

**\*\* HOT TITLES COMING TO KILLINGWORTH LIBRARY IN JULY 2026 \*\***  
**(adult print titles only, includes some titles from past months)**

**FICTION**

**Fantasy & Science Fiction**

The Unmagical Life of Briar Jones – Lex Croucher. (*June release*) From *New York Times* bestselling author Lex Croucher comes an extraordinary dark academia fantasy about dangerous privilege, corrupted power, and two former best friends caught on opposite sides of the secrets rotting at the heart of Britain's most prestigious boarding school.

The Sixth Nik – Daniel Kraus. Deep into space, far past the triworld outposts, beyond range of the lethal trollbot internet, soars *The Sickness*: a ship woven from biomatter and capable of reacting to every need of its human crew. Sisilla, a nine-year-old cultist with a brain enhanced by arcane tech known as "niks," has boarded to investigate the enigma of Fém--a plague-riddled planet that has abruptly gone rogue. The mysterious crew includes a faceless assassin, a beautiful engineer jigsawed by plastic surgery, a peyote-addicted medic, and--most lethal of all--a rugged, NonModded captain with a score to settle with Sisilla. Other dangers abound. A hacked robot begins to believe Sisilla is its daughter. The Sickness itself is mutating, possibly even pregnant. And the secret of Fém is more horrific than anyone could have imagined. To survive, Sisilla will need to forsake her predetermined fate and embrace the unknown.

Palaces of the Crow – Ray Nayler. (*May release*) In Ray Nayler's speculative novel of the recent past, four young teens caught between Nazis and the Red Army survive winter in the woods with the help of a flock of highly intelligent crows with a magnificent secret of their own to protect.

Green City Wars – Adrian Tchaikovsky. (*June release*) Philip Marlowe meets Redwall in this superior adult noir tale, where all the characters are animals, fighting for survival in the city underneath the humans.

Moss'd in Space – Rebecca Thorne. Take one part sci-fi adventure, add some talking moss with attitude, don't forget a little found family and simmer until cozy. This a heartwarming tale following a ragtag group finding their place in the universe and, more importantly, each other. Perfect for lovers of science fiction who enjoy sweet, whimsical stories with a big heart (and a handful of moss).

The Jellyfish Problem – Tessa Yang. (*June release*) A marine biologist makes the discovery of a lifetime when called to rescue the inhabitants of a small Maine island being menaced by a giant, glowing jellyfish in this richly imagined, wholly original debut.

**General Fiction**

Lazar – Nelio Biedermann. (*April release*) At the turn of the 20th century, the Lázárs welcome their newest member in their rural summer estate, surrounded by a menacingly dark, enchanting forest. Lajos von Lázár is a baby boy with translucent skin and light-blue eyes who looks nothing like the rest of his family. Lajos's birth is emblematic of the many secrets, affairs, and peculiar otherworldly happenings that plague the Lázárs. As the decades go by, they will continue to fall prey to their desires, leading grand lives, and

experiencing even greater tragedies as they're swept by the tides of war and revolution that befall their country. But time and again, in the lighter years, extraordinary love and hope shine through.

**Hunger and Thirst** – Claire Fuller. (*June release*) Part gothic horror, part coming-of-age, and a with contemporary twist on the haunted-house story, *Hunger and Thirst* is a chilling tale of loneliness, of the dangerous line between wanting and needing, and of how far a person will go to truly belong.

**Ghost Eye** – Amitav Ghosh. (*June release*) Past and present collide in a novel about a girl who might just be a "case of the reincarnation type." Varsha Gupta wants fish for lunch. Her family is shocked; the three-year-old has never tasted fish in her life. The Guptas are strict vegetarians and don't allow it inside their Calcutta mansion. But Varsha claims she can remember another life, in a mud house by a river where she caught and cooked fish with a different mother. Perplexed, the Guptas turn to Dr. Shoma Bose, a psychologist who has been investigating what are known as "cases of the reincarnation type" for years. But her understanding of the world is changed forever by Varsha's revelations. Half a century later, Varsha's case file catches the attention of a group of environmental activists, and Shoma's nephew Dinu is drawn inexorably into their plans. As Dinu finds himself caught up in the search for Varsha, buried memories of his own past begin to surface.

**Little Wonder** – Sophie Chen Keller. (*June release*) A musical prodigy and his mother spend years searching for each other in this beautiful novel of hope, perseverance, and love.

**Meeting New People** – Daniel M. Lavery. (*June release*) Fiftysomething, twice-divorced Barbara is at a crossroads. In the midst of her emotional uncertainty, she looks back on the dissolution of the nine best friendships of her life, in hopes of figuring out how to optimize finding her tenth, and hopefully last, best friend. Barbara is acerbic, opinionated, and wrong about many things, but she also doesn't shy away when she's at fault. The turning point of her predicament comes from Barbara's choice, in friends, between (too-young) Caitlyn and the (unsuitable) Other Barbara. Will she repeat the exciting mistakes of the past, or will she try a new kind of mistake for a change? She feels like an out-of-season Scrooge who is unexpectedly, and all at once, surprised and entirely transformed by the possibility of joy.

**Canon** – Paige Lewis. (*May release*) Two unlikely heroes embark on quests to win God's favor in this outrageously entertaining, profoundly heartfelt novel that announces an ingenious new voice in the tradition of Chain-Gang All-Stars, No One Is Talking About This, and Martyr!

**Country People** – Daniel Mason. A year in the life of a family as they strike out into the unknown (aka Vermont), leaving all the comforts of home behind--a rollicking, lyrical novel from Pulitzer Prize finalist Daniel Mason, the bestselling author of *North Woods* and one of America's greatest living writers.

**Alan Opts Out** – Courtney Maum. (*June release*) In this timely and comedic take on ambition, consumerism, and the sticker price of privilege, an ad exec who bombs the biggest pitch of his career decides to forgo capitalism and live off the land of his suburban Connecticut home.

The Radiant Dark – Alexandra Oliva. (*April release*) In the wake of First Contact, one mother upends her life and her children's futures, as humanity reckons with its place in the universe.

All Them Dogs – Djamel White. (*May release*) Tony Ward is back in Dublin. After five years in England, where he fled after murdering a rival gang member, he returns to find that his mentor is dead and his best friend has gone straight. Keen to reestablish himself, he jumps at the chance to work for the enforcer of a local crime boss. But Flute Walsh is a far cry from the boy Tony once knew. Drawn to Flute in ways he never expected, Tony finds that the boundaries he thought he understood are breaking down in a world where nothing stays buried and where retribution is just a bullet away.

## **Historical Fiction**

An Infinite Love Story – Chanel Cleeton. When an astronaut is lost in space, his wife relives their epic love as she attempts to unravel what truly happened to him, in this sweeping love story set against the backdrop of the 1960s Space Race.

Cool Machine – Colson Whitehead. With his usual pitch-perfect prose, Whitehead paints a portrait of New York City in transition, where shimmering skyscrapers rise to the heavens as displaced people huddle in abandoned tunnels below. In a dazzling display of protean imagination, *Cool Machine* roves all over the city, from Windows on the World to the Meadowlands, to show that in New York, and in the lives of Whitehead's vivid characters, it's what's below the surface that reveals the truth.

## **Mystery & Detective Fiction**

Cherry Beach – Don Gillmor. (*May release*) When two girls are found murdered in a rundown Toronto highrise, Jamieson Abel and his partner are first on the scene. Abel is a law school dropout turned police detective chronically at odds with his colleagues and perpetually on the brink of being terminated, and Davis is the department's only female officer of colour. Both understand their being partnered as a form of banishment, but when the details of the murder go public at the start of an excruciatingly hot summer, they find themselves thrust into the centre of a front page investigation that will bring to a head the city's long history of shady real estate deals and racist disenfranchisement.

A Murder in Springtime – Martin Walker. (*June release*) In the next installment of the Bruno, Chief of Police series, a newcomer to St. Denis is found dead at the home of one of Bruno's best friends--and for once, Bruno feels as though he is too close to the case to investigate, until it becomes clear that he's the only person who can solve the crime.

## **Romance**

Love You More – Emily Giffin. A woman is newly engaged to a man she adores when she receives a call from her first love with news that shatters her carefully ordered world, in this emotionally powerful novel from the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Summer Pact*.

Meet Me in Paris – Kristin Harmel. Harmel, the New York Times bestselling author who "is the best there is at sweeping historical drama", returns with a captivating new novel about

several intertwined stories of love, loss, courage, and redemption set over the course of one magical week in Paris.

## Short Stories

The Animal Room – Lauren Acampora. (*June release*) From the award-winning author of *The Wonder Garden* comes a set of linked stories spotlighting human-animal relations--and revealing the tensions that threaten to fracture a suburban New England community.

I Know a Place – Nat Cassidy. (*May release*) There are locations in this world where the light doesn't seem to reach. Where, no matter how illuminated the place might be, shadows creep in too strongly to fight back. A suspiciously empty gas station rest stop in the middle of the night, littered with googly eyes... A doctor's office, where a bottle of booze and a tear-stained folder wait on the desk... A tech millionaire's haunted kitchen... A Bible-quoting ventriloquist's dingy apartment... A yoga retreat in the middle of the desert, silent except for the screaming... Let's hope you make it home in one piece.

It Will Come Back to You – Sigrid Nunez. Nunez brings together thirteen of her best stories from the decades-long sweep of her career, tracing the origins of her style and her remarkable artistic range. Moving from the momentous to the mundane, Nunez maintains her expert balance between gravity and levity while probing the philosophical questions that illuminate her work.

## Suspense

Five – Ilona Bannister. (*May release*) Five lives. Five stories. Four will live--one will die. Who it will be? In this slow-burn masterpiece of psychological fiction, the choice is all yours. An incredibly original novel that breaks the fourth wall and asks the reader to be judge, jury, and executioner, *Five* looks at some of the most complicated issues of contemporary life: motherhood, disability, addiction. Every stranger has a story. And in Ilona Bannister's skillful hands, five people's stories come together to create an unforgettable novel.

Murder By Design – Lee Goldberg. (*June release*) Caroline Crowley took a nasty fall down a staircase at a shopping mall in front of dozens of witnesses. Video clearly shows the deadly misstep. But Bixby is certain she was murdered by design, subtly manipulated into causing her own demise. The mall itself made the crime intentional, if not inevitable. Now Bixby must prove his outrageous theory before a very cunning killer gets others on his hit list to murder themselves, too.

Culpability – Bruce Holsinger. When the Cassidy-Shaws' autonomous minivan collides with an oncoming car, seventeen-year-old Charlie is in the driver's seat, with his father, Noah, riding shotgun. In the back seat, tweens Alice and Izzy are on their phones, while their mother, Lorelei, a world leader in the field of artificial intelligence, is absorbed in her work. Yet each family member harbors a secret, implicating them all in the tragic accident. A suspenseful family drama about moral responsibility in the age of artificial intelligence.

Dead Weight – Hildur Knutsdottir. (*May release*) Unnur was living a normal, if lonely, life until a black cat showed up at her door. When she tracks down the cat's wayward owner, she finds a young woman just as lost and in need of help. Like a gust of cold air in a Reykjavík night, Ásta and her pet slip into Unnur's life. It's unexpected, but welcome. Unnur likes the company, and she begins to rely on Ásta in turn. But like a black cat, trouble has

been tailing her new friend, and Unnur is the only one there for Ásta when things take a violent turn. The two women quickly learn: nothing tests a friendship like blood on your hands.

The Intrigue – Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Handsome con artist Ulises has long charmed lonely women via letters in order to steal their money, but money is hard to come by in 1940s Mexico. Ulises knows his looks won't last forever, and he's desperate to get his hands on a real fortune. He thinks he's found it when he captivates his newest correspondent, Perla, the owner of a small-town boardinghouse in picturesque Veracruz. But when he meets her, he finds something he didn't expect. The woman has a niece, Inés, who is as observant as she is desperate to escape her aunt's household. When Inés discovers Ulises's true intentions, she wants in on the scheme. They'll convince her aunt that Ulises is a great catch, Perla will marry him, and her money will vanish. Easy, fast, and clean. But Perla is not the desperate, silly spinster Ulises imagines. She harbors secrets. And although Ulises does not believe in true romance, Inés is more alluring than he bargained for. Suddenly, a simple plan may become perilously complicated.

This Changes Everything – Lisa Scottoline. In this "riveting, deeply felt and empowering thriller that is also a touching ode to female friendship", a woman risks her life to help her closest friend find justice for a tragic crime and realizes she has more power than she ever knew.

Ransom – Daniel Silva. Art restorer and legendary spy Gabriel Allon searches for the missing wife of a British billionaire in the electrifying new tale of greed, corruption, and betrayal.

Hide and Seek – Soren Sveistrup. On Valentine's Day, detectives Naia Thulin and Mark Hess are searching to find the missing woman. But when they uncover links to a decades-old cold case, their investigation takes a terrifying turn. A violent killer is on the loose. Can Hess and Thulin catch them, before they strike again? A twisty, breakneck psychological thriller that takes an innocent children's game to its most terrifying and diabolical extreme.

## **NONFICTION**

Cocked and Boozy: an Intoxicating History of the American Revolution – Brooke Barbier. (*June release*) Public historian Brooke Barbier examines the role that alcohol played in spurring, binding, and winning the American Revolution and how it shaped the nascent United States. Every chapter concludes with an eighteenth-century cocktail recipe made for modern tastes, so readers can participate in their own historic tipping.

Strangers: a Memoir of Marriage – Belle Burden. (*January release*) Burden revisits her marriage, searching for clues that her husband was not who she always thought he was. As she examines her relationship through a new lens, she reckons with her own family history and the lessons she intuited about how a woman is expected to behave in the face of betrayal. Through all of it, she is transformed. The discreet, compliant woman she once was--someone nicknamed "Belle the Good"--gives way to someone braver, someone determined to use her voice. With unflinching honesty and profound grace, Burden charts a path through heartbreak to show the power of a woman who refuses to give up on love. *Strangers* is a stunning, deeply moving, compulsively readable memoir heralding the arrival of a thrilling new literary talent.

London Falling: a Mysterious Death in a Gilded City and a Family's Search for Truth – Patrick Radden Keefe. (*April release*) From the bestselling, prizewinning author of *Say Nothing* and *Empire of Pain*, a spellbinding account of a family devastated by the sudden death of their nineteen-year-old son, only to discover that he had created a secret life which drew him into the dangerous criminal underworld that lies beneath London's glittering surface.

The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State – Jill Lepore. Deliberately alarming, *The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State*, despite its abundance of dire facts, is not a funeral dirge; rather, it's an inspiring wake-up call, written in Lepore's typically elegiac prose, which demonstrates that nothing about the Artificial State was inevitable, for it is a "government without consent, even government without humans." It can, Lepore asserts, be dismantled. Other heinous systems, like feudalism, fascism, and slavery, have also been dismantled, but disassembly requires identifying the parts, tracing the sources. It requires telling a new history.

The Emerson Circle: the Concord Radicals Who Reinvented the World – Bruce Nichols. (*April release*) A lively and captivating journey through the world of the Transcendentalists, America's first group of public intellectuals, whose visionary ideas reinvented our culture and politics and remain an inspiration today.

Big Fan: Two Friends, 82,490 Miles, and the Wild, Wonderful Sports We Love – Michael Schur. (*May release*) New York Times bestselling authors Mike Schur and Joe Posnanski travel the world in a hilarious and heartwarming celebration of fans and the things they love: baseball, basketball, chess, darts, football, futbol, Indigenous North American stickball, pickleball, WWE, Taylor Swift, Star Wars, and more.

The Land and Its People: Essays – David Sedaris. (*May release*) Sedaris investigates what it means to be a traveler, a brother, a lifelong friend. Trying on the role of caretaker after his boyfriend Hugh's hip-replacement surgery, he both succeeds and fails. He covers ground with his friend Dawn and challenges her to eat a truck tire. A ambivalent Duolingo bot becomes his unlikely confidante as he attempts to describe his family in a foreign language. Ever adding to his list of "Countries I Have Been To," he rides a horse named Tequila in Guatemala, buys a bespoke priest's cassock in Vatican City, and goes on safari in Kenya without taking a single photo. Throughout these essays--at once acerbic and tender, playful and profound--Sedaris shows how much there is to marvel at when you keep your head up and your eyes open, observing with warmth and curiosity our fascinating human species and the lands we inhabit.

Hiroshima, 8:15: the Lost Memoir – Kiyoshi Tanimoto. A newly discovered firsthand account of the Hiroshima bombing and its aftermath from one of the survivors--bringing unprecedented immediacy to our understanding of this world-changing event.

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