

People
BEST BOOKS
SUMMER 2021

Our Must-Reads

Nonfiction

Michael Pollan *This Is Your Mind on Plants*

The author of *How to Change Your Mind* turns his attentions to three consciousness-altering drugs—opium, mescaline and caffeine (yes, it's a drug)—in this eye-opening exploration.

Brian Broome *Punch Me Up to the Gods*

Growing up poor, Black and gay in small-town Ohio, Broome was despised by whites, some Blacks and even his father, who thought there was only one way to be a man. His memoir is a triumph.

Michelle Zauner *Crying in H Mart*

A daughter's poignant memoir about losing her mother, filtered through the prisms of their Korean American heritage and the love they shared for the cuisine of home.

Catherine Raven *Fox & I*

A woman accustomed to solitude forms something that feels like friendship with a mangy fox who keeps showing up outside her Montana home. And this was pre-pandemic! Quirky and moving.

Katherine Dykstra *What Happened to Paula*

Investigating the never-solved murder of a young woman in 1970, the author uncovers intriguing truths about her family, her segregated community and the limits on female autonomy.



Fiction

Stacey Swann *Olympus, Texas*

A gorgeous debut that conjures one small town and the big emotions of its wealthiest family, the Briscoes, whose saga plays out over six days of pain, rage and love.

Diane Johnson *Lorna Mott Comes Home*

After leaving her French husband, Lorna Mott is eager to return to the vibrant San Francisco life she remembers. But things have changed. Can this woman of a certain age change too?

Taylor Jenkins Reid *Malibu Rising*

High drama at the beach, starring four sexy, surfing siblings and their deadbeat, famous-crooner dad. It's like the 1983 *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue came to life, but with a plot. Irresistible.

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois*

Raised in the North, Ailey spends summers in Georgia, unearthing stories of her Black, white and Indigenous ancestors that will profoundly shape the course of her life. Stunning.

Elin Hilderbrand *Golden Girl*

Nantucket's summer shatters when local darling Vivian Howe is killed. Will her murderer be found? Will her deepest secret be exposed? This is beach-book-queen Hilderbrand at her best.



for Summer!

DON'T LET THE 'I'M VACCINATED!' SOCIALIZING KEEP YOU FROM QUIET TIME WITH THESE WINNERS

Edited by **KIM HUBBARD**

Kids & Teens

S.K. Ali *Misfit in Love*

An elaborate Muslim wedding—*katb el-kitab*—is the elegant backdrop for a teen's soul-searching about love, sexism and racism within her own community. (14 and up)

Ben Street and Jay Daniel Wright *How to Be an Art Rebel*

A hip cat narrates this playful, irreverent guide to all types of fine art—sculpture, surrealism, selfies (formally called portraiture). Museums, here we come! (6-8)

Maureen Johnson *The Box in the Woods*

Teen sleuth Stevie Bell is hired to solve a gruesome, decades-old murder mystery at summer camp. Bugs, romance and near misses with death follow. (14-17)

Sarah Kuhn *From Little Tokyo, with Love*

A contemporary fairy tale starring a Japanese American teen raised in L.A. by bossy relatives who becomes convinced that a Hollywood starlet is her long-lost mother. (14-17)

Laura Amy Schlitz *Amber & Clay*

Two powerless kids in ancient Greece—the daughter of an aristocrat and the son of a slave—transcend their circumstances in this masterful blend of history and mythology. (10-14)



Mystery & Thriller

Mary Dixie Carter *The Photographer*

Photographer Delta Dawn is one disturbing woman, especially when she inserts herself into a wealthy Manhattan family. A breathless psychological thriller about epic mind games.

Jonathan Santlofer *The Last Mona Lisa*

After a journal surfaces in Florence, a professor obsessed with his great-grandfather's 1911 heist of the *Mona Lisa* is in hot pursuit—along with assassins and ruthless art dealers.

Zakiya Dalila Harris *The Other Black Girl*

Funny and subversive, this debut about the trials of a Black assistant at a mostly white publishing house uses suspense, horror and satire to bring home the toll of workplace racism.

Katherine St. John *The Siren*

A star bankrolls a film on a hurricane-prone island with his fractured family and some shady characters. Good idea? A sudsy, savvy takedown of the Hollywood dream machine.

Paula Hawkins *A Slow Fire Burning*

The Girl on the Train author returns with a dark, intricate tale of three women tied to a bloody murder on a London houseboat. You'll be gobsmacked by the end.

