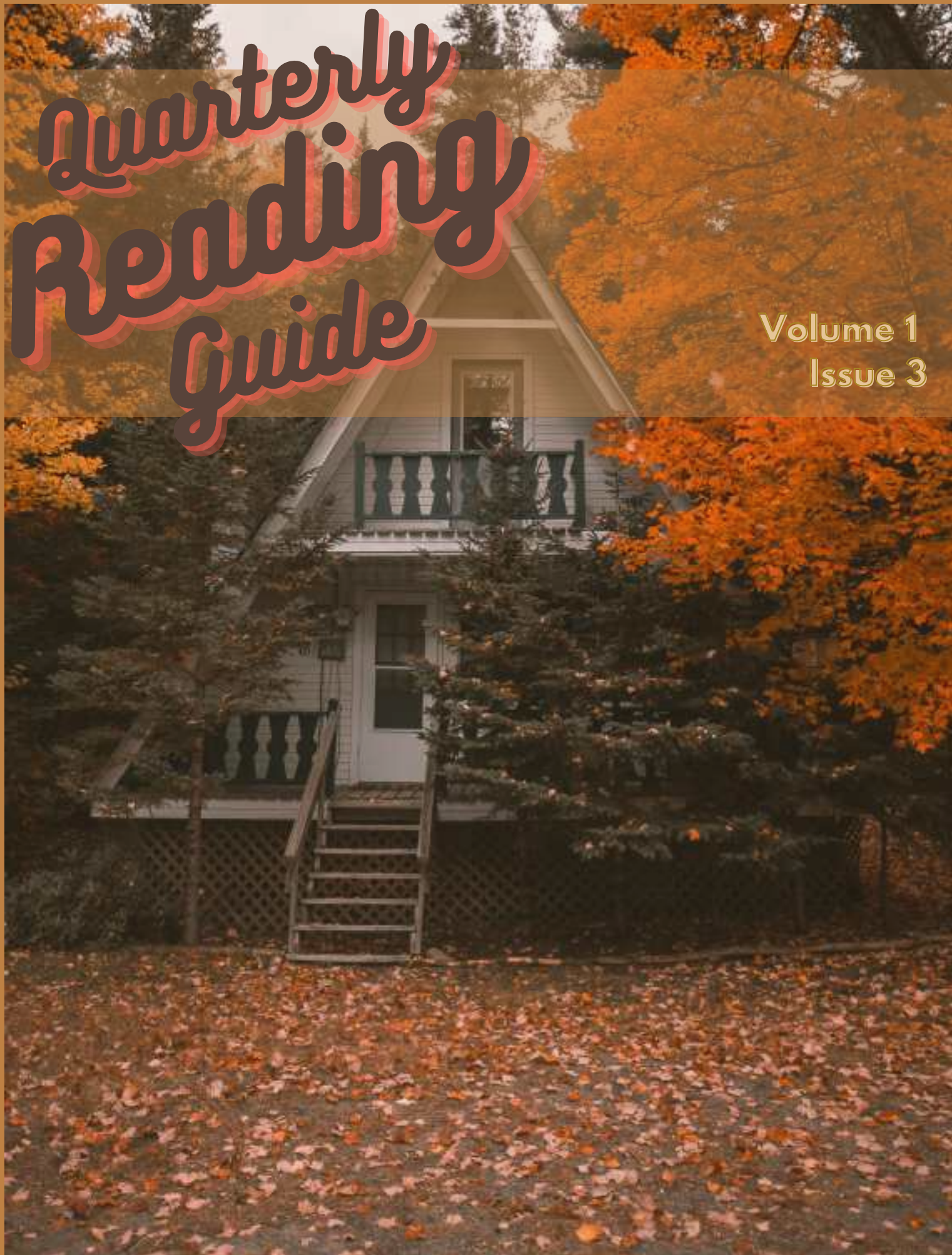


Quarterly Reading Guide

Volume 1
Issue 3



02 CREATOR'S NOTE

03 WINE DOWN

04 BACK STACKS



table of contents



06 BREAK W/ BOURBON

07 FRONT STACKS

09 TIMEOUT W/ TEQUILA

10 FUTURE STACKS

11 THE EXTRAS



Hey Y'all

I cannot believe we are in the final quarter of 2021. We did it! Even if you are hanging on by a thread, like me, you still did it! I am proud of you. Proud of us! Creating these quarterly reading guides has been a bright spot in my year. I hope you have found some great reading recommendations in these guides as well as some great cocktails to enjoy! Thank you for letting me grace your inboxes to share my love of reading.

As always, *Stay Lit*

Creator's Note



Clicking the pictures will take you to Bookshop.org to purchase the books. They are affiliate links



WHO DOESN'T LIKE WINE THAT JUST SHOWS UP AT THEIR HOUSE? I PERSONALLY DO! WELL, BOXT IS A WOMAN OWNED, ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY WINE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE! YOU PICK YOUR FLAVOR PROFILE AND IT SHOWS UP AT YOUR DOOR! GET \$20 OFF YOUR FIRST BOXT WITH MY CODE: SMILEITSJOY20

Back Stacks

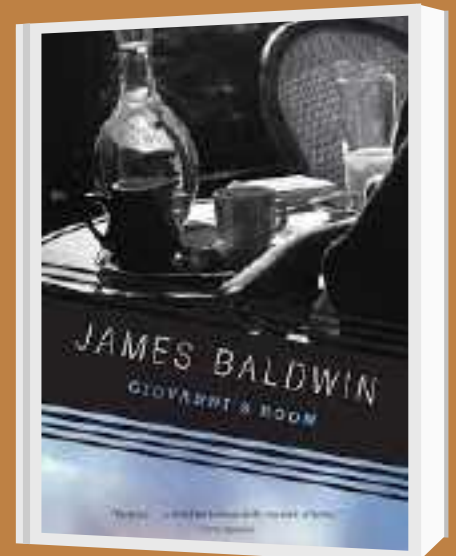
BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN OUT FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS

Casey Gerald's memoir was heralded as the best book of 2018 and I am not afraid to admit that I am biased and agree. Gerald, a Dallas native, takes us on his journey from Oak Cliff to Yale. This is a must read if you are a lover of honest memoirs



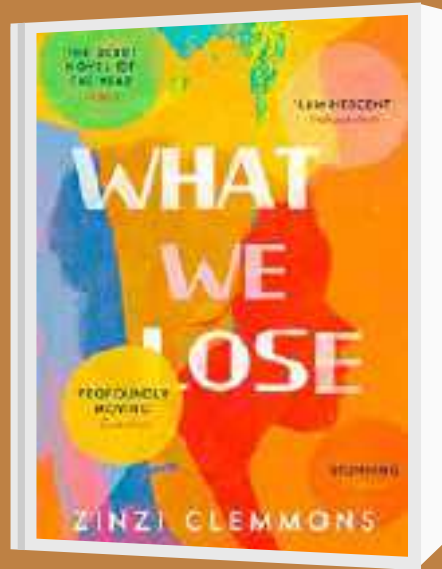
You're in your late 30's. You're long time fiancé breaks up with you. You're fired from your amazing job at a legendary fashion magazine and now u gotta go beg your archenemies for a job at her online fashion blog. Problem: you don't know anything about social media, you have no more designer clothes, AND you have the hots for your 22yr old co-worker. This is a ride. Its fun. Its cute. It is a page turner!!

For starters, it is James. Fucking. Baldwin. that should really be enough for you to pick this book up. Second of all, grab your tissues because Baldwin writes a sweeping story revolving around grief, identity, love, and so much more. And as a reminder: IT'S JAMES BALDWIN



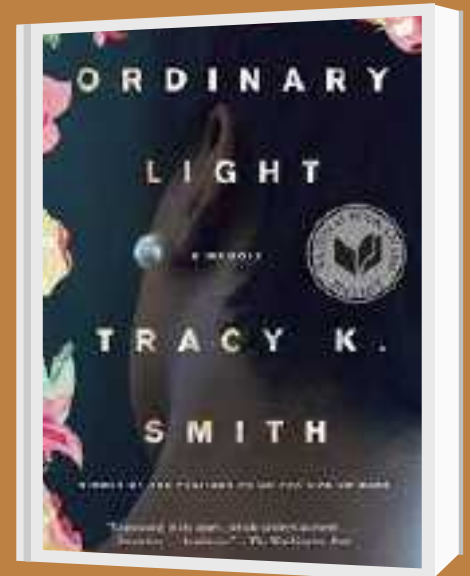
Back Stacks

BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN OUT FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS



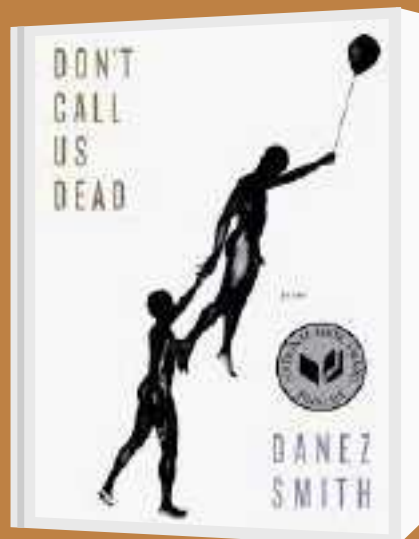
What does it mean to love after loss. Zinzi Clemmons, in her debut, draws readers in with beautiful prose about Thandi, the main character, trying to make sense after her mother passes away. Her mother shaped her very existence, so now what? I truly loved this arresting story. I read it from the library and I need to buy it for my personal library.

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet: a deeply moving memoir that explores coming-of-age and the meaning of home against a complex backdrop of race, faith, and the unbreakable bond between a mother and daughter. this gorgeous, probing kaleidoscope of self and family offers us a universal story of belonging and becoming, and the ways we find and lose ourselves amid the places we call home



An arresting collection, Smith touches on the topics that many people want to avoid: then to desire, mortality the dangers experienced in skin and body and blood and a diagnosis of HIV positive.

It's a heavy collection but one I read multiple times and I wouldn't be recommending you good poetry if this wasn't on the list



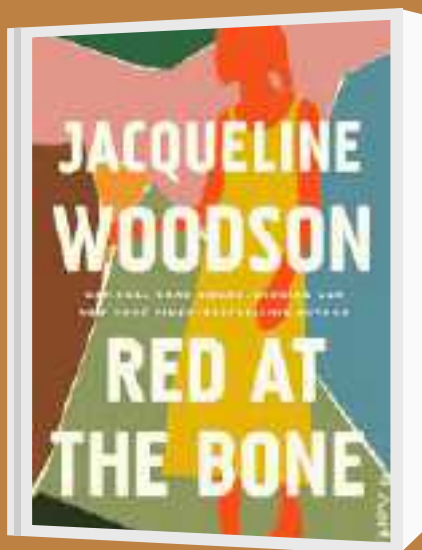
a break w/ **Bourbon**

Y'ALL KNOW I LOVE BOURBON. EVERY QUARTER I BRING YOU A COCKTAIL THAT I PLAN TO MAKE MY SEASONAL DRINK. . AND Y'ALL ALSO KNOW I AM GOING TO BE SIPPING NOBLE OAK I AM EXCITED I FOUND THIS RECIPE FOR A ROSEMARY OLD FASHION! CHEERS

ROSEMARY OLD FASHION

- 2 OUNCES RYE WHISKEY
- 1/4 OUNCE ROSEMARY SYRUP
- 2 DASHES ORANGE BITTERS

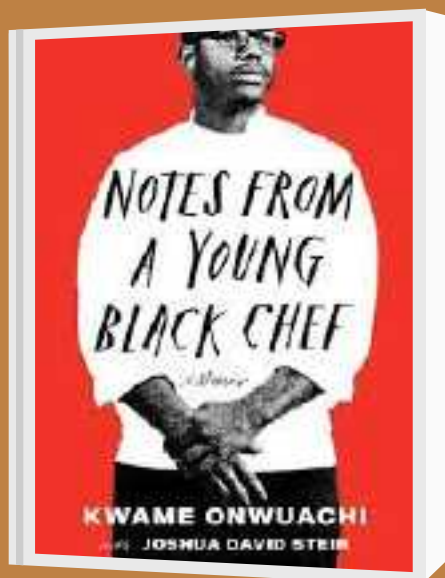
In under 200 pages, Woodson moves forward and backward in time to tell the story of community, family, and love. This was my first time reading Woodson's work and I am ashamed to admit that, but this is a great place to start. She gives us a master class on weaving social observations and their role in a familial unit.



Ah Liam, discovers his grandmother taking a hammer to a framed portrait of Chairman Mao. To prove his loyalty to the Party, Ah Liam reports his grandmother to the authorities. But his belief in doing the right thing sets in motion a terrible chain of events. Who would you choose: your love of country or your love of family?



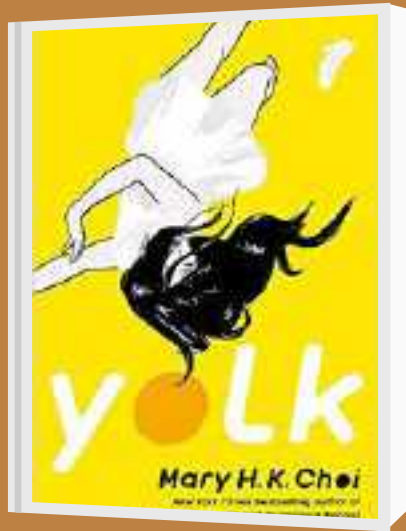
To say that I am obsessed with Top Chef may be an overstatement; however, I am pretty damn close! When Kwame announced he was writing a memoir, I was in the bookstore the day it dropped. Learning about his story and what it's like being a Black chef in a competitive and predominantly white field is riveting. So for the foodies, this is for you!



BOOKS RELEASED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

Front Stacks

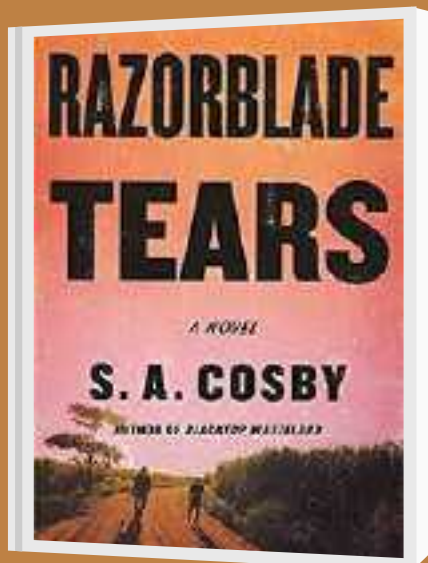
When this book first came on my radar, I was unsure if it was for me so I decided to do the audiobook instead. I was not disappointed. There are definitely some trigger warnings: eating disorders and suicidal thoughts. This story follows two sisters who are estranged but not fully. The secrets that they hold and the pressure of family expectations.



I know i say a lot of books are *must* read and I mean it about each and everyone, but this one right here: essential. When You Were Everything is a YA novel that isn't about romantic relationships, instead it's about two best-friends who have a falling out and what that looks like in high school. Is it reparable? This book is essential because I think we need to talk about friendships more!



How would you respond if your son was gunned down and you have no idea why. You know it wasn't random, so what was it. You and your son haven't had the best relationship since he told you he was marrying his boyfriend. But now that he is gone, you begin to realize you were wrong. This is a story of revenge and redemption and suspense.



Front Stacks

BOOKS RELEASED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

Timeout w/ Tequila

THE FIG BUZZ

- 2 FRESH FIGS, CUT IN HALF
- 2 SPRIGS FRESH THYME
- 2 OUNCES BLANCO TEQUILA
- 1 OUNCE FRESH LIME JUICE
- ½ OUNCE AGAVE SYRUP
- 1 LICORICE ROOT

I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO ELEVATE MY TEQUILA. MAYBE ITS BECAUSE IM TRYING TO FORGET POOR DECISIONS FROM COLLEGE. EITHER WAY, I HAVE FOUND THIS GREAT DRINK THAT I PLAN TO KEEP IN MY PERMANENT ROTATION.

Future Stacks



October Release

This is a short story collection by a new voice in American fiction. United by these characters' relentless struggles against reality and fate, *My Monticello* is a formidable book that bears witness to this country's legacies and announces the arrival of a wildly original new voice in American fiction.



November Release

Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a “for fun” relationship with a rich, charming executive—her white boss, Michael. Then he is murdered and everyone's looking at her--the lone Black lawyer at the firm. This is for the lover of thrillers.



December Release

By turns irreverent and tender, filled with the beats of '90s R&B, *Tell Me How to Be* is about our earliest betrayals and the cost of reconciliation. But most of all, it is the love story of a mother and son each trying to figure out how to be in the world. This is for my folks who love a good emotional story.

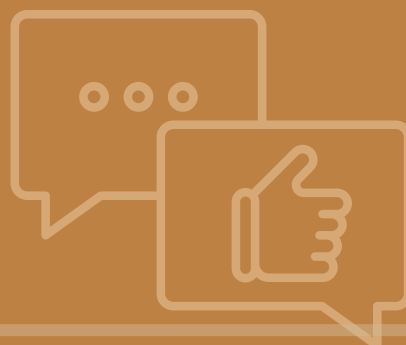
The Extras



Libro.fm



Audiobooks are reading too! Sign up with Libro.fm by [clicking here](#) to get two books for the price of one!



I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! DO. YOU LIKE THE GUIDES? DO YOU HATE THEM? HAVE YOU TRIED ANY OF THE DRINKS? READ ANY OF THE BOOKS?

