

# Books and Movies we LOVE!

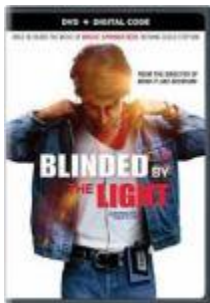
Eileen



***The Perfectionists: How precision engineers created the modern world* by Simon Winchester**

Another book for those with specialized interests! My dad's a mechanical engineer, and his way of seeing the world has given me an appreciation for measuring and quantifying (as mundane as it sounds). This book is about any number of people who have striven for precision.

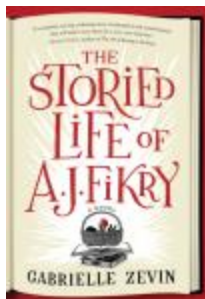
Linda



***Blinded by the Light: Inspired by a true story.***

Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band gained world-wide acclaim with the release of *Born to Run* in 1975. Twelve years later Javed, a British Pakistani teen living in London, England, is introduced to the music and lyrics of Springsteen. Javed is immediately taken by the spirit of Springsteen's music and finds solace in the lyrics. The movie defines, in this instance, what it means to be a fan. This relationship (what else to call it?) inspires Javed to take risks and carve-out a life for himself on his own terms. As a result, he attains one dream: to become a writer. Enjoy the movie and discover the way in which music helps define what it means to live!

Sarah

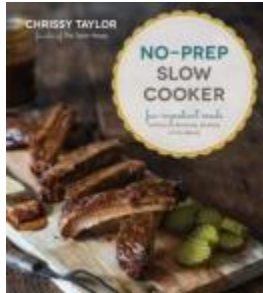


***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin**

A.J. Fikry has gone through a lot lately; his wife died, his book store is tanking, and his most treasured book was stolen. His reaction is to withdraw from the world, unfortunately (or fortunately?) for him...the world won't let him. Just when he is ready to fold his cards and quit, he receives a mysterious little package on his doorstep that demands his immediate attention. This is a warm story about love, imperfection, second chances, and personal transformation.

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## Calista



### ***No-Prep Slow Cooker: Few-ingredient meals without the browning, sautéing, or pre-baking by Chrissy Taylor***

Those that know me, know that I am *not* a big cooker. However, I am a big eater and there isn't anything better than coming home to a delicious home-cooked meal! Crock Pot, or slow cooker meals are also something I enjoy, especially in the cold weather months.

*No-Prep Slow Cooker* cookbook is right up my alley! It's literally as easy as dumping everything in and turning it on! The only prep might be the cutting up of veggies...but even that isn't too bad. I find, for myself, reading recipes with a laundry list of ingredients is quite overwhelming! This cookbook has very short ingredient lists! Perfect!

I highly recommend *No-Prep Slow Cooker* for those of you who aren't big fans of cooking, new to the cooking scene, or are just looking for an easy slow cooker recipe.

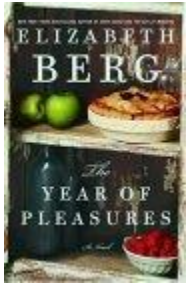
## Amelia



### ***Crush* by Svetlana Chmakova**

This school-based romance teen book is the perfect setting for Valentine's Day. Filled with laughs and awkward moments, Chmakova pushed through with this graphic novel summarizing all of middle school drama. Jorge Ruiz is one of the scary big kids in their grade, but is actually a sweet person. With his jockey lifestyle, he doesn't think about falling for anyone. Until Jazmine Duong, drama geek with a bright personality, steps into his life. With his friend group changing, and rumors starting to spread, Jorge has to decide whether or not he wants to take this chance with her. Will Jorge win in the end with his friend group healed and the girl of his dreams by his side? Read to find out! Happy reading!

Kelly



***The Year of Pleasures* by Elizabeth Berg**

“I had been right to want to drive to the Midwest, taking only the back roads. Now on this road trip, my mind seemed to uncrinkle, to breathe...” thought Betta Nolan. This book “had me at hello” a la Jerry Maguire. I find it hard to resist a great opening line/paragraph in a novel and this one sure met the requirement. The unexpected and interesting thoughts in this narrative about a middle-aged woman on a meandering road trip after losing her husband were beautifully written in every chapter. After reading the synopsis on the inside cover I figured the ending was going to be somewhat predictable but the trip getting there was definitely not. Even though the subject matter of loss seemed a bit sad the author included humor in just the right places and kept a positive perspective going.

This was my very first Elizabeth Berg novel and I am happy to say I truly enjoyed her lovely style of writing; many times just amazing me with her poetic way of writing about something so personal and devastating. The main character, Betta Nolan, a woman in her fifties feels too old to even think about beginning a new chapter in her life in a new place where she knows not a soul, but was encouraged by conversations she had with her beloved John before his passing about doing just that – leaving Boston and heading to the Midwest without even defining a destination. While doing just that she discovers the solace found in ordinary things: a warm bath, good food, the beauty of nature, music, friends old and new, and art. Elizabeth Berg writes with perfect balance of sadness, love, loneliness and humor. Another favorite quote – “There is love in holding,” he’d said. “And there is love in letting go.” A very thoughtful and sweet little winter read.