

JANUARY - An author's debut Book

STAFF PICKS!

This Vicious Grace by Emily Thiede

"This book has been on my TBR for awhile, so I was excited to finally read it. Within the first few chapters I thought it was going to be a fairly predictable plot, but I was pleasantly surprised by the small twists peppered throughout! I'm looking forward to reading book two which just recently came out! Plus, it's a completed duology, which I love, no having to wait for more books to be released!!" - Bree

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

"Wow. The feelings that this book made me feel. I didn't know much about this book going into it other than it's a sci-fi dystopian novel set on Mars with a *Hunger Games*-esque plot. The story follows Darrow, a 16-year-old boy living as a Red - the lowest color in this society's hierarchy, on his journey to infiltrate the ruling color - Gold. I lost track of how many times throughout the book I yelled 'he's just a kid!'. It was dark and gritty but I couldn't put it down and I cannot wait to continue the series!" - Bree

Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson

It was an okay book; a satire of upper crust life. But overall, there was little plot or anything to "grab me". - Cindy

KID PICKS!

The World Need More Purple People by Kristen Bell

"It was good because I do all the things in that book like laughing, singing, asking questions, and everything!" - G.G.

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

"I like that they are good friends." - M.W.

Waiting for Tomorrow by Susan Yoo

"My favorite part is when they're going to the store and she puts on sandals because it's funny." - A.L.

Misty the Cloud: A Very Stormy Day by Dylan Dreyer

"My little one thought it a fun topic but was confused by the incomplete sentences and phrasing; she's 7 yrs old and a new reader and said some sentences didn't make sense because of this. I too thought it poorly written in parts for a young reader just learning grammar and sentence structure but otherwise a cute story." - M.L-D.

White House Clubhouse by Sean O'Brien

"It was a funny, thoughtful story and was a really great book! So glad I read it!!!" - G.P.

Max E. James, Beach Bound by J. Ryan Hersey

"It was a good book, and it was funny! I really enjoyed reading it! This book is good for seven to ten year olds!" - L.P.

Don't Push the Button by Bill Cotter

"It was funny. I like pushing the button." - B.D.

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A.F. Steadman

"I liked the book! It was very exciting and I can't wait to read the second one!" - C.P.

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

"I really liked it. I can't wait to read the next one." - E.D.

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

"This is one of my favorite books that I will read over and over. It is a good mixture of romance, fantasy and other types of text." - E.H.

The Big Honey Hunt by Stan & Jan Berenstain

"It was really funny how different the bears looked in this book compared to all of the other Berenstain Bear books I have read. I think they made them look more friendly in the new books." - J.H.

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

"Favorite part: when Stellaluna is hanging by her thumbs 🦇" - W.G.

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

"I liked the pictures and the story had a good message." - S.D-S.

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

"This story has a good message about loving who you are and the main character was great!" - M.D-S.

Kitty Quest by Phil Corbett

"It was very funny especially when he hides the monster's eggs under a chicken 'an egg is an egg, right!'" - N.P.

The Hatmakers by Tamzin Merchant

"I really liked *The Hatmakers* because it is about a little girl and her family that makes hats. The little girl-Cordelia Hatmaker-and her family are ordered to make a peace hat for the princess. Unfortunately in the middle of the night the peace hat is STOLEN!!!! So Cordelia needs to find out who stole the hat, all the while trying to find her father who is lost at sea. Can't wait to read *The Hatmakers'* next book!" - A.M.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

"I liked this book because it was really hilarious and I got to know a little about middle school and how it is quite different from elementary school." - S.B.

Trailblazer: Simone Biles by Sally J. Morgan

"I thought this book was inspiring! Now I want to go to the Olympics even more!" - G.G.

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

"I don't really love it. But I like it and it was funny when he said 'don't look at me in my swimsuit' because he thought he looked silly in his swimsuit." - C.M.J.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

"This book is very entertaining and funny. It is different from regular chapter books and has cartoons. The narration of the main character is very humorous." - V.V.

Finding Perfect by Elly Swartz

"I really like this book and I related to the main character Molly." - N.V.

Starring Jules (as Herself) by Beth Ain

"I liked it a lot because it's about a girl who is like me and likes to do adventurous things. She also wears really fun clothes that clash and don't really go together, but she loves the outfits anyway!" - B.A.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

"I thought this book was really funny because the kid who created Yoda and makes him speak (Dwight) doesn't even listen to Yoda's advice (which is his own!)" - T.A.

That's Not My Name by Anoosha Syed

"I liked her name. It was nice." - B.B.

That's Not My Name by Anoosha Syed

"She had a special name. I was happy when she stood up for herself and taught everyone how to say her name." - M.B.

1, 2, 3 To The Zoo: A Counting Book by Eric Carle

"It was good. I liked counting the animals and trying to find them at the zoo." - J.R.

1, 2, 3 To The Zoo: A Counting Book by Eric Carle

"The animals were so colorful and fun. I liked finding the mouse, he was very brave!"
- T.R.

TEEN PICKS!

Legend by Marie Lu

"*Legend* was a great read! The story follows June, a renowned Republic agent, and Day, a wanted criminal living on the streets, through their journey to find out who killed June's brother and to save Day's brother's life from the Plague. I learned to never judge someone by how they look or how they act." - P.M.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

"A thought provoking mystery that touches upon heavy topics such as depression/suicide, racism, gender roles, and the expectations that parents often project onto their children. Simultaneously heartbreaking and heartwarming." - J.B.

The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer

"It is an amazing book. I recommend it." - M.G.

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

"A very good classic book with a satisfying ending." - M.P.

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

"It was very dramatic over a video game." - C.W.

Lightlark by Alex Aster

"Oh. My. God. I was not prepared for the amount of betrayals at the end of the book, it was extremely good though! :)" - C.P.

Consider Me by Becka Mack

"It was an awesome book and I'm in love with Carter beckett!!" - F.F.

ADULT PICKS!

Still Life by Louise Penny

"I'm in love with chief inspector Armand Gamache. He's so strong emotionally and mentors his team expertly." - F.F.

Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo

"Great story! Loved the twist in the middle!" - K.P.

The Liberator by EJ Koh

"This book was very descriptive and kept me wanting to know what happens next."
- B.W.

Perks of Office by Liz Rain

"*Perks of Office* was a fun office romance story." -E.R.

Frog and Toad are Doing Their Best: Bedtime Stories for Trying Times by Jennie Egerdie

"What's not to love about a Frog and Toad parody!?" - S.L.

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

"It reminded me a lot of *Red Rising*. I enjoyed it and am looking forward to reading the sequel after that cliffhanger." - C.T.

Starlight by Debbie Macomber

"This book kept me on my toes! Just as I thought the story was predictable, nope, Macomber tossed in a twist that I didn't see coming." - A.R.

The House in the Pines by Ana Reyes

"It was a quick read! I figured out the mystery pretty early on though!" - S.V.

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

"A creative and exciting fantasy with well developed characters. The writing includes a lot of details of the world in a way that you are fully immersed and want to keep reading to know what happens next." - C.G.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

"This is a wonderful, heartwarming book about loneliness, loss and the incredible interactions between humans and animals. Loved the beautiful ending to this book!"
- F.D.

The Perks of being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

"This is a book about the complexities of high school life: fitting in, not fitting in, mental health struggles, trauma, forming good friendships, hope and healing. I had read this book years ago and it definitely hit me differently today. It is worth a read if you have not yet read it." - D.H.

Beyond That, The Sea by Laura Spence-Ash

"The author captures the nostalgia and longing we all feel at times. It's historical fiction beautifully crafted; it's like you are there. I loved the characters and felt completely pulled into their lives from their various perspectives." - L.P.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

"Quick and immersive read with some great characters!" - K.E.

Northwoods by Amy Pease

"Good police mystery. Sad with addiction and ptsd themes though." - S.G.

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

"Sad but poignant story that I couldn't put down." - R.F.

Must Love Books by Shauna Robinson

"I do not usually read fiction, but I identified with so many attributes of the main character Nora! I was pleasantly surprised! If you are in a dilemma, or ever have been, about your career choices, you, too, will find a friend in Nora." - P.P.

The Wishing Game by Meg Shaffer

"A magical story about finding your family, being brave and making wishes even when you think no one is listening." - K.B.

Lovelight Farms by B. K. Borison

"A sweet story about two best friends who fall in love on a Christmas tree farm. With a charming cast of characters and a festive setting, it is the perfect warm and cozy read." - H.B.

The Last Mrs. Parrish by Liv Constantine

"Well executed psychological exercise. Although, I never quite got to "thriller" intensity level." - A.P.

Frats by Dee Snider

“Dee Snider’s debut novel about Long Island high school fraternities is a compelling story of early 70s toxic masculinity with very little subtlety with its social commentary. Then again I don’t think anyone expects Dee Snider to be subtle.” - T.G.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night by Mark Haddon

“I’m a mystery fan, so this appealed to me, and even though it’s not a “normal” mystery I loved it. Christopher, who seems to be on the spectrum, has a wonderful sense of logic and sees clues that others don’t. The story is original and charming. Highly recommend it.” - M.L.

Right at Home by Bobby Berk

“Definitely something I would read again, love the connection between mental health and interior home design. Although he co-authored a *Queer Eye* book previously, this is his first book of his own.” - P.H-R.

The Writer’s Retreat by Julia Bartz

“There’s a surreal scene in the middle that one should not read on strong medicine. It terrified me. Good book though honestly.” - E.H.

Fake Dating Mr. Prince by Stephanie Harrell

“It’s a great steamy romance. She is a fantastic writer.” - S.M-G.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

“Very dark and very readable-- I get why it’s a classic!” - J.J.

Murder at Sissingham Hall by Clara Benson

“Really enjoyed it. Will read more Angela Marchmont stories.” - E.K.

Maame by Jessica George

“A thoughtful, interesting story. As a first gen immigrant myself, I love reading stories of other 1st generation folks. Book was slow at times, but I enjoyed reading about Maddie and her family.” - N.C.

The Big Honey Hunt by Stan & Jan Berenstain

“I was surprised to see how similar this first book was to some of the Dr. Seuss books that came out around the same time. It was interesting to see how these authors started and how they evolved with their series over time.” - B.H.

A Very Typical Family by Sierra Godfrey

“LOVED this book!!” - R.S.

The Black Angels by Maria Smilios

“Nurses who took care of the desperate and sickest population in NYC were undervalued and discriminated against. This book tells the story of their struggles to survive in a terrible environment and help to cure tuberculosis. A must read.” - M.C.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

“I have read this book a few times. I love going back to reread a book and notice new details.” - A.C.

The Reading Group by Elizabeth Noble

“Loved the book that highlighted the lives of the members of a book club!” - S.B.

Maame by Jessica George

“A little slow at first but then very good as you learn to see the life of the main character (Maddie) through her eyes.” - L.K.

Freaks, Gleeks, and Dawson's Creek: How Seven Teen Shows Transformed Television by Thea Glassman

“Despite only watching half of the series included in the book, it was a great look back on teen television and the impact some of my favorite shows had on what we watch now.” - C.F.

Arsenic and Adobo by Mia P. Manansala

“Foodie murder mystery that's filled with close knit family drama and great multicultural learning. An excellent debut novel that I highly recommend.” - K.P.

The Lies of the Ajungo by Moses Ose Utomi

“A short but captivating dark fantasy about the abuse of power and oppression. I was immediately drawn in with the great character and world development. I really loved the themes of found family and friendship as well.” - A.G.

A Ruinous Fate by Kaylie Smith

“Faced paced and engaging, but not a lot of world building or depth in general. I do like the main character and hope we get to dig deeper in book two!” - A.G.

Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

“Disturbing but I couldn't put it down! I may never eat pork again!” - S.C.

Sense & Sensibility by Jane Austen

"I have been meaning to read this for ages - enjoyable overall but a little less compelling than *Pride & Prejudice*." - J.G.

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

"Beautiful yet melancholy story on identity, grief, and finding your purpose." - C.J.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

"I love how the book draws a picture of a time and way of life that most of us have never experienced." - S.P.

The Picture Of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

"The book is an astounding philosophical exploration of decadence and moral corruption perfectly balanced by comedic wit (Lord Henry is a joy to read). Wilde's sharp prose and the absurdity of Lord Henry's banter left me both laughing and evaluating the role that beauty and art plays in my life. It's an easy yet thought-provoking read that I would absolutely recommend to others!" - R.A.

Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn

"It was a bit dark and heavy for me. I struggled to really get into the book." - J.D.

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

"I first read this book when I was in high school. After reading it again, I don't think I really understood the nuisances of a parent/child relationship and how one's experience can play such a critical role in their future relationships and decisions. It's a good reminder of how positive family structures are an integral part of one's development."
- J.C.

The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

"So much teenage angst. Though I found myself really wondering what became of Holden and if he overcame his prejudices." - M.S.

The Road to Dalton by Shannon Bowering

"It was a compelling story about a small town and the people who live there. Each character struggles with a secret that they carry that remains buried because of pressures of small town living." - A.B.

I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy

"I read through this book in one weekend. I couldn't put it down! When you read the story it's hard to realize this was an autobiography and not fiction; this ACTUALLY happened to her. Great read." - S.M.

The Girls of Summer by Katie Bishop

"Good alternate POV, narrated by the girl then and woman now. Couldn't help thinking of the girls that were victimized by Epstein." - M.P.

The Beach Club by Elin Hilderbrand

"This book, like most of Hilderbrand's books, was about summer on Nantucket. It was a great escape to read about summer in January!" - L.S.

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri

"This debut collection of short stories provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives and hurdles faced by many immigrants (specifically Indians) upon departure from their land and customs and the journey, joys and heartache they face living their new lives in an unknown world. Must read for anyone who is interested in learning about life views from multiple perspectives!" - S.A.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

"I liked the determination and ambition of Elizabeth Zott, and how she broke gender stereotypes in her own way. Good book!" - A.B.

My Roommate is a Vampire by Jenna Levine

"A different take-ish on vampires in modern day. Though the cover has a younger vibe, the content is adult." - C.B.

The Wise Woman's Guide to Your Healthiest Pregnancy and Birth by Patricia Ladis

"Wish I had read it sooner. The breathing and movement information was helpful but nutrition less so if you have severe morning sickness." - C.R.

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet by Laeken Zea Kemp

"This was a nice story! The characters were sweet, and I loved that the setting revolved around a family restaurant. It's been on my TBR for a long time, so glad I finally got around to reading it!" - P.K.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

"I have been wanting to read this book for a while and I'm glad I did. What a story! I kept having to remind myself it was a memoir and not fiction!" - R.L.

Treading Water by Belle A DeCosta

"Found this book to be very predictable." - M.G-L.

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

"Excellent read, I wasn't sure at first but once it got going it was hard to put down." - S.C.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

"Loved how Elizabeth was always unapologetically herself, and how she was able to raise her daughter to be herself as well." - I.M.

Her Family Secret by Melissa Wiesner

"Women's fiction novel with a little bit of romance, a little bit of mystery and a whole lot of family heart. June packs up her daughter's and heads to the opposite coast and discovers who she really is, where she came from, and improves her relationship with her sisters. (Who I am sure will get their own books.) - C.P.

The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova

"Easy read with lost if interesting history." - R.B.