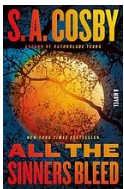


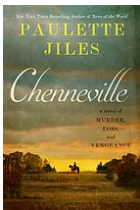


2024 Lariat Reading List



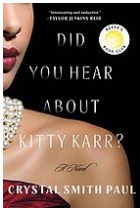
All the Sinners Bleed by S. A. Cosby (Flatiron an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)*

Cosby's Southern noir crime thriller takes the reader to Charon County, Virginia, where they are introduced to Titus Crown, the first Black sheriff, and a former FBI agent. When an active shooter opens fire in the high school and shoots a teacher, it leads to the discovery of a crime spree that is riddled with prejudice and its impact on small-town culture. The story grips the reader with dark philosophical undertones and reflects on society today.



Chenneville: A Novel of Murder, Loss, and Vengeance by Paulette Jiles (William Morrow an imprint of HarperCollins, 2023)*

When former Union soldier Jean-Luis (John) Chenneville returns home from the war, he discovers that his dear sister and her family have been brutally murdered. The killer is still on the loose and the law isn't going to do anything about it, so he decides he must bring the murderer to justice, no matter what the cost. John sets out to find him, though he is still not fully recovered from a head injury he sustained in the war. What follows is the story of his long, arduous, and sometimes dangerous pursuit of a man named Dodd in lawless, Post-Civil War country, from outside St. Louis, MO, all the way to San Antonio, TX.



Did You Hear About Kitty Karr? by Crystal Smith Paul (Henry Holt and Co. an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)

Paul's debut novel follows the St. John sisters who unexpectedly inherit a fortune from Hollywood icon and white actress, Kitty Karr. The world is left puzzled by the connection between a wealthy Black woman and the Hollywood star. As the reader delves into the pages, they uncover a multigenerational tale that covers a range of topics such as slavery, segregation, fame, and motherhood. One pull of the thread within the story and the connections begin to reveal themselves.



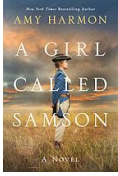
Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Faeries by Heather Fawcett (Del Rey an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)*

Academic Emily Wilde will go to any length to gather information for her nearly completed encyclopedia including the frozen north with a handsome colleague who just may be more faerie than scholar.



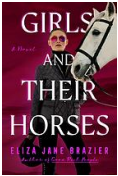
Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros (Red Tower an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)

An epic fantasy about a war college for dragon riders, a brutal place where half the students die before they graduate. Filled with fantastic world-building, magic, romance, and political intrigue, where wits are the only thing keeping you alive, you either fly or you die.



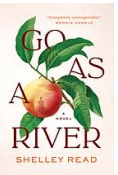
***A Girl Called Samson* by Amy Harmon (Lake Union Publishing an imprint of Amazon Publishing, 2023)**

Deborah Sampson spent her childhood as an indentured servant, cared for, but without family ties. She is fast, smart, strong, and can shoot; but as a woman can find no place in the Revolutionary War. As Samson she finds a new role in the middle of the war, but lives in terror - of the war and the revelation of her secret.



***Girls and Their Horses* by Eliza Jane Brazier (Berkley an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)**

In the competitive world of showjumping, the Parker family moves to Southern California for a fresh start in an affluent community. Heather, eager to provide her daughters a better life, immerses herself in the horse lifestyle, joining a group of affluent "Barn Moms." Dark secrets lead to deadly consequences in this hard edged coming of age story focusing on the complexities of female friendship.



Go as a River* by Shelley Read (Spiegel & Grau, 2023)

In small town of Iola, Colorado, people come from all over the state to buy Nash family peaches. Victoria's family orchard is the only location where peaches can thrive so well. But it is only the peaches that are thriving in her household full of men and even the small town itself. As Victoria falls in love, she has difficult choices to make, along with the town, as it, too, faces destruction. A beautiful debut novel of survival, love, loss and strength.



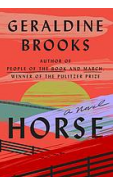
***Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea (Little, Brown and Company an imprint of Hachette, 2023)**

In 1943, Irene Woodward leaves an abusive fiancé in New York to join the Red Cross in Europe. Teaming up with friend Dorothy as Donut Dollies, they provide solace to soldiers on the front line. Inspired by his mother's Red Cross service, Luis Alberto Urrea highlights women's heroism in WWII through Irene's journey.



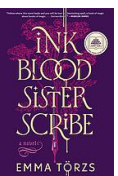
***Hello Stranger* by Katherine Center (St. Martin's Press an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)**

How would your life change if you suddenly couldn't recognize anybody you've met? Sadie Montgomery is coping with a sudden bout of face blindness while preparing for her big break as a portrait artist. With humor and warmth she challenges preconceived notions and falls in love in the sweetest love triangle imaginable.



Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (Viking an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2022)

Told from multiple viewpoints and timeframes, *Horse* is the well-researched, rich story of a relatively little-known record-setting 19th century American thoroughbred racehorse named Lexington. Brooks' novel is not only a story about a great racehorse, but also humanity's struggle with racism.



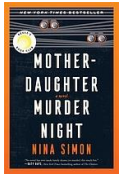
***Ink Blood Sister Scribe* by Emma Törzs (William Morrow an imprint of HarperCollins, 2023)**

Estranged half-sisters Esther and Joanna Kalotay, separated by secrets, must protect their family's magical books after their father's death. As they unravel the mystery and face their past, they learn to trust each other to safeguard their legacy from those with twisted motives. "Ink Blood Sister Scribe" is a spirited adventure, highlighting the power of family and keeping readers captivated to the last word.



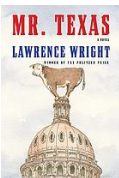
Maddie by Jessica George (St. Martin's Press an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)

A young woman, Maddie, is the primary caregiver for her ill father. When her mother returns from traveling and takes over his care, Maddie finally gets a chance to experience life in London. She experiences so many firsts: first date, first flat share, first love, and first career success. A beautiful story about finding yourself and the places where you belong.



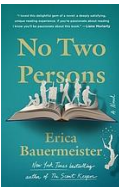
Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon (William Morrow an imprint of HarperCollins, 2023)

A humorous family drama with a twisty murder plot. When a man is found murdered in their small coastal town, 3 generations of women, grandmother, mother and daughter, must put aside their differences and come together to solve the case.



Mr. Texas by Lawrence Wright (Knopf an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)*

This novel is political fiction at its satirical best sprinkled with enough real characters and even better fictional ones to sustain the story of a West Texas rancher, Sonny Lamb. When Sonny decides to run for the State House of Representatives, he proposes to help fellow ranchers by passing a bill that would reclaim the water beneath their dry Texas soil. He quickly learns about the legislature, its powerful lobbyists, and even hunting wild pigs! Wright skillfully depicts Texas politics and all its quirky, nonsensical ways, while entertaining the reader with the exploits of a real Texas hero.



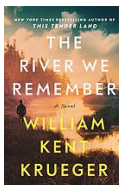
No Two Persons by Erica Bauermeister (St. Martin's Press an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)*

One book - a dozen short stories connected to that book. Whether the book is loved or hated, read or made into art, inspiration follows. Alice's debut novel comes after a life-altering event. Her words reach a homeless teenager, an injured freediver, an artist, an amorous bookseller, and a grieving widower; their experiences unveil new paths, showing how books connect our experiences.



The Quiet Tenant by Clémence Michallon (Knopf an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)

Respected family man Aidan Thomas hides that he's a kidnapper and serial killer. Moving with his daughter Cecilia, he brings captive Rachel along. As Rachel seeks an opportunity to escape, a connection forms with Cecilia. In "The Quiet Tenant," told through Rachel, Cecilia, and Emily's perspectives, the psychological impact of Aidan's crimes unfolds, exploring trauma, survival, and the bonds that empower these women.



The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger (Atria an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2023)*

In Krueger's newest stand-alone novel, the people of small-town Jewell, Minnesota come out to honor the sacrifice of their war dead on Memorial Day, 1958. They are shocked when they discover Jewell's wealthiest landowner has died in a gruesome manner, and rumors quickly circulate, accusing Native American WWII veteran Noah Bluestone of murder. Sheriff Brody Dern finds himself striving to keep a lid on possible violence breaking out as he investigates---an investigation that may dredge up too many secrets, including those of his own.



Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)

Become a part of the lives of creative comedy sketch writer Sally Milz when she must work with the weekly guest host, famous pop star musician Noah Brewster, to create scripts and dialogues. Their attraction is immediate but self-esteem and self preservation prevent any movement toward a future together. Readers will be drawn into the pages by punchy dialog, comedy show settings, glamorous lights, and multiple relationships, from New York to Kansas City to California during the time of a pandemic.



***The Spite House* by Johnny Compton (Tor Nightfire an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)**

This debut novel takes on grief and death as it explores the story of single-father, Eric Ross, and his two daughters as he tries to find work after fleeing their mysterious past in Maryland. He finds a job as a caretaker for the notoriously haunted Masson House in the Texas Hill Country with a huge payout but, the catch is he has to live in and document solid proof of paranormal activity for its owner without being driven to madness like all the previous tenants. As he uncovers the horrors of the house, he realizes the secrets are linked to his family more than he knows and that sometimes you can't keep running.



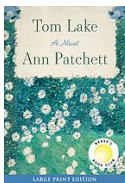
***Starling House* by Alix Harrow (Tor an imprint of Macmillan, 2023)**

This gothic, magical tale is about small town secrets and unnatural entities. Ever since her mother's death in the town of Eden, Opal has done what is needed to survive and care for her brother including taking up a cleaning job at the well-known haunted Starling House. Starling House is a cursed mansion that is just as strange and spooky as its current owner and heir, Arthur. As Opal works, she discovers evil forces that intertwine with her family's past—but she's not the only one interested in unearthing these secrets.



Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb (Knopf/Anchor an imprint of Penguin Random House, 2023)

Music professor Bern Hendricks receives the call of his dreams: the missing composition of his hero and he be the one to authenticate it. As the work unfolds, so do layers of secrets, some of which many people do not want exposed. In this propulsive dual timeline, Bern begins to see the danger in putting our heroes on too high a pedestal and how far people are willing to go to keep them up there.



Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (Harper an imprint of HarperCollins, 2023)

During the 2020 COVID Pandemic, former actress Lara Kennison's three daughters come back home to their cherry orchard to help bring in the season's harvest. While picking cherries they beg their mother to tell them about the short-lived romance she had while in her twenties with the famous actor Peter Duke. Patchett's novel is a look at the fun of summer stock theater and the innocence of young love, but also at what we choose to reveal when we convey our stories (especially to family) and the question of how well we can ever really know our parents.



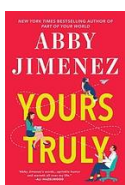
***Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus (MTV Books an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2023)**

While scuba diving, Jay Gardiner is swallowed whole by a sperm whale. To escape alive Jay must remember everything his dead father taught him about the ocean while reckoning with the toxic masculine parenting of his father. Scientifically accurate, the thrilling escape from each of the beast's four stomachs is wrenching in this singular coming of age story.



***Yellowface* by R. F. Kuang (William Morrow an imprint of HarperCollins, 2023)**

Two rival authors, when one dies in a freak accident the other steals an unpublished manuscript and publishes it. What follows is a humorous, unflattering look behind the scenes of the book industry and the roles social media and marketing play in publishing. It also tackles tough questions about race and heritage and who has the right to tell diverse stories.



***Yours Truly* by Abby Jimenez (Forever an imprint of Hachette, 2023)**

Emergency room drama endears the reader to Dr. Briana Ortiz who has an uncontrolled temper that entertains. Humorous situations and venting her emotions help this doctor survive her marital disappointments and the daily mental and physical health challenges of her job, including her brother's desperate need for a kidney transplant. Will she find the emotional strength for a new romantic relationship?

* denotes top 10 books