Fountain Favorites For Your Fireside

KELLY RECOMMENDS
An Elderly Lady is Up to No Good
by Helene Tursten
Wow! Talk about a gateway drug! This potent collection of short stories about a little old lady murderer not only introduced me to the most charming serial killer since Dexter, but also to two detectives I can’t wait to read about in the author’s two series! Brilliant! 88-year-old Swedish Maud is not someone you want to piss off. She’s wily and creative and curiously strong for her age and, thanks to the unfortunate habits of a youth-worshipping society, all but invisible. I know she’s murdering people, but I found myself rooting for her and hoping she’ll get away with it. Soho Crime $12.99.

ANDREA RECOMMENDS
Dry by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman
There seems to be a slew of post-apocalyptic stories out now, but this one is a tale of how things start to go wrong, and how fast they can go downhill. Alyssa lives in Southern California with her family, where a drought threatens the state’s water supply. The story begins the day the taps run all the way dry and illustrates the panic that ensues. People in town are trying to escape the growing emergency situation and the government is trying to get water to the thirsty residents with varying degrees of success. Alyssa’s next-door neighbors are doomsday preppers that had been ridiculed for years until an actual emergency hits—at that point the town that had shunned them realizes that they may be the only hope left. Martial law takes over as Alyssa, her brother, and a few stragglers they pick up along the way risk everything to escape to get water. This reads like a movie, and I can absolutely picture how it would play out on screen. As the team of brave kids gets closer to what they think will be their salvation, you’ll be on the edge of your seat hoping for their survival. Simon & Schuster BYR $18.99.

KATE RECOMMENDS
An Almost Perfect Christmas by Nina Stibbe
This book reminded me, in the best way possible, of reading my mom’s Erma Bombeck books, but with a hilarious, British Christmas setting. Full of holiday cheer and catastrophe—from flaming puddings to Snowballs (a British drink that mixes eggnog with lemonade)—Stibbe shows the warmth and humor (and partial insanity) of holiday traditions. So shove this in the stocking of someone you don’t hate, or buy it for yourself and let the tears of laughter moisten your dry Christmas turkey! Little, Brown $25.

CARL RECOMMENDS
The Big Fella by Jane Leavy
A herculean effort for a herculean figure, Jane Leavy has put together a biography worthy of the man who changed the game of baseball forever. In fact, Babe Ruth changed sports entirely, the business of sports, how they were reported, sold, branded, as well as received by the public. He changed the definition of what it meant to be a celebrity. The man was blown so out of proportion it was hard to know what to believe about him, and Leavy makes sense of the man for us as well as the business behind the scenes that made The Babe what he was, an American Icon. A must read for anyone into sports, advertising and marketing, journalism, and American history. Harper $32.50.

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Howdy!

It’s fall as I’m writing this, and leaves are drifting by the shop windows in swirling, yellow clouds. I’m in a reflective mood. For me, the holidays are a time to look back on our good fortunes of the previous year. Maybe you feel that way too.

But to be honest, this year has brought much loss to our staff. Parents, family, friends, colleagues, and author buddies. Health and personal issues. We are hoping for an easier time in the new year. But you never know what life’s going to hand you.

So what has given me and Team Fountain comfort throughout this difficult year? Well, these things:

1. It’s been a great year for stories. I found The Travelling Cat Chronicles (see page 3), translated from the Japanese original. I admired this translator, the book had a nice cover, it was being pushed on me by a publisher friend. While the book was about loss and I was trying desperately to avoid that subject, I found that the shared experience with the author and her characters calmed me.

2. Same with my “listening books” as I like to call our digital downloads service I use every day on my commute to the shop (see page 12 to try for free). Having my “listening books” in the car helped distract me from racing thoughts.

3. Our staff meetings have been great! We take your happiness seriously. Because we don’t know when you might need us to be your bright spot. When the Fountain Booksellers get together, we laugh a lot. And we renew our commitment to each other and you. To make you laugh. To ease struggles you may have even just slightly.

Whether it’s in the shop or online, know we’re not algorithms or robots. We’re just some people trying to figure it all out just like you. Thank you for being part of the Fountain Family. We’re on this journey with you.

Cheers,
Kelly

Books with 🎧 are available through Libro.fm/FountainBookstore. Shop digital and local!

Kelly’s Reviews

Tough Cookie
by Edward Hemingway
I loved this remix on The Gingerbread Man classic. Turns out Sugar Cookie Man is not quite as fast or as tasty as his predecessor. When fast Fox gets ahold of him and takes a bite, he finds him rather disgusting and puts him back down. What’s a cookie to do??? His whole identity is shaken down to his crumbs! Sugar Cookie Man will not be defined by others, and he forges forward with a whole new outlook on being true to himself and making a life as the best Sugar Cookie Man he can be! Wonderful book to read along with a baking project with the kiddies. Henry Holt $17.99. Ages 4–8.

Rosewater
by Tade Thompson
Rosewater is an extraordinary start to a trilogy by one of science fiction’s most interesting new writers. A bizarre dome of alien origin appears outside Lagos, Nigeria and opens once a year and heals the sick. But it also reanimates the dead and occasionally “reimagines” people into mutants. Another effect of the dome is the emergence of humans with access to the “xenosphere,” a shared dreamworld where those like our protagonist Kaaro can access the thoughts of other humans, and even control their minds. He discovers that he and other “sensitives” like himself are being targeted for slaughter for unknown reasons. It has been a long time since I have read anything this richly imagined and intriguing. This dreamy, non-linear story is perfect for fans of the Southern Reach Trilogy and even Neuromancer. To be released every 6 months, you won’t have to wait 3 years to read the whole series! Orbit $15.99.

Did You Just Eat That?
by Paul Dawson and Brian Sheldon
Just in time for buffet and passed appetizers season, Did You Just Eat That? is here! Is it really ok to eat that birthday cake after someone just blew all over it? That potato chip was only on the floor for a second... not even five seconds! Surely, that’s ok? Double dipping people just need to be ended. I think we can all agree on that one. Let’s hope you’re not still playing “beer pong.” But, just in case you are, you’re safer from microbes playing indoors than out. I have a new fear of restaurant menus because of this book. Other than that, I found it highly educational, amusing, and the illustrations were fun too!! Great gift! W.W. Norton $23.95.

“BATHURST NAILS IT.”
—AudioFile, Earphones Award Winner on Glass Houses

“If you haven’t listened to this series, START AT ONCE. You’ll love your stay in Three Pines.”
—AudioFile, Earphones Award Winner on A Great Reckoning

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—on Glass Houses

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The Kinship of Secrets
by Eugenia Kim

In 1948 Najin and Calvin Cho, with their daughter Miran, travel from South Korea to the United States, leaving their infant daughter, Inja, behind with extended family. Though they plan to return for her, war breaks out in Korea. Miran grows up in prosperous American suburbia as Inja grapples in her war-torn land with ties to her. Told through the alternating perspectives of the sisters, and inspired by a true story, The Kinship of Secrets explores what it means to be a sister. Houghton Mifflin $26.

Night of Miracles
by Elizabeth Berg

Lucille Howard is getting on in years, but she stays busy. Inspired by her dearly departed friend Arthur Truluv, she has begun to teach baking classes. Her classes have become so popular, she’s hired Iris, a new resident of Mason, Missouri, as an assistant. Iris doesn’t know how to bake, but she needs to keep her mind off a big regret. Then a new family moves in next door and tragedy strikes, and the residents of Mason come together to find the true power of community—just when they need it the most. Random House $26.

Those Who Knew
by Idra Novey

On an island country ten years after the collapse of a U.S.-supported regime, Lena suspects the senator she was involved with back in her student activist days is taking advantage of a young woman who’s been introducing him at rallies. When the woman ends up dead, Lena revisits her own fraught history with the senator and the violent incident that ended their relationship. Why didn’t Lena speak up then? What follows is an exploration of the cost of staying silent and the mixed rewards of speaking up in a profoundly divided country. Viking $26.

How Long ‘til Black Future Month
by N. K. Jemisin

N. K. Jemisin is one of the most acclaimed speculative fiction authors of our time. In her first collection of short fiction, dragons and hateful spirits haunt the flooded streets of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, learning from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow South offers impossible promises to save her daughter from a Fey. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story “The City Born Great,” a street kid fights to give birth to a new metropolis’s soul. Orbit $27.

My Sister, The Serial Killer
by Oyinkan Braithwaite

Korede’s sister, Ayoola, is possibly sociopathic. And now Ayoola’s third boyfriend in a row is dead. Korede knows the best solutions for cleaning blood, the trunk of her car is big enough for a body, and she keeps Ayoola from posting pictures of her dinner when she should be mourning her “missing” boyfriend. But when Korede’s long-held crush asks Korede for Ayoola’s number, she must question how far she’s willing to go to protect her. Full of deadpan wit, Braithwaite’s delicious debut is as fun as it is frightening. Doubleday $22.95.

Fox 8: A Story
by George Saunders

Fox 8 has always been known as the daydreamer in his pack, the one his fellow foxes regard with a knowing snort and a roll of the eyes. That is, until he develops a unique skill: he teaches himself to speak “Yuman” by hiding in the bushes outside a house and listening to children’s bedtime stories. The power of language fuels his abundant curiosity about people—even after “danjer” arrives in the form of a new shopping mall that cuts off his food supply, sending Fox 8 on a quest to help save his pack. Random House $17.
Stories to Thrill You

A Ladder to the Sky
by John Boyne

Maurice Swift is handsome, charming, and hungry for fame. He is untalented, but a would-be writer can find stories anywhere. They don’t need to be his own. Ingratiating himself with the powerful but lonely celebrated novelist Erich Ackermann, Maurice coaxes out a terrible secret about Erich’s activities during the war. Perfect material for Maurice’s first novel. And once Maurice has had a taste of literary fame, he will stop at nothing, preying on the talented and vulnerable in his cold-blooded climb to the top. Hogarth $27.

Ways to Hide in Winter
by Sarah St. Vincent

After surviving an accident at 22, Kathleen retreats to a remote campground lodge, where she works flipping burgers for hunters and hikers—happy to be left alone. But when a hesitant, accented stranger appears in the dead of winter—seemingly out of nowhere—the wary Kathleen is intrigued, despite herself. He says he’s a student from Uzbekistan. To her he seems shell-shocked, clearly hiding from something that terrifies him. And as she becomes absorbed in his secrets, she must confront her own, even as danger grows. Melville House $25.99.

The Collector’s Apprentice
by B.A. Shapiro

Summer 1922: 19-year-old Paulien Mertens finds herself in Paris—broke, disowned, and alone. Everyone in Belgium believes she stole millions in a con game perpetrated by her then-fiancé, George Everard. To protect herself from the law and the wrath of those who lost everything, she creates a new identity, a Frenchwoman named Vivienne Gregsby, and sets out to recover her father’s art collection, prove her innocence—and exact revenge on George. But life gets more complicated… and Vivienne is arrested for murder. Algonquin $27.95.

Alice Isn’t Dead
by Joseph Fink

Keisha Taylor lived a quiet life with her wife, Alice, until the day that Alice disappeared. Presuming she was dead, Keisha held a funeral, mourned, and tried to get on with her life. But then Keisha started to see her wife in the background of news reports, showing up at every major tragedy and accident in the country. So Keisha takes a job with a trucking company and begins searching for Alice. And she eventually stumbles on an otherworldly conflict being waged in the quiet corners of our nation’s highway system. Harper Perennial $19.99.

Into the Night
by Sarah Bailey

Troubled and brilliant, Detective Sergeant Gemma Woodstock finds herself alone after a moving to Melbourne. Her new workplace is a minefield and her partner Detective Sergeant Nick Fleet is often hostile. When a homeless man is murdered and Gemma is put on the case, she feels a connection with the victim and his lonely existence. Then actor Sterling Wade is murdered in the middle of an action-packed shot, and Gemma and Nick have to put aside their differences to unravel the mystery. Grand Central $26. Avail. 12/4

The Feral Detective
by Jonathan Lethem

Phoebe Siegler first meets Charles Heist in a shabby trailer on the eastern edge of Los Angeles. She’s looking for her friend’s missing daughter, Arabella, and hires Heist to help. A laconic loner who keeps his pet opossum in a desk drawer, Heist intrigues the sarcastic and garrulous Phoebe. Reluctantly, he agrees to help. The unlikely pair navigate the enclaves of desert-dwelling vagabonds and find that Arabella is in serious trouble—caught in the middle of a violent standoff that only Heist, mysteriously, can end. Ecco $26.99.

Uneasy Lies the Crown
by Tasha Alexander

The year is 1901 and the death of Queen Victoria has sent the entire British Empire into mourning. But for Lady Emily and her dashing husband, Colin, the grieving is cut short as another death takes center stage. A body has been found in the Tower of London, posed to look like the murdered medieval king Henry VI. When a second dead man turns up in Berkeley Square, his mutilated remains staged to evoke the violent demise of Edward II, it becomes evident that the mastermind behind the crimes plans to strike again. Minotaur $27.99.

A Shot in the Dark
by Lynne Truss

It’s 1957, and theater critic A. S. Crystal has come to tell Constable Twitten the secret he knows about the unsolved Aldersgate Stick-Up case of 1945. But just before Crystal names the criminal, he’s shot dead. With a new murder case and a lazy captain at the helm of the police department, Constable Twitten and his colleague Sargent Jim Brunswick set out to solve the mystery of Aldersgate. But will Brunswick and Twitten be able to foil the mastermind, or will Crystal’s death become just another unsolved crime? Bloomsbury $27.
**New in Paperback**

**Winter Solstice**  
by Erin Hilderbrand  
At long last, the Quinn family is celebrated the holidays together—Bart is back safe and sound from Afghanistan. And that isn’t the family’s only good news: Kevin is enjoying married life; Patrick is getting back on his feet after paying his debt to society; Ava thinks she’s found the love of her life; and Kelly is thrilled to see his family reunited. But Quinn family gatherings seldom go smoothly. A celebration of the things we love—and endure—about the holidays, *Winter Solstice* is Hilderbrand at her festive best. Back Bay $15.99.

**Friday Black**  
by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah  
By placing ordinary characters in extraordinary situations, Adjei-Brenyah reveals the violence, injustice, and painful absurdities that black men and women contend with every day in this country. These stories tackle urgent instances of racism and cultural unrest, and explore the many ways we fight for humanity in an unforgiving world. Entirely fresh, and sure to appeal to fans of Colson Whitehead and George Saunders, *Friday Black* confronts readers with a chorus of emotions, the final note of which, remarkably, is hope. Mariner $14.99.

**The Museum of Modern Love**  
by Heather Rose  
After an unexpected separation from his wife, creatively stuck Arky Levin stumbles upon an art exhibit that will change his life. Based on a real piece of performance art that took place in 2010, the fictional Arky Levin visits the Museum of Modern Art where visitors sit across a table from performance artist Marina Abramovic, for as long as they choose. Arky returns daily. And as the performance unfolds over the course of 75 days, he slowly starts to understand what might be missing in his life and what he must do. Algonquin $15.95.

**City of Broken Magic**  
by Mirah Bolender  
Five hundred years ago, magi created a weapon they couldn’t control. An infestation that ate magic—and anything else it came into contact with. Enemies and allies were equally filling. Only an elite team of non-magical humans, known as sweepers, can defuse and dispose of infestations before they spread. Most die before they finish training. Laura, a new team member, has stayed alive longer than most. Now, she’s the last—and only—sweeper standing between the city and a massive infestation. Tor $15.99.

**Dirty John and Other True Stories of Outlaws and Outsiders**  
by Christopher Goffard  
Since its release in 2017, the “Dirty John” podcast—about a conman who terrorizes a California family—has been downloaded more than 20 million times. The story, which also ran as a print series in the *Los Angeles Times*, wasn’t unfamiliar terrain to its Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, Christopher Goffard. Over two decades at newspapers from Florida to California, Goffard has reported on the shadowy corners of society. This book gathers together for the first time “Dirty John” and the rest of his best work. Simon & Schuster $17.

**The Cruel Prince**  
by Holly Black  
Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans—especially Prince Cardan. In her efforts to win a place at the Court, she becomes embroiled in palace intrigues and deceptions. But as civil war threatens the Courts of Faerie, Jude must risk her life in an alliance to save Faerie itself. Little, Brown BYR $12.99. Available 12/4.

**Fangirl**  
by Rainbow Rowell  
Cath is a serious Simon Snow fan. She and her twin sister, Wren, ensconced themselves in the Simon Snow series when they were kids; it’s what got them through their mother leaving. Cath’s sister has mostly grown away from fandom, but Cath can’t let go. Now that they’re going to college, Wren doesn’t want to be roommates. Cath is now on her own. Can she make it without Wren holding her hand? Is she ready to start living her own life? And does she want to move on if it means leaving Simon Snow behind? Wednesday $10.99.

*Sometimes you read a book so special that you want to carry it around with you for months after you’ve finished just to stay near it.*

— Markus Zusak
Try a Little Kindness by Henry Cole
In this funny picture book, bestselling illustrator Henry Cole shows kids ways to be kind with his hysterical animal characters. Each page features a different way to be a good person, like using manners, telling someone they are special, or sharing a treat! The text is accompanied by vignettes of animals doing good. And in one illustration out of each set, one animal may need a gentle reminder! Our animal friends will show you Exactly how it is done Make sure to look closely Kindness can be very FUN! Scholastic $17.99. Ages 3-5.

Mousie, I Will Read to You by Rachel Cole illus. by Melissa Crowton
Long before the words make sense, Mousie, I will read to you the simplest story about an acorn that drops to the ground. So begins this warm and poignant picture book that follows a mama mouse and her baby on the little mouse’s journey to becoming a reader. When Mousie is little, Mama sings him lullabies about the sky, and reads him stories about forests and bears. Then one day, on a playground next to the library, Mousie sounds out a word, then two, then three…and a reader is born! Schwartz & Wade $17.99. Ages 3-6.

Construction Site on Christmas Night by Sherri Duskey Rinker illus. by A.G. Ford
The trucks are gearing up for Christmas by building a special gift! But, there’s a surprise waiting for each of them, too! Presents await for Excavator, Bulldozer, Crane, Dump Truck, and Cement Mixer as each finishes their part of this important job and rolls off to a sweet and sleepy goodnight. Playful rhyming text from the bestselling author of Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site and vibrant illustrations from the acclaimed artist A.G. Ford make this a perfect gift for young construction fans everywhere. Chronicle $16.99. Ages 3-6.

All-Of-A-Kind Family Hanukkah by Emily Jenkins, illus. by Paul Zelinsky
Acclaimed author Emily Jenkins and Caldecott Award-winning artist Paul O. Zelinsky bring the beloved All-of-a-Kind Family to life in a new format. Readers will join them back in 1912, on the Lower East Side of NYC, and watch as preparations for Hanukkah are made. First published in 1951, Taylor’s chapter books have become time-honored favorites. Jenkins and Zelinsky’s charming compliment to Taylor’s series perfectly captures the warmth and family values that made the original titles classics. Schwartz & Wade $17.99. Ages 3-7.

Dreamland by Noah Klocek
Amelie loves everything about bedtime: wrapping up in her blanket, listening to stories, and most of all, dreaming. But finding her dreams is not always easy, and she often has to search for them. As Amelie ventures into the surreal world, she overcomes cold toes, too-bright moonshine, hidden shadows, and ticking clocks to finally uncover her favorite dreams. From illustrator Noah Klocek comes a breathtaking depiction of a half-asleep landscape sure to lure readers into a dreamland of their own. Candlewick $16.99. Ages 4-7.

Harold Loves His Woolly Hat by Vern Kousky
What makes a bear special? For Harold, it is his striped woolly hat. But when a crow whisks the hat off his head and high up into a nest, Harold doesn’t feel so special anymore. He tries everything to get it back, but alas, the crow will not budge. Turns out that the hat has a new special purpose: keeping three baby crows warm. This heartwarming picture book features an irresistible bear and gently reinforces the notion that it doesn’t matter what you have, it’s who you are that matters. Schwartz & Wade $17.99. Ages 4-7. Avail. 12/11

Little Dreamers by Vashti Harrison
From the author of Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History comes the highly anticipated follow-up, a beautifully illustrated collectible detailing the lives of 40 women creators around the world, ranging from writers to inventors, artists to scientists. Some names are known, some are not, but all of the women had lasting impact in their fields. The information-filled full-color spreads show the Leaders as both accessible and aspirational, inspiring readers to do amazing things. Little, Brown BYR $17.99. Ages 8-11.

A Child’s Introduction to Norse Mythology by Heather Alexander Illus. by Meredith Hamilton
Jack Frost
by William Joyce
The Guardians’ powers are put to the ultimate test in their final battle in this conclusion to the epic series from William Joyce. When we last saw the Guardians, they were celebrating their victory over Pitch once and for all. But the world has not been without evil since Pitch’s imprisonment. And Jack Frost—now half human—feels evil’s weight the most. As he faces an old enemy whose chapter we thought closed, it’s a battle of superlatives—the worse fighting the greatest, but where, oh where, is Jack? Atheneum $17.99. Ages 7-11.

Sanity & Tallulah
by Molly Brooks
Sanity Jones and Tallulah Vega are best friends on Wilnick, the dilapidated space station they call home at the end of the galaxy. So naturally, when gifted scientist Sanity creates a definitely-illegal-but-impossibly-cute three-headed kitten, she has to show Tallulah. But Princess, Sparkle, Destroyer of Worlds is a bit of a handful, and it isn’t long before the kitten escapes to wreak havoc on the space station. Readers will be over the moon for this rollicking space adventure by debut author Molly Brooks. Disney-Hyperion $12.99. Ages 8-12.

Let Sleeping Dragons Lie
by Garth Nix and Sean Williams
Odo and Eleanor are excited to be knights. Only nobody’s asking them to go on a quest. So they’re stuck at home, mostly waiting for something bigger to come along. That “something bigger” comes in the form of an old man named Edga, a warrior named Hundred, and an ancient chant: Dragon, dragon, heed our call… Come to aid us, one and all. As they did with Have Sword, Will Travel, fantasy masters Garth Nix and Sean Williams have crafted a tale full of fire, laughs, and twists for adventurous readers of all ages. Scholastic $17.99. Ages 8-12.

Two’s a Crowd
by Matthew Swanson, illus. by Robbi Behr
The sequel to the acclaimed The Real McCoys! When a baffling mystery strikes Tiddlywhump Elementary, sibling detectives and absolute opposites Moxie and Milton McCoy are on the case. Moxie’s friend Emily has received a letter signed with nothing but a sinister purple squiggle. Then more letters arrive—along with more questions. Who sent them? What do they mean? Is the world on the brink of collapse? Milton and Moxie are the perfect problem-solving team... if only they could get along! Imprint $16.99. Ages 8-11.

Wundersmith
by Jessica Townsend
In the heart-pounding sequel to the NYT bestselling and #1 Kids’ Indie Next Pick Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow, our heroine Morrigan battles a new evil. Morrigan Crow and her best friend Hawthorne Swift are now proud scholars in the elite Wundrous Society, but life is far from perfect. Does Morrigan have what it takes to prove that she belongs in the Society? Publishers Weekly called Nevermoor “[A] spellbinding debut... that champions bravery, self-confidence, and hope.” Little, Brown BYR $17.99. Ages 9-12.

Twilight of the Elves
by Zack Loran Clark and Nick Eliopulos
Zed, Brock, and their friends may have saved Freestone from destruction, but the fight against the Dangers is far from over. When tensions reach an all-time high, Queen Me’Shala, leader of the elves, approaches the Adventurers Guild, asking them to go behind the king’s back on a covert mission to save her city. To face a powerful form of magic thought to be extinct, the adventurers will have to learn how to rely on each other. Don’t miss this second installment of the Adventurers Guild trilogy! Disney-Hyperion $16.99. Ages 9-12.

The Crimes of Grindelwald
by J.K. Rowling, Illus. by MinaLima
At the end of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, the Dark wizard Grindelwald was captured in New York with the help of Newt Scamander. But Grindelwald escapes and sets about gathering followers, most unsuspecting of his true agenda: to raise pure-blood wizards up to rule over all non-magical beings. So Albus Dumbledore enlists Newt, who agrees to help once again. This second screenplay from J.K. Rowling, illustrated with art from MinaLima, includes delightful nods to the Harry Potter stories. Arthur A. Levine $24.99. Ages 10+

Little White Lies
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
18-year-old auto mechanic Sawyer Taft did not expect her estranged grandmother to offer her a six-figure contract to participate in debutante season. But when she realizes that immersing herself in her grandmother’s “society” might mean discovering her father’s identity, she braces herself for a year of makeovers, dresses, egos, and bless your hearts. The one thing she doesn’t expect to find is friendship, and Sawyer soon discovers that her family isn’t the only mainstay of high society with skeletons in their closet. Freeform $17.99. Ages 14-17.
**Fountain Favorites**

### Andi’s Reviews

**Nine Perfect Strangers** by Liane Moriarty

I will read anything Moriarty writes, and when this book showed up, I squealed a little. In *Nine Perfect Strangers*, the title nine gather at a remote health resort, expecting to rid themselves of stress, lose weight, gain confidence, and get over old heartaches. Each one is so eager to cure their ills, they ignore the odd rules about quiet hours, restricted diets, and other oddities. As their stay stretches on, unexplained things seem to be happening, and the head of the resort seems to be losing her grasp on reality. This book is crazy and hilarious and sweet! Flatiron $28.99. ⭐️

**What You Hide** by Natalie Richards

Mallory is a teenager on the run from her abusive stepfather, hiding in the library. Spencer is a rich kid, but his turmoil is hidden from his friends and adoptive family. He’s volunteering at the library after a brush with the law requires community service. Their paths cross after a tragedy occurs after hours and they team up to get to the bottom of what appears to be a haunting. I love Richards’ books, and this one is just as suspenseful as the rest. Don’t read the climax alone at night; it’ll make you jump at any sound! Sourcebooks Fire $10.99. Ages 14+. Avail. 12/4

**When the Lights Go Out** by Mary Kubica

Whoa, y’all. Mary Kubica always has awesome twisty endings but when I finished this one, I actually said aloud “what the....” Jessie and Eden share narration in this book about mothers and daughters, and how far they will go out of love for each other. I don’t want to say too much and give anything away, so I’ll just say that if you like Kubica, Gillan Flynn, Paula Hawkins, and their ilk, you will love this book. Park Row $26.99. 🎧

### Carl’s Reviews

**Always Look on the Bright Side of Life** by Eric Idle

Hilarious and wild, I wouldn’t expect anything less! Idle takes us through his life growing up in a U.K. boys school and then to Cambridge where he worked on his comedy chops and met the rest of the Python crew. We get the inside scoop on the Python sketches and movies (did you know that George Harrison financed *Life of Brian* simply because he wanted to see the movie?!) as well as British popular culture through the years. Full of crazy times, a celebrity cast of characters, as well as more reflective moments, Idle proves once again that he is one of the best in comedy. Crown Archetype $27. 🎧

**I’m Tough!** by Kate and Jim McMullan

Anyone who knows me knows I’m a sucker for a good truck, and the same goes for books about trucks. *I’m Tough!* follows a pickup truck that admits to being small, but capable of hauling any load that the bigger, more specialized trucks do. Through some honest-to-gosh hard work and a feisty attitude, Tough gets going when the going gets tough! I’d like to think that I see a little of myself in this truck, ‘cause I might be small too, but when you need a job done I’m your guy. Ya know why? ‘Cause I’m tough! Balzer & Bray/Harperteen $17.99. Ages 4–7.

### Chris’s Reviews

**Sasquatch and the Muckleshoot** by Adam Gidwitz and Joseph Bruchac

I love this series. You know when you read a book that is obviously meant for the kids section, but the stories and characters are so cute that you get caught up in their adventures anyway? That’s me with Unicorn Rescue Society! And the URS team are back, this time heading to Washington state in search of Sasquatch. Through some woodsy hijinks and getting lost among miles of woods and some nasty loggers, the book keeps the same fun pace and light humor that makes this series for kids of all ages. Dutton BYR $14.99. Ages 8–12.

**Come November** by Katrin van Dam

*Come November* is a strong coming of age story about a young woman whose mother has become part of an end days cult. She learns to navigate dealing with a distant father, caring for a brother who wants to please their mother, and growing up too quickly. When the promises of a new world come and go and nothing changes, she learns how to be stronger about her needs while still loving her family. A strong YA book appropriate for high schoolers. Scholastic $18.99. Ages 13+.
Fascinating Lives

**Becoming**
by Michelle Obama

As First Lady of the United States—the first African-American to serve in that role—Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic women of our era, helping create the most inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as an advocate for women and girls. In her memoir, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her. Warm and wise, *Becoming* is the reckoning of a woman who has defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same. Crown $32.50.

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**Heavy: An American Memoir**
by Kiese Laymon

In *Heavy*, Kiese Laymon writes about growing up a hard-headed black son to a complicated and brilliant black mother in Mississippi. From early experiences of sexual violence, to his suspension from college, to his journey as a young professor, Laymon offers a personal narrative that illuminates national failures. *Heavy* is defiant yet vulnerable, an insightful, often comical exploration of weight, identity, art, friendship, and family that begins with a confusing childhood and continues through 25 years of implications and reverberations. Scribner $26.

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**Never Grow Up**
by Jackie Chan

Whether it’s from *Rush Hour*, *The Karate Kid*, or *Kung Fu Panda*, Jackie Chan is admired for his acrobatic fighting style, comic timing, and mind-bending stunts. Now, in *Never Grow Up*, the superstar reflects on his early life, including his big breaks (and setbacks), brushes with death, and family. Since 1980, Jackie’s films have ended with a candid bloopers reel. Jackie applies the same open spirit in his memoir, proving again why he’s beloved the world over: he’s honest, funny, kind, brave, and still young at heart. Gallery $26. Avail. 12/4.

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**The Library Book**
by Susan Orlean

In 1986, a fire at the Los Angeles Public Library consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Over thirty years later, the mystery remains: Was this arson? Journalist Susan Orlean investigates the legendary fire. She visits library departments; delves into the evolution of libraries; studies arson and the history of library fires; attempts to burn a copy of a book; and re-examines the case of Harry Peak, long suspected as the arsonist. Along the way, she reveals the importance of these buildings and why we need them. Simon & Schuster $28.

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**Churchill**
by Andrew Roberts

When we seek an example of courageous leaders, the person who comes to mind is Winston Churchill: the visionary war leader immune from the consensus of the day, who stood for his beliefs when everyone doubted him. But how did young Winston become Churchill? What gave him the strength to take on the force of Nazi Germany when bombs rained on London? In *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*, Andrew Roberts gives readers the definitive Winston Churchill, from birth to legacy, as revealing as it is readable. Viking $40.

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**Beyond the Call**
by Eileen Rivers

*Beyond the Call: Three Women on the Front Lines in Afghanistan* follows the journeys of three women of the military’s Female Engagement Teams. They marched under the heat, fired M16s, and defended their units in deadly firefights. And they did things that their male counterparts could never do—gather intelligence on the Taliban from the women of Afghanistan. Their work in local villages helped empower Afghan women, providing them with the education and financial tools necessary to rebuild their nation. Da Capo $27.

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**I Might Regret This**
by Abbi Jacobson

When Abbi Jacobson announced her plan to drive across the country alone, she was met with questions: Wouldn’t it be lonely? Was it safe? Why? But Abbi had always found comfort in solitude, and needed space to hit the reset button. *I Might Regret This: Essays, Drawings, Vulnerabilities, and Other Stuff* is a collection of anecdotes, observations, and reflections—all told in the sharp, funny, and relatable voice that has endeared Abbi to critics and fans alike. Come along on this fun and ultimately inspiring journey. Grand Central $28.

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Snow was falling, so much like stars filling the dark trees that one could easily imagine its reason for being was nothing more than prettiness.

— Mary Oliver
Understanding Our World

The Gene Machine
by Venki Ramakrishnan
Everyone has heard of DNA. But it is the ribosome—a molecular machine made up of a million atoms—that makes DNA come to life. Gene Machine: The Race to Decipher the Secrets of the Ribosome is an insider account of the race for the structure of the ribosome, a discovery that both advances our knowledge of life and could lead to the development of better antibiotics. But this is also a human story of Ramakrishnan’s journey, from his first experiments in a lab to being in fierce competition with some of the world’s best scientists. Basic $19.99. Avail. 12/4

Why We Dream
by Alice Robb
In Why We Dream: The Transformative Power of Our Nightly Journey, Robb draws on fresh and forgotten research, as well as her experience and that of other dream experts, to show why dreams are vital to our emotional and physical health. She explains how we can remember our dreams better—and why we should. She traces the intricate links between dreaming and creativity, and even offers advice on how we can relish the intense adventure of lucid dreaming for ourselves. Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt $27.

Art Matters
by Neil Gaiman, illus. by Chris Riddell
Art Matters: Because Your Imagination Can Change the World is a timely embodiment of this remarkable multimedia artist’s vision—an exploration of how reading, imagining, and creating can transform the world and our lives. Illustrated by Chris Riddell, the book includes Gaiman’s “Credo,” his manifesto on free expression; “Make Good Art,” his famous commencement address; “Making a Chair,” a poem about the joys of creating; and “On Libraries,” his impassioned argument for this cultural institution. William Morrow & Co. $19.99.

Quarterback
by John Feinstein
In the mighty NFL, one player becomes the face of a franchise, receiving all the accolades and all the blame, and guiding the rise or fall of an entire team’s season—and the dreams of millions of fans. In Quarterback: Inside the Most Important Position in the National Football League, sportswriter John Feinstein shows readers what it’s really like to play the glory position and to live that life—mapping out a journey that runs from college stardom to the NFL draft to marching a team down the field with a nation of fans cheering. Doubleday $27.95.

The Nature Instinct
by Tristan Gooley
The Nature Instinct: Relearning Our Lost Intuition for the Inner Workings of the Natural World shows us how Gooley and other observers—from hunters in the English countryside to the Pygmy people in the Congo—have recovered a lost “sixth sense,” a subconscious understanding of our surroundings. By training ourselves through observation, we too can unlock this intuition—for finding the forest’s edge when deep in the woods, or knowing when an animal might pose danger—without even having to think about it. The Experiment $24.95.

Thanks a Thousand
by A.J. Jacobs
The idea was deceptively simple: A.J. Jacobs decided to thank every person involved in producing his morning cup of coffee. He discovers that his coffee—and every other item in our lives—would not be possible without hundreds of people: farmers, chemists, artists, presidents, truckers, mechanics, biologists, miners, smugglers, and goat- herders. Thanks a Thousand: A Gratitude Journey follows him across the globe, as his life is transformed, and he learns how gratitude can make us all happier, generous, and connected. Simon & Schuster/TED $16.99.

The Literary Book of Answers
by Carol Bolt
In this bestselling divination tool and party favorite, ask a yes or no question, open the book, and discover your answer in the form of quotations from the world’s most compelling books. If you’re curious about whether you’ll get that promotion, or if you should tell your mother-in-law what you really think of her cooking, you can expect superb guidance from the likes of William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, and Charles Dickens. Want even more fun? Check out The Book of Answers and The Movie Book of Answers too! Hachette $19.99.
**Katie’s Reviews**

**The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein**
*by Kiersten White*

I LOVED this re-imagining of *Frankenstein* through the point of view of Elizabeth. White manages to breathe (or is it jolt?) new life into the tale of a brilliant, mad young man and his deadly creation. But it’s the women who run this story—fierce, loyal Elizabeth, brilliant and beautiful, and the kind and caring Josephine, whose love is her undoing. From castles to asylums, this is one dark descent you’ll willingly follow to the end! Delacorte $18.99. Ages 12+. ★★★

**The Darkest Star**
*by Jennifer Armentrout*

No one delivers angsty alien, swoon worthy romance like Armentrout! A spinoff of her Lux series (which, no, you do not have to read first), *The Darkest Star* is set several years after a devastating alien invasion that has left humans and the Luxens on very shaky truce grounds. When plucky teen Evie meets the dangerously hot and mysterious otherworldly Luc, her life is in for a cosmic shift! Tor Teen $18.99. Ages 13+. ★★★

**How She Died How I Lived**
*by Mary Crockett*

One of my favorite books of 2018! The unnamed main character is one of 5 girls that were texted by a boy with murder on his mind—only one girl replied, only one girl was brutally murdered. A year later, our heroine is dealing with survivor's guilt, the murderer’s trial, and the crush on a dead girl’s boyfriend. A life forever changed by the what ifs of one fateful day, the violence that so easily can end the life of any woman, makes for an unforgettable read! Little, Brown BYR $17.99. Ages 13+. ★★★

**Muse of Nightmares**
*by Laini Taylor*

*KATIE SAYS:*

Strange The Dreamer, the prequel to this novel, almost wrecked me, and I definitely lobbied to get my hometown renamed Weep. Even with the gut punch ending to book one, I trusted that Taylor would mend my twisted and battered heart. I imagine when she was typing out *Muse of Nightmares*, magical sparks shot out of the keyboard, as her spell-wrapped words breathed life into Lazlo, Sarai, and all the characters of Weep. An absolute gorgeous and stunning sequel that will leave the reader aching for a million more words! Little, Brown BYR $19.99. ★★★

**Grim Lovelies**
*by Megan Shepherd*

*KATIE SAYS:*

Megan Shepherd has done it again with *Grim Lovelies*: a book so perfectly formed, it feels like it’s been around forever. Anouk was enchanted from animal to human by a Witch who holds her captive as a household slave. She and the other “Beasties” will do anything to preserve their humanity. She wishes to be like the “Pretties” (humans) with their fast cars and high fashion she can see from the small window in her Parisian townhouse/prison. But there is SO much more!! Anouk and her other Beastie friends discover they have more power than they have been led to believe if they can only keep the spell safe forever. Great diversity of characters! There are also really cool Goblins!! Houghton Mifflin $17.99. Ages 13+.

**Driving Eureka!**
*by Doug Hall*

*KELLY’S THOUGHTS:*

I attended a weekend workshop at Doug Hall’s Eureka Ranch and it was life changing! The challenge of being a business owner (or just a functional, growing human being) today is that “innovation” is no longer an option: it’s a necessity. Fountain has started adopting the Innovation Engineering systems and it has produced wonderful results thus far. The more time we devote to it, the better results we see.

Is it easy? Heck no! The techniques demonstrate that what most companies and the people who work there do are exactly the opposite set of actions to get results. The problem is we’ve all been doing it that way for years! This step-by-step method will help you generate ideas, create a way for you to test your ideas safely, give you the ability to measure results, and make work a fun place to be at the same time! We are still in the beginning stages of learning this, but it has been supremely helpful. Highly recommended! Clerisy $24.95.

**BUY TEN COPIES OF DOUG HALL’S DRIVING EUREKA! AND GET FREE ACCESS TO THE OFFICIAL VIDEO WORKBOOK & GUIDED BOOK CLUB EXPERIENCE**

**GUIDED BOOK CLUB EXPERIENCE:**

| Session 1: Intro, Problem, Solution | Pages 1-43 | Session 5: Communicate | Pages 99-117 |
| Session 2: Agreement | Pages 45-56 | Session 6: Commercialize | Pages 119-133 |
| Session 3: System | Pages 59-69 | Session 7: Alignment | Pages 135-153 |
| Session 4: Learning, Create | Pages 71-97 | Session 8: Collaboration, Research, Patents | Pages 155-192 |

**Ask Fountain staff for details!**
Fountain Book Clubs

**FOUNTAIN FLIRT**
21+ adults discussing themes of diversity in the romance genre.
- Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm
- Pride by Ibi Zoboi
- Thursday, January 3, 6:30 pm
- TBA

**FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH**
18+ adults meeting to talk about trends and topics in young adult fiction.
- Sunday, December 16, 10 am
- Snow in Love by Melissa de la Cruz, Aimee Friedman, Nic Stone, Kasie West
- Sunday, January 20, 10 am
- A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi

**FOUNTAIN BOOK CLUB TONIC**
The cure for the common book club! Discusses all genres but leans towards unusual selections.
- Location: Max’s Positive Vibe Café, 2825 Hathaway Road
- Wednesday, December 19, 7 pm
- Mr. Dickens and His Carol by Samantha Silva
- Wednesday, January 30, 7 pm
- The Widows of Malabar Hill by Sujata Massey

Purchase of book from Fountain is required, either in physical form, Kobo ebook, or Libro.fm audiobook.

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**Events**

**THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**
Richmond Mounted Police Fundraiser
- Friday, December 14, 12 pm
- Location: Shockoe Plaza
Join us at the Morgan Fountain with your furry and feathered friends, the Richmond Mounted Police Squad, and the memories of cherished animals no longer with us as we celebrate these marvelous creatures. We will close for 15 minutes and will be donating 5% of our sales. Pets and their owners are encouraged to dress in their holiday best and bring pet food donations.

Chief Investigating Officer
**DAVID REICHENBAUGH**

**In Pursuit: On The Hunt for the Beltway Snipers**
- Saturday, January 12, 2 pm
In *In Pursuit* follows the hunt for the Beltway snipers during the twenty-three-day shooting spree that terrorized Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in 2002. David Reichenbaugh—commanding officer at the scene during the snipers’ capture in Maryland—played a major role in the investigation from the first day of the killing spree through its final act, as the snipers were cornered in a rest area in western Maryland.

**NPR Commentator and Award-Winning Essayist**
**MARION WINIK**

**Presents Her Powerful Collection:**
**The Baltimore Book of the Dead**
- Thursday, January 17, 6:30 pm

A note from Fountain Bookstore owner, Kelly Justice:
I met Marion for the first time in October of 2018 at an author luncheon. I saw her nametag and had such an immediate visceral reaction, I assumed we had met before. But in fact we had never met; I had read her memoir *First Comes Love* in 1996, and it had such a profound effect on me I had a dizzying physical symptom upon just seeing her name. I invite you to come and experience the same thing with me on this special night.

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Fountain Bookstore is Available to Rent as a Private Venue for Your Special Event! Ask Your Bookseller!