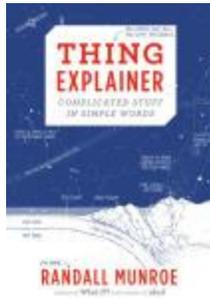


October Staff Picks

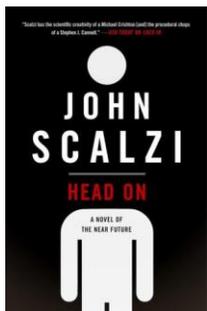
Eileen



***Thing Explainer* by Randall Munroe**

If you have ever been asked by a child to explain some common science fact, come here before asking Google. It uses line drawings and *very simple* words to explain concepts like the solar system, locks, and microwaves. The author is the creator of the web comic XKCD.

Katherine



***Head On* by John Scalzi**

An interesting book set in the near future that combines mystery and science fiction. I like John Scalzi's writing. Humorous, fast-paced, and intriguing concepts make this an engaging read. There is a previous book (which we don't have here) but this is a stand-alone novel, so no worries if you haven't read the first - this is more "set in the same universe" than "direct sequel." If you like this, try *Crosstalk* by Connie Willis.

Sarah



***Lockwood & Co.: The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud**

London is infested by malevolent spirits and kids are the only ones who can sense them and, therefore, hunt them. The secretive Lucy Carlyle, the brave Anthony Lockwood, and the brilliant but clumsy George Cubbins team up to form Lockwood & Co., a ghost-busting agency. Together they use their wits, senses, swords, iron chains, and magnesium fire to banish the evil spirits and keep others safe. Not only do they have to fight off ghosts but they also have to run a business and that business needs money, especially when their competitors are bigger and wealthier. After a failed exorcism in a haunted house, Lockwood & Co. gets sued, so Anthony signs the team up to ghost-bust at one of the most haunted and dangerous mansions in England. Will they survive the night? Will they be able to find the source of the Screaming Staircase? This book is a fun, fast read with lots of thrills, creepy hauntings, and supernatural action. It is perfect for fans of scary movies, slightly scary books, and anyone who loved *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman or the *Ghostbusters* movies. A just-right-spooky read for Halloween! It's also the first in a series, so if you love it...read on!

October Staff Picks

Cheryl



***Please Look After Mom* by Kyung-Sook Shin**

It was a bright Saturday in April, a day that was full of sunshine and warmth. I grabbed a bucket of chalk and headed for the library. There, outside, I placed the bucket and a simple sign announcing “Chalk On The Walk” and an invitation to stop for a moment to draw, color, or leave a message. Soon the walk was in full color, resplendent with stick figures, flowers, rainbows, and writings. Off to the side, a message in yellow gave me pause – “I MISS YOU MOM.” It was this poignant message that brings me to my staff pick this month, *Please Look After Mom* by Kyung-Sook Shin. The story takes place in Korea, when a mom, en route to visit her adult children, becomes separated from her husband and goes missing in a busy Seoul train station. The family begins a frantic search, and this engrossing novel is a shared telling of remembrances and relationships as told by each person. It is a family story of love and regret that exposes how little we may know of the dreams, hopes, and sacrifices of our loved ones. Finally, if you let it, it is an admonition to pay attention to those we love and the lives we share. I found it a beautiful story.

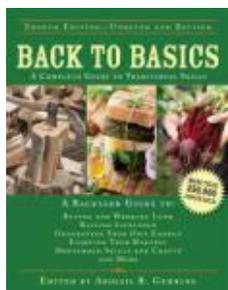
Kelly H.



***Want* by Cindy Pon**

In the city of Taipei, there are the *yous* and the *meis*; the haves and the have nots. Jason Zhou is a *mei*, sucking in polluted air, consuming low quality food, and kidnapping rich girls for money. These girls are all *yous*; rich girls who go to parties wrapped in perfectly tailored, stylish suits that protect them from the world of disease and pollution that their ancestors created. On one unlucky day, Jason has to infiltrate this world of glamor and ignorance after the leader of the revolution is killed. He must suit up in order to find and befriend Daiyu Jin, daughter of the founder of JinCorp. This company makes the suits that the rich hide away in to avoid *meis* and the sick, dying world they live in. This is the company Jason plans to absolutely destroy.

Kelly R.



***Back to Basics: A complete guide to traditional skills* by Abigail Gehring**

If you are wondering how to do basic household skills and crafts such as soap making or canning produce from your garden, raise livestock, generating your own energy or even buying and working land this book is a wonderful resource. This is the fourth edition and I have to say I have enjoyed this book since its first edition was published decades ago. Great book for old and young alike.

