


Best Books 2025

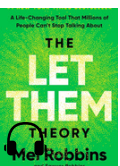
This eclectic selection of titles focuses primarily on books of interests for adult readers published in 2025. The list is compiled from patron and West Linn staff recommendations, as well as those from over a dozen critics' best book of the year lists, including *The New York Times*, *Book Riot*, and *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.

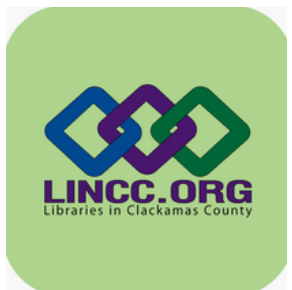
Book covers with a  icon on the image have been identified as spectacular audiobooks.

Top Checkouts 2025



Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall
Tilt by Emma Pattee
theGod of theWoods by Liz Moore
Great Big Beautiful Life by Emily Henry
My Friends by Fredrik Backman
theLet Them Theory: A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of People Can't Stop Talking About by Mel Robbins
The Grey Wolf by Louise Penny
The Women by Kristin Hannah
The Waiting by Michael Connelly
All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker
James by Percival Everett
The Life Impossible by Matt Haig
Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Heartwood by Amity Gaige
The Wedding People by Alison Espach

GET THEM ON



Hit List Highlights!

These books were published in 2025 and topped our *most checkouts during 2025* list. Here are the highlights from this hit list!

My Friends by Fredrik Backman (Fiction)
Eighteen-year-old aspiring artist Louisa becomes fascinated by three barely noticed figures in a famous painting and sets out to uncover their story. Her search leads back twenty-five years to a seaside town where a group of troubled teenagers found friendship and freedom on an abandoned pier. As Louisa travels across the country to learn the painting's origins, she also confronts questions about art, memory, and what to do with the truth she uncovers.

Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall (Fiction)
Beth and her gentle, kind husband Frank are happily married, but their relationship relies on the past staying buried. But when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep, Beth doesn't realize that the gunshot will alter the course of their lives. for the dog belonged to none other than Gabriel Wolfe, the man Beth loved as a teenager—the man who broke her heart years ago. Gabriel has returned to the village with his young son Leo, a boy who reminds Beth very much of her own son, who died in a tragic accident.

Great Big Beautiful Life by Emily Henry (Romance)
On Little Crescent Island, rival writers Alice Scott and Hayden Anderson compete to tell the life story of Margaret Ives, a reclusive octogenarian who claims to be a notorious 20th-century heiress and tabloid legend. Bound by strict NDAs, each receives only fragments of Margaret's past, while an undeniable attraction complicates their rivalry. As secrets unfold, it becomes clear that truth, love, and storytelling are deeply intertwined, and the final narrative may change depending on who gets to tell it.

Tilt by Emma Pattee (Fiction)
Nine months pregnant and stranded at IKEA when a massive earthquake strikes Portland, Annie must navigate a devastated city on foot, facing chaos, desperation, and unexpected acts of kindness. As she journeys home, she reflects on her troubled marriage, unfulfilled career, and fears about motherhood, vowing to change her life if she makes it back.

Programs



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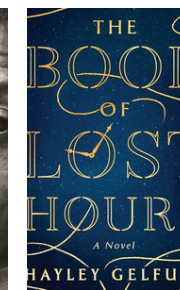
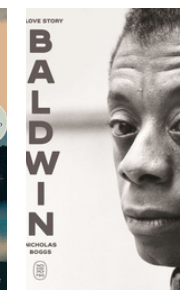
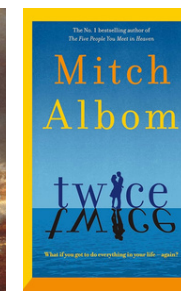
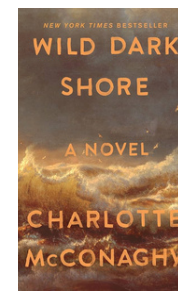
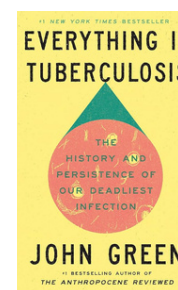
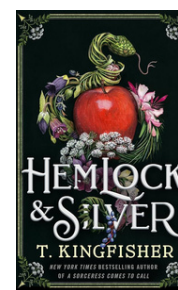
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BEST BOOKS 2025



FICTION

STAFF PICKS HIGHLIGHTS

Promise Me a Sunshine by Cara Bastone (Romance)
Grieving the loss of her best friend, a young woman’s life is turned upside down when she meets a grumpy stranger who swears he can help her live again, in this heartwarming, slow-burn romance.

Hemlock & Silver by T. Kingfisher (Fantasy)
Healer Anja, and researcher of poisons, is summoned by the King to save his dying daughter, Snow, when all other remedies fail. As she uncovers a dangerous world hidden within a magic mirror, Anja must decide whether its secrets will heal Snow or doom them all.

Culpability by Bruce Holsinger (Mystery)
After their autonomous minivan crashes, the Cassidy-Shaw family faces hidden secrets and moral dilemmas during a tense week of recovery. As betrayals and suspicions emerge, they confront the personal and ethical consequences of the accident.

Best Offer Wins by Marisa Kashino (Mystery)
Desperate to buy a home and save her stalled marriage, 37-year-old publicist Margo Miyake becomes increasingly obsessed with the owners of her dream house in the Washington, DC, suburbs. As her schemes escalate from harmless to unhinged, Margo proves she'll stop at nothing to claim the life she believes she deserves.

The River is Waiting by Wally Lamb (Fiction)
While serving a prison sentence, Corby endures violence and hardship but also finds unexpected compassion through small acts of kindness, a perceptive prison librarian, and bonds with fellow inmates. Sustained by these relationships and his mother’s faith, he clings to hope for mercy, redemption, and reconciliation beyond the prison walls.

The Amalfi Curse by Sarah Penner (Fiction)
In Positano, nautical archaeologist Haven Ambrose searches for the legendary gemstones her father once spotted while investigating a series of mysterious shipwrecks. As violent currents and strange events unsettle the village, she must determine whether the dangers are natural, or something far more sinister.

GENERAL

Twice by Mitch Albom
My Friends by Fredrik Backman
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
The Heart of Winter by Jonathan Evison
Circle of Days by Ken Follett
Heartwood by Amity Gaige
The Buffalo Hunter Hunter (Horror) by Stephen Graham Jones
Heart the Lover by Lily King
The Names by Florence Knapp
The River is Waiting by Wally Lamb
Wreck by Catherine Newman
Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy
We All Live Here by JoJo Moyes
Buckeye by Patrick Ryan

Fantasy/ *Sci-Fi

Alchemy of Secrets by Stephanie Garber
The Strength of the Few (#2) by James Islington*
The Book of Lost Hours by Hayley Gelfuso*
Hemlock & Silver by T. Kingfisher
The River Has Roots by Amal El-Mohtar
What We Can Know by Ian McEwan*
Bury Our Bones In the Midnight Soil by V.E. Schwab
Alchemised by SenLinYu

Historical

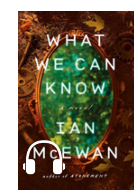
The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick
Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid
The Amalfi Curse by Sarah Penner
Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

Mystery

The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown
King of Ashes by S.A. Cosby
Too Old for This by Samantha Downing
The Widow by John Grisham
Culpability by Bruce Holsinger
Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson
Best Offer Wins by Marisa Kashino
The Perfect Divorce by Jeneva Rose
We Are All Guilty Here by Karin Slaughter

Romance

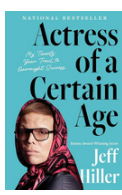
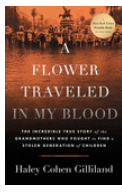
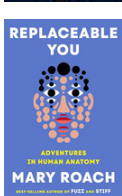
Promise Me a Sunshine by Cara Bastone
Fan Service by Rosie Danan
One Golden Summer by Carley Fortune
Deep End by Ali Hazelwood
Say You'll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez



NON-FICTION

GENERAL

One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This by Omar El Akkad
Big Dumb Eyes: Stories From a Simpler Mind by Nate Bargatze
Girl On Girl: How Pop Culture Turned a Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks
There is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless In America by Brian Goldstone
Abundance by Ezra Klein
Generation of Women Against Themselves by Sophie Gilbert
Everything is Tuberculosis: the History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection by John Green
Things In Nature Merely Grow by Yiyun Li
Careless People: a Cautionary Tale of Replaceable You: Adventures In Human Anatomy by Mary Roach
Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism by Sarah Wynn-Williams



History

The Fate of the Day: the War for America, Fort Ticonderoga To Charleston, 1777-1780 by Rick Atkinson
A Flower Traveled In My Blood by Haley Cohen Gilliland
We the People by Jill Lepore
Medicine River: a Story of Survival and The Legacy of Indian Boarding Schools by Mary Annette Pember
1929: Inside the Greatest Crash In History- and How it Shattered a Nation by Andrew Ross Sorkin
How To Kill a Witch: the Patriarchy's Guide To Silencing Women by Zoe Venditozzi

Biography/ Memoir

Baldwin: A Love Story by Nicholas Boggs
The Uncool by Cameron Crowe
Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton
The House of My Mother by Shari Franke
Awake by Jen Hatmaker
Actress of a Certain Age by Jeff Hiller
Paper Girl: a Memoir of Home and Family in a Fractured America by Beth Macy
Joyride by Susan Orlean
Mother Mary Comes To Me by Arundhati Roy
Finding My Way by Malala Yousafzai
Reading the Waves by Lidia Yuknavitch

STAFF PICKS HIGHLIGHTS

Big Dumb Eyes: Stories From a Simpler Mind by Nate Bargatze (792.7028 BAR 2025)
After a childhood head injury derailed his dreams of becoming a brainy professional, Nate Bargatze turned to stand-up comedy, and became one of today’s most popular comedians. His first book delivers laugh-out-loud stories and relatable humor, showcasing his signature wit.

Baldwin: a Love Story by Nicholas Boggs (B BALDWIN, J 2025)
James Baldwin’s personal and artistic relationships played a crucial role in shaping both his life and his work. Drawing on newly uncovered archival material and original interviews, the book explores his bonds with mentors, lovers, and collaborators, including the previously overlooked significance of his final great love, Yoran Cazac.

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton (B DALTON, C 2025)
During lockdown in the English countryside, political advisor Chloe Dalton unexpectedly raises a baby hare that becomes a lifelong companion. Raising Hare chronicles their unique bond while exploring the natural history of hares and their place in art, literature, and folklore.

Everything is Tuberculosis: the History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection by John Green (616.995 GRE 2025)
John Green shares the story of Henry Reider, a young tuberculosis patient in Sierra Leone, exploring their friendship and the human toll of the disease. Interweaving this personal narrative with the scientific and social history of tuberculosis, he highlights global healthcare inequities and the urgent need for action to combat this preventable killer.

Replaceable You: Adventures In Human Anatomy by Mary Roach (617.95 ROA 2025)
Mary Roach delves into humanity’s efforts to replace and repair the human body, from historical experiments with animal parts and unusual materials to modern attempts using stem cells and 3D printing. With her trademark wit, she explores the astonishing advances, challenges, and ethical questions in the quest to rebuild the human body.