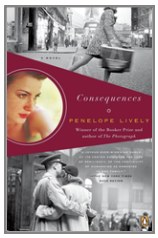
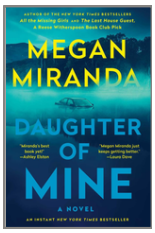
WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND
Book Discussion
March 2025

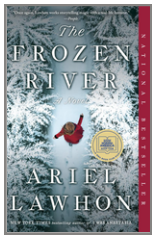
FICTION



Consequences by *Penelope Lively* - Follows the lives and loves of three women from World War II-era London to the close of the century. A penetrating look at how the major and minor events of the 20th century changed lives.



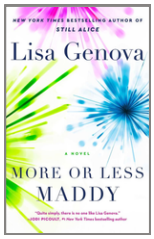
Daughter of Mine by **Megan Miranda** - Her father was the town detective. Her mother, its most notorious criminal. Now the secrets of Mirror Lake are coming to the surface...and changing everything.



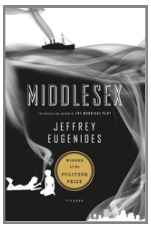
Frozen River by **Ariel Lawhon** - Historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

The Last Bookshop in London: A Novel of World War II by **Madeleine Martin** - London, 1939, a city torn apart by war, and brought together by books.

Meet Me at the Museum by **Ann Youngson** - A farmer's wife and a museum curator begin a life-changing correspondence.

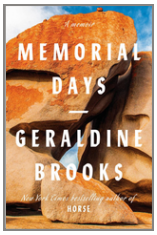


More or Less Maddy: A Novel by **Lisa Genova** - A young woman diagnosed with bipolar disorder rejects the stability and approval found in a traditionally "normal" life for a career in stand-up comedy.

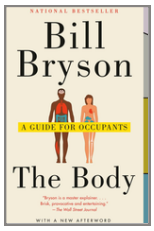


Middlesex by **Jeffrey Eugenides** - Spanning 8 decades, a fable of crossed bloodlines and the intricacies of gender.

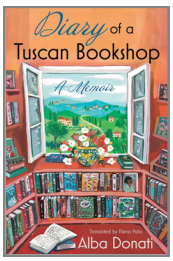
NONFICTION



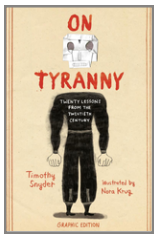
Memorial Days by **Geraldine Brooks** - Brooks tracks the geography of grief with patience and grace as she comes to terms with the ongoing nature of outliving the ones you love most.



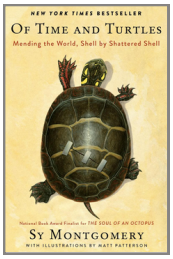
The Body: A Guide for Occupants by **Bill Bryson** - A guide through the human body—how it functions, its remarkable ability to heal itself, and (unfortunately) the ways it can fail.



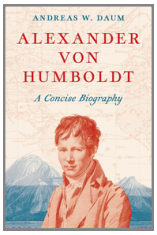
Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop: A Memoir by **Alba Donati** - A charming memoir by an Italian poet recounting her experience opening a bookshop in a village in Tuscany.



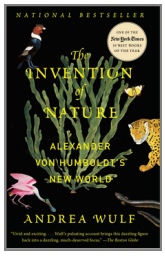
On Tyranny, Graphic Edition: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century by **Timothy Snyder** - A guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism.



Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell by **Sy Montgomery** - The wonder and wisdom of our long-lived cohabitants—turtles

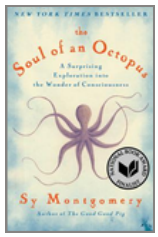


Alexander Von Humbolt: A Concise Biography by **Andreas W Daum** - An engaging account of the life and work of the legendary polymath, a Prussian nobleman born into the age of European Enlightenment.

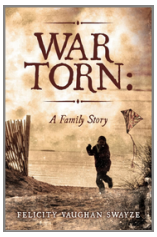


The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World by **Andrea Wulf** - A biography of the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world.

States of Grace: Encounters With Real Yankees by **Edie Clark** -Yankee Magazine columnist Edie Clark profiles a variety of New Englanders.



The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by **Sy Montgomery** - Boneless and beautiful, the characters here are not only big-hearted, they're multi-hearted, as well as smart, charming, affectionate...and, of course, ambidextrous.



War Torn: A Family Story by **Felicity Vaughn Swayze** - In 1940, as war threatened, English children were sent abroad, sometimes alone, sometimes with their mothers, to neutral countries for their safety. Swayze and her twin brother were among this group.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Taras Shevchenko - Ukrainian Poet

Mary Roach - an American author specializing in popular science and humor

William Kent Krueger - an American novelist and crime writer