

STAFF PICKS

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On a Night Like This **by Ellen Sussman**

Staff Review:

"Like a modern day *Love Story* by Erich Segal."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"In Sussman's heart-wrenching debut, two former high school classmates take a second chance at love, despite one partner's terminal cancer. Resisting the impulse to descend into bathos, Sussman shows remarkable restraint in her depiction of a love affair that transforms a dying woman's last days into a celebration of life...The novel's elegant denouement and Sussman's fluid treatment of tough moments make this a keeper for fans of high-caliber weepies."

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Eat, Drink, and Be From Mississippi **by Nanci Kincaid**

Staff Review:

"Author does a good job with character development and the story is beautifully written. Characters are flawed and very likeable...it's about love and family and friends. A feel good book that pulls a few punches."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"With a sensibility as sweet as a glass of sugary iced tea and a plot as placid as a hazy summer day, Kincaid's sixth book tracks the domestic travails of Truely and Courtney Noonan, brother and sister Mississippians who have forsaken sleepy rural life for adventure in California....

Kincaid has been pigeonholed as a Southern writer, but this unsentimental story about the forging of an unorthodox family has universal appeal."

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Unaccustomed Earth: Stories **by Jhumpa Lahiri**

Staff Review:

"I love her stories. Most of her characters are middle-class Indian immigrants and their American-born children who live in the Northeast—pretty far away from my experience. It must be her wonderful writing that makes it all ring true."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“Starred Review. The gulf that separates expatriate Bengali parents from their American-raised children—and that separates the children from India—remains Lahiri's subject for this follow-up to *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake*. In this set of eight stories, the results are again stunning...Lahiri's stories of exile, identity, disappointment and maturation evince a spare and subtle mastery that has few contemporary equals.”

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Pardonable Lies

by **Jacqueline Winspear**

Staff Review:

This is the third in a series, but the first that I have read. Maisie, the sleuth, and the other characters in the book are very lifelike, and there are unexpected twists in the unraveling of the mystery. An enjoyable read! I will definitely read others in the series.

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“Starred Review. Agatha-winner Winspear's engrossing third Maisie Dobbs novel maintains the high quality of its predecessors, *Maisie Dobbs* (2003) and *Birds of a Feather* (2004). In late 1930, the London "psychologist and investigator" gets involved in three cases...Maisie must go back to the region where, 13 years earlier, she served as a nurse, and confront her memories of mud, blood and loss. Filled with convincing characters, this is a complex tale of healing, of truth and half-truth, of long-held secrets, some, perhaps, to be held forever. Winspear writes seamlessly, enriching the whole with vivid details of English life on a variety of social levels.”

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Smokescreen

by **Sandra Brown**

Staff Review:

“A great page turner that kept me guessing until the very end!”

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“At the start of this scorching if somewhat formulaic thriller from bestseller Brown, Charleston TV reporter Britt Shelley wakes up in bed next to the dead body of police detective Jay Burgess... Brown laces her dependable romantic fireworks with a solid action-filled plot.”

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Cross

by **James Patterson**

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“Forensic psychologist Alex Cross's storied career in private practice, with the FBI and as a Washington, D.C., cop has brought him into contact with all kinds of seriously disturbed killers, but his 12th outing from bestseller Patterson (after 2005's *Mary, Mary*) may be the ultimate in lunatic deadliness.”

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Dewey : A Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World
by Vicki Myron

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“One frigid Midwestern winter night in 1988, a ginger kitten was shoved into the after-hours book-return slot at the public library in Spencer, Iowa. And in this tender story, Myron, the library director, tells of the impact the cat, named DeweyReadmore Books, had on the library and its patrons, and on Myron herself...Dewey brings disabled children out of their shells, invites businessmen to pet him with one hand while holding the *Wall Street Journal* with the other, eats rubber bands and becomes a media darling. The book is...a love letter to libraries.”

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Generation Text : Raising Well-Adjusted Kids in an Age of Instant Everything
by Michael Osit

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“All the teenage impulses are too easy to act on; everything is too instantaneous...Parents are worried about what's going on with MySpace, text messaging, demands for new and better clothes, electronics and equipment... Osit is the only one to put them all together and to talk about this toxic climate we're raising kids in. He offers smart parenting techniques. It's reassuring to think there is something you can do.”

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Audio Books

Among the Mad
by Jacqueline Winspear

Staff Review:

“This novel finds Maisie Dobbs working with Scotland Yard to stop a terrorist bomber before he kills New Year's Eve revelers. The audio version is read by Orlagh Cassidy. These stories keep getting better and better!”

Terminal Freeze
by Lincoln Child

Staff Review:

“This is a scary thrill--*The Relic* crossed with *The Thing* in a creepy Arctic military base, and read by the incomparable Scott Brick.”

Quick Picks:

***Rules of Prey* by John Sandford**

***Remember Me and Die Softly* (Young Adult fiction) by Christopher Pike**