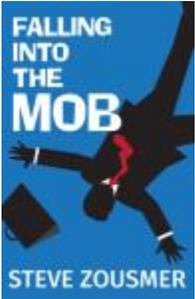


## June Staff Picks



**Eileen**

***Falling Into the Mob* by Steve Zousmer**

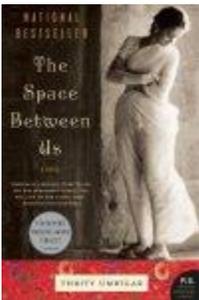
Like *Oceans 11*? This dark comedy of life in the mob is intriguing. Phil Vail is 59 years old and almost resigned to his humdrum existence – until he meets the daughter of a mob boss on a train. Phil is pitchforked into an impossible situation and learns he has a knack for the criminal life. Meanwhile, his respectable speech-writing job suddenly changes as his client contemplates a run for President. A throwback tale for fans of Donald Westlake and Lawrence Sanders.



**Katherine**

***One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus**

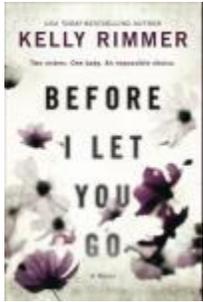
Inspired by *The Breakfast Club* – with the addition of a dead body. Very well done! Full of secrets and intrigue. One of those books that are hard to put down, and you can't wait to find out what happens next. Recommended if you like teen dramas or mysteries.



**Sarah**

***The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar**

Serabai, an upper-middle class Parsi woman, and Bhima, Serabai's Hindu servant have built an unlikely friendship based on decades of trust, devotion, and shared secrets as women in troubled marriages. Thrity Umrigar deftly explores the notions of gender, class, marriage, and power through their relationship and the relationship of their children and grandchildren. I just finished reading this for the second time and it was as good as the first time! The sequel is coming out in June. I would highly recommend this book to fans of Jodi Picoult, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anne Rivers Siddons, Lisa See, and Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie.



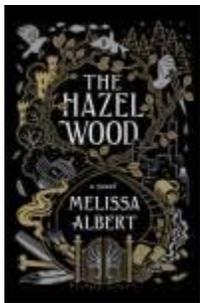
**Cheryl**

***Before I Let You Go* by Kelly Rimmer**

*“Addiction is...just like love – in the early moments, you don’t see the potential for it to bring you pain-it’s something you slide into between laughs and smiles and moments of bliss. It’s something that feels like a shield, until you realize it’s actually a warhead, and it’s pointed right at you.”*

This is a beautiful novel about two sisters; one a successful physician and the other sister homeless, pregnant and addicted to drugs. Through parallel views of Lexie and Annie, Lexie in the present and Annie by journal entries, we learn of a heartbreaking story of addiction, and of a family love that is stretched. We are challenged to widen our views of addiction, and learn of Alabama’s tough drug laws that disproportionately target pregnant women who are addicted. Annie risks up to 10 years in prison should she seek urgent medical assistance for a pregnancy at risk, and Lexie again anguishes over the care and love for her sister and the unborn child.

I loved this book from beginning to end! The author writes a captivating story that found me in my favorite chair by the window, with a “please do not disturb” post nearby!



**Kelly**

***The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert**

Alice Crewe is anything but normal. With a past of moving from city to city chased by bad luck, she has learned that she is destined for a life of misfortune. Adding to her abnormality is a lady by the name of Althea Proserpine, a niche celebrity author who happens to be Alice’s grandmother. When news of her death hits Alice’s family of two (featuring Alice and her story-less mother, Ella), things begin to change. Firstly, her mother, stepfather of a few weeks, and stepsister go missing with only a storybook page left as a clue. The page? A title

page from Althea’s only book *Tales from the Hinterland*, “Alice-Three-Times”. With no idea where to turn, she approaches rich boy, superfan, Ellery Finch. The two set off to discover what happened to Alice’s family and along their way, discover that Althea’s stories of murder, magic, and bloodshed may have been truer to life than once thought.