



Title: Books I've read this year!	
Due Date:	Title + Thoughts:
Spring Semester	<p>Oral History - Lee Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- really wonderful non-linear family narrative set in appalachia, detailing the effects of folklore and grief and how a lineage becomes "haunted" by its past. super fun read, recommend if u are interested in appalachian culture/history/ghost stories in the metaphorical sense.
.	<p>This is How You Lose the Time War - Amal El-Mohtar & Max Gladstone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- low-key underwhelming YA romance, i liked the premise and format but YA language and the ending ruined it for me. also not really much of a sci fi person so that could be it.
.	<p>We Have Always Lived in the Castle - Shirley Jackson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- this is prob one of my favorites, a book club read turned small facet of my personality. I really need to read more shirley jackson but i loveee horror and creepy stories and this novel presented just that: a really creepy evil child in an equally unsettling atmosphere. read this if are a little too into victorian architecture and oddities.
Summer 24	<p>Norwegian Wood - Haruki Murakami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- surprisingly the least compelling murakami novel i've read, very gross and slow-paced. could not empathize with the MC at all like i want to read about the girls please their minds are so much more compelling than yours. actually now that i think about it i just remembered an actually vile scene none of the characters were safe from being ruined. i would run away from anyone who says this is their favorite. cannot recommend unless you are pointedly trying to read his entire body of work like i am.

<p>.</p>	<p>The Strange Library – Haruki Murakami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this on the other hand was fantastical, scary, and did not make a whole lot of sense! i loved this one, it definitely goes in my top three even though it's a short story. I thought the premise was really interesting, library horror is not a commonly explored idea.
<p>.</p>	<p>South of the Border, West of The Sun – Haruki Murakami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - another very GOOD work of murakami, probably my second if not my first fav. the premise and MC were much more compelling than in norwegian wood, i loved the noir vibe it settled into. more realistic than hard-boiled but i think that also made it a lot easier for me to become invested in the story. would recommend this one to anyone trying to get into murakami so they don't run away screaming. still really struggling to understand how norwegian wood is one of his most well-known works.
<p>.</p>	<p>Dog Songs – Mary Oliver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - made me tear up, however i prefer her nature poetry a lot more. i think it would have been too sad for me to handle if i fully digested it and went in with no walls.
<p>.</p>	<p>In the Miso Soup – Ryu Murakami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this had been on my list for a long time and i finally checked it out from the library, very nice little thriller novel set in japan's sex work industry, a facet it really harps upon but doesn't actually explore in a way that i thought was very meaningful or poignant. the antagonist is very much the main focus which was not SUPER interesting i've heard enough stories about entitled men there could have been more interesting plot routes. overall like it, maybe 6.5/10.
<p>.</p>	<p>The Secret Diary of Laura Palmer – Jennifer Lynch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - so unbelievably sad and relatable, literally earth shattering i had to make a playlist

	<p>about it. won't get into it here but i think the dichotomy of worthiness, hope, and purity is a very overlooked aspect of twin peaks. my heart will forever hurt for laura palmer </3</p>
.	<p>Dale Cooper My Life My Tapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - audiobook of largely irrelevant / repeated/ not that compelling information via form of kyle maclachlan's voice so all of its sins are immediately forgiven. free asmr. fell asleep to it.
.	<p>Dale Cooper Autobiography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - this on the other hand was also a bit of a tragic read, quite illuminating towards his character but probably not ultimately helpful in my consumption as the series as a whole. however, because i have a parasocial relationship at this pt, will be clinging to this for a hot minute. basically the life story of a nerd virgin. (genuinely a very large focus in the novel like whooo wrote this).
July 24	<p>American Primitive - Mary Oliver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gorgeous, made me want to lay face down in a stream and reconnect with nature. oliver's writing is really unrivaled imo in terms of nature poetry, she knows how to poke at my brain and encourage practicing a lot more gratitude. (i have to thank her for that, i find it really necessary and important)
July 24	<p>Sputnik Sweetheart - Haruki Murakami</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - very murakami, takes a slightly less creeper tone than a lot of his other stuff but pretty average in terms of plot and writing. made me wanna vacay to greece though. i like that the book was about a lesbian but i cared about her being happy not the narrator so not an extraordinary read.
July 24	<p>Pulp - Charles Bukowski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - certainly one of the most dazzling, crude, and charmingly sardonic works i've read; this might overtake Hard-Boiled Wonderland

	<p>as my favorite novel of all time. a truly wild and colorful noir-detective satire engaging in everything from sci-fi to arguable philosophy. i highly highly recommend this if you like absurdity in literature, or if you just want to read about a douchebag detective through the narrative of magical realism.</p>
July 17th, 2024	<p>Crush - Richard Siken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i think if i had read this a couple of months ago it realllly would have fucked with me. actually, it did..."Litany in which Certain Things Are Crossed Out" is probably my favorite out of the collection. i don't know, it's hard to latch on to Siken at this point in my life as my view on love and relationships has taken a 180, and it low-key reads as the musings of a very passionate middle schooler. Siken thinks he is Ginsberg and i think i am apathetic towards stories of yearning. i have empathy towards the themes of having to hide queer identity, it is just not something that sparks me as particularly creative or insightful. 7/10, very well written, just not as gripping as i was anticipating due to my own cynicism.
September 2024	<p>The Awakening - Kate Chopin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - had to re-read for a class, nothing particularly special but god do i love the setting of Louisiana.
September 14th, 2024	<p>Sula - Toni Morrison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -

To-read:

- Twin Peaks: The Final Dossier
- The Lesser Key of Solomon
- Riddler Year One
- Punchline One Shot
- Love is A Dog From Hell

- Bertholt Brecht: Poems 1913-1956
- The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death
- After Tonight, Everything Will Be Different
- My Husband - Maud Ventura
- Gone to the Wolves - Wray
- Bless Your Heart - Lindy Ryan
- Homestuck 2
- harley quinn x poison ivy webtoon collection
- Murakami: IQ84, After Dark, After the Quake, Blind Willow Sleeping Woman, Colorless Taukuru Tazaki..., Dance Dance Dance, The Elephant Vanishes, Kafka On the Shore, A Wild Sheep Chase, The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, Memoir, Men Without Women
- Works of Sidonie Colette
- Frankenstein
- Hound of the Baskervilles
- Nausea - CURRENT READ, WILL TAKE ME A WHILE BECAUSE I THINK IT IS ASS BUT TRYING TO READ MORE PHILOSOPHY
- Notes From Underground
- Euripides and Other Plays
- Maggie Nelson's Bluets

TO READ : AUTHORS EDITION

- Sandra Cisneros
- Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Frank O'Hara
- John Ashbery

A few of my favorites + most high recommendations that aren't on the list:

The Alchemist - Paulo Coelho: basic i know.. i read this a really long time ago but i think it really stuck with me and changed my perspective as a person. i really should reread because that might have just been the opinion of 15-16 year old me but i think this novel is really significant in a way that i maybe haven't unlocked yet.

Circe/Mud Poems - Margaret Atwood: extremely underrated atwood poetry collection, she gets me. the title is kind of self-explanatory, it is sort of a retelling of circe/odysseus in an extremely beautiful and humanizing way. i did a baby research project about this in

contrast to other depictions of circe (this was from fall and i'd like to think i've improved on my writing since then but it is here). my favorite out of the collection is called "book of ancestors" and i came about the entire collection after briefly seeing that poem on the internet and literally scavenging for it on every possible platform overnight. one day it will resonate with me again but for now it just stays in the mind palace hall of fame

my little paper:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19HnnxW5mC9qQg8zqsIqBb0SvfHlthXDbx_usLI9S8M/edit?usp=sharing

article i drew from that i thought was super cool -

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/aulla.2001.96.1.008>

100 Years Of Solitude - Gabriel García Márquez: read this initially for book club and kind of fell in love with it, it is a really fantastic familial narrative wrought with tension and sadness but in a really beautiful way. i am such a huge fan of Gabriel García Márquez, Chronicle of A Death Foretold is also an incredibly fun and illuminating read (would recommend that also if you, like myself, are extremely fascinated by religious imagery). i also really love how it moves through time and differing geo-socio-political climates, it reads as a wonderful composite of social critique and commentary.

p.s. I LOVE MAGICAL REALISM

Hard Boiled Wonderland and The End of The World - Haruki Murakami: this is probably my number 2 favorite book of all time, for an extremely embarrassing reason. that reason is because it reminds me of the giver series, which i did read the entirety of in childhood (yes, i bought the box set from the scholastic book fair and it changed the trajectory of my life). i am a large fan of murakami's writing in general, but the truly untouchable fantasy reality he creates in this one was highly enjoyable and brought back a level of nostalgia that i was not anticipating. i really recommend this if you enjoy surrealism or you just want to read something really odd.

The Epic of Gilgamesh - ???: thank you mesopotamian civilization for one of the greatest (and first!) stories of all time. i don't even think i can explain why i like this so much but it is a tried and true hero's journey imbued with mesopotamian mythology and i found it incredibly compelling. modern versions are a really easy read, so i recommend this one if you're interested in mythology, was/is really into the odyssey (looking at you, you know who u are :3).

Tiny, Smiling Daddy - Mary Gaitskill (short story): the short story magnum opus for queer girlboys with daddy issues. not being taken

seriously or feeling seen from a young age resonated a little too deep in gaitskill's narrative of an estranged father-daughter relationship who is irate after finding out his daughter (Kitty) wrote an article about their childhood relationship in a popular magazine. i recommend this read to anyone in general, but especially to anyone who really wants to understand me as a person because i think gaitskill articulates a large part of my upbringing better than i ever could. would also recommend "The Son" by Mary Oliver (a brief poem) if you are interested in themes of gender liberation/abolition/perception.

The Son:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/35691/the-son>

Another small paper I wrote on the two of them in conjunction (very impersonal and not really my true thoughts):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QdP-M4UjOaJovPujUSRVV4wLmnTzsdoappC5sE89alw/edit?usp=sharing>