



WINTER

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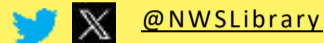
Happy reading! – Miss Mullins, Miss Walker, and Miss Henry



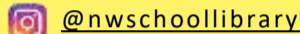
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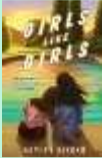
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"There's nothing more beautiful and powerful than someone who chooses to be herself" – Steve Maraboli



Girls Like Girls by Hayley Kiyoko

It's summertime and 17-year-old Coley has found herself alone, again. Forced to move to rural Oregon after just losing her mother, she is in no position to risk her already fragile heart. But when she meets Sonya, the attraction is immediate. Coley worries she isn't worthy of love. Up until now, everyone she's loved has left her. And Sonya's never been with a girl before. What if she's too afraid to show up for Coley? What if by opening her heart, Coley's risking it all? They both realize that when things are pushed down, and feelings are forced to shrivel away, Coley and Sonya will be the ones to shrink. It's not until they accept the love they fear and deserve most, that suddenly the song makes sense. Based on the billboard-charting smash hit song and viral music video *GIRLS LIKE GIRLS*, Hayley Kiyoko's debut novel is about embracing your truth and realizing we are all worthy of being loved back.



Crave #2: Crush by Tracy Wolff

Everything feels off—especially me. I've returned to Katmere Academy, but I'm haunted by fragments of days I have no recollection of living and struggling to understand who, or what, I really am. Just when I start to feel safe again, Hudson is back with a vengeance. He insists there are secrets I don't know about, threatening to drive a wedge between Jaxon and me forever. But for worse enemies are at our doorstep. The Circle is caught in a power play and the Vampire Court is trying to drag me out of my world and into theirs. The only thing Hudson and Jaxon agree on is that leaving Katmere would mean my certain death. And not only am I fighting for my life, but now everyone else's is at stake—unless we can defeat an unspeakable evil. All I know is that saving the people I love is going to require sacrifice.



Blue Flag: Volume 1 by Kaito

An unexpected love quadrangle with a dash of unrequited love as two classmates, a boy and a girl, begin to fall for each other when each of their best friends have already fallen for them. Love is already hard enough, but it becomes an un navigable maze for unassuming high school student Taichi Ichinose and his shy classmate Futaba Kuze when they begin to fall for each other after their same-sex best friends have already fallen for them. For some reason, Taichi Ichinose just can't stand Futaba Kuze. But at the start of his third year in high school, he finds himself in the same homeroom as her, along with his childhood friend Toma Mita, a star athlete. But one day, Futaba opens up to Taichi and admits she has a crush on Toma. She then asks for his help in confessing to him! There's just one problem—Toma seems to already have a secret crush on someone else.



Crave #3: Covet by Tracy Wolff

I may have reached my breaking point. As if trying to graduate from a school for supernaturals isn't stressful enough, my relationship status has gone from complicated to a straight-up dumpster fire. Oh, and the Bloodletter has decided to drop a bomb of epic proportions on us all... Then again, when has anything at Katmere Academy not been intense? And the hits just keep coming. Jaxon's turned colder than an Alaskan winter. The Circle is splintered over my upcoming coronation. As if things couldn't get worse, now there's an arrest warrant for Hudson's and my supposed crimes—which apparently means a lifetime prison sentence with a deadly unbreakable curse.

The Gang of Three: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle by Neel Burton

For better or worse, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle engineered the Western mind. Above all, they formed part of a movement that stood at the crossroads of mythological and scientific-rational thought, at the crossroads of myths and logos. Although the path of logos had already been beaten by the pre-Socratics, and would be paved by the Stoics, it is they, the Gang of Three, who forced the carriage to turn. This book sets out to do three things: trace the journey from mythos to logos; outline the lives and thought of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle; and consider their legacy, and what can still be gained from them, especially in the universal fields of mental health and human flourishing. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were not philosophers in the narrow sense that we understand today, but in the broader, historical, etymological sense of being lovers of wisdom. They knew logic and dialectic, but they also knew how to live, and how to die—and it is in this, perhaps, that their greater strength lies.



Keeper of the Lost Cities #2: Exile by Shannon Messenger

Sophie Foster thought she was safe. Settled into her home at Havenfield, surrounded by friends, and using her unique telepathic abilities to train Silvery—the first female alicorn ever seen in the Lost Cities—her life finally seems to be coming together. But Sophie's kidnappers are still out there. And when Sophie discovers new messages and clues from the mysterious Black Swan group, she's forced to take a terrifying risk—one that puts everyone in incredible danger.



Keeper of the Lost Cities #3: Everblaze by Shannon Messenger

Sophie Foster is ready to fight back. Her talents are getting stronger, and with the elusive Black Swan group ignoring her calls for help, she's determined to find her kidnappers—before they come after her again. But a daring mistake leaves her world teetering on the edge of war and causes many to fear that she has finally gone too far. And the deeper Sophie searches, the farther the conspiracy stretches, proving that her most dangerous enemy might be closer than she realizes.

9,000 Paper Doves Installed in Tewkesbury Abbey

A stunning art installation featuring around 9,000 paper doves has been installed at Tewkesbury Abbey in Gloucestershire. Local artist Peter Walker designed the 'Peace Doves' which are decorated with messages of love and peace and were contributed by local schools, community groups, and residents. The installation is enhanced with a sound and light show that includes specially composed music and effects, making it even more impressive, particularly in the evenings. Reverend Cannon Nick Davies praised the piece as unique and striking. Local resident Caroline Baldwin told the BBC that one of the messages was written by her 10-year-old son who wrote on his dove, 'wouldn't it be nice if people were nice.' Caroline said, 'It's lovely that children are involved in the artwork, and it helps them be more aware so they can articulate their hopes. I think that's lovely.' The art installation will be on display until February 27th, offering entertainment and a beautiful experience for visitors to the Abbey. Original BBC article by Nicky Price [here](https://www.bbc.com/news/arts-67890123).



Everything Origami by Matthew Gardiner

Origami explains paper folding techniques, provides information on the history of origami and its tradition, as well as explanations of each individual model. The work of the leading Australian expert Matthew Gardiner, with attachments and original models of famous origami artists, is the most detailed guide to making objects using the origami technique.



Origami by David Petty

It is amazing how a simple piece of paper and a few folds can create so many different shapes and models. In this delightful guide you will find a wealth of projects from birds to frogs; from people to plants and from simple models to complex geometrical designs. With advice on paper choices and folding techniques, together with a wide range of models, each accompanied by step-by-step photography, this is the perfect inspirational guide for all origami enthusiasts—from beginners to experts alike.



National Embroidery Month

In the USA, February is designated as National Embroidery Month which is a great excuse to highlight the craft as well as our relevant resources. Embroidery is the art of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to stitch thread or wool. It may also incorporate other materials such as beads or sequins.

Examples of ancient embroidery have been found worldwide, with the oldest (fossilized clothing and boots) dating back to 30,000 BC. Historically viewed as a pastime for women, embroidery was often used as a form of biography: women who were unable to access a formal education or, at times, writing implements, were often taught embroidery and utilized it as a means of documenting their lives by telling stories through their craft. Embroidery can also be used to document the histories of marginalized groups, especially women of colour both within the United States and around the world—it is a means of studying the everyday lives of those whose lives largely went unstudied throughout much of history.

Since the late 2010s there has been a surge in the popularity of hand-embroidery. Artists are now able to share their work widely on social media apps such as Pinterest and Instagram, and this has encouraged younger generations to pick up the craft. Conversely, some contemporary embroidery artists believe hand-embroidery has grown in popularity as a result of an increasing need for relaxation and practices disconnected from our online lives. Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) to watch Craftsy's Beginner's Embroidery Tutorial for free on YouTube.

The Encyclopedia of Stitches by Karen Hemingway

It's the ultimate sourcebook for stitchwork a compendium of 245 embroidery stitches photographed closeup, accompanied by stitch-by-stitch instructions, plus hundreds of illustrations and meticulous charts and diagrams. Twenty-four superb projects offer practice-makes-perfect work on every kind of embroidery, from cross-stitching and huck-weaving, crewel and needle lace to smocking and bargello. The finished products? An array of skill-displaying samplers, a Victorian brooch cushion, glittering Shisha bag, silk ribbon floral pane, Hardanger tablemat, and more, in a portfolio of beautiful handiwork. A must-have reference for beginners and experienced alike.



Niall Williams: Books of My Life

Irish author Niall Williams has written 13 fiction and 5 nonfiction books over a 28-year career. Speaking with *The Guardian* recently, he discussed the books he's read throughout his life, and which have had the biggest impact on him. Williams told *The Guardian* that his favourite book growing up couldn't be narrowed down to one but was instead Enid Blyton's entire body of work which is all one "multi-volumed book" in his memory. The book that changed him as a teenager was Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, which Williams remembers reading aloud in his teacher Mr Mason's class with "each of 30 teenage boys following the sentences" with their fingers. He remembers that when main character Pip fell in love with Estella, he did too. The book that made Williams want to be a writer was Gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, after finishing which he "knew that, for better or worse, making fiction was to be [his] life". Other literary highlights of Niall Williams' life include the works of Anton Chekhov, which he is known to revisit, and Edith Wharton's *House of Mirth*, which was a book he discovered later in life. Original *Guardian* article [here](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/feb/07/niall-williams-books-of-my-life).



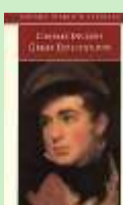
My Favourite Book Growing Up: The Magic Faraway Tree Collection by Enid Blyton

The Magic Faraway Tree Collection contains all three much-loved books in the Faraway Tree series by the world's best-loved children's author, Enid Blyton. When Joe, Beth and Frannie move to a new home, an Enchanted Wood is on their doorstep. And when they discover the Faraway Tree, it proves to be the beginning of many magical adventures! Join them and their friends Moonface, Saucepan Man and Silky the fairy as they discover which new land is at the top of the Faraway Tree. Will it be the Land of Spells, the Land of Treats, or the Land of Do-As-You-Please? Come on an amazing adventure—there'll be adventures waiting whatever happens.



The Book That Changed Me as a Teenager: Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Great Expectations charts the progress of Pip from childhood through often painful experiences to adulthood, as he moves from the Kent marshes to busy, commercial London, encountering a variety of extraordinary characters ranging from Magwitch, the escaped convict, to Miss Havisham, locked up with her unhappy past and living with her ward, the arrogant, beautiful Estella. Pip must discover his true self, and his own set of values and priorities. Whether such values allow one to prosper in the complex world of early Victorian England is the major question posed by *Great Expectations*, one of Dickens's most fascinating, and disturbing, novels.



The Book That Made Me Want to be a Writer: 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 its 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 and comic invention, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is one of the most daringly original works of the twentieth century.



The Author I Come Back to: The Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekhov

In Chekhov's tragic-comedy—perhaps his most popular play—the Geyev family is torn by powerful forces, forces rooted deep in history, and in the society around them. Their estate is hopelessly in debt: urged to cut down their beautiful cherry orchard and sell the land for holiday cottages, they struggle to act decisively. Tom Murphy's fine vernacular version allows us to re-imagine the events of the play in the last days of Anglo-Irish colonialism. It gives this great play vivid new life within our own history and social consciousness.



The Book I Discovered Later in Life: The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton

Lily Bart, beautiful, witty and sophisticated, is accepted by 'old money' and courted by the growing tribe of nouveaux riches. But as she nears thirty, her foothold becomes precarious; a poor girl with expensive tastes, she needs a husband to preserve her social standing, and to maintain her in the luxury she has come to expect. Whilst many have sought her, something—fastidiousness or integrity—prevents her from making a 'suitable' match.



On This Day in History... The Birth of J.M. Coetzee, 9th February 1940

J.M. (John Maxwell) Coetzee, born in Cape Town South Africa, is a renowned novelist, critic, and translator, celebrated for his exploration of the effects of colonialism in his works. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003 and has received two Booker Prizes for his novels. Coetzee studied at the University of Cape Town and the University of Texas, earning degrees in English and maths. Although he opposed apartheid, Coetzee chose to remain living in South Africa where he taught at the University of Cape Town and translated Dutch literature, while also writing critiques of literary works. His debut novel *Dusklands*, published in 1974, consists of two interconnected novellas focusing on colonialism. Other notable works of Coetzee's include *Waiting for the Barbarians*, 1980 and *Disgrace*, 1999. The latter making him the first author to win the Booker Prize twice. His writing often delves into themes of power, identity, and the complexities of language, and incorporates explorations of both colonial and contemporary issues. Coetzee's later works include the lauded *Elizabeth Costello*, 2003, and a trilogy exploring the fictional reflections of Jesus which begins with *The Childhood of Jesus*, 2013. His innovative narrative techniques and profound subjects continue to influence literature. Coetzee's first novel, *Dusklands*, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024, while the author celebrated 50 years of publishing serious, provocative fiction.



The Lives of Animals by J.M. Coetzee

The idea of human cruelty to animals so consumes novelist Elizabeth Costello in her later years that she can no longer look another person in the eye: humans, especially meat-eating ones, seem to her to be conspirators in a crime of stupefying magnitude taking place on farms and in slaughterhouses, factories, and laboratories across the world. Costello's son, a physics professor, admires her literary achievements, but dreads his mother's lecturing on animal rights at the college where he teaches. His colleagues resist her argument that human reason is overrated and that the inability to reason does not diminish the value of life; his wife denounces his mother's vegetarianism as a form of moral superiority. At the dinner that follows her first lecture, the guests confront Costello with a range of sympathetic and sceptical reactions to issues of animal rights, touching on broad philosophical, anthropological, and religious perspectives. Painfully for her son, Elizabeth Costello seems offensive and flaky, but—dare he admit it?—strangely on target.



LGBT+ History Month 2025

Founded by history teacher Rodney Wilson in 1994, LGBT+ History Month is an annual month-long observance of LGBTQIA+ history, and the history of related civil rights movements. Since 2022, LGBT+ History Month has been celebrated in Australia, Canada, Cuba, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the UK, and the USA. Each LGBT+ History Month has a theme, with this year's being Activism and Social Change. The LGBT+ History Month website says of this year's theme, "Throughout history LGBT+ people have been activists and helped shape and create social change, advancing society for everyone using many different approaches to activism." Each year, five LGBT+ historical figures are highlighted. This year, the figures chosen are "people who have created social change from across the centuries in progressing change for women, the environment, housing, nuclear disarmament, preserving heritage, abolition of the slave trade, and immigration, among many other causes." They are: [Octavia Hill](#), [Ivor Cummings](#), [Annie Kenney](#), [Charlie Kiss](#), and [Claudah Equiano](#). Click on each name to find out more about that person. The LGBT+ History Month website can be found [here](https://www.lgbt-history-month.com/).

From Prejudice to Pride: A History of LGBTQ+ Movement by Amy Lamé

From Prejudice to Pride looks at the rise and achievements of the LGBTQ+ movement and the different communities, pioneers and stories of heartbreak and courage that have marched alongside it. Perfect for readers aged 11 and upwards, this book will inspire courage and pride in young LGBTQ+ people and help answer questions for all readers interested in gender and identity. Follow LGBTQ+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBTQ+ life. Gain insight into the shifting attitudes that have challenged lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and the experiences that help us understand what it means to be LGBTQ+ today.



Trans Britain: Our Journey from the Shadows by Christine Burns

Over the last five years, transgender people have seemed to burst into the public eye: Time declared 2014 a 'trans tipping point', while American Vogue named 2015 'the year of trans visibility'. From our television screens to the ballot box, transgender people have suddenly become part of the zeitgeist. This apparently overnight emergence, though, is just the latest stage in a long and varied history. The renown of Paris Lees and Hari Nef has its roots in the efforts of those who struggled for equality before them but were met with indifference—and often outright hostility—from mainstream society. Trans Britain chronicles this journey in the words of those who were there to witness a marginalised community grow into the visible phenomenon we recognise today: activists, filmmakers, broadcasters, parents, an actress, a rock musician and a priest, among many others. Here is everything you always wanted to know about the background of the trans community, but never knew how to ask.



Queer Power: Icons, Activists and Game Changers from Across the Rainbow by Dom & Ink

You're about to meet so many incredible humans. Are you ready? Celebrate some of the modern-day trailblazers, champions and icons who have shaped, or are shaping our world, from well-known public figures and allies to others you will wish you had heard of earlier. Covering topics including coming out, gender, mental health and activism, this book is packed full of empowering quotes, inspiring life lessons and helpful advice that will encourage you to embrace your story and find your power.



Queer: A Graphic History by Meg-John Barker

Activist-academic Meg-John Barker and cartoonist Jules Scheele illuminate the histories of queer thought and LGBTQ+ action in this ground-breaking non-fiction graphic novel. From identity politics and gender roles to privilege and exclusion, Queer explores how we came to view sex, gender and sexuality in the ways that we do; how these ideas get tangled up with our culture and our understanding of biology, psychology and sexology; and how these views have been disputed and challenged. Along the way we look at key landmarks which shift our perspective of what's 'normal'—Alfred Kinsey's view of sexuality as a spectrum, Judith Butler's view of gendered behaviour as a performance, the play *Wicked*, or moments in *Casino Royale* when we're invited to view James Bond with the kind of desiring gaze usually directed at female bodies in mainstream media. Presented in a brilliantly engaging and witty style, this is a unique portrait of the universe of queer thinking.



PROUD by Juno Dawson et al

A stirring, bold and moving anthology of stories and poetry by top LGBTQ+ YA authors and new talent, giving their unique responses to the broad theme of pride. Each story has an illustration by an artist identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Compiled by Juno Dawson. A celebration of LGBTQ+ talent, PROUD is a thought-provoking, funny, emotional read. Contributors: Steve Antony, Dean Atta, Kate Alizadeh, Fox Benwell, Alex Bertie, Caroline Bird, Fatti Burke, Tanya Byrne, Moira Fowley-Doyle, Frank Duffy, Simon James Green, Leo Greenfield, Saffa Khan, Karen Lawler, David Levithan, Priyanka Meenakshi, Alice Oseman, Michael Lee Richardson, David Roberts, Cynthia So, Kay Staples, Jessica Vallance, Kristen Van Dam and Kameron White.

