



Reading list for **B22**

2019 - 2020

Reading

is to the **mind**

what *Exercise*

is to the **body**

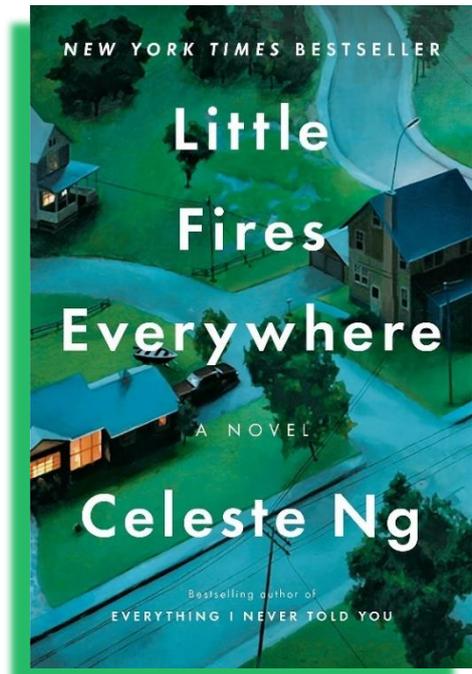


Little Fires Everywhere

by Celeste Ng

Penguin

Genre: Fiction



In Shaker Heights, a placid suburb of Cleveland, everything is carefully planned and no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren—an enigmatic artist and single mother—who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl. Soon all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town—and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.

Review

[Independent](#)

Video

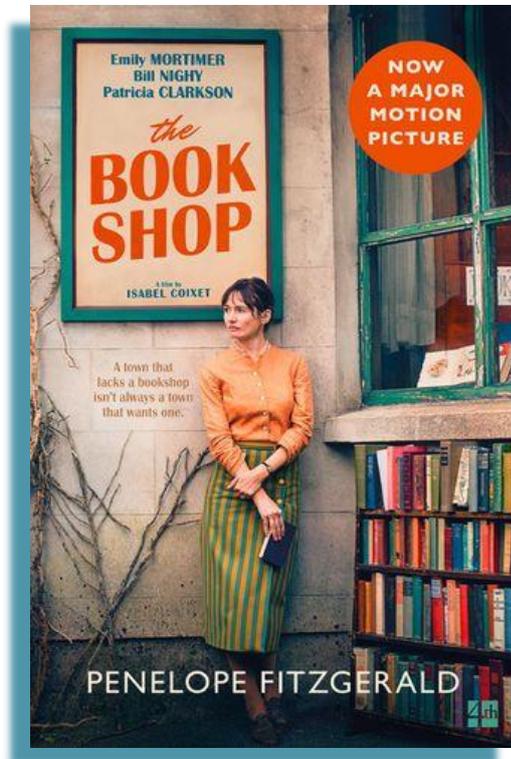
[Celeste Ng discusses *Little Fires Everywhere*](#)

Literary award

Winner of the Goodreads Readers' Choice award 2017, Fiction



The Bookshop



by Penelope Fitzgerald

Vintage

Genre: Fiction

In 1959 Florence Green, a kindhearted widow with a small inheritance, risks everything to open a bookshop - the only bookshop - in the seaside town of Hardborough. By making a success of a business so impractical, she invites the hostility of the town's less prosperous shopkeepers. By daring to enlarge her neighbors' lives, she crosses Mrs. Gamart, the local arts doyenne. Florence's warehouse leaks, her cellar seeps, and the shop is apparently haunted. Only too late does she begin to suspect the truth: a town that lacks a bookshop isn't always a town that wants one.

Review

bookbarmy.com

Video

[Movie trailer](#)

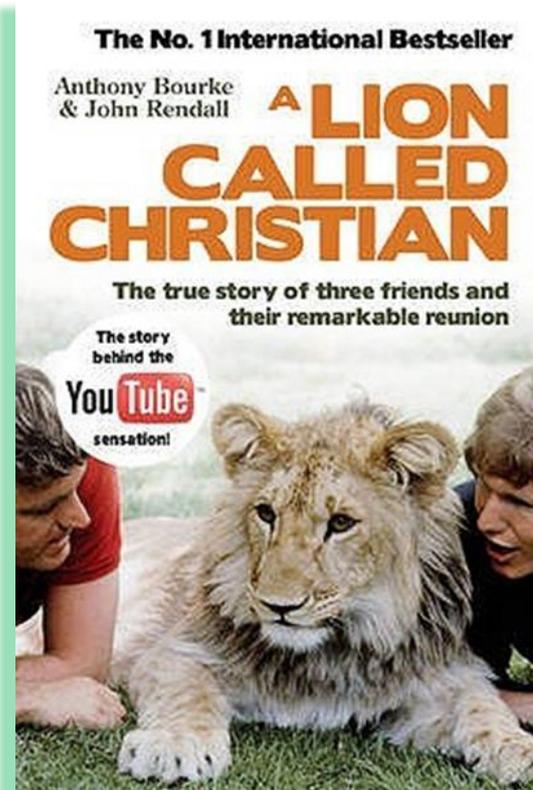


A Lion Called Christian

by Anthony Bourke
& John Rendall

Bantam

Genre: Autobiography



A Lion Called Christian tells the remarkable story of how Anthony “Ace” Bourke and John Rendall, visitors to London from Australia in 1969, bought the boisterous lion cub in the pet department of Harrods. For several months, the three of them shared a flat above a furniture shop on London’s King’s Road, where the charismatic and intelligent Christian quickly became a local celebrity, cruising the streets in the back of a Bentley, popping in for lunch at a local restaurant, even posing for a fashion advertisement. But the lion cub was growing up ...

The Film

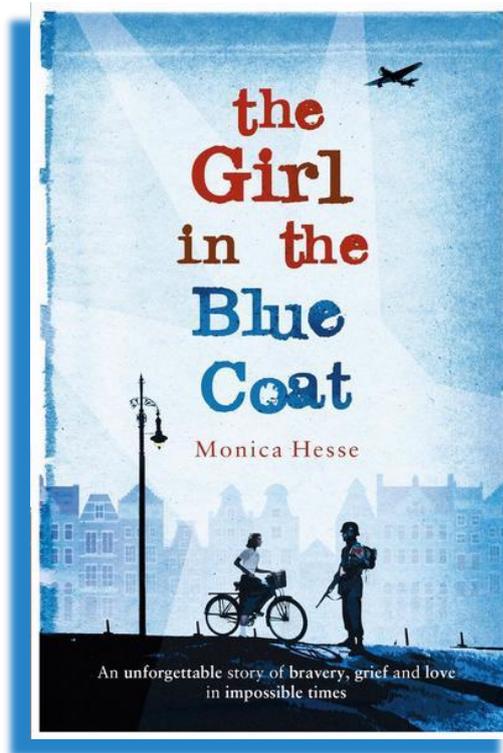
[Documentary](#)

About the writers

[Official Website](#)



The Girl in the Blue Coat



by Monica Hesse

Macmillan

Genre: Historical Fiction
Mystery
Young Adult

Amsterdam, 1943

Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black-market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the front line when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion. But one day Hanneke gets a very unusual request. One of her regular customers asks her to find a girl. A girl who has disappeared from the secret room in her house. A Jewish girl . . .

As she searches for clues Hanneke is drawn into a dangerous web of lies, secrets and mysteries. Can she find the runaway before the Nazis do?

Review

[The Washington Post](#)

Video

[Monica Hesse discusses *The Girl in the Blue Coat*](#)

Literary award

Edgar Award for Best Young Adult (2017)

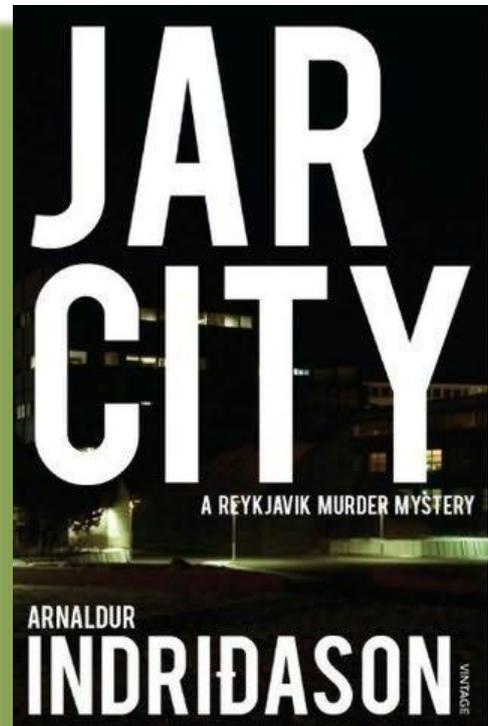


Jar City

by Arnaldur Indridason

Vintage Books

Genre: Mystery Thriller



A man is found murdered in his Reykjavik flat. There are no obvious clues apart from a cryptic note left on the body and a photograph of a young girl's grave. Detective Erlendur is forced to use all the forensic resources available to find any leads at all. Delving into the dead man's life he discovers that forty years ago he was accused of an appalling crime. Did his past come back to haunt him? Finally, Erlendur's search leads him to Iceland's Genetic Research Centre in order to find the disturbing answers to the mystery.

This prizewinning international bestseller is the first in a new series of crime novels set in Iceland.

Review

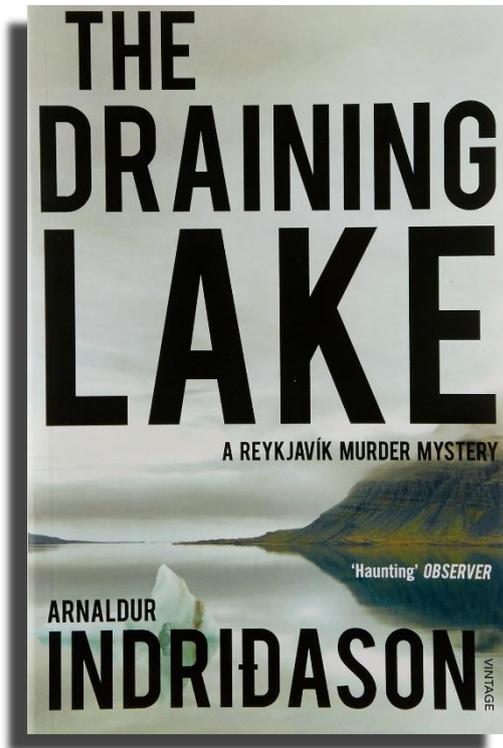
[The Independent](#)

Literary award

2002 Glass Key award (for best Nordic crime fiction novel)



The Draining Lake



by Arnaldur Indridason

Vintage Books

Genre: Mystery Thriller

A skeleton is found half-buried in a dried out lake. The bones have been weighed down with an old radio transmitter: is this a clue to the victim, and the killer's identity?

Detective Erlendur is called in to investigate and discovers that there may be a connection with a group of students who were sent to study in East Germany during the Cold War, and with a young man who walked out of his family home one day, never to return.

As the mystery deepens, Erlendur and his team must unravel a story of international espionage, murder and betrayal.

Review

[The Guardian](#)

Literary awards

Barry Award for Best Novel (2009), Prix du Polar Européen (2008)

