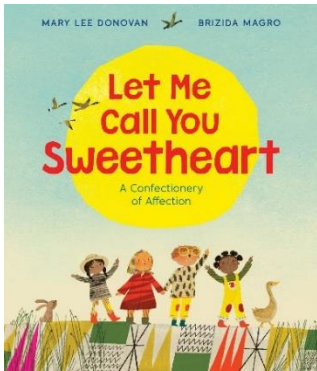


READER'S ADVISORY - STAFF PICKS

June 2023 (weeks 1 & 2)



Bri

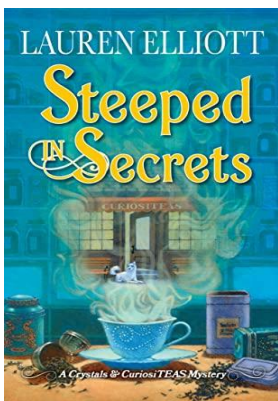
Title: *Let Me Call You Sweetheart: A Confectionery of Affection*

Author: **Mary Lee Donovan**

Illustrator: **Brizida Magro**

Picture Book

This was such a sweet little picture book about all the different terms of endearment used around the world for our loved ones. There are so many charming, playful names we use for those we love - "tadpole or froggy or minnow or mite, my sweetheart, my dearest, my darling delight." Donovan is a local author from Massachusetts, but throughout the book she utilizes sweet names from around the world, like the Italian "stellina," to the Portuguese "anjinho," and even the Malaysian "oi yanak." Each page has cozy and inviting illustrations, with an engaging variety of children and animals to reflect the different terms of endearment. My favorite part is the very last page, which explains where these pet names come from and some of the more common types of names. It also lists the country of origin for each term in order of appearance, along with providing the English translations.



Christina

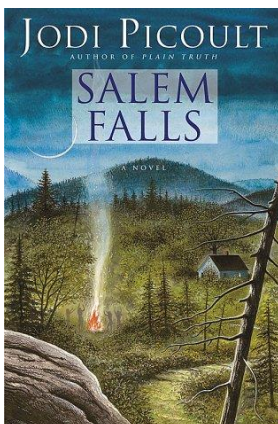
Title: *Steeped in Secrets* (Crystals & Curiosities series – Book 1)

Author: **Lauren Elliott**

Mystery

There are a few things going on in Shayleigh Myers' life lately that she can't explain. It all starts when Shay learns that she's inherited a tea shop from a woman named Bridget Early, who was barely more than a distant memory to her. Following a bitter divorce, Shay relocates to Bray Harbor, California, from New Mexico and attempts to embrace a new chapter of her life; however, this proves to be a challenge when her store is turned into a crime scene upon discovery of a body on its rooftop.

The murder and the questions surrounding it lead Shay to seek answers. Who was the victim? Was his murder somehow connected to Bridget's "accidental" death? Had Bridget played some role in Shay's life that Shay is unaware of? Doubtful that she can get to the bottom of this alone, Shay enlists the help of family members, friends, and an intriguing dog with a sixth sense. But when a series of break-ins occur, Shay still fears that they may run out of time before solving the puzzle Bridget has left her.



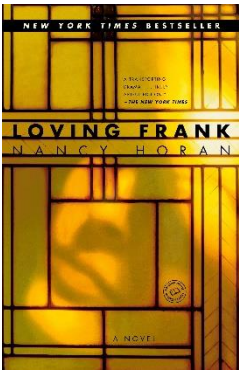
Jen

Title: *Salem Falls*

Author: **Jodi Picoult**

Fiction

Ex-soccer coach and teacher Jack St. Bride moves to Salem Falls after a student's false accusation leads to a conviction for assault. As he settles into a new routine and falls in love with a charming local woman, Addie, a trio of troubled teens accuse him of sexual assault, and he has to defend himself again.



Kathy

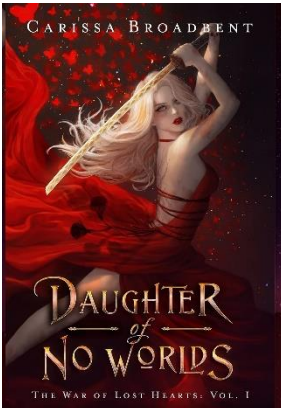
Title: *Loving Frank*

Author: Nancy Horan

Historical fiction

Historical fiction, backed up by over 7 years of research, the story of Frank Lloyd Wright's scandalous affair with Mamah Borthwick Cheney. I was unfamiliar with the personal life of Wright and did not know of the tragedy lying ahead as I read the book. The morals and yellow journalism of the time play a huge part in the story. The story is unforgettable. The author,

Nancy Horan, has a new book, *House of Lincoln*, debuting this month.



Kaya

Title: *Daughter of No Worlds*

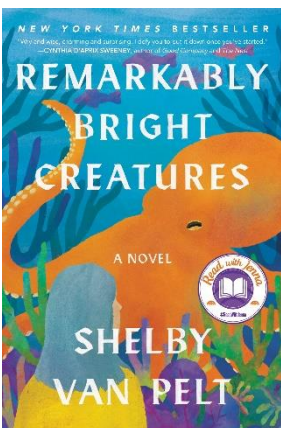
Author: Carissa Broadbent

Fantasy

Sold into slavery as a young girl, Tisaanah is now a young woman fighting to earn back her freedom. When she barely escapes with her life and is forced to leave a friend behind, Tisaanah is more determined than ever to claim justice for her fellow slaves. She flees to the Orders, a powerful group of magic Wielders, joining their ranks in the hope that they can help her. Under the teachings of a cynical warrior who despises the Orders, Tisaanah begins

to realize that there is a delicate balance of power at play, and that she is now a part of it. Is the risk of being enslaved to yet another force worth the leverage it will give her to help free the slaves she left behind?

Full of action, magic, war, complex characters with dynamic backstories, and incredible world-building, this has been one of my favorite books that I've read this year. If you're looking for a new epic fantasy series, this is a great pick for fans of Sarah J. Maas and Brandon Sanderson. Tisaanah is such a strong character, and anyone who loves Aelin from *A Throne of Glass* is sure to love her as well.



Marcia

Title: *Remarkably Bright Creatures*

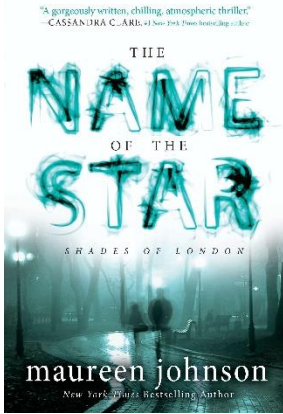
Author: Shelby Van Pelt

Fiction

Remarkably Bright Creatures is a book about grief and loneliness, and how making connections with other living beings can transform those feelings. Ultimately, it is a story of love, hope, and caring.

This story chronicles the connection between Marcellus, a Giant Pacific Octopus living in a small aquarium, and Tova, a widow who lost her son in a tragic accident and works the night shift cleaning the facility. The chapters alternate between human and octopus. I liked the octopus chapters because the author includes many facts about this animal in a humorous fashion.

I loved how Marcellus escaped from his locked tank every night and went visiting the other tanks for a "midnight snack". His incredible intelligence is demonstrated in hilarious ways!



Mel

Title: *The Name of the Star* (The Shades of London Series – Book 1)

Author: Maureen Johnson

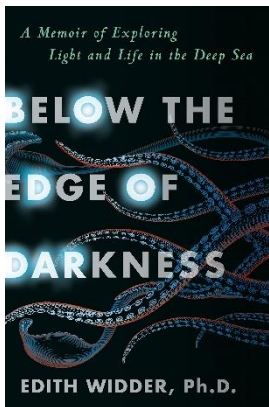
Fiction

It's modern-day London at an exclusive boarding school, when Rory (small swamp town Louisiana native) arrives just as a "Jack the Ripper" spree begins. The question is why was she able to "see" the killer when no one else seems to be able to do the same. Who exactly are Stephen, Callum, and Boo...and who can be trusted?

Follow Rory as the unwitting witness of the perpetrator of the series of brutal murders as she becomes further entangled in the hunt – both as unwilling participant and eventual target.

This would be best described as a YA thriller, mystery, ghost story with elements of humor and romance to lighten the tension of the dark subject matter. Characters are definitely engaging, and it's a good read for teens trying to manage the challenges besieging them as they transition into adulthood today. The book offers diverse perspectives without painting life unrealistically, as much as it deals with questionable fictional subjects.

June 2023 (weeks 3 & 4)



Bri

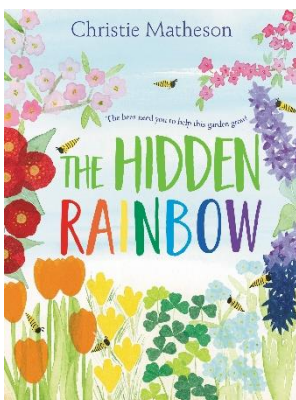
Title: *Below the Edge of Darkness: A Memoir of Exploring Light and Life in the Deep Sea*

Author: Edith Widder

Non-Fiction

Edith Widder is a marine biologist from Massachusetts known for her work on bioluminescence, this is her memoir. I had so much fun reading this book!

Widder's start in the field of marine biology and oceanography was a rocky one, with a medical scare in her first year of college that led to three resuscitations and a near-death experience that left her temporarily blind. Her road to recovery sparked an interest in the nature of sight, and the role bioluminescence plays in the pitch black of the ocean. Her career in this field took her on many exciting adventures, from discovering never before seen species, creating new technologies for the U.S. Navy, experiencing the dangers of a leak in an ROV, Soviet scientists attempting to reverse engineer her team's latest bathyphotometer, and even chatting with Fidel Castro about his opinion on the best way to cook a lobster. Widder is a fantastic scientist, and it shows in her writing just how much she cares for our oceans. Her footnotes littered throughout each chapter kept me laughing, and kept this nonfiction book from getting too dense. It's an approachable read even for those who are not science-inclined.



Christina

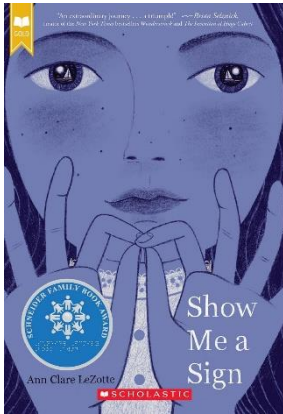
Title: *The Hidden Rainbow*

Author/Illustrator: Christie Matheson

Picture Book

Are you looking to teach a little one about plants and the importance of bees? If so, this is an incredible book to teach them with! The beautiful illustrations help us identify the gorgeous, rainbow-colored variety of flowers and trees that come alive in spring, and the author explains in simple terms the role that bees play in pollinating the gardens that we grow every year.

Which leads me to the next wonderful thing about this book; for those of us who might be afraid of bees, it provides another perspective from which we can view them. Without the (usually) tiny, buzzing creatures, we wouldn't have all the delicious fruits and vegetables that we eat! So the next time you see a bee, try not to be afraid of them and just give them some space to work their magic.



Marcia

Title: *Show Me a Sign*

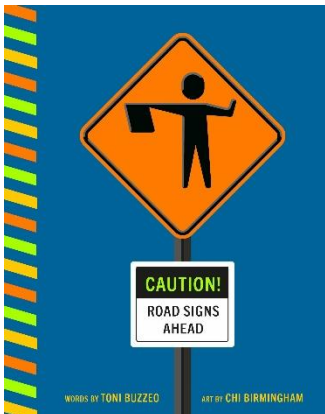
Author: Ann Clare LeZotte

Juvenile Historical Fiction

The first book of a planned trilogy by deaf author Ann LeZotte and inspired by the true history of a thriving deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the 19th century.

Mary, our protagonist, is a deaf teenager who is proud of her family and lives a happy, safe, and fulfilling life on the island. Most residents can sign, so she can easily communicate with everyone on the island. Change comes when an ambitious scientist is determined to discover the cause of the widespread deafness and kidnaps Mary and makes her a "live specimen" in his experiments.

The story is well researched, and the reader also experiences the conflicts with the native Wampanoags during that time period. I highly recommend this title and can't wait to read the sequel, SET ME FREE, in which Mary is three years older and moving to Boston.



Mel

Title: *Caution! Road Signs Ahead*

Author: Toni Buzzeo

Art by: Chi Birmingham

Picture Board Book (hefty!)

I say this tongue-in-cheek, but this book could/should be required reading for anyone operating a vehicle on the roads today.

The very first pages of the book state its purpose well: "...do you notice signs on the side of the road? Do you wonder what they all mean? They are a code to let drivers know how to stay safe, what is nearby, or where to pay extra attention. You can learn the code too!" The book explores MANY of the signs we see as we travel and explains what each sign means. Each sign is portrayed in true-to-life colors with simple language accompanying it and the location you might see such a sign. Stop, yield, buckle up, RR, speed limit, bus stop, playground, hospital, information, fuel, rest stop, toll, detour, campground, slippery when wet, and more.

I really enjoyed the manner in which the book organized the areas in which you might see the sign, that the pages featured "cut outs" of the signs, the bright colors and consistent short messaging. A perfect book to take on a road trip to entertain small folk (and large) whiling away the hours traveling. It would make for a good "I spy" game or scavenger hunt.