

Lessons in Chemistry

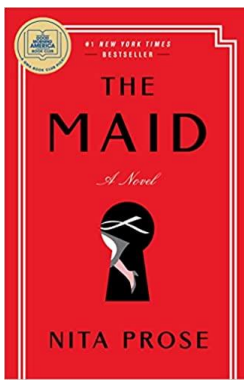
Why I enjoyed reading this book: The main character finds herself unexpectedly and tragically becoming a single mother. To compound her troubles, her male peers attempt to take credit for her work and her employer fires her because they want to promote family values and don't want any single mothers on their staff. Although set in the 60's, with a few minor changes (the TV show would be replaced with an internet show) the same struggles seem to be taking place today.



Right Place Right Time:

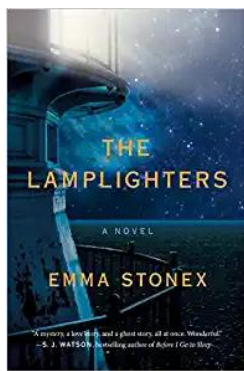
The Ultimate Guide to Finding a Home for the Second Half of Life

Why I enjoyed reading this book: The author believes if there was one number that could best predict how healthy and happy your retirement would be it wouldn't be your weight or your bank balance, but rather your zip code. Does your zip code offer access to good hospitals as well as convenient ways to stay physically active? Do the grocery stores in that zip code carry fresh food and are there places to stay connected with friends and family? Compelling data.



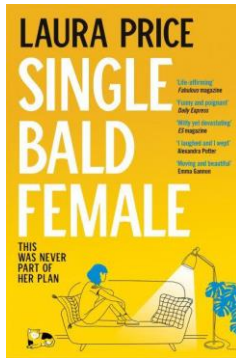
The Maid

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Although the author doesn't directly say it, the main character in this book, who is a maid, seems to be on the autistic spectrum in that she is very detailed oriented but also has trouble reading people and understanding who to trust. These traits both help, as well as hurt, her cause as she quickly becomes the main suspect in the case of who murdered the wealthy man in the room she regularly cleans.



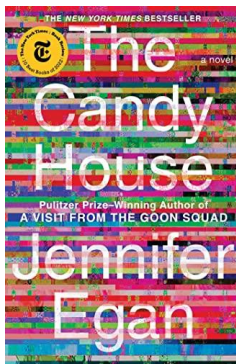
The Lamplighters

Why I enjoyed reading this book: How did the three men tasked with maintaining the lighthouse disappear with all the doors locked from the inside? What were the meaning of the clues they left behind? What secrets were they trying to hide? I am a huge fan of historical fiction and this one takes the real unsolved mystery of three lighthouse men who disappeared from their posts off the coast of Scotland without a trace in 1900 and transforms it into an investigator in 1992 trying to solve a 1972 disappearance.



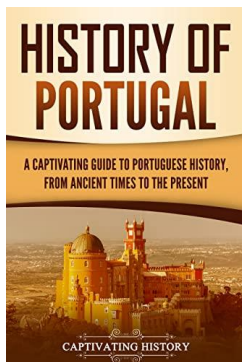
Single Bald Female

Why I enjoyed reading this book: Jessica was young and seemed to have it all: a good career, friends, family, etc. until she was diagnosed with cancer and her life changed dramatically. Unfortunately, the lives of her friends, coworkers, and family didn't seem to change at all which caused her to become even more frustrated with her situation. I think we can all relate to something unforeseen happening that derails us from what we thought our future would be like. I know I can.



The Candy House

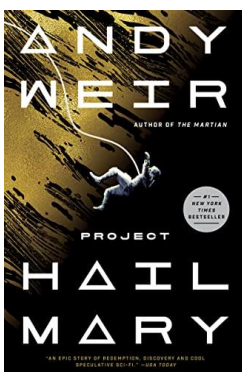
Why I enjoyed reading this book: What if you could download all your memories to an external source and share them with others? Would you be more likely to download them if you wanted to ensure you would remember those experiences or to make sure you erased them? Every chapter is written from a different character's perspective so at times I had to do a double check to confirm whose viewpoint I was listening to, but overall, an interesting book that combined future(?) technology with age-old human desires.



History of Portugal:

A Captivating Guide to Portuguese History from Times to the Present

Why I enjoyed reading this book: My wife is Portuguese, and our family went to Portugal for the first time this summer. That is why I bought the book, but why I am recommending it is because the publisher has an entire series of history books each focusing on a specific country, period, empire, religion, etc. One of the few history books that kept me engaged and informed.



Project Hail Mary

Why I enjoyed reading this book: This book was written by the author of "The Martian" which was made into a movie starring Matt Damon. If you can imagine what MacGyver would be like if he was stranded on a spaceship trying to save Earth, then you will appreciate this book. There were a few parts I felt got a bit too deep into scientific terms, but overall, an entertaining story and a great summer read.