

# CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK!

At the  
Portland Library

2021



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**Abbott, Megan** *The Turnout* **FIC Abbott**

Abbott — so good at plucking the dark and twisted strands of female friendships and rivalries in books like “You Will Know Me” and “Give Me Your Hand” — fashions her unsettling new novel around a ballet academy run by three high-strung former dancers, two of them sisters.

**Benedict, Marie** *The Personal Librarian* **FIC Benedict**

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white--her complexion is dark because she is African American.

**Bennett, Brit** *The Vanishing Half* **FIC Bennett**

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined.

**Cosby, S.A.** *Razorblade Tears* **FIC Cosby**

Cosby, who burst onto the scene last summer with a gritty, thrilling debut, *Blacktop Wasteland*, here introduces Ike Randolph, a Black man who's led a completely clean life since his release from the state penitentiary. When Ike learns that someone has murdered his son Isiah — and Isiah's white husband, Derek — he joins forces with Derek's dad, also an ex-con, to find out who killed their boys.

**Heller, Miranda Cowley** *The Paper Palace* **FIC Heller**

It is a perfect July morning, and Elle, a fifty-year-old happily married mother of three, awakens at the family summer place which she has visited every summer of her life. But this morning is different: last night Elle and her oldest friend Jonas crept out the back door into the darkness and had sex with each other for the first time, all while their spouses chatted away inside. Now, over the next twenty-four hours, Elle will have to decide between the life she has made with her genuinely beloved husband, Peter, and the life she always imagined she

would have had with her childhood love, Jonas, if a tragic event hadn't forever changed the course of their lives

**Korelitz, Jean Hanff**      *The Plot*      **Fic Korelitz**

Korelitz's latest novel features a fellow writer, Jake Bonner, whose career has sputtered: After modest success with his first book, he can't sell his next novel and is teaching at a no-name M.F.A. program. He meets a young, outrageously self-assured writer who is certain the premise of his manuscript is destined to make him famous. So when Jake learns that that too-good-to-waste plot is up for grabs, he takes it — and finds all the success the other writer predicted for himself years earlier. Someone knows Jake's secret, though, and spares nothing to make his life miserable.

**Osman, Richard**      **FIC MYS Osman**

*The Thursday Murder Club*

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. Elizabeth, Joyce, Ibrahim and Ron might be pushing eighty but they still have a few tricks up their sleeves. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

**Penner, Sarah**      *The Lost Apothecary*      **FIC Penner**

In present-day London, aspiring historian Caroline Parcellwell spends her tenth wedding anniversary alone, reeling from the discovery of her husband's infidelity. When she finds an old apothecary vial near the river Thames, she can't resist investigating, only to realize she's found a link to the unsolved the apothecary murders that haunted London over two centuries ago. As she deepens her search, Caroline's life collides with the 1800s: Nella, a respected healer, who uses her knowledge for a darker purpose and Eliza, a young girl, in a stunning twist of fate—and not everyone will survive.

**Penny, Louise**      **FIC MYS Penny**

*The Madness of Crowds*

This latest novel from Penny features a perplexing murder mystery set in Three Pines that is also a nuanced look at conviction, delusion, and the tipping point between the two. It's almost New Year's in Québec when a request is made of Chief Inspector Gamache to provide security at a public event that brings a divisive figure into the orbit of Three Pines. Professor Abigail Robinson's notoriety rests on weaponizing pandemic data in a bid to convince the public that it will become necessary to conserve resources by prioritizing some lives over others. When a murderer strikes close to Robinson, Gamache and Jean-Guy have to separate their personal disquiet from their professional obligations.

**Richardson, Kim**      **FIC Richardson**

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*

In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Cussy confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue.

**Walton, Dawnie**      **FIC Walton**

*The Final Revival of Opal and Nev*

An electrifying novel about the meteoric rise of an iconic interracial rock duo in the 1970s, their sensational breakup, and the dark secrets unearthed when they try to reunite decades later for one last tour. Opal is a fiercely independent young woman pushing against the grain in her style and attitude, Afro-punk before that term existed. Coming of age in Detroit, she can't imagine settling for a 9-to-5 job—despite her unusual looks, Opal believes she can be a star. So when the aspiring British singer/songwriter Neville Charles discovers her at a bar's amateur night, she takes him up on his offer to make rock music together for the fledgling Rivington Records.

**Whitehead, Colson**      **FIC Whitehead**

*Harlem Shuffle* To his customers and neighbors on 125th street, Carney is an upstanding salesman of reasonably priced furniture, making a decent life for himself and his family. He and his wife Elizabeth are expecting their second child, and if her parents on Striver's Row don't approve of him or their cramped apartment across from the subway tracks, it's still home. Few people know he descends from a line of uptown hoods and crooks, and that his façade of normalcy has more than a few cracks in it. Cracks that are getting bigger all the time. Cash is tight, especially with all those installment-plan sofas, so if his cousin Freddie occasionally drops off the odd ring or necklace, Ray doesn't ask where it comes from. He knows a discreet jeweler downtown who doesn't ask questions, either. Then Freddie falls in with a crew who plan to rob the Hotel Theresa—the "Waldorf of Harlem"—and volunteers Ray's services as the fence. The heist doesn't go as planned; they rarely do. Now Ray has a new clientele, one made up of shady cops, vicious local gangsters, two-bit pornographers, and other assorted Harlem lowlifes.