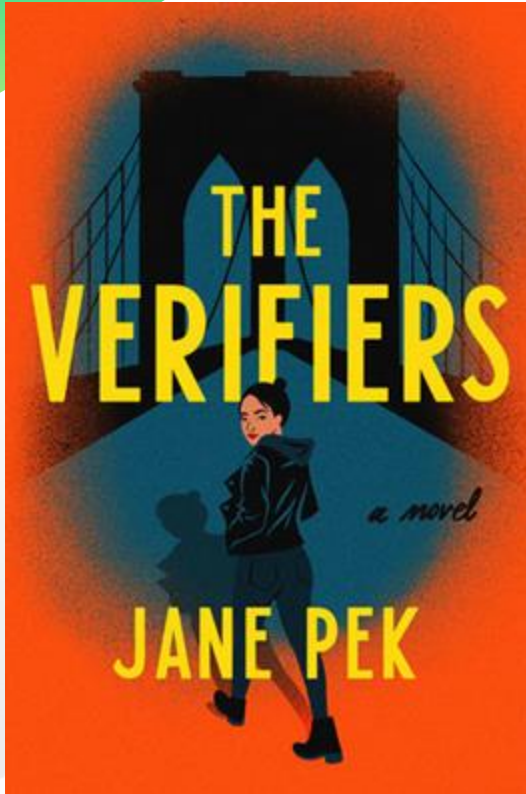
- ▶ Ambitious novel centered on Claudia, a 40ish single counselor at a women's care clinic in the heart of Boston
- ▶ Deals with the alienation and isolation of modern world, full of people seeking truth and connection
- ▶ Literary fiction based on current issues, imminently discussable, perfect for book groups

# UNDER LOCK & SKELETON KEY - GIGI PANDIAN 3.15.22



- ▶ First in new cozy mystery series involving magic, Indian food, houses with secret passages, and a charming heroine.
- ▶ Tempest is a fired magician who has to come back home. Family runs a construction business focused on secret rooms/hidden staircases.
- ▶ A colleague is found dead in a hidden cabinet - was Tempest the real target?
- ▶ Locked-room mystery. Fun, delightful characters.

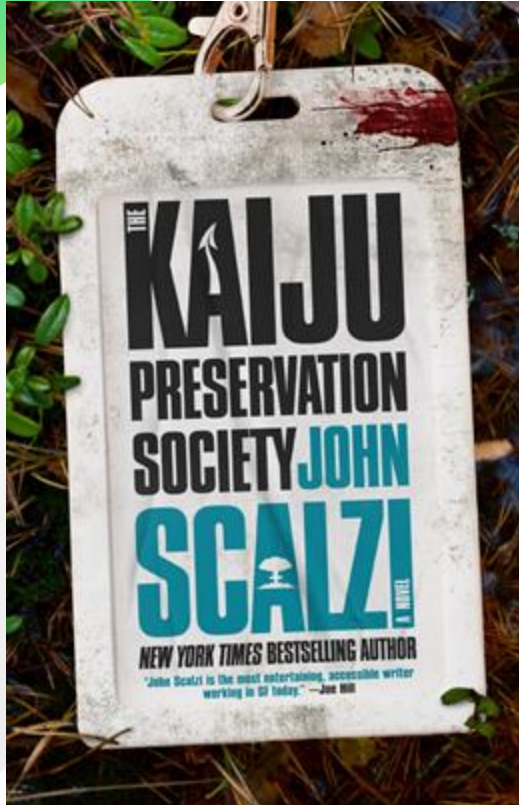
# JANE PEK - THE VERIFIERS 2.22.22



- ▶ Claudia Lin works for a high-end dating service but switches to investigative mode after a client is found dead
- ▶ Locked-room mystery with an online 21st Century twist
- ▶ Lin is a second-generation immigrant with her own secrets with meddling, prying family
- ▶ Breezy, whip-smart, crowd-pleasing, and surprising debut novel



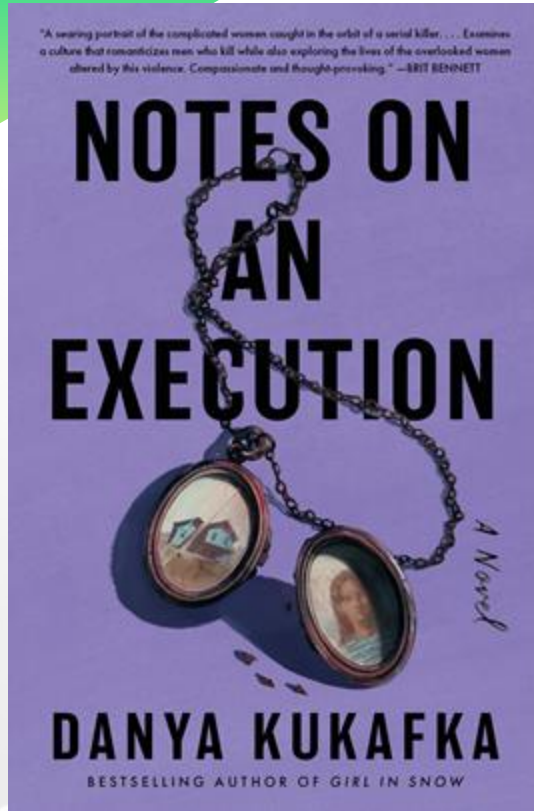
# KAIJU PRESERVATION SOCIETY - JOHN SCALZI 3.15.22



- ▶ Jaime Gray loses job due to COVID lockdown and stumbles across a new gig that involves an alternate Earth researching (and taking care of of) giant nuclear monsters.
- ▶ Kaiju are under threat - from their own world, and from ours.
- ▶ Novel doesn't have much plot - more concerned with sketching out world.
- ▶ Scalzi almost a sure thing in sci-fi.
- ▶ Breezy sciency fun. Light tone, warm characters; like a pop song.

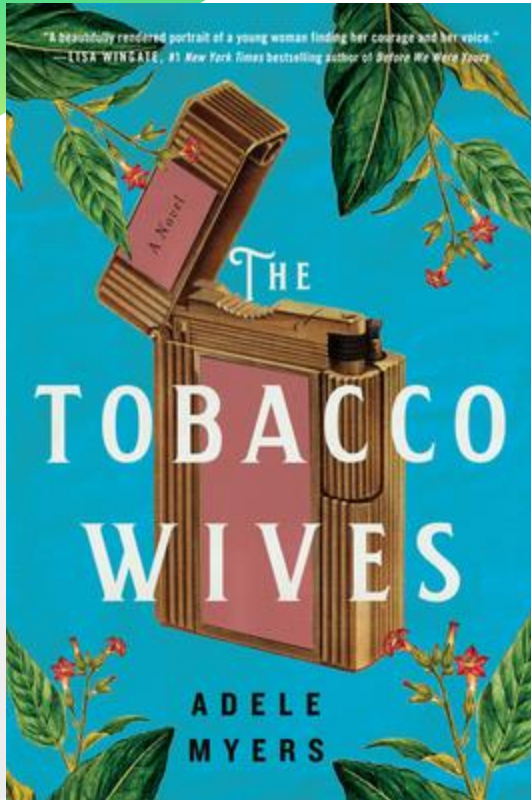
# NOTES ON AN EXECUTION - DANYA KUKAFKA

## 1.25.22



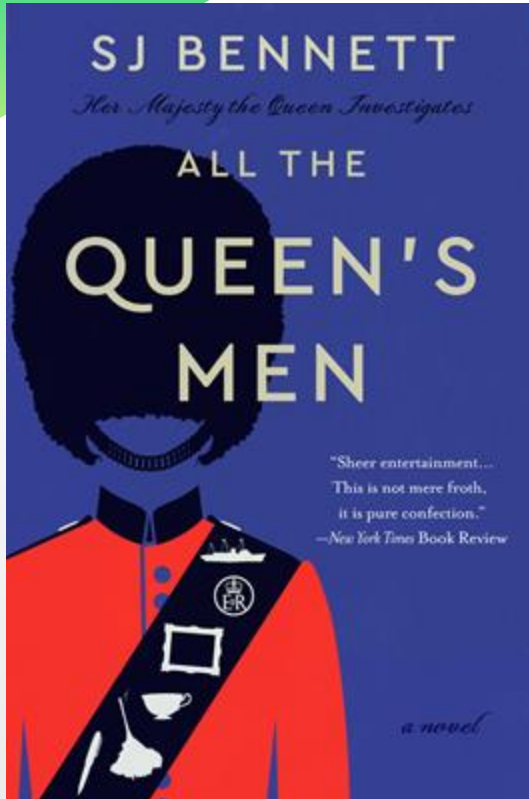
- ▶ Perfect for the true-crime podcast fan in your life (if you're already not one.)
- ▶ Portrait of a serial killer in Death Row told by the women in his life - mother, the sister of the killer's wife, and the detective that caught him.
- ▶ Examines culture's obsession with killers. Thought-provoking yet gripping.
- ▶ Powerful book-group-friendly pick.

# ADELE MYERS - THE TOBACCO WIVES 3.1.22



- ▶ Set in North Carolina in 1946, where a working-class young woman, Maddie, becomes a dressmaker for the wives of tobacco executives
- ▶ When Maddie discovers secrets that threaten the community's own livelihood, how far can she go to expose corruption?
- ▶ Coming-of-age story among expensive balls, cocktail parties, gossipy boozy lunches, secrets, and lies.

# SJ BENNETT - ALL THE QUEEN'S MEN 3.1.22



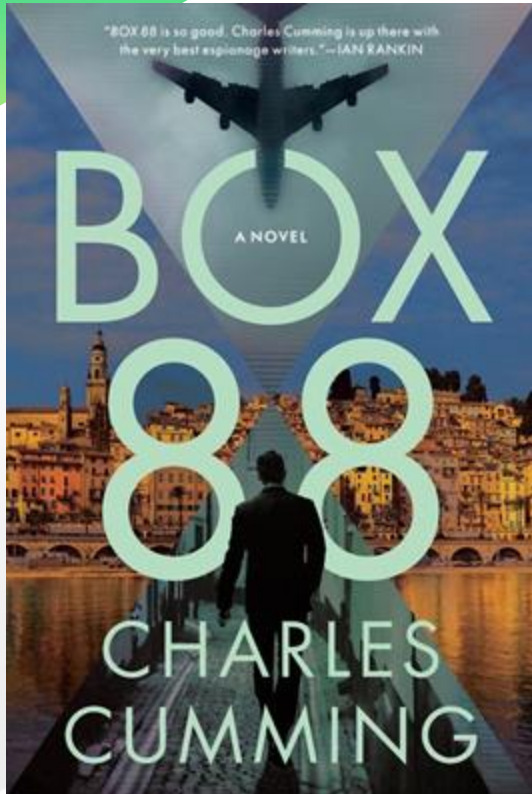
- ▶ A follow-up to THE WINDSOR KNOT where amateur sleuth Queen Elizabeth II uses a group of dedicated and trusted staff to solve crimes.
- ▶ A missing gallery portrait quickly leads to murder.
- ▶ An old-school cozy whodunnit filled with wit and charm set in the modern day.
- ▶ Perfect for fans of Richard Osman.

# MANDY MCHUGH - CHLOE CATES IS MISSING 2.15.22



- ▶ Modern-day social media thriller where 13-year-old YouTube Sensation Chloe Cates is, indeed, missing.
- ▶ Her overworked and increasingly desperate momager, Jennifer, becomes more and more frantic - and JUST might be a suspect herself
- ▶ Local Missing Persons detective realizes she has a surprising connection to the case.
- ▶ Gripping, timely, YA-friendly.

# BOX 88 - CHARLES CUMMING 1.11.22



- ▶ Already a smash hit in the UK, Cumming's novel is inviting comparisons to the best of the genre
- ▶ A super-secret spy is kidnapped and questioned about a friendship with an Iranian diplomat from 30 years ago
- ▶ Stories from 2020 and 1990 interweave in this slick, gripping, inventive spy thriller
- ▶ When's the last time you read a REALLY good spy novel, anyway?

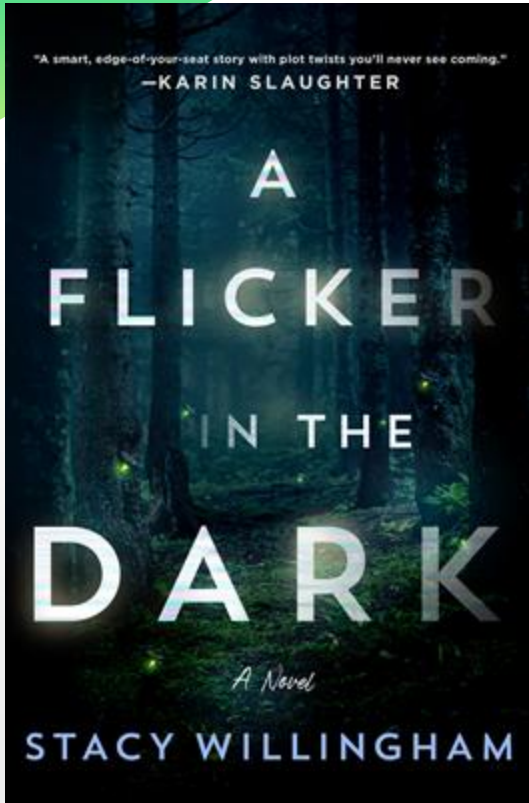
# KATE QUINN - THE DIAMOND EYE 3.29.22



- ▶ Another WW2-era epic from historical fiction doyenne Quinn who mixes fact and character in an intoxicating mix
- ▶ Story based on real-life Soviet soldier Mila Pavlichenko, former student and librarian, who became one of the Red Army's most deadly snipers with over 300 kills.
- ▶ Sent to the U.S. during the war to drum up support but falls into a sinister plot against FDR himself.

March 29th, 2022

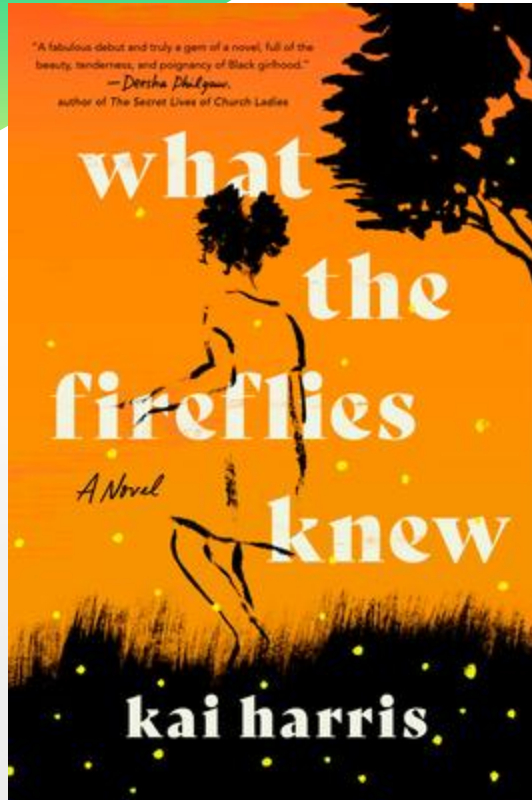
# STACY WILLINGHAM - A FLICKER IN THE DARK 1.11.22



- ▶ An excellent debut thriller about a therapist whose own father was convicted of being a murderer.
- ▶ On the 20th anniversary of his imprisonment, one of her clients goes missing, then found dead. And then another. Her fiancé is suspicious, her life begins to unravel.
- ▶ Narrator is unreliable. Prose is atmospheric
- ▶ Plenty of twists and turns. Perfect bedtime read.

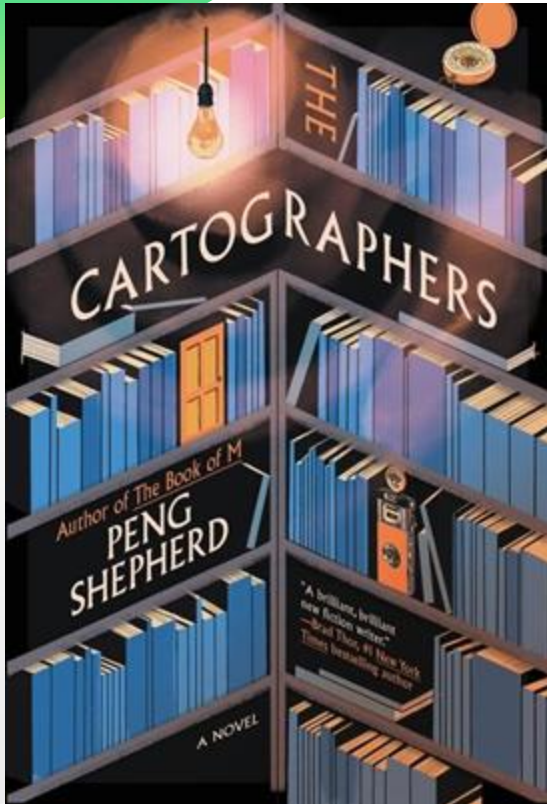


# KAI HARRIS - WHAT THE FIREFLIES KNEW 2.2.22



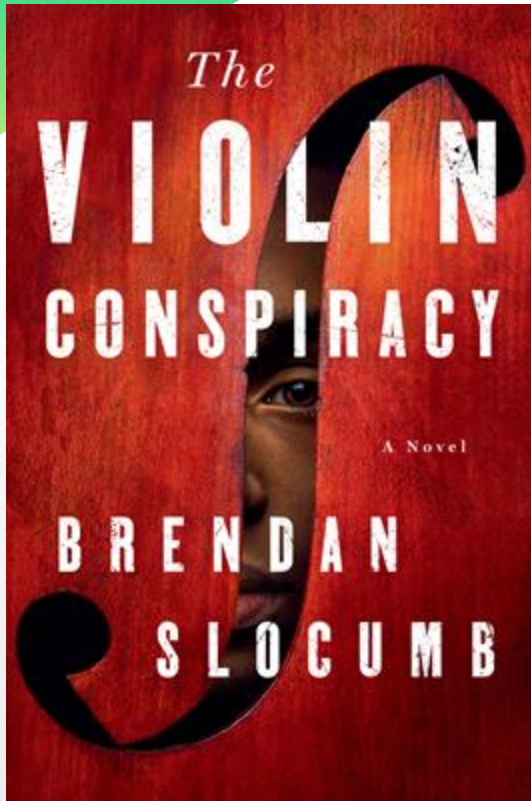
- ▶ Elegant coming-of-age story set in 1995.
- ▶ The narrator, KB, is a 11-year-old living in Detroit when her father dies. Her family go to live with grandparents in Lansing.
- ▶ Atmospheric; slow and lazy summer days that hide secrets. Characters grow up, find their voices, struggle with the world around them
- ▶ Smart, engaging, precocious narrator, yet is still a child. Unique point of view. Secret Life of Bees realike

# PENG SHEPHERD - THE CARTOGRAPHERS 3.15.22



- ▶ Massively entertaining literary academic drama about the daughter of a murdered cartographer.
- ▶ People who own a certain map are found dead. Character unveils a group of secret cartographers who help her in her search.
- ▶ Game of cat and mouse with JUST a pinch of fantasy.
- ▶ Made for armchair sleuths with an old-school feel.

# BRENDAN SLOCUMB - THE VIOLIN CONSPIRACY 2.1.22



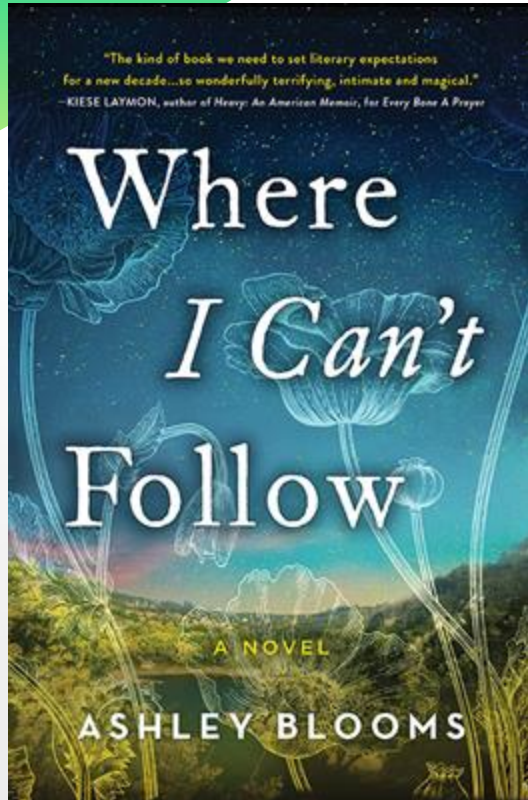
- ▶ Classical musician whose family heriloom is stolen and ransomed before a prestigious music competition
- ▶ Violin owned by grandmother is discovered to be a Stradivarius - but another family claims ownership.
- ▶ Literary mystery set in the world of classical music with its odd obsessions - reviewer found it similar to Queen's Gambit

# EDWARD ASHTON - MICKEY7 2.15.22



- ▶ Smart, fun, innovative sci-fi similar in tone to Andy Weir's THE MARTIAN
- ▶ On a terraforming planet, Mickey is an Expendable, doing jobs too dangerous for humans. New memories are downloaded to other units if killed.
- ▶ Mickey7 must figure out how to survive if Mickey8 is around.
- ▶ Sciency, philosophical, vastly entertaining.

# ASHLEY BLOOMS - WHERE I CAN'T FOLLOW 2.15.22



- ▶ Novel follows Maren Walker, struggling to get by in a small Kentucky community.
- ▶ Each member of community has the ability to find magic portals unique to them.
- ▶ Maren's mom went through one and disappeared long ago. Maren finds one. Will she take it?
- ▶ Accurate picture of life in Appalachia - despite premise seems true-to-life with richly observed characters.

# REBECCA SERLE - ONE ITALIAN SUMMER 3.1.22



- ▶ Katy and her mother Carol have planned on a mother-daughter trip to Italy's Amalfi Coast, where Carol spent a summer before meeting Katy's dad.
- ▶ Carol does in a tragic accident; Katy takes the trip alone, hoping to help herself heal.
- ▶ While there, she meets Carol - but decades younger. Over one summer, she gets to know a different side of her mother.
- ▶ Emotional, heartwarming, magical journey.

THANK YOU  
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THANK YOU  
**THANK YOU**  
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**Have A Nice Day**