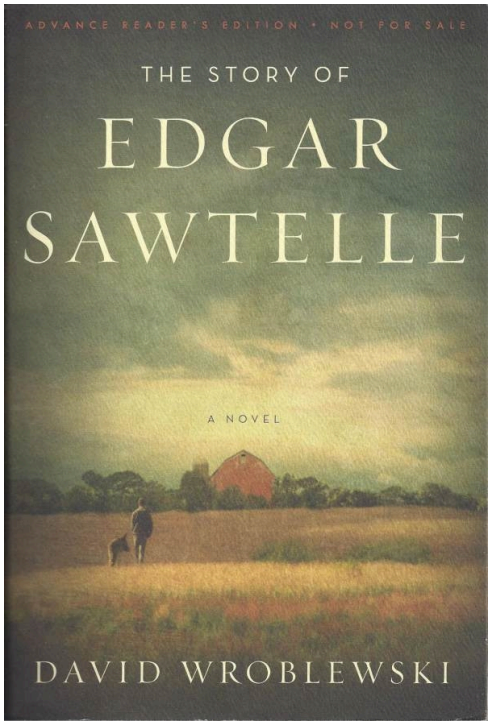
2023 MILTON HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no required reading books (except for AP courses and AMEX (BLACK BOY Part I Southern Night) this summer, but we strongly urge you to read - either a book of your own choice or one on this list that your MHS English teachers enthusiastically recommend. Note that everyone has their own reading style and preferences - some of these texts do tackle mature subject matter. Select ones that you feel comfortable with.

Ms. Byron

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle **- David Wroblewski (2008)**

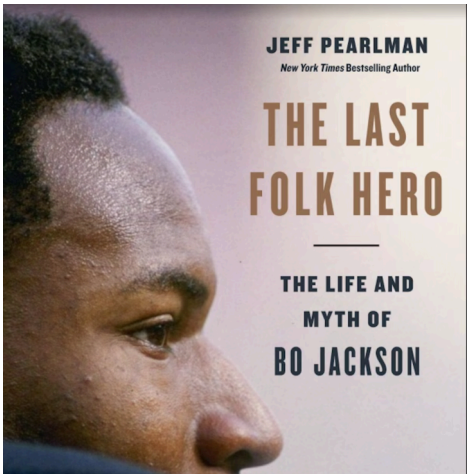


"Born mute, speaking only in sign, Edgar Sawtelle leads an idyllic life on his family's farm in remote northern Wisconsin, where they raise and train an extraordinary breed of dog. But when tragedy mysteriously strikes, Edgar is forced to flee into the vast neighboring wilderness, accompanied by three yearling dogs. He comes of age in the wild, struggling for survival, until the day Edgar is forced to choose between leaving forever and returning home to learn the truth behind what has happened." - *Amazon*.

Mr. Coady

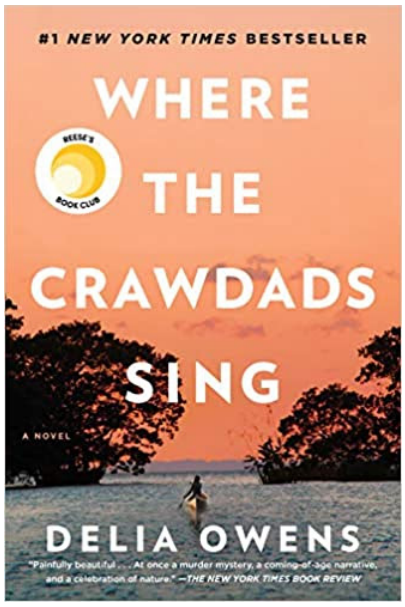
The Last Folk Hero: The Life and Myth of Bo Jackson **- Jeff Pearlman (2022)**

A biography of arguably the most phenomenal, electrifying dual sports athlete of the twentieth century. Pearlman is one of the great sports journalists of our time, and he spins together anecdotes from Jackson and those in his orbit to argue that Jackson, whose feats of amazing athleticism came before phones and ubiquitous recording devices, was indeed the last folk hero, like a modern day Paul Bunyan. Many of Jackson's achievements prior to appearing in the spotlight were passed down by word of mouth only. His charisma and ability created the measure of modern superstar aura today. A great read.



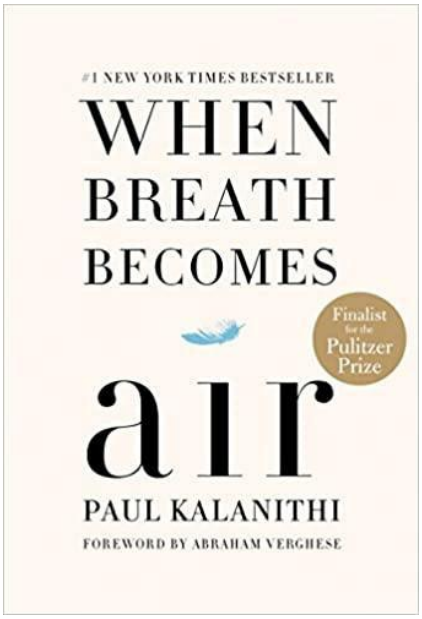
Mr. Collyer

1. ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** **- Delia Owens (2018)**



"A painfully beautiful first novel that is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature....Owens here surveys the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast through the eyes of an abandoned child. And in her isolation that child makes us open our own eyes to the secret wonders—and dangers—of her private world."—*The New York Times Book Review*

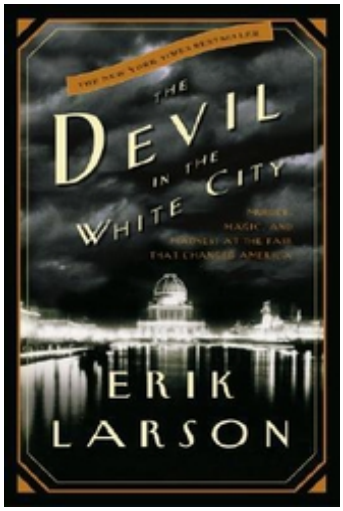
2. ***When Breath Becomes Air*** **- Paul Kalanithi (2016)**



A powerful look at a stage IV lung cancer diagnosis through the eyes of a neurosurgeon. When Paul Kalanithi is given his diagnosis he is forced to see this disease, and the process of being sick, as a patient rather than a doctor--the result of his experience is not just a look at what living is and how it works from a scientific perspective, but the ins and outs of what makes life matter. This heart-wrenching book will capture you from page one and still have you thinking long after the final sentence. *–Penny Mann*

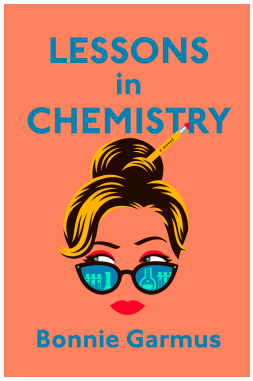
Ms. Crowley

1. ***Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* – Erik Larson (2003)**



Author Erik Larson imbues the incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with such drama that readers may find themselves checking the book's categorization to be sure that *The Devil in the White City* is not, in fact, a highly imaginative novel. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor. *Goodreads*

2. ***Lessons in Chemistry* – Bonnie Garmus (2023)**

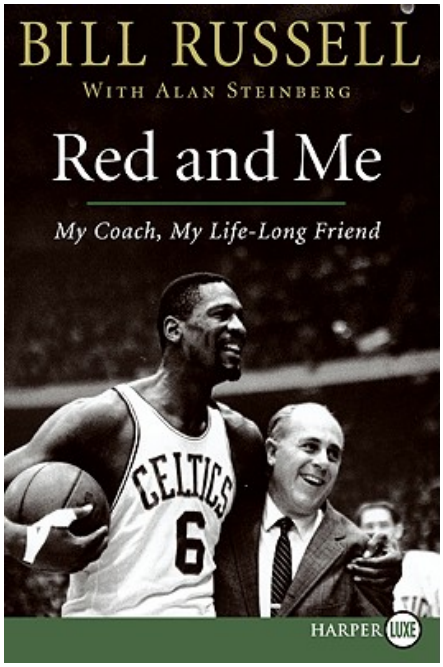


Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel–prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. *Goodreads*

Mr. Cunningham

***Red and Me* – Bill Russell with Alan Steinberg (2009)**



When Bill Russell joined the Boston Celtics in 1957 as the nation′s first prominent black basketball star, he was not expecting much from coach Red Auerbach. Despite two national college championships and an Olympic gold medal, Russell′s previous coaches-all whites-had barely spoken to him. Russell′s style was unorthodox, redefining the meaning of defense and offense, and many scouts dismissed him.

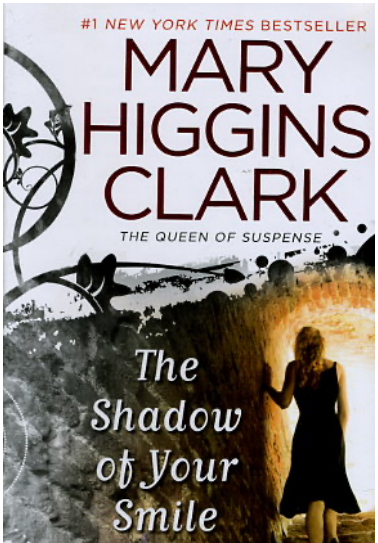
Yet Auerbach, the Jewish outsider in Irish Boston, immediately took to Russell, the African American from Louisiana and Oakland, and he was a coach like no other. Auerbach listened to his players, experimented freely, and knit together a team based only on results. Together they made sports history, winning 11 championships in 13 years. Along the way, Auerbach elevated Russell to player-coach, the first African-American coach in league history. Together, they battled prejudice both on and off the court, and created a team chemistry for the ages.

Even this glory is surpassed by another, little known aspect of their relationship: they became lifelong friends. As Russell explains, they were prepared for each other by their fathers, both strong men who loved their sons unconditionally. They both intuitively understood the dynamics of male friendship: there are many things left unsaid, but there is always understanding and respect. Over the many years since Russell retired from the Celtics and moved to the west coast, they saw each other rarely but spoke on the phone regularly. They were always there for each other. As Auerbach fell ill and declined, Russell was there, knowing how to reach out while respecting his former coach′s privacy. When Auerbach passed away in October, 2006, Russell refused to speak publicly about a relationship that was so deeply personal. Here, he offers a tribute greater than any speech.

This is a book not just for 76ers fans like Mr. Cunningham and other sports lovers, but for male friendships of all shapes and sizes. Publisher’s Back Cover Blurb (with a bit of poetic license).

Ms. Davis

***The Shadow of Your Smile* - Mary Higgins Clark (2011)**

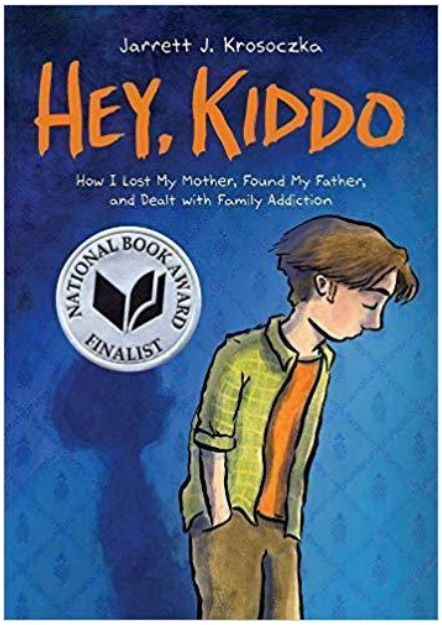


At age eighty-two and in failing health, Olivia Morrow knows she has little time left. The last of her line, she faces a momentous choice: expose a long-held family secret, or take it with her to her grave.

Clark’s riveting novel explores the juxtaposition of medical science and religious faith, and the search for identity by the daughter of a man adopted at birth.

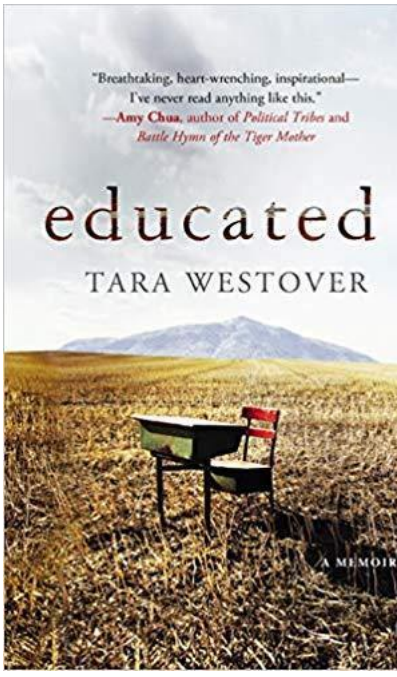
Mr. Hardie

1. ***Hey Kiddo*** **- Jarrett J. Krosoczka (2018)**



In a graphic memoir subtitled *How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt With Family Addiction*, Worcester, MA writer/artist Jarrett J. Krosoczka, who was abandoned by his drug addicted mother, makes visible — and poignant and funny — what is most important about that experience: Somehow, you can still love your imperfect family and survive with your spirit unbroken.

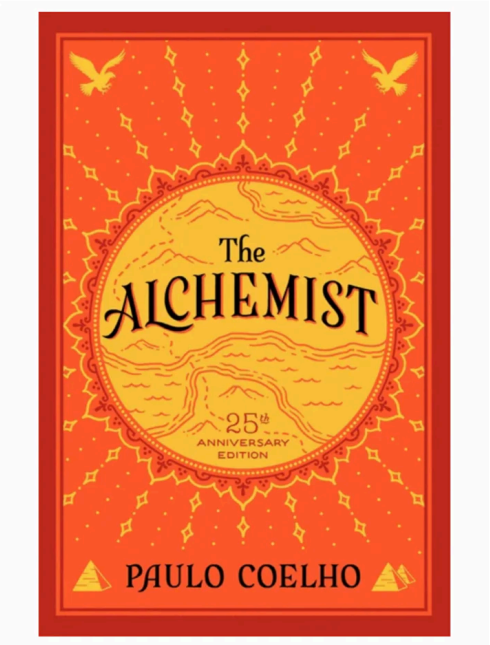
2.Educated **- Tara Westover (2018)**



Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, medical care and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would - - *Amazon*.

Ms. Johnson

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho (1988)**

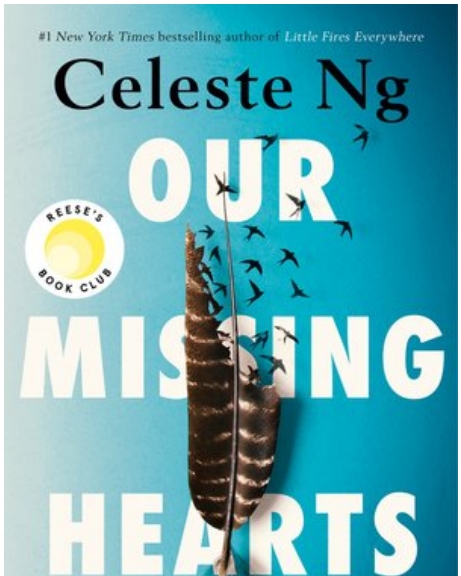


"Combining magic, mysticism, wisdom, and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery, *The Alchemist* has become a modern classic, selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations.

Paulo Coelho's masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path, and, most importantly, following our dreams."
-goodreads

Ms. McNulty

1. ***Our Missing Hearts* - Celeste Ng (2022)**



From the number one bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, a deeply suspenseful and heartrending novel about the unbreakable love between a mother and child in a society consumed by fear.

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have

been governed by laws written to preserve "American culture" in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old. *Amazon*.

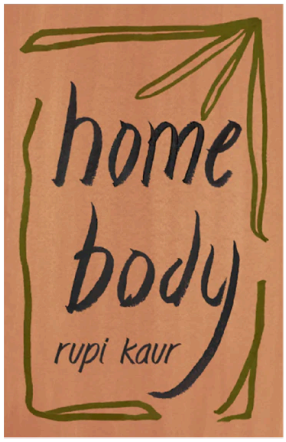
2. *The Midnight Library* -Matt Haig (2020)



Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist; she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place. *Amazon*

3. ***Home Body* by Rupi Kaur (2020)**

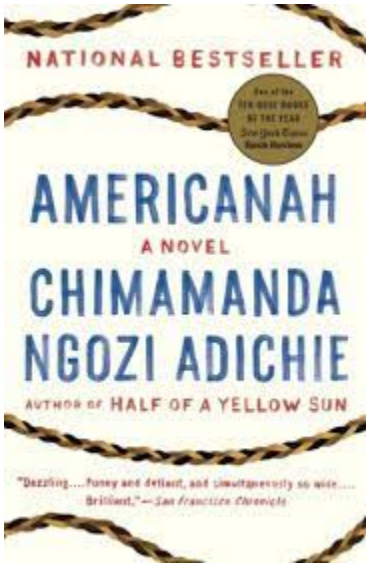


From the Number One *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *milk and honey* and *the sun and her flowers* comes her greatly anticipated third collection of poetry.

rupi kaur constantly embraces growth, and in *home body*, she walks readers through a reflective and intimate journey visiting the past, the present and the potential of the self. *home body* is a collection of raw, honest conversations with oneself - reminding readers to fill up on love, acceptance, community, family, and embrace change. illustrated by the author, themes of nature and nurture, light and dark, rest here.

Ms. Norton

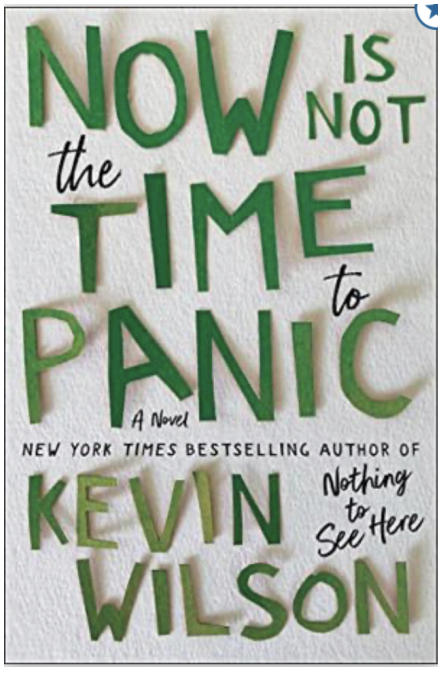
***Americanah* - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2014)**



"Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be Black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post–9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London" -*Amazon*

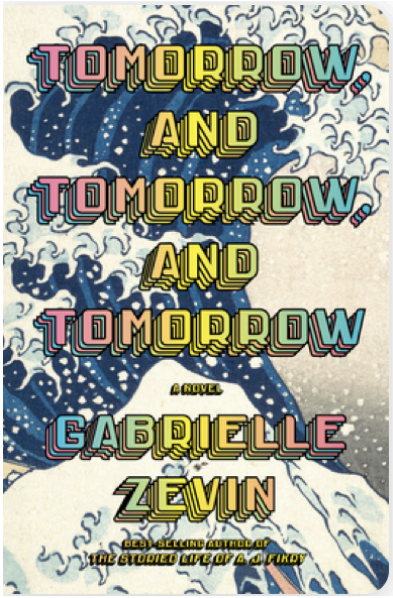
Mr. Radosta

1. ***Now Is Not the Time to Panic* - Kevin Wilson (2022)**



Especially recommended if you liked Eddie in the last season of *Stranger Things*. From *Kirkus Reviews:* "In the grip of summer's dog days, Frankie and Zeke pursue their artistic outlets elbow to elbow, hers the written word, his visual arts. Joining forces, they make a poster emblazoned with a throwaway couplet about outlaws on the run: "The edge is a shantytown filled with gold seekers. We are fugitives, and the law is skinny with hunger for us." Soon, they commandeer an old copy machine and plaster the town with their anonymous manifesto, punctuated by inevitable adolescent canoodling. What follows is a rough approximation of the "Satanic panic" of the Reagan-era 1980s, as the media labels the work "troubling street art" before it snowballs into a national hysteria..."

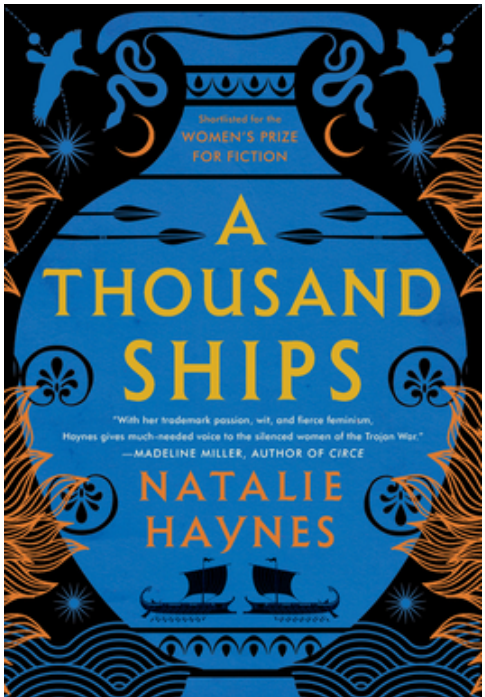
2/ ***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*** **- Gabrielle Zavin (2022)**



Gamers and coders of all stripes will enjoy this tale of a 30 year friendship that starts in 1990s Cambridge. From *Goodreads*: "On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom. These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts."

Mrs. Tahaney

A Thousand Ships **- Natalie Haynes (2019)**



This is the women's war, just as much as it is the men's. They have waited long enough for their turn . . .

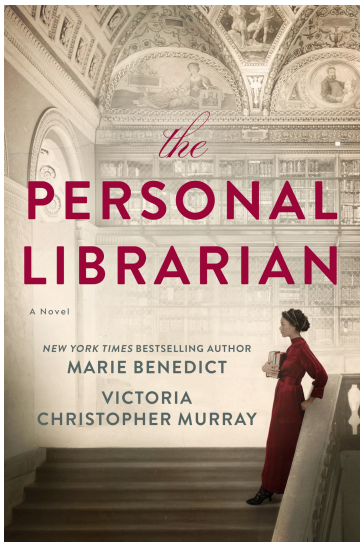
This was never the story of one woman, or two. It was the story of them all . . .

In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen.

From the Trojan women whose fates now lie in the hands of the Greeks, to the Amazon princess who fought Achilles on their behalf, to Penelope awaiting the return of Odysseus, to the three goddesses whose feud started it all, these are the stories of the women whose lives, loves, and rivalries were forever altered by this long and tragic war.

A woman's epic, powerfully imbued with new life, *A Thousand Ships* puts the women, girls and goddesses at the center of the Western world's greatest tale ever told.

2. The Personal Librarian - Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (co-authors) (2021)
The remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian—who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true, from *New York Times* bestselling author Marie Benedict and acclaimed author Victoria Christopher Murray.



In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture on the New York society scene and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps build a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style, and wit, and shares the lengths to which she must go—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.