

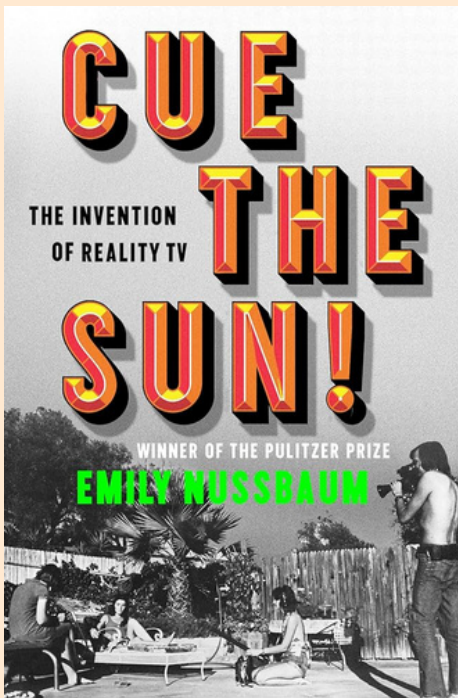
# Staff Picks

## BEST OF 2024

**WHAT BOOKS (ETC.)  
OLD OR NEW  
DID HPL STAFF  
LOVE THIS YEAR??  
FIND OUT BELOW!**



**HVERHILL**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

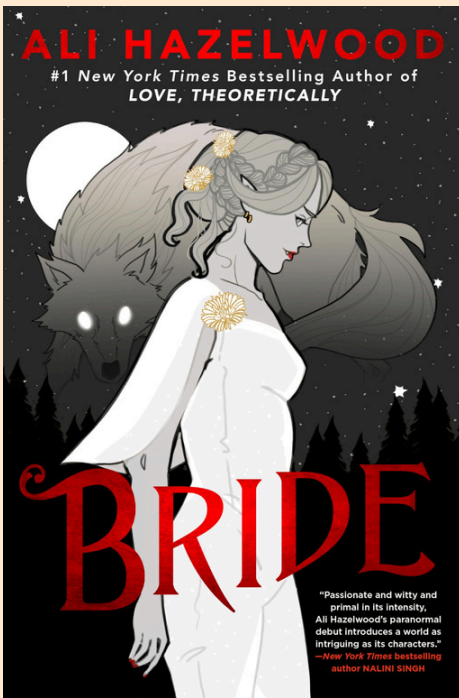


**CUE THE SUN, EMILY NUSSBAUM.  
NON-FICTION.**

**A SMART YET JUICY LOOK AT THE  
ORIGINS AND IMPLICATIONS OF  
REALITY TV. I REALLY ENJOYED  
THIS EVEN THOUGH I DON'T  
WATCH MUCH REALITY  
TELEVISION!  
-REBECCA L.**



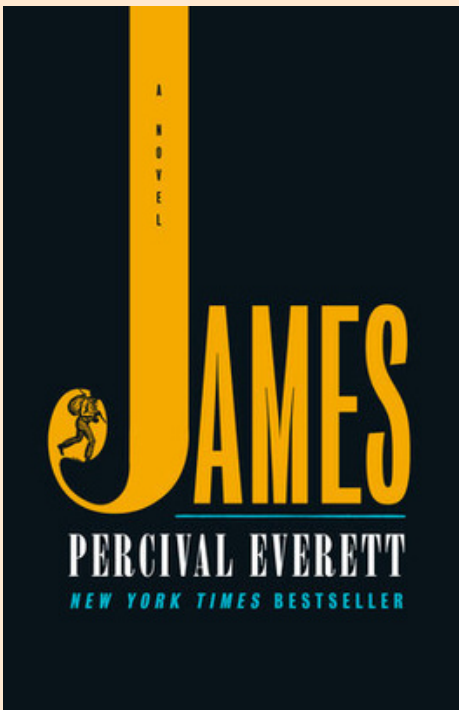
**COVER STORY, RACHEL LACEY.  
CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE.  
HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTAR  
NATALIE KEANE HIRES  
BODYGUARD TAYLOR VAUGHN  
TO POSE AS HER GIRLFRIEND  
AFTER HER STALKER IS RELEASED  
FROM PRISON. NATURALLY, FAKE  
GIRLFRIENDS TEND TO LEAD TO  
REAL FEELINGS. I REALLY  
ENJOYED THIS COMPANION  
NOVEL TO LACEY'S OTHER  
HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE, STARS  
COLLIDE.  
-RACHEL G.**



**BRIDE, ALI HAZELWOOD.**  
FICTION.

ARRANGED MARRIAGE, ENEMIES TO LOVERS, MATES, WEREWOLF-VAMPIRE RELATIONS, WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?

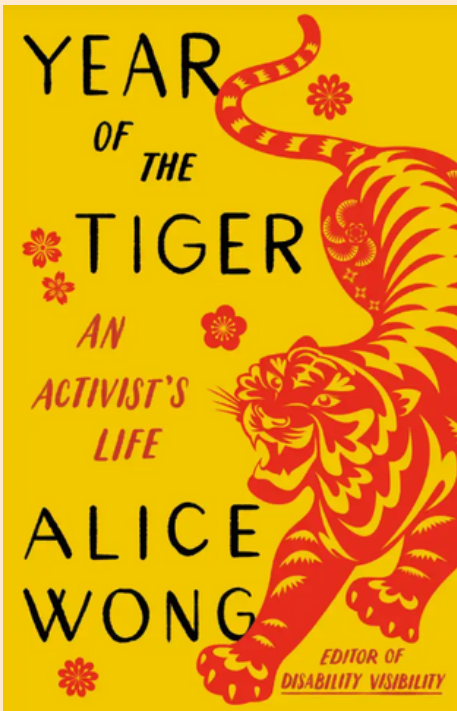
-LIZ S.



**JAMES, PERCIVAL EVERETT.**  
FICTION.

THIS AWARD-WINNING REIMAGINING OF MARK TWAIN'S ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN RETELLS THE STORY WE KNOW FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF JAMES, THE MAN WHO ESCAPES SLAVERY AND TRAVELS WITH HUCK. I ALWAYS APPRECIATE A RETELLING AND THIS COMPELLING NOVEL GIVES A VOICE TO A CHARACTER WHO HAD BEEN MARGINALIZED FOR 140 YEARS.

-SUSANNE K .



**YEAR OF THE TIGER: AN ACTIVIST'S LIFE, ALICE WONG. MEMOIR.**

**THIS IS THE FIRST BOOK I READ THIS YEAR, AND IT REMAINS ONE OF MY FAVORITES! THROUGH THIS COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, ARTWORK, PHOTOS, AND CONVERSATIONS, THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE DISABILITY VISIBILITY PROJECT SHARES PERSONAL STORIES AND DISCUSSES HER ACTIVISM FOR DISABILITY JUSTICE.**

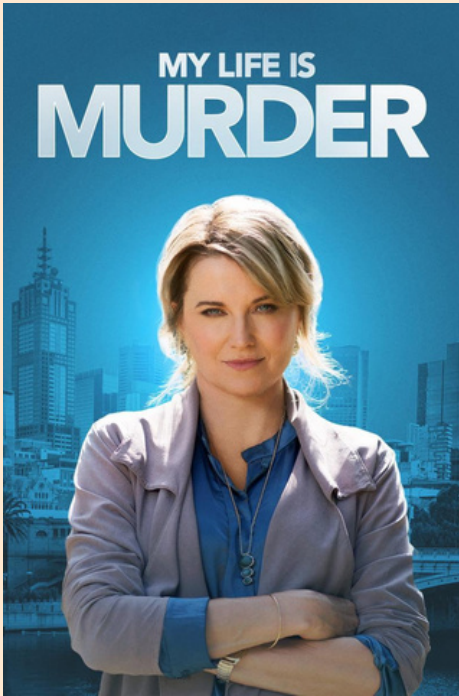
**-KARLEE M.**



**THE FALL GUY (DVD).**

**JUST GOOD ESCAPIST ACTION WITH PLENTY OF LAUGHS AND BIG EXPLOSIONS.**

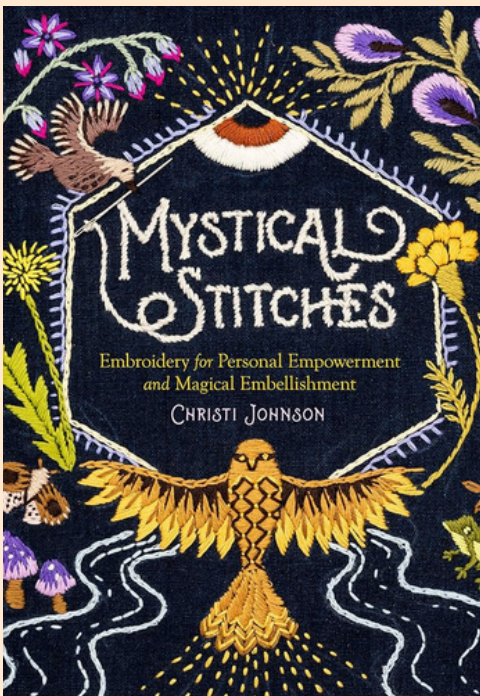
**-EMILY G.**



**MY LIFE IS MURDER (HOOPLA TV SERIES).**

**A FUN PROCEDURAL SET IN NEW ZEALAND AND STARRING LUCY LAWLESS, WHO PLAYS A DELIGHTFULLY QUIRKY RETIRED POLICE DETECTIVE WHO JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STOP SOLVING MURDERS. GOOD FUN WITH CLEVER MYSTERIES. STREAM THROUGH HOOPLA!**

**-EMILY G.**



**MYSTICAL STITCHES, CHRISTI JOHNSON.**

**NONFICTION.**

**MORE THAN AN EMBROIDERY HOW-TO, THIS GUIDE OFFERS SYMBOLIC DESIGNS TO CREATE YOUR OWN PERSONAL TALISMANS, AND WHO DOESN'T NEED A LITTLE MYSTICAL SUPPORT IN EMBROIDERED FORM?**

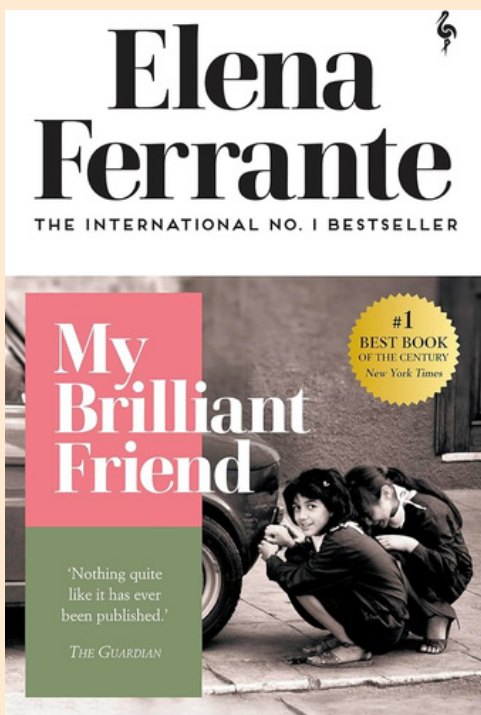
**-BECKY G.**



**THE PENGUIN (MOVIE, MAX ON ROKU).**

**A FOLLOW UP TO THE BATMAN (2022), YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A COMIC FAN OR A BATMAN FAN TO ENJOY THIS. THE WRITING AND ACTING ARE GREAT AND CRISTIN MILIOTI IS EXCELLENT AS SOFIA FALCONE. BUT IT'S COLIN FARRELL'S SHOWCASE AS OZ COBB/THE PENGUIN THAT REALLY SHINES--A VILLAIN YOU CAN'T HELP BUT CHEER FOR EVEN AS HE DOES AWFUL THINGS. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

**-SARAH M.**



**NEAPOLITAN QUARTET, ELENA FERRANTE. FICTION.**

**I FINALLY READ THESE FOUR NOVELS FOLLOWING THE LIVES OF TWO FRENEMIES IN NAPLES. ORIGINAL, FIERCE, AND COMPLETELY TOUCHING. WHAT WAS I WAITING FOR??**

**-REBECCA L.**

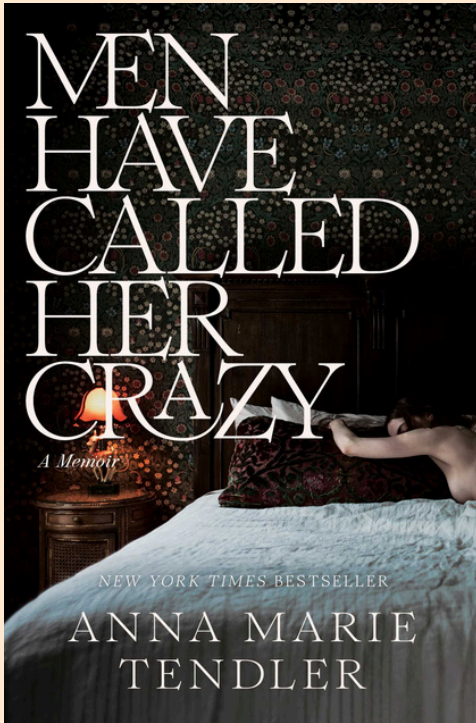


**THE EYES ARE THE BEST PART,  
MONIKA KIM.**

**HORROR.**

**WHEN JI-WON'S MOTHER IMPLIES THAT EATING FISH EYES WILL BRING GOOD LUCK AND HELP REUNITE THEIR BROKEN FAMILY, JI-WON TAKES THIS MESSAGE TO HEART, EVEN AFTER HER MOTHER MOVES ON AND STARTS DATING A WHITE GUY WHO'S OBVIOUSLY FETISHIZING HER FOR HER RACE. JI-WON BECOMES FIXED ON HIS BLUE EYES THAT EMBODY THE MANY STRUGGLES SHE FACES...AND WHILE THE DIRECTION IS PRETTY OBVIOUS FROM THERE, THE CHILLING DESCRIPTIONS OF VIOLENCE, DARK HUMOR, AND SOCIAL COMMENTARY GIVE YOU PLENTY TO FEAST YOUR EYES ON ALONG THE WAY.**

**-EDDIE S.**



**MEN HAVE CALLED HER CRAZY,  
ANNA MARIE TENDLER.  
MEMOIR.**

**A RAW AND EVOCATIVE MEMOIR THAT EXPLORES THEMES OF MENTAL HEALTH, RELATIONSHIPS, AND IDENTITY THROUGH A DEEPLY PERSONAL LENS. TENDLER'S SHARP WIT AND CANDID VULNERABILITY OFFER READERS AN INTIMATE LOOK AT THE STRUGGLES OF NAVIGATING LOVE, SELF-WORTH, AND SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS. THE WRITING IS BOTH POIGNANT AND DARKLY HUMOROUS, MAKING IT A COMPELLING READ. EVEN THOUGH THE TOPICS DISCUSSED ARE HEAVY, I COULD NOT PUT THIS BOOK DOWN AND FINISHED IT IN ONLY A COUPLE OF DAYS.  
-MEGAN M.**