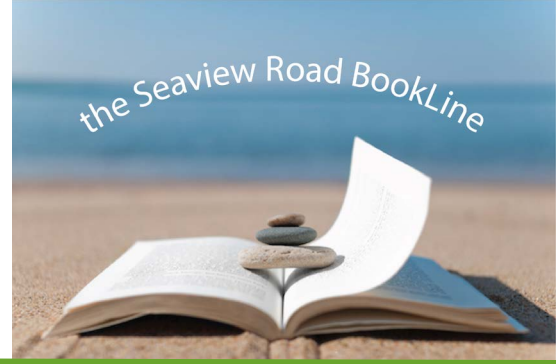


JUNE 2021 BOOKLIST



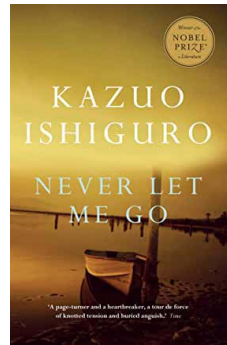
If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need. - Marcus Tullius Cicero



NEVER LET ME GO

by Kazuo Ishiguro

As was the case in 'Klara and the Sun', AI (artificial intelligence) are the protagonists in this novel but not your standard sci-fi. Very touching and Ishiguro is a great author. — Doranne De Montigny

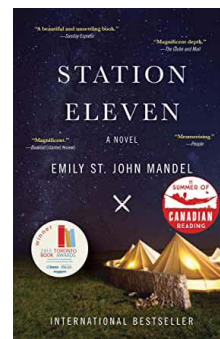


STATION ELEVEN

by Emily St. John Mandel

This is a post pandemic story... makes our pandemic look like a piece of cake.

— Doranne De Montigny

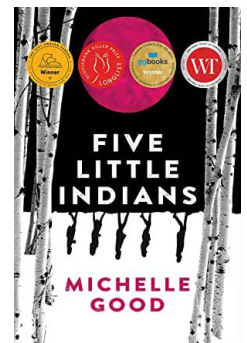


FIVE LITTLE INDIANS

by Michelle Good

This novel is heart wrenching but especially poignant given current news. She's an excellent writer.

— Doranne De Montigny, also recommended by Elaine Prodor



HARE B&B

by Bill Richardson, with illustrator Bill Pechet



A delightful book about rabbits, resilience...and revenge.

Animated Book Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/SesFUfc8p1M>

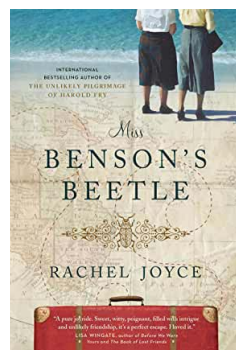
— Shelly Hollingshead

MISS BENSON'S BEETLE

by Rachel Joyce

From the author of 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry' comes an uplifting irresistible story of two women on a life-changing adventure who risk everything, break all the rules, and discover their best selves together. Available at the library.

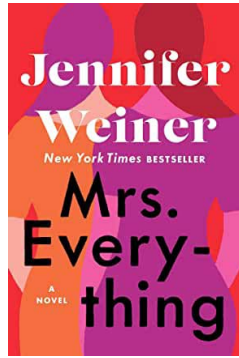
— Linda Ashbaugh, also recommended by Julia Rogers



MRS. EVERYTHING

by Jennifer Weiner

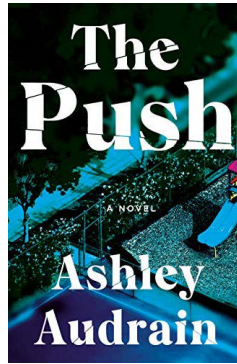
I picked up the audio CD as the only choice that day — I always listen to books in CD in the car — without any high expectations. Although this novel is definitely lighter fare and perhaps the quintessential beach read, it has its appeal. Very simply, it's a novel about what it means / meant to be a woman. Expectations, limits, disappointments and successes of being a 'good girl', a daughter, a wife, and a mother, are all seen through the lens of our time, from the fifties through to 2016. The experiences of two sisters are framed against the backdrop of the civil rights movement, the Vietnam war, the 'hippie' age, the fight for the ERA and gay rights, and, ultimately, the heady possibility that a woman could possibly make it to the White House. I found it fascinating that I realize more now about that era than I did while actually living through those times. — *Lesley Bird*



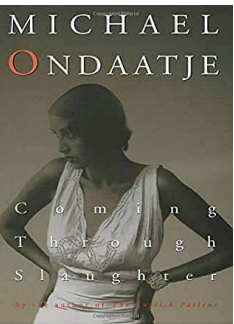
THE PUSH

by Ashley Audrain

A tense, page-turning psychological drama about the making and breaking of a family, told through the eyes of a woman whose experience of motherhood is nothing at all what she hoped for — and everything she feared. Blythe Connor is determined that she will be the warm, supportive mother she never had to her new baby Violet but in the thick of motherhood's exhausting early days, Blythe doesn't find the connection with her daughter she expected or is it all in Blythe's head? — *Sharon Muzzin, also recommended by Elaine Prodor*



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COMING THROUGH SLAUGHTER

By Michael Ondaatje

Winner of the 1976 Books in Canada First Novel Award

Readers of this book will witness Michael Ondaatje transforming from a poet into a novelist, without leaving the poetry behind. Using an experimental, impressionistic style with raw imagery,

he evokes the early Twentieth Century atmosphere in the red-light Storyville district of New Orleans and describes a music scene soon to be legendary. Ondaatje takes fictional liberties to portray jazz pioneer Buddy Bolden's greatness on the cornet and the sadness surrounding his mental deterioration. The Slaughter of the title is a town on the way to the asylum. This was my first exposure to Ondaatje, and it led me to read *The English Patient*, followed by *In the Skin of a Lion*, *Anil's Ghost*, and *The Cat's Table*, all captivating in very different ways. His first novel served literary notice of various wonders to come. — *Bill Mathis*



Thank you, everyone, who submitted to The Booklist. The Seaview Road Bookline comes out once a month; the next submission deadline is September 15th (after a summer break — will send out a reminder a week beforehand). I'm also interested in articles that feature works of a particular author or that focus on a book series—one per issue—first submitted, first printed. Fiction only, please. Poetry welcome. Happy summer reading!

Both of these poems are by Lorna Crozier, from **Through the Garden: A Love Story (with Cats)**. In this book, Crozier weaves an intimate and intensely moving memoir of two human lives (and four cats) through her poetry and prose. "At once a spirited account of the past and a poignant reckoning with the present, it is, above all, an extraordinary and unforgettable love story." (Quote from *Globe and Mail*, 100 Best Books 2020) — *Shelly Hollingshead*

Waiting for a Sign

When I met you it was as if
I was living in a house by the sea.
Waves sprayed the windows,
slapped the wooden steps.
Yet I opened the door
and a white horse stood there.
He walked through the rooms,
swinging his head from side to side,
his hooves leaving half moons
of sand on the floor.

Make what you will of this. This was
the most natural thing I've ever done,
opening the door, moving aside
for the horse to come in.

Not that you were he. He was simply
a horse, nothing more,
the gentle kind that pulls a wagon
or drags seaweed from the shore,
ankles feathered, great hooves wide as platters.

He wasn't you,
that didn't matter. He looked at me
and we knew each other. That night
I wanted to live. I wanted
to live in a house where the door
swings on hinges smooth as the sea
and a white horse stands,
waiting for a sign.

Come in, I said.

And that was the start of it,
the horse, the light, the electric air.
Somewhere you were walking toward me,
the door to my life swinging open,
the sea, the sea and its riderless horse
waiting to come in.

A Small Ambition

To be no more than mist
rising above the rushes,
entering the white
limbs of the trees.

For just one hour
to be a calmness,
a lifting up
minus bones and muscles,

minus memory
and cognition
and your own insistent
longing to last.