

Bookshelf Chronicles

A selection of new books



Chroniques de l'étagères

Une sélection de nouveaux livres

May/mai 2024

A new venture. An occasional bulletin from your local library with information about new books to borrow, and featured reading ideas.

In each edition, selected new books will be highlighted with a brief synopsis and other new titles listed to give you an idea of what will be on the shelves when you next visit.

This is at the experimental stage and we hope readers will find to be of value.

Please give us your reactions before we start work on the next edition. Do you like it? Is there anything you would do differently?

<https://www.bibliobaiedurfe.com>

Un bulletin occasionnel de votre bibliothèque locale avec, des informations sur les nouveaux livres à emprunter et des idées de lecture en vedette.

Dans chaque édition, une sélection de nouveaux livres sera mise en avant avec un bref synopsis et d'autres nouveaux titres seront listés pour vous donner une idée de ce qui se trouvera sur les étagères lors de votre prochaine visite.

Il s'agit d'un projet expérimental qui, nous l'espérons, sera utile aux lecteurs. N'hésitez pas à nous faire part de vos réactions avant que nous ne commençons à travailler sur la prochaine édition. Vous aimez ? Y a-t-il quelque chose que vous souhaiteriez faire différemment ?



You can find a complete list of recent titles on the library's website.

Vous trouverez la liste complète des titres récemment acquis sur le site web de la bibliothèque.

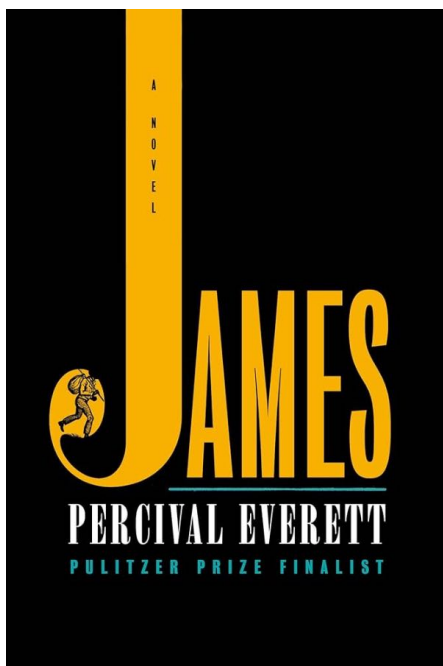
<https://www.bibliobaiedurfe.com/news>



FICTION - English

James - by Percival Everett.

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.



When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

Percival L. Everett is an American writer and Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California. There might not be a more fertile mind in American fiction today than Everett's. In 22 years, he has written 19 books, including a farcical Western, a savage satire of the publishing industry, a children's story spoofing counting books, retellings of the Greek myths of Medea and Dionysus, and a philosophical tract narrated by a four-year-old. The Washington Post has called Everett "one of the most adventurously experimental of modern American novelists."

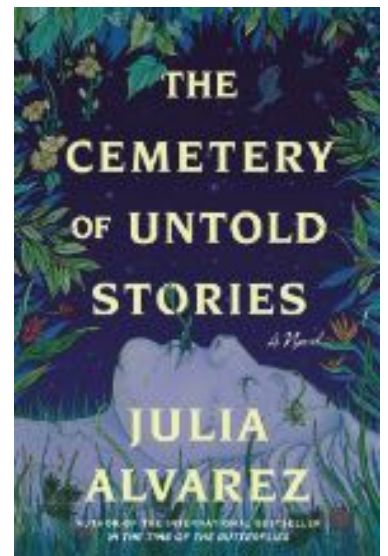
Article about the author: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2024/apr/06/id-love-a-scathing-review-novelist-percival-everett-on-american-fiction-and-rewriting-huckleberry-finn>

The Cemetery of Untold Stories - by Julia Alvarez.

Alma Cruz, the celebrated writer at the heart of *The Cemetery of Untold Stories*, doesn't want to end up like her friend, a novelist who fought so long and hard to finish a book that it threatened her sanity. So when Alma inherits a small plot of land in the Dominican Republic, her homeland, she has the beautiful idea of turning it into a place to bury her untold stories—literally. She creates a graveyard for the manuscript drafts and revisions, and the characters whose lives she tried and failed to bring to life and who still haunt her.

Alma wants her characters to rest in peace. But they have other ideas, and the cemetery becomes a mysterious sanctuary for their true narratives. Filomena, a local woman hired as the groundskeeper, becomes a sympathetic listener as Alma's characters unspool their secret tales. Among them: Bienvenida, the abandoned second wife of dictator Rafael Trujillo, consigned to oblivion by history, and Manuel Cruz, a doctor who fought in the Dominican underground and escaped to the United States.

The characters defy their author: they talk back to her and talk to one another behind her back, rewriting and revising themselves. *The Cemetery of Untold Stories* asks: Whose stories get to be told, and whose buried? Finally, Alma finds the meaning she and her characters yearn for in the everlasting vitality of stories.

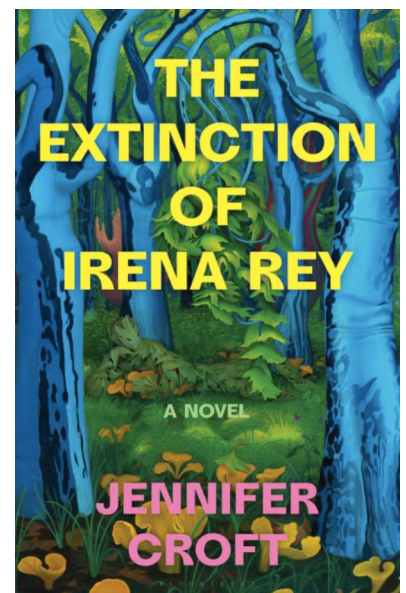


The Extinction of Irena Rey - by Jennifer Croft

Eight translators arrive at a house in a primeval Polish forest on the border of Belarus. It belongs to the world-renowned author Irena Rey, and they are there to translate her magnum opus, *Gray Eminence*. But within days of their arrival, Irena disappears without a trace.

The translators, who hail from eight different countries but share the same reverence for their beloved author, begin to investigate where she may have gone while proceeding with work on her masterpiece. They explore this ancient wooded refuge with its intoxicating slime molds and lichens and study her exotic belongings and layered texts for clues. But doing so reveals secrets-and deceptions-of Irena Rey's that they are utterly unprepared for. Forced to face their differences as they grow increasingly paranoid in this fever dream of isolation and obsession, soon the translators are tangled up in a web of rivalries and desire, threatening not only their work but the fate of their beloved author herself.

This hilarious, thought-provoking debut novel is a brilliant examination of art, celebrity, the natural world, and the power of language. It is an unforgettable, unputdownable adventure with a small but global cast of characters shaken by the shocks of love, destruction, and creation in one of Europe's last great wildernesses.



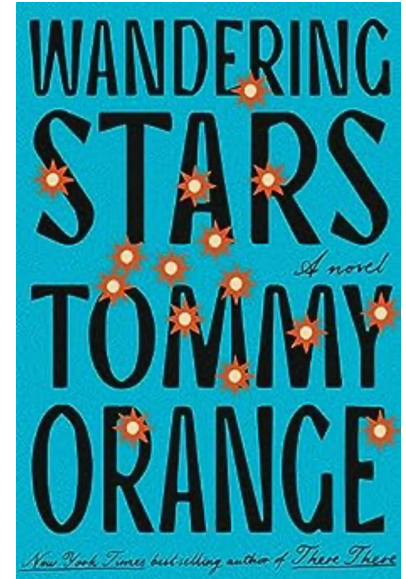
Wandering Stars - *by* Tommy Orange

Wandering Stars traces the legacies of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School through to the shattering aftermath of Orvil Red Feather's shooting in There There.

Colorado, 1864. Star, a young survivor of the Sand Creek Massacre, is brought to the Fort Marion Prison Castle, where he is forced to learn English and practice Christianity by Richard Henry Pratt, an evangelical prison guard who will go on to found the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, an institution dedicated to the eradication of Native history, culture, and identity. A generation later, Star's son, Charles, is sent to the school, where he is brutalized by the man who was once his father's jailer. Under Pratt's harsh treatment, Charles clings to moments he shares with a young fellow student, Opal Viola, as the two envision a future away from the institutional violence that follows their bloodlines.

Oakland, 2018. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield is barely holding her family together after the shooting that nearly took the life of her nephew Orvil. From the moment he awakens in his hospital bed, Orvil begins compulsively googling school shootings on YouTube. He also becomes emotionally reliant on the prescription medications meant to ease his physical trauma. His younger brother, Lony, suffering from PTSD, is struggling to make sense of the carnage he witnessed at the shooting by secretly cutting himself and enacting blood rituals that he hopes will connect him to his Cheyenne heritage. Opal is equally adrift, experimenting with Ceremony and peyote, searching for a way to heal her wounded family.

Extending his constellation of narratives into the past and future, Tommy Orange once again delivers a story that is by turns shattering and wondrous, a book piercing in its poetry, sorrow, and rage—a masterful follow-up to his already-classic first novel, and a devastating indictment of America's war on its own people.



Is there a future for the publishing industry?

Serious question ... You may be interested in reading this article about the way publishing works ...

<https://www.elysian.press/p/no-one-buys-books>

QUOTE: I think I can sum up what I've learned like this: The Big Five publishing houses spend most of their money on book advances for big celebrities like Brittany Spears and franchise authors like James Patterson and this is the bulk of their business. They also sell a lot of Bibles, repeat best sellers like Lord of the Rings, and children's books like The Very Hungry Caterpillar. These two market categories (celebrity books and repeat bestsellers from the backlist) make up the entirety of the publishing industry and even fund their vanity project: publishing all the rest of the books we think about when we think about book publishing (which make no money at all and typically sell less than 1,000 copies).

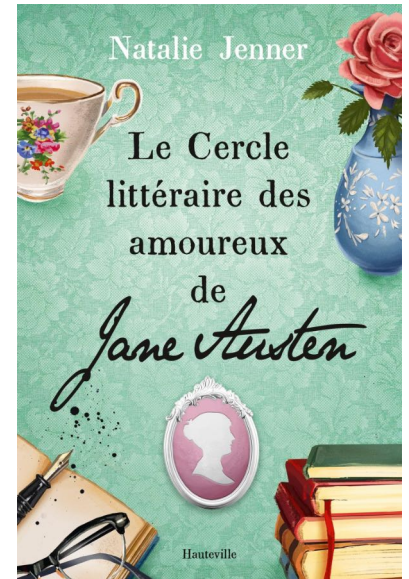
ROMANS - Français

Le cercle littéraire des amoureux de Jane Austen par Natalie Jenner

Jane Austen savait que rien ne pouvait procurer aux femmes une réelle indépendance.

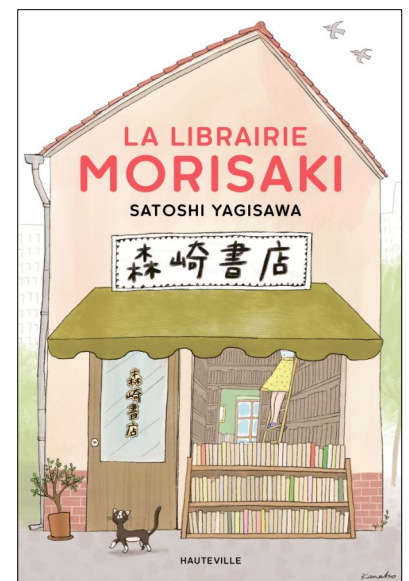
Par son seul génie, pourtant, elle avait fini par acquérir un peu de cette liberté. Suffisamment pour travailler, vivre et mourir comme elle l'entendait. C'était un véritable accomplissement, d'avoir pu présenter au monde son héritage de six romans, entièrement écrits, révisés et corrigés par elle, sans qu'aucun homme ne vienne interférer dans son travail. Au lendemain de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, une nouvelle bataille s'engage dans le petit village anglais de Chawton, qui fut la dernière résidence de Jane Austen. Son domaine s'étiole et risque d'être vendu au plus offrant... Lorsque Mimi, actrice hollywoodienne glamour, croise le chemin d'Adam, un jeune fermier désœuvré, commence une aventure qui poussera huit inconnus hantés par leur passé à se retrouver autour de leur passion pour Jane Austen. Alors que tout semble les opposer, ils allient leurs forces pour tenter l'impossible : sauver la maison de leur romancière bien-aimée.

Ses écrits pourront-ils en retour changer la vie de ce cercle littéraire atypique ? Un roman bouleversant et édifiant sur l'espoir, le deuil et l'amour, montrant l'humanité qui réside en chacun de nous.



La Librairie Morisaki par Satoshi Yagisawa

Takako a le coeur brisé lorsque Hideaki, l'homme qu'elle aime, lui annonce ses fiançailles. Dévastée, la jeune femme ne supporte plus de le croiser au travail et démissionne. Takako a bien du mal à remonter la pente... jusqu'au jour où elle reçoit un coup de téléphone de son oncle Satoru, qu'elle n'a pas revu depuis de nombreuses années. L'homme, un peu excentrique, est à la tête d'une vieille librairie d'occasion, implantée à Jinbôchô, le quartier des bouquinistes à Tokyo. Il lui propose de venir l'aider, et même de s'installer au premier étage de la boutique. Voyant enfin l'avenir lui sourire, Takako accepte et découvre parmi tous ces livres un nouveau langage qui lui était jusque-là inconnu... Traduit dans plus de vingt langues, La Librairie Morisaki a conquis près d'un million de lecteurs à travers le monde.



L'été d'avant *par Sarah-Maude Beauchesne*

Rien ne peut séparer Agathe, Marie et Wendy. Au terme de l'année scolaire, elles ne se sont jamais vraiment quittées. Chacune à leur manière, elles n'ont cessé de penser à leur amitié. Marie s'est confiée à son journal. Agathe a écrit des lettres. Et Wendy a illustré ses poèmes de dessins. Au fil des mots, on découvre les trois jeunes filles dans ce qu'elles ont de plus intimes. Mais surtout, on apprend pourquoi, l'été d'avant, elles ont décidé de conclure leur fameux pacte...



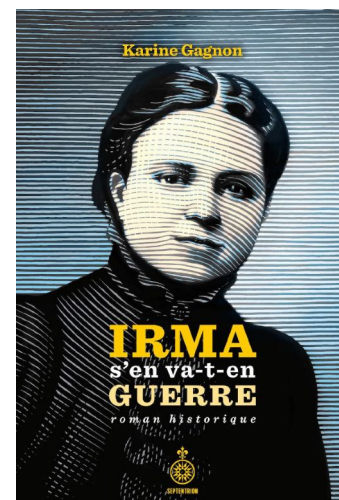
Aysuun *par Ian Manook*

Aux confins de la Mongolie et du pays Touva, terres de traditions millénaires, il est une femme qui résiste : Aysuun. 1930. Les Soviétiques lancent une « campagne de pacification » dans le sud de la Sibérie, sur les territoires mongol et touva, pour y éradiquer la culture nomade. Tsuyann et sa fille Aysuun sont laissées pour mortes après le massacre de leur campement. Vingt-cinq ans plus tard, Aysuun recroise la route de son bourreau. L'heure de la vengeance a sonné. De chevauchées en bivouacs, entre nomades et militaires, cavaliers légendaires et voleurs de chevaux, sur fond de chamanisme et de communisme, commence alors une traque haletante, vers un piège impitoyable... Avec ce grand roman d'aventure, de lutte et de passions, porté par le souffle de la liberté, Ian Manook, l'auteur de la trilogie best-seller Yeruldegger, fait un retour époustouflant dans les steppes de Mongolie et la taïga du bout du monde.



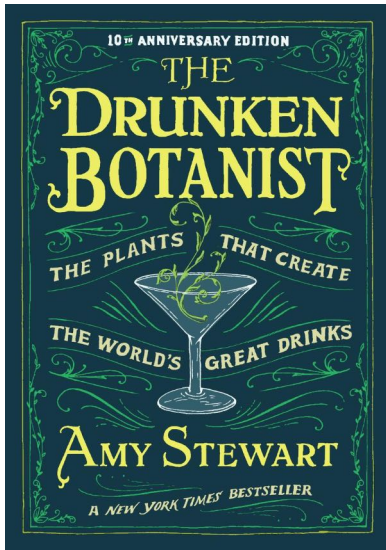
Irma s'en va-t-en guerre *par Karine Gagnon*

En 1900, après quatre années d'étude, Irma LeVasseur reçoit son diplôme de médecine de l'Université du Minnesota, mais les autorités médicales de la province de Québec refusent de la laisser exercer la profession. Modèle de persévérance, Irma se présente devant l'Assemblée législative pour faire infirmer cette décision. Elle devient alors la première femme francophone du Québec à exercer la profession de médecin. Après des années de formation à l'étranger pour se spécialiser en pédiatrie et sa participation à la fondation de l'Hôpital Sainte-Justine, Irma répond à l'appel du gouvernement de Londres et part combattre l'épidémie de typhus qui afflige la Serbie, durement touchée par la Grande Guerre. Irma travaille comme médecin au dispensaire de Kragujevac où elle se montre particulièrement courageuse et résiliente face à la destruction, la misère et la maladie. Irma s'en va-t-en guerre entraîne les lectrices et les lecteurs sur les traces d'une femme d'exception, au destin et à la volonté hors du commun, et à la rencontre d'une famille pour le moins originale de Québec.



The Drunken Botanist - by Amy Stewart

The Plants that Create the World's Great Drinks: 10th Anniversary Edition



A guide to botany and booze which celebrates its 10th anniversary with an updated edition—now including a guide to planting your very own cocktail garden to go with more than fifty drink recipes. This fascinating, go-to text about the plants that make our drinks is the ideal gift book for every cocktail aficionado, the perfect drinks book for every plant-lover.

Sake began with a grain of rice. Scotch emerged from barley, tequila from agave, rum from sugarcane, bourbon from corn. Thirsty yet? In *The Drunken Botanist*, Amy Stewart explores the dizzying array of herbs, flowers, trees, fruits, and fungi that humans have, through ingenuity, inspiration, and sheer desperation, contrived to transform into alcohol over the centuries.

Of all the extraordinary and obscure plants that have been fermented and distilled, a few are dangerous, some are downright bizarre, and one is as ancient as dinosaurs—but each represents a unique cultural contribution to our global drinking traditions and our history.

This charming concoction of biology, chemistry, history, etymology, and mixology—with delightful drawings, tasty cocktail recipes, and fun factoids throughout—will make you the most popular guest at any cocktail party.

- “A book that makes familiar drinks seem new again . . . Through this horticultural lens, a mixed drink becomes a cornucopia of plants.”—NPR's Morning Edition
- “Amy Stewart has a way of making gardening seem exciting, even a little dangerous.”—The New York Times
- “The Drunken Botanist is a sipping book, not a quaffing book, best enjoyed in moderation...Part Ripley's Believe It or Not, part compendium on the order of 'Schott's Original Miscellany' and part botanical garden tour, albeit with a curated cocktail party at the end . . . a companionable reference and whimsical recitation of historical-botanical trivia, with a little tart debunking.”—The Washington Post

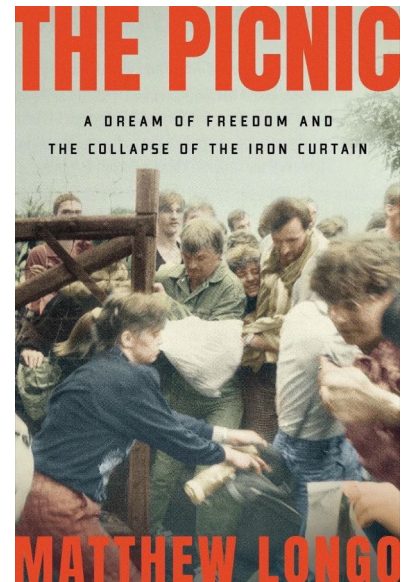


The Picnic - by Matthew Longo

A Dream of Freedom and the Collapse of the Iron Curtain

The gripping story of a collective passion for freedom that shook the world. In August 1989, a group of Hungarian activists organized a picnic on the border of Hungary and Austria. But this was not an ordinary picnic—it was located on the dangerous militarized frontier known as the Iron Curtain. Tacit permission from the highest state authorities could be revoked at any moment. On wisps of rumor, thousands of East German “vacationers” packed Hungarian campgrounds, awaiting an opportunity, fearing prison, surveilled by lurking Stasi agents. The Pan-European Picnic set the stage for the greatest border breach in Cold War history: hundreds crossed from the Communist East to the longed-for freedom of the West.

Drawing on dozens of original interviews—including Hungarian activists and border guards, East German refugees, Stasi secret police, and the last Communist prime minister of Hungary—Matthew Longo tells a gripping and revelatory tale of the unraveling of the Iron Curtain and the birth of a new world order. Just a few months after the Picnic, the Berlin Wall fell, and the freedom for which the activists and refugees had abandoned their homes, risked imprisonment, sacrificed jobs, family, and friends, was suddenly available to everyone. But were they really free? And why, three decades since the Iron Curtain was torn down, have so many sought once again to build walls?

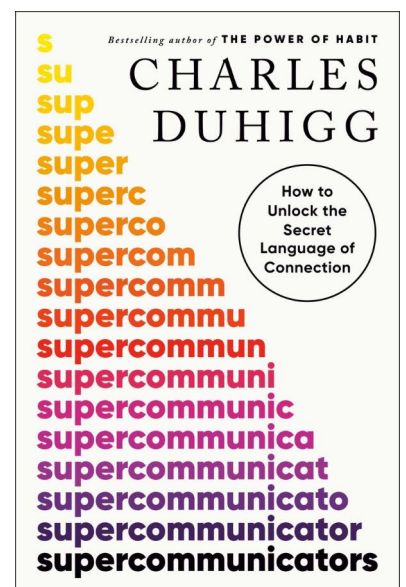


Supercommunicators - by Charles Duhigg

How to Unlock the Secret Language of Connection

We all know people who seem capable of connecting with almost anyone. They are the ones we turn to for advice, the ones who ask deep questions but who also seem to hear what we are trying to say. What do they know about conversation that makes them so special? And what can they tell us about how communication really works?

Supercommunicators, Charles Duhigg argues, understand—some by intuition, some by hard-won experience—that there is a science to how human beings connect through words. They understand that whenever we speak, we're actually participating in three distinct conversations: What is this really about? How do we feel? And who are we? They know the importance of recognizing—and then matching—each kind of conversation, and how to hear the complex emotions, subtle negotiations and hidden beliefs that color and inform everything we say. Our pasts, our values, our affiliations—our identities—shape every discussion we have, from who will pick up the kids to how we want to be treated at work.

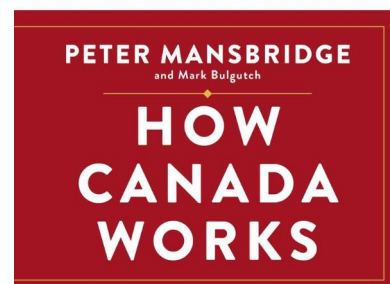


How Canada Works - *by Peter Mansbridge & Mark Bulgutch*

The People Who Make Our Nation Thrive

A book of first-person stories about the unique people and professions that make Canada work. In this latest collection of personal stories, Peter Mansbridge and former CBC producer Mark Bulgutch shine a light on the everyday jobs that keep our nation running and the inspiring people who perform them with empathy and kindness.

Meet the high school principal in British Columbia who is mentoring the next generation. Hear from the chief of the Neskantaga First Nation in northern Ontario, who sacrifices his personal time to fight for better resources for his community, which has had a boil water advisory since the mid-1990s. From the air traffic controller who ensures people get to where they need to go, to the midwife in Saskatchewan who guides families through pregnancy and the birthing process, these are the jobs that connect Canadians on both a logistical and personal level. Though Canada is still very much a work in progress, this enlightening book celebrates how we are greater than the sum of our parts by championing the people that make our country great.



Les femmes musiciennes sont dangereuses *par Annie Coste*

Comment expliquer la relation paradoxale que la musique entretient avec les femmes ? On la dit d'essence féminine, pourtant, la création musicale demeure le domaine artistique et culturel où les femmes sont les moins nombreuses, réduites à des poupées de sons instrumentalisées et sexualisées. Les femmes dans la musique se sont heurtées à une pléiade d'obstacles, à la fois réels et symboliques. Pourtant, beaucoup ont réussi à les surmonter pour parvenir à un haut niveau de création et d'innovation, telles Kassia, Maddalena Casulana, Marie Jaëll, Ethel Barns ou encore Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Nina Simone, Amy Winehouse, Lady Gaga...

Traversant les siècles et les genres musicaux, en portant un autre regard sur l'histoire des musiques savantes et populaires, cet ouvrage remet au premier plan les musiciennes et leurs oeuvres restées trop souvent invisibles et inaudibles.

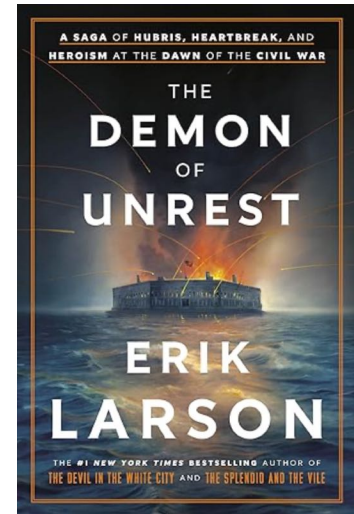
- J'ai beaucoup aimé car nous fait connaître des femmes musiciennes de toutes les époques. - Sylvie Fournier



The Demon of Unrest - by Erik Larson A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston: Fort Sumter.

Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were “so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.”



At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between both. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous Secretary of State, William Seward, as he tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late.



COMING SOON ...

Health for All - by Jane Philpott

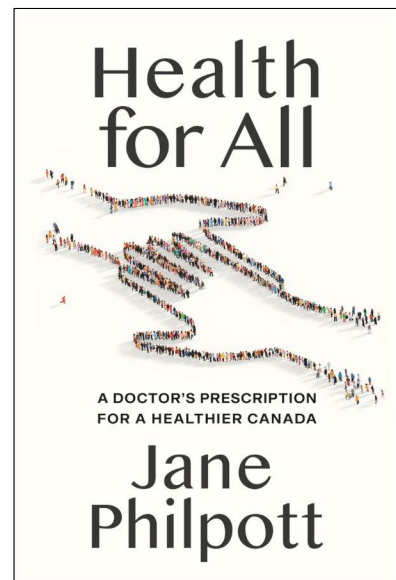
A Doctor's Prescription for a Healthier Canada

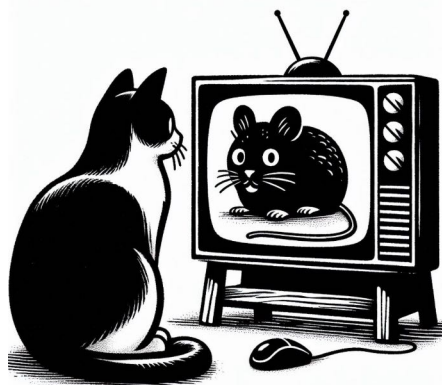
From one of Canada's most respected and high-profile health professionals (and former federal Minister of Health), a timely, practical, ambitious, and deeply personal call for action on health that sets out the roadmap to our future well-being.

Jane Philpott has spent her life learning what makes people sick and what keeps people well. She has witnessed miracles in modern medicine. She has also watched children die of starvation in a world that has plenty of food. With *Health for All*, she sounds a clarion call for a radical disruption in a health care system that is broken—but not beyond repair. The vision is rooted in a deep-seated commitment to health equity.

Decades ago, a few visionary Canadian leaders put laws in place to ensure health care insurance for all. But the structures to deliver that care were never fully developed as envisioned. As a result, our health systems are not comprehensive or well-coordinated. In the wake of a pandemic, we risk it all falling apart. More than six million people have no family doctor, nor any other access to primary care. Emergency rooms are routinely closed. Exhausted health workers wonder if it will ever get better. Some say we should hand health care over to the private sector. But to abandon our commitment to publicly funded health care now would only lead to more expensive and less equitable care. Philpott outlines a different solution—an ambitious, once-in-a-generation reset of health systems with universal access to primary care teams.

What sets this book apart is that it's more than a prescription for better medical care. Philpott looks at the big picture of health for all. This includes an intimate look at the personal roots of well-being: hope, belonging, meaning, and purpose. Then, through real-life stories, she examines the impact of the social determinants of health. Finally, she explains that none of this will happen without the political will to do the hard work of rebuilding a healthy society. The remedy we await is serious leadership to implement what we already know and to put the well-being of Canadians at the top of the agenda.





VIDEO

The Lost King (British biographical film, 2022)

In the archaeological find of a century, the remains of King Richard III — presumed scattered over 500 years ago — were discovered under a parking lot in Leicester in 2012. The search was spearheaded by amateur historian Philippa Langley, whose passion and unrelenting research were met with skepticism by the academic establishment. Directed by two-time Oscar nominee Stephen Frears (*The Queen*, “*A Very English Scandal*”) and starring two-time Oscar nominee Sally Hawkins (*The Shape of Water*, *Spencer*) as Langley, *The Lost King* is the inspiring true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and took on Britain’s most eminent historians, forcing them to rethink the legacy of one of the most controversial rulers in English history. A tale of discovery, obsession, and stolen glory (both then and now), *The Lost King* is a magical adventure illuminated by one woman’s awakened sense of purpose.



Ru (drama, 2023)

Inspiré du roman de Kim Thúy, lauréat du Prix du Gouverneur général, *Ru* raconte le voyage ardu d'une famille aisée fuyant le Vietnam, avant d'atterrir au Québec.

Après une dangereuse traversée en mer et un séjour dans un camp en Malaisie, la jeune Vietnamienne Tinh et sa famille sont acceptées comme réfugiés au Canada et arrivent à Montréal où elles commencent leur nouvelle vie. Mais pour Tinh, l'adaptation comporte son lot de difficultés. Déjà timide et réservée de nature, elle doit apprendre une nouvelle langue et s'intégrer dans son nouvel environnement. Hantée par les épreuves du voyage, Tinh devra puiser au plus profond d'elle-même la résilience nécessaire à sa survie et à son bonheur.



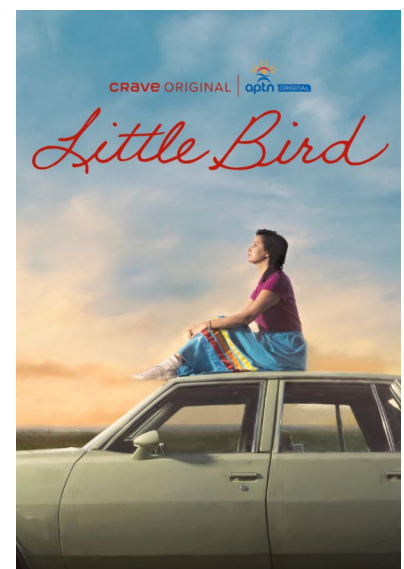
Simple comme Sylvain (2023)

La vie confortable de Sophia est bouleversée le jour où elle rencontre Sylvain, un entrepreneur des Laurentides. Elle quittera tout pour vivre cette passion brûlante, se disant que ce sera peut-être la dernière de sa vie. Elle vient d'un milieu intellectuel aisé de Montréal, tandis que Sylvain est issu d'une famille de travailleurs manuels. Sophia s'en détachera pour une solide remise en question de ses propres valeurs et aspirations après s'être pourtant abandonnée à ses grands élans romantiques.



Little Bird (Canadian drama, 2023)

"...Between 1863 and the very near date of 1998, an estimated 150,000 First Nations children were separated from their families by Canadian Social Services based on an education policy that called into question the ability of parents to take care of them. But in reality it was a plan to eliminate the indigenous culture by forcing the "whitening" of the customs of some children who ended up being adopted by white families. It was a cultural genocide that also ended with the deaths of some 6,000 children in boarding schools run mainly by the Catholic Church. In 2020, at the Kamloops School, one of the largest centers for these purposes, a mass grave was found with the remains of 215 children. The period between the sixties and the eighties was called the "Sixties Scoop", and it is the one that is described in two time lines. The protagonist Bezhig "Little bird" (Darla Contois), celebrates her engagement party with her mother Golda Rosenblum (Lisa Edelstein), a Jewish woman who adopted her when she was little, but when she realizes that she is still despised by some members from the community, the need arises to know more about his original family. The plot alternates Bezhig's search for her roots with the story of how she was taken from her mother by the police and members of the social services, in particularly dramatic scenes.



The Holdovers (film, 2023)

Nobody likes teacher Paul Hunham (Giamatti) -- not his students, not his fellow faculty, not the headmaster, who all find his pomposity and rigidity exasperating. With no family and nowhere to go over Christmas holiday in 1970, Paul remains at school to supervise students unable to journey home. After a few days, only one student holdover remains -- a trouble-making 18-year-old named Angus, a good student whose bad behavior always threatens to get him expelled. Joining Paul and Angus is head cook Mary (Randolph)-an African American woman who caters to sons of privilege and whose own son was recently lost in Vietnam. These three very different shipwrecked people form an unlikely Christmas family sharing comic misadventures during two very snowy weeks in New England. The real journey is how they help one another understand that they are not beholden to their past-they can choose their own futures.





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