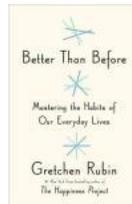


Staff Picks January 2018

Eileen



***Better than Before* by Gretchen Rubin**

I personally love to start in January with a whole bright list of New Year's resolutions. Gretchen Rubin is a best-selling author and pod-caster who "studies happiness, good habits, and human nature." In this book she discusses forming, changing, and keeping habits and why what works for one person may not work for someone else. If you find this kind of topic as fascinating as I do, you may want to also try authors who publish similar works such as Susan Cain, Angela Duckworth, Malcolm Gladwell, or anyone shelved in the 150s in our non-fiction section.

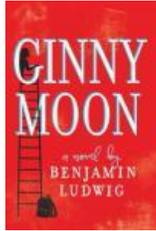
Katherine



***And I Darken* by Kiersten White**

Very interesting. Strong characters who are sympathetic despite major flaws (such as being rather ruthless and vicious). Historical fiction is kind of a loose term for it – it takes many liberties with history, the major one being imagining Vlad the Impaler as a teenage girl. Nevertheless, it's very engaging and kept me up until 2 am. There's lots of rich detail in the setting, but the plot keeps moving. Features drama, intrigue, romance, you name it. An excellent choice for fans of *Game of Thrones*. Just don't expect vampires – this isn't that Dracula.

Sarah



Ginny Moon by Benjamin Ludwig

Ginny Moon is an unlikely and unique narrator! Placed in the foster care system from a young age and diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Ginny is finally in her forever home but something is still not quite right! Ginny has memories of leaving behind something or someone very important, but no one will believe her, so she carefully plans a mission to set the record straight. Ginny Moon was very hard to put down – it had both lovable and unlikable characters that brought so much intrigue and tension to Ginny’s journey and story. If you enjoyed Mark Haddon’s *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, or books with themes of family, quirky narrators, and are mildly suspenseful then this book might be for you! The author, Benjamin Ludwig, lives in New Hampshire and adopted a teenager who has ASD. His journey with his adopted daughter and his time spent with families at the Special Olympics provided his inspiration for the story.

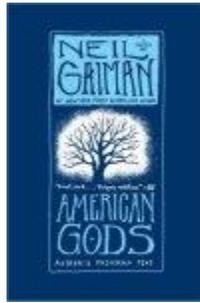
Ann



Under the Dome by Stephen King

This was a very interesting read! Under the Dome has many twists and turns that will surprise you until the end. The story reveals how some small town people have very big secrets and how much they will do to keep those secrets and to keep the power that they have.

Kelly



***American Gods* by Neil Gaiman**

Shadow Moon has been released from prison due to the death of his wife; Laura. On his journey home he meets a man that's just like everyone else, apart from the small detail that he's a god. "Mr. Wednesday" offers a job to Shadow, a "don't ask any questions and do what I tell you" kind of job. He takes the offer, not yet knowing he's joining a war of epic proportions. He's fighting on the side of the Old Gods, brought over by hundreds of years' worth of immigrants. His target? The New Gods of America, like Media and Technology. Alongside Mr. Wednesday and a whole cast of other godly powerhouses, Shadow must find his own path and learn what (and who) he stands for. Though not for the weak of heart, this novel takes everything we think we know about world mythology and turns it on its head.