


Best Books 2024

This eclectic selection of titles focuses primarily on books of interests for adult readers published in 2023. The list is compiled from patron and West Linn staff recommendations, as well as those from over a dozen critics' best book of the year lists, including *The New York Times*, *Book Riot*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. *Goodreads* ratings also assisted in compiling the list.

Please ask staff or review our online catalog for a book's availability and current location.

The sections are organized by the author's last name.

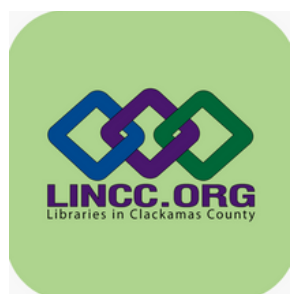
Book covers with a  icon on the image have been identified as spectacular audiobooks.

Top Checkouts 2024



- The Women** by Kristin Hannah
The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
- Funny Story** by Emily Henry
- First Lie Wins** by Ashley Elston
- The God of the Woods** by Liz Moore
- Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van Pelt
- Fourth Wing** by Rebecca Yarros
- Table For Two** by Amor Towles
- The Covenant Of Water** by Abraham Verghese
- Iron Flame** by Rebecca Yarros
- The Frozen River** by Ariel Lawhon
- Swan Song** by Elin Hilderbrand
- Eruption** by Michael Crichton
- James** by Percival Everett

GET THEM ON



Hit List Highlights!

These books were published in 2024 and topped our *most checkouts during 2024* list. Here are the highlights from this hit list!

James by Percival Everett (Fiction)
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 Twain's original novel remain in place, Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

The Women by Kristin Hannah (Fiction)
In 1965, nursing student Frankie McGrath, after hearing the words "Women can be heroes, too," impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows her brother to Vietnam where she is overwhelmed by the destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.

Funny Story by Emily Henry (Romance)
After being dumped for her boyfriend's lifelong best friend, Petra, Daphne agrees to room with Petra's freshly heartbroken ex until she can figure things out, in the new novel from the New York Times best-selling author of *Happy Place*.

The God of the Woods by Liz Moore (Fiction)
Early morning, August 1975: a camp counselor discovers an empty bunk. Its occupant, Barbara Van Laar, has gone missing. Barbara isn't just any thirteen-year-old: she's the daughter of the family that owns the summer camp and employs most of the region's residents. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared. Barbara's older brother similarly vanished fourteen years ago, never to be found.



Programs



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Library Locker

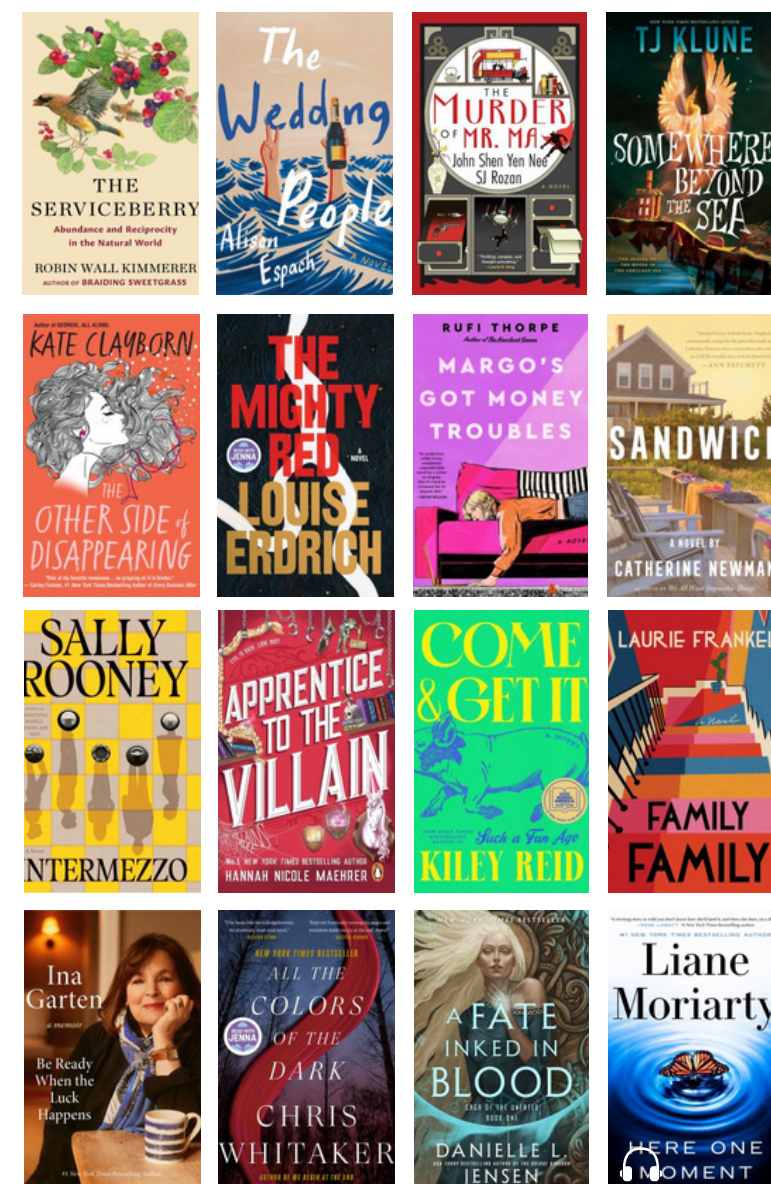
Can't visit the library while we're open? Not yet comfortable coming into the building? The library has a self-service locker for no-contact holds pickup.

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BEST BOOKS 2024



FICTION

STAFF PICKS HIGHLIGHTS

The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich (Mystery)
In Argus, North Dakota, a wedding intertwines the lives of Gary, Kismet, Hugo, and Crystal. Amidst personal struggles and love triangles, they face broader themes of time, climate change, and economic turmoil. The novel explores the complexities of ordinary people in a prairie community, highlighting their dreams, struggles, and resilience.

The Wedding People by Alison Espach (Fiction)
Severely depressed Phoebe Stone arrives at Newport's Cornwall Inn alone after her husband's betrayal with one dark plan. When she is mistaken as a wedding guest, she unexpectedly bonds with the bride, their unlikely connection offers both humor and heart, revealing how life's detours and chance encounters can change us in profound ways.

Family Family by Laurie Frankel (Fiction)
An actress who makes a film about adoption starts a media storm after admitting to a journalist that it's a bad movie and that she gave up a baby for adoption during her senior year.

Just for the Summer by Abby Jimenez (Romance)
Justin's curse causes every woman he dates to find their soul mate immediately after breaking up with him, and when Emma, a woman with the same curse, reaches out, they hatch a plan to date and break up to cancel each other's curse. But with unexpected challenges, they're suddenly navigating a lot more than they expected--including catching real feelings for each other.

Somewhere Beyond the Sea by TJ Klune (Fantasy)
Arthur Parnassus lives a good life, built on the ashes of a bad one. He's the headmaster of a strange orphanage on a distant and peculiar island, and he hopes to soon be the adoptive father to the six magical and so-called dangerous children who live there.

Intermezzo by Sally Rooney (Fiction)
In the wake of their father's death, two brothers--successful Dublin lawyer Peter and his younger brother Ivan, a competitive chess player--find different ways to deal with their grief, which affects not only their lives, but the lives of those they hold dear.

GENERAL



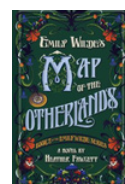
Martyr! by Kaveh Akbar
The Wedding People by Alison Espach
Family Family by Laurie Frankel
All Fours by Miranda July
You Like It Darker (Horror) by Stephen King
Sandwich by Catherine Newman
Come and Get It by Kiley Reid
Intermezzo by Sally Rooney
Margo's Got Money Troubles by Rufi Thorpe
The Coin by Yasmin Zaher



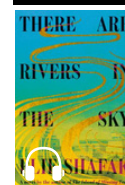
Fantasy/ *Sci-Fi



****The Ministry of Time*** by Kaliane Bradley
The Book of Doors by Gareth Brown
****The Mercy of Gods*** by James S.A. Corey
Emily Wilde's Map of the Otherlands (#2) by Heather Fawcett
A Fate Inked in Blood by Danielle L. Jensen
Somewhere Beyond the Sea (#2) by TJ Klune
Apprentice to the Villain (#2) by Hannah Nicole Maehrer

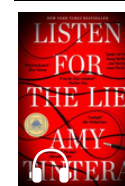


Historical



Long Island Compromise by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
You Dreamed of Empires by Alvaro Enrigue
James by Percival Everett
The Women by Kristin Hannah
Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange
There Are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak

Mystery



The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich
The God of the Woods by Liz Moore
Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty
We Solve Murders by Richard Osman
The Murder of Mr. Ma by John Shen Yen Nee
Listen for the Lie by Amy Tintera
All the Colors of Dark by Chris Whitaker

Romance



The Other Side of Disappearing by Kate Clayborn
Late Bloomer by Mazey Eddings
Funny Story by Emily Henry
Just for the Summer by Abby Jimenez

NON-FICTION

STAFF PICKS HIGHLIGHTS

Book and Dagger by Elyse Graham (940.5486 GRA 2024)
This untold story of the academics who became OSS spies and invented modern spycraft tells how they were able to change the course of World War II and help defeat the Nazis.

The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer (581.63 KIM 2024)
Potawatomi environmentalist Kimmerer (*Braiding Sweetgrass*) explains how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity and community, based on the lessons of the natural world.

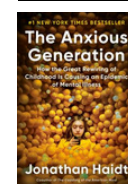
The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson (973.711 LAR 2024)
Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers and plantation ledgers, Larson offers a gripping account of the months between Lincoln's election and the start of the Civil War, which tore a deeply divided nation in two.

How to Winter by Kari Leibowitz (616.8527 LEI 2024)
Psychologist and winter expert Kari Leibowitz uses mindset science to help readers embrace winter as a season to be enjoyed, not endured--and in turn, learn powerful lessons that can impact our mental wellbeing throughout the year.

The Wide Wide Sea by Hampton Sides (910.92 SID 2024)
Part high-seas adventure, part examination of the Age of Exploration, this account of Captain James Cook's last voyage in 1776 charts how his overt and covert missions came to a head on the island of Hawaii and left behind a complex and controversial legacy still debated to this day.

The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan (813.54 TAN 2024)
Mapping the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions and beautiful original sketches, the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club* shares her search for solace which turned into an opportunity to connect with nature in a meaningful way and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired.

GENERAL



Everyone Who is Gone is Here by Jonathan Blitzer
Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering by Malcolm Gladwell
Unfinished Love Story by Doris Kearns Goodwin
The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt
Magic Pill: The Extraordinary Benefits and Disturbing Risks of the New Weight-Loss Drugs by Johann Hari
The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer
How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days by Kari Leibowitz
I Heard Her Call My Name by Lucy Sante
The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan



History



Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II by Elyse Graham
The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson
The Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook by Hampton Sides



Biography/ Memoir



Reagan by Max Boot
Be Ready When the Luck Happens by Ina Garten
Lovely One by Ketanji Brown Jackson
The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing, and Healing by Lara Love Hardin
The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, from the Founding to the Civil Rights Movement by Sharon McMahon

