

SUMMER BOOK BINGO

<p>A SAL speaker (past or upcoming) Goldenrod by Maggie Smith</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Sci-fi or fantasy by a BIPOC author The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Recommended by a local bookseller Tacky: Love Letters to the Worst Culture We Have to Offer by Rax King</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Debut author Seeing Ghosts by Kat Chow</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Blue cover The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown</p> <p>X</p>
<p>Banned or challenged book Fun Home by Alison Bechdel</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Set south of the equator The Weekend by Charlotte Wood</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Unreliable narrator Nightbitch by Rachel Yoder</p> <p>X</p>	<p>A book about books Book Lovers by Emily Henry</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Recommended by Library staff or Peak Pick The Nineties by Chuck Klosterman</p> <p>X</p>
<p>Latina/Latino/Latinx author Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Been meaning to read The Singer's Gun by Emily St. John Mandel</p> <p>X</p>	<p>FREE SPACE FREE SPACE FREE SPACE</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Health or health care workers Come as You Are by Emily Nagoski</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Set somewhere you'd like to visit Last Night in Montreal by Emily St. John Mandel</p> <p>X</p>
<p>Read outside The Trees Witness Everything by Victoria Chang</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Hobby or skill NPR's Podcast Start up Guide by Glen Weldon</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Non-binary / genderqueer author or character Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel by Julian K. Jarboe</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Reread a childhood favorite The Giver by Lois Lowry</p> <p>X</p>	<p>Recommended by a neighbor or friend The Way of Integrity: Finding the Path to Your True Self by Martha N. Beck</p> <p>X</p>

Outside your comfort zone Born a Crime by Trevor Noah X	Book to screen The Lost Daughter by Elena Ferrante X	#1 First book by an author When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka X	#2 Most recent book by same author The Swimmers by Julie Otsuka X	LGBTQ+ Love Story Count Your Lucky Stars by Alexandria Bellefleur X
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PLAN

MAY

- ☒ ~~Goldenrod by Maggie Smith~~
- ☒ ~~The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown~~
- ☒ ~~The Trees Witness Everything by Victoria Chang~~
- ☒ ~~The Nineties by Chuck Klosterman~~
- ☒ ~~Fun Home by Alison Bechdel~~

JUNE

- ☒ ~~Come as You Are by Emily Nagoski~~
- ☒ ~~The Weekend by Charlotte Wood~~
- ☒ ~~NPR’s Podcast Start up Guide by Glen Weldon~~
- ☒ ~~Seeing Ghosts by Kat Chow~~
- ☒ ~~Tacky: Love Letters to the Worst Culture We Have to Offer by Rax King~~

JULY

- ☒ ~~The Giver by Lois Lowry~~
- ☒ ~~Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado~~
- ☒ ~~The Way of Integrity: Finding the Path to Your True Self by Martha N. Beck~~
- ☒ ~~Count Your Lucky Stars by Alexandria Bellefleur~~
- ☒ ~~The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin~~

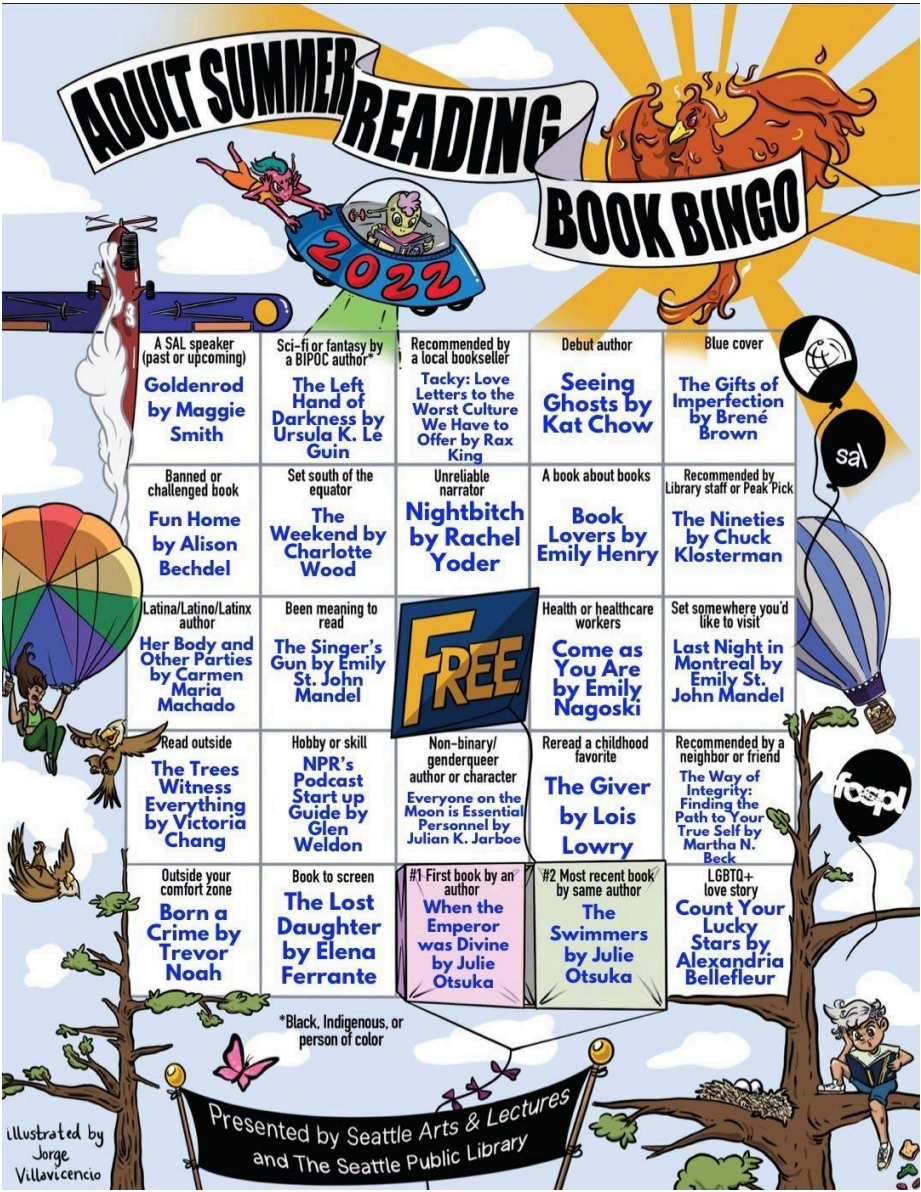
AUGUST

- ☒ ~~Last Night in Montreal by Emily St. John Mandel~~
- ☒ ~~When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka~~
- ☒ ~~Nightbitch by Rachel Yoder~~
- ☒ ~~The Swimmers by Julie Otsuka~~
- ☒ ~~The Lost Daughter by Elena Ferrante~~
- ☒ ~~Born a Crime by Trevor Noah~~
- ☒ ~~The Singer’s Gun by Emily St. John Mandel~~
- ☒ ~~Book Lovers by Emily Henry~~
- ☒ ~~Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel by Julian K. Jarboe~~

SEPTEMBER – Due Date: EOD Tuesday, September 6

Hi, friends -

I am proud to report that two days ago I officially submitted a ‘blacked out’ BINGO card for the Seattle Public Library and Seattle Arts and Lectures’s #BookBINGONW2022. Did I simultaneously track my progress across four different lists/platforms because I’m a little monster? Yes! And below is a photo of the digital copy of my completed card (little monster created both a digital card and also printed one out for herself and handwrote everything in):



This felt like a summer of consuming media that was not what I thought it would be and the books I read were no exception. I didn't dislike any of these books and I'm glad I read them all - and as always, some I would recommend more than others. Here we go with the brief reviews and recommendations...(it's a long post, but I hope you enjoy! Feel free to reply to me with your thoughts).

xoxo // CMR

1. **Goldenrod by Maggie Smith.** *Category: A SAL speaker (past or upcoming)*
 - I would recommend it. It wasn't a life changing book of poetry, but I enjoyed it.
2. **The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. Le Guin.** *Category: Sci-fi or fantasy written by a BIPOC author*
 - There was a lot of world-building in this book and I'm excited to dive into Le Guin's other works (in this universe and others) for a payoff in knowing the landscape.
3. **Tacky: Love Letters to the Worst Culture We Have to Offer by Rax King.** *Category: Recommended by a local bookseller*
 - This book was not what I thought it would be, but I really enjoyed it. I think I may have mentioned earlier this year that this piece by Rax King *really* resonated with me. [If you don't have time to dig into the book now, read this.](#)
4. **Seeing Ghosts by Kat Chow.** *Category: Debut author*
 - File under beautiful and haunting (not necessarily in a literal ghost way).
5. **The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown.** *Category: Blue cover*
 - I'm coming to terms with the fact that Brené Brown was designed especially for me: a white woman in the United States. Her researched-backed sermons on vulnerability have always struck a deep chord with me. I think Brené is doing some good work to unpack her whiteness and partner with Black women from whose foundational texts and framework she has benefitted

from, and I appreciate that. I'm using my connection to her writing to encourage myself to dig deeper into Black women authors who write similarly about vulnerability and power from a different perspective than my own. These authors include: [Nedra Glover Tawwab](#), [Adrienne Maree Brown](#), [Audre Lorde](#), and [Octavia E. Butler](#).

6. **Fun Home by Alison Bechdel.** *Category: Banned or challenged book*

- I liked this a lot more than I thought I would! I don't know why I didn't think I'd like it, but it exceeded my expectations.

7. **The Weekend by Charlotte Wood.** *Category: Set south of the equator*

- Ughhhh...this book! I wouldn't recommend it until the very end, but the very end doesn't make a lot of sense if you haven't read the rest of the book - frustrating!

8. **Nightbitch by Rachel Yoder.** *Category: Unreliable narrator*

- This book was amazing. I loved it. Again, not entirely what I expected, but brilliant. I might have to do a longer write-up on this one. Highly recommend.

9. **Book Lovers by Emily Henry.** *Category: A book about books*

- Close friends know I'm not a big romance reader, but much to only my surprise, I loved this. The ending made me tear up (not a usual occurrence!). I'm so glad I know so many people who loved this and glad I read it.

10. **The Nineties by Chuck Klosterman.** *Category: Recommended by Library staff or Peak Pick*

- Definitely interesting. Definitely written from a white middle class man's perspective. He acknowledges that at the top, but it was stark. I was happy to hear his view, but wanted to hear so much more beyond his perspective.

11. **Her Body and Other Parties by Carmen Maria Machado.** *Category: Latina/Latino/Latinx author*

- My friend Chelsea and I listened to this short story collection in its entirety during part of our drive home from a trip to Crater Lake National Park in July. There were some stories that were so beautiful. There were some in which I

was less interested, but it was good to read (and I'm excited to read the different genre - memoir! my favorite! - same author: *In the Dream House*).

12. **The Singer's Gun by Emily St. John Mandel.** *Category: Been meaning to read*
 - After this summer I've read nearly every Emily St. John Mandel book in print (all I have left is *The Lola Quartet*). I love her storytelling and need to figure out what I find so compelling about it.
13. **Come as You Are by Emily Nagoski.** *Category: Health or health care workers*
 - OH MY GOSH WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT WOMEN'S HEALTH LET ALONE WOMEN'S SEXUAL HEALTH!!! And what we do know - like the contents of this book - is not widely known or discussed. I learned a lot from this book! Highly recommend!
14. **Last Night in Montreal by Emily St. John Mandel.** *Category: Set somewhere you'd like to visit*
 - See above re: Emily St. John Mandel in general. This book was quite enjoyable. Get used to lots of timelines happening all at once but all apart when reading her books. It was nice to read something set in such a cold climate in the hot summer.
15. **The Trees Witness Everything by Victoria Chang.** *Category: Read outside*
 - Something I enjoyed and nice to read on the hammock, but again not earth shattering.
16. **NPR's Podcast Start up Guide by Glen Weldon.** *Category: Hobby or skill*
 - Gosh, I love Glen Weldon (and the other voices featured in this how-to guide), but my gosh this book gave me imposter syndrome about ever being able to start a podcast.
17. **Everyone on the Moon is Essential Personnel by Julian K. Jarboe.** *Category: Non-binary / genderqueer author or character*
 - I was expecting something else from this collection of short stories but I'm not sure what. I enjoyed some of them and didn't feel like I got others. I look forward to re-reading it after having some time to sit with the initial read-through.

18. **The Giver by Lois Lowry.** *Category: Reread a childhood favorite*
- I have loved *The Giver* for so long and not read it in nearly 30 years. A lot of it I remember really specifically and some of it I misremembered, not in terms of detail but in terms of how much time the book spends on specific plot developments. I don't often do full re-reads, but I'm glad I did with this.
19. **The Way of Integrity: Finding the Path to Your True Self by Martha N. Beck.** *Category: Recommended by a neighbor or friend*
- This was recommended by a friend of mine who self-identifies as a non-reader. It was good, but nothing too revolutionary (and also a bit Catholic, which I suppose I am too).
20. **Born a Crime by Trevor Noah.** *Category: Outside your comfort zone*
- This book was outside my comfort zone because Trevor Noah still [refuses to apologize](#) for past "jokes" about Aboriginal women. That has always given me pause with his comedy and his writing. I still wish he would apologize, but I'm also glad I read this book (thank you, Amelia for the borrow!).
21. **The Lost Daughter by Elena Ferrante.** *Category: Book to screen*
- I just pictured Olivia Coleman, Dakota Johnson, and Dagmara Dominczyk the whole time (all featured in the screen adaptation which I watched when it premiered) and dreamed of a life with three week vacations on the Italian coast as a basic standard of living.
22. **When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka.** *Category: #1 First book by an author*
- I loved how this story was told through the different perspectives of the family members experiencing the horror and tragedy of the wrongful discrimination and internment of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans during World War II. This is a subject I am continuously learning more about and I am glad I read this book.
23. **The Swimmers by Julie Otsuka.** *Category: #2 Most recent book by same author*
- This book was so beautiful. I don't want to give too much away, but I thoroughly enjoyed it (and not just because I love swimming).

24. **Count Your Lucky Stars by Alexandria Bellefleur.** *Category: LGBTQ+ Love Story*

- I will read anything set in Seattle/places I've lived and/or loved. I did after all read the *50 Shades* books.