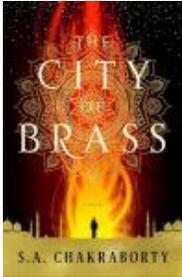


May 2019 Staff Picks

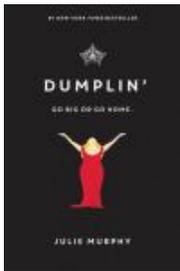
Eileen



***City of Brass* by S.A. Chakraborty**

This book caught my eye when we got it two years ago, but I just made room in my reading life this past month. Nahri is a con artist in 18th century Cairo who accidentally summons a djinn - and gets a one-way trip to the magical city of Daevabad and its centuries-old divisions. I devoured this and the next book, *Kingdom of Copper*, and now am impatiently awaiting the third, *Empire of Gold*.

Sarah



***Dumplin'* by Julie Murphy**

While working at the local fast food joint Willowdean meets Bo, a super-cute boy her age who is enrolled in private school. Willowdean is *pretty sure* that Bo likes her back but she lacks the confidence to ask him out. Willowdean and her best friend Ellen decide to try what scares them the most in the hopes that it builds confidence so they both enter the beauty pageant. This pageant is a time honored ritual and is hosted by Willowdean's mom, a former beauty pageant queen and notorious believer in slimming diets and frequent exercise.

In this small town, challenging stereotypes of beauty really shakes things up but it also sets Willowdean on the road to acceptance, love, and joy. If you love Dolly Parton, big dreams, small town stories, and books about self-acceptance, this one is for you! Bonus, it is a Netflix original movie as well!

Cheryl



***Magnolia Table* by Joanna Gaines**

With visions of a family gathering complete with cotton tails this month, a little meal planning was in order. I brought home *Magnolia Table* by Joanna Gaines and sat down a good spell! The book is a collection of recipes for gathering, featuring 125 down to earth recipes infused with a Southern flair and seemingly served straight from the heart. Joanna has a sweet story or sharing with most

recipes and many are also accompanied by pictures. A delightful book to peruse. The pork bellies and bacon used in abundance cautioned me to reconsider some recipes and adjust others! How fortunate we are to have our very own library at the corner of Mill and Main to make such beautiful books available!

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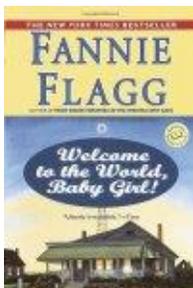
Kelly H.



***What If It's Us?* by Becky Albertalli and Adam Silvera**

Arthur and Ben come from extremely different walks of life. Arthur's a Georgia-born, Yale accepted, Jewish boy with a heart for the stage while Ben's a Puerto Rican, city-slicker and summer school student whose heart remains bruised by his ex-boyfriend Hudson. At the hands of a highly opinionated universe, the two meet, talk, and bond before they are split up by a good, old-fashioned, New York flash mob. Despite the sign from the universe that the two should not be together, the boys are determined to reconnect. Through Craigslist ads, coffee businesses, another chance encounter, and some classic internet stalking, the two find each other. They decide the discovery of one another is a sign from the universe but as several below average dates kick off their relationship, the boys' relationship rests on thin ice and leaves them asking: What if it's us?

Kelly R.



***Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!* by Fannie Flagg**

Welcome to the World Baby Girl is the first in the four book Elmwood Springs series by Fannie Flagg, the author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*. The story begins with an introduction to Elmwood Springs, MO 1948 and its inhabitants; a virtual stroll through the small town that may spark memories for readers who grew up in a small town. Their stories are interwoven through three decades with Flagg's usual humor, respect, and affection for her characters. I particularly enjoyed this excerpt at the beginning..."Poor little old human beings – they're jerked into this world without having any idea where they came from or what it is they are supposed to do, or how long they have to do it in. Or where they are gonna wind up after that. But bless their hearts, most of them wake up every morning and keep on trying to make some sense out of it. Why, you can't help but love them, can you? I just wonder why more of them aren't as crazy as betsy bugs." - Aunt Elner, 1978 (resident of Elmwood Springs).

If you loved *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* you will so enjoy this novel. It has the same flavor with a town full of characters whose stories are expertly interwoven with each other with a wonderful page-turning, heartwarming expertise that is truly Fannie Flagg. The best part is that there are three more books to enjoy in the series.

