

APL STAFF PICKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

As thanks for your contribution, Anchorage Public Library staff have selected their favorite books for you to read or listen to this spring and summer. Enjoy the sunshine and check out these great reading, listening, and watching selections!

Movies, TV and Music

The Impossible, Juan Antonio Bayona (Director)

A heart wrenching movie based on a true story of a family on holiday in Thailand who were caught in the monstrous tsunami of 2004.

Jamie, Patron Services, Loussac
DVD

Maiden, Alex Holmes (Writer) and Katie Bryer (Editor)

An inspiring story of a determined and competent group and their fearless leader.

Lisa, Patron Services, Loussac
DVD

Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse Soundtrack, Republic Records

This is a great soundtrack and the whole family ends up singing along!

Shanna (and son Parker, 10), Admin
hoopla

So Let's Go, by Alan Doyle, Skinner's Hill Music LTD

Overall this is just a happy, upbeat album. While I've got a couple of favorite tracks, I don't skip any song on this album.

Stacia, Adult Services, Loussac
hoopla



School Age Fiction

Fairy Science, by Ashley Spires

This adorable picture book introduces the scientific process as one fairy tries to save a tree without magic.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Book

French Ducks in Venice, by Garrett Freymann-Weyr

This book is beautifully illustrated, and it skillfully portrays heartbreak from a child-like yet nuanced perspective.

Becky, Youth Services Book

Nian: The Chinese New Year Dragon, by Virginia Loh-Hagan

A new beautifully illustrated tale tells the story of how the Lunar New Year celebration came to be in China.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Book, hoopla

Prairie Lotus, by Linda Sue Park

I loved this Little House read-alike for its realistic historical depiction of racism on the Western Frontier-- and its satisfying and hopeful conclusion.

Red, Youth Services Book, eBook

Strictly No Elephants, by Lisa Mantchev

A little boy with an unusual pet finds others like him who have been rejected and make their own welcoming place in this adorable story.

Elizabeth, Youth Services Book

Fiction

Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe, by Heather Webber

This magical realism book is just fun! It's about reuniting a family after a tragedy but it doesn't feel tragic or horribly sad. It's fun and vibrant and full of great ideas for food!

[Shanna, Administration](#)
[Book](#)

The Titanic Secret, by James Becker

A thriller with a different reason why the Titanic sank. Two British spies are trying to stop an alliance between Germany and the US and stop a war with Britain and its destruction.

[Carolyn, Adult Services, Loussac](#)
[Book](#)

Fifty Words for Rain, by Asha Lemmie

A compelling read about a different time and place with an unexpected twist at the end.

[Liz, Patron Services, Loussac](#)
[Book](#)

The Hundred Thousand Kingdoms, by N.K. Jemisin

The first in a fantasy series that explores the tension between humans, gods and the struggle to control the throne. Relatable characters and wonderful worldbuilding!

[Meneka, Community Engagement](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

Our Little Secret, by Roz Nay

A clever web of a novel, perfectly capturing the soaring heights and crushing lows of first love and how the loss of that love can make even the sanest people a little crazy.

[Laura, Collection Management](#)
[Book](#)

If I Had Your Face, by Frances Cha

A fast-paced glimpse inside the lives of four young women living in Seoul, South Korea.

[Claire, Gerrish \(Girdwood\) Library](#)
[Book, eBook](#)

The Magic Fish, by Trung Le Nguyen

This beautifully illustrated graphic novel tells a touching story of a teen's relationship with his mother through the traditional and modified folk tales they read together.

[Meneka, Community Engagement](#)
[Book](#)

Girls Like Us, by Cristina Alger

A FBI agent returns home to Long Island after the death of her father and is pulled into a murder case....what happens when she finds out the primary suspect is her father?

[Laura, Collection Management](#)
[Book](#)

A Study in Honor, by Claire O'Dell

Well written dystopian set in the near future. Good for fans of Sherlock Holmes pastiche.

[Tamzan, Adult Services, Loussac](#)
[Book, hoopla](#)

Non-Fiction

Blackout: How Black America Can Make its Second Escape from the Democrat Plantation by Candace Owens

Owens shows how Black Americans have long been shackled to the Democrats and why turning to the right will leave them happier, more successful, and more self-sufficient.

[Teresa, Mountain View Library](#)
[Book](#)

Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family, by Robert Kolker

Imagine have 12 children, 10 of which are boys and six of the boys are diagnosed with schizophrenia.

[Mary Jo, Director](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

This is Chance! The Shaking of an All-American City, the Voice that Held It Together by Jon Mooallem

This is a great piece of local history! I had never heard of Genie Chance before and it's a fascinating story.

[Stacia, Adult Services, Loussac](#)
[Book](#)

Bollywood Kitchen: Homecooked Indian Meals Paired w/ Unforgettable Bollywood Films by Sri Rao

The recipes are great! Exactly at my skill level and most ingredients (or substitutions) are easily accessible in Anchorage. I'm having a lot of fun watching the films as well.

[Stacia, Adult Services, Loussac](#)
[Book](#)

I wish you all the best, by Mason Deaver

Exactly the kind of book I wish I had found as teen, I think it is also a good choice for anyone who likes their fiction to be a bridge towards understanding those who are different.

[Elliot, Technical Services](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

Turbulence: A True Story of Survival, by Annette Herfkens

It was a very compelling true story about a woman who was the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Vietnamese jungle. She was severely injured and spent 8 days in the wreckage.

[Margo, Adult Services, Loussac](#)
[Book](#)