

FEBRUARY - A book with “and” in the title!

STAFF PICKS!

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Amari and the Great Game by B.B. Alston

“Considering I finished book one and immediately read book two, I think it’s safe to say I really enjoyed these books! They are fun middle-grade, contemporary fantasy/sci-fi books perfect for fans of *Nevermoor*, *Keepers of the Lost Cities*, and *Percy Jackson*. Six months after her older brother goes missing, Amari Peters receives an invitation to a special summer ‘internship’ at the Bureau of Supernatural. Amari jumps at this opportunity as a way to possibly find her brother and finds herself thrown into a world hidden to us mere mortals 😊! My favorite characters were definitely all the talking elevators and after the ending of book two, I can’t wait for the release of book three this summer!” - Bree

Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters by Wendelin Van Draanen

“I picked up this book after it was recommended by a young reader who read it as their pick for the month of February and I must say, it did not disappoint! It’s a perfect little mystery book for young elementary school readers, especially if you love dogs!”

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

“This book is historical fiction (with a touch of mystery), set in the 1930’s of Pennsylvania. The cast of mostly Jewish and African American characters, interact vividly through McBride’s sense of storytelling, dialogue and social commentary. If there is any criticism of ‘The Heaven...’ it’s the excess of characters, some of which fade away or aren’t central to the story. Overall, a good read.” - Cindy

KID PICKS!

Pig and Pug by Lynne Berry

“I want to be a pug 🐶” - W.G.

Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick

“It was a very good book. It was very descriptive and well said.” - D.W.

Me and You and a Book Made for Two by Jean Reidy

“It’s very funny and it rhymes!” - A.L.

Gemma and the Giant Girl by Sara O’Leary

“She was very happy to be home again with Momma and Poppa. She liked her little life.” - J.J.

Skandar and the Phantom Rider by A.F. Steadman

"Great book with a crazy cliffhanger! Can't wait for book 3." - C.P.

Flora and the Penguin by Molly Idle

"I loved the book. That book was wonderful. What do I say, daddy? (Why did you like it?) Cuz cuz I don't know it, cuz I loved flora dancing with the penguin. I loved flora dancing. I loved flora ice skating and I loved when she was walking and the penguin was swimming around. Are we all done, daddy?" - C.M.J.

Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters by Wendelin Van Draanen

"I absolutely loved everything about this book! I loved the mystery and Mr. Whiskers is such a cute pup! Mr. Whiskers likes naming people funny names!" - G.G.

Lei and the Fire Goddess by Malia Maunakea

"The animals took care of the human families and could change forms. There was this cool dragon lizard, thingy." - A.P.

Narwhalicorn and Jelly by Ben Clanton

"It's a fun book and he's a unicorn and I love unicorns." - M.W.

Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling

"I love the book because Harry might live with his godfather. In the book it tells a lot about Harry's life. When you start to read it is boring but it gets really good. This book at the end is like a mystery. Lots of unusual stuff happens in the whomping willow! That is my thought about my book." - J.W.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

"This book is about a little boy named Charlie. His family is poor so they don't have many choices for food, but most of the time it's cabbage soup. One day Charlie hears that Mr. Willy Wonka has hidden five golden tickets in five random WONKA BARS and whoever finds a golden ticket will get a tour of his chocolate factory and go home with a lifetime supply of chocolate, just what Charlie and his family needs. But will Charlie get a golden ticket? If he does, what will it look like inside the factory? What will it smell like? Will Charlie go home with a lifetime supply of chocolate? Or will his family have to continue to live off of cabbage soup?" - A.M.

Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling

"I loved this book. My favorite part was when the Scrabbers turned into a human." - E.D.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

"It was really good! I like when Violet Beauregard turns into a blueberry. I think I would be friends with Charlie." - G.G.

Pages and Co.: The Book Wanderers by Anna James

"The book wanderers was a fun fantastical adventure about books and the secrets they hold! Would recommend this book to kids from ages 7-10!" - G.P.

Dogman: Grime and Punishment by Dav Pilkey

"Great Dogman book for anyone who likes graphic novels. I really liked this book! It was so funny! I would recommend this book to kids ages 5-9!" - L.P.

Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets by Dav Pilkey

"I love all the Captain Underpants books! They make me laugh and are very creative!" - M.D-S.

Unicorn and Yeti: Sparkly New Friends by Heather Ayris Burnell

"I love unicorns and I also love yetis! I love that they are good friends!" - S.D-S.

Investigators: Heist and Seek by John Patrick Green

"It was really funny!" - N.P.

Heidi Heckelbeck and the Never Ending Day by Wanda Coven

"I liked the part where she put a spell on one day because she really liked all the things that she did that day. After she learned that she should experience other days as well and not just go through the same day forever." - S.B.

Lei and the Fire Goddess by Malia Maunakea

"*Lei and Fire Goddess's* story is very adventurous. The story is about how Anna's friend was trapped by an evil bird sent by the fire goddess and Anna goes to save her friend." - V.V.

The Baby-Sitters Club: Dawn and the Impossible Three by Gale Galligan

"I really liked *The Baby-Sitters Club: Dawn and the Impossible Three* because all of the BSC books inspire me since I want to babysit some day! I also liked it because all of the members in the BSC books have at least one thing in common with me. One thing I liked about this particular book is that Mary Ann redecorates her room with the help of two of her friends/baby-sitters (Kristy Thomas and Dawn Schafer), and I am moving into a new room and get to redecorate it soon, too! I also liked when Dawn's brother, Jeff, stole her slice of pizza because there is no more left because HE ate them all! He reminds me a lot of my brother!!! 😊 That's why I like the book *The Baby-Sitters Club: Dawn and the Impossible Three*." - B.A.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

"I liked it, and I thought that it was a very good book. It was kind of funny when Alexander dropped his sweater in the sink with the water running. I hope that he didn't have to wear it in its very wet state! I really liked that Alexander wanted to move to Australia when anything started to go down the wrong path since I've mastered an Australian accent. G'day mate, proud "Aussie" signing off on this wonderful book's thoughts/highlights/funny moments!" - T.A.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

"I fell in love with Harry Potter a few years ago, so I took this opportunity to reread the first book. I love all fantasy books and the magic makes it even better." - E.H.

Pizza and Taco by Stephen Shaskan

"It was funny because Pizza and Taco are fighting to decide who is the best (we all know they are both delicious). I also liked how the illustrations are a mix of looking realistic and cartoon-like." - J.H.

Frog and Toad All Year by Arnold Lobel

"I like when Toad sleds down the hill by himself and doesn't know it." - B.D.

Junie B. Jones and the Mushy Gushy Valentine by Barbara Park

"It was funny when Junie B. got a big, giant Valentine card from her secret admirer and tried to figure out who it was!" - M.B.

Shapes and Colors by John Canty

"I love the bright rainbow colors. It was so fun to guess all the shapes!" - J.R.

Parrot Genius: And More True Stories of Amazing Animal Talents by Moira Rose Donohue

"Parrots are so smart and beautiful. Einstein is my favorite bird ever!" - T.R.

Elephant and Piggie: I Broke My Trunk by Mo Willems

"It was funny when Elephant held up all the big animals on his trunk, but it still didn't break." - B.B.

Winnie & Waldorf by Kati Hites

"I love school and pretend I am a teacher." - T.L.

TEEN PICKS!

Stars and Smoke by Marie Lu

"I was extremely invested at the beginning, however, in the action scenes I felt a little less engaged. The ending was very satisfactory though!" - M.O.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

"This universe of Greek gods and demigods has been a favorite of mine since middle school, so it was super nostalgic and enjoyable to revisit it!" - K.D.

Max and the Midnighters by Lincoln Peirce

"The book was good with many battles and a bit random at times." - A.G.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

"It was a great book to read with a good plot." - M.G.

Last kids on Earth and the Zombie Parade by Max Brillier

"It's an interesting book with a bunch of plot twists, like when one of the zombies betrayed the four kids." - A.B.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

"Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows is my favorite book in the Harry Potter series. This is my favorite book in the series because I liked the final battle between Voldemort and Harry at the end of the book. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows is one of J. K. Rowling's greatest books about Harry Potter, Ronald Weasley, and Hermione Granger's journey to find all of the deathly hallows and destroy Voldemort's horcruxes to defeat him once and for all." - P.M.

ADULT PICKS!

And Every Morning The Way Home Gets Longer And Longer by Fredrik Backman

"First you lose the small things, then it's the big ones. It starts with keys and ends with people.' A loving grandfather explaining his beginning memory loss to his young grandson, as he knows it is coming fast. A short but touching novella." - L.P.

Love and Lattes by Karis Walsh

"*Love and Lattes* is a cozy love story between a wedding planner and a cat cafe owner." - E.R.

The Second Death of Edie and Violet Bond by Amanda Glaze

"A surprising look into women's lives in the 19th century through the eyes of two spirit mediums and how they use their ability to overcome their lack of rights. Told through a fictional story that keeps you reading." - C.G.

And Then I Turned into a Mermaid by Laura Kirkpatrick

"Story of a young girl who just wants to be 'normal' and finding out she's just about as far away from normal as she can get." - A.P.

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

"The dialogue and the backstories of minor characters were so, so good. McBride doesn't disappoint." - J.J.

Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur

"I had no expectations going into the book. Very good read! Sad, but so fascinating." - E.P.

Of Women and Salt by Gabriela Garcia

"It was pretty good for a debut novel! Each chapter is told by a different woman and set in a different year but all stories weave through each other and come full circle! Not something I would usually choose but glad I did." - S.V.

The Hunger Games: A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

"It was a fine addition to the series, and a good explainer of how Snow became the person you meet in the original trilogy. It would have been nice to explore a different district instead of rereading District 12." - A.G.

Girls of Paper and Fire by Natasha Ngan

"A powerful story about strength, friendship, and love. The first half is slow moving but has great character building. The second half of the book felt more purposeful and was action-packed." - A.G.

Ruin and Rising by Leigh Bardugo

"Great ending to the trilogy! The author really makes you feel for all of the characters." - K.P.

Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen by Mary Norris

"Listened to the audio version read by the author. The visual of the grammar in the book may prove more effective, though the author is funny." - C.B.

Come and Get It by Kiley Reid

"Set at the University of Arkansas, it is an interesting exploration of college students' relationships and views on money." - K.E.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Anne Shaffer and Annie Barrows

"This book, written in letter format, portrays the love, compassion and mutual support of friends and neighbors that helped them all through German occupation in WWII. A book worth reading, sharing and reading again!" - F.D.

Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute by Talia Hibbert

"A cute YA romance!" - C.F.

Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen

"At first I thought it was best described as 'the trials and tribulations of finding a husband.' As it went on I found I was captivated by Eliza's journey toward love." - S.W.

The Serpent and the Rainbow by Wade Davis

"A bit of a slog, Wade Davis' account of his search for a 'zombie' poison in Haiti sacrifices fluid storytelling for frequent detours that disrupt the momentum. Some of these detours, however, contain some really fascinating history. It's the blending of the 'adventure' aspect and the necessary historical and cultural info that feels disjointed." - T.G.

Of Spice and Men by Sarah Fox

"Cute pancake house mystery story. Great for light reading on dreary winter days." - K.P.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

"I loved the characters and learned quite a bit about gaming. Fun and yet emotional read." - J.G.

Flores and Miss Paula by Melissa Rivero

"I stuck with it but I really did not like this book. I found the relationship between the mother and daughter to be disappointing." - L.S.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

"This was a beautifully written coming of age story with very poignant messages about friendship, life, and love." - C.T.

The Bible and the Quran by Jacques Jomier, O.P.

"It brought understanding to my mind regarding the Quran." - F.F.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead by Tom Stoppard

"My favorite play, it balances absurdist humor with existentialist commentary. It becomes even more enjoyable once you read it alongside Hamlet." - R.A.

The Open-Air Life: Discover the Nordic Art of Friluftsliv and Embrace Nature Every Day by Linda Åkeson McGurk

"This book was a huge advertisement for getting outside! Even the book's print was reminiscent of the outdoors, as it is printed in green ink!" - P.P.

The Lost and Found Bookshop by Susan Wiggs

"This book was an interesting journey of discovery throughout a trialing time for the characters." - A.R.

Dead and Buried by John Corwin

"Similar to other books I have read. Ex-CIA/Special Forces Operator runs into a problem, uses his skills in this case to avenge a murdered colleague. An easy but face paced read." - S.C.

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

"It was so good! Could not stop reading and can't wait for the second one." - C.G.

The Combat Zone: Murder, Race, and Boston's Struggle for Justice by Jan Brogan

"Great read!" - J.D.

The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett

"I am a huge fan of Ken Follett and his books. Really enjoyed this one too. His characters become your friends when you read his books." - L.K.

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

"I used this book when my kids were little to show them that it's good to be open to new foods (and ideas and experiences) and am doing the same with my grandkids. Sometimes it works." - M.L.

Sugar and Salt by Susan Wiggs

"Always love Susan Wiggs books - was not disappointed!" - S.B.

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton

"A powerful memoir that sheds light on the resilience of the human spirit in the face of injustice. Hinton's story had me rooting for him and confronting the realities of racial injustice. This one will stick with me for a while." - K.D.

The Heir and The Spare by Emily Albright

"A very well-written love story for teens set in England near London and I loved how tasteful it is to read. I'd definitely recommend this book to young teens." - P.M.

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

"It was a powerful story of companionship, loneliness, and chasing a dream. It was a moving ending, but emotionally gripping at the same time." - J.C.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

"The healing power of words and friends which help make the inescapable and devastating realities of the world in which one lives a bit more tolerable is highlighted in a colorful array of correspondence, old and new friendships, and "families" of all kinds in 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society'. The stories that come to light in the letters of a cast of characters facing the hardships of war and dealing with it in their own unique ways, singularly and together, under the guise of a shared interest of books and a literary society that meets to "discuss the latest read", bring moments of sorrow, fear, humor and love into the forefront of what one would only imagine would have been an otherwise bleak period for all who endured it. I have a newfound appreciation for the ability of human connections and compassion being the key to overcoming even the greatest of hardships. An absolute must read for anyone interested in history, perspectives, humanity or the immense power of the written word." - S.A.

Lost & Found by Jacqueline Sheehan

"This book made me feel uncomfortable many times, which I found surprising! I really liked the depth of the writing and the quirkiness of it." - M.S.

Verified: How to Think Straight, Get Duped Less, and Make Better Decisions about What to Believe Online by Mike Caulfield and Sam Wineburg

"A road map to finding news online in the 21st Century! This is a must-read for all users of the internet!" - A.S-S.

Dead and Gone by Joanna Schaffhauesen

"I would have preferred reading the series from the beginning to better understand the characters. Very good detective read." - M.C.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

"I finally finished the first book of the series and enjoyed it more than I thought I would!" - B.W.

Exes & O's by Amy Lea

"This was a fun, silly romance - perfect for Valentine's Day month (or a beach read)! While predictable, it's an interesting ride as the relationship evolves. The characters are so likable, and the dialogue is real - and the journey is heart-warming. Thumbs up from me!" - S.C.

To Have and to Heist by Sara Desai

"I loved this book. It was an easy and fun read. It reminded me of the early Stephanie Plum books." - S.P.

Mango Mambo, and Murder by Raquel V. Reyes

"I was surprised how much this grew on me as it went along. I don't often read books with a parent protagonist so this cozy was new for me." - E.H.

Mary Anne and the Search for Tigger by Ann M. Martin

"Got this book for Christmas from my fiance because I lost it as a child. It was a great nostalgia read! I related to Mary Anne because I had cats as a child. I could picture myself riding all over the neighborhood searching for my cat, even now as an adult." - S.S.

Check and Mate by Ali Hazelwood

"*Check and Mate* follows two rival chess players as they compete in tournaments around the world and slowly form a bond that goes beyond friendship. It was a fun story, perfect for rom-com lovers!" - H.B.

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas

"Fast-paced fun read but character development a bit lackluster compared to some other popular fantasy series." - C.J.

The Hunger Games: A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

"I haven't thought about the Hunger Game series in quite some time and I loved going back into that world and getting the back story. A very captivating novel and I love when an author can make you flip flop on whether you are rooting for a character or despising them. Now I want to reread the Hunger Game series!" - A.B.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

"J.K. Rowling's phenomenal imagination has created a stimulating fantasy world with the power to excite and involve readers of all ages." - A.B.

The Mama Natural Week-By-Week Guide to Pregnancy & Childbirth by Genevieve Howland
“A fantastic guide to help support your pregnancy journey each week, while also preparing you for what to anticipate. I found this useful even after already having had two children.” - C.R.

Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen
“Loved it. Will read the rest of her books.” - E.K.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling
“Have read the whole series (American), but started the original British. Some word changes and grammatical differences- mostly prepositions. Still love it and will try every new version I come across!” - E.K.

The Hunger Games: A Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins
“Interesting, but not nearly as engaging as the original hunger games trilogy.” - M.G-L.

A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas
“I liked it! I'm a big fan of science fiction and fantasy. This reminded me a little of Game of Thrones and Fourth Wing.” - J.T.