

Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

Young Jane Young
The Art of Racing in the Rain
Emerald City and Other Stories
How to Find Love in a Bookshop
Migratory Animals
The Invisible Woman
The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry
All These Things I've Done
Margarettown
In the Age of Love and Chocolate
Angry Housewives
Eating Bon Bons
Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore
The Dinner List
The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend
After the Race
Letters from Skye
The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry
Because It Is My Blood
House of Trelawney
Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac
Camp
The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry
Some Hope
The Invoice
America for Beginners
Short Stories
Edgar and Lucy
An Unnecessary Woman
Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore
Heap House
The Hole We're In
Roots and Sky
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society
The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry
Elsewhere
The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry
The Book of Speculation
The Middlesteins
Saving CeeCee Honeycutt
A Shot at Normal

Young Jane Young

This internationally bestselling sensation is a 'funny, tender, and moving' (Library Journal, starred review) tale about community, books and second chances set in a world you won't want to leave. A.J. Fikry, the grumpy owner of Island Books, is going through a hard time: his bookshop is failing, he has lost his beloved wife, and his prized possession—a rare first edition book has been stolen. Over time, he has given up on people, and even the books in his store,

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly. But one day A.J. finds two-year-old Maya sitting on the bookshop floor, with a note attached to her asking the owner to look after her. His life - and Maya's - is changed forever. Gabrielle Zevin's enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love. Originally published as *The Collected Works of A. J. Fikry*. 'Readers who delighted in Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Rachel Joyce's *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and Jessica Brockmole's *Letters from Skye* will be equally captivated by this adult novel by a popular YA author about a life of books, redemption, and second chances. Funny, tender, and moving' *Library Journal*, starred review 'This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory' Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child*

The Art of Racing in the Rain

In *After the Race*, college senior and congressional intern, Alexandra Alt, confronts the social paradoxes that confounded a generation as she struggles to define herself and decide her own future, ultimately confronting the one unplanned event that could derail all her plans and disrupt her family bonds.

Emerald City and Other Stories

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY A sweeping story told in letters, spanning two continents and two world wars, Jessica Brockmole's atmospheric debut novel captures the indelible ways that people fall in love, and celebrates the power of the written word to stir the heart. March 1912: Twenty-four-year-old Elspeth Dunn, a published poet, has never seen the world beyond her home on Scotland's remote Isle of Skye. So she is astonished when her first fan letter arrives, from a college student, David Graham, in far-away America. As the two strike up a correspondence—sharing their favorite books, wildest hopes, and deepest secrets—their exchanges blossom into friendship, and eventually into love. But as World War I engulfs Europe and David volunteers as an ambulance driver on the Western front, Elspeth can only wait for him on Skye, hoping he'll survive. June 1940: At the start of World War II, Elspeth's daughter, Margaret, has fallen for a pilot in the Royal Air Force. Her mother warns her against seeking love in wartime, an admonition Margaret doesn't understand. Then, after a bomb rocks Elspeth's house, and letters that were hidden in a wall come raining down, Elspeth disappears. Only a single letter remains as a clue to Elspeth's whereabouts. As Margaret sets out to discover where her mother has gone, she must also face the truth of what happened to her family long ago. Sparkling with charm and full of captivating period detail, *Letters from Skye* is a testament to the power of love to overcome great adversity, and marks Jessica Brockmole as a stunning new literary voice. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. Praise for *Letters from Skye* "Letters from Skye is a captivating love story that celebrates the power of hope to triumph over time and circumstance."—Vanessa Diffenbaugh, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Language of Flowers* "[A] remarkable story of two women, their loves,

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

their secrets, and two world wars . . . [in which] the beauty of Scotland, the tragedy of war, the longings of the heart, and the struggles of a family torn apart by disloyalty are brilliantly drawn, leaving just enough blanks to be filled by the reader's imagination."—Publishers Weekly (starred review) "Tantalizing . . . sure to please readers who enjoyed other epistolary novels like *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*."—Stratford Gazette "An absorbing and rewarding saga of loss and discovery."—Kate Alcott, New York Times bestselling author of *The Dressmaker* "A sweeping and sweet (but not saccharine) love story."—USA Today "[A] dazzling little jewel."—Richmond Times-Dispatch From the Trade Paperback edition.

How to Find Love in a Bookshop

Presents a novel of hope, love, and redemption.

Migratory Animals

Young Clod Iremonger and his eccentric family, the "kings of mildew, moguls of mold, † ? made their fortune from this collected detritus. The Iremongers are an odd old family, each the owner of the birth object they must keep with them at all times. Clod is perhaps the oddest of all—his gift and his curse is that he can hear all of the objects of Heap House whispering. Yes, a storm is brewing over Heap House and the house's many objects are showing strange signs of life. Clod is on the cusp of being "trousered † ? and married off (unhappily) to his cousin Pinalippy

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

when he meets the plucky orphan servant Lucy Pennant, with whose help he begins to uncover the dark secrets of his family's empire. The first installment of the Iremonger Trilogy, *Heap House* introduces readers to a gloriously imagined dark world whose inhabitants come alive on the page—and in Edward Carey's fantastical illustrations. *Heap House* is a book that will appeal to fans of Neil Gaiman, Roald Dahl and Mervyn Peake, young and old alike. Mystery, romance, and the perils of the Heaps await!

The Invisible Woman

A New York Times and USA Today Bestseller "A heartwarming tale about literature's power to transform." — People A heartwarming reminder of why we are booklovers, this is a sweet, smart story about how books find us, change us, and connect us. Once you let a book into your life, the most unexpected things can happen *Broken Wheel*, Iowa, has never seen anyone like Sara, who traveled all the way from Sweden just to meet her book-loving pen pal, Amy. When she arrives, however, she finds Amy's funeral guests just leaving. The residents of *Broken Wheel* are happy to look after their bewildered visitor—there's not much else to do in a dying small town that's almost beyond repair. You certainly wouldn't open a bookstore. And definitely not with the tourist in charge. You'd need a vacant storefront (Main Street is full of them), books (Amy's house is full of them), and customers. The bookstore might be a little quirky. Then again, so is Sara. But *Broken Wheel's* own story might be more eccentric and surprising than she thought.

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry

Special Free Preview! In the spirit of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, Gabrielle Zevin's enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--and booksellers--that changes our lives by giving us the stories that open our hearts and enlighten our minds. On the faded Island Books sign hanging over the porch of the Victorian cottage is the motto "No Man Is an Island; Every Book Is a World." A. J. Fikry, the irascible owner, is about to discover just what that truly means. A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. Slowly but surely, he is isolating himself from all the people of Alice Island--from Lambiase, the well-intentioned police officer who's always felt kindly toward Fikry; from Ismay, his sister-in-law who is hell-bent on saving him from his dreary self; from Amelia, the lovely and idealistic (if eccentric) Knightley Press sales rep who keeps on taking the ferry over to Alice Island, refusing to be deterred by A.J.'s bad attitude. Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. These days, A.J. can only see them as a sign of a world that is changing too rapidly. And then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore. It's a small package, but large in weight. It's that unexpected arrival that gives A. J. Fikry the opportunity to make his life over, the ability to see everything anew. It doesn't take long for the locals to notice the change overcoming A.J.; or for that determined sales rep, Amelia, to see her curmudgeonly client in a new light; or for the wisdom of all those books to become again the lifeblood of A.J.'s world; or for everything to twist again into a version of his life that he didn't see coming. As surprising as

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

it is moving, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* is an unforgettable tale of transformation and second chances, an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love.

All These Things I've Done

From the author of the acclaimed *Jack of Hearts* (and other parts) comes a sweet and sharp screwball comedy that critiques the culture of toxic masculinity within the queer community. Sixteen-year-old Randy Kapplehoff loves spending the summer at Camp Outland, a camp for queer teens. It's where he met his best friends. It's where he takes to the stage in the big musical. And it's where he fell for Hudson Aaronson-Lim -- who's only into straight-acting guys and barely knows not-at-all-straight-acting Randy even exists. This year, however, it's going to be different. Randy has reinvented himself as 'Del' -- buff, masculine, and on the market. Even if it means giving up show tunes, nail polish, and his unicorn bedsheets, he's determined to get Hudson to fall for him. But as he and Hudson grow closer, Randy has to ask himself: How much is he willing to change for love? And is it really love anyway, if Hudson doesn't know who he truly is?

Margarettown

No reading group should be without this companion guide to Gabrielle Zevin's novel, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*. A comprehensive guide to this contemporary bestseller, this

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

discussion aid includes all the information you need to get your book club discussion going: useful literary context; an author biography; full plot synopsis; themes; character analysis; discussion questions; recommended further reading and a quick quiz.

In the Age of Love and Chocolate

“SLY, EXHILARATING . . . HILARIOUS.” —People (Book of the Week) This is the story of five women . . . Meet Rachel Grossman. She’ll stop at nothing to protect her daughter, Aviva, even if it ends up costing her everything. Meet Jane Young. She’s disrupting a quiet life with her daughter, Ruby, to seek political office for the first time. Meet Ruby Young. She thinks her mom has a secret. She’s right. Meet Embeth Levin. She’s made a career of cleaning up her congressman husband’s messes. Meet Aviva Grossman. The Internet won’t let her or anyone else forget her past transgressions. This is the story of five women and the sex scandal that binds them together. From Gabrielle Zevin, the bestselling author of *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, comes another story with unforgettable characters that is particularly suited to the times we live in now . . .

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons

A gleeful and exhilarating tale of global conspiracy, complex code-breaking, high-tech data visualization, young love, rollicking adventure, and the secret to eternal life—mostly set in a

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

hole-in-the-wall San Francisco bookstore The Great Recession has shuffled Clay Jannon out of his life as a San Francisco Web-design drone—and serendipity, sheer curiosity, and the ability to climb a ladder like a monkey has landed him a new gig working the night shift at Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore. But after just a few days on the job, Clay begins to realize that this store is even more curious than the name suggests. There are only a few customers, but they come in repeatedly and never seem to actually buy anything, instead "checking out" impossibly obscure volumes from strange corners of the store, all according to some elaborate, long-standing arrangement with the gnomic Mr. Penumbra. The store must be a front for something larger, Clay concludes, and soon he's embarked on a complex analysis of the customers' behavior and roped his friends into helping to figure out just what's going on. But once they bring their findings to Mr. Penumbra, it turns out the secrets extend far outside the walls of the bookstore. With irresistible brio and dazzling intelligence, Robin Sloan has crafted a literary adventure story for the twenty-first century, evoking both the fairy-tale charm of Haruki Murakami and the enthusiastic novel-of-ideas wizardry of Neal Stephenson or a young Umberto Eco, but with a unique and feisty sensibility that's rare to the world of literary fiction. Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore is exactly what it sounds like: an establishment you have to enter and will never want to leave, a modern-day cabinet of wonders ready to give a jolt of energy to every curious reader, no matter the time of day.

Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore

A “sharply funny and sobering . . . portrait of a family in financial free fall” from the New York

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

Times – bestselling author of *Young Jane Young* (People). With *The Hole We're In*—a bold, timeless, yet all too timely novel about a troubled American family navigating an even more troubled America—award-winning author and screenwriter, Gabrielle Zevin, delivers a work that places her in the ranks of our shrewdest social observers and top literary talents. Meet the Pomeroy: a church-going family living in a too-red house in a Texas college town. Roger, the patriarch, has impulsively gone back to school, only to find his future ambitions at odds with the temptations of the present. His wife, Georgia, tries to keep things afloat at home, but she's been feeding the bill drawer with unopened envelopes for months and never manages to confront its swelling contents. In an attempt to climb out of the holes they've dug, Roger and Georgia make a series of choices that have catastrophic consequences for their three children—especially for Patsy, the youngest, who will spend most of her life fighting to overcome them. *The Hole We're In* shines a spotlight on some of the most relevant issues of today: over-reliance on credit, gender and class politics, and the war in Iraq. But it is Zevin's deft exploration of the fragile economy of family life that makes this a book for the ages. “Blazing . . . Sharp . . . The Corrections for our recessionary times . . . [Zevin] establishes herself as an astute chronicler of the way we spend now.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

The Dinner List

When Christie Purifoy arrived at Maplehurst that September, she was heavily pregnant with both her fourth child and her dreams of creating a sanctuary that would be a fixed point in her

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

busily spinning world. The sprawling Victorian farmhouse sitting atop a Pennsylvania hill held within its walls the possibility of a place where her family could grow, where friends could gather, and where Christie could finally grasp and hold the thing we all long for--home. In lyrical, contemplative prose, Christie slowly unveils the small trials and triumphs of that first year at Maplehurst--from summer's intense heat and autumn's glorious canopy through winter's still whispers and spring's gentle mercies. Through stories of planting and preserving, of opening the gates wide to neighbors, and of learning to speak the language of a place, Christie invites readers into the joy of small beginnings and the knowledge that the kingdom of God is with us here and now. Anyone who has felt the longing for home, who yearns to reconnect with the beauty of nature, and who values the special blessing of deep relationships with family and friends will love finding themselves in this story of earthly beauty and soaring hope.

The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend

One of BuzzFeed's 24 Best Fiction Books of 2015 "As Simon, a lonely research librarian, searches frantically for the key to a curse that might be killing the women in his family, he learns strange and fascinating secrets about their past. A tale full of magic and family mystery, *The Book of Speculation* will keep you up all night reading."—Isaac Fitzgerald, BuzzFeed
Simon Watson, a young librarian, lives alone in a house that is slowly crumbling toward the Long Island Sound. His parents are long dead. His mother, a circus mermaid who made her living by holding her breath, drowned in the very water his house overlooks. His younger sister,

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

Enola, ran off six years ago and now reads tarot cards for a traveling carnival. One June day, an old book arrives on Simon's doorstep, sent by an antiquarian bookseller who purchased it on speculation. Fragile and water damaged, the book is a log from the owner of a traveling carnival in the 1700s, who reports strange and magical things, including the drowning death of a circus mermaid. Since then, generations of "mermaids" in Simon's family have drowned--always on July 24, which is only weeks away. As his friend Alice looks on with alarm, Simon becomes increasingly worried about his sister. Could there be a curse on Simon's family? What does it have to do with the book, and can he get to the heart of the mystery in time to save Enola? In the tradition of Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants*, Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus*, and Elizabeth Kostova's *The Historian*, *The Book of Speculation*--with two-color illustrations by the author--is Erika Swyler's moving debut novel about the power of books, family, and magic.

After the Race

From the author of *The Improbability of Love*: a dazzling novel both satirical and moving, about an eccentric, dysfunctional family of English aristocrats, and their crumbling stately home that reminds us how the lives and hopes of women can still be shaped by the ties of family and love. For more than seven hundred years, the vast, rambling Trelawney Castle in Cornwall--turrets, follies, a room for every day of the year, four miles of corridors and 500,000 acres--was the magnificent and grand "three dimensional calling card" of the earls of Trelawney. By 2008, it is in a complete state of ruin due to the dulled ambition and the financial

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

ineptitude of the twenty-four earls, two world wars, the Wall Street crash, and inheritance taxes. Still: the heir to all of it, Kitto, his wife, Jane, their three children, their dog, Kitto's ancient parents, and his aunt Tuffy Scott, an entomologist who studies fleas, all manage to live there and keep it going. Four women dominate the story: Jane; Kitto's sister, Blaze, who left Trelawney and made a killing in finance in London, the wildly beautiful, seductive, and long-ago banished Anastasia and her daughter, Ayesha. When Anastasia sends a letter announcing that her nineteen-year-old daughter, Ayesha, will be coming to stay, the long-estranged Blaze and Jane must band together to take charge of their new visitor--and save the house of Trelawney. But both Blaze and Jane are about to discover that the house itself is really only a very small part of what keeps the family together.

Letters from Skye

Marisa Reichardt's *A Shot at Normal* is a powerful and timely novel about justice, agency, family, and taking your shot, even when it seems impossible. Dr. Villapando told me to get a good attorney. He wasn't serious. But I am. I'm going to sue my parents. Juniper Jade's parents are hippies. They didn't attend the first Woodstock, but they were there for the second one. The Jade family lives an all-organic homeschool lifestyle that means no plastics, no cell phones, and no vaccines. It isn't exactly normal, but it's the only thing Juniper has ever known. She doesn't agree with her parents on everything, but she knows that to be in this family, you've got to stick to the rules. That is, until the unthinkable happens. Juniper contracts the measles and unknowingly passes the disease along, with tragic consequences. She is shell-

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

shocked. Juniper knows she is responsible and feels simultaneously helpless and furious at her parents, and herself. Now, with the help of Nico, the boy who works at the library and loves movies and may just be more than a friend, Juniper comes to a decision: she is going to get vaccinated. Her parents refuse so Juniper arms herself with a lawyer and prepares for battle. But is waging war for her autonomy worth losing her family? How much is Juniper willing to risk for a shot at normal?

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry

These eleven masterful stories - the first collection from acclaimed author Jennifer Egan - deal with loneliness and longing, regret and desire. Egan's characters, models and housewives, bankers and schoolgirls, are united by their search for something outside their own realm of experience. They set out from locations as exotic as China and Bora Bora, as cosmopolitan as downtown Manhattan, or as familiar as suburban Illinois to seek their own transformations. Elegant and poignant, the stories in Emerald City are seamless evocations of self-discovery.

Because It Is My Blood

Relegated to the care of an eccentric great-aunt after her mentally unbalanced mother's accidental death, 12-year-old CeeCee is quickly surrounded by the strong women and cultural elements of her new Savannah community.

House of Trelawney

A heartfelt exploration of the cost of life and love—and the importance of the little things—from the author of the international bestseller, *The Room* Hilarious, profound, and achingly true-to-life, Jonas Karlsson's new novel explores the true nature of happiness through the eyes of hero you won't soon forget. A passionate film buff, our hero's life revolves around his part-time job at a video store, the company of a few precious friends, and a daily routine that more often than not concludes with pizza and movie in his treasured small space in Stockholm. When he receives an astronomical invoice from a random national bureaucratic agency, everything will tumble into madness as he calls the hotline night and day to find out why he is the recipient of the largest bill in the entire country. What is the price of a cherished memory? How much would you pay for a beautiful summer day? How will our carefree idealist, who is content with so little and has no chance of paying it back, find a way out of this mess? All these questions pull you through *The Invoice* and prove once again that Jonas Karlsson is simply a master of entertaining, intelligent, and life-affirming work. From the Hardcover edition.

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

Meet Enzo, the unforgettable canine narrator of this bittersweet and transformative story of family, love, loyalty, and hope. Enzo is a philosopher with a nearly human soul, and he's gained a wealth of knowledge from hours spent in front of the TV.

Camp

Some Hope is the third of Edward St Aubyn's semi-autobiographical series, The Patrick Melrose Novels, filmed for Sky Atlantic and starring Benedict Cumberbatch as aristocratic addict, Patrick. Patrick Melrose, cleaned-up and world-weary, is a reluctant guest at a glittering party deep in the English countryside. Amid a crowd of flitting social dragonflies, he finds his search for redemption and capacity for forgiveness challenged by his observation of the cruelties around him. Armed with his biting wit and a newly fashioned openness, can Patrick, who has been to the furthest limits of experience and back again, find release from the savageries of his childhood? This title was originally published, along with Never Mind and Bad News, as part of a three book omnibus, also called Some Hope.

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry

A wide-ranging fictional portrait of life in postwar America by an acclaimed New Yorker short story writer and #1 New York Times – bestselling novelist. Irwin Shaw was a star of the New Yorker's fiction pages in the 1930s and '40s. His prose helped shape the landscape of post-war fiction, and his work drew from a remarkable life that spanned from American football fields to European battlefields, Broadway to Hollywood, Depression-era saloons to the McCarthy hearings. Among these sixty-three stories are iconic works such as “The Eighty-Yard Run,” a tale of an American dream crippled on Black Monday, and “Main Currents in American

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

Thought,” in which a hack radio copywriter is tormented by the glitz of show business. Through the decades, Shaw’s writing—as demonstrated in these pages—maintains the clear-eyed moral purpose, rich in wit and startling insight, of a tough kid with a philosopher’s soul. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Irwin Shaw including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the author’s estate.

Some Hope

Delicious but never indulgent, sweet with just the right amount of bitter, Rebecca Serle's *The Dinner List* is a romance for our times. Bon appetit! A Bustle Book Club Selection “I have five words for Rebecca Serle’s *The Dinner List*: wistful, delicious, romantic, magical, love.” —Gabrielle Zevin, New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* and *Young Jane Young* “We’ve been waiting for an hour.” That’s what Audrey says. She states it with a little bit of an edge, her words just bordering on cursive. That’s the thing I think first. Not: Audrey Hepburn is at my birthday dinner, but Audrey Hepburn is annoyed.” At one point or another, we’ve all been asked to name five people, living or dead, with whom we’d like to have dinner. Why do we choose the people we do? And what if that dinner was to actually happen? These are the questions Rebecca Serle contends with in her utterly captivating novel, *The Dinner List*, a story imbued with the same delightful magical realism as *One Day*, and the life-changing romance of *Me Before You*. When Sabrina arrives at her thirtieth birthday dinner she finds at the table not just her best friend, but also three significant people from her past, and well, Audrey Hepburn. As the appetizers are served, wine poured, and dinner table

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

conversation begins, it becomes clear that there's a reason these six people have been gathered together.

The Invoice

If Naomi had picked tails, she would have won the coin toss. She wouldn't have had to go back for the yearbook camera, and she wouldn't have hit her head on the steps. She wouldn't have woken up in an ambulance with amnesia. She certainly would have remembered her boyfriend, Ace. She might even have remembered why she fell in love with him in the first place. She would understand why her best friend, Will, keeps calling her "Chief." She'd know about her mom's new family. She'd know about her dad's fiancé. She never would have met James, the boy with the questionable past and the even fuzzier future, who tells her he once wanted to kiss her. She wouldn't have wanted to kiss him back. But Naomi picked heads. After her remarkable debut, Gabrielle Zevin has crafted an imaginative second novel all about love and second chances. *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac* is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

America for Beginners

Recalling contemporary classics such as *Americanah*, *Behold the Dreamers*, and *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, a funny, poignant, and insightful debut novel that explores the

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

complexities of family, immigration, prejudice, and the American Dream through meaningful and unlikely friendships forged in unusual circumstances. Pival Sengupta has done something she never expected: she has booked a trip with the First Class India USA Destination Vacation Tour Company. But unlike other upper-class Indians on a foreign holiday, the recently widowed Pival is not interested in sightseeing. She is traveling thousands of miles from Kolkata to New York on a cross-country journey to California, where she hopes to uncover the truth about her beloved son, Rahi. A year ago Rahi devastated his very traditional parents when he told them he was gay. Then, Pival's husband, Ram, told her that their son had died suddenly—heartbreaking news she still refuses to accept. Now, with Ram gone, she is going to America to find Rahi, alive and whole or dead and gone, and come to terms with her own life. Arriving in New York, the tour proves to be more complicated than anticipated. Planned by the company's indefatigable owner, Ronnie Munshi—a hard-working immigrant and entrepreneur hungry for his own taste of the American dream—it is a work of haphazard improvisation. Pival's guide is the company's new hire, the guileless and wonderfully resourceful Satya, who has been in America for one year—and has never actually left the five boroughs. For modesty's sake Pival and Satya will be accompanied by Rebecca Elliot, an aspiring young actress. Eager for a paying gig, she's along for the ride, because how hard can a two-week "working" vacation traveling across America be? Slowly making her way from coast to coast with her unlikely companions, Pival finds that her understanding of her son—and her hopes of a reunion with him—are challenged by her growing knowledge of his adoptive country. As the bonds between this odd trio deepens, Pival, Satya, and Rebecca learn to see America—and themselves—in different and profound new ways. A bittersweet and bighearted tale of

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

forgiveness, hope, and acceptance, *America for Beginners* illuminates the unexpected enchantments life can hold, and reminds us that our most precious connections aren't always the ones we seek.

Short Stories

"Every time I think I'm out, they pull me back in."- Michael Corleone, *The Godfather* Since her release from Liberty Children's Facility, Anya Balanchine is determined to follow the straight and narrow. Unfortunately, her criminal record is making it hard for her to do that. No high school wants her with a gun possession charge on her rap sheet. Plus, all the people in her life have moved on: Natty has skipped two grades at Holy Trinity, Scarlet and Gable seem closer than ever, and even Win is in a new relationship. But when old friends return demanding that certain debts be paid, Anya is thrown right back into the criminal world that she had been determined to escape. It's a journey that will take her across the ocean and straight into the heart of the birthplace of chocolate where her resolve--and her heart--will be tested as never before. Because *It Is My Blood* is the second novel in Gabrielle Zevin's *Birthright* series.

Edgar and Lucy

Hanging over the porch of the tiny New England bookstore called *Island Books* is a faded sign with the motto "No Man Is an Island; Every Book Is a World." A.J. Fikry, the irascible owner, is

Free Reading Storied Life Of Aj Fikry

about to discover just what that truly means. A.J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. His wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. Even the books in his store have stopped holding pleasure for him. These days, A.J. can only see them as a sign of a world that is changing too rapidly. And then a mysterious package appears at the bookstore. It's a small package, but large in weight. It's that unexpected arrival that gives A.J. the opportunity to make his life over, the ability to see everything anew. It doesn't take long for the locals to notice the change overcoming him or for a determined sales rep named Amelia to see her curmudgeonly client in a new light. The wisdom of all those books again become the lifeblood of A.J.'s world and everything twists into a version of his life that he didn't see coming. As surprising as it is moving, *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* is an unforgettable tale of transformation and second chances, an irresistible affirmation of why we read and why we love.

An Unnecessary Woman

For more than thirty years, Edie and Richard Middlestein shared a solid family life together in the suburbs of Chicago. But now things are splintering apart, for one reason, it seems: Edie's enormous girth. She's obsessed with food--thinking about it, eating it--and if she doesn't stop, she won't have much longer to live. When Richard abandons his wife, it is up to the next generation to take control. Robin, their schoolteacher daughter, is determined that her father pay for leaving Edie. Benny, an easy-going, pot-smoking family man, just wants to smooth

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things over. And Rachelle-- a whippet thin perfectionist-- is intent on saving her mother-in-law's life, but this task proves even bigger than planning her twin children's spectacular b'nai mitzvah party. Through it all, they wonder: do Edie's devastating choices rest on her shoulders alone, or are others at fault, too? With pitch-perfect prose, huge compassion, and sly humor, Jami Attenberg has given us an epic story of marriage, family, and obsession. *The Middlesteins* explores the hopes and heartbreaks of new and old love, the yearnings of Midwestern America, and our devastating, fascinating preoccupation with food.

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore

A February 2015 Indie Next Selection A January Apple eBook Selection An Austin American-Statesman Selects Book A powerful debut novel about a group of 30-somethings struggling for connection and belonging, *Migratory Animals* centers on a protagonist who finds herself torn between love and duty. When Flannery, a young scientist, is forced to return to Austin from five years of research in Nigeria, she becomes split between her two homes. Having left behind her loving fiancé without knowing when she can return, Flan learns that her sister, Molly, has begun to show signs of the genetic disease that slowly killed their mother. As their close-knit circle of friends struggles with Molly's diagnosis, Flannery must grapple with what her future will hold: an ambitious life of love and the pursuit of scientific discovery in West Africa, or the pull of a life surrounded by old friends, the comfort of an old flame, family obligations, and the home she's always known. But she is not the only one wrestling with uncertainty. Since their college days, each of her friends has faced unexpected challenges that make them reevaluate

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the lives they'd always planned for themselves. A mesmerizing debut from an exciting young writer, *Migratory Animals* is a moving, thought-provoking novel, told from shifting viewpoints, about the meaning of home and what we owe each other—and ourselves.

Heap House

In 2083, chocolate and coffee are illegal, paper is hard to find, water is carefully rationed, and New York City is rife with crime and poverty. And yet, for Anya Balanchine, the sixteen-year-old daughter of the city's most notorious (and dead) crime boss, life is fairly routine. It consists of going to school, taking care of her siblings and her dying grandmother, trying to avoid falling in love with the new assistant D.A.'s son, and avoiding her loser ex-boyfriend. That is until her ex is accidentally poisoned by the chocolate her family manufactures and the police think she's to blame. Suddenly, Anya finds herself thrust unwillingly into the spotlight--at school, in the news, and most importantly, within her mafia family. From Gabrielle Zevin--the author of the critically acclaimed *Elsewhere*--comes *All These Things I've Done*, a masterful novel about an impossible romance, a mafiya family, and the ties that forever bind us.

The Hole We're In

“An extraordinary profile of immense courage and daring.”—Chanel Cleeton, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before We Left Cuba* “If you only read one WWII book this year, make it

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this one."—Natasha Lester, New York Times bestselling author of *The Paris Orphans* In the depths of war, she would defy the odds to help liberate a nation...a gripping historical novel based on the remarkable true story of World War II heroine Virginia Hall, from the bestselling author of Hemingway's *Girl France*, March 1944. Virginia Hall wasn't like the other young society women back home in Baltimore—she never wanted the debutante ball or silk gloves. Instead, she traded a safe life for adventure in Europe, and when her beloved second home is thrust into the dark days of war, she leaps in headfirst. Once she's recruited as an Allied spy, subverting the Nazis becomes her calling. But even the most cunning agent can be bested, and in wartime trusting the wrong person can prove fatal. Virginia is haunted every day by the betrayal that ravaged her first operation, and will do everything in her power to avenge the brave people she lost. While her future is anything but certain, this time more than ever Virginia knows that failure is not an option. Especially when she discovers what—and whom—she's truly protecting.

Roots and Sky

“A lively story as delectable as a five-pound box of chocolates . . . a thoroughly engaging chronicle of friendship and the substantive place it holds in women’s lives.”—Anne D. LeClaire, author of *Leaving Eden* The women of Freesia Court are convinced that there is nothing good coffee, delicious desserts, and a strong shoulder can’t fix. Laughter is the glue that holds them together—the foundation of a book group they call AHEB (Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons), an unofficial “club” that becomes much more. It becomes a lifeline. Holding on through

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forty eventful years, there's Faith, a lonely mother of twins who harbors a terrible secret that has condemned her to living a lie; big, beautiful Audrey, the resident sex queen who knows that with good posture and an attitude you can get away with anything; Merit, the doctor's shy wife with the face of an angel and the private hell of an abusive husband; Kari, a wise woman with a wonderful laugh who knows that the greatest gifts appear after life's fiercest storms; and finally, Slip, a tiny spitfire of a woman who isn't afraid to look trouble straight in the eye. This stalwart group of friends depicts a special slice of American life, of stay-at-home days and new careers, of children and grandchildren, of bold beginnings and second chances, in which the power of forgiveness, understanding, and the perfectly timed giggle fit is the CPR that mends broken hearts and shattered dreams. "It is impossible not to get caught up in the lives of the book group members. . . . Landvik's gift lies in bringing these familiar women to life with insight and humor."—The Denver Post "A guilty pleasure . . . This light, snappy read may be [Landvik's] best yet."—Midwest Living

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

The beloved, life-affirming international bestseller which has sold over 5 million copies worldwide - now a major film starring Lily James, Matthew Goode, Jessica Brown Findlay, Tom Courtenay and Penelope Wilton To give them hope she must tell their story It's 1946. The war is over, and Juliet Ashton has writer's block. But when she receives a letter from Dawsey Adams of Guernsey – a total stranger living halfway across the Channel, who has come across her name written in a second hand book – she enters into a correspondence with him, and in

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time with all the members of the extraordinary Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Through their letters, the society tell Juliet about life on the island, their love of books – and the long shadow cast by their time living under German occupation. Drawn into their irresistible world, Juliet sets sail for the island, changing her life forever.

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry

In the playful tradition of *The Time Traveler's Wife* comes an enchanting story about love in its many forms, and a man's timeless journey into the unknowable territory of the woman he loves. From the moment they first sleep together -- piled atop seven mattresses in her dorm room -- N. is pulled ineluctably into a rich and enchanted relationship with Margaret Towne, a woman who will introduce him to worlds he never dreamed existed. Written as a final letter from N. to his young daughter, Jane, Margarettown recounts the story of his relationship with Margaret. Margaret Towne is the name of the woman he loves and of the town she introduces him to, Margarettown. It is a place both real and imagined, located somewhere in upstate New York and home to a mysterious "family" of women named Old Margaret, Marge, Mia, Maggie, and May. In this strange and fantastical place, N. and Margaret become joined forever. Margarettown is a story of what it takes to love the same person for a lifetime and about the impossibility of really knowing anything about who it is we have come to love.

Elsewhere

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Don't miss Gabrielle Zevin's new novel, *Young Jane Young*, coming in August 2017. A New York Times Bestseller, a #1 Indie Next Pick, and a #1 LibraryReads Selection “This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory.” —Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child* A. J. Fikry, the irascible owner of Island Books, has recently endured some tough years: his wife has died, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and his prized possession--a rare edition of Poe poems--has been stolen. Over time, he has given up on people, and even the books in his store, instead of offering solace, are yet another reminder of a world that is changing too rapidly. Until a most unexpected occurrence gives him the chance to make his life over and see things anew. Gabrielle Zevin’s enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--an irresistible affirmation of why we read, and why we love. “Readers who delighted in Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows’s *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Rachel Joyce’s *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and Jessica Brockmole’s *Letters from Skye* will be equally captivated by this adult novel by a popular YA author about a life of books, redemption, and second chances. Funny, tender, and moving.” —Library Journal, starred review “Wade into summer reading with this sweet yet soulful tale of love, loss, the power of friendship--and books. Like sunshine on a breezy spring day, you won’t want it to end.” —Family Circle “Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books . . . Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere.” —Booklist “Zevin is a deft writer, clever and witty.” —Publishers Weekly “A wonderful, moving, endearing story of redemption and transformation

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that will sing in your heart for a very, very long time.” —Garth Stein, author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain*

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry

All These Things I've Done, the first novel in the Birthright series, introduced us to timeless heroine Anya Balanchine, a plucky sixteen year old with the heart of a girl and the responsibilities of a grown woman. Now eighteen, life has been more bitter than sweet for Anya. She has lost her parents and her grandmother, and has spent the better part of her high school years in trouble with the law. Perhaps hardest of all, her decision to open a nightclub with her old nemesis Charles Delacroix has cost Anya her relationship with Win. Still, it is Anya's nature to soldier on. She puts the loss of Win behind her and focuses on her work. Against the odds, the nightclub becomes an enormous success, and Anya feels like she is on her way and that nothing will ever go wrong for her again. But after a terrible misjudgment leaves Anya fighting for her life, she is forced to reckon with her choices and to let people help her for the first time in her life. In the *Age of Love and Chocolate* is the story of growing up and learning what love really is. It showcases the best of Gabrielle Zevin's writing for young adults: the intricate characterization of *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac* and the big-heartedness of *Elsewhere*. It will make you remember why you loved her writing in the first place.

The Book of Speculation

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An obsessive introvert in Beirut, eschewed by her family and neighbors for her divorced status and lack of religious reverence, quietly translates favorite books into Arabic while struggling with her aging body until an unthinkable disaster threatens what little life remains to her. By the best-selling author of *The Hakawati*. 20,000 first printing.

The Middlesteins

When Joey Molina kills himself in the Bright Ideas bookstore's upper room, clerk Lydia's life comes unglued. As she untangles the mystery of Joey's suicide, she unearths a long buried memory from her own violent childhood.

Saving CeeCee Honeycutt

“Absolutely delightful.” —People The enchanting story of a bookshop, its grieving owner, a supportive literary community, and the extraordinary power of books to heal the heart
Nightingale Books, nestled on the main street in an idyllic little village, is a dream come true for book lovers—a cozy haven and welcoming getaway for the literary-minded locals. But owner Emilia Nightingale is struggling to keep the shop open after her beloved father's death, and the temptation to sell is getting stronger. The property developers are circling, yet Emilia's loyal customers have become like family, and she can't imagine breaking the promise she made to her father to keep the store alive. There's Sarah, owner of the stately Peasebrook Manor, who

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has used the bookshop as an escape in the past few years, but it now seems there's a very specific reason for all those frequent visits. Next is roguish Jackson, who, after making a complete mess of his marriage, now looks to Emilia for advice on books for the son he misses so much. And the forever shy Thomasina, who runs a pop-up restaurant for two in her tiny cottage—she has a crush on a man she met in the cookbook section, but can hardly dream of working up the courage to admit her true feelings. Enter the world of Nightingale Books for a serving of romance, long-held secrets, and unexpected hopes for the future—and not just within the pages on the shelves. *How to Find Love in a Bookshop* is the delightful story of Emilia, the unforgettable cast of customers whose lives she has touched, and the books they all cherish.

A Shot at Normal

How do you love the son you never expected to have? How do you love the mother who can't let you in? Edgar & Lucy An unlikely love story. "I love this book. Profoundly spiritual and hilariously specific unusual and intimate epic that manages to capture the wonder and terror of both child and parenthood with an uncanny clarity." - Lena Dunham, bestselling author of *Not That Kind of Girl* "This tale gradually exerts a fiendish grip on the reader" - Helen Simonson, author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* "Took my breath away." — Sophie McManus, author of *The Unfortunates* "A quirky coming-of-age novel that deepens into something dark and strange without losing its heart or its sense of wonder." - Tom Perrotta, bestselling author of *The Leftovers* "Victor Lodato may be our bard of the sadness, humor, and

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confusion of loss. He senses the absurdities and elation of mourning and childhood with a capacious precision that brings to mind J.D. Salinger, Lorrie Moore, Karen Russell, even James Joyce. Edgar and Lucy will make you feel things you haven't felt in ages." - Daniel Torday, author of *The Last Flight of Poxl West*

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