

# 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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# BEST BOOKS 2025

## More Recommendations

Access Other Booklists for Adults:  
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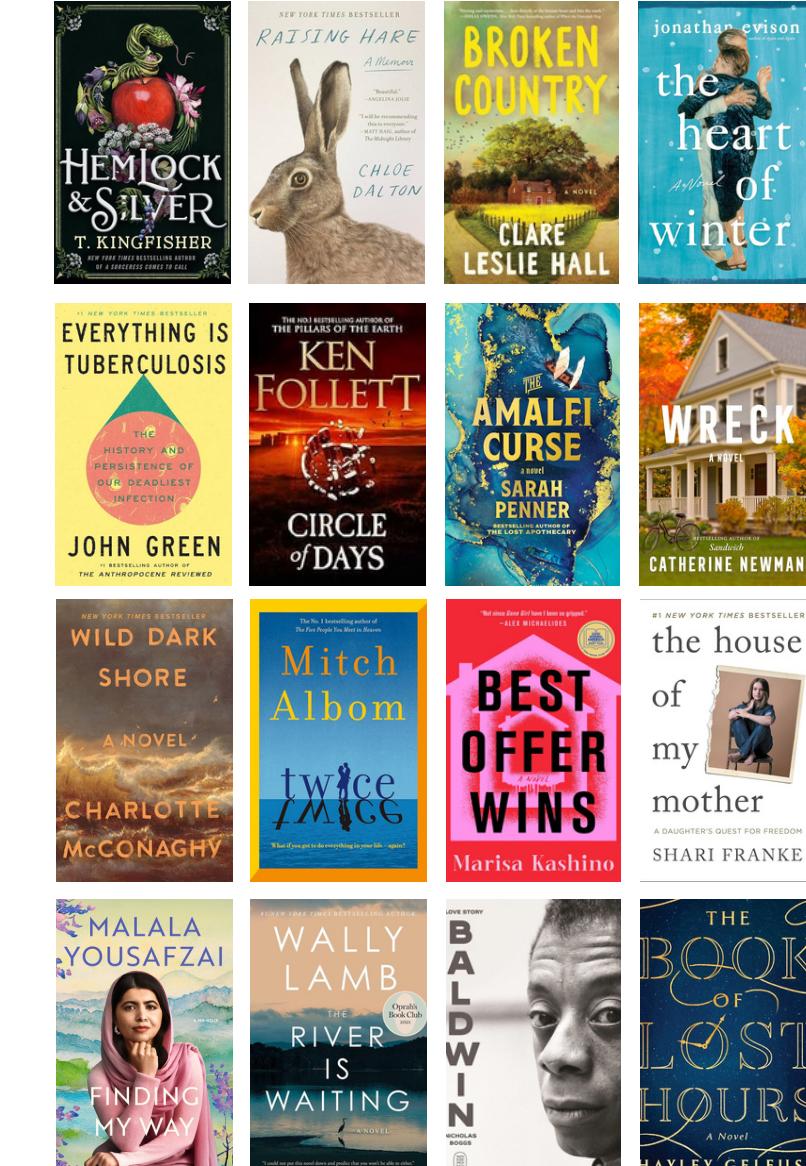
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# FICTION

## 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

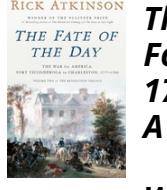
### Romance

**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

## 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

# NON-FICTION

## 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.