



Discover. Read. Share.

## RECOMMENDED NEXT READS *Learning to Speak Southern*

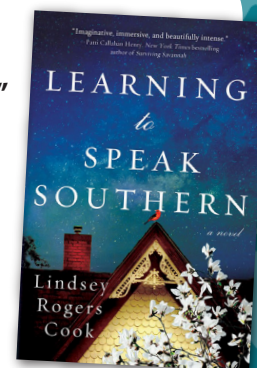
### RECOMMENDED NEXT READS

**"Imaginative, immersive and beautifully intense, this is your new favorite read!"**

– Patti Callahan Henry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Surviving Savannah*

*Learning to Speak Southern* is a searing Southern story about confronting the difference between the family you're born into and the family you choose, from the acclaimed author of *How to Bury Your Brother*. Here we explore various themes threaded through *Learning to Speak Southern*.

View the full collection here: <https://www.hoopladigital.com/collection/13252>



### SOUTHERN FICTION

Many southern novels illuminate the notion of home—of wanting to escape home, of returning home, of the idea that home never truly leaves us, no matter where we may travel. From Lex's hometown of Memphis to an island in Georgia to Kentucky bourbon country, here's fiction rooted in the south.



#### ***ALWAYS HAPPY HOUR* BY MARY MILLER**

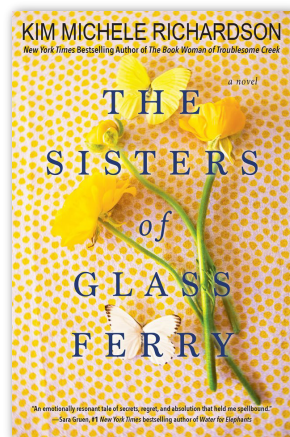
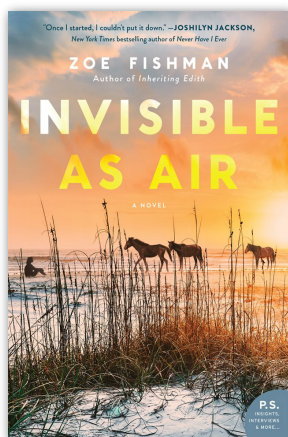
**"Deftly crafted."** – Joyce Carol Oates, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Finalist

*Always Happy Hour* weaves tales of young women who are deeply flawed and intensely real, who struggle to get out of their own way. Although each shoulders the weight of different baggage, they all suspect they deserve better.

#### ***INVISIBLE AS AIR* BY ZOE FISHMAN**

**"With her trademark wit and honesty, even in the face of sorrow, Fishman will take you on a journey you won't soon forget."** – Greer Hendricks, *New York Times* bestselling author

Sylvie Snow is secretly addicted to the OxyContin intended for her husband. For three years, Sylvie has repressed her grief about the stillbirth of her daughter. She tells herself the pills are temporary, and when the supply runs out, she'll go back to her regularly scheduled programming. But days turn into weeks, and Sylvie slips slowly into a nightmare.



#### ***THE SISTERS OF GLASS FERRY* BY KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON**

**"*The Sisters of Glass Ferry* peels back the layers of a small town to reveal a labyrinth of long-buried secrets and dangerous lies. Richardson delivers a gripping, hauntingly atmospheric Southern Gothic tale."** – Karen Abbott, *New York Times* bestselling author

Spanning several decades and written in an authentic voice both lyrical and wise, *The Sisters of Glass Ferry* is a haunting novel about small-town Southern secrets, loss and atonement, and the unbreakable bond between siblings.

#### ***UNDER THE MAGNOLIAS* BY T. I. LOWE**

**"A moving portrayal of the power of family—the one we're born into and the one we create—and the resilience of the human spirit."** – Kristy Woodson Harvey, *USA Today* bestselling author

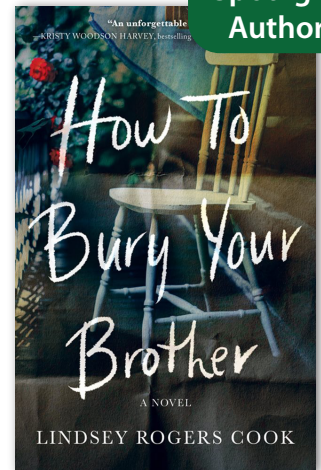
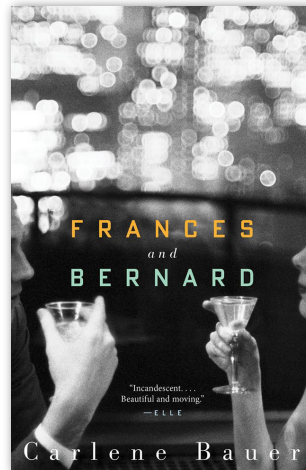
Austin Foster is barely a teenager when her mama dies giving birth to twins, leaving her to pick up the pieces for her six siblings and their daddy. Just when it seems she might have something more waiting for her, her father makes a choice that will crack wide open the family's secrets and lead to a public reckoning.



CONTINUED ➞

## EPISTOLARY

Epistolary novels, books told through diaries or letters, have a way of making you feel even closer to story's characters than the average first-person point-of-view story. So, instead of trawling through attics or other people's files and chat stories, please enjoy some enlightening titles from this list.



**Spotlight  
Author**

### **A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING** BY RUTH OZEKI

**"Ruth Ozeki takes readers on a journey of laughter, sorrow, and enlightenment." – Shelf Awareness**

In Tokyo, 16-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao plans to document the life of her great-grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century—and it will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine.

### **DEAR HAITI, LOVE ALAINE** BY MAIKA & MARITZA MOULITE

**"Remarkable, funny, and whip-smart." – Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street*, National Book Award finalist**

When Alaine's life goes sideways, she finds herself shipped off to Haiti and writing the report of a lifetime. What she learns about Haiti's proud history as the world's first Black republic is one thing, but what she learns about her own family is another. Suddenly, the secrets Alaine's mom has been keeping, including a family curse that has spanned generations, can no longer be avoided.

### **FRANCES AND BERNARD** BY CARLENE BAUER

**"Engrossing... Funny, sweet and sad. A lovely surprise." – Publishers Weekly, starred review**

Inspired by the lives of Flannery O'Connor and Robert Lowell, who formed an unlikely connection in the late fifties, and told in a series of intimate letters, *Frances and Bernard* is a touching and bittersweet look at what happens when love, desire, hope, faith, and friendship collide.

### **HOW TO BURY YOUR BROTHER** BY LINDSEY ROGERS COOK

**"Part mystery, part Southern gothic, and wholly original." – Booklist**

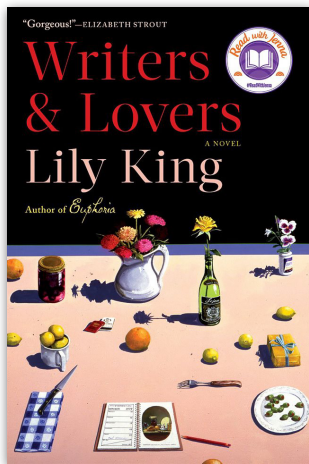
Clearing out her childhood home, Alice finds an autopsy report showing her family's lies—and sealed letters from her deceased brother, Rob. Each letter opens her eyes to her family's secrets and the ghosts of her own past. But it's the last letter that will force her to choose if she'll let the trauma break her or finally bring her home.

**CONTINUED** ➔



## WRITERS & LANGUAGE LOVERS

Here at hoopla, we don't just love books—we love books about books. There's something both exciting and comforting about meeting a character who is just as wrapped up in words as we are. Whether it's an editor looking for the author whose work will change the world or an author who regrets the things he's put between his pages, novels about writers and language lovers always leave us wanting more. Here are a few of our favorites.



### **WRITERS & LOVERS** BY LILY KING

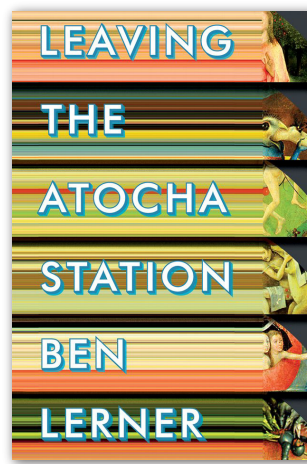
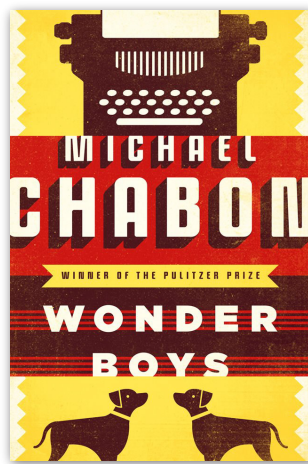
**"[G]enerously infused with heart and soul and wit and wisdom" - NPR**

At 31, Casey is still clutching the determination to live a creative life. When she falls for two very different men, her world fractures even more. Casey's fight to fulfill her ambitions and balance the conflicting demands of art and life is challenged in ways that push her to the brink.

### **WONDER BOYS** BY MICHAEL CHABON

**"Chabon is a flat-out wonderful writer—evocative and inventive, pointed and poignant." - Chicago Tribune**

A wildly successful first novel made Grady Tripp a young star, and seven years later, he still hasn't grown up. He's now a writing professor in Pittsburgh, stuck with a talented but deeply disturbed student named James Leer. During one lost weekend at a writing festival with Leer, Tripp must finally confront the wreckage of his past decisions.



### **LEAVING THE ATOCHA STATION** BY BEN LERNER

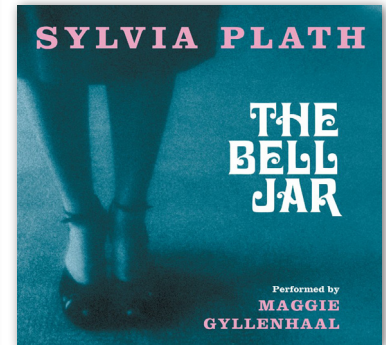
**"Intensely and unusually brilliant." - The Guardian**

Adam, a young American poet who wins a yearlong fellowship to Madrid, spends much of his residency suffering from the suspicion that he is unable to have authentic experiences. Mediated by a steady diet of drugs and alcohol, his life in Spain is portrayed as a series of shifting surfaces that lack any possibility of meaningful social or political engagement.

### **THE BELL JAR** BY SYLVIA PLATH

**"It is this perfectly wrought prose and the freshness of Plath's voice in *The Bell Jar* that make this book enduring in its appeal." - USA Today**

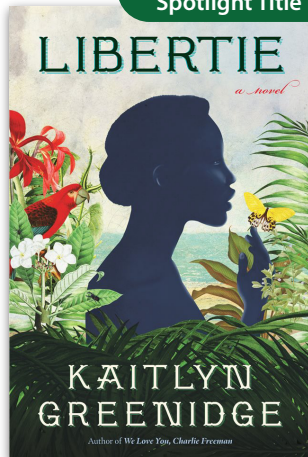
When Esther Greenwood wins an internship at a New York magazine in 1953, she is elated, believing she will finally realize her dream to become a writer. But in between cocktail parties and piles of manuscripts, she finds herself spiraling into depression as she grapples with a society that refuses to take women's aspirations seriously.



## DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES

Dive into these novels about family relationships filled with great characters and complex stories. Whether you see yourself and your own family in these books or just enjoy reading about families more dysfunctional than your own, all provide food for thought on the nature of love, devotion, and what it means to be a family.

hoopla's Q2 2021  
Spotlight Title



### **LIBERTIE** BY KAITLYN GREENIDGE

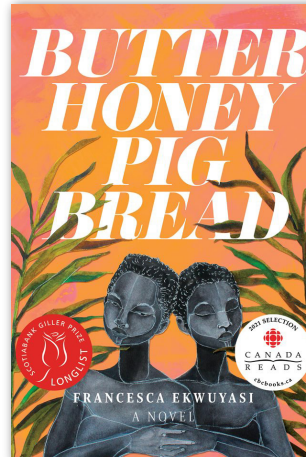
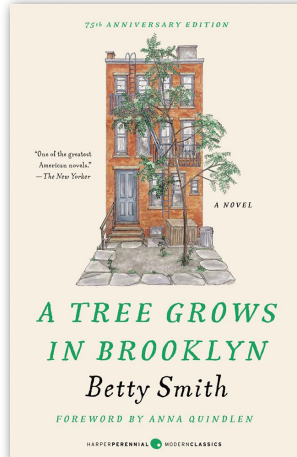
*"Libertie is an elegantly layered, beautifully rendered tour de force that is not to be missed."* - Roxane Gay

Coming of age as a freeborn Black girl in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Libertie Sampson is all too aware that her purposeful mother, a practicing physician, has a vision for their future together: Libertie is to go to medical school and practice alongside her. But Libertie feels stifled by her mother's choices and is hungry for something else.

### **A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN** BY BETTY SMITH

*"One of the books of the century."* – New York Public Library

For Francie Nolan, growing up in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn demanded fortitude. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's eccentric behavior—such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce—no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama.



### **BUTTER HONEY PIG BREAD** BY FRANCESCA EKWUYASI

*"Mixing emotional depth with supernatural elements, this is a masterful debut."* — *Booklist*, starred review

Kambirinachi believes she is an Ogbanje or an Abiku, a non-human spirit that plagues a family with misfortune by being born and then dying in childhood to cause a human mother misery. She has made the unnatural choice of staying alive to love her human family but lives in fear of the consequences of her decision.

### **THE DUTCH HOUSE** BY ANN PATCHETT

*"You won't want to put down this engrossing, warmhearted book even after you've read the last page."* – NPR

Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, siblings Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. But when they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship is finally tested.

