

# 2026 Hummingbird and JCC Books and Bites Reading List

## January

**The Collected Regrets of Clover by Mikki Brammer** Probing, clever, and hopeful, *The Collected Regrets of Clover* is perfect for readers of *The Midnight Library* and *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* as it turns the normally taboo subject of death into a reason to celebrate life.

## February

**The Correspondent by Virginia Evans** Throughout her life Sybil Van Antwerp has used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings around half past ten Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

## March

**Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton (non-fiction)** Imagine you could hold a baby hare and bottle-feed it. Imagine that it lived under your roof and lolloped around your bedroom at night, drumming on the duvet cover when it wanted your attention. Imagine that, over two years later, it still ran in from the fields when you called it and slept in your house for hours on end and gave birth to leverets in your study. For political advisor and speechwriter Chloe Dalton, who spent lockdown deep in the English countryside, far away from her usual busy London life, this became her unexpected reality.

## April

**Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green** John Green, #1 bestselling author of *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, shares a powerful, human story about the world's deadliest infectious disease. Tuberculosis, once romanticized, is now a disease driven by poverty and inequity. In 2019, while visiting a hospital in Sierra Leone with Partners in Health, Green met Henry, a young TB patient with a bright smile and resilient spirit. Their friendship transformed Green into a passionate advocate for equitable access to treatment. In *Everything Is Tuberculosis*, he weaves Henry's story together with the scientific and social history of TB, revealing how injustice fuels its spread—and how our collective choices can help end this curable disease.

## May

**Society by Karen Winn** For centuries, rumors have swirled around the Knox, Boston's most secretive society—an elite club to some, something far darker to others. When Vivian Lawrence's old-money fortune collapses, she clings to a family legend tying her to the Knox and its inheritance. Her path inside comes through Peter, a charismatic insider who draws her deeper into its glittering world. Meanwhile, nurse Taylor Adams meets Vivian after a suspicious fall—then watches her vanish without a trace. Determined to find answers, Taylor takes a job within the Knox, uncovering a world where vast wealth masks dangerous secrets—and where secrecy is the society's most powerful currency.

## June

**Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy** Set on a remote Antarctic island, this suspenseful novel follows a family guarding a vital global seed bank, living in near-total isolation at the edge of the world. Their fragile routine is shattered when a mysterious woman washes ashore after a violent storm, carrying secrets that unsettle their already precarious existence. As climate threats intensify and long-buried grief resurfaces, the family must confront questions of trust, survival, love, and loss. Blending intimate character drama with high-stakes environmental tension, the story explores what it means to protect the future of life on Earth in an increasingly uncertain world.

## July

**Strangers by Belle Burden** In March 2020, Belle Burden was living a quiet, secure life with her family on Martha's Vineyard when her husband of twenty years abruptly left her without explanation. Overnight, the man she knew became a stranger. In *Strangers*, Burden revisits her marriage, searching for signs she missed while confronting the expectations that shaped her response to betrayal. As she reckons with heartbreak, she sheds her old identity as “Belle the Good” and finds a stronger, more honest voice. With clarity and grace, this memoir traces one woman's transformation and her refusal to give up on love.

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## January

**The Foxtail Legacy by David Abromowitz** explores the external and internal pressures on three generations who straddle the chasm between the Old World and the New, and the legacy of a patriarch in relentless pursuit of the American Dream. Follow the Itzkowitz family's immigrant journey across three continents and into the 20th century.

## February

**My Friends by Hisham Matar** explores themes of childhood, friendship, and the emotional impact of political turmoil. The story is told through the eyes of a young narrator who reflects on his friendships with a group of boys, first in London, where he has recently moved with his family, and later in Libya. As the boys grow closer through shared experiences, the narrator begins to understand the complexities of their relationships, shaped by their backgrounds and the political climate of the time. The novel deftly weaves together themes of belonging, loss, and identity, all against the backdrop of a changing world where personal connections are influenced by the turbulence of both local and global events.

## March

**We Would Never by Tova Mirvis** is a gripping mystery about the extremes to which a family will go in order to protect their own. After Jonah Gelman is abruptly murdered, we follow his soon to be ex-wife, Hailey and her family as they navigate her status as a suspect and the mysterious death of her husband. Part thriller and part family drama, this book explores how in the absence of forgiveness, love and hate can intertwine and turn deadly.

## April

**Mothers and Sons by Adam Haslett** is about family, forgiveness, and how a fleeting act of violence can change a life forever. A mother and son, estranged for years, must grapple with the shared secret that drove their lives apart. This book is beautifully written and teaches us that in order to move on from the past, we must face it.

## May

### **The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters**

After the four year old daughter of Indigenous migrant workers goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, a tragic mystery will go unsolved for nearly fifty years. *The Berry Pickers* is a riveting novel about the search for a missing girl, the shadow of trauma, and the persistence of love across time.

## June

**The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish** is set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. *The Weight of Ink* is a sweeping yet intimate work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make.

## July

**Goyhood by Reuven Fenton** is the perfect summer read if you're looking for a balance of funny characters, touching materials, and a road trip. When Mayer Belkin finds out well into middle age that he's NOT actually Jewish, he must come to grips with the reality of his history and fate. Join him on a road trip through America's Deep South as he grapples with a God he no longer trusts and a life he can't understand. *Goyhood* is zany and surreal, but it tackles issues of identity, family, and religion in such a brilliant way.

## August

**Birnam Wood by Elizabeth Catton** follows Mira Bunting, leader of a guerrilla gardening collective that plants on unused land. When Mira discovers an abandoned farm near Korowai National Park, she's caught by billionaire Robert Lemoine, who offers to fund the group as part of his plan to gain New Zealand citizenship. Mira's pragmatic partner Shelley is ready to leave the group, while ex-member Tony begins investigating Lemoine's true intentions. As loyalties shift and secrets unravel, Eleanor Catton spins a morally complex, propulsive eco-thriller that probes ambition, idealism, and deception—building tension to a breathtaking, uncertain finale.

## September

**The Safekeep by Yael van der Wouden** is an exhilarating, twisted tale of desire, suspicion, and obsession between two women staying in the same house in the Dutch countryside during the summer of 1961—a powerful exploration of the legacy of WWII and the darker parts of our collective past.

## October

**One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World**  
by Michael Frank

The remarkable story of ninety-nine-year-old Stella Levi whose conversations with the author over the course of six years bring to life the vibrant world of Jewish Rhodes, the deportation to Auschwitz that extinguished ninety percent of her community, and the resilience and wisdom of the woman who lived to tell the tale.

## November

**Fagin the Thief** by Allison Epstein is a thrilling reimagining of the world of Dickens, as seen through the eyes of the infamous Jacob Fagin, London's most gifted pickpocket, liar, and rogue. Colorfully written and wickedly funny, Allison Epstein breathes fresh life into the teeming streets of Dickensian London—reclaiming one of Victorian literature's most notorious villains in an unforgettable new adventure.

## December

**The Wandering Jew of St. Salacious** by Ron Turker is a satirical novel about a Jewish surgeon, Dr. Marty Fischer, working in a large, fictional Catholic hospital named St. Salacious. The hospital moniker is used as a humorous jab at high-end healthcare institutions, blending satire, humor, and critiques of the American healthcare system.

