



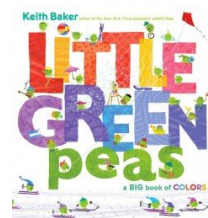
2014 Staff Picks

Our staff chose their favorite books of the year for you to check out!



Everett Public Library
2702 Hoyt Ave
Everett, Washington 98201
425-257-8000
<http://www.epls.org/>

Children: Fiction

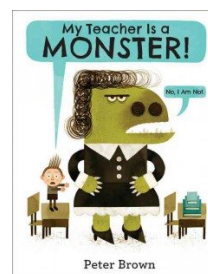


Little Green Peas: a Big Book of Colors

by Keith Baker

Little green peas make their way into collections of objects of many different colors, from blue boats, seas, and flags, to orange balloons, umbrellas, and fizzy drinks.

Lovely art -- each page could hang on your wall. Expressive, cute, and (because a kid's book needs to teach) teaches colors. Concept books aren't usually this good. The total package.
Alan's pick.

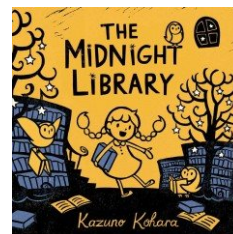


My Teacher is a Monster (No, I Am Not)

by Peter Brown

Bobby thinks his teacher, Ms. Kirby, is horrible, but when he sees her outside of school and they spend a day in the park together, he discovers she might not be so bad after all.

I love everything by Peter "Children Make Terrible Pets" Brown. His books are funny, smart, and creepy (in the right way). This one gets across that teachers are people too.
Alan's pick.



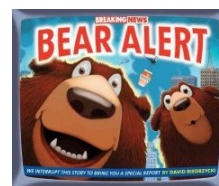
The Midnight Library

by Kazuno Kohara

The Little Librarian works at night with her three assistant owls. It all happens at this library: patrons who don't want to leave at closing and noisy patrons who are shown to the quiet room.

The Little Librarian knows how to turn a little trouble into a lot of fun.

Leslie's pick.



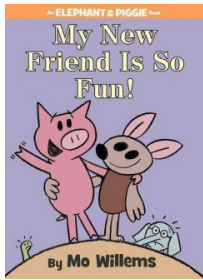
Breaking News: Bear Alert

by David Biedrzycki

In this story (told in the form of a television broadcast with up to the minute updates along the bottom of each page), bears emerge from hibernation demanding to be fed.

This picture book is a comical on-the-scene news story of two bears creating chaos by simply going to town.
Andrea's pick.

Children: Fiction



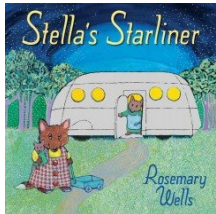
My New Friend is So Fun!

by Mo Willems

Mo Willems' popular Elephant & Piggie characters each make new friends.

As a parent of very young kids trying to navigate the friendship frontier, this book was a conversation-starter, one that teaches a lesson about possessiveness with Willems' trademark style and humor boosting the story beautifully.

Alan's pick.



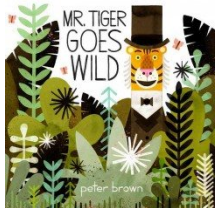
Stella's Starliner

by Rosemary Wells

Stella and her Mama and Daddy have everything they need in their silver home called the Starliner until some mean weasels say mean things about the Starliner. Stella finds new friends in a new place and is once again proud of her silver home.

"Later all the boys and girls cheered when the bookmobile came. Stella and her mama read their books until they knew them by heart. Stella didn't have a worry in the world."

Leslie's pick.



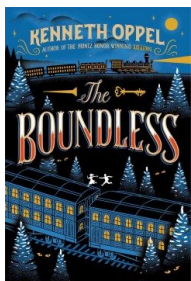
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild

by Peter Brown

Everyone was perfectly fine with the way things were. Everyone but Mr. Tiger. Mr. Tiger was bored with always being so proper. He wanted to loosen up. He wanted to have fun. He wanted to be...wild.

I loved how Mr. Tiger felt free to be himself.

Leslie's pick.



The Boundless

by Kenneth Oppel

Will and his father join 6,000 other passengers on the first journey of Boundless, an extravagantly outfitted train pulling nearly 1,000 cars.

Boundless is a fun, action packed adventure with lovable and despicable characters. The setting is original and the scenes are brilliantly drawn. I could almost feel myself jumping between cars with Will and Maren.

Elizabeth's pick.

Children: Nonfiction



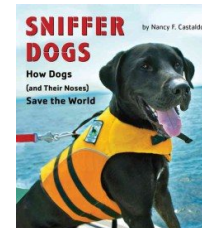
Attack! Boss! Cheat Code! A Gamer's Alphabet

by Chris Barton

In this ironic, vividly illustrated guide the most common gaming terminology is easy to understand and fun to explore.

The perfect gift for everyone on your list who loves picture books and video games. It's a subtle way to introduce coding lingo into your child's vocabulary. Start them young!

Carol's pick



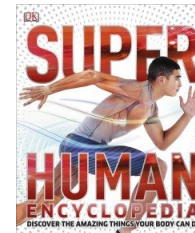
Sniffer Dogs

by Nancy Castaldo

A dog's sense of smell is so keen, it's the equivalent of a human being able to read an eye chart 5 miles away! A fascinating study of the multiple ways humans are taking advantage of dogs' tremendous nose.

It's fascinating to read how dogs' noses are used every day.

Theresa's pick.



Super Human Encyclopedia: Discover the Amazing Things Your Body Can Do

by Steve Parker

Great gift book for a budding scientist. Colorful illustrations of the human body reveal the truly amazing processes going on inside us. Open it to any page and find something interesting.

A color enlargement of a white blood cell devouring a group of tuberculosis bacteria grabbed me immediately when I opened

this book. Theresa's pick.



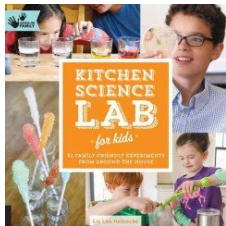
101 Dog Tricks, Kids Edition: Fun & Easy Activities, Games, and Crafts

by Kyra Sundance

In addition to step-by-step instructions for teaching tricks such as jumping through hoops and opening doors, this book has simple projects for children to do for and with their dog.

The illustrations are colorful and the instructions are broken down so that they are easy to follow.

Theresa's pick.

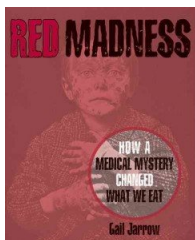


Kitchen Science Lab for Kids: 52 Family-friendly Experiments from Around the House

by Liz Lee Heinecke

There's a treasure-trove of science experiments hiding in your refrigerator, pantry, and junk drawer! This book invites you to explore science with simple projects and ingredients.

The illustrations make the instructions easy to follow, the science behind the project is explained, and they truly use (mostly) things commonly found in a household. Theresa's pick.

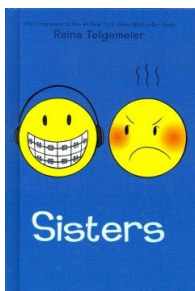


Red Madness : How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat

by Gail Jarrow

The early years of the 20th Century saw a mysterious deadly illness spreading in the American South. Pellagra first showed itself as a rash, then diarrhea, followed by dementia; death was the final result as there was no known cure.

This is a true-life mystery at its best with lots of false trails leading to dead ends but with the killer thwarted in the end through the determination of Dr. Joseph Goldberger, one of our country's unsung heroes. Theresa's pick.



Sisters

by Raina Telgemeier

Fourteen year old Raina is on a summer road trip from California to Colorado with her mother, brother, and sister. Sibling rivalry, teasing, taunting, and sweltering heat conspire to make for a bumpy ride.

Sisters, as in Smile (2010), shows us a portrait of a real family, at times laughing and playful, struggling and arguing, slipping and falling, but all along caring for each other and making the best of what they have together. Elizabeth's pick.



Books, DVDs, CDs,
Audio Books and
much more...

Teen

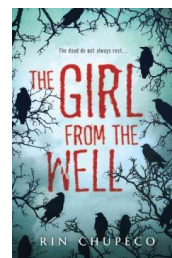


Blue Lily, Lily Blue

by Maggie Stiefvater

Blue and her Raven Boy cohorts, continue to search for the Welsh king Glendower -- but now they are also looking for Blue's mother who has gone missing, leaving only a note saying she's underground.

Stiefvater is a multit talented writer, artist and musician. Listen to the Raven Cycle series on audio to hear some of her music between chapters. Elizabeth's pick.



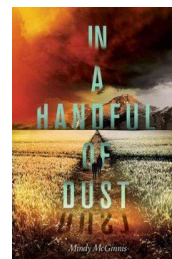
The Girl from the Well

by Rin Chupeco

A teen boy haunted by a malevolent spirit, a 300-year old ghost who tracks down and kills murderers of children, a seemingly evil mother, and a trip to Japan for an exorcism -- all make for a story infused with an eerie atmosphere and writing style.

This is my kind of horror: not too horrifying. Instead of grisly details, there is mood aplenty - somber, dark, and foreboding - and the bit of background on Japanese ghost stories made me want to seek

out other related material. Elizabeth's pick.



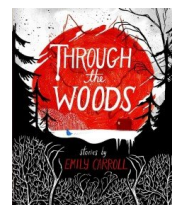
In a Handful of Dust

by Mindy McGinnis

Lynn and Lucy have fought hard to survive in a world with very little water, when a deadly polio strain sweeps into the camp. Lucy is forced to flee with Lynn and her journey to find a safe place is fraught with danger.

Simply written yet always building momentum and tension, these books are quick reads that are hard to put down. I appreciated the tough, resourceful female characters in the first book, and the

second further illustrates their powerful will to survive. Elizabeth's pick.

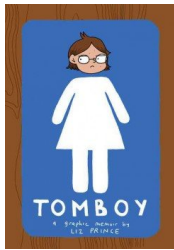


Through the Woods

by Emily Carroll

Canadian artist Emily Carrol presents five gorgeously illustrated and deliciously creepy ghost stories; each will chill your bones. Not only are Carroll's full color drawings exceptionally well designed and saturated with mood and movement, but her storytelling is perfectly paced to build the horror through each story and as the

book progresses. Elizabeth's pick.



Tomboy

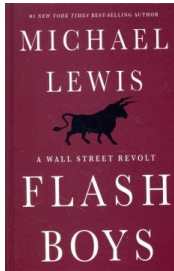
by Liz Prince

From the age of two, Liz hates anything 'girly.' As she grows up she is teased, bullied, ridiculed and even beaten up, all the while scorning the typical roles for girls and women.

As a tomboy of sorts myself, I really enjoyed Liz's story. She describes so perfectly the complete awkwardness and emotional turmoil of middle school years, yet she has always remains true to

her own convictions about who she is. Elizabeth's pick.

Adult: Nonfiction

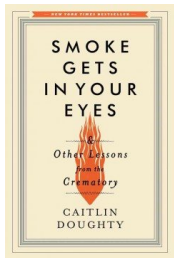


Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt

by Michael Lewis

Relates how certain Wall Street traders laid their own high speed communications line from Chicago to New York to purchase stock before anyone else. They beat the buyer to the punch and sell at a profit.

Pulls back the curtain on a whole array of tawdry Wall Street scams. The kicker is that there is no law to stop them. Cameron's pick.



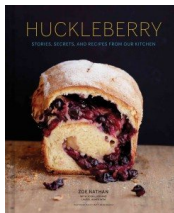
Smoke Gets in Your Eyes & Other Lessons from the Crematory

by Caitlin Doughty

Young aspiring crematory operator Caitlin Doughty takes readers behind the scene of America's death industry. Not for the faint of heart due to some graphic descriptions, this book provides a very thought-provoking look at what happens to us after we die.

This was a very honest and surprisingly humorous discussion of a topic most of us would like to ignore. Doughty provides some

fascinating information about death rituals around the world, as well as a history of how we've responded to death in the US. Lisa's pick.

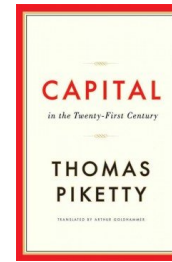


Huckleberry: Stories, Secrets, and Recipes from Our Kitchen

by Zoe Nathan

Recipes for delectable baked goods, both sweet and savory, abound. Illustrated with mouth-watering photos.

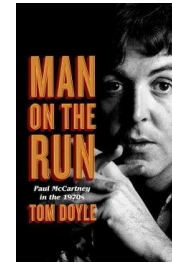
I love sampling cookbooks from the library before deciding whether to purchase for my personal collection. Eileen's pick.



Capital in the Twenty-First Century

by Thomas Piketty

Economist Piketty relates in great detail why funneling money to the already rich leads to the past devouring the future. It is a tour de force of scholarship, spanning the globe and spanning centuries. Cameron's pick.



Man on the Run: Paul McCartney in the 1970s

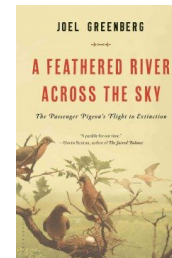
by Tom Doyle

Based on exclusive first-hand interviews, a chronicle of Paul McCartney's struggles in the first decade after the Beatles' breakup discusses his reclusive life, substance abuses, arrests, and efforts to launch his band Wings.

Love it or hate it, Paul was prolific in the 70's and I happen to love his output from the period (especially Ram and Red Rose Speedway).

This details everything, including depression, granting him depth

the music doesn't necessarily indicate. Alan's pick.



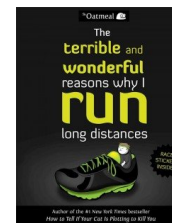
A Feathered River Across the Sky: the Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction

by Joel Greenberg

The story of the passenger pigeon; how flocks of billions of birds were shot, clubbed, burned, crushed, flailed, speared, drowned, and blown up; a species' extinction by wanton human butchery.

I'd read stories about the passenger pigeon's fate, but couldn't believe what I was reading. This author's careful documentation

allows no evasion of the book's central thesis. Cameron's pick.



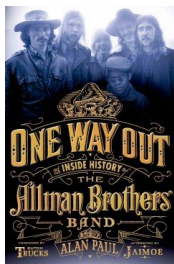
The Terrible and Wonderful Reasons Why I Run Long Distances

by Matthew Inman

Matthew Inman, author of the incredibly popular webcomic "The Oatmeal," gives us a compilation of comics, focused on his love/hate relationship with running.

I'm a long-time fan of "The Oatmeal," and I'm drawn to Inman's

quirky, snarky, sense of humor. Zac's pick.

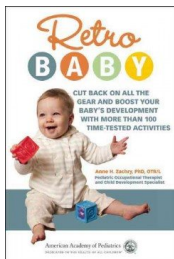


One Way Out: The Inside History of the Allman Brothers Band

by Alan Paul

Told through the voices of band members, roadies, family, and friends, it is the story of an iconic--and tragic--rock band of the sixties, the Allman Brothers Band.

Really puts the Allmans in context, a fusion band with influences from blues, rock, jazz, country, and even classical. Cameron's pick.

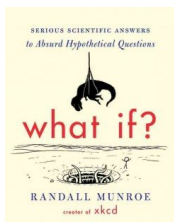


Retro Baby: Cut Back on All the Gear and Boost Your Baby's Development with More Than 100 Time-tested Activities

by Anne H. Zachary

New isn't always better when it comes to the health and well-being of babies. Retro Baby is full of tips for inexpensive toys and simple activities to enhance your baby's development without investing in all manner of high-tech baby gear.

Published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, it is full of the newest research findings about child development along with practical ways to help your baby thrive. This is a great gift for anyone with a new baby. Theresa's pick.



What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions

by Randall Munroe

The creator of the popular webcomic xkcd receives a lot of odd queries from his fans. This book answers these (sometimes literally) burning questions such as: What would happen if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent the speed of light?

The author's dry wit and impressive scientific knowledge make this book not only hilarious but also amazingly informative. Impossible to put down once started. Richard's pick.



Scandals of Classic Hollywood: Sex, Deviance, and Drama from the Golden Age of American Cinema

by Anne Helen Petersen

A collection of shocking clashes and controversies from Hollywood's Golden Age, featuring notorious personalities including Judy Garland, Cary Grant, Jean Harlow, and more.

This is a smart treatment backed up by solid research that debunks rather than celebrates scandal. Alan's pick

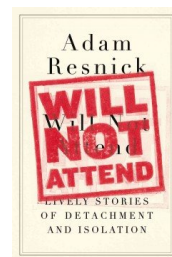


QR Codes Kill Kittens: How to Alienate Customers, Dishearten Employees, and Drive Your Business into the Ground

by Scott Stratten

Using real-life examples from human resources, marketing, branding, networking, public relations, and customer service, this book offers tips and guidance on how to prevent in-person and online/social media slip-ups.

I'm part of a team of library staffers who run the library's social media platforms. I am always on the lookout for ways I can improve the work I am doing, since it reflects on the library. Also, there's a kitten on the cover! Carol's pick.



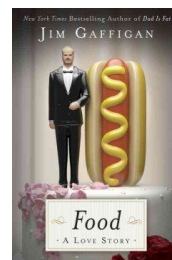
Will Not Attend: Lively Stories of Detachment and Isolation

by Adam Resnick

Resnick, a long-time writer (and Emmy-Award winner) for Late Night with David Letterman, hits the funny bone with a series of essays about his life and family.

Resnick is not that fond of humans and does not suffer fools gladly. By revealing--in a boisterously funny way--his dislikes and hatreds, this "cranky pants" also lays bare what brings love and joy in his life,

in particular his daughter and wife. Joyce's pick.



Food: A Love Story

by Jim Gaffigan

Jim Gaffigan gives his listeners what they really crave, his thoughts on all things culinary(ish).

Gaffigan is one of the funniest, smartest, and cleanest comics working today. Here he adds plenty of new material to what fans will already expect. Try the audiobook, narrated by Gaffigan himself. Alan's pick.



The Portlandia Cookbook: Cook Like a Local

by Fred Armisen

Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein, with Jonathan Krisel ;
photographs by Evan Sung

This cookbook features the best recipes from the stimulating food mecca that is Portland.

Portlandia. Need I go on? Okay, fine. This book combines two of my favorites: cooking and the TV show Portlandia. The recipes are real,

but humor runs amok in the sidebars and chapter breaks. I'm asking Santa for this one. Carol's pick.

Adult: Fiction



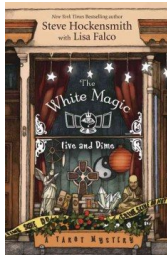
Shovel Ready

by Adam Sternbergh

A dirty bomb explodes in Times Square. The city empties. Spademan, a not-so-lovable protagonist, turns from garbage man into assassin. Rich people plug into virtual reality to avoid reality. Grit, noir, perversion, corrupt religious leaders.

This is one of those rare books that is extremely dark but still seems to contain light.

Ron's pick.



The White Magic Five and Dime

by Steve Hockensmith

Alanis inherits a tarot business in tiny Berdache, Arizona from her estranged mother. She goes to the town in hopes of finding how her mother died, but stays while slowly getting pulled into the world of tarot. Mystery and romance round out this tale.

Hockensmith's writing style is delightful, the story is filled mystery upon mystery, very fun start of a series.

Ron's pick.

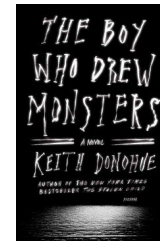


On Such a Full Sea

by Chang-rae Lee

Set in a dystopian future America, in a world beset with environmental disasters, Chinese workers raise fish and produce for the elites. Fan, a diver in the fish tanks, disrupts this carefully ordered world when she embarks on a search for her boyfriend.

I'm both intrigued at disturbed by near-future dystopian novels. Lee adds another level, as he explores the nature of myths and legends. Eileen's pick.



The Boy Who Drew Monsters

by Keith Donohue

Ten-year-old agoraphobic Jack is housebound and only has one friend, Nick. He lives in a remote and mostly deserted seaside town. It's frigid December when he begins drawing monsters, which soon begin to haunt the family.

The eerie setting, Jack's reluctance to communicate, the fumbling parents, and Nick's inability to escape from Jack's grasp all build to

make this quite a page turner. I was reminded of reading The Shining as a teen...and imagining noises in the night! Elizabeth's pick.



Horrorstör

by Grady Hendrix

After strange things start happening at the Orsk furniture superstore in Cleveland, three employees volunteer to work an overnight shift to investigate, but what they discover is more horrifying than they could have imagined.

Orsk is a knock-off Ikea, and that idea is reinforced by the fact that this book's designed inside and out to look like the iconic Ikea catalog. Anyone who has ever gotten lost inside the maze that is Ikea will be chilled and enthralled by this book. Carol and Joyce's pick.



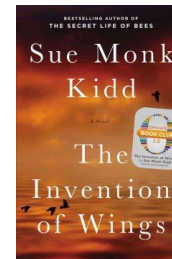
Karate Chop : Stories

by Dorte Nors

This collection of brief short stories, the first translated into English from this Danish author, feature characters and settings that at first seem mundane. Keep reading and you will discover the extraordinary in the ordinary.

I found the streamlined structure of the stories very appealing. Not a word is out of place as the author explores the odd nuances of

everyday human interactions and the often disturbing motivations of those involved. Richard's pick.



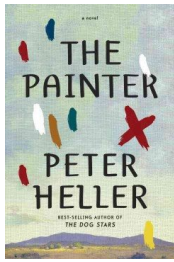
The Invention of Wings

by Sue Monk Kidd

On her 11th birthday, Sarah Grimke is gifted with a slave called Hetty Handful. In this story spanning 35 years, both women become determined to rise above the injustices of their day.

This historical fiction came to life as the author gave voice to both women weaving a wonderful story.

Margo's pick.



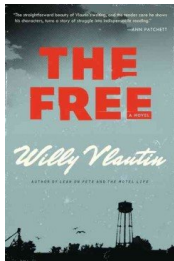
The Painter

by Peter Heller

Jim Stegner is a successful artist who appreciates the beauty of the land, but he is plagued with a recurring problem with violence. While trying to stay out of trouble, he witnesses an act of cruelty which causes him to spiral back into his anger.

As in *The Dog Stars*, Heller really captures the beauty of the western landscape. The lasting impression of this book however, was how he so expertly compels the reader to alternately

empathize fully with Jim and then despise him. Elizabeth's pick.



The Free

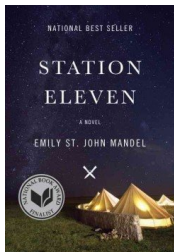
by Willy Vlautin

Award-winning author Willy Vlautin demonstrates his extraordinary talent for confronting issues facing modern America, illuminated through the lives of three memorable characters looking to escape their financial, familial, and existential problems

I love Willy Vlautin's spare, poignant, humanistic style. Warning: there's disturbing stuff in here, but it's not exploitative. And to a thinking person, the irony of the title is the most disturbing aspect of

the book.

Alan's pick.



Station Eleven

by Emily St. John Mandel

Arthur Leander collapses onstage while acting in *King Lear*. Jeevan tries to help, then gets a call from a doctor friend that a horrific flu pandemic is sweeping the country. Twenty years later we follow a traveling theatre group in the primitive new world

This is not run-of-the-mill predictable dystopian fiction. Artfully switching between past and present, Mandel takes us on a journey of relationships, failures, hopes, and dreams among the characters

connected with Leander. Elizabeth's pick.



Summer House with Swimming Pool

by Herman Koch

A cabin fever story of a doctor and his family spending a week at a famous star's extravagant summer home on the Mediterranean.

Joined by a rich supporting cast and with hints dropped throughout, the tragedy isn't long to uncover itself

The author's *"The Dinner"* was a deeply disturbing psychological novel and an international hit. This appeals to the dark side of our nature and is impossible to put down.

Ron's pick.

Movies



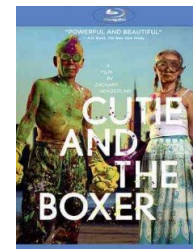
Spectacular Now

James Ponsoldt

While Aimee dreams of the future, Sutter lives in the now, and yet somehow, they're drawn together. What starts as an unlikely romance becomes a sharp-eyed, straight-up snapshot of the heady confusion and haunting passion of youth.

An authentic portrait of teen life and family relationships tempered with humor, relatable characters, and a nice edge. A smart, wise

film that made me want to seek out the director's *"Smashed."* Alan's pick.



Cutie and the Boxer

Artists Ushio and Noriko Shinohara have been in a challenging marriage for 40 years. For starters, Noriko states she is not Ushio's assistant, while Ushio claims she is.

It's fascinating to watch these artists create. The scenes of Ushio boxing his canvases with dripping gloves contrast nicely with Noriko's careful drawing style.

Elizabeth's pick.

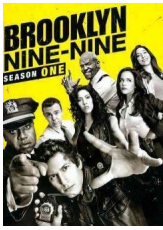


The White Queen

Love and lust, seduction and deception, betrayal and murder in one of the most turbulent times in English history highlight Philippa Gregory novels set in 1464 and adapted for TV...all through 3 women who scheme and seduce their way to the throne.

For fans of *Game of Thrones* and British period pieces and those wonderful costumes. It's also thrilling to witness the deceptions, plot twists and treacheries all to get and keep the throne.

Linda's pick.



Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Andy Samberg, Joe Lo Truglio, Chelsea Peretti

Jake Peralta is a Brooklyn detective with a gift for closing cases and little respect for authority. When no-nonsense commanding officer Raymond Holt joins the 99th precinct with something to prove, the two go head-to-head.

Starring both comedians and serious actors, Brooklyn Nine-Nine is guaranteed to make you laugh. Seriously: I bet a friend she'd laugh

and she did! I've discovered I think like Rosa and dress like Gina, but follow the rules like Amy and speak like Jake! Carol's pick..



Guardians of the Galaxy

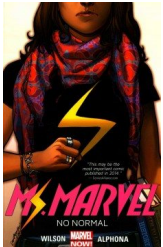
Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Michael Rooker

Brash adventurer Peter Quill finds himself the object of an unrelenting bounty hunt after stealing a mysterious orb coveted by Ronan, a powerful villain with ambitions that threaten the entire universe.

Even if you know nothing about the comic books (I certainly didn't) you'll be cheering on our anti-hero outlaws as they band together to save the universe. Almost stealing the show from our actors: the retro

soundtrack (aka Awesome Mix Vol. 1) Carol's pick.

Graphic Novels



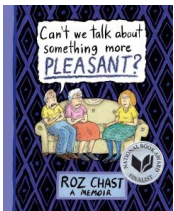
Ms. Marvel: No Normal

by G. Willow Wilson

Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she's suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm!

This was my gateway into the Marvel Universe. This year I've finally gotten on the comic/graphic novel bandwagon and this has everything: action, adventure, sci-fi, and a kick-butt heroine! If you

love strong female characters you NEED this book! Carol's pick.



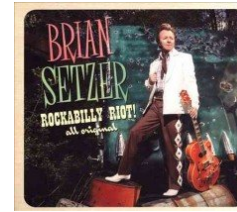
Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?

by Roz Chast

In her first memoir, Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Spanning the last several years of their lives and told through four-color cartoons, family photos, and documents, it delivers comfort and comic relief. It's touching, well-wrought, and really conveys what it's like to care for aging parents in a very

different way. Alan's pick.

Music

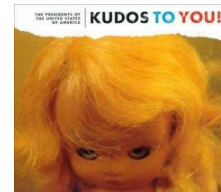


Rockabilly Riot!

Brian Setzer

35 years later, Setzer is still cranking out authentic, exciting rockabilly, songs destined to be the classics of the future.

Virtuoso guitar, classic riffs, outstanding originals. How can he do so much with so few chords? Ron's pick.



Kudos to You!

Presidents of the United States of America

Quirky rockers return with more songs of everyday life.

Energetic as always, distinctive yet fresh, rocking, clever, silly. Perfect.

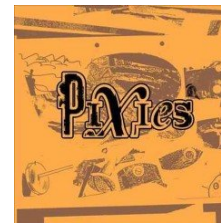
There ain't nobody like them. Such simple ideas but never tiresome. Most of all, fun! Ron's pick.



Tribal

Imelda May

Imelda May is rockabilly's premier female singer, and her latest album has been eagerly anticipated. It is more contemplative than earlier stuff, slower paced, but still features Imelda's knockout voice. Ron's pick.



Indie Cindy

The Pixies

Although not as blisteringly sonically dense as the Pixies of old, Indie Cindy brings about a new chapter for the band. They're still not in a happy, friendly, hug-filled place, just perhaps 3 inches closer.

Not many bands can create delight out of pain. Ron's pick.



Metamodern Sounds in Country Music

Sturgill Simpson

Sturgill Simpson's sophomore album. While the album's sound feels like it was made in 2014, it has more in common with Merle Haggard than Florida Georgia Line.

I wouldn't classify myself a "country music" listener (especially if you include anything produced after the 1970s), but this

album stands out from almost everything else I've heard this year. Zac's pick.