



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026

Don't Miss!



50/50 RAFFLE

Tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased from **Conni Strittmatter** or **David Dahl**! The winner takes home half the pot.



PUB QUIZ

Thursday, May 7
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Choptank Ballroom



SILENT AUCTION

Visit the Silent Auction in the exhibitor hall to place your bids **before 10:45 a.m. on Friday, May 8th**.



KARAOKE

Thursday, May 7
8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Windjammer

and now...



Book Buzz:

New Stories for Your Shelves!

**Amanda Crabill, Meg Faller,
Monica McAbee, Theo Scully
MLA | DLA Conference, May 7, 2026**



RAIG Buzzers



Meg Faller
RAIG Chair



Monica McAbee



Amanda Crabill



Theo Scully

Book Talking Tips:



Elements of a good book talk

- Short and punchy
- Include plot, evaluation, **APPEAL FACTORS**
- Look for emotional or intellectual "hook"
- State title and author at the beginning and end of talk

There's Only One Sin in Hollywood

Rasheed Newton

Macmillan, Flatiron Books

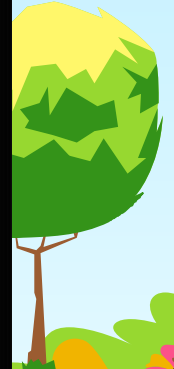
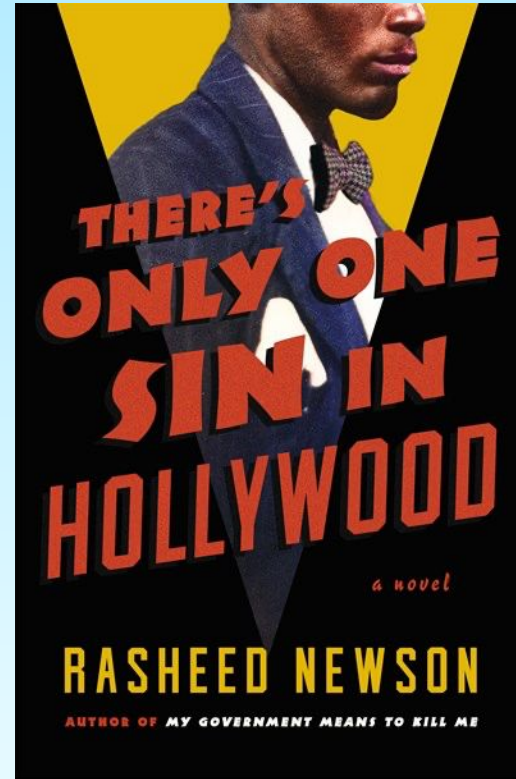
June 2

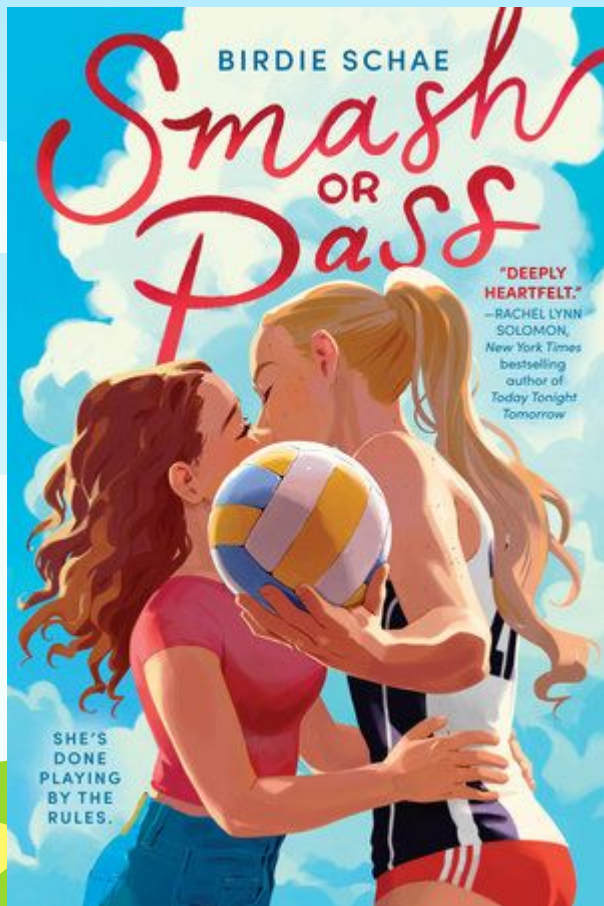
Appeal Factors

- Historical fiction
- 1950s Hollywood noir
- Black queer history
- Decadent prose and storylines

Audience

- Fans of Taylor Jenkins Reid
- Queer BIPOC+ readers
- Fans of “My Government Means to Kill Me”





Smash or Pass

Birdie Schae

Penguin Random House,

May 12

Appeal Factors

- YA, Sapphic romance with a little beach volleyball for fun
- Self-discovery and acceptance
- Interpersonal relations (family, friendship, dating)

Audience

- Those who love a heartwarming read
- Queer readers
- Autistic readers or those who have an Autistic loved one

I, Spy

L.M. Kemp

Macmillan, Minotaur Books

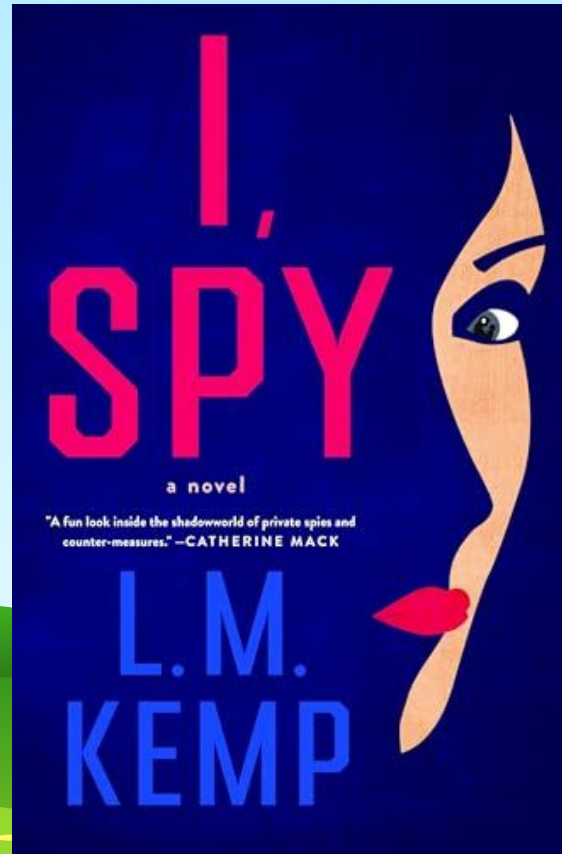
May 5

Appeal Factors

- Mid-years protagonist
- Social commentary
- Fast-paced

Audience

No one will suspect! Wives and mothers who are secretly spies



All the Hidden Places

Cadwell Turnbull

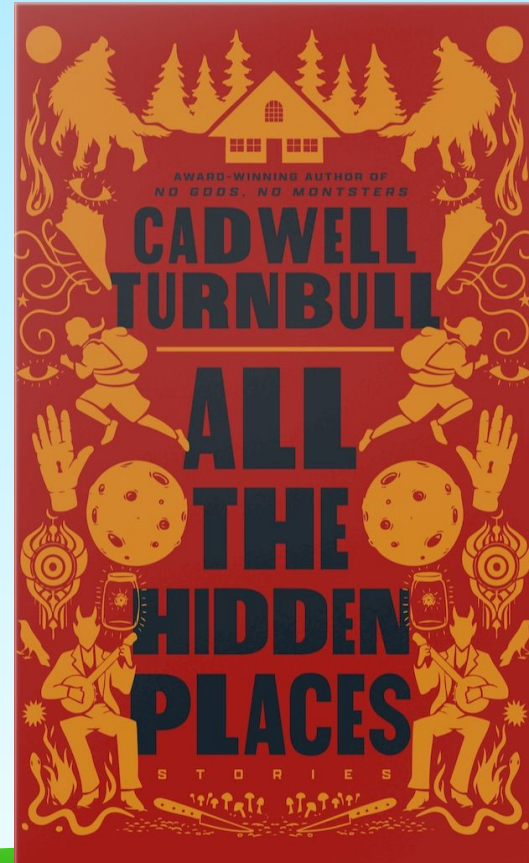
Blackstone Publishing
September 1

Appeal Factors

- Thought-provoking stories
- Incisive and engaging style
- Speculative elements

Audience

For fans of Ray Bradbury, N. K. Jemisin, and Nalo Hopkinson; urban fantasy meets The Twilight Zone



The Halls of the Dead: A Novel

S. M. Hallow

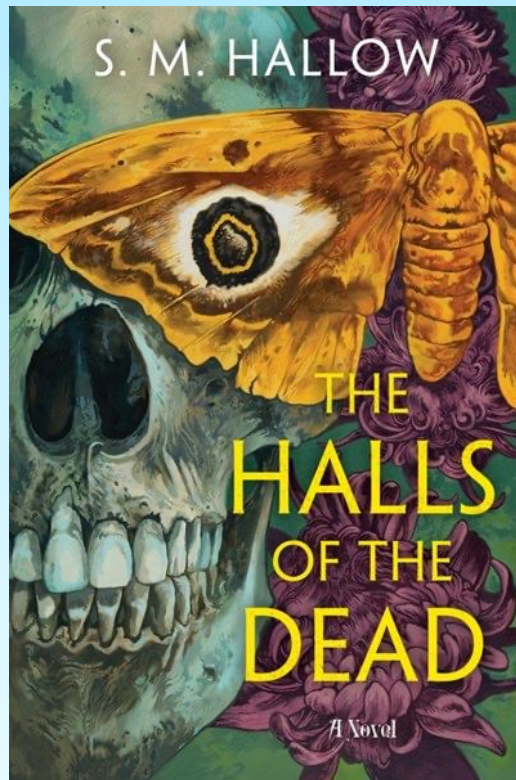
HarperCollins, Harper Voyager
August 18

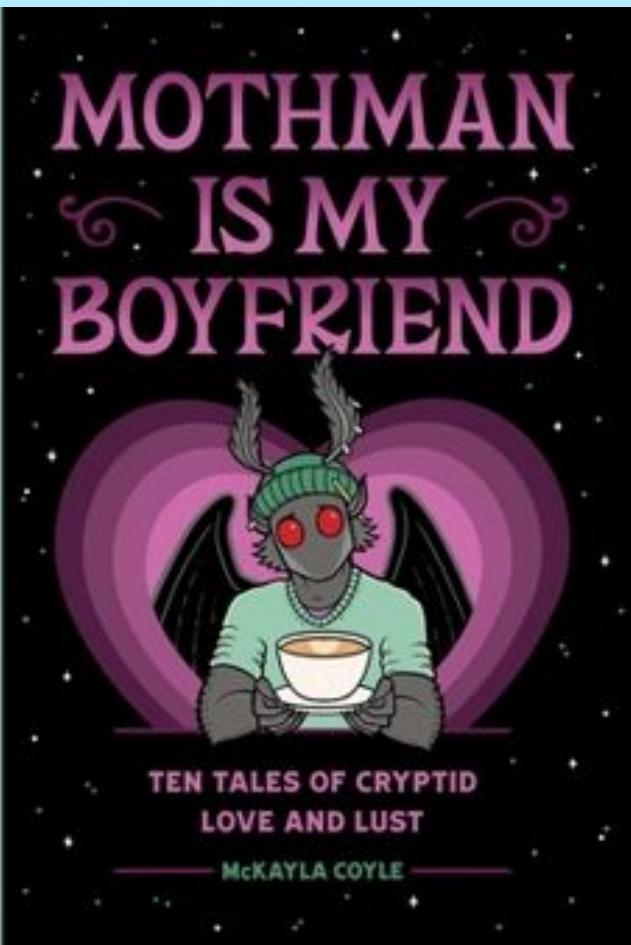
Appeal Factors

- Multiple perspectives
- Fantasy Gothic horror
- Nothing is too much to save a loved one

Audience

- Fans of “The Locked Tomb” series
- Hopeless romantics
- Horror fanatics





Mothman is My Boyfriend

McKayla Coyle

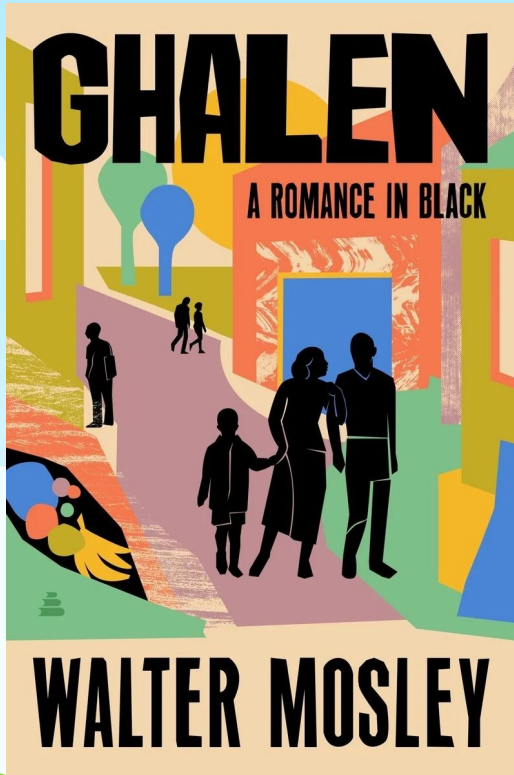
Simon & Schuster, Quirk Books
May 5

Appeal Factors

- Short Stories with sweet cozy vibes
- Human-cryptid romance
- Queer representation
- Found family

Audience

For fans of “Legends and Lattes” and “That Time I Got Drunk and Yeeted a Love Potion at a Werewolf”



Ghalen: A Romance in Black

Walter Mosley

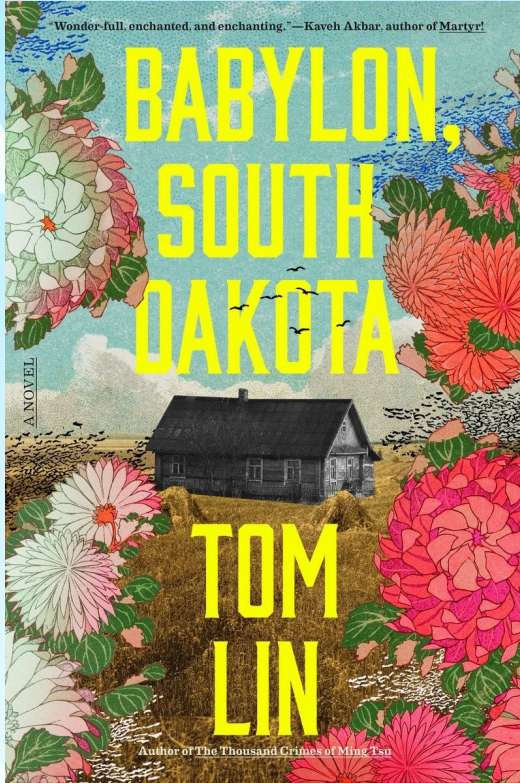
HarperCollins, Amistad
May 26

Appeal Factors

- Coming of age/family drama
- Depiction of Black life across varied circumstances
- Complex romantic storylines

Audience

People who enjoy generational stories, exploring growth through exercise of love and forgiveness



Babylon, South Dakota

Tom Lin

Hachette, Little, Brown & Co.
May 26

Appeal Factors

- Magical realism in the Midwest
- Enthralling and evocative style
- Regular people face the inexplicable

Audience

For lovers of complex page-turners that take the characters on a bewildering journey

Honey

Imani Thompson

Penguin Random House, Random House
May 5

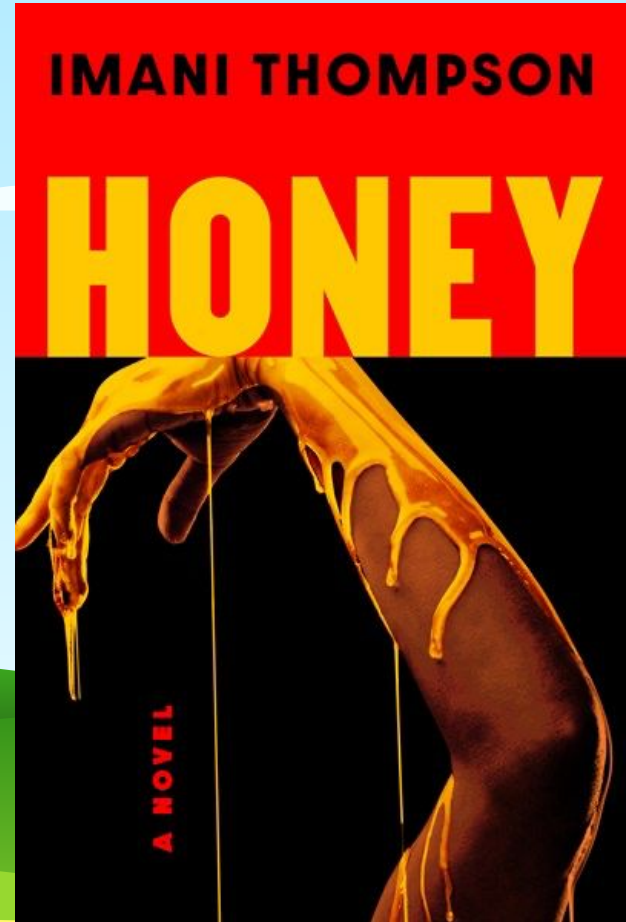


Appeal Factors

- Dark humor meet justice
- Black womanhood
- Engrossing + quick read
- Supporting womens' wrongs

Audience

- People who love seeing women win
- Sociology nerds
- People looking for “unhinged hot girl homicide” stories





The Book Witch

Meg Schaffer

Penguin Random House, Ballantine Books
April 7



Appeal Factors

- Literary Genres and titles galore!
- A love letter to readers and librarians in a fantasy setting

Audience

- Book lovers and librarians/educators
- If you loved the movie "The Pagemaster" as a kid, this is for you





Muñeca

Cynthia Gómez

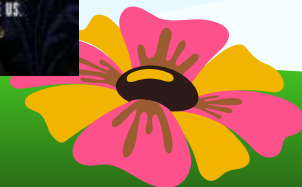
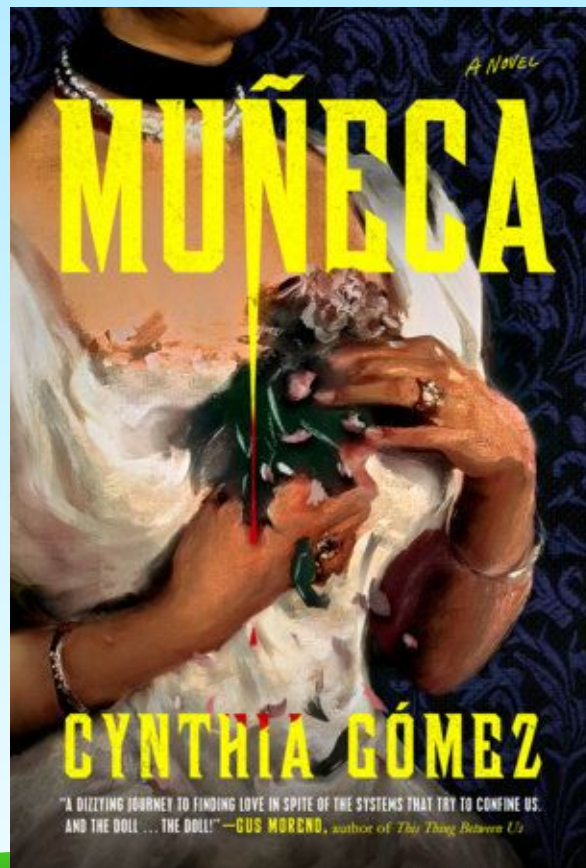
Penguin Random House, G. P.
Putnam's Sons
2 June

Appeal Factors

- Definitely gothic!
- Sapphic & witchy
- Fast paced

Audience

- Historical fiction set in the 1960s
- Queer found family



The Half Life

Rachel Beanland

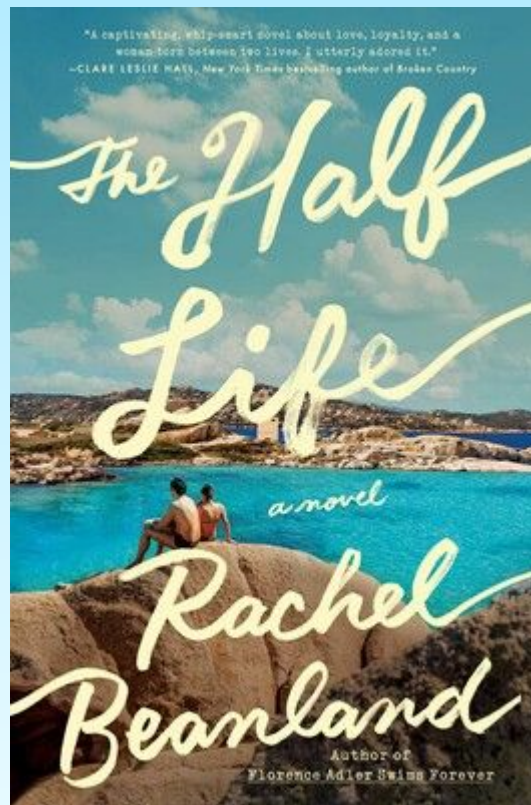
Simon & Schuster
July 14

Appeal Factors

- Historical fiction set in Italy
- Journalistic style, "you are there"
- Truth-seeking in the face of American exceptionalism

Audience

For readers who enjoy historical fiction that takes on knotty issues from a personal perspective



On Witness and Respair: Essays

Jesmyn Ward

Simon & Schuster, Scribner
May 19



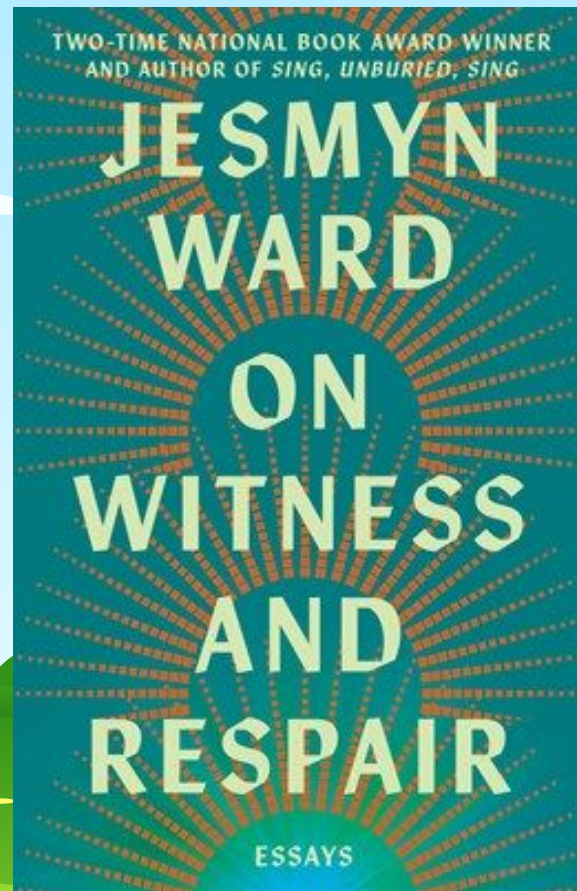
Appeal Factors

- Essay Collection / narrative nonfiction
- Multigenerational cast
- Heartfelt and hopeful prose
- Bestselling author



Audience

- Fans of Toni Morrison
- Readers looking for a bit of hope



Teddy Bears Never Die

Cho Yeeun

Hachette, Run For It

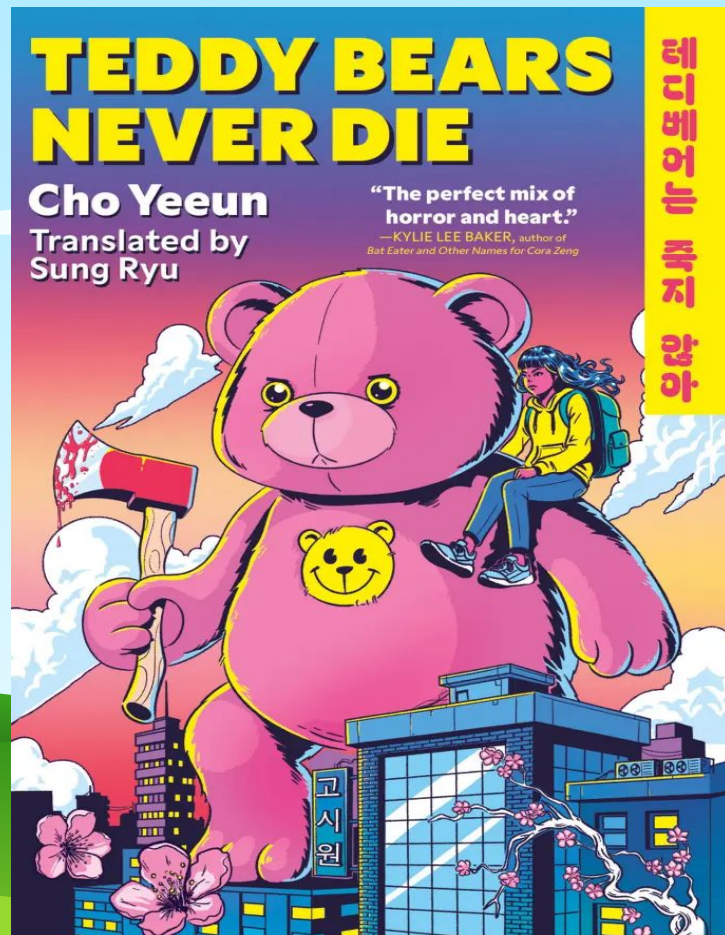
May 26

Appeal Factors

- Korean Horror
- YA, strong female lead
- Revenge plot and a campy slasher mix
- Horror, heart and social commentary

Audience

For fans of genre blending stories including Supernatural, Adventure, Horror, Folklore, Romance, Dark Humor



Heather

Caitlin Mullen

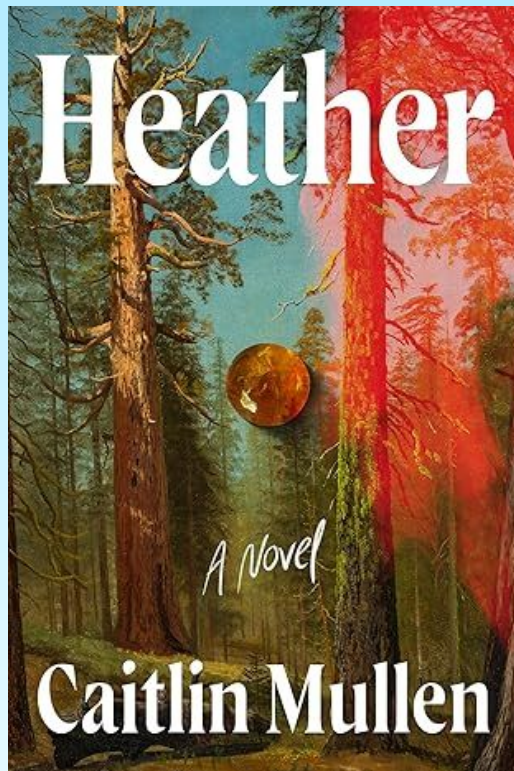
Macmillan, Celadon Books
June 9

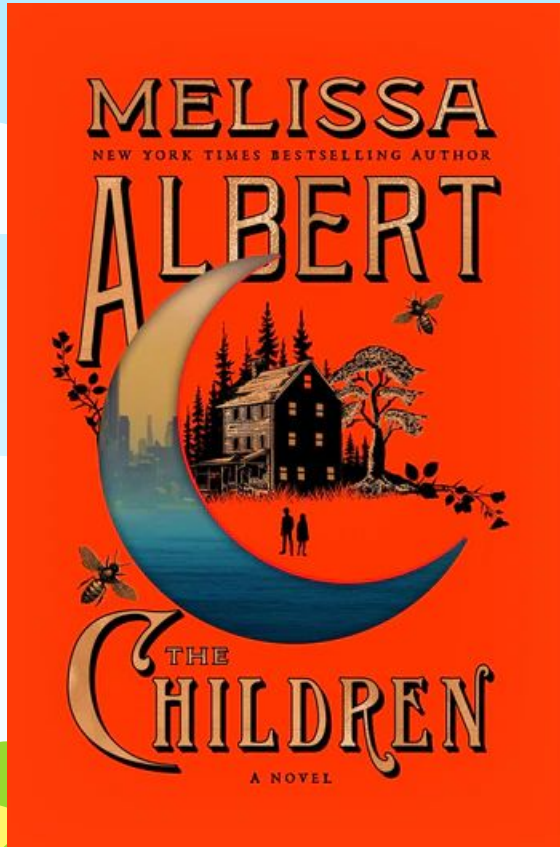
Appeal Factors

- Cold case/current mysteries
- Family secrets
- Unique setting in the Pine Barrens

Audience

Fans of Tana French, or any mystery where the setting and atmosphere are as important as the plot.





The Children

Melissa Albert

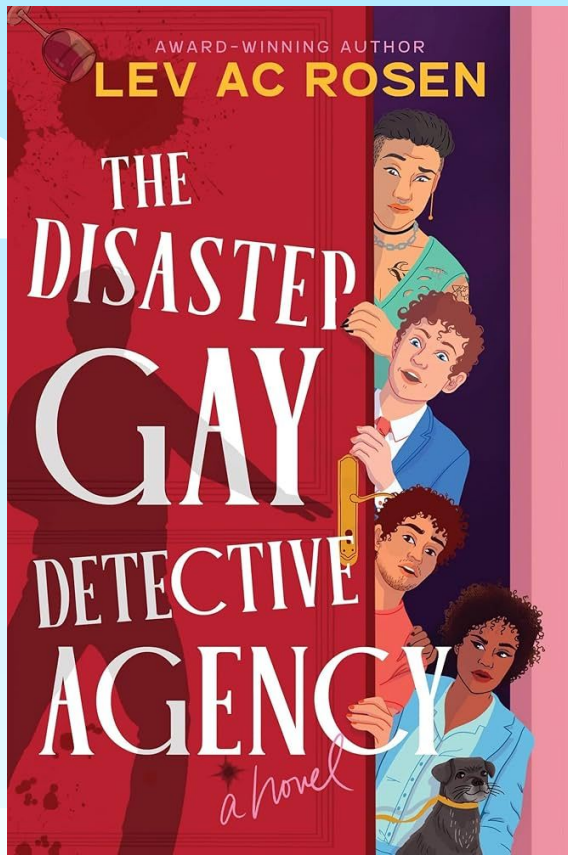
HarperCollins, William Morrow
June 2

Appeal Factors

- Historical gothic fantasy
- Atmospheric and sensuous
- Growing up with famous parents

Audience

For those who appreciate fairy tales with bite, à la "Pan's Labyrinth"



The Disaster Gay Detective Agency

Lev A.C. Rosen

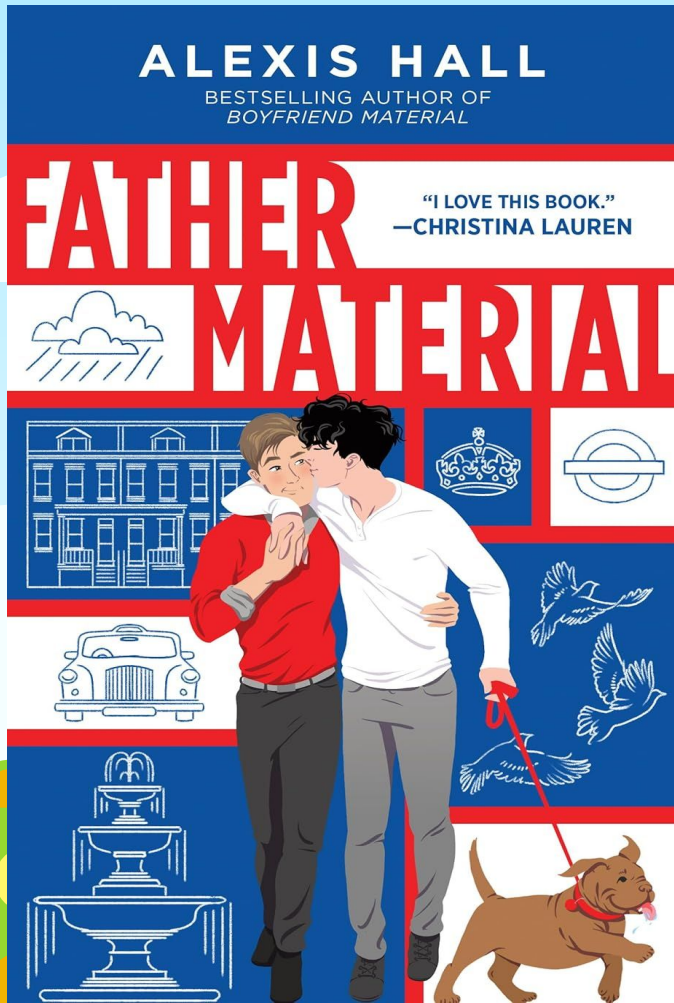
Sourcebooks, Poisoned Pen Press
June 2

Appeal Factors

- Mystery / Amateur Sleuths
- Fun, campy plot
- Messy and lovable queer characters

Audience

- Fans of the “Only Murders in the Building” and/or “Adults” tv shows
- Folks in that one group chat that never stops



Father Material

Alexis Hall

Sourcebooks Casablanca

June 2

Appeal Factors

- Queer contemporary romantic comedy
- Foster parents and child
- Heavy themes discussed such as mental health/depression and child neglect

Audience

For readers who have the question what happens after Happily Ever After?



Green City Wars

Adrian Tchaikovsky

Macmillan, Tor Books

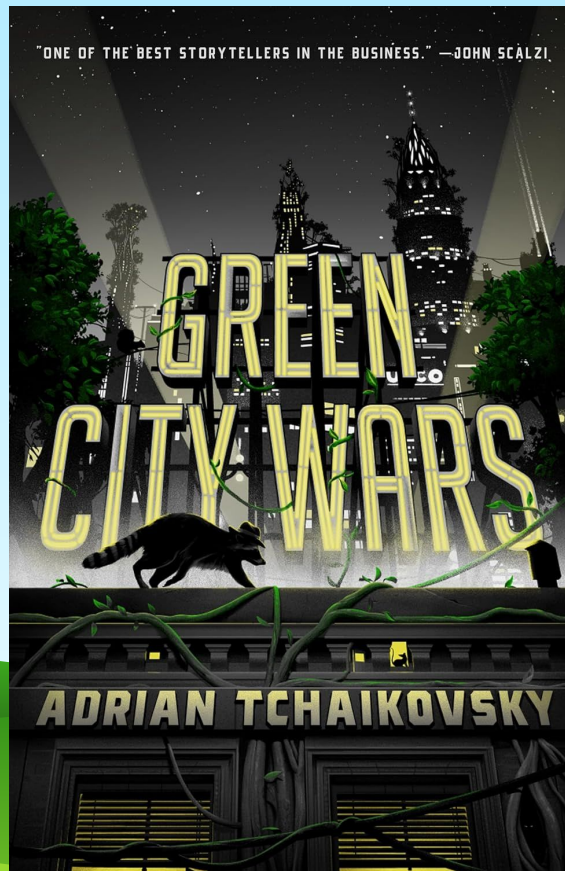
June 23

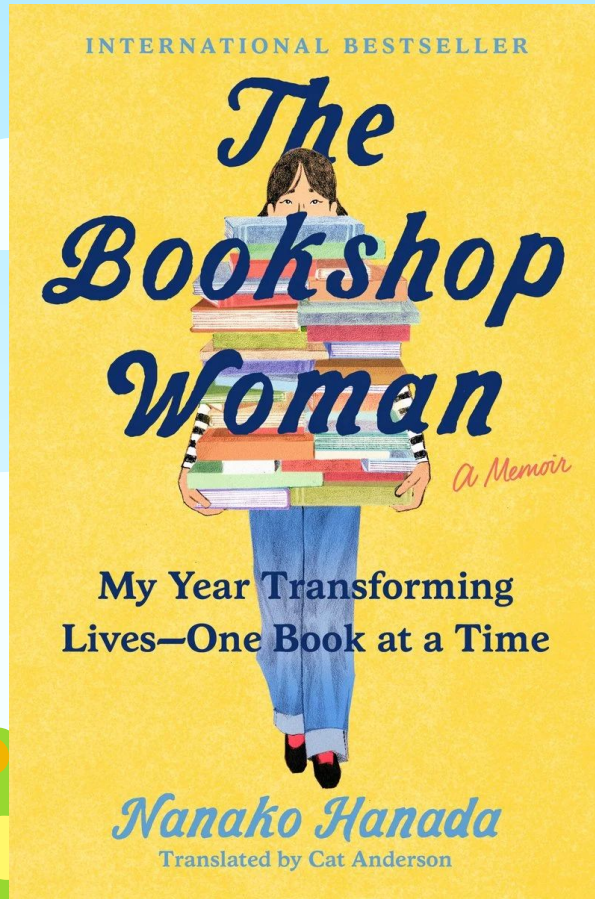
Appeal Factors

- Gritty noir sci-fi (but somehow also cute?)
- Action-packed
- Fast-paced

Audience

For anyone who needs to see Rocket Raccoon as a gumshoe detective with a reluctant heart of gold





The Bookshop Woman

Nanako Hanada
Cat Anderson, translator



Penguin Random House, Tiny Reparations
September 15

Appeal Factors

- Uplifting memoir
- Conversational style
- Transformative power of books

Audience

This international bestseller is for anyone who enjoys books about books, life choices, and other cultures



How to Get ARCs

Our favorite sources:

- Netgalley
- Edelweiss
- Libro.fm



Share **your** Faves!



More buzz from: Amanda

The Squire and his Prince

Brian Niran

February 2, 2026

Can't wait to read:

Dearly Departed

Chip Pons

June 14, 2026

Endless Blue Beneath

Shannon K. English

June 9, 2026

Dog Person

Camille Pagan

April 7, 2026

The Disappearers

Marlon James

September 1, 2026

Seal the Deal

Lucky Hart

May 13, 2026

Prejudice and Pride

Nik Knight

July 13, 2026

More buzz from: Meg

The Fake Divination Offense

Sara Raasch

May 19, 2026

Can't wait to read:

Radiant Star

Ann Leckie

July 22,, 2025

Valet

J.P. Lacrampe

June 2, 2026

Man Overboard!

Kathleen Rooney

July 7, 2026

**The Palace Beneath the Sea: A
Mermaid Fantasy**

Lauren Wiesebron

September 15, 2026

The Tinder Box

M.R. Carey

June 23, 2026

Make Me Better

Sarah Gailey

May 12, 2026

More buzz from: Monica

Coyoteland

Vanessa Hua

May 12, 2026

The Land and Its People: Essays

David Sedaris

May 26, 2026

Murder Like Clockwork

Nicola Whyte

May 12, 2026

Can't wait to read:

Kobuk the Destroyer: And Other
Tales from the Wild, Unseen World
of Test Engineering

Alex Davies

Sept. 8, 2026

The Spirits

Bonnie Jo Campbell

Oct. 13, 2026

Wisdom Corner

David Heska Wanbli Weiden

July 7, 2026

More buzz from: Theo

Extracurricular

Rachel Lynn Solomon

June 14, 2026

My Bad: A Personal History of the Queer
Nineties and Beyond

Hugh Ryan

May 26, 2026

Can't wait to read:

Long Island Girls

Gabrielle Korn

June 23, 2026

Indie Darling

Lauren Nossett

July 28, 2026

The Tarot Trials

Katee Robert

October 20, 2026

We Dance Upon Demons

Vaishnavi Patel

May 12, 2026

Names Have Been Changed

Yu-Mei Balasingamchow

June 23, 2026

Muñeca

Cynthia Gómez

June 2, 2026



**Scan here for the
Capitol Choices
2026 Reading List!**



Thanks!

Join MLA/DLA

Interested in MLA RAIG?

contact Meg Faller, RAIG Chair:
meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info

Monica McAbee, Book Buzz program planner:
monica.mcabee@pgcmls.info

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