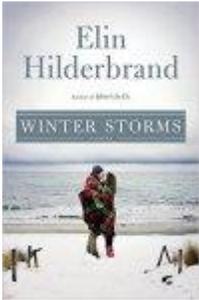


## December Staff Picks

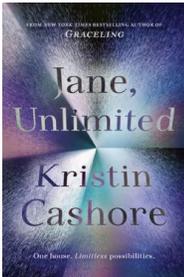


### Eileen

Winter Storms by Elin Hilderbrand

Elin Hilderbrand writes mostly about Nantucket in the summer, but the Winter Street series is about Nantucket at Christmas. The Quinn family - patriarch Kelley owns the Winter Street Inn - is in for a rough few years over the series of four books. There's fraud and drug abuse, a missing soldier, love triangles and tested relationships, and a whole lot of drama. I like this series because of the beautiful setting and warmth of family love in changing times.

For fans of: Nancy Thayer, Dorothea Benton Frank, Jennifer Weiner, and Susan May Warren.



### Katherine

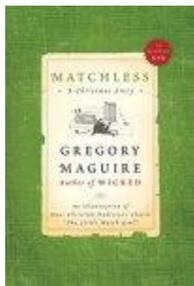
Jane, Unlimited by Kristin Cashore

Fantasy fiction, with an intricate plot and diverse, likable characters. I loved it! This book is magic. Not just about magic, it is magic. Also, I love books with magical houses in them. Kristin Cashore's writing is the best. Welcome to the multiverse, where each choice brings you to a different story.

For fans of Maggie Stiefvater (fantasy, similar writing style) & Connie Willis (idea-driven speculative fiction)

Already read it? Try *Redshirts* by John Scalzi or *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater

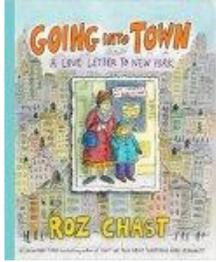
### Sarah



Matchless: A Christmas Story by Gregory Maguire

Matchless takes the traditional tale of the "The Little Match Girl" written by Hans Christian Andersen and intertwines the tale of a young boy, Frederik, and his mother, a seamstress to the Queen. Frederik unwittingly crosses paths with the little match girl before she dies. The original story, often considered a bit dismal, is elevated to a new height with Gregory Maguire's rendition. The symbolism of the light cast by the matches subtly suggests the connectedness of humanity and the kinship of spirit. This illustrated novella is a tale to be read aloud and shared. Matchless honors life's hardships while remaining both heartwarming and hopeful.

For fans of: short stories, novellas, and folktales, hopeful tales, bittersweet stories, and Christmas books.

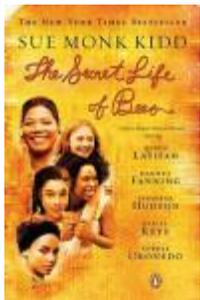


**Ann**

Going into Town: A Love Letter to New York by Roz Chast

This book is AWESOME! It's entertaining and cute. It is also knowledgeable. I had no idea about streets and avenues and their directional meanings. This book makes me really want to visit Manhattan!

For fans of: contemporary graphic novels, travel memoir, and anyone dreaming or planning to go to NYC! Highly recommended in general - many staff members have read this and enjoyed it!



**Kelly**

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Set in the middle of the American Civil Rights Movement, this story follows the journey of Lily Evans, a young white girl. Lily lives with an abusive father and the knowledge that she accidentally killed her own mother rests on her shoulders. Using her mother's belongings (that she keeps a secret), she escapes her cruel life to seek out the truth. She and her housekeeper Rosaleen travel to Tiburon, South Carolina together, hoping to get answers.

They find them alongside the boisterous Daughters of Mary, forbidden love by the name of Zach Taylor, and a group of bee-loving, motherly, black women nicknamed the Calendar Sisters.