



From the Library - De la bibliothèque

# The Bookshelf Chronicles Chroniques des étagères

April - avril 2026

**Les bibliothèques sont essentielles**

**- Libraries Matter -**

**Libraries are as critical now as they have ever been.**

Safe spaces where all are welcome, havens of democracy, and keepers of truth, libraries do all this primarily by preserving stories and narratives and resources that allow people the opportunity to be transported to the past, to the future, to other places, to other worlds, to different ways of thinking and living; in doing so, readers develop empathy, sympathy, respect, and tolerance, ultimately revealing the beauty of the differences and similarities of humanity. How can we not love places such as libraries that help make us better people and better members of our community?



***Les bibliothèques sont aujourd'hui plus essentielles que jamais.***

*Espaces sûrs et accueillants, havres de démocratie et gardiennes de la vérité, elles accomplissent tout cela principalement en préservant des récits, des témoignages et des ressources qui permettent de voyager dans le passé, vers l'avenir, vers d'autres lieux, d'autres mondes, vers d'autres façons de penser et de vivre. Ce faisant, les lecteurs développent empathie, compassion, respect et tolérance, révélant ainsi la beauté des différences et des similitudes de l'humanité. Comment ne pas aimer ces lieux qui contribuent à faire de nous de meilleures personnes et de meilleurs membres de notre communauté ?*

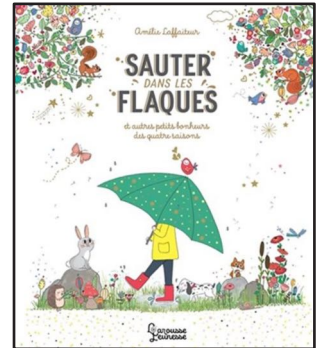


## Children Juveniles

### Sauter dans les Flaques - Amélie Lafafaiteur

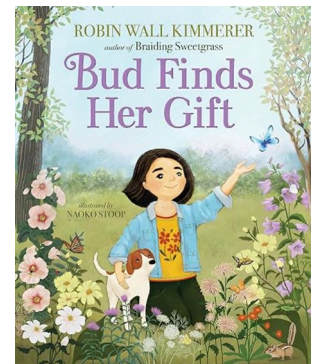
Quoi de plus agréable que de cueillir les premières fleurs des champs au printemps, sauter dans les flaques en automne, décorer le sapin en hiver et chercher des trèfles à quatre feuilles au printemps ?

Ce bel album présente 28 petits bonheurs de la vie au rythme des saisons qui passent. Enfants ou adultes, tous aiment vivre et revivre ces jolis moments de l'année ! Sous la plume et le crayon d'Amélie Biggs Laffaiteur, les bonheurs s'habillent de douceur, de poésie et d'une naïveté intemporelle : la chaleureuse...



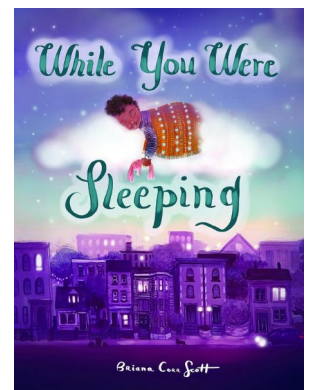
### Bud Finds Her Gift - Robin Wall Kimmerer

When young Bud sees people bustling around, intent on their chores and their screens, she is certain they must be doing important things—and she wants to be included. But wise Nokomis, her grandmother, shows her that there is a different way to find belonging, one that relies on stillness and observing the natural world. As Bud discovers the freely given gifts of the Earth, she wonders if she has something important to give back: What is her gift? Infused with warmth, humor, and insight, and beautifully illustrated by Naoko Stoop, the first picture book by renowned author and Indigenous ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer inspires readers to treasure nature's generosity and the gifts each one of us can share with the Earth.



### While You Were Sleeping - Briana Corr Scott

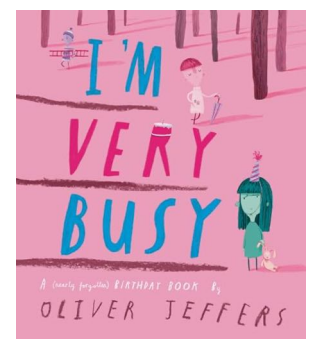
While You Were Sleeping follows a diverse range of families from childhood to adulthood, highlighting the unsung activities parents engage in while their young ones are asleep. Whether it's wallpapering their baby's bedroom, making lunches for school, earning degrees, washing dishes, or taking their child for a soothing walk in the stroller. This book offers a fresh, modern perspective on how both children and their parents grow up, together.



### I'm very Busy - Oliver Jeffers

It's Bridget's birthday, and she thinks it would be fun to spend the day with friends. But Royal has places to go, Rodney has to see a man about a dog, Regis has to wash his hair, and Pearl has a list of items she needs to cross off as quickly as she can. Bridget's friends are all too busy to hang out!

Will Bridget have to spend her birthday all alone? A story that shows how friends are more important than the busy-ness of a day,





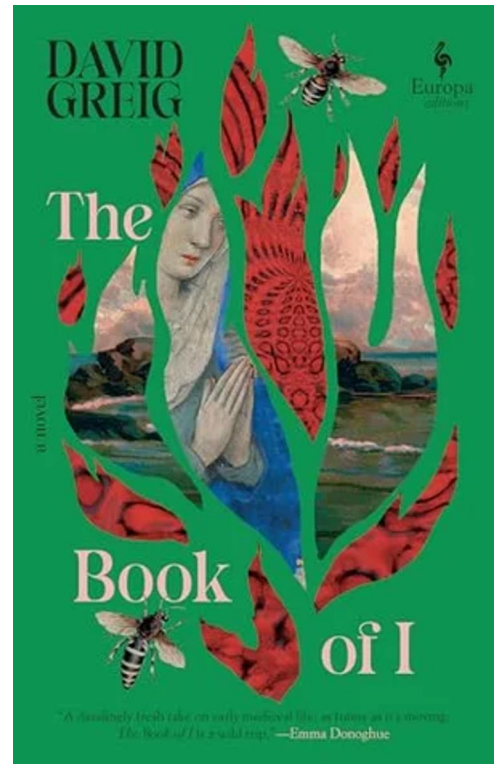
## ***Two book reviews by Lynda Attack***

### **The Book of I by David Greig**

The Book of I is the most interesting and funny book I've read in awhile. Set in 825 on the tiny Scottish island of I, (now Iona), the story opens with a Viking massacre (I know, keep reading).

In the aftermath of the massacre, most inhabitants move to the mainland, but a few survivors stay put and build their own community. One is young Brother Martin, a monk who hid during the Viking raid and now wishes to atone by rebuilding the sacked monastery. Also staying on is Una, a woman who was happily widowed by the Vikings and makes a delicious mead, and an aging Viking, Grimur, who was wounded and got left behind by his fellow warriors.

The book starts with a massacre and ends with absolution and transformation of the survivors. Only 160 pages long, Greig makes his characters real and interesting, gives us plenty to think about and will make you laugh out loud.

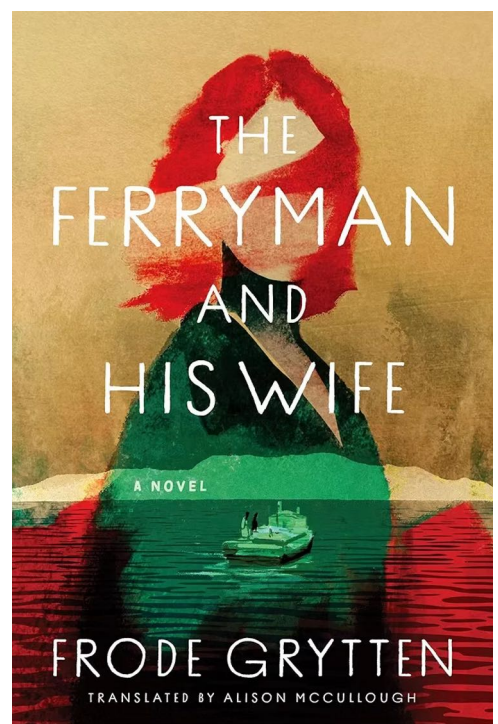


### **The Ferryman and His Wife by Norwegian author Frode Grytten**

is a novel that follows ferryman Nils Vik on the final day of his life—a day he greets with calm acceptance. Nils wakes up knowing he will die, yet proceeds with his routine, boarding his ferry for one last journey. The book has a magical or supernatural feel: Along the way, Nils is joined by people who have died before him including family, ferry passengers and even his dog.

The story is told quietly and slowly, there is essentially no plot. Each person Nils meets tells a different story of love, regret or loss. The writing is quiet and poetic, and Nils' reflections on his love for his wife are wonderful. The author's description of the fjord the ferryman passes through, and it's presence in the story, is powerful. The story suggests that a life's significance lies not in grand achievements, but in small, often overlooked experiences.

Beautifully written, thoughtful, and highly recommended.



## Theo of golden - Levi Allen L664

One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, Theo of Golden is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder

## The Last Love Song - Lucinda Riley Fic R 573

The author wrote this nearly 20 years before embarking on her immensely popular Seven Sisters series, which have been greatly enjoyed by our members. This edition has been reworked by her son, who also completed her final book The Story of Pa Salt.

Sorcha O'Donovan dreams of an exciting life beyond the West Cork coastline where she has grown up. When she encounters the town's strikingly handsome outcast, struggling musician Con Daly, her days will never be the same.

When Con strikes gold with rock band The Fishermen in London, he and Sorcha look set for a rosy future. But their lives change beyond recognition as the dark side of fame rears its head. Death threats follow Con around, and devastating secrets from the past threaten to destroy everything he has worked for.

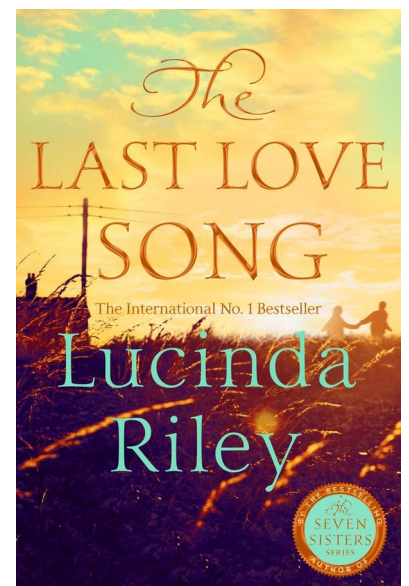
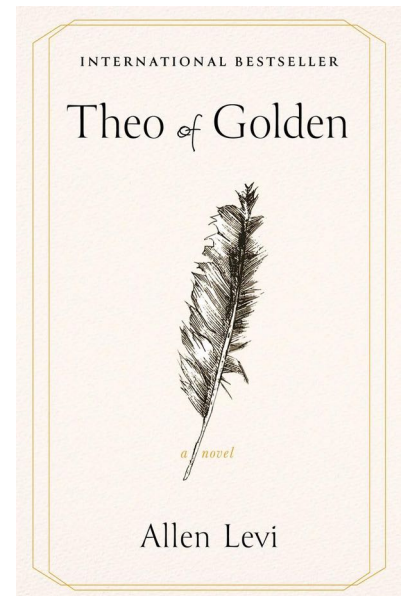
Twenty years later, and The Fishermen agree to reform for the massive 'Music for Life' charity concert at Wembley stadium. But Con Daly, heartthrob and spokesman for a generation, has been missing for over a decade.

There's only one person who can find out what happened, who has access to the lives, loves and careers of all concerned as The Fishermen rose to worldwide fame. Only one person who knows how vital it is to uncover the truth, because should Con Daly reappear before the facts emerge, then history could repeat itself with even more tragic consequences.

## Une pension en Italie de Philippe Besson. ROM B559

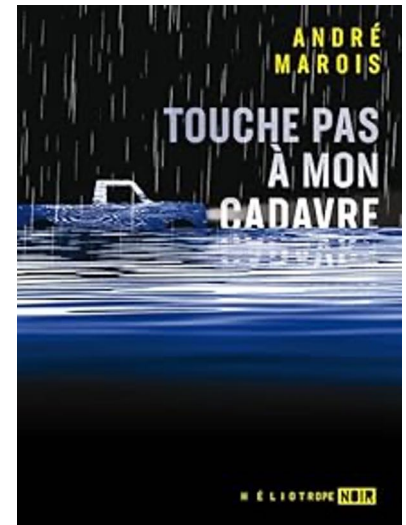
Milieu des années 60, en Toscane. - Un été caniculaire. - Une famille française en villégiature. - Un événement inattendu. - Des vies qui basculent irrémédiablement. - Un secret qui s'impose aussitôt. - Un écrivain, héritier de cette histoire, en quête de la vérité.

Mêlant suspense et sensualité, Une pension en Italie est un roman solaire sur le prix à payer pour être soi, en écho à Chambre avec vue et Sur la route de Madison.



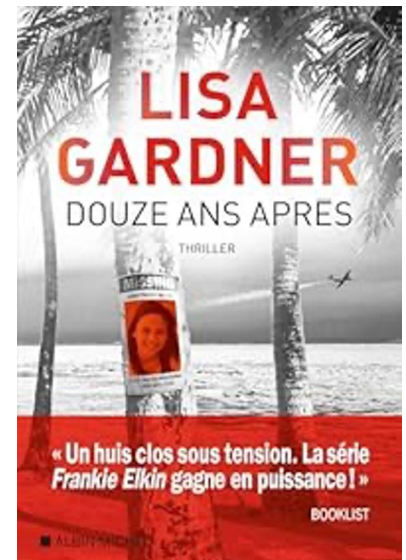
## **Touche pas à mon cadavre de André Marois.** ROM M354

Depuis qu'il a été arrêté en état d'ébriété, Roger, un entrepreneur en bâtiment, fait preuve d'une prudence exemplaire au volant de son pick-up. Jusqu'au soir où, par une pluie torrentielle sur le chemin du Parc, pressé de rentrer boire une bière ou quatre, il percute à mort un cycliste. Craignant pour son permis, Roger décide de cacher le corps dans un coffre en attendant de pouvoir le faire disparaître pour de bon. Sauf que la Mastigouche en crue le devance et emporte avec elle le coffre dans ses eaux déchaînées. Heureusement pour Roger, sa voisine Jacqueline a un marché à lui proposer...



## **Douze ans après de Lisa Gardner.** ROM G227

Spécialisée dans les affaires classées, Frankie Elkin recherche les personnes disparues. Kaylee Pierson est dans le couloir de la mort après avoir tué 18 hommes. Alors que son exécution approche, elle tient une piste sur la disparition de sa soeur, Leilani, douze ans auparavant. Elle demande à Frankie d'enquêter sur un atoll du Pacifique, où un magnat de la technologie la retiendrait peut-être.



## **Des nouvelles de Martha de Marie Laberge.** ROM L117

Martha prend la plume le jour où la cadette de ses trois enfants quitte le foyer. Elle écrit son désarroi, mais se surprend à secouer la poussière de ce qu'elle tenait auparavant pour acquis. C'est une Martha énergique qui témoigne de ces moments cruciaux qui traversent sa vie et celle des siens. Les plaisirs, les choix parfois discutables des enfants, les deuils, l'égoïsme tentaculaire de certains, la possibilité d'un amour vrai : tout ce qui constitue sa nouvelle vie, nous le découvrons en même temps qu'elle.

De janvier 2009 jusqu'à décembre 2011, plus de 100 000 abonnés ont reçu tous les quinze jours, par la poste, les lettres de Martha qui ont formé au fil de ces trois années un roman épistolaire complet. L'extraordinaire succès de cette entreprise tout aussi inouïe qu'audacieuse est venu confirmer l'attachement très fort que Marie Laberge sait créer pour ses personnages.

Quinze ans plus tard, pour la première fois, ces lettres sont reprises sous forme de livre, permettant aux fidèles de Martha de la retrouver et à un nouveau public de la découvrir.

L'eau et la flamme de Annemarie Brear. ROM B828

L'homme qui plantait des arbres de Florence Lebonvallet. BD ROM L122.



## L'eau et la flamme de Annemarie Brear. ROM B828

En 1870, dans un port de commerce d'Angleterre, Meg doit prendre soin de ses jeunes frères et sœurs et de sa mère malade. La jeune femme aspire à une vie bien différente, loin de la pauvreté. Cependant, elle s'est fait la promesse de ne jamais quitter sa famille et de les aider à survivre.

De l'autre côté de la ville, Christian vient d'hériter de la fortune familiale bâti sur le commerce maritime. Mais il ne supporte plus l'avidité et la froideur de la « bonne » société. Riche, brillant, le jeune homme n'hésite pas à se mêler aux petites gens des quais, et c'est ainsi qu'il tombe sous le charme de Meg dont le courage l'impressionne.

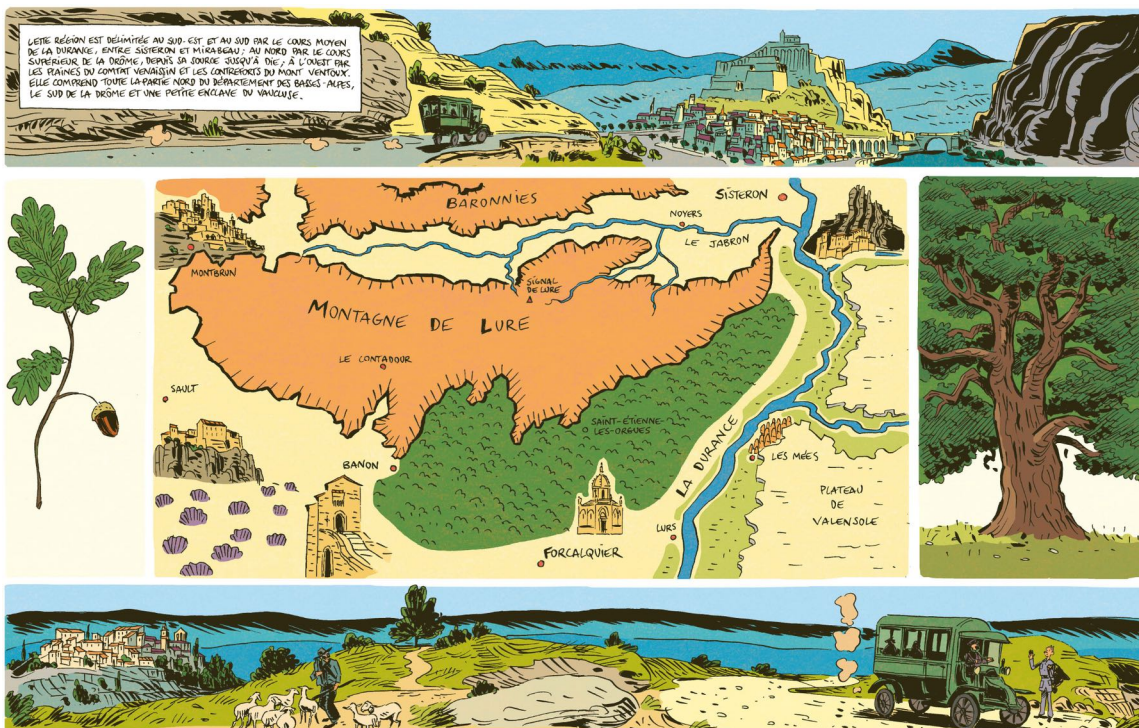
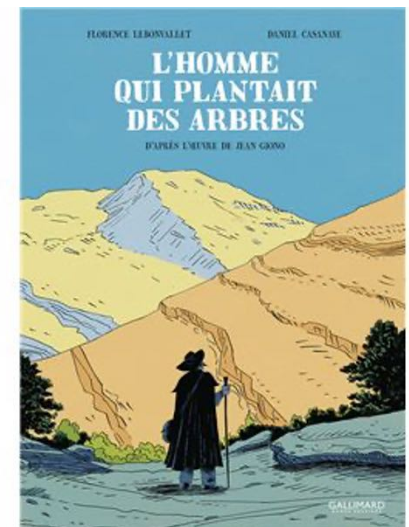
Mais comment pourraient-ils imaginer un seul instant être ensemble ? Dans un monde où tout les sépare, céder aux sentiments pourrait créer des drames qu'ils ne sont peut-être pas prêts à surmonter. Et qu'arriverait-il à la famille de Meg dont elle s'est jurée de s'occuper ?



## L'homme qui plantait des arbres de Florence Lebonvallet. BD ROM L122.

Une fable d'une inspirante modernité.

Elzéard Bouffier, berger solitaire des Alpes arides et venteuses de Haute-Provence, comprend un jour que son pays meurt par manque d'arbres. Il se donne alors une mission d'une simplicité qui confine au merveilleux : planter des arbres. Des centaines de milliers d'arbres.





## **Featured Book of the Month**

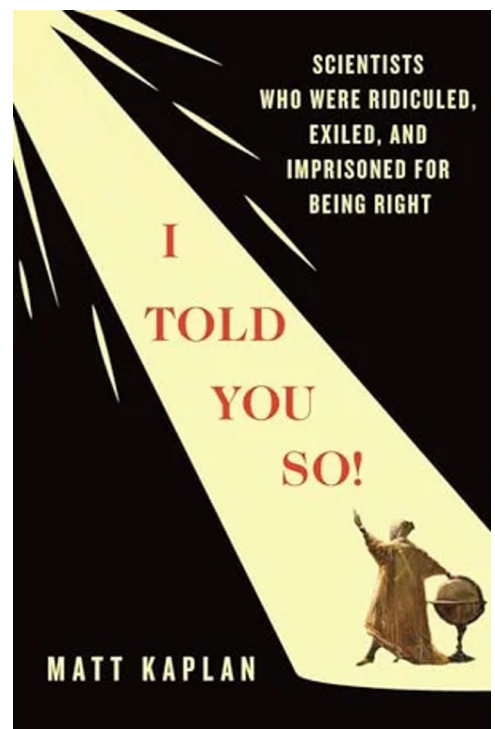
### **I Told You So! Scientists Who Were Ridiculed, Exiled, and Imprisoned for Being Right - Matt Kaplan**

An eloquent plea for reforming research funding and reducing bias in grant awards and peer review journals.

Science tends to reward researchers from prestigious universities, who are usually English-speaking, white elderly males, writes Kaplan, a science correspondent for the Economist. Because of this bias, we lose the valuable voices of minority and immigrant researchers.

In this informative study, Kaplan tells the stories of many heroes of science, including the Hungarian doctor in 1800s Austria who noticed that women giving birth in hospitals that used cadavers for teaching purposes died at a higher rate—as did their newborns—than those at hospitals that used other teaching tools. Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis reasoned that because doctors didn't wash their hands between corpse diving and baby delivery in the hospitals using cadavers, they transferred bacteria that often killed their obstetric patients and their newborns. Hostile hospital administrators, apparently seeing trouble if the news got out, fired Semmelweis and got him exiled back to Hungary.

Perhaps the best recent example of “I told you so” is the story of Kati Karikó, on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania when she discovered that messenger RNA could help prevent disease from certain viruses. If the body's immune cells could recognize attacks, that could prevent widespread infection in the body, Karikó reasoned. The key to making that happen was an mRNA-based vaccine that would set up the body to attack a virus if it appeared. When Karikó couldn't get research grant money, the university first demoted her, then “threw [her] out of her lab.” The happy part of her story is that Karikó found a job at a company called BioNTech, which recognized when Covid-19 hit that she had the key to creating a vaccine to fight it. Her research led to the Covid-19 mRNA vaccine, which helped save millions of lives. Karikó and her colleague won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2023, perhaps the ultimate revenge for a scorned scientist.



*As a (long retired) scientist I would like to be able to say that none of this happens in today's world ... but the story of Kati Karikó rather puts the lie to that. This is quite fascinating, and extremely well written and enjoyable dive into the past that I read out of curiosity and would commend to anyone. An eye opener.*

RG

## Homeschooled: a *memoire* - Stefan Merrill Block

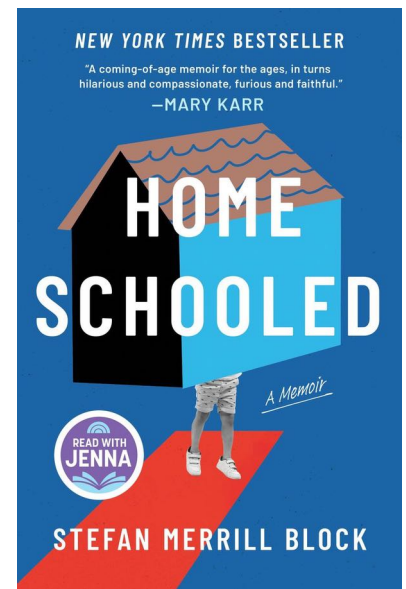
A heartbreaking, empowering, often hilarious debut memoir about a mother's all-consuming love, a son's perilous quest to discover the world beyond the front door and the unregulated homeschool system that impacts millions like him

Stefan Merrill Block was nine when his mother pulled him from school, certain that his teachers were "stifling his creativity." Hungry for more time with her boy who was growing up too quickly, she began to instruct Stefan in the family's living room. Beyond his formal lessons in math, however, Stefan was largely left to his own devices and his mother's erratic whims, such as her project to recapture her twelve-year-old son's early years by bleaching his hair and putting him on a crawling regimen.

In this "stunning debut memoir" (Jenna Bush Hager, *The Today Show*), Block beautifully reflects on his experiences in both traditional and at-home education systems, delving into:

- The inception of the homeschooling movement and its massive rise throughout America
- Early memories of Block's mother, and a poignant look into their dysfunctional mother-son story
- Block's reentry into the public school system, both jarring yet insightful, and the bullying he withstood
- His emotional journey towards forgiveness, love, and hope as he becomes a parent himself

At once a novelistic portrait of mother and son, and an illuminating window into an overlooked corner of the American education system, *Homeschooled* is a moving, funny and ultimately inspiring story of a son's battle for a life of his own choosing, and the wages of a mother's insatiable love.

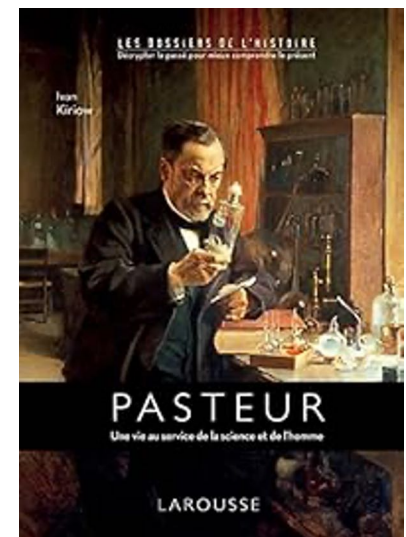


## Louis Pasteur de Ivan Kirion. 921 P291 FR

En ces temps où les grandes épidémies sont autant de menaces qui envahissent jusqu'à nos écrans de cinéma, redécouvrez dans cette synthèse pédagogique et détaillée les travaux de Louis Pasteur, qui inventera en 1885 le vaccin contre la rage.

Né en 1822 à Dole, Pasteur met au point la vaccination par inoculation de cultures de bactéries atténuées. Grâce à lui, on soigne désormais la maladie du charbon ainsi que la rage, qui fait alors de nombreux morts chaque année en France. À côté de ses travaux sur les maladies infectieuses, le savant fait aussi plusieurs découvertes dont la pasteurisation, un procédé de conservation des aliments par la chaleur. Des découvertes aujourd'hui tellement assimilées qu'on en a oublié qui les a faites et comment !

Clair, élégant et richement illustré, cet ouvrage vous donnera les clés pour comprendre les travaux et inventions de Louis Pasteur, qui sont devenus absolument essentiels dans notre monde contemporain.



## La théorie laisse-le donc faire de Mel Robbins. 158.1 R635 FR

Deux mots simples vont changer votre vie !

Vous avez du mal à atteindre vos objectifs ou à être plus heureux ? Le problème ne vient pas de vous. Le problème, c'est le pouvoir que vous donnez aux autres.

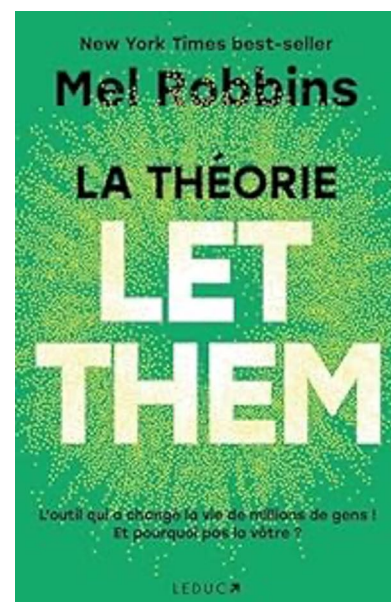
Dans ce livre, vous apprendrez comment deux mots – Let Them (laissez-les) – peuvent vous délivrer de l'opinion et du jugement d'autrui. Vous serez alors libéré du besoin épuisant de vouloir tout contrôler autour de vous.

Une vie meilleure vous attend.

La théorie Let Them est une méthode éprouvée pour préserver votre temps et votre énergie et vous concentrer sur ce qui compte vraiment. Rechercher l'approbation des autres, faire leur bonheur et laisser leurs opinions vous refréner vous a exténué. Découvrez comment ne plus gaspiller vos ressources et créer une vie où vos rêves, vos objectifs et votre bonheur passeront en premier.

La théorie Let Them est un outil simple dont des millions de gens parlent parce qu'il fonctionne ! Le moyen le plus rapide de prendre les rênes de votre existence est d'arrêter de vouloir maîtriser l'incontrôlable et de vous concentrer sur l'essentiel : vous-même.

En laissant les autres vivre leur vie, vous pouvez enfin vivre la vôtre.





## **Junior:**

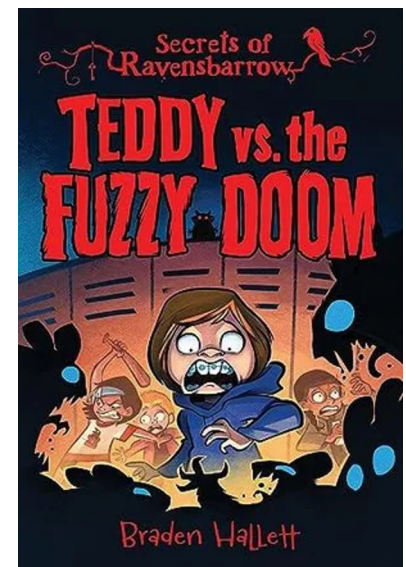
### **Robot Island by Cary Fagan**

Willis is on the run after stealing several rare books from the library of the wealthy Mrs. Shorthouse. Willis' Uncle Tod, his neglectful guardian, an unscrupulous, unsuccessful used bookshop owner, is the mastermind behind these crimes. He set the boy up with a job reading to the elderly woman and then instructed him to acquire specific books. When Willis turns on the electricity that powers a robot town, a project of the late Mr. Shorthouse that's hidden on a lake island, the helpful, personable robots resume jobs they last performed in 1955. The island community is a quirky, retro, mid-century suburban wonderland, and robot Nathan618 offers Willis the kind of care parents might have given him—routines, regular meals, notes in his packed lunches. Willis' friends Harrison Choi (who comes from a loving Korean American family) and Galaxi Katzenberg ("her parents wanted her to have an anything-is-possible sort of name") are determined to find their missing friend despite his recent rude behavior. Willis is earnest and perceptive, a boy whom readers will root for who's drawn a harsh lot in life. Most of the third-person point-of-view chapters follow Willis, but Harrison and Galaxi have their own sections as well. The ending satisfyingly wraps up a story that's worth a large and willing suspension of disbelief. Most cast members present white



### **Teddy vs the Fuzzy Doom (Secrets of Ravensbarrow) by Braden Hallett**

Formerly known to all as "Pukey Bear" after chronic anxiety issues caused him to vomit onstage before his entire school, Teddy hopes to make a fresh start at Ravensbarrow Elementary, deep in the Canadian pine woods. But his arrival coincides with that of a horde of hamsters with the terrifying power to turn everyone into mind-controlled zombie puppets. As it turns out, being doused in milk can turn them back into cute, harmless rodents—but, alas, even a slight taste or mention of the revolting stuff gives Teddy monumental heaves. Fortunately, Teddy finds ready allies in a remedial class of, as he puts it, "oddly inclusive weirdos," including blue-haired Tienna, who has "impulse control" issues, and Shane, who insists that he "can read, just slowly." Unfortunately, the invading hamsters turn out to be crafty as well as evil, and when push comes to shove, there's only one way to stop them—or as Tienna repeatedly puts it, "Sometimes you've just gotta drink the milk!" Hallett floods the pages with monochrome views of pop-eyed, comically terrified students, menacingly toothy hamsters, and glassy-eyed victims; the results of Teddy's frequent upheavals are, happily, confined to soggy puddles and outsized sound effects. Teddy reads white; supporting characters present as racially diverse.

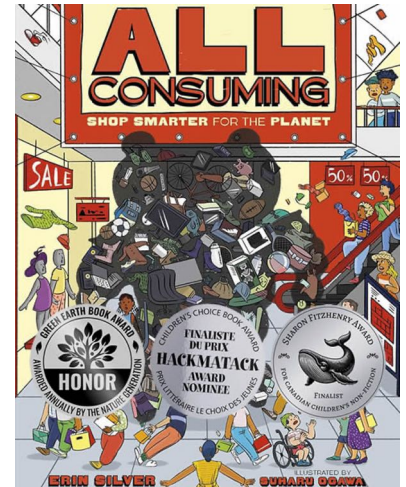


YA:

## All Consuming: Shop Smart for the Planet by Erin Silver

There's always more to buy, buy, buy. Kids love trendy clothes, the latest electronics, fast food and even plastic gift cards. Sales draw us in, shiny new gadgets have us going ga-ga and personalized pop-up ads on our social media feeds have us frantically buying things—and throwing them out—without a second thought. You can't see the pollution the way you can see smog in the air or a forest that's been chopped down. But our buying habits and obsession with the latest and greatest are affecting the planet.

All the things we need, want and gotta have are responsible for big environmental problems. But making small changes in what and how often you buy can have an impact. All Consuming shows the pros and cons of making different choices when it comes to buying the things you love. It also shines a spotlight on kids who are bringing about change and offers ways you can help out too.



## You Can Be an Activist by Charlene Rocha and Mary Beth Leatherdale

This comprehensive guide will empower all kids to turn their frustrations with injustice into action. Through colorful graphics, easy-to-comprehend charts, and informational sections, Rocha and Leatherdale take typically complex information and break it down into a middle grade-friendly format. Pulling from her experience as a youth activist, Rocha combines personal experience with brief interviews from other young activists to encourage readers that they can make a difference. The coauthors write from a place that uplifts kids and asserts that their ideas and their lived experiences matter. The undertone of the book is not only that readers should become activists to work toward a better planet, but they should also become activists because what they do and who they are is important. By naming typical self-sabotaging rhetoric (e.g., “I’m not a public speaker,” “I don’t have a large following,” “I’m just one kid”), Rocha and Leatherdale are able to proactively remind all young people that anyone is capable of being an activist. Throughout, there are invaluable resources: guidance on finding reliable information, public speaking, letter and email templates, networking advice, self-care tips, and more. Back matter includes web resources, glossary, and an index.





## Une langue universelle

À Winnipeg, Nazgol et Hossein tentent d'aider un ami à récupérer un billet de banque iranien. En parallèle le personnage de Matthew Rankin quitte Montréal pour Winnipeg où il rencontrera Massoud un guide qui prend soin de la mère de Rankin

## Ma belle-mère est une sorcière

When her parents split, Margot finds a mysterious woman living with her dad. Convinced she's a witch, the troubled preteen seeks help from Mrs. Dalloway, an occult expert, to remove this stranger and reunite her family.

## les Furies

Women in Montreal and Waterloo must fight for their ice time when a men's semi-pro hockey team claims their regular arena, threatening their established sports community.



Joining a local library is not only about borrowing books but also about accessing a vital, non-commercial opportunity for lifelong learning and community cohesion. Libraries democratize information by providing free, curated access to resources and safe physical spaces that reduce the isolation sometimes found in small towns. Libraries can act as "third places" strengthening the social fabric necessary for resilient communities. Access points to knowledge which ensure a healthy, adaptable society.

- *American Library Association. (2023). "The Value of Public Libraries."*
- *UNESCO. (2022). "Public Library Manifesto."*