



Discover. Read. Share.

Love *The Bear*? THEN TRY...

RECOMMENDED NEXT READS

The Bear is a beautiful novel, short in length but great in its capacity to explore themes of love and loss, survival, and respect for nature and the animals that inhabit it at a time when the rest of humanity has long since ceased to exist. Here we've hand-picked books that imagine other post-apocalyptic worlds, explore grief, and delve into similar cautionary tales of nature's unpredictable temperament. [View the full collection here: https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/10155](https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/10155)

DYSTOPIAN & POST-APOCALYPTIC

Similar to *The Bear*, these Recommended Next Reads explore a post-apocalyptic future with tenderness. Amidst a genre of books typically full of despair and desolation, these novels share a belief that goodness can still exist in humanity, even when all hope seems lost.



hoopla Book Club Selection, Fall 2019

THE LIGHTEST OBJECT IN THE UNIVERSE BY KIMI EISELE

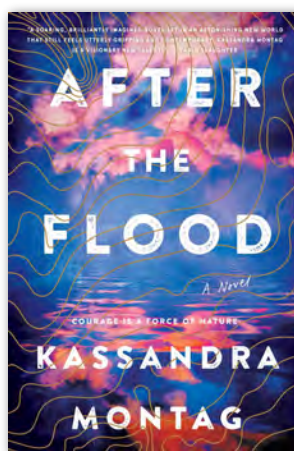
What if the end times allowed people to see and build the world anew? This is the landscape that Kimi Eisele creates in her surprising and original debut novel. Evoking the spirit of monumental love stories such as *Cold Mountain* and the creative vision of novels like *Station Eleven*, *The Lightest Object in the Universe* imagines what happens after the global economy collapses and the electrical grid goes down.

It is a moving and hopeful story about resilience and adaptation and a testament to the power of community, where our best traits, born of necessity, can begin to emerge.

THE BOOK OF M BY PENG SHEPHERD

Set in a dangerous near-future world, *The Book of M* tells the captivating story of a group of ordinary people caught in an extraordinary catastrophe who risk everything to save the ones they love. It is a sweeping debut that illuminates the power that memories have not only on the heart, but on the world itself.

"A beautiful and haunting story about the power of memory and the necessity of human connection, this book is a post-apocalyptic masterpiece and the one dystopian novel you really need to read this year." —*Bustle*



AFTER THE FLOOD BY KASSANDRA MONTAG

A Chicago Tribune Best Book of the Year

A novel set about 100 years in the future in a landscape covered mostly by floodwater and the few mountaintop colonies that remain, where a grieving mother desperately searches for her oldest daughter, Row. On her journey, she must face whether or not saving Row is worth endangering her younger daughter, Pearl, and the travelers that join her along the way.

A compulsively readable novel of dark despair and soaring hope, *After the Flood* is a magnificent, action-packed, and sometimes frightening odyssey laced with wonder—an affecting and wholly original saga both redemptive and astonishing.



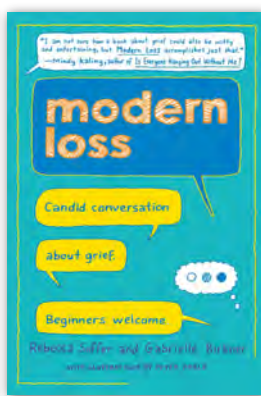
YEAR OF THE ORPHAN BY DANIEL FINDLAY

The Road meets *Mad Max* in this stunning debut with a gutsy, charismatic young female protagonist—for fans of *Station Eleven*, *The Passage*, and *Riddley Walker*. In a post-apocalyptic future where survivors scavenge in the harsh Australian Outback for spoils from a buried civilization, a girl races across the desert, holding her treasures close, pursued by the Reckoner. Sold as a child, then raised hard in the System, the Orphan has a mission. She carries secrets about the destruction that brought the world to its knees. And she's about to discover that the past still holds power over the present.

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COPING WITH GRIEF

Grief and dying are central elements to *The Bear*'s story. These selections—both fiction and non—center on what it is to grieve, how families cope with loss, and how humor can be a welcomed outlet in the midst of it all.



LITTLE GODS BY MENG JIN

Little Gods is a lyrical and thought-provoking debut novel that explores the complex web of grief, memory, time, physics, history, and selfhood in the immigrant experience, and the complicated bond between daughters and mothers.

"Steeped in trauma, loss, and imperfect love, *Little Gods* is... Smart and emotionally devastating." –NPR.org

THE LAST ROMANTICS BY TARA CONKLIN

An Instant New York Times Bestseller

A novel that pierces the heart and lingers in the mind, *The Last Romantics* is a beautiful meditation on the power of stories—how they navigate us through difficult times, help us understand the past, and point the way toward our future.

"A richly observed novel, both ambitious and welcoming." –Meg Wolitzer

MODERN LOSS BY REBECCA SOFFER & GABRIELLE BIRKNER

This book is a fresh and irreverent examination into navigating grief and resilience in the age of social media. Comfort and community for coping with the mess of loss comes through candid original essays from a variety of voices, accompanied by gorgeous illustrations and wry infographics. Brutally honest and inspiring, *Modern Loss* invites us to talk intimately and humorously about grief, helping us confront the humanity (and mortality) we all share.

"These surprisingly funny and candid stories aren't about death; they're about life, and thriving in the face of loss." –Stephen Colbert

LATE MIGRATIONS BY MARGARET RENKL

An O, the Oprah Magazine July 2019 Pick and named "Best Book of the Year" by New Statesman, New York Public Library, Chicago Public Library, and Washington Independent Review of Books

Here, in brief essays, Renkl traces a tender and honest portrait of her complicated parents—her exuberant, creative mother; her steady, supportive father—and of the bittersweet moments that accompany a child's transition to caregiver.

Ringed with rapture and heartache, these essays convey the dignity of bluebirds and rat snakes, monarch butterflies and native bees. As these two threads haunt and harmonize with each other, Renkl suggests that there is astonishment to be found in common things: in what seems ordinary, in what we all share. For in both worlds—the natural one and our own—"the shadow side of love is always loss, and grief is only love's own twin."

"[Renkl] guides us through a South lush with bluebirds, pecan orchards, and glasses of whiskey shared at dusk in this collection of prose in poetry-size bits; as it celebrates bounty, it also mourns the profound losses we face every day." –O, the Oprah Magazine

THE CRYING BOOK BY HEATHER CHRISTLE

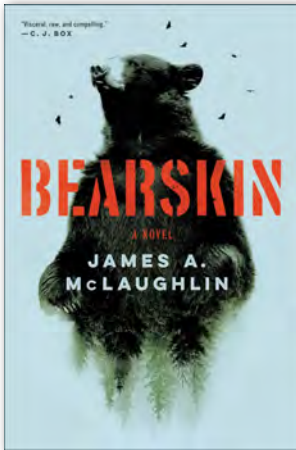
The New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice

Heather Christle has just lost a dear friend to suicide and now must reckon with her own depression and the birth of her first child. As she faces her grief and impending parenthood, she decides to research the act of crying: what it is and why people do it, even if they rarely talk about it. Christle's investigations look through a mosaic of science, history, and her own lived experience to find new ways of understanding life, loss, and mental illness.

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FACING NATURE

Nature plays an important role in the story of *The Bear*, so much so that it is like a main character in itself. Likewise, these four recommendations feature nature in a role essential to the story. Just as Andrew Krivak wrote of the woods in *The Bear*, these authors brought their surrounding landscapes and other elements of nature to life.



hoopla Book Club Selection, Fall 2018

BEARSKIN BY JAMES A. MCLAUGHLIN

Rice Moore is just beginning to think his troubles are behind him. He's found a job protecting a remote forest preserve in Virginian Appalachia where his main responsibilities include tracking wildlife and refurbishing cabins. It's perfect for hiding away from the Mexican drug cartels he betrayed. But Rice becomes obsessed with catching the poachers, leading to hostile altercations with the locals and attention from both the law and Rice's employers.

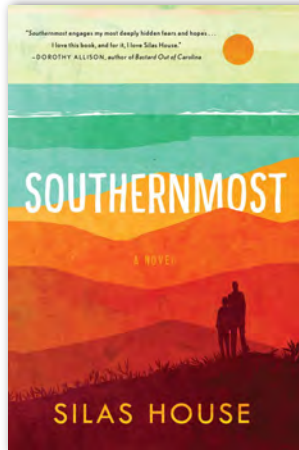
James McLaughlin expertly brings the beauty and danger of Appalachia to life. The result is an elemental, slow burn of a novel—one that will haunt you long after you turn the final page.

"Gruesomely gorgeous...McLaughlin writes about the natural world with a casual lyricism and un-self-conscious joy... Remarkable...The kind of writing that makes me shiver."
—*New York Times Book Review*

SOUTHERNMOST BY SILAS HOUSE

In this stunning novel about judgment, courage, heartbreak, and change, author Silas House wrestles with the limits of belief and the infinite ways to love. In the aftermath of a flood that washes away much of a small Tennessee town, evangelical preacher Asher Sharp offers shelter to two gay men. In doing so, he starts to see his life anew—and risks losing everything. With no way out but ahead, Asher flees to Key West, where he hopes to find his brother, Luke, whom he'd turned against years ago after Luke came out. And it is there, at the southernmost point of the country, that Asher and Justin discover a new way of thinking about the world, and a new way of understanding love.

Southernmost is a tender and affecting book, a meditation on love and its consequences.



hoopla Book Club Selection, Fall 2018



THE FLOATING WORLD BY C. MORGAN BABST

The Floating World tells the story of the Boisdorés, a Creole family whose roots stretch back nearly to the foundation of New Orleans, as they attempt to reassemble their lives following Hurricane Katrina. Though the storm is fast approaching the Louisiana coast, Cora, the family's fragile elder daughter, refuses to leave the city. Her parents evacuate without her, setting off a chain of events that leaves their marriage in shambles and Cora catatonic.

The Floating World is the Katrina story that needed to be told—one with a piercing, unforgettable loveliness and a nuanced understanding of this particular place and its tangled past, written by a New Orleans native. Told from the points of view of each family member, this gorgeous debut is bathed in the sights, sounds, and smells of New Orleans, and is a profound Faulknerian family saga about what we choose to salvage in a world that destroys everything we hold most dear, and what we can possibly build out of what remains.

WILDLAND BY REBECCA HODGE

When Kat Jamison retreats to the Blue Ridge Mountains, she's counting on peace and solitude to help her make a difficult decision: face yet another round of chemotherapy or surrender gracefully. Self-reflection quickly proves impossible as her getaway is complicated by a pair of abandoned dogs and two friendly children staying nearby, Lily and Nirav.

But when lightning ignites a deadly wildfire, Kat's cabin is cut off from the rest of the camp, separating Lily and Nirav from their parents. Left with no choice, Kat, the children, and the dogs must flee on foot through the drought-stricken forest. Kat will have to decide just how hard she's willing to fight to survive—and what's worth living for.

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LEARNING FROM FLORA & FAUNA

Every moment we spend in nature is an opportunity to make amazing discoveries about ourselves and the world we live in. These books are grounded in the profound conviction that wisdom can be drawn out of the wilderness and into everyday experience.



OUR WILD CALLING BY RICHARD LOUV

Louv redefines the future of human-animal coexistence. *Our Wild Calling* explores these powerful and mysterious bonds and how they can transform our mental, physical, and spiritual lives, serve as an antidote to the growing epidemic of human loneliness, and help us tap into the empathy required to preserve life on Earth.

Our Wild Calling makes the case for protecting, promoting, and creating a sustainable and shared habitat for all creatures—not out of fear, but out of love. Transformative and inspiring, this book points us toward what we all long for in the age of technology: real connection.

"Impassioned and compelling...A thoughtfully researched, poetically inspiring call to action." —*Kirkus Reviews*

H IS FOR HAWK BY HELEN MACDONALD

Following the sudden death of her father, Macdonald tried staving off deep depression with a unique form of personal therapy: the purchase and training of an English goshawk, which she named Mabel. The more Macdonald got to know her, the more Mabel confounded her notions about what the species was supposed to represent. Is a hawk a symbol of might or independence, or is that just our attempt to remake the animal world in our own image? Writing with breathless urgency that only rarely skirts the melodramatic, Macdonald broadens her scope well beyond herself to focus on the antagonism between people and the environment.

"Captivating and beautifully written, it's a meditation on the bond between beasts and humans and the pain and beauty of being alive." —*People (Book of the Week)*



NATURE'S BEST HOPE BY DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

Tallamy outlines his vision for a grassroots approach to conservation, advocating for homeowners everywhere to turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats and mitigate the effects of development and corporate agriculture. *Nature's Best Hope* is nature writing at its best—rooted in history, progressive in its advocacy, and above all, actionable and hopeful. By proposing practical measures that ordinary people easily can do, Tallamy gives us reason to believe that the planet can be preserved for future generations.

"A full-blown manifesto that calls for the radical rethinking of the American residential landscape, starting with the lawn." —*The Washington Post*

THE SECRET WISDOM OF NATURE BY PETER WOHLLEBEN

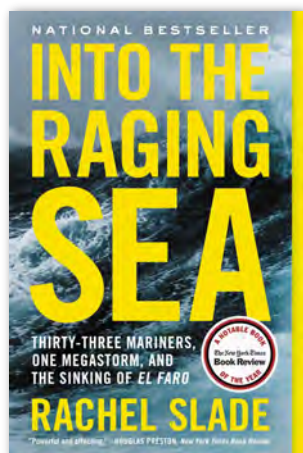
In *The Secret Wisdom of Nature*, master storyteller and international sensation Peter Wohlleben takes readers on a thought-provoking exploration of the vast natural systems that make life on Earth possible. In this tour of an almost unfathomable world, Wohlleben describes the fascinating interplay between animals and plants. By introducing us to the latest scientific discoveries and recounting his own insights from decades of observing nature, one of the world's most famous foresters shows us how to recapture our sense of awe so we can see the world around us with completely new eyes.

"Peter Wohlleben's curiosity about the natural world, his sense of wonder at its complexity and beauty, and his clear and compelling writing have combined in *The Secret Wisdom of Nature*. As you read these pages you will understand why I so admire him and am so in love with his work." —*Jane Goodall*

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SURVIVALIST TALES

The best survival fiction is able to delve deep into the psychology of humanity like few other genres. It can portray the strength of the human spirit, the will to survive, and the ability to beat the odds. It's easy to get lost in a story of life-and-death consequences and picture how we ourselves would fare under such a situation.



INTO THE RAGING SEA BY RACHEL SLADE

An NPR Best Book of 2018

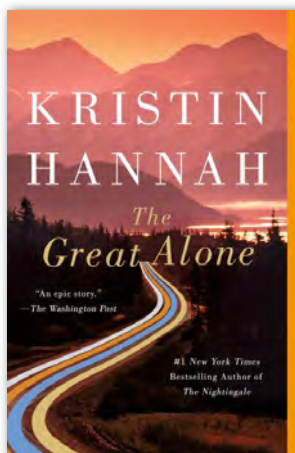
On October 1, 2015, the American container ship *El Faro* sailed straight into the eye of Hurricane Joaquin in the Bermuda Triangle and vanished. When all thirty-three aboard were lost, *El Faro* became the deadliest American maritime accident in more than a generation. Why did the huge ship, equipped with satellite communications and sophisticated weather forecasting software, steam into the storm? Three miles down, deeper than the *Titanic*, the ship's black box held damning secrets, including twenty-six hours of conversations between captain and crew leading up to *El Faro*'s final moments. Relying on extensive investigative reporting, as well as the words of the doomed mariners themselves, Rachel Slade unravels the mystery behind this tragedy.

"A sea disaster tale unlike any other...an exciting, terrifying, and deeply sad story." —*New York Times Book Review*

THE GREAT ALONE BY KRISTIN HANNAH

Set in 1974 Alaska, 13-year-old Leni and her parents, Ernt and Cora, have to learn how to survive in the unforgiving wild of their new home on the Kenai Peninsula. With the help of the tight-knit community of endearing fellow homesteaders, they manage to just barely stay afloat. But Ernt, who has never recovered from the trauma of fighting in the Vietnam War, struggles with the isolation and the interminably dark days of winter. Leni's greatest comfort and escape is her schoolmate and neighbor Matthew. Over the years, their friendship evolves into a forbidden romance.

"Hannah vividly evokes the natural beauty and danger of Alaska and paints a compelling portrait of a family in crisis and a community on the brink of change." —*Booklist*



MOON OF THE CRUSTED SNOW BY WAUBGESHIG RICE

With winter looming, a small northern Anishinaabe community goes dark. While community members struggle to maintain order, an unexpected visitor arrives, escaping the crumbling society to the south. The community leadership loses its grip on power as the visitors manipulate the tired and hungry to take control of the reserve. Tensions rise and, as the months pass, so does the death toll due to sickness and despair. Frustrated by the building chaos, a group of young friends and their families turn to the land and Anishinaabe tradition in hopes of helping their community thrive again. Blending action and allegory, *Moon of the Crusted Snow* upends our expectations. Out of catastrophe comes resilience. And as one society collapses, another is reborn.

"This slow-burning thriller is also a powerful story of survival and will leave readers breathless." —*Publishers Weekly*

THE REVENANT BY MICHAEL PUNKE

The year is 1823, and the trappers of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company live a brutal frontier life. Hugh Glass is among the company's finest men, an experienced frontiersman and an expert tracker. But when a scouting mission puts him face-to-face with a grizzly bear, he is viciously mauled and not expected to survive. Two company men are dispatched to stay behind and tend to Glass before he dies. When the men abandon him instead, Glass is driven to survive by one desire: revenge. With shocking grit and determination, Glass sets out, crawling at first, across hundreds of miles of uncharted American frontier. Based on a true story, *The Revenant* is a remarkable tale of obsession, the human will stretched to its limits, and the lengths that one man will go to for retribution.

"A must-read for fans of Westerns and frontier fiction and recommended for anyone interested in stories that test the limit of how much the human body and spirit can endure." —*Library Journal*



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Love *The Bear*? **THEN TRY...**

DYSTOPIA, ILLUSTRATED

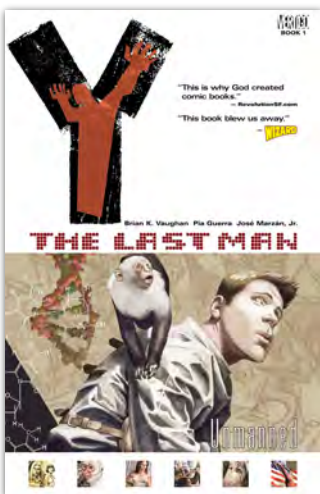
Both individual readers and book clubs alike have found graphic novels on hoopla to be a welcome change of pace—so much so that demand has us including at least one in every quarterly hoopla Book Club lineup! Here, for the Recommended Next Reads based on *The Bear*, we present two graphic novels that take place during a post-apocalyptic world, both created with lots of imagination and interesting takes on what happens when the rest of the world ends.



SWEET TOOTH VOL. 1: OUT OF THE DEEP WOODS

BY JEFF LEMIRE

A cross between *Bambi* and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, *Sweet Tooth* tells the story of Gus, a rare new breed of human/animal hybrid children, who has been raised in isolation following an inexplicable pandemic that struck a decade earlier. Now, with the death of his father, he's left to fend for himself...until he meets a hulking drifter named Jepperd who promises to help him. This unique and haunting new series is written and illustrated by Eisner-nominated creator Lemire (The Essex County Trilogy).



Y: THE LAST MAN VOL. 1: UNMANNED

BY BRIAN K. VAUGHAN

Y: The Last Man, winner of three Eisner Awards and one of the most critically acclaimed, bestselling comic book series of the last decade, is that rare example of a page-turner that is at once humorous, socially relevant and endlessly surprising.

This is the saga of Yorick Brown—the only human survivor of a planet-wide plague that instantly kills every mammal possessing a Y chromosome. Accompanied by a mysterious government agent, a brilliant young geneticist, and his pet monkey, Ampersand, Yorick travels the world in search of his lost love and the answer to why he's the last man on Earth.

If you'll be holding a book club meeting all about *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak, be sure to visit theclub.hoopladigital.com for more reader resources like our exclusive Discussion Guide, the Book Club Companion meeting planner, and our Q&A with the author.

Let us know what you think using #hooplabookclub on social, where you can find us @hoopladigital!

