



SPRING

"No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come." – Victor Hugo

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Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss McGarr



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NEW

Once Upon a Broken Heart #3: A Curse for True Love by Stephanie Garber

Two villains, one girl, and a deadly battle for happily ever after. Evangeline Fox ventured to the Magnificent North in search of her happy ending, and it seems as if she has it. She's married to a handsome prince and lives in a legendary castle. But Evangeline has no idea of the devastating price she's paid for this fairy tale. She doesn't know what she has lost, and her husband is determined to make sure she never finds out... but first he must kill Jacks, the Prince of Hearts. Blood will be shed, hearts will be stolen, and true love will be put to the test in A Curse for True Love, the breathlessly anticipated conclusion to the Once Upon a Broken Heart trilogy.



You, Me, and Our Heartstrings by Melissa See

Daisy and Noah have the same plan: use the holiday concert to land a Juilliard audition. But when they're chosen to play a duet for the concert, they worry that their differences will sink their chances. Noah, a cello prodigy from a long line of musicians, wants to stick to tradition. Daisy, a fiercely independent disabled violinist, is used to fighting for what she wants and likes to take risks. But the two surprise each other when they play. They fall perfectly in tune. After their performance goes viral, the rest of the country falls for them just as surely as they're falling for each other. But viral fame isn't all it's cracked up to be. No one seems to care about their talent or their music at all. People have rewritten their love story into one where Daisy is an inspiration for overcoming her cerebral palsy and Noah is a saint for seeing past it. Daisy is tired of her disability being the only thing people see about her, and all of the attention sends Noah's anxiety disorder into high speed. They can see their dream coming closer than it's ever been before. But is the cost suddenly too high?



The Celestial Kingdom #2: Heart of the Sun Warrior by Sue Lynn Tan

After her perilous quest to free her mother, Xingyin thrives once more in the tranquility of her home. But her fragile peace is threatened by the discovery of a strange magic on the moon and the unsettling changes in the Celestial Kingdom as the emperor tightens his grip on power. While Xingyin is determined to keep clear of the rising danger, the discovery of a shocking truth spurs her into a treacherous confrontation. Forced to flee her home once more, Xingyin and her companions venture to unexplored lands of the Immortal Realm, encountering legendary creatures and shrewd monarchs, beloved friends and bitter adversaries. With alliances shifting quicker than the tides, Xingyin has to overcome past grudges and enemies to forge a new path forward, seeking aid where she never imagined she would. As an unspeakable terror sweeps across the realm, Xingyin must uncover the truth of her heart and claw her way through devastation—to rise against this evil before it destroys everything she holds dear, and the worlds she has grown to love... even if doing so demands the greatest price of all.

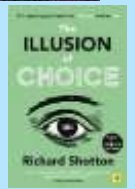


The Extinction Trials #3: Rebel by SM Wilson

Betrayal. Sacrifice. Survival. Welcome to The Extinction Trials. Storm and Lincoln's city is burning. The people are starving. The only place left to run is Plloria, the continent of monsters. It's up to Storm and Lincoln to keep their people alive as they colonize this lethal paradise. But will the biggest threat to their survival be the monsters in the jungle...or the ones inside the encampment with them?

The Illusion of Choice: 16 ½ Psychological Biases That Influence What We Buy by Richard Shotton

Every day, people make hundreds of choices. Many of these are What shampoo to pick? How much to spend on a bottle of wine? Whether to renew a subscription? These choices might appear to be freely made, but psychologists have shown that subtle changes in the way products are positioned, promoted and marketed can radically alter how customers behave. The Illusion of Choice identifies the 16 ½ most important psychological biases that everyone in business needs to be aware of today – and shows how any business can take advantage of these quirks to win customers, retain customers and sell more. Richard Shotton, author of the acclaimed The Choice Factory, draws on academic research, previous ad campaigns and his own original field studies to create a fascinating and highly practical guide that focuses on the point where marketing meets the mind of the customer.



A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins (Recommended for Older Readers)

When a young man is found gruesomely murdered in a London houseboat, it triggers questions about three women who knew him. Laura is the troubled one-night-stand last seen in the victim's home. Carla is his grief-stricken aunt, already mourning the recent death of yet another family member. And Miriam is the nosy neighbour clearly keeping secrets from the police. Three women with separate connections to the victim. Three women who are – for different reasons – simmering with resentment. Who are, whether they know it or not, burning to right the wrongs done to them. When it comes to revenge, even good people might be capable of terrible deeds. How far might any one of them go to find peace? How long can secrets smoulder before they explode into flame?



I, Ada by Julia Gray

Ada Byron is rich and clever, but she longs to be free. Free to explore all the amazing ideas that come to her imagination, like flying mechanical horses and stories inspired by her travels. Free to find love and passion beyond the watchful gaze of her mother and governesses. And free to learn the full truth about her father, the notorious Lord Byron. Then Ada meets a man whose invention might just change the world – and he needs her visionary brilliance to bring it to life...



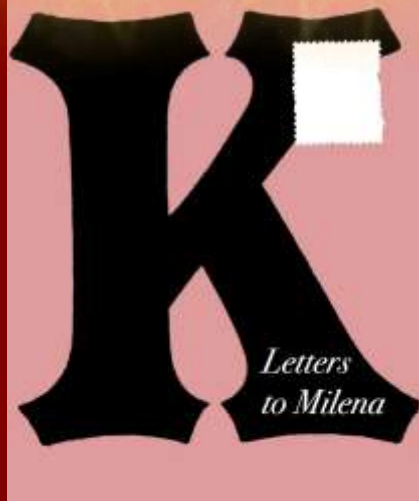
Wish List Spotlight:

Letters to Milena by Franz Kafka

Franz Kafka's letters to his one-time muse, Milena Jesenska – an intimate window into the desires and hopes of the twentieth-century's most prophetic and important writer

Kafka first made the acquaintance of Milena Jesenska in 1920 when she was translating his early short prose into Czech. Their relationship quickly developed into a deep attachment. Such was his feeling for her that Kafka showed her his diaries and, in doing so, laid bare his heart and his conscience.

While at times Milena's 'genius for living' gave Kafka new life, it ultimately exhausted him, and their relationship was to last little over two years. In 1924 Kafka died in a sanatorium near Vienna, and Milena died in 1944 at the hands of the Nazis, leaving these letters as a moving record of their relationship.



World Dracula Day

Commemorating the publication date of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, World Dracula Day is celebrated every year on the 26th of May. The holiday was created in 2012 by the Whitby Dracula Society – Whitby being an important location in the book, as well as where Stoker originally found inspiration for the novel.

In 1890, while on holiday in the town of Whitby in Yorkshire, Stoker came across the name Dracula in the public library and assumed it was the Wallachian (archaic Romanian) word for 'devil' – he noted this down for later use. Stoker found further inspiration in the Gothic ruins of Whitby Abbey, and from hearing about a shipwreck that occurred nearby. The ship was a Russian vessel called the *Dmitry* that ran aground, carrying a cargo of silver and sand – in the novel Stoker slightly alters the ship's name, and the *Demeter* is the vessel that carries Dracula to Whitby along with a cargo of silver and earth.

Dracula was published in 1897 and is an epistolary novel i.e., one that is written in the form of letters, diary entries, and other documents. The fact that all of the novel's components are dated, and occur between the 3rd of May



The ruins of Whitby Abbey

and the 7th of November, has inspired a group of *Dracula* fans to create Dracula Daily, an annual email service wherein those that sign up to the initiative receive daily emails containing the corresponding part of the story during this period. Click [here](#) to find out more about Dracula Daily.

Since its publication, *Dracula* has never been out of print. It has been translated into roughly 30 languages and has been adapted countless times for film and television.

Dracula by Bram Stoker

Count Dracula sleeps in a lordly tomb in the vaults beneath his desolate castle. His stony eyes are open. His cheeks have the flush of life beneath their pallor. On his lips – a mocking, sensuous smile and scarlet-fresh blood. He has been dead for centuries, yet he may never die... Here begins the story of an evil ages old and forever new. It is the story of those who feed a diabolic craving into the veins of their victims, into the men and women from whose blood they draw their only sustenance. It is a novel of peculiar power, of hypnotic fascination. The reader is warned that he who enters Castle Dracula may not escape its baleful spell, even when he closes this book.



The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova

For centuries, the story of Dracula has captured the imagination of readers and storytellers alike. Kostova's breath-taking first novel, ten years in the writing, is an accomplished retelling of this ancient tale. Late one night in 1972, as a 16-year-old girl, she discovers a mysterious book and a sheaf of letters in her father's library—a discovery that will have dreadful and far-reaching consequences and will send her on a journey of mind-boggling danger. While seeking clues to the secrets of her father's past and her mother's puzzling disappearance, she follows a trail from London to Istanbul to Budapest and beyond and learns that the letters in her possession provide a link to one of the world's darkest and most intoxicating figures. Generation after generation, the legend of Dracula has enticed and eluded both historians and opportunists alike. Now a young girl undertakes the same search that ended in the death and defilement of so many others—in an attempt to save her father from an unspeakable fate.



Caleb Azumah Nelson Wins 2024 Dylan Thomas Prize

British-Ghanaian author Caleb Azumah Nelson has won the Dylan Thomas Prize for his second novel, *Small Worlds*. The Dylan Thomas prize is one of the most prestigious awards for young writers, aimed at encouraging raw creative talent worldwide. The prize is awarded annually to authors aged 39 or under for the best published literary work in the English language and is hosted by Swansea University – Swansea being the town where Dylan Thomas was born. Thirty-nine was chosen as the upwards age limit as this was the age at which Thomas died.



Judges of the prize described Azumah Nelson's *Small Worlds* as "symphonic" and "viscerally moving." The story is set between south-east London and Ghana across three summers and follows protagonist Stephen as he navigates love and family life. One of the judges, author Namita Gokhale said of *Small Worlds*, "Amid a hugely impressive shortlist that showcased a breadth of genres and exciting new voices, we were unanimous in our praise for this viscerally moving, heartfelt novel." Azumah Nelson's first novel *Open Water* was also shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize in 2022. He has received £20,000 for this year's win.

[Click here to view the full shortlist.](#)

Open Water by Caleb Azumah Nelson (Recommended for Older Readers)

Two young people meet at a pub in Southeast London. Both are Black British, both won scholarships to private schools where they struggled to belong, both are now artists – he a photographer, she a dancer – trying to make their mark in a city that by turns celebrates and rejects them. Tentatively, tenderly, they fall in love. But two people who seem destined to be together can still be torn apart by fear and violence. At once an achingly beautiful love story and a potent insight into race and masculinity, *Open Water* asks what it means to be a person in a world that sees you only as a Black body, to be vulnerable when you are only respected for strength, to find safety in love, only to lose it. With gorgeous, soulful intensity, Caleb Azumah Nelson has written the most essential British debut of recent years.



Netflix Adapts Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Netflix has adapted Gabriel García Márquez's classic work of magical realism, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, into a 16-part series. So far there has been no release date given for the series – Netflix has stated that it will be available to watch 'later in 2024.' What we do know is that the series has been filmed in Spanish and shot in García Márquez's native Colombia, with the support of the author's family. The cross-generational novel is set in the fictional town of Macondo, inspired by Aracataca, the town in which García Márquez was born, and lived until the age of 8. The late author once said that all his writing drew on that time in his life. The production team behind the series decided not to film in Aracataca, choosing instead to shoot the footage in the city of Ibagué, however inhabitants of García Márquez's birthplace hope that the series will still boost Aracataca's popularity as a tourist destination. Speaking to the *Guardian*, local teacher Robinson Mulford said, "We're disappointed that Netflix decided not to film here, but we all know that anyone inspired by the series will have to come to Aracataca, as the heart of Macondo lies here... they will feel the kindness, the solidarity of the people, and everything else that Gabriel García Márquez said of the Colombian Caribbean. They will all be received with love."

The 16-part series will be released in two sets of 8 episodes. Click [here](#) to watch the teaser trailer

One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez

Gabriel García Márquez's great masterpiece is the story of seven generations of the Buendía family and of Macondo, the town they have built. Though little more than a settlement surrounded by mountains, Macondo has its wars and disasters, even its wonders and miracles. A microcosm of Colombian life, its secrets lie hidden, encoded in a book and only Aureliano Buendía can fathom its mysteries and reveal its shrouded destiny. Blending political reality with magic realism, fantasy with comic invention, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is one of the most daringly original works of the twentieth century.



On This Day in History... The Birth of Mary Anning, 21st May 1799

Mary Anning (1799-1847) was a palaeontologist and fossil collector who lived along the Jurassic Coast in Lyme Regis, Dorset. In her early life, Mary and her family would trawl the coast together, collecting fossils to sell at a table of curiosities to supplement the family income. When Mary was 12, her brother Joseph dug up the skull of an ichthyosaur, and a few months later Mary famously uncovered the rest of the animal's fossilised skeleton herself. The skeleton was sold and later displayed in a London museum. After her father's death, Mary assumed the leading role in the family fossil business, and at the age of 27 she opened her own shop, Anning's Fossil Depot. Geologists and fossil collectors from across the world visited Mary's shop and purchased her items. She became well known in global geological circles and was frequently consulted on issues of anatomy, as well as fossil collecting.



Despite her clear abundance of knowledge and passion for palaeontology, Mary was not eligible to join the Geological Society of London due to the fact she was a woman. She also did not always receive full credit for her scientific contributions.

Mary Anning passed away in 1847 at the age of 47. It was not until after her death that her unusual life story began to attract interest from the public, and her significant scientific contributions were fully recognised.

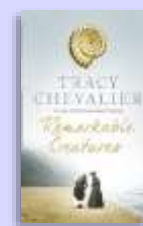


Daughters of Time edited by Mary Hoffman

Look through fresh eyes at the stories of some of history's most remarkable women, in this inspiring collection of short stories by the finest female authors writing historical fiction for children today - The History Girls. Subjects include: Queen Boudicca, Aethelfled, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Julian of Norwich, Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth Stuart, Aphra Behn, Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Anning, Mary Seacole, Emily Davison, Amy Johnson and the Greenham Common women.

Remarkable Creatures by Tracy Chevalier

In 1810, a sister and brother uncover the fossilized skull of an unknown animal in the cliffs on the south coast of England. With its long snout and prominent teeth, it might be a crocodile – except that it has a huge, bulbous eye. *Remarkable Creatures* is the story of Mary Anning, who has a talent for finding fossils, and whose discovery of ancient marine reptiles such as that ichthyosaur shakes the scientific community and leads to new ways of thinking about the creation of the world. Working in an arena dominated by middle-class men, however, Mary finds herself out of step with her working-class background. In danger of being an outcast in her community, she takes solace in an unlikely friendship with Elizabeth Philpot, a prickly London spinster with her own passion for fossils.

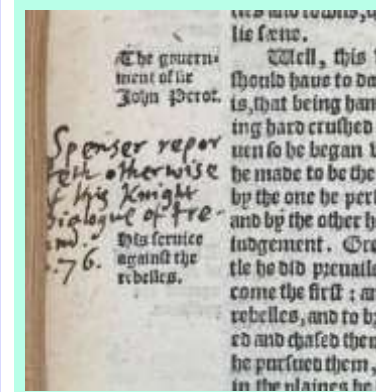


Lightning Mary by Anthea Simmons

One stormy night, a group of villagers are struck by lightning. The only survivor is a baby – Mary Anning. From that moment on, a spark is lit within her. Growing up poor but proud on the windswept Dorset coast, Mary follows after her father, hunting for fossils uncovered by waves and ancient creatures, turned to stone. Ignoring other people's taunts, Mary faces danger to bring back valuable treasures to help feed her family. But tragedy and despair is never far away. Mary must depend upon her unique courage and knowledge to fulfill her dream of becoming a scientist in a time when girls have no opportunities for such ambitions. What will happen when she makes her greatest discovery of all? With a factual section about Mary Anning, her life, and the discoveries she made.



Margin Notes by Milton Found in US Library Book



Handwritten notes by poet John Milton (1608-1674) have been found in the margins of an American library book. Milton was the author of many works of poetry and prose, including the epic poem *Paradise Lost* which tells the biblical story of the fall of man i.e., the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. *Paradise Lost* consists of ten books and over 10,000 lines of verse and is considered Milton's masterpiece.

Recently Dr Aaron Pratt, curator of early books and manuscripts at the University of Texas, noticed handwritten annotations in the margins of 1587 British history book *Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles*. He realised that the handwriting bore a striking resemblance to that of John Milton, particularly in the way that the 'e's were formed. Dr Pratt sent photographs of the

annotations to Professor Scott-Warren at the University of Cambridge to analyse. Professor Scott-Warren compared the annotations with Milton's handwriting in two surviving manuscripts and confirmed the authenticity of the script. The University of Cambridge has said that the discovery makes *Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles* one of just three known books to preserve Milton's handwritten notes, and one of just nine books to have survived from the poet's own library.

Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles were a source of inspiration for Milton while he was studying at Christ's College, Cambridge. It is not known what happened to the rest of Milton's books following his death, however it's widely accepted that they were sold off in batches, which may explain how his copy of *Raphael Holinshed's Chronicles* found its way across the sea to America. (Original article [here](#).)



Paradise Lost by John Milton

John Milton's *Paradise Lost* is one of the greatest epic poems in the English language. It tells the story of the Fall of Man, a tale of immense drama and excitement, of rebellion and treachery, of innocence pitted against corruption, in which God and Satan fight a bitter battle for control of mankind's destiny. The struggle rages across three worlds – heaven, hell, and earth – as Satan and his band of rebel angels plot their revenge against God. At the centre of the conflict are Adam and Eve, who are motivated by all too human temptations but whose ultimate downfall is unyielding love. Marked by Milton's characteristic erudition, *Paradise Lost* is a work epic both in scale and, notoriously, in ambition. For nearly 350 years, it has held generation upon generation of audiences in rapt attention, and its profound influence can be seen in almost every corner of Western culture.

The Prose Writings of John Milton by John Milton and KM Burton

The prose writings of Milton, inspired by the stirring events amid which they were written, form his contribution to the literature of freedom. To them were given the matured powers of a mind enriched by varied studies and ripened by meditation. They form the labours of his life, grand in thought and expression, as the poetic recreations of his earlier and later years are sublime and beautiful. In them his opinions, character, motives, and conduct are portrayed with singular fidelity. It is the aim of this volume to present a selection from Milton's Prose Writings, comprising some of the author's best thoughts, and setting forth as clearly as possible Milton himself, showing impartially his merits and faults as a writer and as a man. It will not have been prepared in vain, if it shall serve to make more widely known the Treasures of truth and beauty in these Prose Writings, and the true greatness of soul in their much-abused author. And may the principles of civil and religious freedom, here so eloquently defended, triumph everywhere.