



TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10 PICKS **TOP 10 PICKS** TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10

## Louisiana's Way Home

By Kate DiCamillo

"What a treat to have the chance to get to know a secondary character from a book I didn't want to see end! In her follow-up of sorts to *Raymie Nightingale*, Kate DiCamillo tells the story of Louisiana, Raymie's friend who has spent her life on the run. Leaving the world she has known in Florida, Louisiana ends up in a small town in Georgia where she meets a cast of richly drawn characters intent on either making her life difficult or offering her connection in an uncertain time. In her inimitable way, Kate DiCamillo shares another tender and thoughtful story of hope and resilience in a young girl trying to find her place in the world. I loved *Louisiana's Way Home*!

—Diane Capriola, Little Shop of Stories, Decatur, GA



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## The Light Between Worlds

By Laura E. Weymouth

"Laura Weymouth's debut novel, *The Light Between Worlds*, is a captivating tale of two sisters struggling to find home and to find themselves. The younger, Evelyn, longs for the days when she and her sister and brother lived in the Woodlands, a mystical Narnia-like land Weymouth paints with beautiful lyricism. Evelyn has carried the weight of her longing since she and her siblings returned to post-WWII England. When Evelyn goes missing, Phillipa carries the loss of her sister, as well as the pain of her own choices. They embark on their own journeys of healing and belonging, each searching for what they've lost and where they belong. Written with meaning, feeling, and depth, *The Light Between Worlds* is a stunning debut."

—Hannah Wilson, Out West Books, Grand Junction, CO



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## Sadie

By Courtney Summers

"This electrifying novel is too real to be forgettable. *Sadie* introduces a world where girls are hurt and forced to grow up much too soon, featuring a violent, solo road trip across the country and sleuthing methods that would appall Nancy Drew. Through a podcast like *Serial*, the whole world witnesses the unfurling drama of a missing girl's family left behind, and wonders what might have been done to keep this from happening in the first place. *Sadie* will steal your heart from the first page, and stay in your mind for the rest of your life."

—Kaitie Radel, The Oxford Exchange, Tampa, FL



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## Darius the Great Is Not Okay

By Adib Khorram

"A beautiful, thoughtful book that is all the more impressive for being a debut! Darius is visiting Iran with his family and meeting his grandparents in person for the first time. He struggles with fitting into an unfamiliar culture and feeling like a disappointment to his father, but a new friendship helps him learn some truths about himself and see the world in a new way. An achingly relatable story in a wry, honest voice. Stunning."

—Cecelia Cackley, East City Bookshop, Washington, DC



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## The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy

By Mackenzi Lee

"I adored *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*, and I wasn't sure if the sequel could hold an equal place in my heart, but *The Lady's Guide to Petticoats and Piracy* blew my expectations out of the water (pun intended, of course)! Felicity is a phenomenal character, bristly and brilliant and fiercely loyal. I can't think of anyone who wouldn't love this book, filled with adventure, feminism and fire, loving but challenging friendships, fierce ambition, scientific exploration, and of course, pirates. The minute I finished the book, I thrust it into a fellow bookseller's hand, and I can't wait to do the same with the general public."

—Elissa Sweet, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



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## A Winter's Promise: Book One of the Mirror Visitor Quartet

By Christelle Dabos, Hildegard Serle (Trans.)

"I had high hopes since I've been coveting this book since I saw it in a Metro station in Paris a year ago. It definitely did not disappoint. *A Winter's Promise* is a stellar addition to the fantasy genre booksellers can recommend to adults and teens alike. The worldbuilding is incredible and Ophelia is a heroine you can immediately relate to: clever, resourceful, and constantly underestimated. Dabos delights and thrills readers as Ophelia finds herself caught in the middle of political intrigue and deadly secrets with nothing but her wits to keep her alive. As the tension builds and mysteries are revealed, it's impossible to put the book down."

—Katerina Argyres, Bookshop West Portal, San Francisco, CA



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## Mascot

By Antony John

"*Mascot* is a hometown adventure story filled with new beginnings. When Noah returns to school after the accident that left him paralyzed and killed his father, his old Little League teammates are anything but kind. Luckily, Noah befriends new kid and fellow outcast Dee-Dub, and, with childhood pal Alyssa in tow, shenanigans unfold. Meanwhile, Noah's mother needs someone to talk to, but when a familiar face shows up, will he strike out with Noah? Secret plans, after-school rivalries, and awkward moments abound, with a bit of romance, too. A fun and heartwarming read for all."

—Mary Wahlmeier, Raven Bookstore, Lawrence, KS



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## Seafire

By Natalie C. Parker

"Don't let all the swashbuckling make you underestimate this book—in addition to a seafaring page turner, this is a powerful testament to female friendship and good leadership. I loved the suspense and action, and I got incredibly attached to the characters. You'll be waiting with bated breath for the next installment. Stay steely—I think it will be worth the wait!"

—Tegan Tigani, Queen Anne Book Company, Seattle, WA



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### **Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse**

By Marcy Campbell, Corinna Luyken (Illus.)

"There is always that one kid that tells tall tales at school. Well, Adrian Simcox is 'that' kid, and not everyone will tolerate his lies. The little girl calls him out at school and tells her mom about it. When her mother finally walks her over to Adrian's tiny house down the street, the little girl realizes that, while Adrian Simcox may not have a horse, he does have a rich imagination that transforms the laurels in his yard into horses. A wonderfully illustrated story embracing how perception shapes our view of our own lives and others."

—Kidron Mariotti, Octavia Books, New Orleans, LA



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### **The Day You Begin**

By Jacqueline Woodson, Rafael López (Illus.)

"A completely lovely book about not fitting in, feeling out of place, and finding a community of your own. Gorgeous illustration, poetic text (of course—it's Jacqueline Woodson!), and a perfect message for all of us who have ever felt like the world is 'a place that you're standing all the way outside of.'"

—Lillian Tschudi-Campbell, Red Balloon Bookshop, St. Paul MN



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