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Book Faire

Boise Public Library Staff
Hot Books of 2024

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TITLE > *What We'll Burn Last*
AUTHOR > by Heather Chavez
SYNOPSIS > **Librarians say:** This is a fast-paced psychological thriller with an intricate plot and a great mystery. It will keep you on your toes!

GENRE > **M**  < **STANDALONE**
 < **PART OF A SERIES**

Key:

FA Fantasy **F** Fiction **GN** Graphic Novel
M Mystery **N-F** Non Fiction **PB** Picture Book
R Romance **S-F** Science Fiction

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Adult

Martyr!
by Kaveh Akbar

Librarians say: Even though the themes explored throughout this book are heavy, it's ultimately hilarious, beautiful, and hopeful. Akbar, a poet himself, writes in such a stunning, lyrical, accessible style that any reader will come away from this one with plenty to think about and admire.

F 

The Ministry of Time
by Kaliane Bradley

Librarians say: This book is fantastically gripping with great characters. In this story there's a little mystery, a little love, with a touch of time travel thrown in!

S-F 

The Fox Wife
by Yangsze Choo

Summary: Part detective story, part folklore, this story takes place during the waning days of the Qing dynasty. It is a complex and atmospheric tale of identity and discovering set in early 1900s Manchuria.

F 

Interesting Facts about Space
by Emily Austin

Librarians say: The way this book deals with faulty memory and paranoia made me feel very seen in a way no other book has been able to.

F 

What We'll Burn Last
by Heather Chavez

Librarians say: This is a fast-paced psychological thriller with an intricate plot and a great mystery. It will keep you on your toes!

M 

Court of Wanderers
by Rin Chupeco

Summary: Remy Pendergast and his royal vampire companions return to face an enemy that is terrifyingly close to home in Rin Chupeco's queer, bloody Gothic epic fantasy series for fans of Samantha Shannon's *The Priory of the Orange Tree* and the adult animated series *Castlevania*.

FA 

Romney: A Reckoning

by McKay Coppins

Summary: Well-researched political memoir, with full access given by Romney to his emails and other sources.

N-F 

Significant Others

by Zoë Eisenberg

Summary: A poignant and tender novel that is a perfect fit for readers who adore stories about the complexities of female friendship, the power of found family, and the journey of self-discovery. Character-driven contemporary fiction with a strong focus on relationships and personal growth.

F 

The Darcy Myth: Jane Austen, Literary Heartthrobs, and the Monsters They Taught Us to Love

by Rachel Feder

Librarians say: Darcy is not hot, he's not a dreamboat, and it's time to stop pretending he is. He's a jerk and if you're a person who dates or is interested in men, you deserve better than a Darcy.

N-F 

The Mercy of Gods

by James S. A. Corey

Librarians say: This is the new book by the authors of *The Expanse*. If you like your stories a little darker, like *Hunger Games* or *Red Rising*, but with a bit more science, this book is for you!

S-F 

Bad Dreams in the Night

by Adam Ellis

Summary: A collection of short-form horror stories, told in Adam Ellis' uniquely recognizable style. For grown-ups who still shiver when they remember Alvin Schwartz's *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*.

GN 

Crossings: How Road Ecology is Shaping the Future of Our Planet

by Ben Goldfarb

Librarians say: It will change your thoughts on roads and how they affect animals and nature. A must read if you want to learn about road ecology and discover how scientists are working to help animals with inventions like wildlife crossings.

N-F 

Anita de Monte

Laughs Last

by Xochitl Gonzalez

Summary: A captivating read for anyone who delights in intriguing explorations of power, class, and identity, and is eager to immerse themselves in a richly atmospheric tale of art, love, and mystery that will keep them guessing until the very end.

F 

Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions

by John Grisham,
Jim McCloskey

Summary: Stories of people who were innocent but found guilty and served time in prison.

N-F 

Assassins Anonymous

by Rob Hart

Librarians say: It's funny and engaging. It received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and *BookPage*.

F 

A Good Life

by Virginie Grimaldi

Summary: A perfect fit for readers who appreciate heartwarming and humorous stories about the complexities of sisterhood, family dynamics, and the power of love and healing, with a strong focus on the emotional journeys of strong and relatable female characters.

F 

The Women

by Kristin Hannah

Summary: A compelling and authentic-feeling story of women "serving" in Vietnam, but not being acknowledged. It's a story of three amazing women from very different backgrounds who form an unbreakable bond and truly have each other's back.

F 

Funny Story

by Emily Henry

Librarians say: Emily Henry is a queen of smart, contemporary romance, with engaging characters who are more than meets the eye.

R 

Liberty Equality Fashion: The Women Who Styled the French Revolution

by Anne Higonnet

Summary: If you've ever wondered what to wear while the world falls apart around you, this is the book for you. The three women featured in this book (Joséphine Bonaparte, Térézia Tallien, and Juliette Récamier) made sartorial choices that shaped not only their world, but continue to shape ours today. The book itself is beautiful, featuring full color illustrations and photographs on every page.

N-F 

The Alternatives

by Caoilinn Hughes

Librarians say: The character development is wonderful and compelling as are the sisters' areas of expertise: geology, political science, philosophy, and agriculture/food insecurity. The writing is beautiful and substantive.

F 

First Do No Harm

by Joe Kenda

Summary: Can the cops figure out and capture the person who is contributing to the string of overdoses?

F 

Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees

by Patrick Horvath

Librarians say: If you enjoy the juxtaposition of cute/cuddly creatures and dark humor/murder mystery then you might try this book!

GN 

Vegas Concierge

by Brian Joseph

Librarians say: Extensive investigation into multi-layered crimes on the Vegas Strip.

N-F 

A Chance to Harmonize

by Sheryl Kaskowitz

Librarians say: For the history buff who has read everything else. This book is impeccably researched and tells the story of the few tireless workers and their labor in finding and preserving American folk music. The author's writing is clearly heartfelt, and shows a love not only for American music, but for American people.

N-F 

Sister Snake

by Amanda Lee Koe

Summary: A haunting look into the toxic codependency of mythical sisters in a darkly humorous novel. Based on "The Legend of the White Snake," readers will be sucked into this magical book.

F 

I May Be a Guild Receptionist, but I'll Solo Any Boss to Clock Out on Time

by Mato Kousaka, Suzu Yuuki, Jennifer Ward

Librarians say: Anyone who's worked a few jobs knows that anything getting in the way of going home after a long day is the worst of all possible things. Our protagonist living and working in a fantasy world affords her a few more options than most to deal with such issues.

GN 

Your Brain on Art

by Susan Magsamen

Summary: This book shares the value of art and, from neuroscience, evidence on how we change through art experiences. Also provides evidence how art experiences help others with disabilities, mental illness, and diseases.

N-F 

Julia

by Sandra Newman

Librarians say: Calling 1984 "prescient" is an eye-rolling cliché at this point. But Sandra Newman's adaptation raises the question Orwell forgot to ask: "How do women cope under totalitarian rule?" Then she answers with clear-eyed and steely resolve. Julia (the character and the novel) is a fighter.

F 

Stolen

by Ann-Helén Laestadius

Summary: Laestadius is a Swedish author. In *Stolen*, she writes about the troubles the reindeer herders, the Sami people, have in Sweden. It spans the life of a woman who from a young age only wants to be a reindeer herder, a traditionally male dominated vocation, and her love of the animals and the fear of living in a village where her people are hated.

F 

The God of the Woods

by Liz Moore

Librarians say: I didn't want to finish this book! It hit every point that makes a perfect read - the setting in the Adirondack woods is evocative, the writing is beautiful with intriguing characters, and the mysteries are layered and evolving. This book will appeal to fans of mysteries and historical fiction and anyone who wants to sink into slow burn of a novel.

F 

The Paris Novel

by Ruth Reichl

Summary: Shy introvert sent to Paris for a month at the bequest of her dead but still overbearing mother. Here she not only discovers herself but stumbles upon and solves a historical mystery.

F 

Come & Get It

by Kiley Reid

Summary: A perfect fit for readers who crave an absorbing and relatable exploration of the complexities of privilege, money, and identity, particularly those who enjoy literary fiction that delves into the intricacies of human relationships and the consequences of reckless abandon.

F 

Middle of the Night

by Riley Sager

Summary: Returning to his childhood home 30 years after his friend Billy's disappearance, Ethan, plagued by strange occurrences, sets out to find out what really happened that night. Reunited with former friends and neighbors, he finds his investigation leading him to a mysterious institute where clandestine research is performed.

M 

Instructions for Traveling West

by Joy Sullivan

Librarians say: These poems are accessible, beautiful, and often funny. Like Mary Oliver, Sullivan invites readers to look at the world with wonder, hope, and tenderness.

N-F 

Dreadful

by Caitlin Rozakis

Librarians say: This book is highly entertaining and very silly. I loved every second. I highly recommend listening to this as an audiobook, as the narrator is amazing.

FA 

Woman, Life, Freedom

by Marjane Satrapi

Summary: A collaborative creation by more than 20 artists and writers documenting the present-day Iranian revolution that is focused on freeing women from the current oppressive regime.

GN 

Watership Down: The Graphic Novel

by James Sturm (Adapter), Joe Sutphin (Illustrator), and Richard Adams

Librarians say: Even if the story and characters weren't expertly crafted (and they are), the illustrations alone feel like laying on the grass in the English countryside. I don't know how they were able to draw rabbits with such strong character features, but they did and it's amazing.

GN 

Service Mode

by Adrian Tchaikovsky

Librarians say: Adrian Tchaikovsky's *Service Model* is a love child of a parable and a philosophy treatise, but written as a riff on quite a few classical authors (the chapter headings give a clue — KR15-T (Christie), K4FK-R (Kafka), 4W-L (Orwell), 80RH-5 (Borges), and D4NT-A (Dante)).

S-F 

Like Happiness

by Ursula Villarreal-Moura

Summary: A challenging and emotionally charged novel that is a perfect fit for readers who appreciate complex, nuanced explorations of identity, power dynamics, and the intricacies of relationships, particularly those who are drawn to stories that delve into the complexities of gender, celebrity, and Latinx experiences.

F 

System Collapse

by Martha Wells

Librarians say: If you haven't yet read Martha Wells' fantastic *Murderbot Diaries* series, you should start reading ASAP. The novellas are short, funny, and set in a fascinating future.

S-F 

The Art of Catching Feelings

by Alicia Thompson

Librarians say: This book is perfect for fans of queer body horror and unique writing. Just be aware of content warnings before picking up this book!

R 

The Mysteries

by Bill Watterson and John Kascht

Summary: Bill Watterson (of *Calvin and Hobbes* fame) has finally emerged from his humble hermitude to give us all this deliciously unsettling fable of cosmic horror!

GN 

Daindreth's Empress

by Elizabeth Wheatley

Librarians say: *Daindreth's Empress* subverts typical romance tropes and explores ideas of love vs. control, morality, and many more complex themes. It perfectly balances world building, political intrigue, and nuanced love stories.

R 

The Bang-Bang Sisters

by Rio Youers

Summary: Brea, Jessie, and Flo make up the rock band Bang-Bang Sisters. They're also vigilantes who use their tour van to travel around the country and punish those who have escaped justice. Their current "case" is a serial killer in Alabama, but they find themselves walking straight into a trap...

M 

Teens

Don't Let the Forest In

by C.G. Drews

Summary: This is a wonderfully haunting horror novel written so beautifully you'll forget to be spooked! It features compelling characters and a mystery you have to read to the end to uncover.

F 

Next Stop

by Debbie Fong

Librarians say: I loved the road trip and the healing friendships Pia forges along the way. Sometimes healing is found in unexpected places, like Cactus Theme Parks.

GN 

Not-Sew-Wicked Stepmom, Vol. 4

by Iru and Mo9Rang

Summary: Start from the wicked stepmother trope but give it an isekai twist! This Stepmom doesn't have a wicked bone in her body!

GN 

49 Days

by Agnes Lee

Summary: In Buddhist tradition, there's a journey of 49 days before the deceased's soul crosses over. This story follows a Korean American girl named Kit on her 49-day journey, interspersed with the memories of the family and friends she left behind.

GN 

Under This Red Rock

by Mindy McGinnis

Summary: A teen slowly falls victim to her mental illnesses as she gets a new job working in the deep caves her town is famous for.

F 

Escaping Mr. Rochester

by L.L. McKinney

Summary: In this fresh reimaging of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel by acclaimed author L. L. McKinney, Jane Eyre and Bertha Mason must save each other from the horrifying machinations of Mr. Rochester in this intrigue-filled, empowering young adult romance.

F 

Defiant

by Brandon Sanderson

Librarians say: It's all led to this! A fantastic conclusion to the main Skyward series. I strongly recommend the whole series.

S-F 

The Invocations

by Krystal Sutherland

Librarians say: This book blew me away, and it's perfect for anyone who likes a dark story with incredible characters you grow to love. Fans of sapphic romances will rejoice at this creepy pick!

F 

Every Time You Hear That Song

by Jenna Voris

Summary: This book is a love letter to country life and country music. Even if you're a city person through and through, this novel will make you yearn for empty dirt roads and Nashville lights. With two perspectives from different time periods, this book will keep you hooked until the last page.

R 

Soara and the House of Monsters, Vol. 3

by Hidenori Yamaji

Summary: Soara travels with a group of dwarves building houses for monsters. Every monster has different housing needs, so every house is unique!

GN 

Middle Readers

(GRADES 1 - 6)

Plain Jane and the Mermaid

by Vera Brosgol

Librarians say: Not only a fun under the sea adventure, but a story that teaches physical beauty isn't the most important thing a person can have. What is important is how you treat others and how you treat yourself.

GN 

Ferris

by Kate DiCamillo

Summary: A heartwarming and humorous tale that is a perfect fit for readers who appreciate stories about family, love, and the complexities of growing up, and are looking for a narrative that explores the themes of death, grief, and the power of human connection in a way that is both poignant and uplifting.

F 

**Outdoor School:
Gardening: the Definitive
Interactive Nature Guide**

by Bridget Heos

Librarians say: This guide is full of easy-to-follow instructions and great illustrations that will help your little ones develop their curiosity and discover the rich possibilities gardening provides.

N-F 

Alebrijes

by Donna Barba Higuera

Librarians say: A heart-rending, exciting and ultimately uplifting story, Alebrijes deftly melds traditional storytelling and myth with a vision of post-apocalyptic America. The characters are strong, the hardships are heavy, and the stakes couldn't be higher.

FA 

Summer Vamp

by Violet Chan Karim

Summary: Maya gets on the wrong summer camp bus and instead of culinary camp she ends up at a summer camp for VAMPIRES.

GN 

Azula in the Spirit Temple

by Faith Erin Hicks

Librarians say: If you loved Avatar: *The Last Airbender*, but wished there'd been more of Azula in the follow up comics, this is for you!

GN 

Ant Story

by Jay Hosler

Summary: Ant Story by Jay Hosler is a delightful and engaging read that is perfectly suited for young readers who love adventure, science, and cartoon insects, offering a kid-friendly exploration of the natural world through the eyes of a plucky and curious ant named Rubi.

GN 

Slugfest

by Gordon Korman

Librarians say: Real talk: I'm not normally into books about sports. But with Gordon Korman's signature traits of relatable characters, multiple first-person perspectives, and laugh-out-loud humor, by the climax I felt like a cheering spectator on the bleachers! Recommended.

F 

**Kabumpo in Oz (Clover
Press edition)**

by Ruth Plumly Thompson,
illustrated by Sara Richard

Librarians say: Sara Richard's new illustrations breathe surreal, gorgeous life into an old classic. The layering! The whimsy! The laughs! There is so much more to Oz than one movie would suggest.

FA 

Lunar Boy

by Jes Wibowo and
Cin Wibowo

Librarians say: A child of the moon is adopted into a blended human family. He must learn how to live a life on Earth - with all the pain and joy that comes from it.

GN 

Early Readers

The Last Zookeeper

by Aaron Becker

Librarians say: With his dreamlike yet detailed illustrations Aaron Becker has again created a whole world for readers of all ages to explore!

PB 

Mama in the Moon

by Doreen Cronin and
illustrator Brian Cronin

Librarians say: A baby sloth falls out of its mother's arms, down, down, down to the ground! What happens next? The story is very sweet and the illustrations are absolutely wonderful.

PB 

If I Was a Horse

by Sophie Blackall

Librarians say: This story takes any reader to a wonderfully imaginative place. Who doesn't love the idea of a horse eating your sandwich or joining the swim team?

PB 

No Cats in the Library

by Lauren Emmons

Summary: A stray cat named Clarisse adores books, especially the ones with pictures. When she finds a library, she wants nothing more than to explore all the books with pretty pictures! But the Bookkeeper keeps telling her cats aren't allowed in the library. What's a little kitty to do?

PB 

Floof

by Heidi McKinnon

Librarians say: It's so adorable you won't be able to stand it! The art is so good you'll want to pet the pages (and they are just paper!)

PB



Come Out, Come Out, Chameleon!

By Jonty Howley

Librarians say: It's silly and there is a Where's Waldo aspect about looking for the chameleon on the pages that should keep kids interested.

PB



I Can Open it for You

by Shinsuke Yoshitake

Summary: A little boy imagines all the things he will be able to open once he gets bigger, but for now he needs his parents' help.

PB



Prunella

by Beth Ferry

Summary: A girl with a purple thumb which gives her a penchant for poisonous and dangerous plants seeks friends who understand her prickly passions.

PB



The Wilderness

by Steve McCarthy

Librarians say: This picture book is wonderfully illustrated by Steve McCarthy, an animator who worked on the Oscar nominated film *Song of the Sea*. The story itself is whimsical, autumnal, and perfect for those cozy, snuggly days.

PB



Programs + Services

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