

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

New Local History Book



Where The Lilacs Grow: The Story of Happy Island and Old Meridean by Jeanne Anderson

In years past, many sawmills lined the shores of the Chippewa River, especially in the Eau Claire area. Downstream from Eau Claire and Porter's Mills was another logging town, Meridean. This logging town with close affilia-

tions with the Eau Claire Lumber Company, now known as Old Meridean, came to be situated on an island in the Chippewa River. This island is located in Dunn County, upstream from where the Red Cedar River joins the Chippewa River.

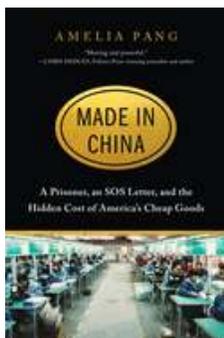
Happy Island was home to this logging town with several saw mills and eight farms.

Where The Lilacs Grow: The Story of Happy Island and Old Meridean follows the history of this island from the days when native Americans roamed the area, to the days of people interacting in this lively lumbering town and

farm community, to present day where animals roam the land covered by pine plantations.

This description is Anderson's, but a big "Bravo!" must be added. She has done an enormous amount of archival work and scoured the memories and photo albums of people who remember these now defunct farms and towns. Starting with the history of the area from the 1600s, the harrowing journey of Norwegian immigrants and early farming days, Anderson ends with the current status of the island as a county park. Readers will appreciate this detailed and really interesting account of local history.

Made in China



China's Cheap Goods by Amelia Pang

Made in China: A Prisoner, an SOS Letter, and the Hidden Cost of America's Cheap Goods This powerful story arises from an improbable source: a crude, handwritten note slipped into Halloween merchandise made in China, a note that leads Pang on a search for its author and introduces her to the nightmare life of Chinese prison labor, so-called re-education camps, the worst horrors of living in a police state, and lives

destroyed just for being an independent thinker. The toll on individuals is foregrounded here and summons us to be humane to all.

—Susan Thurin, Bookends on Main, Menomonee, WI

Review printed in the February Indie NEXT list

2021

February

Happy Valentine's Day!

Groundhog Day 2

Presidents Day 15

Black History Month

Super Bowl Sun- 7

Chinese New Year—Year of the Ox 12



新 Xīn 年nián快kuài乐lè!

Oxen are the hard workers in the background, intelligent and reliable, but never demanding praise

Pat Trotter's Young Reader Reviews



Love in English
by Maria E.
Andreu
Publ. February
2021
Ages 13-17

English is a difficult language. Those of us who have grown up with it tend to disagree with that statement. But for some-

one who grew up in a different culture with a different language, English can be extremely difficult to learn and become comfortable with. It opens itself to all kinds of embarrassing situations as incorrect words are chosen or used inappropriately. The author says of her own experience learning English as a second language: "I marinated in abject humiliation after I missed a word or a social cue." Such is the way it is for Ana, come to America as a high

school junior. The story is told from Ana's perspective and it opens the eyes of the reader to just what it is like to be an immigrant to our country, or to any new country. Ana's journey is fraught with stumbles and missteps. However, as she makes some new friends and learns the new ways of her new country, she comes to realize that "maybe life is like this, the moments that come, not the ones we try to make."



Lois Lane and the Friendship Challenge
by Grace Ellis -
Publ. August
2020
Middle
Reader
graphic novel

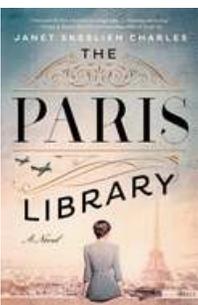
Lois has what she thinks is a wonderful idea for their summer vacation. She plans

to put out a video challenge on social media with her best friend that she is sure will go viral. But her best friend also has some ideas about how the summer is going to happen. And then a new girl moves in who threatens their friendship. As Lois plunges ahead with

her plans, she discovers that their friendship is not just about her. Her decisions actually end up hurting her best friend. How can she repair the damage she has done to their friendship? And who stole the fireworks for the town's celebration? Will she be able to participate in the annual bike race? A fast-paced read that helps the reader think about what is friendship and how to be real friends.

"...what is friendship and how to be real friends."

The Paris Library, rev. by Heather Obenberger



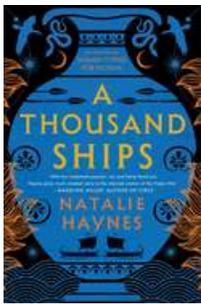
The Paris Library
by Janet Skeslien Charles is the perfect book for bibliophiles and readers of historical fiction. It is based on the true story of the librarians at

the American Library in Paris, the roles they played in the Resistance during World War II, and the risks

they took to ensure all their patrons had access to books. The main characters are Odile who once lived in France and worked at the American Library in Paris during the Occupation but now years later lives a quiet and lonely life in a small Montana town and Odile's teenage neighbor, Lily, who seeks escape from the boredom of living in her small town through reading books and dreaming of travel. Lily is in-

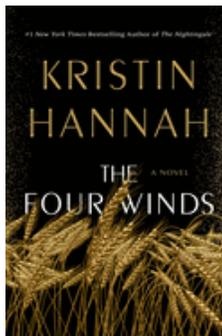
trigued by Odile and longs to know why Odile left Paris, France for Froid, Montana. A school assignment gives Lily an excuse to interview Odile and from that interview a friendship blossoms between the two. Over the years Lily learns secrets about her neighbor's past, amazing stories of courage and bravery, the true meaning of friendship, the importance of family, and the power of forgiveness.

More New Books This Month



A Thousand Ships, a re-telling of the aftermath of the Trojan War from the women's point of view.

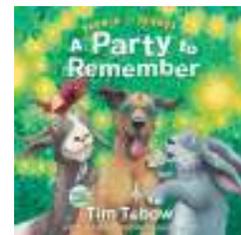
Four Winds, Kristin Hannah's latest novel, is set in Texas during the Great Depression and dust bowl era.



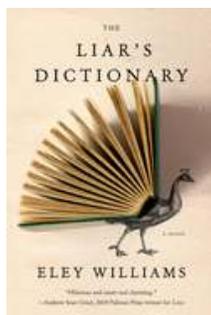
Young Adult Novels



For Even Younger Readers



The Liar's Dictionary



Something we all need: a good laugh. *The Liar's Dictionary* is a laugh-out-loud chronicle of the misadventures of a lovelorn Victorian lexicographer and the young woman

put on his trail a century later to root out his misdeeds while con-

fronting her own sexuality.

A comic novel about a dictionary? If you like words, the book is a special treat, organized as an adult ABC book. "A is for artful," "J is for

"jerque," "Z is for Zugzwang." The Victorian gent made up words in the name of artistic freedom, the modern sleuth has to sort out truth in her own life.

This is a delightful book from the Preface to the closing definition of "auroflouros."

"...a delightful book from the Preface to the closing definition..."

UW-Stout Student Pens Fantasy Book



Over Earth by Griffin Soderberg

After a devastating storm at sea, nineteen-year-old Eric Quinn finds himself stranded on a mysterious island. With

guidance from new companions, he discovers secrets, wonders, and dangers of this island called Ei Deyrnas and will come to find he is not there by accident. The island, trapped beneath a barrier, has let in an outsider to take on trials by the island guardian, Athura. If the outsider is to succeed, then the barrier will be broken and the island, set

free. If he cannot, however, complete the trials, then a worse fate awaits.

Griffin Soderberg is from Woodville, majoring in Applied Math & Computer Science

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Valentine by Carol Ann Duffy

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.
It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.
It promises light
like the careful undressing of love.

Here.
It will blind you with tears
like a lover.
It will make your reflection
a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.
Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,
possessive and faithful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.
Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring,
if you like.
Lethal.
Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife.



In Praise of Women Who Read

-- forwarded by an avid reader

WARNING: The following may
upset foes of political correct-
ness.

One morning a husband returns
to the cabin after several hours of
fishing and decides to take a
nap .

Although not familiar with the
lake, the wife decides to take the
boat out, since it is such a beauti-
ful day. She motors out a short
distance, anchors, and reads her
book. Along comes a Game War-
den in his boat.

He pulls up alongside the woman
and says, " Good morning,
Ma'am, what are you doing?"
"Reading a book," she replies ,
(thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")

" You're in a Restricted Fishing
Area," he informs her.

" I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fish-
ing, I'm reading."

" Yes, but you have all the equip-
ment. For all I know you could
start at any moment. I'll have to
write you up a ticket and you'll
have to pay a fine."

"For reading a book?" she replies.

" You're in a Restricted Fishing
Area ," he informs her again."

"But officer, I'm not fishing, I'm
reading."

" Yes, but you have all the equip-
ment. For all I know you could
start at any moment. I'll have to
write you up a ticket and you'll
have to pay a fine."

" If you do that, I'll have to charge
you with sexual assault," says the
woman."

"But I haven't even touched you,"
says the Game Warden.

" That's true, but you have all the
equipment. For all I know you could
start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am. He immedi-
ately departed.

MORAL:

Never argue with a woman who
reads. It's likely she can also think.

Sure God created man before
woman. But then you always make a
rough draft before the final master-
piece.