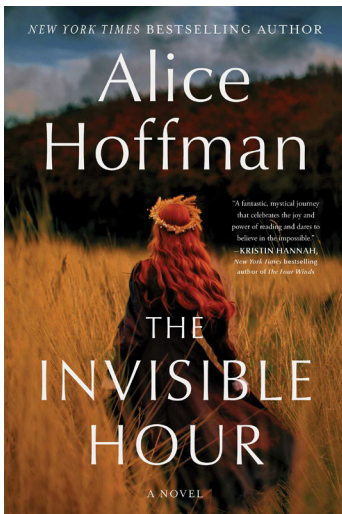
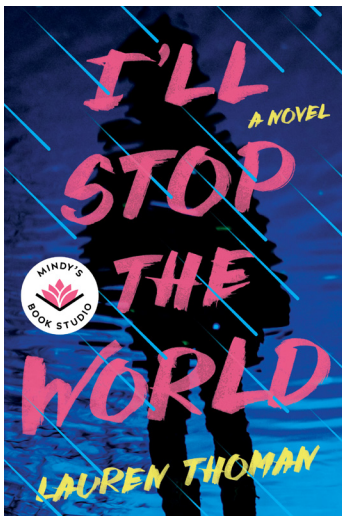


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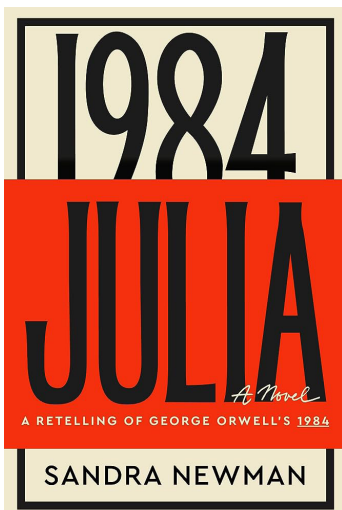
Invisible Hour | Hoffman, Alice

One brilliant June day when Mia Jacob can no longer see a way to survive, the power of words saves her. The Scarlet Letter was written almost 200 years earlier, but it seems to tell the story of Mia's mother, Ivy, and their life inside the Community - an oppressive cult in western Massachusetts where contact with the outside world is forbidden, and books are considered evil. But how could this be? How could Nathaniel Hawthorne have so perfectly captured the pain and loss that Mia carries inside her? Through a journey of heartbreak, love, and time, Mia must abandon the rules she was raised with at the Community. As she does, she realizes that reading can transport you to other worlds or bring them to you, and that readers and writers affect one another in mysterious ways.



I'll Stop the World | Thomas, Lauren

The end and the beginning become one in a heart-pounding coming-of-age mystery about the power of friendship, fate, and inexplicable second chances. Is it the right place at the wrong time? Or the wrong place at the right time? Trapped in a dead-end town, Justin Warren has had his life defined by the suspicious deaths of his grandparents. The unsolved crime happened long before Justin was born, but the ripple effects are still felt after 38 years. Justin always knew he wouldn't have much of a future. He just never imagined that his life might take him backward. In a cosmic twist of fate, Justin's choices send him crashing into the path of determined optimist Rose Yin. Justin and Rose live in the same town and attend the same school, but have never met - because Rose lives in 1985.

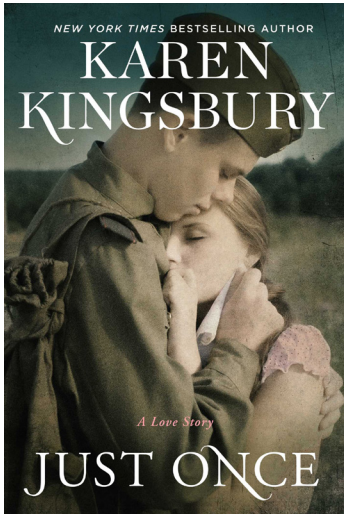


Julia | Newman, Sandra

Sandra Newman's novel is an imaginative and feminist reimagining of Orwell's 1984, told from the perspective of Winston Smith's lover, Julia. Working as a mechanic in the Fiction Department at the Ministry of Truth, Julia navigates a dystopian world where Britain is now Airstrip One, part of the trans-Atlantic Oceania. The ultra-totalitarian Party, led by the mythical Big Brother, rules with an iron grip in a perpetual war-torn state. Julia, a cheerfully cynical rule-breaker, cares little for politics but collaborates when needed. Set in a world she never imagined, the novel explores her unique perspective in this vivid and relevant retelling of a classic.

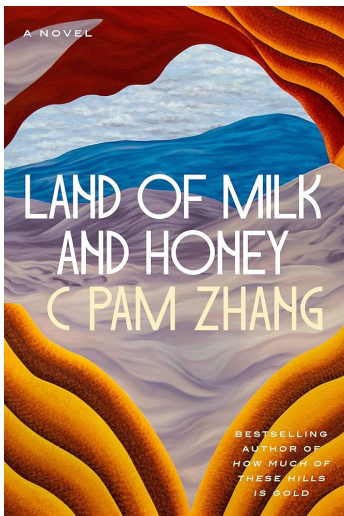


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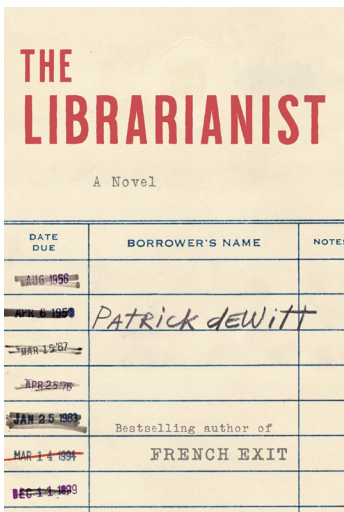
Just Once | Kingsbury, Karen

In 1941, beautiful Irvel Ellis is too focused on her secret to take much notice in the war raging overseas. She's dating Sam but in love with his brother, Hank, and Irvel has no idea how to break the news when the unthinkable happens—Pearl Harbor is attacked. With their lives turned upside down overnight, Sam is drafted, and Hank wants to enlist. But Sam insists Hank stay home. While Sam fights in Europe, an undeniable chemistry builds between Irvel and Hank but neither would dare cross that line. Then a telegram comes, and the news is devastating.



Land of Milk & Honey | Zhang, Pam C.

A smog has spread. Food crops are rapidly disappearing. A chef escapes her dying career in a dreary city to take a job at a decadent, mountaintop colony seemingly free of the world's troubles. There, the sky is clear again. Rare ingredients abound. Her enigmatic employer and his visionary daughter have built a lush new life for the global elite, one that reawakens the chef to the pleasures of taste, touch, and her own body. In this atmosphere of hidden wonders and cool, seductive violence, the chef's boundaries undergo a thrilling erosion.



Librarianist | deWitt, Patrick

Bob Comet is a retired librarian passing his solitary days surrounded by books in a mint-colored house in Portland, Oregon. One morning on his daily walk he encounters a confused elderly woman lost in a market and returns her to the senior center that is her home. Hoping to fill the void he's known since retiring, he begins volunteering at the center. Here, as a community of strange peers gathers around Bob, and following a happenstance brush with a painful complication from his past, the events of his life and the details of his character are revealed.

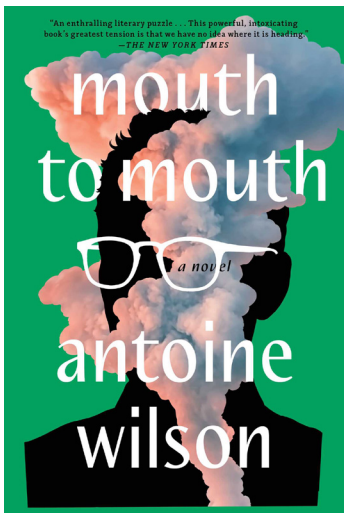


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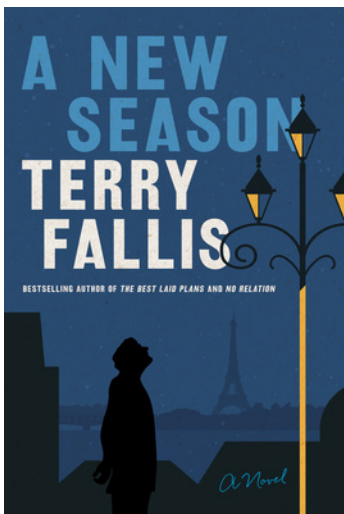
Maybe Next Time | Major, Cesca

It is an ordinary Monday and harried London literary agent Emma is flying out of the door as usual. Preoccupied with work and her ever growing to-do list, she fails to notice her lovely husband Dan seems bereft, her son can barely meet her eye, and her daughter won't go near her. Even the dog seems sad. Her whole day is frantic - what else is new - and as she rushes back through the door for dinner, Dan is still upset. They fight, and he walks out, desolate, dragging their poor dog around the block. Just as she realizes it is their anniversary and she has forgotten, again, she hears the screech of brakes. Dan is dead. The next day Emma wakes up... and Dan is alive. And it's Monday again. And again.



Mouth to Mouth | Wilson, Antoine

In a JFK airport lounge, our narrator hears Jeff Cook's unusual life tale. After saving a drowning man, Jeff believes their fates are linked. The man is art dealer Francis Arsenault, unknown to Jeff. Visiting his gallery, Jeff goes unnoticed but earns Francis's attention. Mentorship ensues, delving into a world where perception is currency. The men's paths entwine and diverge until a staggering conclusion. Are we agents of fate, or mere pawns? The story explores this question in a gripping narrative of chance and consequence.

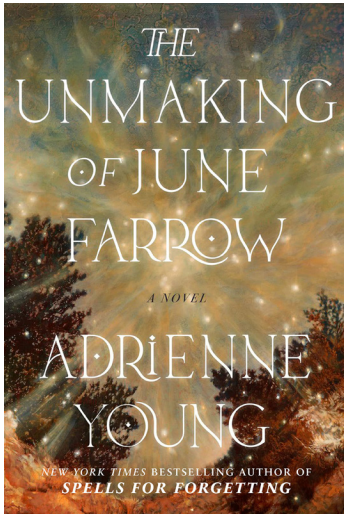


A New Season | Fallis, Terry

A thoughtful exploration of aging, loss, family, friendship, and love, all with his trademark humour and heart. Jack McMaster seemingly has it all. A beautiful house, a loving son of many talents (including cooking, which is great news for Jack, if not for his waistline), even a special bond with his buddies in his ball hockey league. But he's also learning to live with loss, leaving a gaping hole in his life - a life that will never be the same as before. Jack passes his days knowing he has the support of his family and his friends, but he can't shake the feeling that his life has gone gray, and that time is slipping by so quickly.

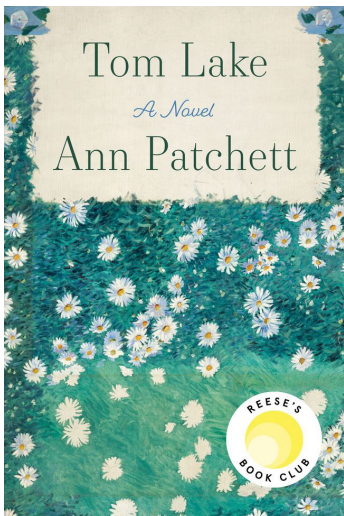


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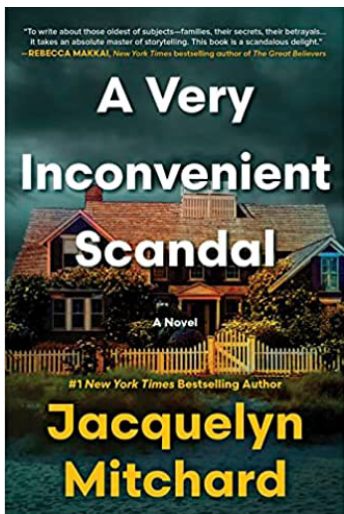
The Unmaking of June Farrow | Young, Adrienne

In the small mountain town of Jasper, North Carolina, June Farrow is waiting for fate to find her. The Farrow women are known for their thriving flower farm - and the mysterious curse that has plagued their family line. The whole town remembers the madness that led to Susanna Farrow's disappearance. It's been a year since June started seeing and hearing things that weren't there. Faint wind chimes, a voice calling her name, and a mysterious door appearing out of nowhere - the signs of what June always knew was coming.



Tom Lake | Patchett, Ann

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

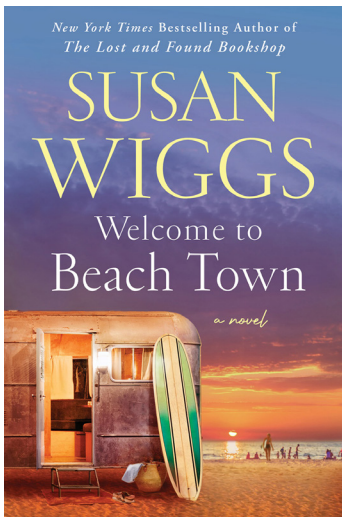


Very Inconvenient Scandal | Mitchard, Jacquelyn

This page-turning family drama explores the emotional consequences of loyalty, deception, and jealousy. Frankie returns home to Cape Code with exciting news - she's met the love of her life, is getting married, and is newly pregnant - only to be outshone by her already successful, talented, charismatic father: not only is he getting married to Ariel, Frankie's best friend, but she's pregnant as well and due soon. Frankie struggles to accept this news and what it means for her, her brother, and her unborn child. Slow but steady progress is made, until Ariel's estranged mother, Carlotta, returns after a decades-long absence.

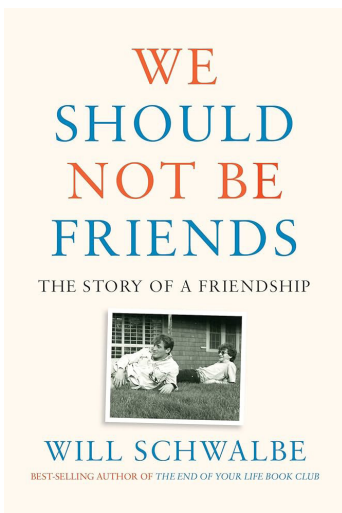


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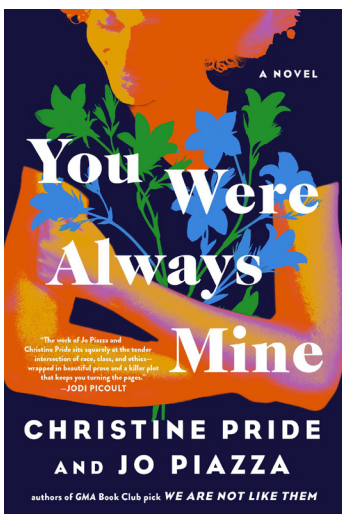
Welcome to Beach Town | Wiggs, Susan

In idyllic Alara Cove, a California beach town known for its sunny charm and chill surfer vibe, it's graduation day at the elite Thornton Academy. At Thornton, the students are the worldly and overindulged children who live in gated enclaves with spectacular views. But the class valedictorian is Nikki Graziola, a surfer's daughter who is there on scholarship. To the shock of everyone in the audience, Nikki veers off script while giving her commencement address and reveals a secret that breaks open the whole community. As her truth explodes into the light, Alara Cove will face a reckoning. Nikki Graziola's accusation shakes the foundation of Alara Cove, pitting her against the wealthy family whose money runs the town.



We Should Not Be Friends | Schwalbe, Will

By the time Will Schwalbe was a junior at college, he had already met everyone he cared to know. He also knew exactly who he wanted to avoid: the jocks. All this changed dramatically when Will collided with Chris Maxey, known to just about everyone as Maxey. Maxey was physically imposing, loud, and a star wrestler who was determined to become a Navy SEAL (where he would later serve for six years). Thanks to the strangely liberating circumstances of a little-known secret society at Yale, the two forged a bond that would become a mainstay of each other's lives as they repeatedly lost and found each other and themselves in the years after graduation.



You Were Always Mine | Pride, Christine

Cinnamon Haynes has fought hard for a life she never thought was possible. It may not look like much, but it's more than she ever dreamed of or what her difficult childhood promised. Her life's mantra is to be good, quiet, grateful. Until something shifts and Cinnamon is suddenly haunted by a terrifying question: "Is this all there is?" When Cinnamon finds an abandoned baby in a park and takes the blonde-haired, blue-eyed newborn into her home, the ripple effects of this decision risk exposing the truth about Cinnamon's own past, which she's gone to great pains to portray as idyllic to everyone...even herself.

