

READ WITH *Pride!*

Books to read during
Pride month and beyond



TEMPLE MICAH
2026

ADULT FICTION



מִיכָה
TEMPLE
MICAH

WASHINGTON, DC



the essential
DYKES TO WATCH OUT FOR
ALISON BECHDEL Author of
FUN HOME



**THE ESSENTIAL DYKES
TO WATCH OUT FOR**
ALISON BECHDEL

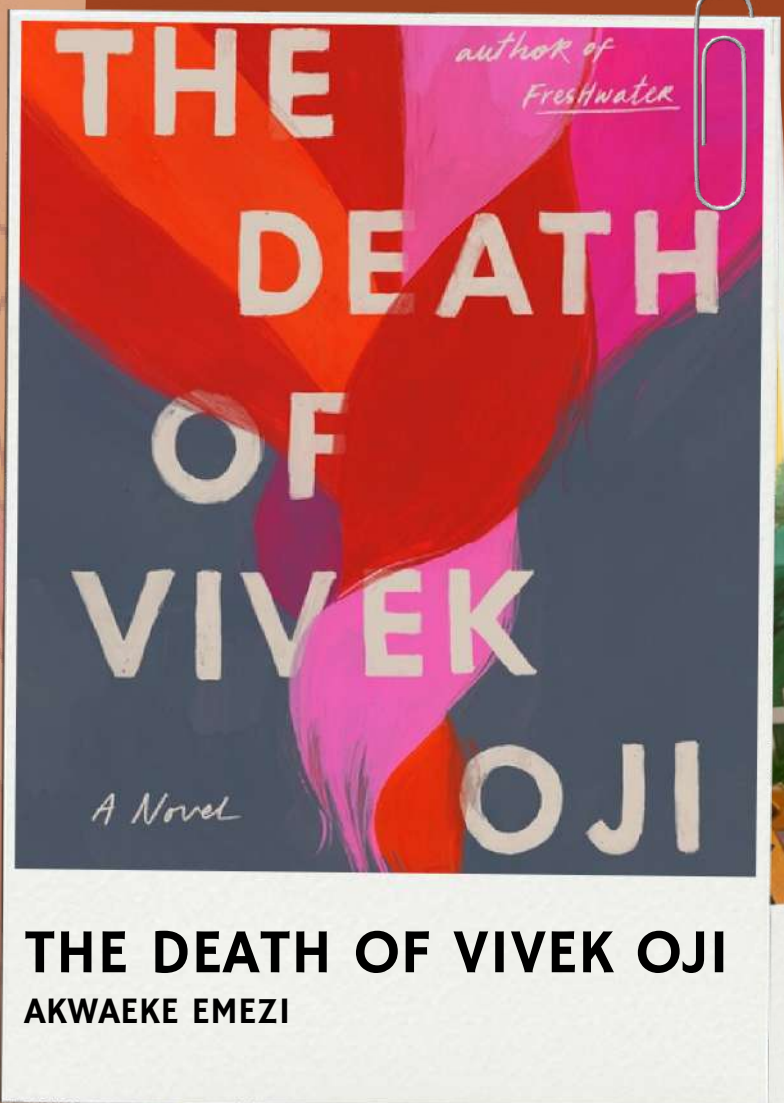
WHY THIS BOOK?

I don't know how many of us devoured Alison Bechdel's comic strip about diverse and nutty dykes while we sat on the floor of the bookstore, but I do know that it brought me joy and a future to look forward to.

Alison Bechdel, who would dazzle readers with *Fun Home*, source of the beloved, cry-your-eyes-out musical, is everything cool before it became cool. Soak up the politics, the camp, the wordplay, and the world.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
GRAPHIC NOVELS, HUMOR, FEMINISM,





WHY THIS BOOK?

One day in Nigeria, a woman finds the body of her son, Vivek, on the porch of their house, wrapped in colorful fabric. It appears he has been beaten to death.

This is a gorgeously written story of identity, sexuality, love, grief, friendship, and the need to live the life you want, even in a country where doing so might be deadly.

It's also a story of a mother desperate to understand her child.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FICTION, CONTEMPORARY, MULTI-POV





ANNIE ON MY MIND

NANCY GARDEN

WHY THIS BOOK?

One of the first queer YA books (published in the early 1980s). Often banned, but just a really sweet, high school love story between two people who identify as girls.

A great look back at where we came from, and a record of an urban environment as it was at a very specific moment in time.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
CLASSICS, ROMANCE, COMING OF AGE,





TO DEFY FATE

DAYTON WARD

WHY THIS BOOK?

It focuses on how the love between two female Starfleet officers persists across timelines and multiverses and helps set history right.

I just finished the book myself and it is a great book for folks like me who enjoy science fiction that is still written to address the challenges our society is grappling with.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
SCI-FI, STAR TREK, TIME TRAVEL



ATMOSPHERE

A LOVE STORY



ATMOSPHERE

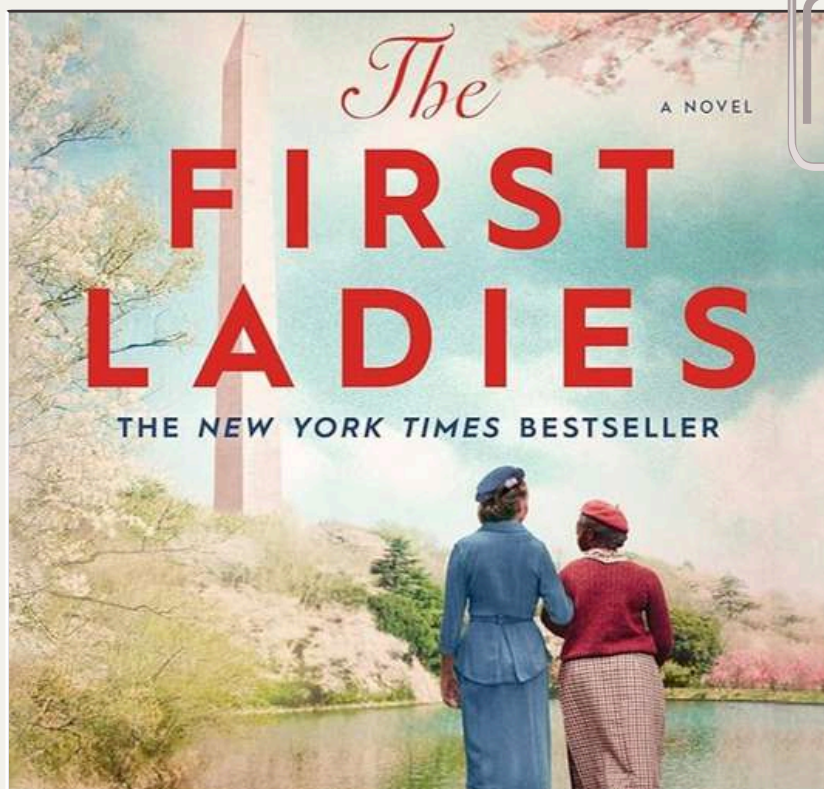
TAYLOR JENKINS REID

WHY THIS BOOK?

This delightful summer read led me to better understand the profound sorrow of not being able to celebrate love in a public way.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, ROMANCE





THE FIRST LADIES

MARIE BENEDICT AND VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

WHY THIS BOOK?

I love historical fiction and before reading this was completely unaware of Eleanor Roosevelt's relationship with journalist Lorena Hickok.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, POLITICS



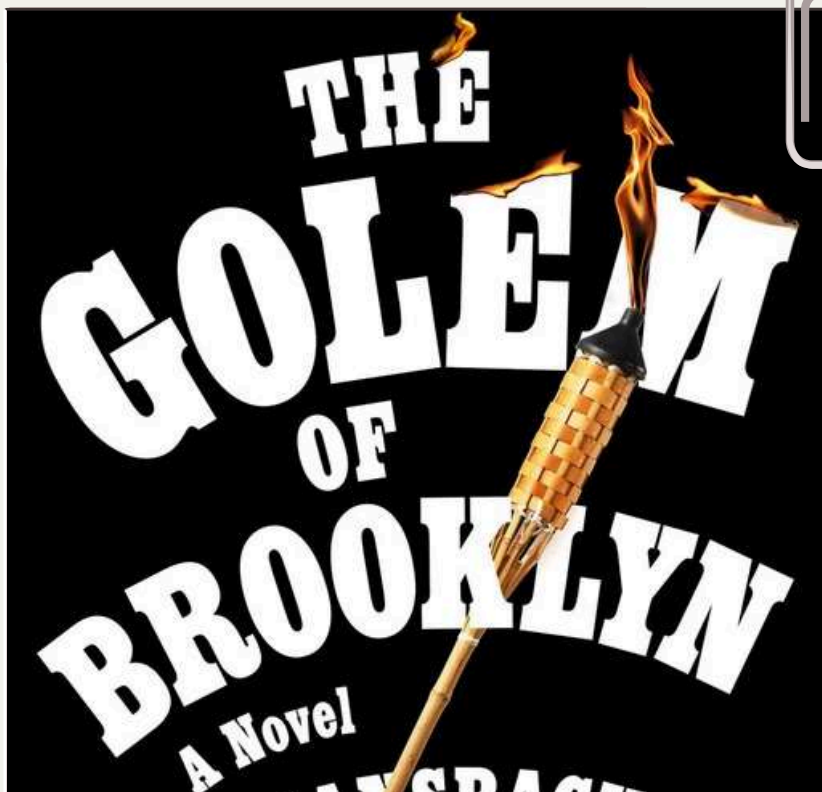


WHY THIS BOOK?

My wife read this book first. A paranormal rom-com with a lot of detail about Jewish ritual burial practices is not my usual fare, but she was so enthusiastic about it that I had to try! And it was delightful.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
ROMANCE, FANTASY, PARANORMAL





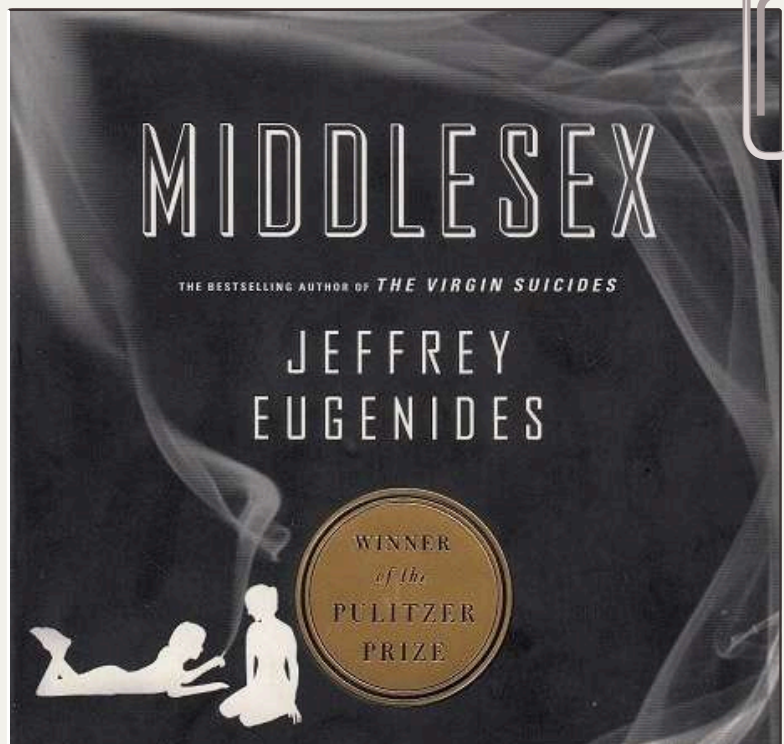
THE GOLEM OF BROOKLYN
ADAM MANSBACH

WHY THIS BOOK?

An unforgettable queer character and so much more. Thought-provoking, devastating, creative, and sometimes hilarious. It was great as an audiobook.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FANTASY, MYTHOLOGY





MIDDLESEX

JEFFREY EUGENIDES

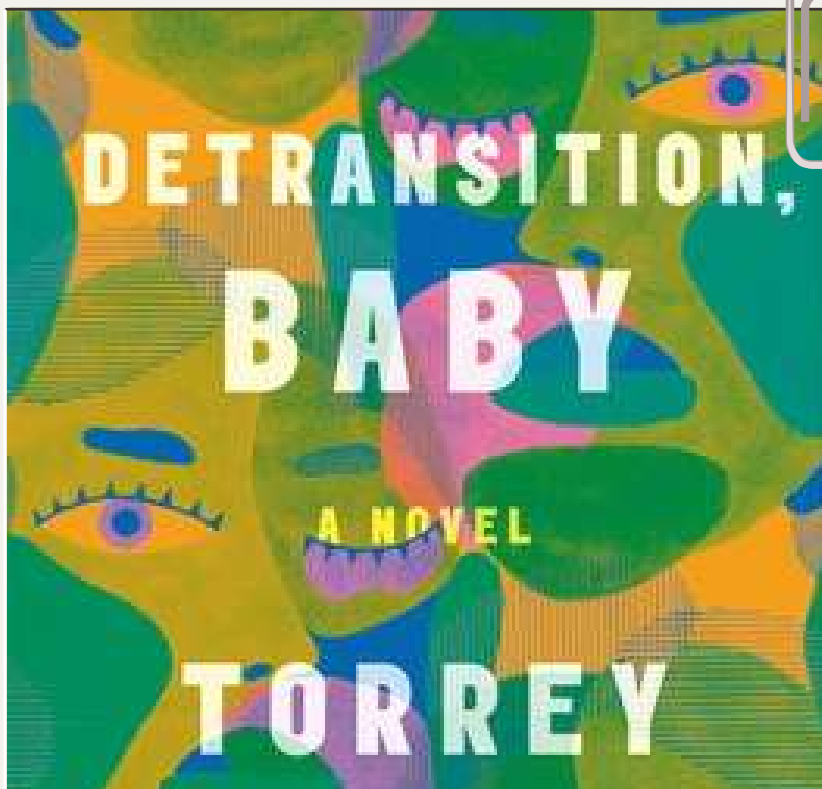
WHY THIS BOOK?

"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl, on a remarkably smogless Detroit day in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy, in an emergency room near Petoskey, Michigan, in August of 1974."

Middlesex is the astonishing tale of a gene that passes down through three generations of a Greek-American family and flowers in the body of a teenage girl.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, CONTEMPORARY





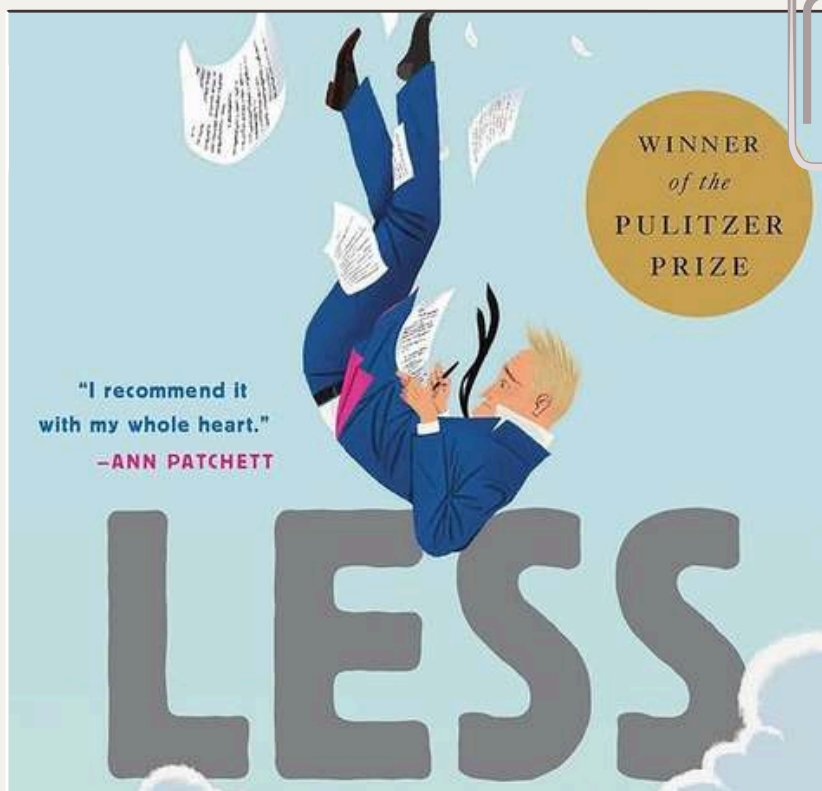
DETRANSITION, BABY

TORREY PETERS

WHY THIS BOOK?

I loved this novel. The writing is so good, the characters are complex and believable, and it digs into the taboos around changing genders and then changing back, sort of.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FICTION, ROMANCE, DRAMA



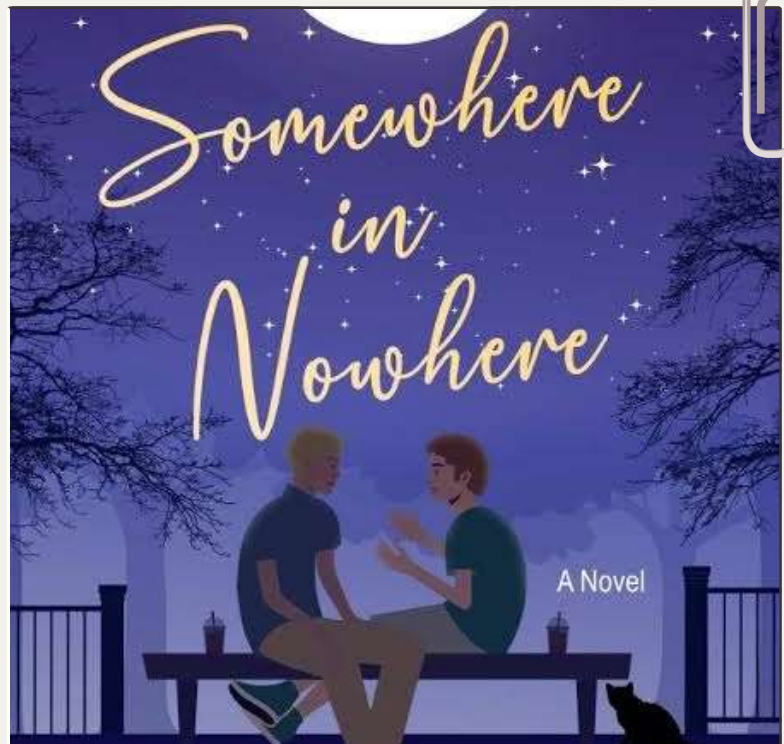
LESS

ANDREW SEAN GREER

WHY THIS BOOK?

Hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning tale of the lengths the protagonist goes to in order to avoid attending his ex-boyfriend's wedding.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
ROMANCE, HUMOR



SOMEWHERE IN NOWHERE

STEVEN GELLMAN

WHY THIS BOOK?

Somewhere in Nowhere is a moving YA coming-of-age story that doesn't hold back in its honest exploration of mental health, queer identity, and complex family dynamics. The plot takes a very unexpected turn (no spoilers).

While it is clear that the main character, Simon, is Jewish, it is in the shiva scenes that the book delves most deeply into Jewish thought, customs, and identity with detailed descriptions and emotions that will resonate for many. There is grief, trauma, loss, abuse, and fear, but it's love, faith, and the deep bonds of found family that help Simon find his way home.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
COMING-OF-AGE, ROMANCE, FOUND FAMILY



SELECTED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
ALBERT GELPI, BARBARA CHARLESWORTH GELPI, AND BRETT C. MILLIER

Adrienne Rich

1950-2012

SELECTED POEMS: 1950-2012
ADRIENNE RICH

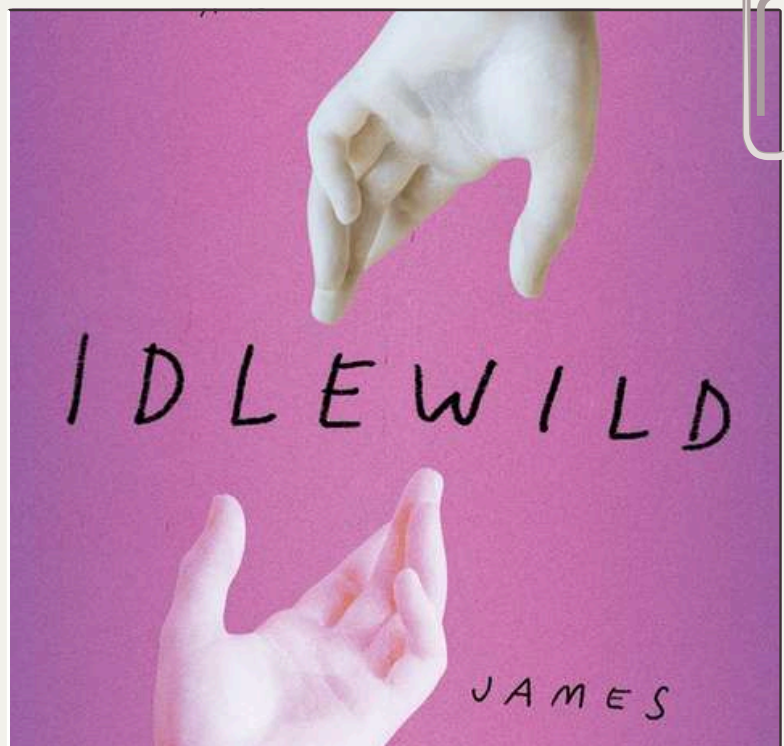
WHY THIS BOOK?

I just love her work!

This selection from Rich's published poetry volumes encompasses her best-known work and offers the full range of her evolution as a poet.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
POETRY, FEMINISM





IDLEWILD

JAMES FRANKIE THOMAS

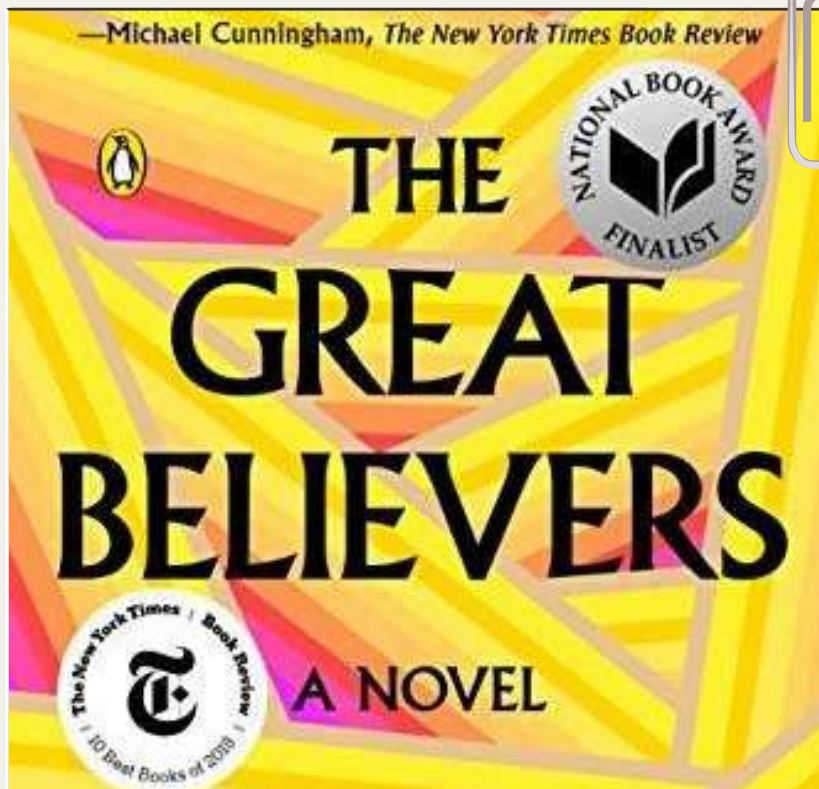
WHY THIS BOOK?

This book so nails the early 2000s, including the knife's blade of where it was cool to be queer and where it was not. More importantly, it captures the very long time during which a transgender identity was murky and inaccessible to the people who needed it.

This snarky, twisty story of dark musical theatre academia has stayed with me and reminded me of the power of knowledge.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
DARK ACADEMIA, HUMOR, COMING-OF-AGE





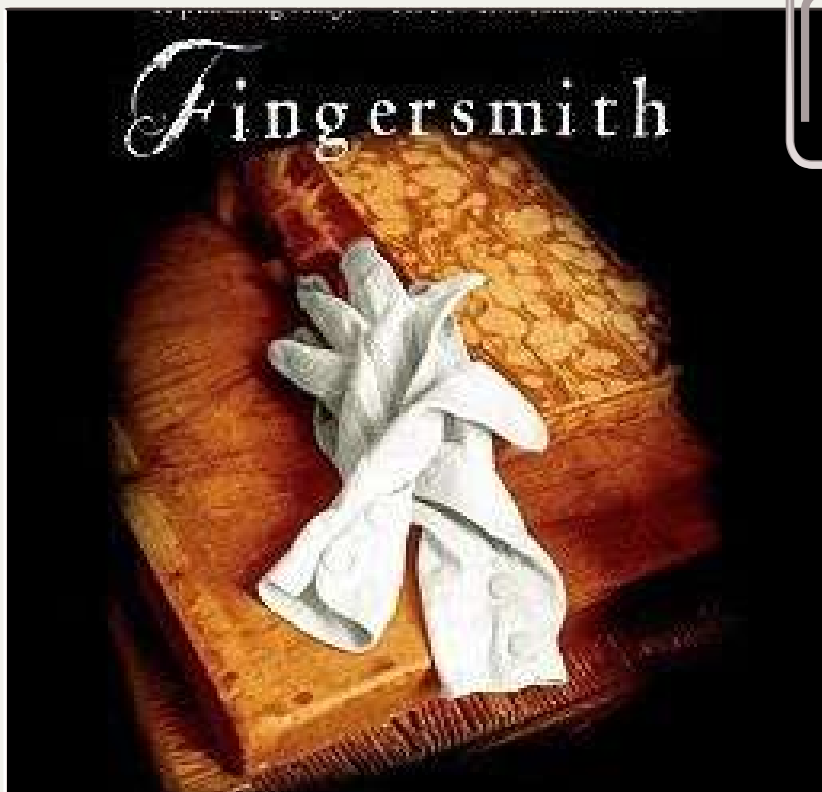
THE GREAT BELIEVERS

REBECCA MAKKAI

WHY THIS BOOK?

This poignant story depicts the devastation that the AIDS virus wrought on the gay community in Chicago in the 1980s, as well as the continuing impact of grief on survivors.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, DUAL POV



FINGERSMITH

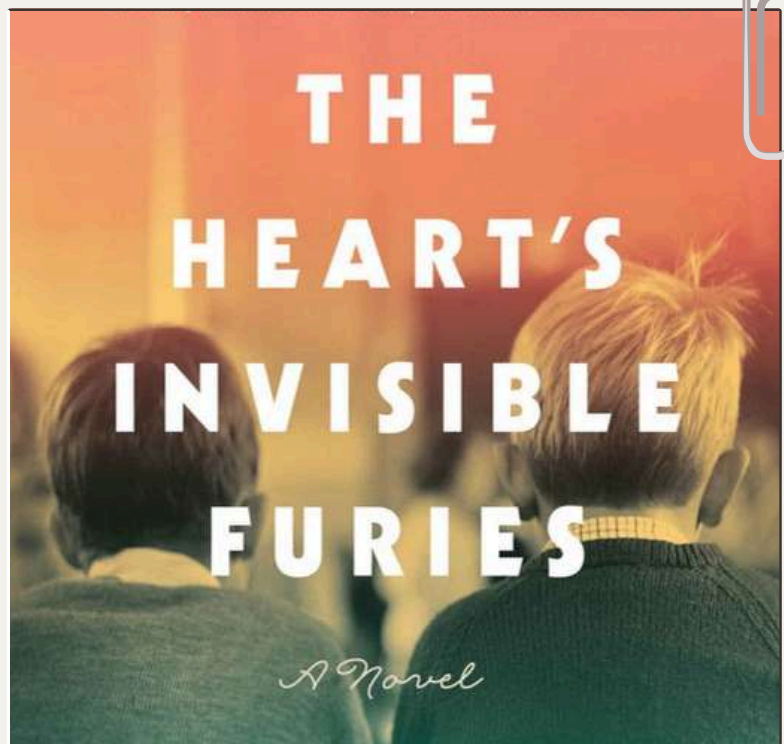
SARAH WATERS

WHY THIS BOOK?

A thinking person's historical fiction page-turner, with plot twists that will give you the best kind of whiplash. It's got romance, skulduggery, and characters you'll think about long after you turn the last page.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, ROMANCE





THE HEART'S INVISIBLE FURIES

JOHN BOYNE

WHY THIS BOOK?

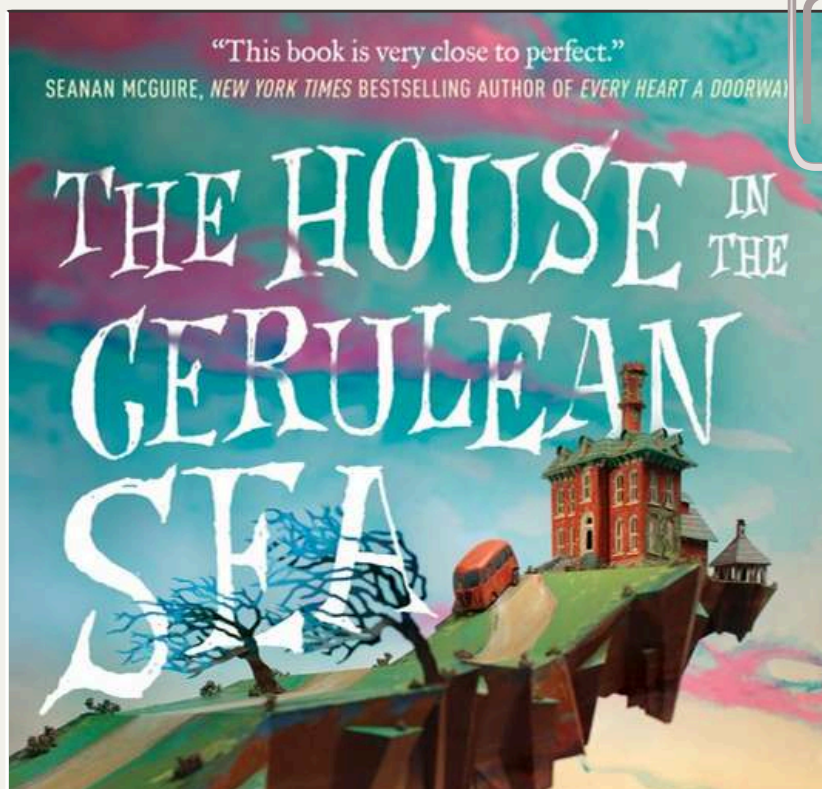
In this, Boyne's most transcendent work to date, we are shown the story of Ireland from the 1940s to 2017 through the eyes of one ordinary man.

"It was a difficult time to be Irish, a difficult time to be twenty-one years of age and a difficult time to be a man who was attracted to other men. To be all three simultaneously required a level of subterfuge and guile that felt contrary to my nature."

The Heart's Invisible Furies is a novel to make you laugh and cry while reminding us all of the redemptive power of the human spirit.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, IRISH LITERATURE





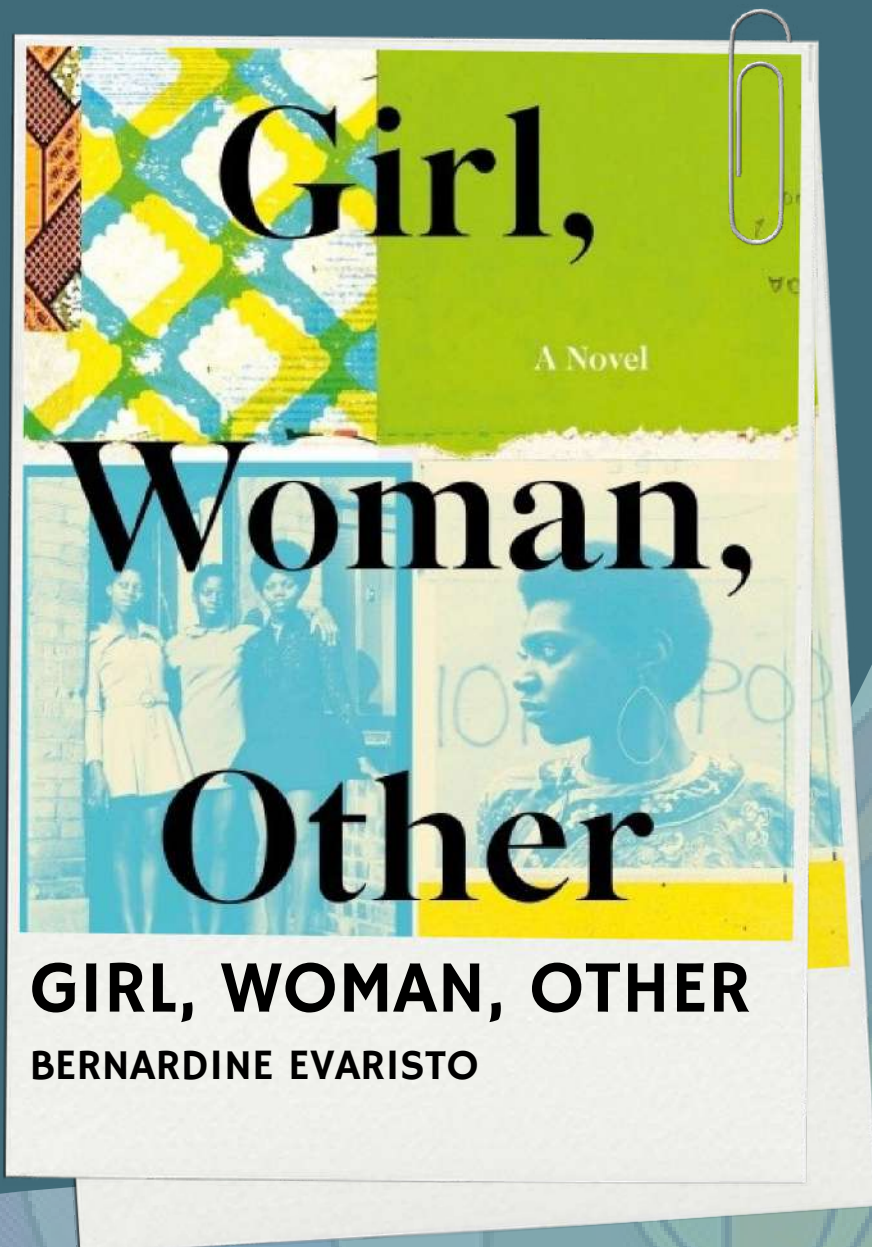
THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA
T.J. KLUNE

WHY THIS BOOK?

Whimsical, magical, and fun, this deeply human - and non-human! - story swept me away.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FANTASY, ROMANCE, FOUND FAMILY





WHY THIS BOOK?

Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly female, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends, and lovers across the country and through the years.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FICTION, SHORT STORIES



THE DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE



THE DREAM OF A COMMON LANGUAGE

ADRIENNE RICH

WHY THIS BOOK?

I only skipped class once in all of my K-Grad School career, and it was a spring day my junior year of college when I high-tailed it to another campus near mine to hear Adrienne Rich read her poems.

I first read her work in high school and fell for her writing HARD, the sinew of her line of thought, the surprise as the poem resolved itself, the intensity of "wow not alone" ness that felt like a direct message to my past and future selves.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
POETRY, FEMINISM



H O W
to
S H A K E
the
O T H E R

HOW TO SHAKE THE OTHER MAN
DEREK PALACIO

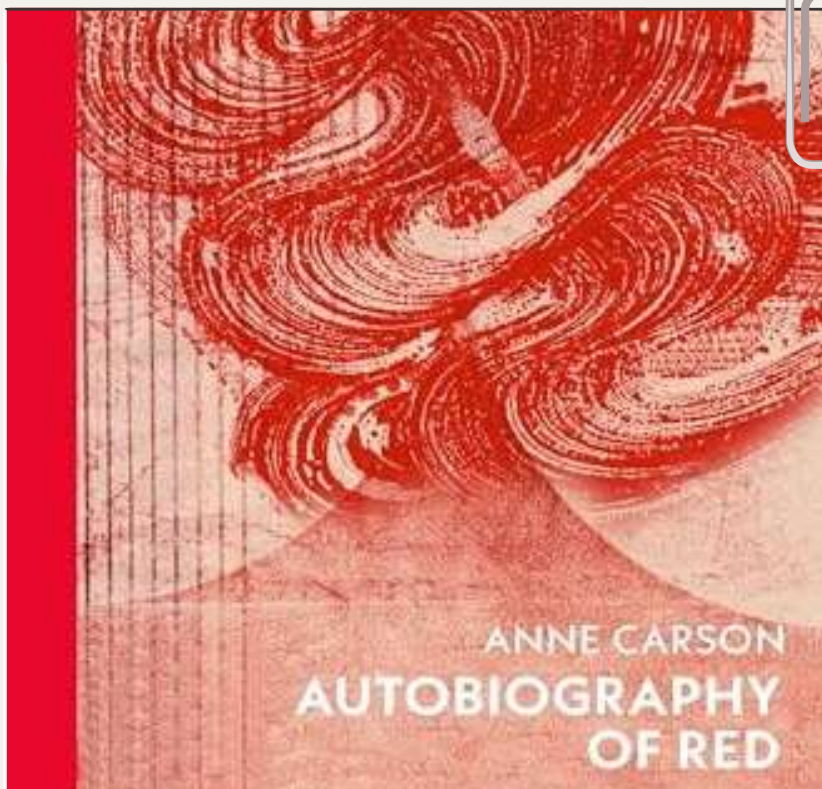
WHY THIS BOOK?

A spare, beautifully written and powerful novella that follows Javier, a Dominican immigrant, who is taken in by Marcel, a Cuban-American businessman who encourages Javier to begin boxing training. What follows is an examination of the nature of relationships and the experience of immigrants.

It's hard to describe how powerful this short book is, but it will stay with you long after you've read it.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FICTION, NOVELLA, BROTHERHOOD, BOXING





AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF RED

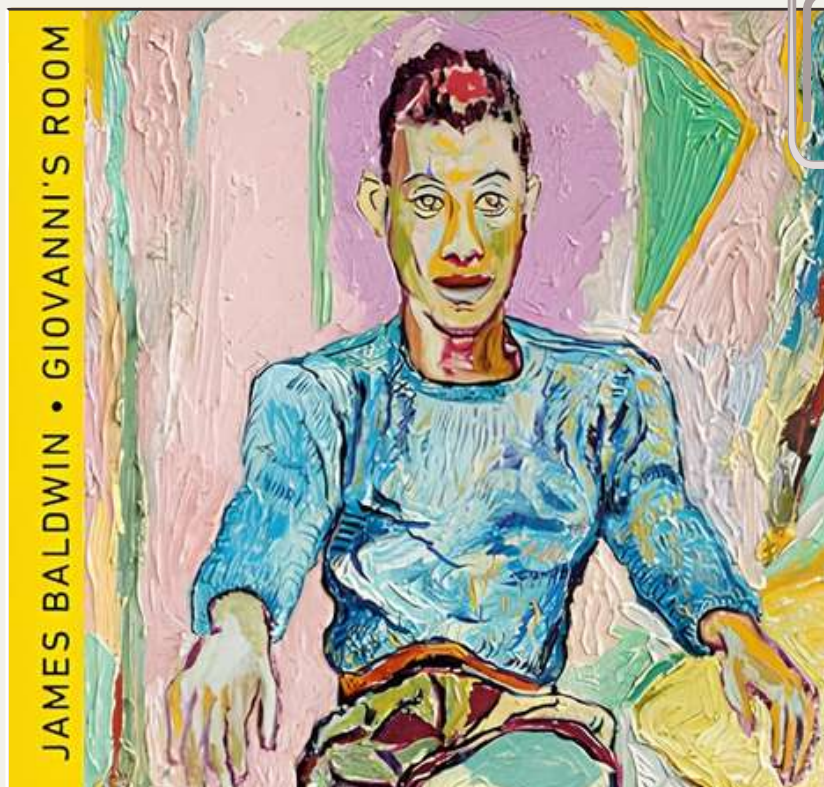
ANNE CARSON

WHY THIS BOOK?

A slim novel in verse featuring a young, queer, red-winged monster falling love. Written by a classicist, the writing is phenomenal. This book will stick with you.

**PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
POETRY, MYTHOLOGY, FANTASY**





GIOVANNI'S ROOM

JAMES BALDWIN

WHY THIS BOOK?

This is a short, completely captivating novel by one of America's greatest writers, period.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FICTION, ROMANCE, CLASSICS



THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY

MICHAEL CHABON

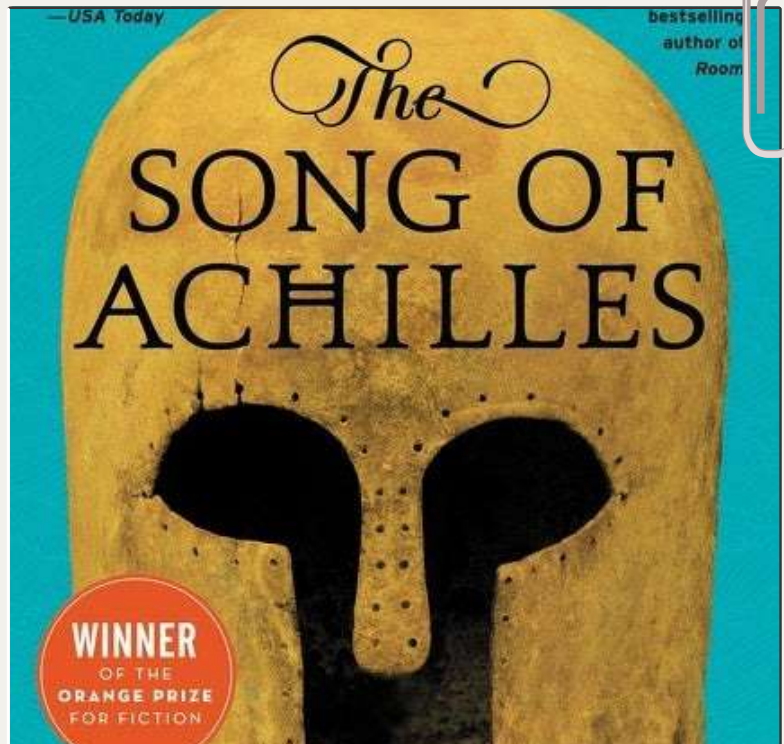
WHY THIS BOOK?

True to its title, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* is one of the great works of fiction of our time, interweaving themes of escaping the Holocaust, creating comic books, experiencing sexual awakening, and enduring homophobic persecution.

2001 Pulitzer Prize winner.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, SUPERHEROS, COMICS





THE SONG OF ACHILLES

MADELINE MILLER

WHY THIS BOOK?

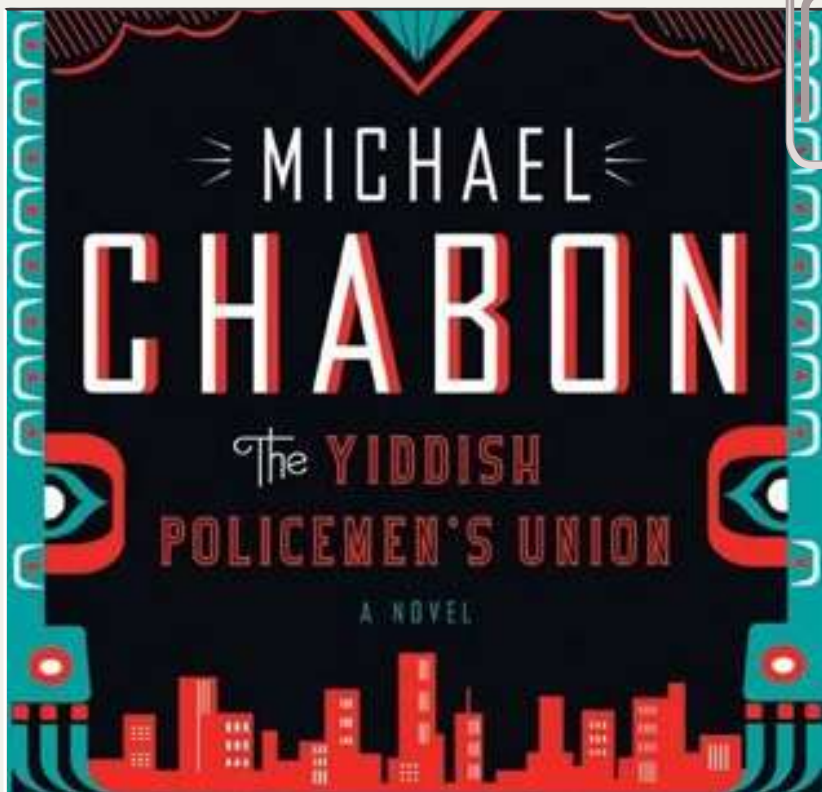
"We were like gods at the dawning of the world, and our joy was so bright we could see nothing else but the other."

A thrilling, profoundly moving, and utterly unique retelling of the legend of Achilles and the Trojan War.

An unforgettable journey back to ancient Greece in the Age of Heroes. It's a tale of gods, kings, immortal fame, and the human heart.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
ROMANCE, GREEK MYTHOLOGY





THE YIDDISH POLICEMAN'S UNION
MICHAEL CHABON

WHY THIS BOOK?

Just as hilarious as you'd imagine
from the title!

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
SCI-FI, ALTERNATE HISTORY, CRIME



*This Is How
You Lose
the Time War*
**THIS IS HOW YOU LOSE THE
TIME WAR**

AMAL EL-MOHTAR AND MAX GLADSTONE
RECOMMENDED BY ALISON LITVIN

WHY THIS BOOK?

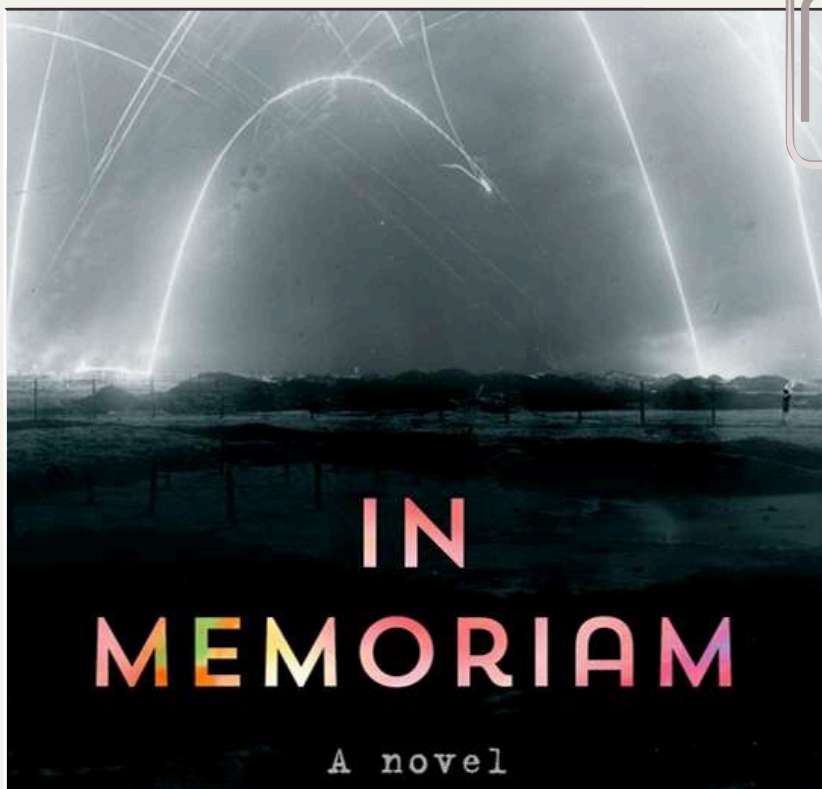
This is not an easy book to describe.

Some books spell out their world. Some books don't explain their world and let you figure it out from clues in the story. This is neither of those, but a third type: it evokes a mysterious world where you cannot figure it out, and the authors don't want you to because that's not what the story is about. The overall plot is secondary to the prose and the development of the relationship between the two main characters.

It's one-of-a-kind and gripping from page one. It's a creative, abstract, lyrical love story layered among different time periods. A cat-and-mouse game that plays out in beautifully crafted letters.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
ROMANCE, TIME TRAVEL, POETIC PROSE, DUAL POV





IN MEMORIAM

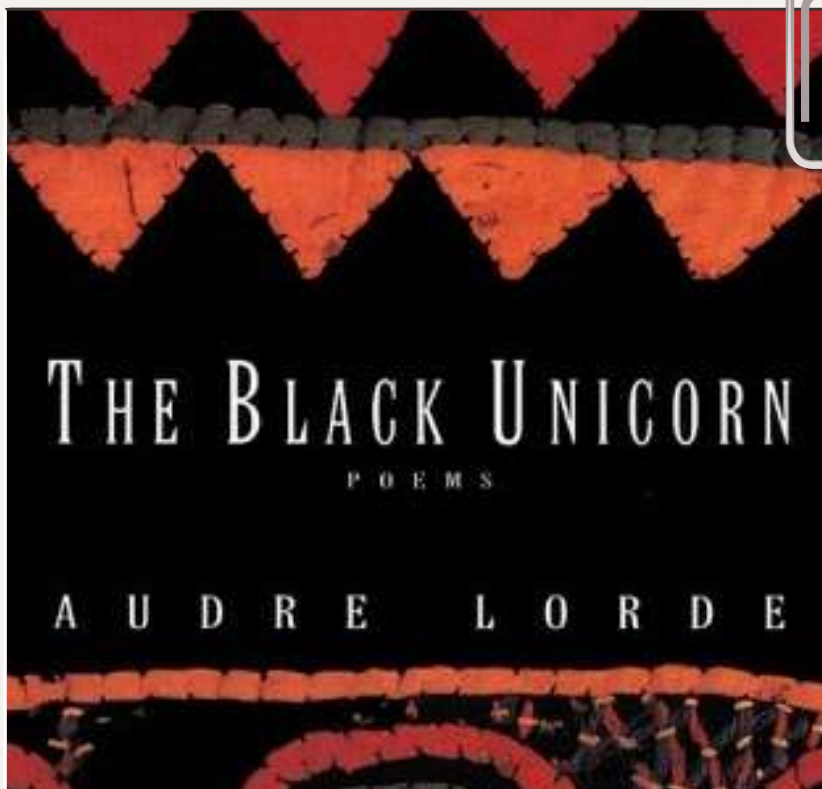
ALICE WINN

WHY THIS BOOK?

If you're looking for gorgeous prose, multidimensional characters, and a haunting war story, do not miss Alice Winn's *In Memoriam*. Elegiac and powerful, it's also a cracking good read with a note-perfect romance.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, ROMANCE





THE BLACK UNICORN: POEMS

AUDRE LORDE

WHY THIS BOOK?

This collection of poems includes "A Litany for Survival." I have tried to say something smart about this poem but you should just go read it. She was one of the best we'll ever have:

**PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
POETRY, FEMINISM**



Taking Notice



TAKING NOTICE

MARILYN HACKER

WHY THIS BOOK?

For poetry lovers and skeptics alike, this book is so fun and so smart. Chronicles of queer love unlike anything you've read before.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
POETRY, FEMINISM



"Sublime."

Julia Armfield, author of
Our Wives Under the Sea

Mrs. S



a novel

MRS. S

K. PATRICK

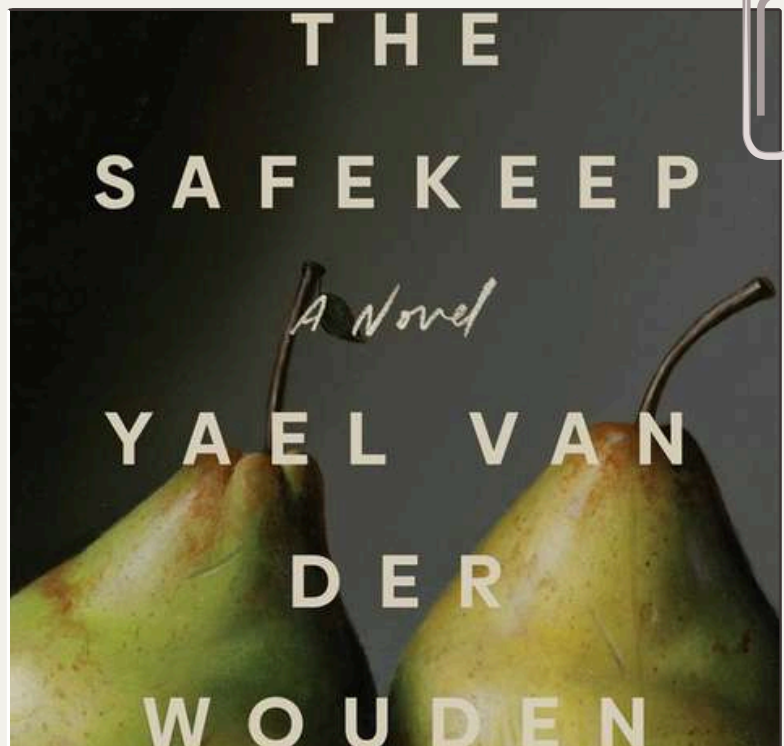
WHY THIS BOOK?

A sensual debut novel exploring the nature of queer love and attraction, the transformative power of desire, and the dissonance between self and place.

The writing in this novel is phenomenal. It's also extremely racy - you've been warned!

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
ROMANCE, DARK ACADEMIA





THE SAFEKEEP
Yael Van Der Wouden

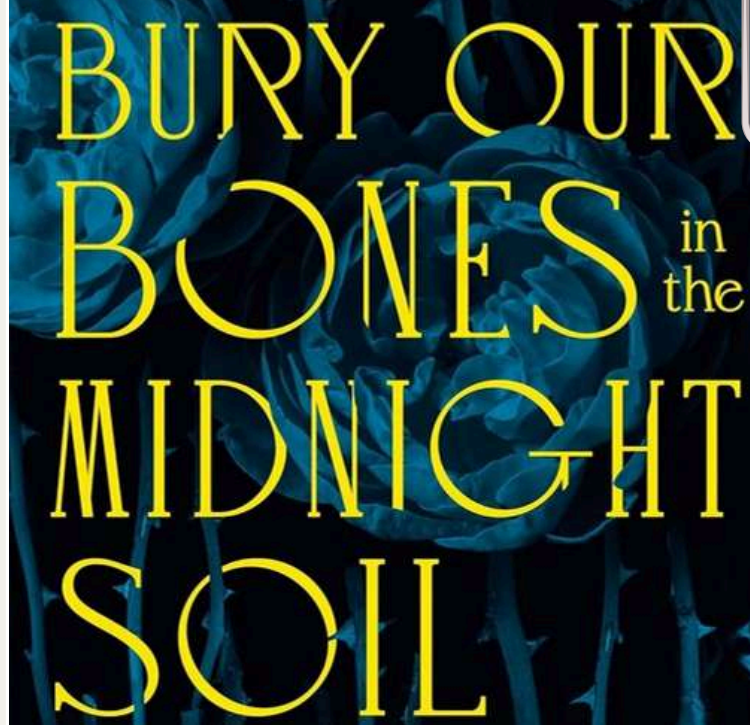
WHY THIS BOOK?

Only read this powerful book if you are willing to engage with themes of trauma and retribution as well as romance.

Set in 1960s Netherlands, this a beautifully written, multi-layered, and deeply meaningful tale that includes both Jewish and LGBTQ+ themes.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
HISTORICAL FICTION, ROMANCE





BURY OUR BONES in the MIDNIGHT SOIL

**BURY OUR BONES IN THE
MIDNIGHT SOIL**

V.E. SCHWAB

WHY THIS BOOK?

My 14-year-old kid and I devoured this book, which features sapphic vampires in a historical tumble through time.

You don't need to be a fantasy fan to enjoy this smart, cleverly constructed story, which has elements of mystery, thriller, and romance.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF:
FANTASY, HORROR, VAMPIRES, MULTI-POV



A series of thick, curved lines in the colors of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) flow from the top left corner towards the bottom right, creating a dynamic, abstract background.

**Many thanks to Jessica Leader for
inspiring this project, to everyone who
shared a book recommendation, and to
all who helped bring this collection
together. We hope these books bring
you joy, inspiration, and new discoveries.**

A horizontal line composed of six short segments in the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

**TEMPLE MICAH
2026**



מִיכָה
TEMPLE
MICAH

WASHINGTON, DC