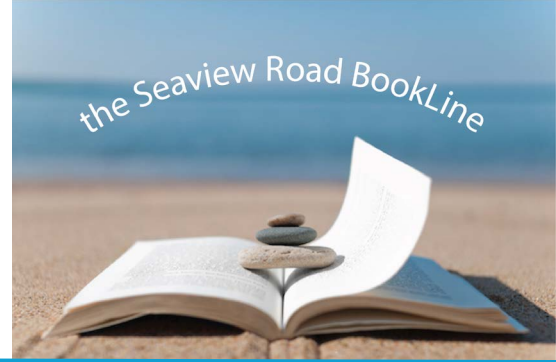
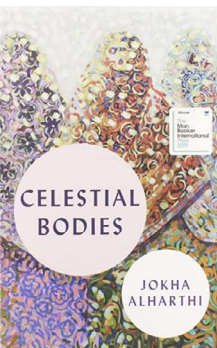


# MAY 2021 BOOKLIST



## CELESTIAL BODIES

by Jokha Alharthi



Set in rural Oman, this is the story of three very different sisters during a time when traditional values are moving into modern times. Alharthi won the Man Booker International for this book. I loved it. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jul/08/jokha-alharthi-a-lot-of-women-are-really-strong-even-though-they-are-slaves>.

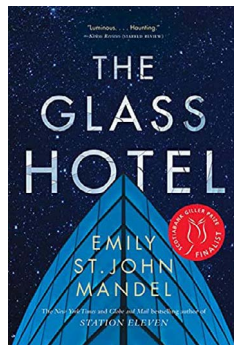
— Doranne De Montigny

## THE GLASS HOTEL

by Emily St. John Mandel

Another excellent read by a brilliant writer. A critic review: "The structure of The Glass Hotel is virtuosic, as the fragments of the story coalesce by the end of the narrative into a richly satisfying shape." <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/may/02/the-glass-hotel-by-emily-st-john-mandel-re-view-haunted-visions-of-a-global-crisis>.

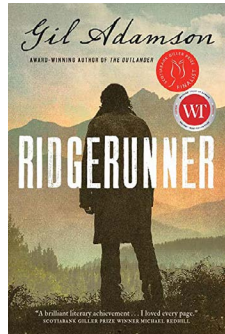
— Doranne De Montigny



## RIDGERUNNER

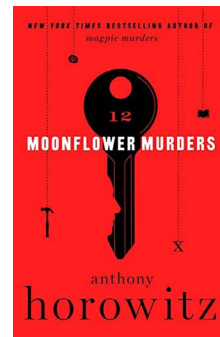
by Gil Adamson

Yet another excellent read in a modern 'Western'. A Quill & Quire reviewer says: "Adamson writes with a sly wit and a deep insight into her characters and the natural world but, more significantly, into how the characters and the natural world interact, shaping and being shaped by one another." <http://quillandquire.com/review/ridgerunner/> — Doranne De Montigny



## MOONFLOWER MURDERS

by Anthony Horowitz

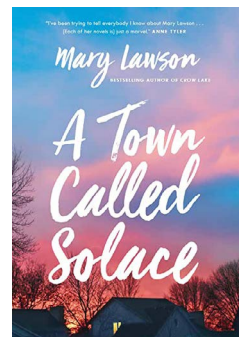


I really enjoyed this book — Anthony Horowitz is very clever here, having written a novel within a novel. — Helen Hays

## A TOWN CALLED SOLACE

by Mary Lawson

Told through three distinct and compelling points of view, this novel cuts back and forth among these unforgettable characters to uncover the layers of grief, remorse, and love that connect families, both the ones we're born into and the ones we choose. — Sharon Muzzin

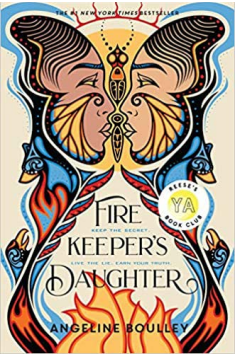


## THE FIREKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

by Angeline Boulley

In this debut novel, set on the American side of the Sault Ste. Marie, we're introduced to Daunis Fontaine, an Ojibwe teenager. Daunis is an intelligent, ambitious young woman who purposefully maintains the knowledge and traditions of her people while navigating a modern world where Indian culture is largely unimportant or ignored. Racism is a decades-long reality of life, but it is the insidious plague of drugs and corruption that now threatens her community and spurs Daunis to act to protect the people she loves. This is a bit of a thriller — combining mystery, suspense, and touching on the themes of identity and self reliance in indigenous cultures.

— Lesley Bird



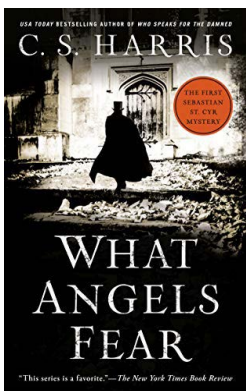
## WHAT ANGELS FEAR

by C. S. Harris

(First mystery novel from  
*The Sebastian St. Cyr Series*)

If you enjoy historical mysteries, you might try the Sebastian St. Cyr series written by C. S. Harris, an author whose scholarly background in 19th century European history lends a solid foundation to the novels.

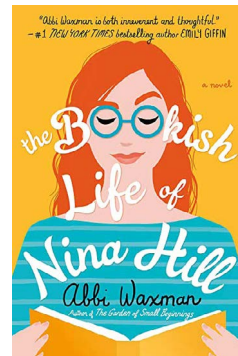
In 'What Angels Fear', Viscount Devlin is our hero...a darkly complex, troubled nobleman who has found his way back from the Napoleonic Wars only to become immersed in the shifting political world of Regency England. Devlin develops an affinity for solving murders as he navigates corruption, intrigue, and scandal, not only at the highest levels but also in his own life. He's a combination street fighter, canny investigator, and a bit of brooding Heathcliffe. (all novels available at VIRL) — Lesley Bird



## THE BOOKISH LIFE OF NINA HILL

by Abbi Waxman

The only child of a single mother, introverted Nina has her life just as she wants it: a confident bookworm with the perfect job in a bookstore, a kick-butt trivia team, and a cat named Phil.



When the father Nina never knew suddenly dies, leaving behind innumerable sisters, brothers, nieces, and nephews, Nina is horrified. They all live close by! They're all—or mostly—all—excited to meet her!

— Deborah Camp

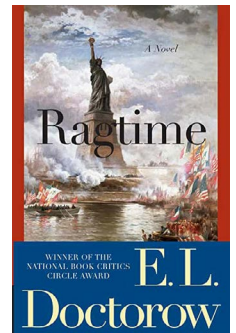
## RAGTIME

by E. L. Doctorow

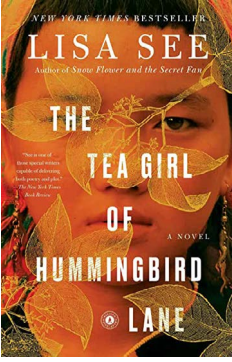
Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1975

Looking back at the New York City of twelve decades ago, *Ragtime* captures an era full of energy and promise in an inventive way that delightfully pushes the boundaries of historical fiction. The novel delivers biting social commentary while being highly entertaining. Many references to historical figures such as Henry Ford create imaginary and amusing interactions. Through powerful individual stories that overlap, the author portrays romance, ambition, racism, and denial of human dignity. Vivid major characters such as musician Coalhouse Walker and his fierce demand for justice drive the narrative, in a social context that contrasts inequities among Eastern European immigrants and African-Americans with the White middle class.

— Bill Mathis



— Lesley Bird



## THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LANE

by Lisa See

The author explores the life of a Chinese mother and her daughter, who has been adopted by an American couple. A powerful story about a family separated by circumstances, culture and

distance. The book paints an unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.

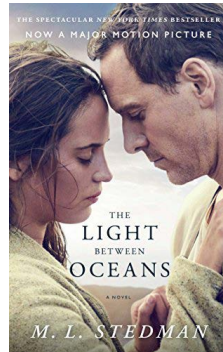
—Lois Clyde

## THE LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS

by M. L. Stedman

Australia, 1926. Tom Sherbourne returns home after fighting on the Western Front, and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. He brings with him his young wife Isabel. After two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. "Their gift from God"! Against Tom's judgment, they claim it as their own. The reader is swept into a story about extraordinarily compelling characters seeking to find their North Star in a world where there is no right answer, where justice for one person is another's tragic loss.

—Karan Jamieson



## POETRY CORNER

### 5 Cormorants

by Sam W. Reimer

5 cormorants at Lonsdale Quay  
fisher kings of the West Coast  
dark lords biding their time  
perched on their power trips

Which one gets the next fish?  
Is there 'their' pecking order  
or is it a free-for-all  
like working-class gulls  
or crows?

& are there still healthy fish  
in downtown Burrard Inlet —  
let alone healthful?  
The cormorants posed & poised  
together didn't move a feather for

2 hours  
except when the wind off the  
water  
moved for them...



Thank you, everyone, who submitted to *The Booklist* this month. *The Seaview Road Bookline* comes out once a month; the next submission deadline is June 15th (I 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!  
[seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com](mailto:seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com)