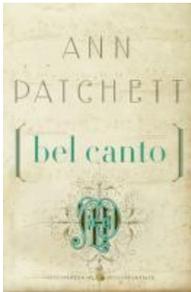


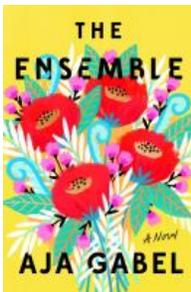
“Libraries Rock!” Adult Book Recommendations

Fiction



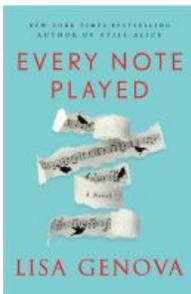
[Bel Canto by Ann Patchett](#)

The last notes of a solo by opera’s most mesmerizing soprano are still lingering in the air when a band of terrorists storms the decadent birthday celebration at which she is performing and holds the international partygoers for ransom. Joined only by the common language of music, captives and captors alike form unlikely bonds in this lyrical and profound homage to the transcendent powers of art, beauty, and love.



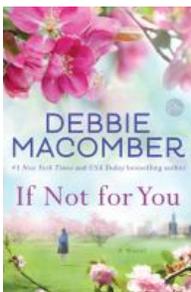
[The Ensemble by Aja Gabel](#)

Forging a familial bond over their shared artistic talents and secrets, four young people navigate a cutthroat world and their complex relationships with each other, as ambition, passion, and love reinforce and divide them throughout the course of their lives.



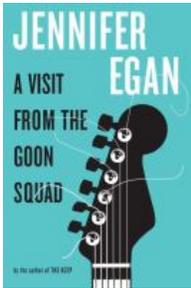
[Every Note Played by Lisa Genova](#)

A once accomplished concert pianist, Richard now has ALS. As he becomes increasingly paralyzed and is no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late. This is a masterful exploration of redemption and what it means to find peace inside of forgiveness.



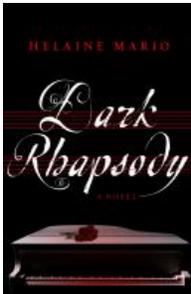
[If Not for You by Debbie Macomber](#)

Having lived under her parents' thumb for 25 years, Beth Prudhomme is finally taking charge of her own life. She moves, finds employment as a music teacher, and makes a fast friend in Nichole Nyquist. Nichole introduces Beth to Sam, a tattooed mechanic who's the epitome of her conservative parents' worst nightmare. Beth doesn't want to upset her parents more than she already has, and for himself, Sam has no interest in being set up with a prissy music teacher. But both learn that appearances aren't everything when Beth gets into a car accident and Sam visits her--at first out of obligation, and then because he can't stay away. Yet there are skeletons in Sam's closet that prevent him from ever trusting a woman again, and he knows he doesn't fit into Beth's life. In the end, he'll have to decide if he can ever be worthy of Beth's love and if he is, how far he's willing to go to fight for it.



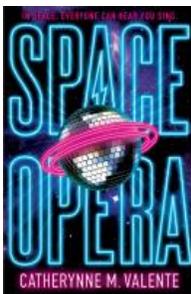
[*A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan](#)

Bennie Salazar, an aging former punk rocker and record executive, and Sasha, the passionate, troubled young woman he employs confront their pasts in this powerful story about how rebellion ages, influence corrupts, habits turn to addictions, lifelong friendships fluctuate and turn, and how art and music have the power to redeem.



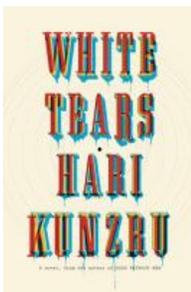
[*Dark Rhapsody* by Helaine Mario](#)

In 1945, an Austrian girl discovers a priceless Nazi treasure near a remote alpine lake and sets in motion a decades-old secret that will change lives for generations to come. Forces drive her to revisit the mystery of her mother's death, her father's startling disappearance, and a terrible secret from World War II.



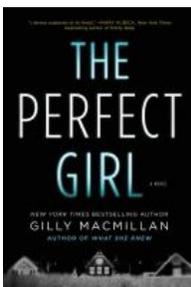
[*Space Opera* by Catherynne Valente](#)

Mankind will not get to fight for its destiny. They must sing. A band of human musicians, dancers, and roadies have been chosen to represent their planet on the greatest stage in the galaxy. And the fate of Earth lies in their ability to rock.



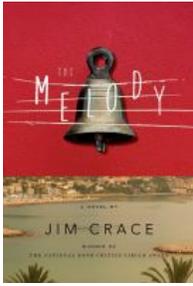
[*White Tears* by Hari Kunzrun](#)

Two ambitious young musicians are drawn into the dark underworld of blues-record collecting while navigating the fallout of a scam involving one's claim that a viral video of an unknown singer is a long-lost recording of a famous blues musician.



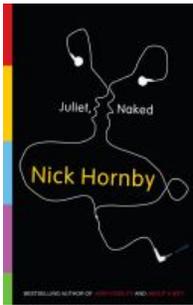
[*The Perfect Girl* by Gilly McMillan](#)

To everyone who knows her now, Zoe Maisey - child genius, musical sensation - is perfect. Yet several years ago, Zoe caused the death of three teenagers. She served her time, and now she's free. Her story begins with her giving the performance of her life. By midnight, her mother is dead. The Perfect Girl is an intricate exploration into the mind of a teenager burdened by brilliance, and a past that she cannot leave behind.



[*The Melody* by Jim Crace](#)

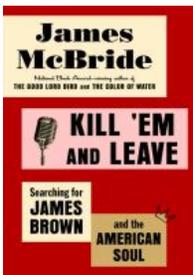
Alfred Busi, famed in his town for his music and songs, is mourning the recent death of his wife and quietly living out his days, occasionally performing the classics in small venues--never in the stadiums he could fill when in his prime. On the night before receiving his town's highest honor, Busi is wrested from bed by noises in his courtyard and then stunned by an attacking intruder--his hands and neck are scratched, his face is bitten. Busi can't say what it was that he encountered, exactly, but he feels his assailant was neither man nor animal. The attack sets off a chain of events that will cast a shadow on Busi's career, imperil his home, and alter the fabric of his town.



[*Juliet, Naked* by Nick Hornby](#)

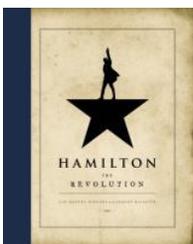
Annie initiates an e-mail correspondence with Tucker Crowe, a reclusive Dylanish singer-songwriter, and a connection is forged between two lonely people who are looking for more out of what they've got.

Non-Fiction



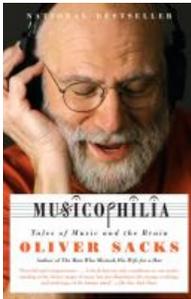
[*Kill 'Em and Leave: Searching for James Brown and the American Soul* by James McBride](#)

McBride shows that Brown's rough-and-tumble life is an unsettling metaphor for American life: the tension between North and South, black and white, rich and poor. From the forgotten corners of the country town where Brown's family was among those displaced by America's largest nuclear power bomb-making facility to the Augusta, Georgia, funeral home where the Michael Jackson sat up all night with the body of his musical godfather, you'll come to understand Brown through McBride's own insights as a black musician with Southern roots.



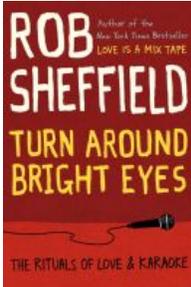
[*Hamilton: The Revolution* by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jeremy McCarter](#)

Offers a behind-the-scenes view of Hamilton the musical, detailing the many dramatic episodes in Alexander Hamilton's life.



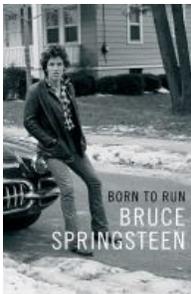
[*Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain* by Oliver Sacks](#)

Oliver Sacks's compassionate, compelling tales of people struggling to adapt to different neurological conditions have fundamentally changed the way we think of our own brains, and of the human experience. Here, he examines the powers of music through the individual experiences of patients, musicians, and everyday people. Music is irresistible, haunting, and unforgettable, and Oliver Sacks tells us why.



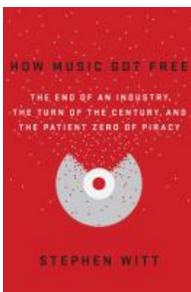
[*Turn Around Bright Eyes: The Rituals of Love and Karaoke* by Rob Sheffield](#)

In this follow-up to *Love is a Mix Tape*, a writer for *Rolling Stone*, after his wife's death, finds solace in music, which leads him to the strangest places and gives him the courage to start over, move on and rock the mike.



[*Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen](#)

Bruce Springsteen vividly recounts his relentless drive to become a musician, his early days as a bar band king in Asbury Park, and the rise of the E Street Band. With disarming candor, he also tells for the first time the story of the personal struggles that inspired his best work, and shows us why the song "Born to Run" reveals more than we previously realized.



[*How Music Got Free* by Stephen Witt](#)

A riveting story of obsession, music, crime, and money, featuring visionaries and criminals, moguls and tech-savvy teenagers. Witt introduces the unforgettable characters--inventors, executives, factory workers, and smugglers--who revolutionized an entire art form, and reveals for the first time the secret underworld of media pirates that transformed our digital lives.