

C.C. Mellor 2022 Book Bingo Recommendations

Whether you're stuck on one of our Book Bingo categories or just looking for something new, these spoiler-free recommendations will keep things fresh.

A Graphic Novel

1. *On a Sunbeam*, by Tillie Walden

Two timelines. Second chances. One love. A ragtag crew travels to the deepest reaches of space, rebuilding beautiful, broken structures to piece the past together.

2. *The Secret to Superhuman Strength*, by Alison Bechdel

From the author of *Fun Home*, a profoundly affecting graphic memoir of Bechdel's lifelong love affair with exercise, set against a hilarious chronicle of fitness fads in our times.

3. *Belonging*, by Nora Krug

This "ingenious reckoning with the past" (*The New York Times*) by award-winning artist Nora Krug investigates the hidden truths of her family's wartime history in Nazi Germany.

Has a Blue Cover

1. *Mermaid Confidential*, by Tim Dorsey

Florida's "most lovable serial killer" Serge A. Storms and his sidekick decide to settle down in the Florida Keys, only to find themselves caught in the midst of a battle between residents and real estate investors, and a smuggling gang war to boot.

2. *Fates and Furies*, by Lauren Groff

Every relationship has two perspectives. And sometimes, the key to a great marriage is not its truths but its secrets. At the core of this rich, expansive, layered novel, Lauren Groff presents the story of one such marriage over the course of twenty-four years.

3. *The Water Dancer*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Born into slavery, Hiram discovers he possesses a mystical power and decides to use it to secure his freedom.

A Romance Novel

1. *While We were Dating*, by Jasmine Guillory

When Ben lands a huge ad campaign starring a major celebrity, his plans to continue with business as usual are quickly derailed as he and Anna immediately hit it off.

2. *The Love Hypothesis*, by Ali Hazelwood

Third-year PhD candidate Olive Smith doesn't believe in lasting romantic relationships - but her best friend does. And the hotshot young professor she convinced to pretend to be her fake boyfriend could put her theory to the test.

3. *One Last Stop*, by Casey McQuiston

August isn't expecting much during the grind of daily subway commutes—that is, until Jane appears. August is immediately enamored, but as they get to know each other, they encounter a problem that might be bigger than either of them.

300+ Pages

1. *The Madness of Crowds*, by Louise Penny

While the residents of the Québec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski and toboggan, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro and share meals together, the Chief Inspector finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request—or so it appears.

2. *Let the Record Show*, by Sarah Schulman

In just six years, ACT UP New York, a broad and unlikely coalition of activists from all races, genders, sexualities, and backgrounds, changed the world. This account of ACT UP's political history examines how a group of outcasts took on the AIDS crisis with an indefatigable, ingenious, and multifaceted attack.

3. *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, by Susanna Clarke

In the year 1806, in the throes of the Napoleonic Wars, most people believe magic to be dead in England--until the reclusive Mr. Norrell of Hurlfrew Abbey reveals his powers and becomes a celebrity overnight. Soon, another magician emerges; the young, handsome, and daring Jonathan Strange. He becomes Norrell's student, and the two join forces in the war against France.

A Nonfiction Book

1. *Evicted*, by Matthew Desmond

Princeton sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America's most devastating problems.

2. *Civil Rights Queen*, by Tomiko Brown-Nagin

The first major biography of Constance Baker Motley, an activist lawyer who became the first Black woman appointed to the federal judiciary. It provides an eye-opening account of the twin struggles for gender equality and civil rights in the 20th Century.

3. *Bad Blood*, by John Carreyrou

In 2014, Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes was widely seen as the next Steve Jobs: a brilliant Stanford dropout whose startup "unicorn" promised to revolutionize the medical industry. There was just one problem: The technology didn't work.

Published Less than 1 Year Ago

1. *Violeta*, by Isabel Allende

This sweeping novel tells the epic story of Violeta Del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century.

2. *Bittersweet*, by Susan Cain

Using a mix of research, storytelling, and memoir, author Susan Cain shows how a bittersweet state of mind is the quiet force that helps us transcend our personal and collective pain.

3. *The Book of Cold Cases*, by Simone St. James

A true crime blogger gets more than she bargained for while interviewing the woman acquitted of two cold case slayings.

Biography or Memoir

1. *Crying in H Mart*, by Michelle Zauner

From the indie rockstar of Japanese Breakfast fame, and author of the viral 2018 New Yorker essay that shares the title of this book, an unflinching, powerful memoir about growing up Korean-American, losing her mother, and forging her own identity.

2. *Punch Me Up to the Gods*, by Brian Broome

Punch Me Up to the Gods introduces a powerful new talent in Brian Broome, whose early years growing up in Ohio as a dark-skinned Black boy harboring crushes on other boys propel forward this gorgeous, aching, and unforgettable debut.

3. *Poet Warrior*, by Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo, the first Native American to serve as U.S. poet laureate, invites us to travel along the heartaches, losses, and humble realizations of her "poet-warrior" road.

Written by a Local Author

1. *Old Wood Shop*, by Charlie Brice

In collaboration with photographer and longtime friend Jim Hutt, Brice presents a collection of “poems and photographs in conversation with each other.”

2. *Wish You Were Here*, by Stewart O’Nan

A year after the death of her husband, Henry, Emily Maxwell gathers her family by Lake Chautauqua in western New York for what will be the last vacation at their summer cottage.

3. *We Show What We Have Learned*, by Clare Beams

The literary, historic, and fantastic collide in these wise and exquisitely unsettling stories. From bewildering assemblies in school auditoriums to the murky waters of a Depression-era health resort, Beams’s landscapes are tinged with other--worldliness, and her characters’ desires stretch the limits of reality.

Takes Place on a Beach

1. *Beach Read*, by Emily Henry

A romance writer who no longer believes in love and a literary writer stuck in a rut engage in a summer-long challenge that may just upend everything they believe about happily ever afters.

2. *The Island of Sea Women*, by Lisa See

Two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends that come from very different backgrounds. As the girls take up their positions as baby divers with their village’s all-female diving collective, they begin a life of excitement and responsibility but also danger.

3. *The Vacationers*, by Emma Straub

An irresistible, deftly observed novel about the secrets, joys, and jealousies that rise to the surface over the course of an American family’s two-week stay in Mallorca.

Published the Decade You Were Born

I don’t know when you were born, so if you need advisement for this category, ask a librarian to help you search for books by year!

A Young Adult Novel

1. *We Were Liars*, by E. Lockhart

A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends--the Liars--whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

2. *Long Way Down*, by Jason Reynolds

This is National Book Award finalist and New York Times bestseller Jason Reynolds's fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds--the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother.

3. *Heartstopper*, by Alice Oseman

Charlie and Nick are at the same school, but they've never met ... until one day when they're made to sit together. They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance.

A Fantasy Novel

1. *An Unkindness of Magicians*, by Kat Howard

In New York City, magic controls everything. But the power of magic is fading. No one knows what is happening, except for Sydney--a new, rare magician with incredible power.

2. *The Colour of Magic*, by Terry Pratchett

Terry Pratchett's maiden voyage through the now-legendary land of Discworld, a parallel time and place unbothered with the logic and numbers of our own. But the Disc's existence hinges upon the survival of one tourist and a "spectacularly inept" wizard to guard him.

3. *The Fifth Season*, by N.K. Jemisin

At the end of the world, a woman must hide her secret power and find her kidnapped daughter in this "intricate and extraordinary" novel of power, oppression, and revolution. The first installment in Jemisin's Hugo award-winning *Broken Earth* trilogy.

A Science Fiction Novel

1. *The Martian*, by Andy Weir

Mark Watney was nearly killed by a dust storm on Mars and was abandoned by his crew who thought him dead. Now he's all alone with no way of letting Earth know he's alive, but Mark won't let that stop him from trying to survive.

2. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams

After Earth is demolished to make way for a new hyperspatial expressway, Arthur Dent begins to hitchhike through space. Chronicles the off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, notions, and acquaintances of the galactic traveler.

3. *Heir to the Empire*, by Timothy Zahn

It's five years after the Rebel Alliance destroyed the second Death Star and defeated the evil Emperor. Princess Leia and Han Solo are married, and Luke Skywalker has become the first of the new Jedi Knights. But thousands of light-years away, the remaining Imperial forces are massing...

A National Book Award Winner

1. *The Friend*, by Sigrid Nunez (2018)

When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the dog he left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the dog's, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building.

2. *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker (1983)

The Color Purple documents the traumas and gradual triumph of Celie, an African American teenager raised in rural isolation in Georgia, as she comes to resist the paralyzing self-concept forced on her by others. Celie tells her story through letters written to God.

3. *Salvage the Bones*, by Jesmyn Ward (2011)

Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with their own challenges.

A Book Adapted for TV or Film

1. *The House of Gucci*, by Sara Gay Forden

Did Patrizia Reggiani murder her ex-husband, Maurizio Gucci, in 1995 because his spending was wildly out of control? Did she do it because her glamorous ex was preparing to marry his mistress, Paola Franchi? Or is there a possibility she didn't do it at all?

2. *Nine Perfect Strangers*, by Liane Moriarty

Nine people gather at a remote health resort. Amidst all of the luxury and pampering, they know these ten days might involve some real work. But none of them could imagine just how challenging the next ten days are going to be.

3. *Emma*, by Jane Austen

Twenty-one-year-old Emma Woodhouse is comfortably dominating the social order in the village of Highbury, convinced that she has both the understanding and the right to manage other people's lives--for their own good, of course. Like most twenty-one-year-olds, Emma Woodhouse is wrong.

Poetry or Drama

1. *Call Us What We Carry*, by Amanda Gorman

The breakout poetry collection by #1 New York Times bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman. Bursting with musical language and exploring themes of identity, grief, and memory,

this lyric of hope and healing captures an important moment in our country's consciousness while being utterly timeless.

2. *Devotions*, by Mary Oliver

Throughout her celebrated career, Mary Oliver has touched countless readers with her brilliantly crafted verse, expounding on her love for the physical world and the powerful bonds between all living things. Carefully curated and arranged by Oliver herself.

3. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde

From the play's effervescent beginnings in Algernon Moncrieff's London flat to its hilarious denouement in the drawing room of Jack Worthing's country manor in Hertfordshire, this comic masterpiece keeps audiences breathlessly anticipating a new bon mot or a fresh twist of plot moment to moment.

Historical Fiction

1. *The Women's March*, by Jennifer Chiaverini

Jennifer Chiaverini returns with *The Women's March*, an enthralling historical novel of the women's suffrage movement inspired by three courageous women who bravely risked their lives and liberty in the fight to win the vote.

2. *The Nickel Boys*, by Colson Whitehead

Based on the real story of a reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative of a Black boy in 1960s Tennessee unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory.

3. *The Book of Night Women*, by Marlon James

This novel follows Lillith, a girl born into slavery in Jamaica in the 1700s, and follows her as she and the other women plan a revolt and begin to dream bigger for their lives.

Published 100+ Years Ago

1. *Up from Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington

Born in a Virginia slave hut, Booker T. Washington rose to become the most influential spokesman for African Americans of his day. In this memoir, he describes a remarkable life that began in bondage and culminated in worldwide recognition for his many accomplishments.

2. *The Time Machine*, by H. G. Wells

The Time Traveler tests his new machine with a leap forward to the year 802,701 A.D., to find that evolution has produced two very different post-human races.

3. *Sense and Sensibility*, by Jane Austen

Jane Austen's first published novel, *Sense and Sensibility* is a wonderfully entertaining tale of flirtation and folly that revolves around two starkly different sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood.

Set in a Foreign Country

1. *A Rising Man*, by Abir Mukherjee

In the days of the Raj, a newly arrived Scotland Yard detective is confronted with the murder of a British official--in his mouth a note warning the British to leave India, or else...

2. *Fruit of the Drunken Tree*, by Ingrid Rojas Contreras

A mesmerizing debut set against the backdrop of the devastating violence of 1990's Colombia. A sheltered young girl and a teenage maid strike an unlikely friendship that threatens to undo them both.

3. *Under the Udala Trees*, by Chinelo Okparanta

Ijeoma comes of age with her nation; born before independence, she is eleven when civil war breaks out in Nigeria. Sent away to safety, she meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love.

Written by a Person of Color

1. *Of Women and Salt*, by Gabriela Garcia

A sweeping, masterful debut about a daughter's fateful choice, a mother motivated by her own past, and a family legacy that begins in Cuba before either of them were born.

2. *The Startup Wife*, by Tahmima Anam

In this "wise and wickedly funny novel about love, creativity, and the limitations of the tech-verse" (*Vogue*), newlyweds Asha and Cyrus find themselves running one of the most popular social media platforms in the world.

3. *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after running away from their small, southern Black community at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities.

A Mystery or Thriller

1. *The Thursday Murder Club*, by Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

2. *Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death*, by James Runcie

It is 1953, the coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II. Sidney Chambers, vicar of Grantchester and honorary canon of Ely Cathedral, is a 32-year-old bachelor. Tall, handsome, and with a reassuringly gentle manner, Sidney is an unconventional clerical detective.

3. *The Guest List*, by Lucy Foley

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

Has an LGBTQ+ Protagonist

1. *Detransition, Baby*, by Torrey Peters

A trans woman, her detransitioned ex, and his cisgender lover build an unconventional family together in the wake of heartbreak and an unplanned pregnancy.

2. *The Guncle*, by Steven Rowley

No longer the star of a hit TV series, Patrick O'Hara could not have imagined that his next leading role would be as caretaker of his brother's young children, but when Greg checks into rehab following the death of his wife, there seems no one better suited.

3. *Mostly Dead Things*, by Kristen Arnett

One morning, Jessa-Lynn Morton walks into the family taxidermy shop to find that her father has committed suicide. Jessa steps up to manage the failing business, while the rest of the Morton family crumbles. For the first time, Jessa has no choice but to learn who these people truly are, and ultimately how she fits alongside them.

A Debut Novel

1. *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen

The narrator is a communist double agent, a "man of two minds," a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who arranges to come to America after the Fall of Saigon. While building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles, he is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam.

2. *White Teeth*, by Zadie Smith

At the center of this invigorating novel are two unlikely friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal. Hapless veterans of World War II, Archie and Samad and their families become agents of England's irrevocable transformation.

3. *The Song of Achilles*, by Madeline Miller

Patroclus, an awkward young prince, has been exiled to the kingdom of Phthia to be raised in the shadow of King Peleus and his golden son, Achilles. Achilles is everything that shamed Patroclus is not, yet despite their differences, the boys become steadfast companions.

Written by a Woman

1. *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, by Amy Tan

Inspired by her own experiences with family secrets kept by one generation from the next, and drawn from a lifetime of questions and images, the result is *The Bonesetter's Daughter*.

2. *Outlawed*, by Anna North

The Crucible meets True Grit in this riveting adventure story of a fugitive girl, a mysterious gang of robbers, and their dangerous mission to transform the Wild West. In the year of our Lord 1894, I became an outlaw.

3. *The Devil Wears Prada*, by Lauren Weisberger

Andrea Sachs, a small-town girl fresh out of college, lands the job "a million girls would die for" as the assistant to Miranda Priestly, the high-profile, fabulously successful editor of Runway magazine. Andrea is sorely tested each and every day; she puts up with it all by keeping her eyes on the prize: a recommendation from Miranda.