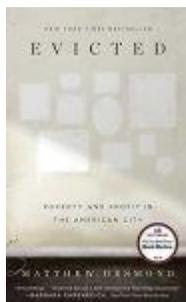


March 2018 Staff Picks

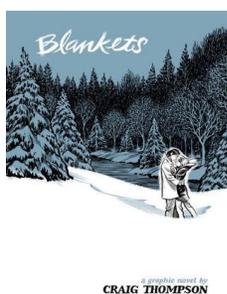
Eileen



***Evicted: Poverty and profit in the American city* by Matthew Desmond**

This book doesn't need any praise from me. It was on every bestseller and awards list of 2016. Matthew Desmond dives deep into complicated issues of poverty and homelessness in the United States today. We look through the lens of life choices made by eight individuals in Milwaukee over about two years. With great empathy, Desmond shows how hard it can be to make those choices and how frustrating limitations can be. It's all brought to vivid life and there's a fascinating chapter about the way the research was done.

Katherine

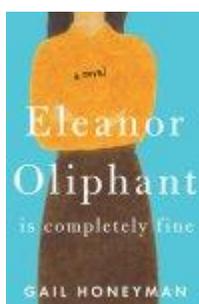


***Blankets* by Craig Thompson**

This graphic novel/memoir, despite its large size, is still a quick read. It's a little hard to say how much is novel and how much is memoir. It says it is "based on personal experiences... and certain characters, places, and incidents have been modified in service of the story." Regardless, it's really good and really well done. The artwork beautifully complements the story, adding mood, telling more, helping it along. It's tender and moving, and tugs at your heartstrings. It's a coming of age story, of the struggles of first love and coming to terms with the religion you were raised with.

Already read it? Try *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi or *Ghost World* by Daniel Clowes.

Sarah



***Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman**

Eleanor Oliphant is a loner and that's the way she likes it! She goes to work, comes home, has some vodka and freezer pizza, does her crossword puzzle, occasionally talks on the phone with her abusive jailbird-mother, and doesn't want to bother with the rest of humanity. When her routine is interrupted by an elderly gentleman lying ill on a sidewalk, she is forced to interact with her coworker who leads her on a journey into the world of the heart. This journey brings Eleanor to the realization that not all is as she thought, and face to face with a past she must make peace with. Check this book out if you enjoyed *A Man Called Ove* or any of Fredrick Backman's books, Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, or *Ginny Moon* by Benjamin Ludwig. Also check this out if you like quirky but lovable characters, or uplifting and humorous books with happy endings!

Cheryl



Will's Red Coat: The story of one old dog who chose to live again
by Tom Ryan

“Life has a strange way of leading you where you need to be.” – Tom Ryan

On this snowy day home and hearth were welcoming. I reached for *Will's Red Coat*, a book I had not yet considered reading but had thrust into my book bag “just in case!”

Life and a snow storm indeed led me where I needed to be! This book is about the author, Tom Ryan, and a discarded little dog. Will, aged, frightened, deaf and mostly blind, was left at a kill shelter because its elderly and frail owners were no longer able

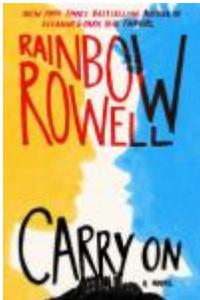
to provide care. And so begins a tale (tail) of something akin to Felix and Oscar, as this little dog, angry, frail, and a fierce biter, takes up residency with Tom and Atticus in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

This is much more than a story of a man and his dog; rather it is an inspiring reflection of the author's extraordinary outlook on life. He is a gentle spirit. Tom Ryan writes vividly about nature, about the

White Mountains, about life, and about abundant blessings shared.

For me, the sign of a good book is a book that longs to be read again and again. I returned this book to the library, and purchased my very own copy, to savor for the many more snow days to come!

Kelly



Carry On: The rise and fall of Simon Snow by Rainbow Rowell

Harry Potter fan-fiction is rarely good, but this reiteration takes the universe and retells it in the perfect fashion. Simon Snow takes the role of the Chosen One, with impeccable power and an arch nemesis; The Insidious Humdrum. Alongside his best friend Penelope Bunce, questionably loyal girlfriend Agatha Wellbelove, and suspicious roommate Tyrannus Basilton Grimm-Pitch, Simon attends Watford School of Magicks. While taking classes and living the crazy life of a teenager, Simon must harness his powers to fight evil and save the World of Mages. Throughout this story, Simon encounters dangerous tasks, beautiful romances, and the occasional ultimate sacrifice.