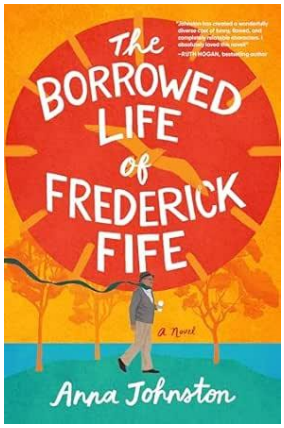
JOANN BLACKBURN PANHELLENIC BOOK CLUB

2026-2027

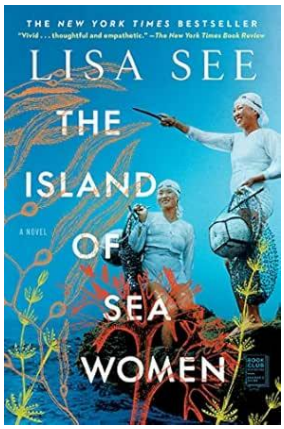
DAY & TIME: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am (except lunch meetings)



JUNE 9 2026

The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

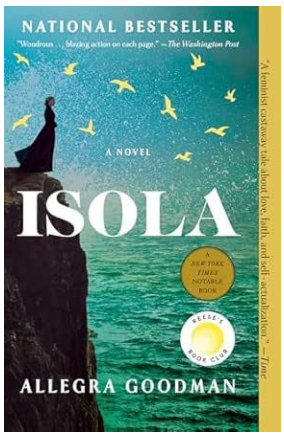
"Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it washed, with a full tank of gas. The problem is, at age eighty-two, there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from, and he's broke and on the brink of eviction. But Fred's luck changes when he's mistaken for Bernard Greer, a missing resident at the local nursing home, and takes his place. Now Fred has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his look-alike Bernard never turns up."



JULY 14 2026

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

"Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends who come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. As the girls take up their positions as baby divers, they know they are beginning a life of excitement and responsibility—but also danger."

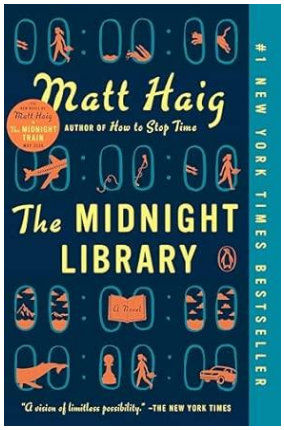


AUGUST 11 2026

Isola by Allegra Goodman

"Heir to a fortune, Marguerite is destined for a life of prosperity and gentility. Then she is orphaned, and her guardian—an enigmatic and volatile man—spends her inheritance and insists she accompany him on an expedition to New France. That journey takes a unexpected turn when Marguerite, accused of betrayal, is brutally punished and abandoned on a small island.

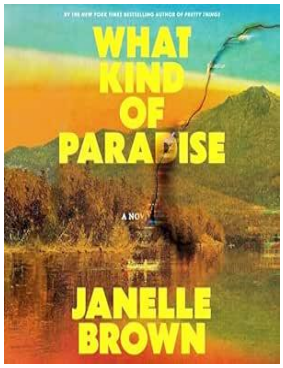
Inspired by the real life of a sixteenth-century heroine, *Isola* is the timeless story of a woman fighting for survival."



SEPTEMBER 8 2026

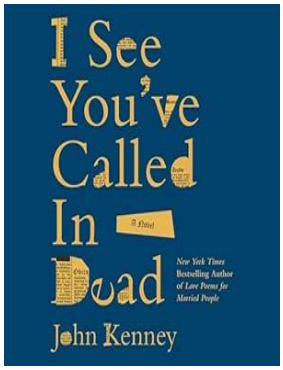
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

"Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?"



OCTOBER 13 2026
What Kind of Paradise by Janelle Brown

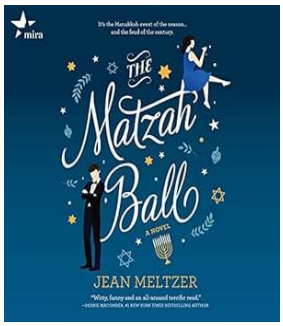
“Growing up in an isolated cabin in Montana in the mid-1990s, Jane knows only the world that she and her father live in: the woodstove that heats their home, the vegetable garden where they try to eke out a subsistence, the books of nineteenth-century philosophy that her father gives her to read in lieu of going to school. Her father is elusive about their pasts, giving Jane little beyond the facts that they once lived in the Bay Area and that her mother died in a car accident, the crash propelling him to move Jane off the grid to raise her in a Waldenesque utopia.”



NOVEMBER 10
I see you’ve called in Dead by John Kenney

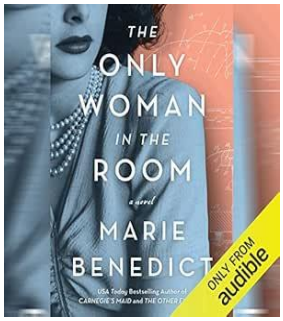
“Obituary writer Bud Stanley isn’t really living his best life. He’s fallen into a funk after a divorce. (She left him for another man, who, in fairness, was far more interesting.) He’s not doing his job well. He’s given up on dating. And he’s about to be fired for accidentally publishing his own obituary one mildly drunken night (though technically the company can’t legally fire a dead person).

As Bud awaits his fate at work, he does the only logical thing: He goes to the wakes and funerals of total strangers to learn how to live again.”



December 8 2026
The Matzah Ball by Jean Meltzer

“Rachel Rubenstein-Goldblatt is a nice Jewish girl with a shameful secret: she loves Christmas. For a decade she’s hidden her career as a Christmas romance novelist from her family. Her talent has made her a bestseller even as her chronic illness has always kept the kind of love she writes about out of reach.”



JANUARY 12 2027
The Only Woman in the Room: A Historical Novel of Hedy Lamarr and Her Secret Wartime Invention by Marie Benedict

“A powerful book based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist, The Only Woman in the Room is a masterpiece that celebrates the many women in science that history has overlooked.”

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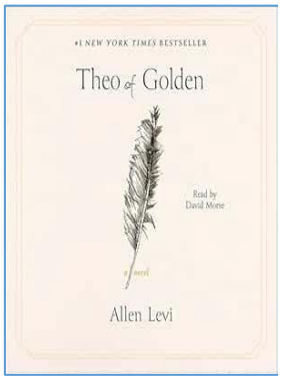
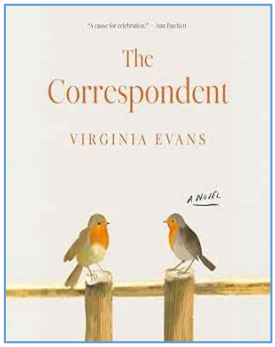


FEBRUARY 9 2027
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

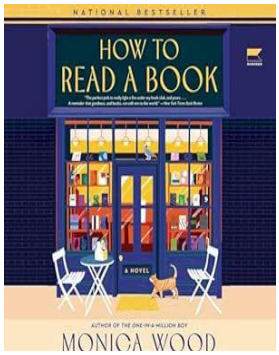
"One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.
A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder."

MARCH 9 2027
Lost in the Summer of '69 by Eliza Knight
"Three generations of women, an unforgettable summer of music, and the epic cross-country road trip they'll never forget.Summer, 1969. Eleanor Bell doesn't have anything to lose. According to her doctors, she might not remember how to sing or play guitar soon, so why not head west now? Why not join the music festivals sweeping the country and lose herself in the music again in a swan song of her own? Except Eleanor forgets, maybe on purpose, to tell anyone where she's going."



APRIL 13 2027
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

"Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime."



MAY 11 2027
How to Read a Book by Monica Wood

"A librarian volunteers to organize a book club in a women's prison and lives change. It speaks to the power of books and of supportive women."

Also recommended:

- **The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog: and Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook—What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love and Healing** by Bruce D. Perry and Maia Szalavitz
- **Like Water for Chocolate** by Laura Esquivel
- **The Confession Club** by Elizabeth Berg
- **The Last Love Song** by Lucinda Riley
- **The Last Train to London** by Meg Waite Clayton
- **Code Name Helene** by Ariel Lawhon