

09/13 - The Code Girls by Liza Mundy

The Code Girls: the Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of WWII by Liza Mundy 433 pp 4.5* based on 850 reviews True story – very well researched – shining light on hidden chapter of American History: American women who secretly served as code breakers during WWII.

10/11 - Rising Out of Hatred by Eli Saslow

Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist by Eli Saslow 291 pp 4.8* based on 205 reviews Rising Out of Hatred tells the story of how white-supremacist ideas migrated from the far-right fringe to the White House through the intensely personal saga of one man who eventually disavowed everything he was taught to believe, at tremendous personal cost. With great empathy and narrative verve, Eli Saslow asks what Derek's story can tell us about America's increasingly divided nature. This is a book to help us understand the American moment and to help us better understand one another

11/08 - When We Believed in Mermaids by Barbara O'Neal

When We Believed in Mermaids by Barbara O'Neal 352 pp 4.6* based on 6,199 reviews Josie Bianci was killed 15 years ago on a train during a terrorist attack. Until her sister, Kit, an ER doctor, sees her on a TV in footage following a club fire in Auckland, New Zealand. Now, if 2 sisters are to reunite, it can only be by unearthing long-buried secrets and facing a devastating truth that has kept them apart for too long.

12/13 - The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia) by C. S. Lewis 208 pp 4.7* based on 2,888 reviews Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is the second book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been captivating readers of all ages with a magical land and unforgettable characters for over sixty years

01/10 - Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson 368 pp 4.8* based on 5,630 reviews Just Mercy is every bit as moving as To Kill a Mockingbird, and in some

ways more so. . . . [It] demonstrates, as powerfully as any book on criminal justice that I've ever read, the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States. But at the same time that [Bryan] Stevenson tells an utterly damning story of deep-seated and widespread injustice, he also recounts instances of human compassion, understanding, mercy, and justice that offer hope. . . . Just Mercy is a remarkable amalgam, at once a searing indictment of American criminal justice and a stirring testament to the salvation that fighting for the vulnerable sometimes yields."—David Cole, The New York Review of Books

02/14 - An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski 274 pp 4.6* based on 2,929 reviews True story of a life-long friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness.

03/14 - The Spy and the Traitor by Ben Macintyre

The Spy and the Traitor: the Greatest Espionage Story of the Cold War by Ben Macintyre 418 pp 4.8* based on 2,313 reviews A fast-paced and fascinating biography of Russian-spy-turned-British-asset Oleg Gordievsky....a nonfiction account but it reads like the best of thrillers. (San Francisco Chronicle)

04/11 - Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton

Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton 356 pp 4.5* based on 1,712 reviews After the death of her grandmother, a Cuban-American woman travels to Havana where she discovers the roots of her identity – and unearths a family secret hidden since the revolution. "I liked this book since I learned so much about the Cuban revolution in 1958 and what conditions are like in Havana in 2007." Kessey

05/09 - This Tender Land by William Kent Kreuger

This Tender Land by William Kent Kreuger 465 pp 4.7* based on 1,645 reviews For fans of Before We Were Yours and Where the Crawdads Sing, "a gripping, poignant tale swathed in both mythical and mystical overtones" (Bob Drury, New York Times bestselling author) that follows four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression, from the New York Times bestselling author of Ordinary Grace.