



Discover. Read. Share.

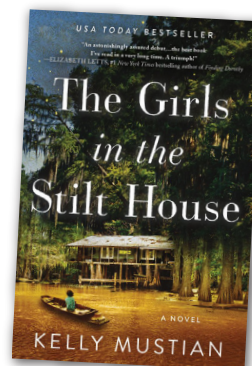
## RECOMMENDED NEXT READS *The Girls in the Stilt House*

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**"[A] nearly flawless tale of loss, perseverance, and redemption."** —*Publishers Weekly*

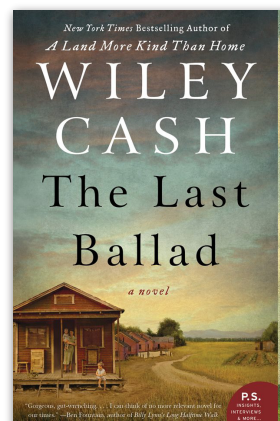
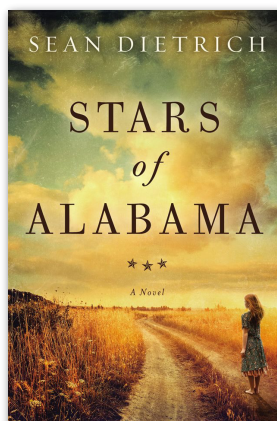
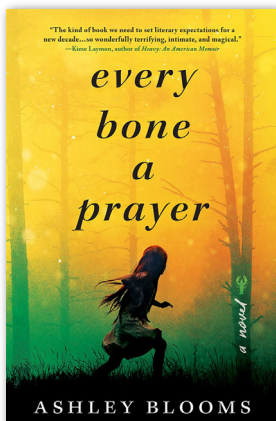
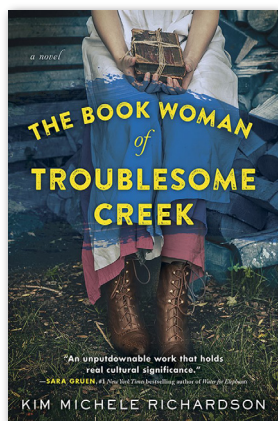
Blending together themes like love, prejudice, retribution, and Southern grit, this is a novel where secrets unravel and keep the readers on their toes. If you loved *The Girls in the Stilt House*, here are similar books featuring small-town secrets, female friendships, racial disparities, and more.

View the full collection here: [hoopladigital.com/collection/14736](https://hoopladigital.com/collection/14736)



### SMALL TOWN & RURAL HISTORICAL FICTION

Well-researched and well-written, these stories will pull you into histories filled with tragedy while reflecting the courage and strength of the South.



#### **THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK**

BY KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON

**PREVIOUS BOOK CLUB SELECTION!**

**"Richardson has penned an emotionally moving and fascinating story about the power of literacy over bigotry, hatred and fear."**  
- *BookPage*

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.

#### **EVERY BONE A PRAYER** BY ASHLEY BLOYS

**"Blooms has taken the voice and names of Appalachia, tended, and evolved them, and created a book that is at once haunting and hopeful."** - NPR

*The Lovely Bones* meets *Where the Crawdads Sing* in this remarkable debut set in Appalachia. This is the story of one tough-as-nails girl whose choices are few but whose imagination is boundless, as her coping becomes a battle cry for everyone around her—a beautifully honest exploration of healing and hope.

#### **STARS OF ALABAMA** BY SEAN DIETRICH

**"The characters are meticulously described in settings so real that they seem to be drawn from memory...historical fiction and mystery readers will find this to be a very satisfying book."**

- *Booklist*

One child preacher traveling across the plains. One young woman with a mysterious touch. Two old friends, their baby, and their bloodhound. And all the stars that shine above them. As the years pass and a world war looms, these stories intertwine in surprising ways, reminding us that when the dust clears, we can still see the stars.

#### **THE LAST BALLAD** BY WILEY CASH

**WINNER OF THE SOUTHERN BOOK PRIZE FOR LITERARY FICTION**

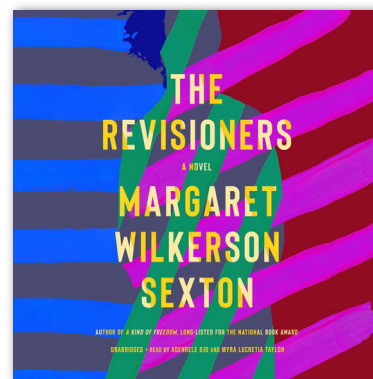
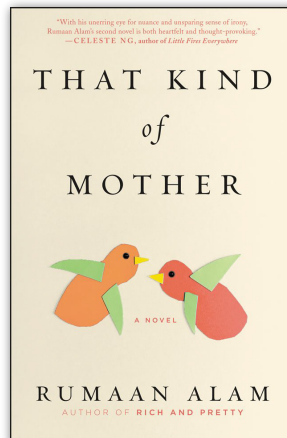
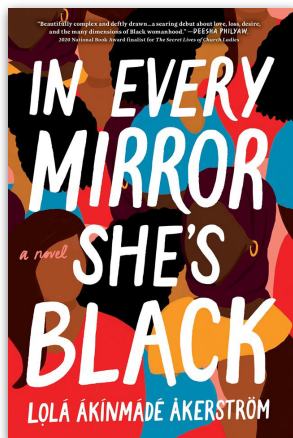
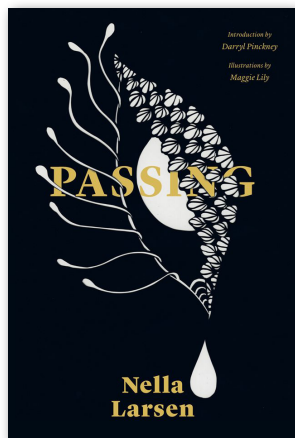
**"Wiley Cash reveals the dignity and humanity of people asking for a fair shot in an unfair world."** - Christina Baker Kline, author of *A Piece of the World* and *Orphan Train*

Set in the Appalachian foothills of North Carolina in 1929 and inspired by actual events. The chronicle of an ordinary woman's struggle for dignity and her rights in a textile mill, *The Last Ballad* is a moving tale of courage in the face of oppression and injustice.

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## LIFE IN BLACK & WHITE

These novels are page-turners about the making of personal identity, the strife of racism, and the dichotomy of the Black experience and white privilege.



### **PASSING** BY NELLA LARSEN

**"Absolutely absorbing, fascinating, and indispensable."**

- Alice Walker, bestselling author of *The Color Purple*

Married to a successful physician and prominently ensconced in Harlem's vibrant society of the 1920s, Irene Redfield leads a charmed existence—until she is shaken out of it by a chance encounter with a childhood friend who has been "passing for white." Larsen's portraits of women seeking their identities through a fog of racial confusion were informed by her own Danish-West Indian parentage, and *Passing* offers fascinating psychological insights into issues of race and gender.

### **IN EVERY MIRROR SHE'S BLACK** BY LOLÁ ÁKÍNMADE ÁKERSTRÖM

**"A searing, multifaceted examination of the hearts and minds of Black women navigating white-dominated spaces."** - *BookPage*

Three Black women are linked in unexpected ways to the same influential white man in Stockholm as they build their new lives in the most open society run by the most private people. Told through the perspectives of each of the three women, *In Every Mirror She's Black* is a fast-paced, richly nuanced, yet accessible contemporary novel that touches on important social issues of racism, classism, fetishization, and tokenism, and what it means to be a Black woman navigating a white-dominated society.

### **THAT KIND OF MOTHER** BY RUMAAN ALAM

**"Alam poses important questions about race, privilege, and the nature of family."** - *Boston Globe*

Rebecca is about to give birth to a son, Jacob, an event that leads to a connection with a hospital breastfeeding consultant named Priscilla Johnson, who will become Jacob's nanny. Rebecca is white; Priscilla is Black. But their relationship is far more nuanced than those bare facts may lead you to expect, and their story plays out in unpredictable ways. When Priscilla dies unexpectedly in childbirth, Rebecca instinctively moves to adopt her newborn son, a decision that will change Rebecca's life, her family, and her view of the world.

### **THE REVISIONERS** BY MARGARET WILKERSON SEXTON

**PREVIOUS BOOK CLUB SELECTION!**

**"Enthralling...a novel where marginalized yet undeniably resilient Black women are allowed to truly shine."**

- *San Francisco Chronicle*

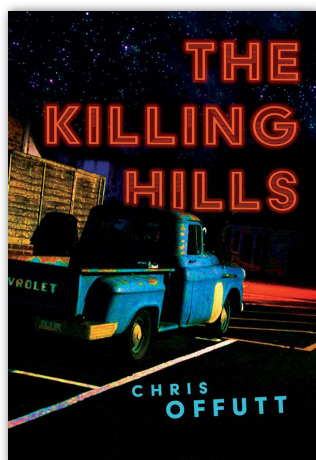
*The Revisioners* explores the depths of women's relationships—powerful women and marginalized women, healers and survivors. It is a novel about the bonds between mothers and their children, and the dangers that upend those bonds. At its core, *The Revisioners* ponders generational legacies, the endurance of hope, and the undying promise of freedom.

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## SOUTHERN NOIR

Take the strong sense of tradition and family of Southern literature, add the decay and bizzare of Southern Gothic, and what you have are our favorite mystery selections for Southern Noir.



### **THE KILLING HILLS** BY CHRIS OFFUTT

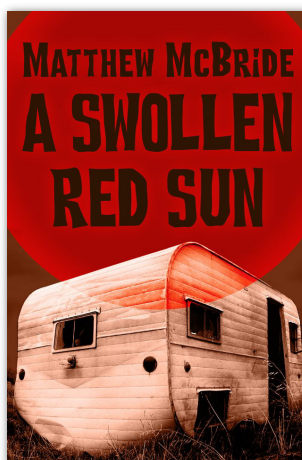
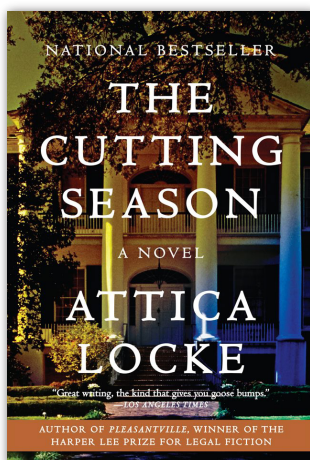
"[A] work of rural noir whose characters' singular codes lead to constant surprises." - Sam Sacks, *Wall Street Journal*

Tensions are brewing between the clans that make the Appalachian hills their home, and those tensions threaten to explode into violence at any moment. A literary crime novel set in the Kentucky hills in which an Army CID agent on leave ends up investigating a murder and setting the secretive holler clans on edge.

### **THE CUTTING SEASON** BY ATTICA LOCKE

"One of the most engaging and gifted new voices in the genre...*The Cutting Season* does more than exhume a body—it rattles the bones of slavery, race, class, and power to examine a crime that reverberates from more than a century ago." - *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

*The Cutting Season* interweaves two murder mysteries, one on Belle Vie, a historic landmark in the middle of Louisiana's sugar cane country, and one involving a slave gone missing more than one hundred years earlier.



### **A SWOLLEN RED SUN** BY MATTHEW MCBRIDE

"Matthew McBride's new novel, *A Swollen Red Sun*, is rough and ready suspense, encompassing a wide array of characters from the sour side of life, and smashing them together with vigorous and blunt prose."

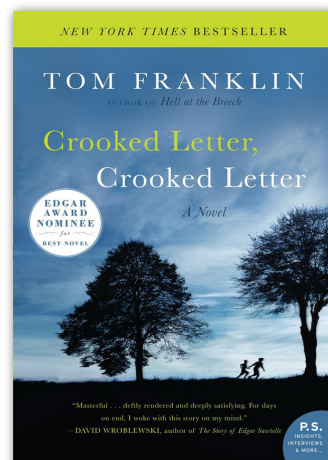
- Daniel Woodrell, author of *The Maid's Version* and *Winter's Bone*

God, drugs, corruption, and morality come together in this gripping tale of desperation. In Gasconade County, Missouri—once called the meth capital of the world—Jerry Dean sets in motion a series of events that will threaten Sheriff Banks's family, his life, and everything he thinks he knows about the world.

### **CROOKED LETTER, CROOKED LETTER** BY TOM FRANKLIN

"A ripping good mystery, this novel also has depth and a subtle literary side, as the local area comes to life through the writer's cinematic descriptive phrases and a large and colorful cast of supporting characters. Highly recommended." - *Library Journal*, starred review

*Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* tells the riveting story of two boyhood friends, torn apart by circumstance, who are brought together again by a terrible crime in a small Mississippi town. An extraordinary novel that seamlessly blends elements of crime and Southern literary fiction.



## FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS

From the friendships that endure to the complicated messiness of girlhood friends, within these pages you'll find female friendship in all its many shapes and forms.



### **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND** BY ELENA FERRANTE

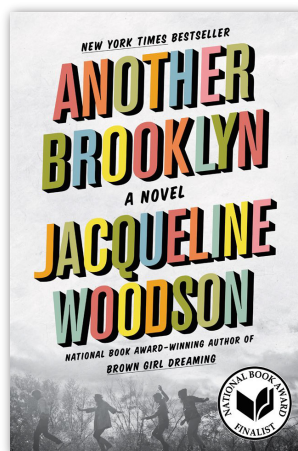
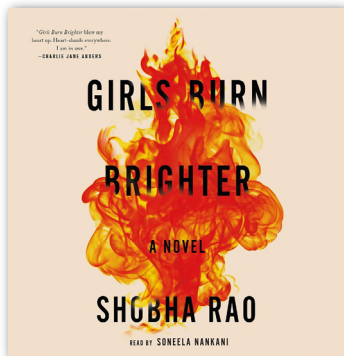
**"An intoxicatingly furious portrait of enmeshed friends." - Entertainment Weekly**

Beginning in the 1950s in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples, Ferrante's four-volume story spans almost sixty years, as its protagonists, the fiery and unforgettable Lila and the bookish narrator, Elena, become women, wives, mothers, and leaders, all while maintaining a complex and at times conflictual friendship. Book one in the series follows Lila and Elena from their first fateful meeting as ten-year-olds through their school years and adolescence.

### **GIRLS BURN BRIGHTER** BY SHOBHA RAO

**"An unbelievably beautiful and harrowing story of friendship and devotion." - Book Riot**

Poornima and Savitha have three strikes against them: they are poor, they are ambitious, and they are girls. After her mother's death, Poornima has very little kindness in her life. She is left to care for her siblings until her father can find her a suitable match. So when Savitha enters their household, Poornima is intrigued by the joyful, independent-minded girl. Suddenly their Indian village doesn't feel quite so claustrophobic, and Poornima begins to imagine a life beyond arranged marriage. But when a devastating act of cruelty drives Savitha away, Poornima leaves behind everything she has ever known to find her friend.



### **ANOTHER BROOKLYN** BY JACQUELINE WOODSON

**"An engrossing novel about friendship, race, the magic of place and the relentlessness of change." - People Magazine**

Running into a long-ago friend sets memories from the 1970s in motion for August, transporting her to a time and a place where friendship was everything—until it wasn't. Jacqueline Woodson's *Another Brooklyn* heartbreakingly illuminates the formative time when childhood gives way to adulthood—the promise and peril of growing up—and exquisitely renders a powerful, indelible, and fleeting friendship that united four young lives.

### **FRIENDSHIP** BY EMILY GOULD

**"[A] biting, brilliant exploration of a modern female friendship." - Kirkus Reviews**

Bev Tunney and Amy Schein have been best friends for years, but now, at thirty, they're at a crossroads. Bev is stuck in a seemingly endless cycle of temping, drowning in student loan debt, and (still) living with roommates. Amy is riding the tailwinds of her early success, but her habit of burning bridges is finally catching up to her. And now Bev is pregnant. As the two are dragged, kicking and screaming, into real adulthood, they are confronted with the possibility that growing up might also mean growing apart.

