

BEST BOOKS 2021




Best Books 2021

This eclectic selection of titles focuses primarily on books of interests for adult readers published just at the end of 2020 and in 2021. The list is compiled from patron and West Linn staff recommendations, as well as recommendations 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, in addition to helping select critic recommendations.

The titles in this online brochure have been hyperlinked to our catalog. Simply click on the interested title to see current availability.

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

Titles with a  icon next to it have been identified as spectacular audiobooks.

Top Checkouts 2021

-  **The Last Thing He Told Me** by Laura Dave
- The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig
-  **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah
- Malibu Rising** by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- People We Meet On Vacation** by Emily Henry
- Apples Never Fall** by Liane Moriarty
- Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** by Isabel Wilkerson
- The Vanishing Half** by Brit Bennet
- The Paper Palace** by Heller Miranda Cowley
- The Plot** by Jean Hanff Korelitz

GET THEM ON



Hit List Highlights!

These books were published in 2021 and topped our *most checkouts during 2021* list. Here are the highlights from this hit list!

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
After her husband disappears, Hannah Hall quickly realizes he isn't who he said he was and that his 16-year-old daughter, who wants nothing to do with her, may hold the key to figuring out his true identity. (Mystery)

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
A Depression-era woman confronts a wrenching choice between fighting for the Dust Bowl-ravaged land she loves in Texas or pursuing an uncertain future in California. (Historical Fiction)

Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Four famous siblings throw an epic end-of-summer party that goes dangerously out of control as secrets and loves that shaped this family's generations come to light, changing their lives forever. (Fiction)

People We Meet On Vacation by Emily Henry
With one week to win back the best friend she might just be in love with, a travel writer plans the trip of a lifetime. (Romance)

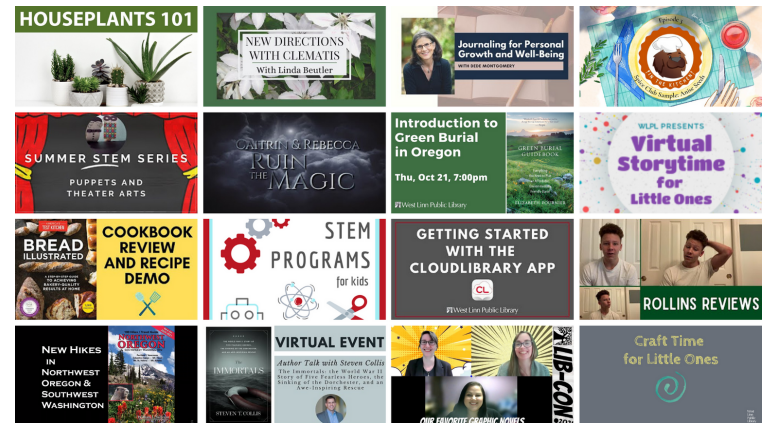
Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty
A family of tennis stars debate whether or not to report their mother as missing because it would implicate their father in the new novel by the New York Times best-selling author of *Big Little Lies*. (Fiction)

The Paper Palace by Heller Miranda Cowley
While staying at "The Paper Palace" — the family summer place she has visited every summer of her life, 50-year-old Elle must decide between the life she has built with her husband and the life she always imagined she would have had with her childhood love. (Fiction)

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz
Wildly successful author Jacob Finch Bonner, who had stolen the plot of his book from a late student, fights to hide the truth from his fans and publishers, while trying to figure out who wants to destroy him. (Mystery)



Programs



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bit.ly/wlpl-online-events-programs

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bit.ly/wlpl-facebook-videos

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More Recommendations

Access Other Booklists for Adults:
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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.

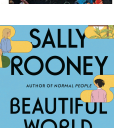
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1595 Burns Street
West Linn, OR 97068
503-656-7853
www.westlinnlibrary.org
Online Catalog | LINCC.org



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

FICTION

-  **The Newcomer** by Mary Kay Andrews
-  **Cloud Cuckoo Land** by Anthony Doerr
-  **The Nine Lives of Rose Napolitano** by Donna Freitas
- The Paper Palace** by Miranda Cowley Heller
- Golden Girl** by Elin Hilderbrand
- Beautiful World, Where Are You** by Sally Rooney
- Dial A for Aunties** by Jesse Sutanto
- Olympus, Texas** by Stacey Swann


Fantasy & Sci-Fi

-  **A Master of Djinn** (Fantasy) by P. Djeli Clark
-  **Klara and the Sun** (SF) by Kazuo Ishiguro
- Under the Whispering Door** (Fantasy) by TJ Klune
- Winter's Orbit** by Everina Maxwell
- Light of the Jedi** (SF) by Charles Soule
- Project Hail Mary** (SF) by Andy Weir


Historical

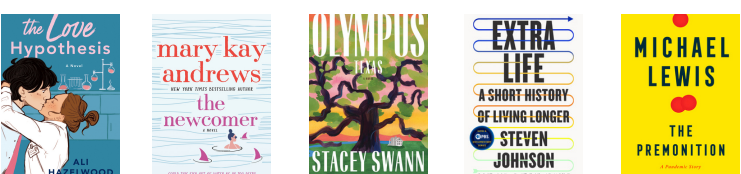
-  **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah
-  **The Lost Apothecary** by Sarah Penner
- Malibu Rising** by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- The Kitchen Front** by Jennifer Ryan
- Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles

Mystery/ Thrillers





-  **The Last Thing He Told Me** by Laura Dave
- Sparks Like Stars** by Nadia Hashimi
- Billy Summers** by Stephen King
- The Plot** by Jean Hanff Korelitz
- Falling** by T.J. Newman
- We Begin At The End** by Chris Whitaker

Romance

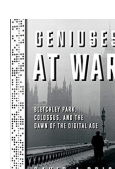
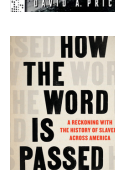

-  **The Love Hypothesis** by Ali Hazelwood
- People We Meet on Vacation** by Emily Henry
- Act Your Age** by Talia Hibbert
- One Last Stop** by Casey McQuiston




NON-FICTION

-  **The New Normal : a Roadmap to Resilience in the Pandemic Era** by Jennifer Ashton
-  **Reborn in the USA: An Englishman's Love Letter to His Chosen Home** by Roger Bennett
-  **Animal, Vegetable, Junk** by Mark Bittman
- Roar : Into the Second Half of Your Life (Before it's Too Late)** by Michael Clinton
-  **The Anthropocene Reviewed** by John Green
- The Comfort Book** by Matt Haig
- On Animals** by Susan Orlean
- Yoke: My Yoga of Self-Acceptance** by Jessamyn Stanley

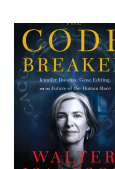
History

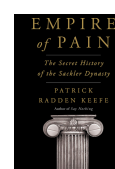
-  **Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019** edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain
- The Woman They Could Not Silence** by Kate Moore
-  **Geniuses at War: Bletchley Park, Colossus, and the Dawn of the Digital Age** by David A. Price
-  **How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America** by Clint Smith

Memoir

-  **Somebody's Daughter** by Ashley Ford
- The Night the Lights Went Out** by Drew Magary
- Taste: My Life Through Food** by Stanley Tucci
- Crying in H-Mart** by Michelle Zauner

Science & Technology



-  **The Code Breaker** by Walter Isaacson
- Extra Life: a Short History of Living Longer** by Steven Johnson
- Empire of Pain** by Patrick Radden Keefe
- The Premonition: a Pandemic Story** by Michael Lewis
- Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law** by Mary Roach
- Lifelines: A Doctor's Journey in the Fight for Public Health** by Leana Wen, MD




NON-FICTION

-  **A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance** by Hanif Abdurraqib
- The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We can Prosper Together** by Heather McGhee
- All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake** by Tiya Miles
- Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism** by Amanda Monte
- These Precious Days: Essays** by Ann Patchett
- On Juneteenth** by Annette Gordon-Reed
- The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War** by Craig Whitlock


Memoir & Biographies

-  **Unbound: My Story of Liberation and the Birth of the Me too Movement** by Tarana Burke
- The Storyteller** by Dave Grohl
-  **Poet Warrior** by Joy Harjo
- Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted** by Suleika Jaouad
- My Remarkable Journey** by Katherine Johnson et. al.

Science & Technology


-  **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times** by Jane Goodall
- The God Equation: The Quest for a Theory of Everything** by Michio Kaku
- Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest** by Suzanne Simard
- The Disordered Cosmos: A Journey Into Dark Matter, Spacetime, & Dreams Deferred** by Chanda Prescod-Weinsten

GRAPHIC NOVELS



-  **Solo Leveling V.1** by Chugong
- Dune Book One** by Brian Herbert
- Sensor** by Junji Ito
- Lore Olympus V.1** by Rachel Smythe
- *Lib-Con Staff Favorites
- Asadora V.1** by Naoki Urasawa




FICTION

-  **Assembly** by Natasha Brown
-  **Infinite Country** by Patricia Engel
-  **The Sentence** by Louise Erdrich
- Crossroads** by Jonathan Franzen
- The Prophets** by Robert Jones Jr
- The People We Keep** by Allison Larkin
- The War for Gloria** by Atticus Lish
- Count the Ways** by Joyce Maynard
- Apples Never Fall** by Liane Moriarty
- Bewilderment** by Richard Powers
- Harlem Shuffle** by Colson Whitehead


Historical

-  **The Paris Library** by Janet Skeslien Charles
- Matrix** by Lauren Groff
- The Sweetness of Water** by Nathan Harris
-  **The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois** by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers
- The Rose Code** by Kate Quinn
- Great Circle** by Maggie Shipstead


Horror

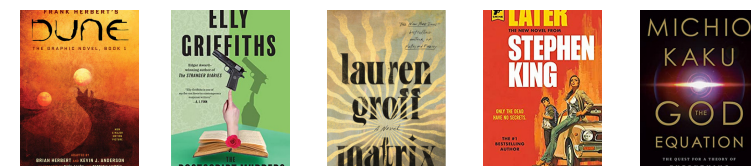
-  **The Dangers of Smoking in Bed** by Mariana Enriquez
- The Final Girl Support Group** by Grady Hendrix
- Later** by Stephen King

Mystery & Thrillers

-  **Razorblade Tears** by S.A. Cosby
- The Collective** by Alison Gaylin
- The Postscript Murders (Harbinder Kaur #2)** by Elly Griffiths
- The Maidens** by Alex Michaelides

Romance

-  **It Happened One Summer** by Tessa Bailey
- How to Find A Princess (Runaway Royals #2)** by Alyssa Cole
- A Lot Like Adios** by Alexis Daria
- The Heart Principle (Kiss Quotient #3)** by Helen Hoang



CRITIC'S CHOICE