

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.

September

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman In 1800s St. Thomas, Rachel defies her Jewish refugee community by starting a passionate love affair with her deceased husband's nephew Frédéric, sparking scandal and influencing her son's future as France's great artist.

October

The Confidante: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Helped Win WWII and Shape Modern America by Christopher C. Gorham The Confidante tells the story of Anna Rosenberg, a Hungarian Jewish immigrant with only a high school education who became one of FDR's closest advisors and, later, the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in the U.S. military as assistant secretary of defense. She was among the first Allied women to enter a liberated concentration camp and stood in Hitler's mountain retreat days after its capture. She helped shape the G.I. Bill and the Manhattan Project, weathered a McCarthy smear campaign, and organized JFK's famous 1962 birthday gala. Author Christopher Gorham, a history teacher and lawyer, pulls a major 20th-century power player out of undeserved obscurity.

November

Good People by Patmeena Sabit The Sharafs seem to embody the American dream. They fled Afghanistan for northern Virginia, where Rahmat built a fortune cleaning gutters while Maryam raised their four children. They moved into a mansion, sent the kids to elite schools, and dreamed that their older daughter, Zorah, would go to the Ivy League and one day become a Supreme Court justice. Then Zorah's body is found in a submerged Mercedes, and rumors spread that her death was an honor killing. The novel is told as an oral history in which the Sharafs never speak for themselves. Their story emerges instead through neighbors, classmates, officials, lawyers, and journalists, revealing jealousies and conflicting versions of Zorah. The result is a gripping debut about gossip, prejudice, and the question of who gets to decide the truth.

December

This Is Not About Us by Allegra Goodman When Jeanne, the youngest of the three Rubinstein sisters, dies in her seventies, a petty quarrel over an apple cake drives her grieving older sisters, Sylvia and Helen, apart for more than ten years. Their children are too caught up in divorces, dating, career setbacks, college applications, bat mitzvahs, and ballet recitals to take sides, and the grandchildren won't either. Sylvia's son Richard faces the end of his marriage, while Jeanne's son Steve loses his job. The book is told in 17 linked stories written over fifteen years and set in Boston, Cambridge, Providence, and Brooklyn. It follows three generations of a Jewish American family through shaky marriages, aging parents, and anxious kids. This Is Not About Us is a witty, warm-hearted look at sisterhood, parental expectations, and the love that holds a family together.