

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

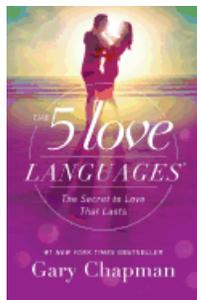
Our Annual Valentine's Edition



Every day for six years, Tyler Knott Gregson wrote a simple

haiku about love and posted it online. These are heartfelt poems.

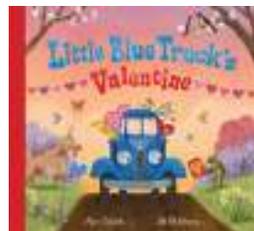
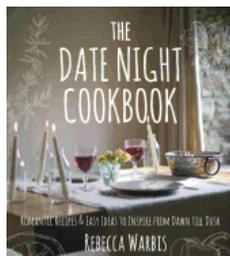
The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts by Gary Chapman: "20 million copies sold," dozens at our bookstore; also see several companion



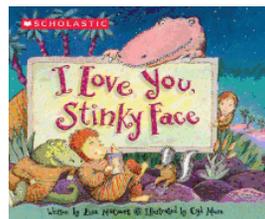
books for teenagers and singles.

The Date Night Cookbook: Romantic Recipes & Easy

Ideas to Inspire from Dawn Till Dusk



Books for kids



2022

February

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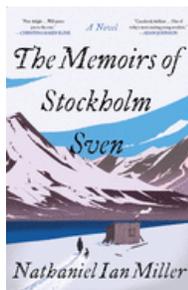
Poems and Valentine lore

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Recently Published



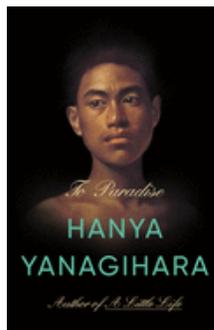
Cold enough for you? Read *The Memoirs of Stockholm*

by Nathaniel Ian Miller. The main setting is a remote island in the Svalbard archipelago, north of Norway in the Arctic. Sven, a complex character, finds both desperate loneliness and friendship there. The

sheer survivalism in his story is breathtaking. The novel is historical fiction, covering the political upheavals in far-northern nations from WWI to WWII. Sven's story is loosely based on a real person.

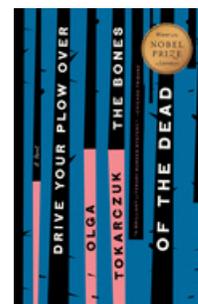
To Paradise by Hanya Yanagihara is the current blockbuster novel.

Spanning three centuries and three different versions of the American experiment, an unforgettable cast of characters is united by their reckonings with the



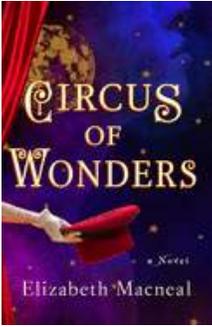
qualities that make us human—fear, love, shame, need, and loneliness.

Also, a patriarch, wealth, children; arranged marriage, inheritance, true love, class divide and a significant twist—there is a lot in the novel. Deftly paced and judiciously detailed, the tale makes hay with the conventions of the 19th-century novel.



Our February book club book is *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead* by Polish Nobel Prize author Olga Tokarczuk. It's an usual layering of genre and themes, part graphic crime story, part fairy tale, part PETA manifesto.

Heather Obenberger's Reviews

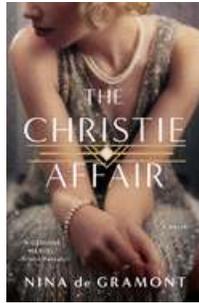


Circus of Wonders by Elizabeth Macneal

This book was a wonder itself. The reader is transported to life under the big

top in 1860s England. Nell, a young girl covered in birthmarks, is sold to a traveling circus as a curiosity and novelty act and quickly becomes a sensation. She achieves a level of fame higher than the ringmaster which does not sit well with

him and he punishes her for it. There is love, heartbreak, resilience, and transformation in these pages as Nell realizes her potential and strength and finds a new family in her fellow performers. I couldn't put this book down until I knew how Nell's story ended.



The Christie Affair by Nina de Gramont

This amazing work of historical fiction imagines what happened to Agatha

Christie when she disappeared for eleven days in 1926 after learning of her husband's affair. What makes this novel especially unique is that it is told from Nan's (the other woman's) point of view. This book surprised me as I expected not to have much sympathy for Nan but her story was as compelling and heartbreaking as Agatha's and I found myself rooting for both of these women to find true love and happiness. These two fascinating ladies, the mystery at its center, and all the twists and turns in this novel will keep you turning the pages.

Pat Trotter's Reviews



Just Pretend by Tori Sharp

Tori is a seventh grader whose life has been torn apart by her parents' divorce. Her time is split between the two

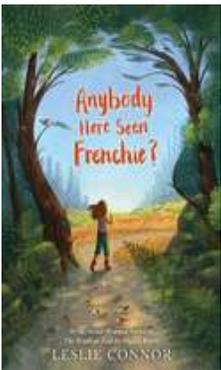
households. She feels abandoned, alone, and no longer cared for by the two adults in her life she believed would always be there for her. She

copies with much of this by creating characters in her mind, writing them in book, role-playing them with a couple of close friends. All

"This graphic novel deals masterfully with what is experienced by children when the family is torn apart..."

of which gets her into trouble because she daydreams while in class

at school. Tori finds much comfort in her creations, making their stories into how she would like her life story to be. This graphic novel deals masterfully with what is experienced by children when the family is torn apart by divorce and the adults in their life struggle to find their own way, much less helping their children learn to deal with the changes and anxieties the divorce brings about. Because it is a graphic novel, even non-readers will enjoy this book.



Anybody Here Seen Frenchie? by Leslie Connor, for grades 3 and up

Frenchie is a silent autistic. He doesn't talk to any-

body. He depends heavily on his best friend, hyper-active Aurora, who has always looked out for him in school and in the neighborhood. But now that they are both entering sixth grade, they are being assigned to different classrooms and different teachers. Aurora is afraid for Frenchie that he will not be able to adapt without her there to sup-

port him. When things get too much for Frenchie, he decides to just walk away. How will Aurora find him? How will each of them adjust to the new school year? Will being out in the beauties of nature help Frenchie adapt and find out who he is? This book is about the joys and sorrows of friendship and very sensitively addresses the issue of autism.

BOOKSHOP.ORG

To celebrate Bookshop.org's 2nd anniversary, they are giving one lucky winner free books for life : one Grand Prize winner will receive an annual gift card of \$600 to spend on Bookshop.org and will also get to choose a bookstore to receive a one-time, \$500 donation. Five second place winners will receive a \$100 gift card to redeem on Bookshop.org.*

Link to Enter:

<https://woobox.com/xm6uib>

Entry Period: January 28, 2022 – February 28, 2022

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 2/28/22. Open to US residents, 18 and older. Void where prohibited or restricted by law.

See official rules: <https://bit.ly/3qMRCr9>

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One of the world's greatest love poets, Charles d'Orleans (c. 1394-1465), albeit one greatly undervalued today, wrote the first Valentine, "My Very Gentle Valentine," for his wife from his prison cell in the Tower of London.



My very gentle Valentine,
Alas, for me you were born too soon,
As I was born too late for you!
May God forgive my jailer
Who has kept me from you this entire year.
I am sick without your love, my dear,
My very gentle Valentine.

loose translation by Michael R. Burch

Sappho of Lesbos is the first great female poet still known to us today, and she remains one of the very best love poets of all time, regardless of gender. She is so revered for her erotic love poetry that we get our terms "sapphic" and "lesbian" from her name and island of residence. Thanks to her epigrams, she remains a timeless treasure. Sappho, fragment 42, *loose translation by Michael R. Burch*:

Eros harrows my heart:
wild winds whipping desolate mountains,
uprooting oaks.

Downtown Parking

A recent meeting on downtown parking assembled a lot of business owners, city managers and the chief of police. Some of the complaints and recommendations are familiar, kicked around for at least 40 years. These include re-routing hwy 29 away from Main Street and diagonal parking. Complaints were about people hoarding parking spaces all day and an antiquated system of distributing city lot parking permits. The pros and cons of a parking garage also came up. New was replacing meters with parking kiosks that would allow

for app and cell phone payment as well as cash and a variety in the length of parking block by block.



The timeline for any changes could be a year and a half or five to ten years. The "progressive yet traditional"

description of Menomonie comes to mind—competing points of view which means its difficult to enact change.

So life goes on, as do complaints about the lack of parking on Main Street.

No one mentioned adding charging stations for electric cars.