

..... OHIO *ana*
QUARTERLY

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Collecting, Preserving, and Celebrating Ohio Literature

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Who We Are: The Ohioana Library Association

At Ohioana, we elevate Ohio's written works and the creative minds behind them, celebrating our collective literary history. Whether it's through our unique events and programming, our extensive library collection, or our print and digital publications, everything we do is with the goal of connecting readers and Ohio writers.

OHIOana QUARTERLY

WINTER 2025

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From the Director

Dear Members & Friends,



Photo by Chris Walker

When snow is on the ground, it's time to stay inside with a good book—especially one that warms the heart. That's why we're excited to share the winter 2025 issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*, where we explore love and romance in Ohio literature.

One of the highlights of this issue is an article on Sherwood Anderson and his complex views on love and marriage. Anderson, an Ohio literary legend, often wrote about relationships in a way that was both raw and poetic. His insights still resonate today, making this piece a must-read for anyone who enjoys exploring the human heart through literature.

We also had the pleasure of interviewing several Ohio romance writers about how they got started writing romance, their favorite tropes when writing, and what advice they have for aspiring romance writers. Whether you're a lifelong romance fan or just dipping into the genre, you won't want to miss their insights into the art of writing about love.

Of course, love also means discovering new books to cherish, and we have plenty! The latest arrivals in the Ohioana Library include a fantastic mix of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and books for young readers by Ohio authors. Be sure to check out our book reviews to find your next great read.

If you're not yet an Ohioana member, now is the perfect time to join! Your membership helps support our mission of celebrating Ohio's literary heritage and sharing it with readers like you. Plus, members receive four issues of the *Ohioana Quarterly* and other great benefits throughout the year.

And don't forget—spring will be here before we know it, bringing with it one of our favorite events: the Ohioana Book Festival on Saturday, May 3! Mark your calendars now to come to the State Library of Ohio to meet some of your favorite Ohio authors and illustrators, discover new voices, and visit the Ohioana Library while you are here.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, thank you for being part of the Ohioana family!

Warmest wishes for cozy reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberlee L. Kiehl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Kiehl
Executive Director

ON THE COVER

This issue's cover, photographed and designed by Kathryn Powers, celebrates the season of love—especially the Ohioana Library's love for great books!



Love is Sweet *Writing Romance Books* By Kathryn Powers

Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Westley and Buttercup. Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy. Who can resist a tale of true love?

Romance is always at the top of bestseller book lists and one of the most popular genres with readers. There's nothing better during the cold winter months than curling up with a romance book—perhaps in a luxurious bubble bath, or lounging on your favorite chair with a bubbly drink. No matter how chilly it gets outside, a romance book is sure to warm your heart and soul.

In this season of love—and reading indoors—we're delighted to bring you an interview with five Ohio romance writers. From first kisses to spicier relationships, these authors write books that will make you swoon. They answered our burning questions about their inspirations, their favorite aspects of the romance genre, and why they simply *love* writing love stories.

Q: How did you get started as a writer? Did you always know you wanted to write books with romantic themes?

Kristy Boyce

I have been writing since elementary school and always dreamed of becoming a published author. However, it wasn't until 2008 that I started getting serious. I began by reading books on the craft of writing and trying my hand at writing my own novels. In 2013, I joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), which had a huge impact on me. I was able to attend writing conferences, meet professionals in the field, get critiques, and build relationships with other writers.

I have always loved writing books with romantic themes. Every novel I've written has romance as an important component—even the stories I started when I was young!

Terreece M. Clarke

I feel like I was born with a book in my hands and always wrote stories as a hobby, but I never considered becoming a novelist. As a young girl from working class Toledo, Ohio, whenever I heard the phrase "The Great American Novelist," it was a title mainly afforded to white men. Romance, which I loved, never featured anyone who looked like me on the covers. Without representation, it just didn't seem possible.

I am grateful to the adults who encouraged my creativity and my interest in journalism. I will never forget Sister Mary Michaelyn, who allowed me to put on a play I wrote in second grade full of hijinks, kidnappings, and through-the-coatroom chases!

I majored in journalism at The Ohio State University and worked as a freelancer with a focus on women, families, diversity, and tech for a long time before I released my first book children's book. Then, in 2016, two characters came to me and would not leave me alone. In the shower, in my sleep . . . I decided to write down their scenes just to get the voices out of my head. I filled six notebooks of scenes, but it wasn't until 2021 that I got the courage to publish it. *Heartbeat*, released in 2022, was very well received, hit number one on Amazon in its categories, and the Courageous Love series was born!

Patti Flinn

I've always been a writer, but my first published novel was a superstitious dream I couldn't shake. I decided to self-publish it. After I put it on the market, I wanted to bring back the light! Already a reader of romance, I turned to it as a sort of palate cleanser and published my next couple of romances through small independent presses. I'm back to self-publishing.

I'm a romantic at heart, so romance will always be part of my stories, no matter the genre. Even when I'm not trying, it just creeps in. I believe in love, and I

know the (emotional) value of presenting stories that have a happily-ever-after.

Nora Nguyen

I've been a reader for my entire life, but I didn't grow up with the understanding of what it would mean to have a creative job. I thought I'd become a doctor—then I saw a cadaver at medical camp and quickly realized my future would be in the humanities! I entered a master of fine arts program, which wasn't (at the time) a place that nurtured what they called "genre fiction." But many of my cohort were secretly working on romance novels in their spare time. It's easy to see why—romance novels are wonderful, engrossing, and terrifically challenging projects. They work your brain in a different way than other kinds of writing, even though many of the creative decisions are the same.

Since I was a preteen, I've been reading romance novels: first, chaste Amish romances, then regencies, then—in my older years—working my way up to novels that I'm sure my parents did *not* want me reading. The first novel I wrote was a romance! I'd been working at a job that made me, frankly, miserable, and my own secret romance novel was a balm. It taught me so much about craft and gave me such delight, reviving my creativity at a time when it had gone into resolute hibernation. I felt like a rebel when I was working on it! Romance novels can feel transgressive in their utter dedication to that most elusive, anti-capitalist of emotions: joy.

Skye Quinlan

I've been writing stories since I was old enough to pick up a pencil, and I've never wanted to do anything else. After a brief sled-dog-racer phase, I was that kid who, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, always answered, "An author!"

I used to be too embarrassed to tell this story, but it's a hit on teen romance panels, so I've learned to laugh about it. The very first thing I can remember writing was a tale

about a Pokémon trainer trying to evolve their Pikachu. I'd written it in an old notebook with most of the pages torn out, and on the bus ride to school one morning, I'd given it to a friend so that she could read my story. We were just two kids who spent our afternoons trading Pokémon cards on the playground, so I'm not entirely sure what I was expecting in the way of feedback. I will never forget the way she stood up on the bus and threw the notebook back at me, screaming, "How dare you?!" in front of everyone. I'd done the unthinkable—the *unforgivable*: I'd made Pikachu evolve into Raichu, and I've been chasing that high ever since.

Writing romance didn't come until later when I realized, as a queer person, that I had stories to tell that reflected my lived experiences as an asexual nonbinary lesbian, and that there were other people—especially young readers—who deserved to see themselves represented in the media they were consuming.

I'm a romantic at heart,
so romance will always
be part of my stories,
no matter the genre.
– Patti Flinn

Q: From serious to humorous, the romance genre is full of tropes. Do you have any favorite tropes, or do you try to avoid them?

Boyce: This is a hard question, but I think two of my favorite tropes are "fake dating" and "forbidden love." Fake dating (where the characters need to pretend to be in a relationship) gives so many opportunities for humor and misunderstandings, and that is always fun to play with. Forbidden love is also great to write because the characters desperately want to be together, but they can't. I love writing about angst and yearning!

Clarke: Romance gets an unfair reputation for trope use. *Most* genres have general rules/guidelines that educate writers and readers on what to expect. Tropes are simply shorthand genre communication within the community. It's the same with any other interest or business community with its own lingo and acronyms. Tropes can help writers form the base of their story and communicate the type of romance and subgenre before delving into the description. They allow readers to

quickly sift their options and succinctly express a book recommendation need.

Tropes aside, authors still have to tell a compelling story with heart. I like to explore moments of humanity I can bring to specific elements to take my work from tropes to relatable experiences of the human condition. I start off with a story idea, identify the tropes present, then ask myself: How can I turn these completely on their heads? I recently wrote a novella with a “secret baby” trope where my female main character didn’t know about *her* baby.

And yes, secret baby is one of my favorite tropes. The elements are so endearing to me—when the bonding begins, navigating the changes in relationships, bodies, and thought processes, and unraveling the secret. It pulls me in every time.

I also love “enemies to lovers” and “grumpy/sunshine” when *she’s* the grumpy one.

Flinn: Fitting into a trope isn’t intentional for me, and I usually end up overlapping tropes and genres. I think if I were to try to stick to a trope, I would lose the other rich details and character developments that make my writing so unique.

I look at a trope as, primarily, a marketing consideration. It helps publishers position your work, and helps readers who think they only like one particular trope to find you. But just because a reader enjoys a story that includes a specific trope, that doesn’t mean it’s only the trope that the reader loved. It’s probably the creativity in the writing itself.

From the writer’s standpoint, the downside to ignoring tropes is that we lose that aspect of positioning. But, on the plus side, your imagination gets to go wherever it wants (one of the few luxuries that self-published writers enjoy). More often than not, I hear readers say they are tired of a particular trope. I don’t think a writer should ever be more loyal to a trope than they are to their creative voice.

Nguyen: I do love a trope! My debut novel, *Adam & Evie’s Matchmaking Tour*, has a few: “enemies to lovers,” “forced proximity,” and “grumpy/sunshine.” I think a good trope can ground reader expectations, which is a hallmark of the genre. Though I believe romance readers enjoy surprise, much of the comfort and familiarity of

reading a romance novel comes from knowing that there are certain established conventions that the author will follow. I also think it’s fun to subvert tropes where possible by finding new ways to innovate on what’s come before. Tropes are just a starting point; where you take the story beyond those tropes is what makes it yours!

Quinlan: As a reader, I love a good “enemies to lovers” romantasy where the main character and their eventual love interest start off hating each other. In this dynamic, you can actively see the tension dissolve between the characters as they start to fall in love, and it gives you something fun to root for as you’re reading. But as a writer, my all-time favorite trope is “found family.” As a queer person, whose very existence is inherently political, I’ve had to learn the hard way that it’s the family you build for yourself that matters most—the people that you choose to surround yourself with, versus the family that you’re born into and who may not be as accepting of who you are. I think that it’s important for young readers, especially those of marginalized identities, to understand that their people—their village—are out there; it’s just a matter of finding them.

Q: Romance is one of the most popular and bestselling genres! Where do your ideas come from? How do you continue to write fresh love stories with each new book and keep readers coming back for more?

Boyce: Some of my core ideas come from my own life or past experiences. Each of my four novels has an element of my life in it, whether that be my love for travel and musical theater, or my experiences playing Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) as a teen. For me, I think the key to writing a fresh story each time is creating interesting and unique characters. Readers know how romances will end—there’s going to be a happily-ever-after—but when you become attached to a new set of characters, then it feels exciting to watch them find love.

Clarke: Romance keeps the publishing industry’s lights on, truly.

I get ideas from everywhere: people-watching, reading other books in a variety of genres, as well as music, art, and news articles. Sometimes a single quote or action

will spark an entire book, like my second novel, *Chaser*.

I also ask a lot of questions: what if questions, why not questions, etc. I'm so curious about people—what motivates them, what cool things they are doing in their lives and careers—that I have Post-its, phone notes, and journal entries full of ideas and information.

I write what *I* want to read and see, and I bring readers along with me. I always tell readers: where you laughed, so did I; if you burst into tears, I boo-hooed all over my keyboard writing it.

My work as both a journalist and an author has been defined by my passion for voices that are often ignored and underrepresented. I didn't see a lot of romance books with Black women who were like my friends and family. I write from that perspective: smart Black women who experience tummy-tingling, feet-kicking, soft, extraordinary love. Their humanity and connection, when I'm doing it right, bleeds through the pages—and readers become a part of that bond. Romance provides a safe space to explore with, as Kennedy Ryan says, "guaranteed joy."

Flinn: Story ideas sprout from anywhere: dreams, hopes, photos, interesting locations, unlikely circumstances, the evening news, etc. Love exists everywhere! But when you're just starting out, the intimidation factor of picking the *right* story can paralyze you with fear. Finding a story when you're desperate is a recipe for writer's block.

Even though my first novel was inspired by a dream—and it was great!—ideas don't all come like manna from heaven. Sometimes, you have to work for it. It's best to find the stories before you need them, especially writers who want to work with traditional publishers; they will expect a stellar story whether you're inspired or not—and on a deadline.

For me, I like to start with the character before the story. The character will tell me if it's a drama or a comedy,

lighthearted fun or a tearjerker, and where the trouble spots exist for dysfunction in romance. And then, that's exactly where I put the love interest because that's how great romance is born!

No matter the genre, I'm most proud of my ability to create characters that people love. My most loyal readers care about my stories because they care about the characters. That's what brings them back.

Nguyen: I won't lie: romance is a saturated genre with abundant creativity and storytelling originality, so it can be difficult to land on a hook that hasn't been done in some capacity before. For years, I'd been joking with a friend about writing a romance about rival butchers called *Meat Cute*, and then recently, I saw the reference in—of all places—Catherine Newman's *Sandwich*, a literary bestseller from this previous year. But like tropes, the hook is just where it starts. What truly makes a story is the way the characters breathe on the page—how they try (and fail, sometimes) to find their way back to love.

If you can dream it,
you can make it so.
– Nora Nguyen

As for ideas, I've no shortage of them, because romance always motivates me to be playful and bold. It's one of the qualities I love most about the genre! A well-placed pun can often spin my mind in a direction I hadn't gone before. Occasionally, I'll overhear a snatch of conversation at a coffee shop and think: What's the story behind *that* declaration?

The more time you spend thinking about your novel, the more seeds you plant, which only encourages new ideas. They're self-perpetuating that way. And what's so great about romance is that few things are off-limits. It's a hotbed of ingenuity. If you can dream it, you can make it so. I mean, had we anticipated *Hot Frosty* landing on our television screens?

Quinlan: My debut novel, *Forward March*, was a love letter to my high school marching band. I graduated from Marion-Franklin High School in 2012 (shout-out to my fellow Red Devils!), and I've missed putting on

my uniform every Friday night during football season ever since. Writing *Forward March* was a way for me to not only memorialize some of our old traditions, but to also provide myself with a safe space to create a main character who shared in my identity as an asexual lesbian. Harper, the main character, experiences many of the same injustices that I've experienced as a queer person, especially when it comes to her romantic relationship with Margot, the story's primary love interest.

My latest novel, *Don't Be A Drag*, is a love letter to the art of drag, identity, mental health, and acceptance. I wrote *Don't Be A Drag* during a very difficult and pivotal time in my life, and used the narrative as a way to help me process my grief, depression, anger, and eventual acceptance. In this book, romance comes secondary to the character's journey of healing and self-discovery, which I believe helps to make the story feel more authentic.

I think that what helps to keep my ideas and stories "fresh" is that I tend to draw from my personal and lived experiences as a queer person for inspiration. I strive to provide my readers with a sense of belonging and authenticity. I'm also not afraid to tackle harder topics such as mental health, identity, and politics, and I think these are things that young readers can relate to.

Q: What is your latest book?

Boyce: My latest book is called *Dating and Dragons*, and it's my second young adult romance focused on nerdy teens who play Dungeons & Dragons. In this book, the main character, Quinn, moves to a new high school and is desperate to make friends. She's invited to join a very serious D&D game, where the players have stringent rules and livestream their games online. One of the rules is that players cannot date each other because it creates too much drama within the group . . . which could be a

problem for Quinn when sparks fly between her and another very cute player.

Clarke: My latest book is *Fingertips*, the fourth book in the Courageous Love series. It tells the story of Selene Whitaker, a workaholic executive assistant who has built a quiet, predictable life from the ashes of her wild youth in Southern Ohio Appalachia. She owes it to her estranged family to keep her head down, but her carefully curated life is thrown into comical—then deadly—chaos when her one-night stand is revealed to be Jacob Q. Fox, her boss' new client.

I strive to provide my readers with a sense of belonging and authenticity.
– Skye Quinlan

I was inspired to write Selene's story after I read an article on *The Root* about a chef with a new restaurant and cookbook featuring traditional Black Appalachian recipes. I wanted to find out more about Southern Ohio Black Appalachians specifically. Selene's backstory—her wholesome quirk of traveling with cast iron pans to cook mounds of Affrilachian dishes as stress relief—came from that research.

Flinn: During the pandemic, I discovered the story of Louis-Benoit Zamor, a man who lived in eighteenth-century France. He has gone down in history as a traitor for having turned in Madame Jeanne du Barry during the French Revolution. I fictionalized his life story in The Last Favorite's Page trilogy. *The Greatest Thing* (Book One) released in November 2023, *The Devil's Berries* (Book Two) released in July 2024, and *The Truest Son of France* will release early next year.

This trilogy is biographical fiction (and the bloodiest thing I've ever written!), but there's a heavy dose of romance in the midst of it. You can take the writer out of romance, but you can't take romance out of the writer—that's the saying, right?

I'm revising the third book through tears as I will truly miss the main character; he might just be *my* greatest thing.

Nguyen: My debut book is a love letter to travel and adventure called *Adam & Evie's Matchmaking Tour*. In the story, two very different souls (a scatterbrained poetess and a stiff, uncompromising CMO) are thrown together on a matchmaking tour across Vietnam, where they are goaded, intrigued, and ultimately, smitten by one another. Along the way, they challenge each other to grapple with the stories they've always told themselves about who they want to be and what they can ask from the world. The book feels like a homecoming to me, and I hope readers will feel the same.

Quinlan: My most recent book is *Don't Be A Drag*, which was released in May of 2024. *Don't Be A Drag* is a sapphic young adult contemporary about depressed teen Briar Vincent. While spending the summer in New York City with her drag queen older brother, Briar accidentally stirs up trouble by entering an annual drag king competition and starting a rivalry with overconfident (and unfairly attractive) performer Spencer Read.

Q: Do you have any advice for aspiring romance writers?

Boyce: First, it's important to read other books in the genre. Reading teaches you so much about how to write compelling fiction, as well as reasons why a book might not be working. Additionally, because writing can be such a solitary activity, it's really helpful to build a writing community. No one understands the highs and lows of writing like people who are going through the same things, so I always recommend trying to find other writer friends.

Clarke: Start writing, keep reading, and begin making connections with readers, other authors, and book influencers now. Yes, before you even have a published book. This is the time to build relationships. Whether you go the traditional publishing or indie route, having a platform is essential to getting your work out there.

Don't edit while you write—it slows you down. Get the words out. You can always fix them later. And for goodness' sake (and your own), write a story you love because you are going to read that sucker at least four hundred times before your book is released!

Research and learn the industry, but be mindful of asking too many people for advice. Conflicting advice will confuse you and slow you down. Remember, this is *your* story, so if the advice you get doesn't feel right, it's not.

Define success for yourself, then plot the plan to get there. It is easy to get overwhelmed and discouraged when you compare yourself to other authors. We are all on our own path, and it's okay for it to take a bit to figure out what works for you.

Flinn: The true beauty of the romance novel is its ability to boost the spirit. Real life is challenging. Any opportunity for a moment of respite is a blessing. *Only* a romance novel guarantees a happily-ever-after. In the amount of time it takes to finish that romance, a reader will experience the highs and lows of life. They'll learn that obstacles can be overcome, and that love can get us through the worst of times. It's fiction, but it feels real to the reader. Remember the power of what you're creating because, for some, it's a form of therapy.

Find your voice. Unless you're a unicorn who hits the bestsellers list out of the gate, you might have to inch along until people know who you are. That's not a bad thing. Use the time to grow into your writing. The more you write, the more you'll find the things you do better than anyone else. Nine out of ten readers might hate your work, but maybe that tenth one *loves* it. If the scorn of the nine makes you want to quit, writing might not be for you. But if the love of that tenth reader cancels out the other nine naysayers, maybe this writing thing is your destiny.

Nguyen: Stay true to the yearning. The messy middle is where the magic happens—where the character development comes alive, where the soul of your story lives. Press deeper into the spots that feel tricky. And don't forget to play!

Quinlan: My biggest piece of advice is to read, read, read. Find the books that are trending in the age range and genre that you want to write in, then give them a read to see what makes them successful. Stay up to date on new releases. Make friends with other writers and build a support system with people who are on the same journey as you. Lastly, always remember to write the story that *you* want to tell, because no one can tell it better than you.

Meet the Authors

Kristy Boyce is the *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Dating and Dragons*, *Dungeons and Drama*, *Hot British Boyfriend*, and *Hot Dutch Daydream*. She played her first role-playing game in high school and has been friends with that group ever since. In fact, she even married the Dungeon Master. Nowadays, she teaches psychology as a senior lecturer at The Ohio State University. Boyce lives with her husband and son in Pickerington, Ohio. Visit her online at kristyboyceauthor.com.



Photo by Open Image Studio

Terreece M. Clarke is a bestselling author and journalist. She has written for websites, magazines, newspapers, and as a young adult and children’s book reviewer for Common Sense Media. Her work has garnered the attention of the *New York Times*, Disney, and Jezebel. As a successful writer, journalist, entrepreneur, mother of three, and wife to one, she is often asked to lead discussions on women and parenting issues and diversity in media, pop culture, and tech. Clarke was born in Toledo and currently lives in Columbus, Ohio. Visit her online at terreececlarke.com.



Photo courtesy of Terreece M. Clarke

Patti Flinn is an author of historical, romance, and suspense fiction. Her accolades include the Romance Writers Ink Award for romantic comedy and the Independent Book Publishing Award for fiction. She has also been a finalist for the Phillis Wheatley Award for fiction and a 2023 Shelf Unbound Notable Indie honorable mention. Flinn strives to encourage everyone to fulfill their dreams and find the extraordinary individual within. She was raised in Ohio and currently lives in Columbus. Visit her online at GildedOrangeBooks.com.



Photo by Shellee Fisher Photography

Meet the Authors

Nora Nguyen is a lifelong romance enthusiast and novelist who fully believes in the healing power of a transportive love story. A recipient of an Individual Excellence Award in fiction from the Ohio Arts Council, Nguyen lives in central Ohio with her family. She writes literary fiction under the name Thao Thai. Visit her online at norawrites.com.

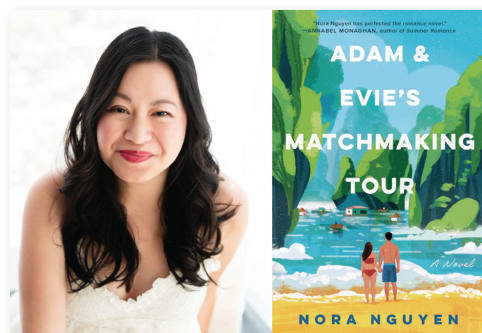


Photo by Erika Venci Photography

Skye Quinlan (they/them) is a queer, autistic author of young adult fiction. They're an avid reader, have an absurd amount of crystals and gemstones, and if they're not tending to their garden, you can usually find them playing *Animal Crossing*. Quinlan lives in central Ohio with their wife, two dogs, a snake, and two lizards. Visit them online at skyequinlanbooks.com.



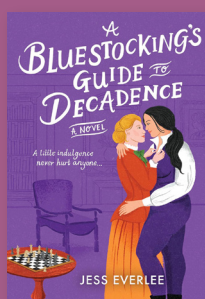
Photo by Jen Quinlan

Further Reading

Check out these additional romance books written by Ohio authors!



Asking for a Friend
KARA H.L. CHEN



A Bluestocking's Guide to Decadence
JESS EVERLEE



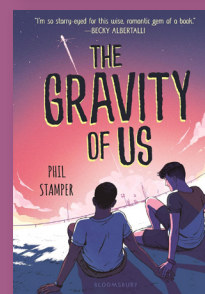
Funny Story
EMILY HENRY



If You Can't Take the Heat
MICHAEL RUHLMAN



Her Private Security Detail
PATRICIA SARGEANT



The Gravity of Us
PHIL STAMPER

Love is Complicated

The Story of Sherwood Anderson

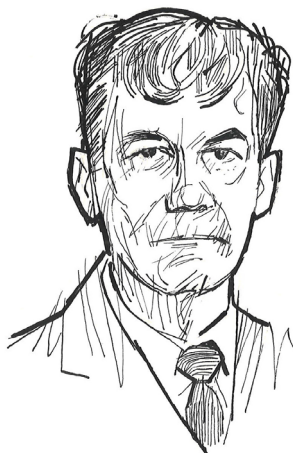
By Kim Kiehl

This article began as a story about some of the love letters and books on love in our collection at Ohioana. I started my research by examining three books of love letters written by Sherwood Anderson, and I quickly fell down a rabbit hole. Anderson certainly understood love and marriage, writing about both in many stories. He was married multiple times (four, to be exact). While that may appear to make him an unlikely candidate for a magazine issue about love and romance, keep reading, and it will become clearer why I couldn't help but follow this fascinating story.

Sherwood Anderson: The Man

Sherwood Anderson was born in Camden, Ohio, on September 13, 1876. His early childhood was marked by numerous relocations across the state until the family settled in Clyde, Ohio, in 1884—a town which would later serve as inspiration for his acclaimed book *Winesburg, Ohio*.

Anderson's father was a heavy drinker who offered little stability for the family. His mother became the primary breadwinner, leaving Anderson and his siblings to look after themselves. He dropped out of high school and enlisted in the military to serve in the Spanish-American War. In 1900, Anderson returned to Clyde and attended Wittenberg Academy in Springfield to obtain the equivalent of a high school diploma. After graduating, he moved to Chicago and worked as a copywriter for an advertising agency. He married his first wife in 1904. Two years later, they relocated to Cleveland, where Anderson became president of the United Factories Company, a mail-order business. In 1907, they moved to Elyria, Ohio, and started the Anderson Manufacturing Company. This new mail-order endeavor thrived until 1909. At that point,



Anderson began to feel disillusioned with his life as a businessman and fantasized about becoming a writer. This dream progressively consumed him, and his next years were spent working by day and writing by night.

In November 1912, Anderson wrote a note to his wife, left his company office, and vanished. Three days later, he entered a drugstore in Cleveland and informed the druggist that he had no idea who he was, where he was, or how he got there. Anderson was admitted to Huron

Road Hospital in Cleveland for the treatment of a nervous breakdown. Following his recovery, Anderson left his wife and children and returned to Chicago and his former job in advertising. More importantly, it was during this time that he discovered the Chicago art scene—a community of likeminded creatives whose encouragement and influence were critical to his future success.

After a legendary career (and multiple divorces), Anderson died in 1941 in a most unusual manner. That year,

along with his fourth wife, he embarked on a “goodwill tour” to South America to write about labor conditions in the region. During the voyage, he accidentally swallowed a toothpick from a martini, which perforated his intestine and led to peritonitis. When the boat stopped in Panama, he and his wife disembarked and he was rushed to a hospital. Anderson passed away on March 8, 1941, and is buried in Round Hill Cemetery in Marion, Virginia. His tombstone reads, “Life, Not Death, is The Great Adventure.”

Sherwood Anderson: The Husband

While Anderson ultimately had four different spouses, the marriages were not fly-by-night relationships. Two

of the marriages spanned eight years, one twelve years, and the last from 1933 until his death in 1941. In addition to his published works, Anderson was a prolific writer of letters. He penned thousands of them over his lifetime, through courtships and marriages—and sometimes to women outside of those relationships, earning him the reputation as a “ladies’ man.”

Marriage #1: Cornelia Pratt Lane

Cornelia Pratt Lane was born in 1877 to a wealthy Toledo family. She was highly educated and would go on to teach high school English and Latin. Anderson and Lane married in 1904 on her twenty-seventh birthday and moved to Chicago. In 1906, they returned to Ohio, spending a year in Cleveland before settling in Elyria. They had three children together—Robert, John, and Marion (Mimi)—and lived in Elyria until Anderson’s nervous breakdown. After he recovered, Anderson went back to Chicago in 1913, while Lane and the children moved to Michigan. The couple formally separated in March of 1914 and divorced on July 27, 1916, when Anderson fell in love with the sculptor Tennessee Claflin Mitchell—a woman who was also Lane’s friend.

Lane seems to have truly loved Anderson; she spoke highly of him throughout the years after their divorce and never turned the children against him. She also maintained friendly relationships with all of Anderson’s subsequent wives. Lane reflects on her divorce with Anderson in a letter to author Burton Rascoe, saying:

He did the right thing. He wouldn’t have been free to develop otherwise. You are worldly-wise enough to know that some marriages don’t last forever. In those cases, a separation is the best solution. It raises the question of whether living in a strained atmosphere would be any better for the children. I am a much better person for having known him so well. I don’t know if you would agree, but I once read that what a genius needs is a mother and not a wife. I believe that.

Marriage #2: Tennessee Claflin Mitchell

Tennessee Claflin Mitchell was born in Michigan in 1874 and began her career tuning pianos, eventually

transitioning to teaching piano to children. Anderson married Mitchell four days after receiving his divorce papers from Cornelia Pratt Lane. Mitchell is best known as an artist and sculptor. Her first steps into sculpting came when she created small clay sculptures to illustrate the characters in Anderson’s novel *The Triumph of the Egg*. Though happy for a time, their marriage didn’t last. In 1922, Anderson filed for divorce on the grounds of justifiable desertion. Anderson wasn’t the only author with whom Mitchell had a relationship: prior to writing *Spoon River Anthology*, author Edgar Lee Masters and Mitchell had a two-year extramarital affair.

Mitchell was found dead in her apartment on December 26, 1929, apparently having been deceased for about a week before she was discovered. Anderson did not attend her funeral, but he was clearly affected by her death. In a letter dated December 1930, Anderson talks about his past loves and his own struggle with depression as he writes of Mitchell’s death:

When Tennessee died, I was down south. I was on a pier going out into the Atlantic, on the day after I heard of her death. It seemed very nice, death did, very still and white. It was a way to wash life away. I had to fight, as I had never fought not to slipp [*sic*] off the side of the pier and swim away—to death. It wouldn’t have been Tennessee, or Elizabeth or Cornelia or any other individual woman I swam toward. I have been, I think a lover of abstract womanhood. When it has appeared I have loved it. I havn’t [*sic*] often stopped loving when I seemed to.

Marriage #3: Elizabeth Norma Prall

In 1924, Anderson married his third wife, Elizabeth Norma Prall. Born in Michigan in 1884, Prall graduated from the University of Michigan, worked as a bookseller, and was a friend of William Faulkner. That same year, Anderson, Prall, and his son Robert moved to New Orleans. After two years, in the summer of 1926, the Andersons left for a new life in Virginia. By then, the marriage was struggling, and Anderson was once again unhappy. In January 1929, Prall traveled to California to visit relatives. Anderson wrote to her, requesting that she not return to Virginia. They divorced in 1932.

During their marriage, Anderson and Prall corresponded often with Cornelia Pratt Lane. These letters indicate that while they were making decisions regarding the lives of the younger children, particularly Mimi, they lived with Lane and she was the one covering most of the bills.

In 1969, decades after the divorce, Prall published *Miss Elizabeth: A Memoir*, her “intimate account of life with Sherwood Anderson,” as stated on the book’s cover.

Marriage #4: Eleanor Copenhaver, “The Love of His Life”

Anderson’s relationship with his fourth wife, Eleanor Copenhaver—who was arguably the true love of his life—began in 1928, while he was still married to Elizabeth Norma Prall. Copenhaver was born in 1896 in Marion, Virginia, and was the daughter of prominent Marion citizens. She graduated from Westhampton College, received a certificate in social economy from Bryn Mawr College, and earned a master’s degree in political economy from Columbia University. She was a top executive for the YWCA and traveled often for her job.

Anderson courted Copenhaver for years before they finally married in 1933. His letters confirm that their relationship indeed began as an affair. He continued to write Copenhaver letters throughout their marriage. In one of his last letters to her, he says: “I am not old. If I were old, how could I love you as I do, dreaming of you at night, making love to you in dreams . . . Really, darling, you’re a wonder. How in . . . name did I ever happen to find you? You utterly sweet thing . . . Lordy, I do love you so much.” Just a little more than a month after Anderson wrote this letter, he would die. Copenhaver managed her husband’s literary estate until her own death in 1985. She is buried next to Anderson in Round Hill Cemetery in Marion, Virginia.

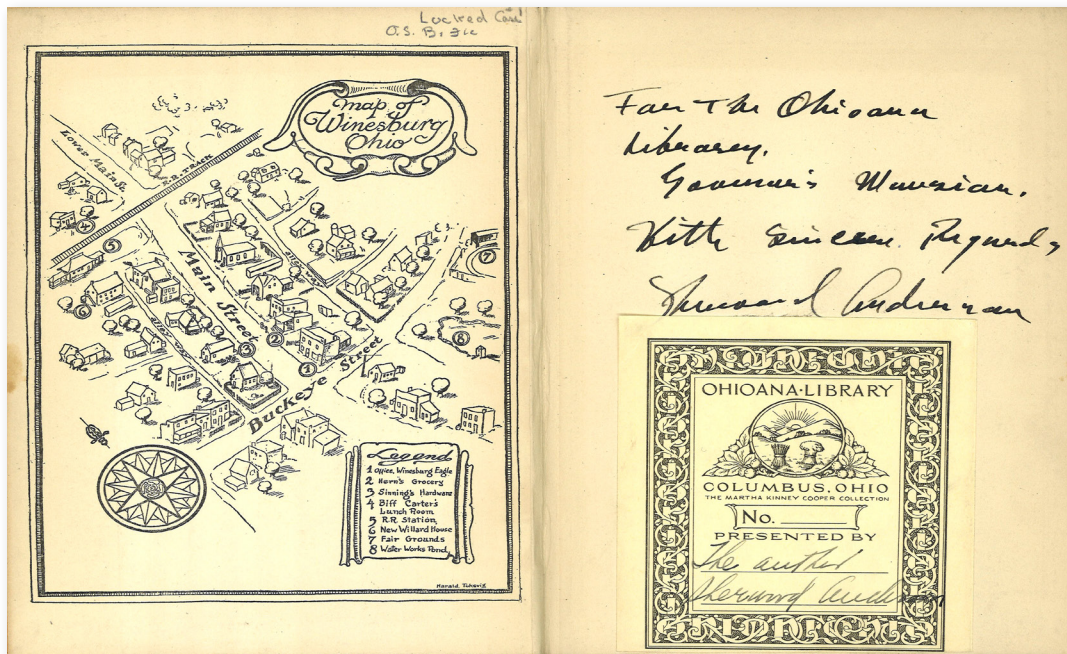
Sherwood Anderson: The Writer

Anderson was a prolific letter writer, and Ohioana’s collection includes three books of his letters. *Sherwood Anderson’s Love Letters to Eleanor Copenhaver* features 224 of the over 1,400 letters he wrote to Copenhaver between 1929 and 1941, which she preserved and chose to publish before her passing in 1985. The second book in the collection, *Sherwood*

Anderson’s Secret Love Letters, contains a different set of letters he secretly wrote to Copenhaver beginning in January 1932—a year prior to their marriage—so she would have a record of their relationship whether they married or not. She only found these letters after his death in 1941 and decided to publish them, too, prior to her passing. The third book in our collection, *Letters to Bab*, includes 309 letters written to Marietta D. Finley between 1916 and 1933. Anderson met Finley during his first marriage and maintained a friendship with her throughout both of their lives and marriages. These letters are not strictly love letters; instead, as stated in one of them, he intended to “write you instead my observations on life and manners as they present themselves to me here and now . . . At the end of six months or a year, we will see if we haven’t material for a book that would interest others.” These letters provide a more private glimpse into Anderson the man and his reflections on life and the world around him.

When he wasn’t busy writing letters, Anderson crafted numerous short stories and novels, many of which explore themes of love, relationships, and marriage. The most famous of these, *Winesburg, Ohio*, published in 1919, includes a series of short stories about life in small-town fictional Winesburg, Ohio. One of the stories featured in it, “Adventure,” depicts both the hope and pain of young love as teenage Alice Hindman falls for Ned Currie and dreams of a future with him. Ned leaves Winesburg, promising to send for Alice, but he never does, leaving her holding on to hope for many years. Other stories in this collection portray characters Elizabeth Willard, who despises her husband, and Louise Bentley, who regrets her marriage. Anderson’s perspective on love and marriage during these years of his first marriage does not seem to have been particularly positive, depicting them as circumstances to be endured rather than enjoyed.

Many Marriages, published in 1923, seems inspired by his own life. The main character, John Webster, dreams of having an affair with his secretary, hears voices in his head, and comes to believe that he needs to leave his wife and daughter. Like Anderson during his first marriage, John feels he must reinvent himself. This book was labeled as a “dirty book” by critics because it explored sexual freedom, but F. Scott Fitzgerald considered *Many Marriages* to be Anderson’s finest novel. This book, as well as *Poor White* (1920) and



Dark Laughter (1925), his most successful novel, were written during his marriages to Tennessee Claflin Mitchell and Elizabeth Norma Prall and, again mirroring his own life, were all about men struggling to establish good relationships with women.

“The Other Woman,” one of Anderson’s most well known and studied short stories, starts with the line, “I am in love with my wife.” But the main character, perhaps a reflection of Anderson himself, continues to talk about another woman he thinks of often and ultimately has an affair with the day before his marriage. In 1932, Anderson published the novel *Beyond Desire* during his courtship of Eleanor Copenhaver. While this book is still generally pessimistic about relationships, it does suggest that the main character would make a great wife “if she only could meet a courageous man.” Again, this writing seems to reflect his own life as he felt Copenhaver had, in fact, saved his life, writing in a letter to her, “In some queer way you have brought my manhood back to me, set me on my feet again.” Anderson’s last novel, *Kit Brandon*, follows a main character who ponders the difficulties of marriage, but this time, the story is from the female perspective. This was probably influenced by Copenhaver.

Sherwood Anderson, regarded as the “literary father” of great writers including Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Thomas Wolfe, was undeniably a complex individual. He faced challenges with depression,

navigated difficult relationships, and channeled these experiences into his prolific writing.

At Ohioana, we’re always surprised and fascinated by the connections readers make with the authors, books, and materials in our collection. During my research on Anderson and his lifetime of love letters, I discovered my own unexpected connections to him. Anderson’s granddaughter, the daughter of Mimi, was named Karlyn, a name I thought I had created for my own daughter by combining parts of two family names. His insights into relationships and marriage—topics that are not always as straightforward as they seem—resonate with some of my own discoveries throughout my life. This rabbit hole was a deep one, and I’m thrilled I ventured down it. At first glance, Sherwood Anderson may not seem like the ideal author to discuss issues of love and marriage, but his portrayals are often raw and honest, and his letters overflow with love.

The images used in this article are all treasures from Ohioana’s collection. The article header on page 12 is from a 1938 letter Sherwood Anderson wrote to Marie Davis Kuhn, a former Ohioana Trustee who collected books from Ohio authors for the collection. The sketch of Anderson on page 12 is an uncredited original art piece donated to us by Eleanor Copenhaver Anderson in 1965. Page 15 features an image of Ohioana’s 1927 copy of *Winesburg, Ohio*, presented to the library and autographed by Sherwood Anderson.

Book Reviews

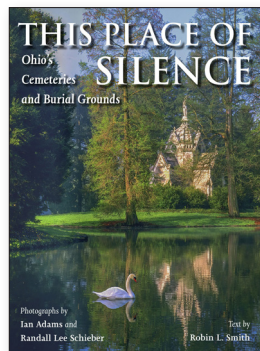
NONFICTION

Adams, Ian, and Randall Lee Schieber.
This Place of Silence: Ohio's Cemeteries and Burial Grounds. Text by Robin L. Smith.
Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 2023.

I have been fascinated by cemeteries since I was a child, when my Girl Scout troop visited one to do rubbings of tombstones for a badge. As I walked around the grounds looking for interesting markers, I wondered who the people were, where they had lived, and what they had experienced during their lives. I still have a serious case of taphophilia (love of cemeteries), and I still want to know the stories of all the people resting in these spaces. So, when the Ohioana Library received *This Place of Silence: Ohio's Cemeteries and Burial Grounds*, I quickly claimed it to read and review. I was not disappointed. In fact, I have now read it multiple times. Each time I do, I see and learn something new.

This book contains not only the stories of cemeteries across Ohio, but it is filled with stunning photographs by Ian Adams and Randall Lee Schieber. The photographs tell the stories as much as Robin L. Smith's words, and these three collaborators have produced a book of great beauty and reverence.

The book's title, *This Place of Silence*, comes from Edgar Lee Master's poetry collection *Spoon River Anthology*. But while those lying beneath the earth are silent, the cemeteries themselves are full of voices. As Smith states in the introduction, "Cemeteries speak to those who listen: of the past, of art and architecture, of wealth and poverty, of religion and its place in our society, of evolving attitudes toward death, of the growth of cities, of prejudice and inclusion, of natural beauty and sanctuary." The pages of this book touch on each of these themes as they explore the cemeteries around Ohio.



This Place of Silence covers a breadth of topics across its six chapters, from how cemeteries have evolved over time to information about the symbolism seen on tombstones. The photos portray everything from simple markers to elaborate mausoleums. They show the graves of the famous and the graves of children whose lives ended much too early. Each one is described, and the narratives made me want to dig further into every individual's story. For me, this is the mark of a great book: as I read, I want to learn even more.

While I loved the entire book, I was particularly engrossed by chapter three, "Architecture, Statuary, and Symbolism." During the summer of 2024, I took a trip to my mother's hometown in Pennsylvania and explored the cemeteries where our family members are buried, some going back three and four generations. I was struck by the extraordinary height of my great-great-grandfather's grave marker. I knew he had not been a wealthy man, but his marker rivaled the richest person's in the cemetery. I wondered about the culture of the time and of the small community that led to such a grand monument being created for an ordinary citizen and his family. I was also intrigued by the variety of symbols depicted throughout the cemetery and pondered what they signified. Some of these symbols were clear to me—angels, crosses, Stars of David. But others left me puzzled.

Chapter three answered many of those lingering questions. It details the meanings of polished stone balls, the draped urn from the 1800s, and the weeping willow tree, amongst other symbols. When I recently explored the Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, the monuments that fascinated me the most were the ones that looked like trees. Smith explains that these "treestones" were very popular between the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of these have broken stumps or branches, signifying a life cut short. Some "treestones" are adorned with other symbolism, like a vine representing the connection to God or the calla lily as a symbol of marriage. Sometimes, they even include a carving of the deceased. The chapter shares some of the most unique markers found in Ohio's cemeteries, too, including a cash register, a log cabin, and a spaceship!

There are also two notable chapters dedicated to specific types of cemeteries: “Native American and Early Burial Grounds” and “Military and Institutional Cemeteries.” I was aware of military cemeteries—my father is buried in Arlington—but I was not aware of the cemeteries associated with various institutions, such as the Athens Lunatic Asylum, the Columbus Hospital for the Insane, and the Ohio State Penitentiary. For me, these were the saddest cemeteries as many of the people lying in these places were buried without their family or a ceremony.

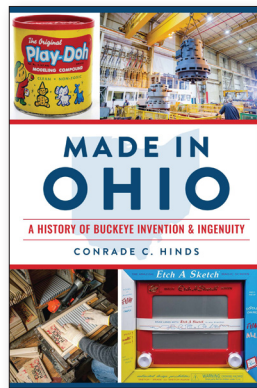
The book concludes with a guide to all of the cemeteries featured, along with their contact information. I may use my own copy to mark them off as I visit each one throughout the coming years!

This Place of Silence treats a difficult subject with the reverence and honor it deserves. While the title speaks of silence, the words and photographs tell the stories of these spaces loud and clear, bringing to light the richness that lives in these often-overlooked places.

REVIEWED BY KIM KIEHL, OHIOANA LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LIFELONG READER

Hinds, Conrade C. *Made in Ohio: A History of Buckeye Invention & Ingenuity.*
Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023.

Circus railroad cars, Sherman tanks, washboards, airplanes, headlights, plastic six-pack carriers, Etch-a-Sketch, Xerox machines, UPC codes, McGuffey’s Readers—and so much more—were either invented or developed in Ohio. These are just a few of the many products author Conrade C. Hinds writes about in *Made in Ohio: A History of Buckeye Invention and Ingenuity*. Ohio has a lot to be proud of!



This book could have been titled (as one of its chapters is), “Ohio’s Ingenious Problem Solvers.” The number of Ohio-made products is incredible—as is the amount of research it took to create such a comprehensive history of Ohio manufacturing. Readers will be fascinated by the many inventors and products that originated in the Buckeye State.

Ohio’s prominence was largely due to the combination of its geographical location and abundance of raw materials, including coal and oil. “As the first state to be carved out of the Northwest Territory, Ohio was primed to become a leader in agriculture, manufacturing, and applied technology, and to emerge as an international industrial powerhouse,” Hinds writes.

With borders on the Great Lakes and the Ohio River, significant transportation developed throughout the state, making it easy to move both goods and people. Zane’s Trace was the first frontier road through Ohio in the 1790s, going from Wheeling to Maysville, Kentucky. By the 1820s, work had begun on the interstate National Road, which brought citizens and entrepreneurs west to Ohio. Canals were built—at a great cost in workers’ lives. Railroads were laid down, opening markets from New York to New Orleans. The state became a major center of inventive railroad engines, ultimately helping America develop a transcontinental railroad. With the rise of the automobile in the twentieth century, travel became easier than ever. Ohio welcomed and embraced every advancement in transportation—and its citizens discovered ingenious ways to improve them all.

Hinds’ text is not narrative in style, but rather an overview of dozens of notable Ohio businesses, entrepreneurs, and products. Readers will find it fascinating to learn about the founding and development of many companies which are still household names today. For each business, Hinds includes details such as who founded it, who became president, what accomplishments were achieved, and what acquisitions were made—or if the company was acquired by another.

The companies featured cross a variety of industries: Standard Oil, Honda, Battelle, Jeffrey Mining, Lima Locomotive Works, the National Cash Register (widely regarded as “America’s Model Factory”), and more. Special attention is given to the rubber industry—including the B. F. Goodrich and Goodyear companies—and the significance of the United Rubber Workers strike, which caused the Wagner Act to be passed in 1935 and made unions legal for the first time.

The book also profiles company founders and important directors like Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, Sherwin Williams, Ebenezer Zane, Daniel Mead, Michael Owens, and John D. Rockefeller, plus many others whose names are not as well known.

After recounting the past, the author optimistically looks ahead to the future. With Intel establishing a major presence in central Ohio in the coming years, Hinds predicts the state will be the home of innovation for generations to come. He closes with, “I trust that this book will serve to remind Ohioans of their great manufacturing heritage while opening young eyes to the even greater challenges that face us in the present and subsequent future.”

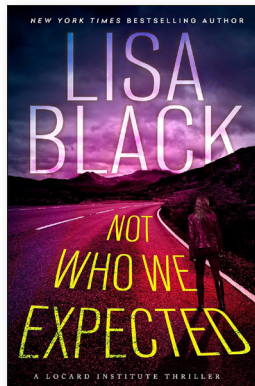
GEORGE COWMEADOW BAUMAN IS RETIRED FROM A HALF-CENTURY OF BOOKSELLING, BUT WILL NEVER RETIRE FROM A LIFE OF READING.

FICTION

Black, Lisa. *Not Who We Expected* (A Locard Institute Thriller #4).

New York, NY: Kensington, 2025.

In this fourth book in Lisa Black’s Locard Institute Thriller series, Rachael Davies, investigative pathologist for the Locard Institute, is approached by rock star Billy Diamond to find his missing daughter, Devon. Devon, a Yale sophomore, left six months earlier with her boyfriend, Carlos, to spend time at a life coach retreat and ranch in rural Nevada. Since then, her calls and notes became increasingly infrequent; now, they’ve stopped entirely. Diamond and Devon aren’t estranged, so there’s no reason for his daughter to stop calling or writing. When Diamond learns that Carlos has turned up dead after drowning in the Truckee River near the ranch, his fatherly concern goes from mild to maximum.



Rachael’s colleague Ellie Carr, an ex-FBI agent and crime scene expert, is sent to find Devon and make certain she’s okay. When Ellie arrives at the middle-of-nowhere ranch, she finds Devon safe and sound. But she quickly realizes something strange is going on when no one mentions Carlos or what happened to him.

Ellie’s FBI skills lead her to uncover a surprising truth: the retreat is actually a commune, and its cultish, charismatic leader, Galen, is manipulating “attendees,”

turning them into his “followers.” As Ellie digs deeper, it becomes clear that nothing about Galen, Devon—or even Diamond himself—is what she or Rachael expected . . .

Black’s newest thriller captured my imagination. The writing is taut and tense, making this her most page-turning (and hair-raising) book yet. The cult indoctrination scenes are downright scary, especially when you realize how easy it is to fall into the hands of a master manipulator.

Be careful when you pick up this book: before you know it, you’ll spend the day into the wee hours of the night reading this mystery-thriller. Make sure you have ample time set aside before you start page one!

Lisa Black writes police procedurals featuring pathologists and investigators. Her earlier six-book series, Gardiner & Renner, is set in Cleveland, Ohio, while the Locard Institute thrillers are based in Washington, DC. No matter which book or series you read—I recommend them all—you’ll find Black is a master storyteller whose writing will hold your attention until the last page.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Flower, Amanda. *I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died* (Emily Dickinson Mystery #2).

New York, NY: Berkley Prime Crime, 2023.

What happens when Emily Dickinson and Ralph Waldo Emerson cross paths? Murder, of course!

Author Amanda Flower of Tallmadge, Ohio, conceives a new adventure for our intrepid poetess and her fearless maid, Willa Noble, as they investigate the sudden death of Emerson’s secretary, Luther Howard. Of course, there’s more to this death than meets the eye.



Luther, while charming, has a cunning reputation. He seems to attract women, drawing them in like honey. Emily’s sister Lavinia quickly falls for him (much to Emily’s chagrin). Willa suspects Luther may care more about raising his status in society, though, than he

does about the affections of the Dickinson sisters. But romance doesn't have time to blossom when Luther is found dead in the Dickinsons' garden.

As the Dickinsons worry about their public reputation, Emerson demands that the killer be caught. Fortunately, Emily and Willa are on the case. What follows is a complex and clever mystery that will keep you guessing until the end. Of course, snippets of Emily Dickinson's poetry are incorporated throughout the story. Fans of classic American literature will also be delighted with a cameo by Louisa May Alcott.

Flower brings 1856 Amherst, Massachusetts, to life on the page, filled with all its politeness and societal rules. Most prominent are the women who want more freedom to work, thrive, and steer their own lives. While Emily applauds personal freedom, she and her father desperately want to keep the family together in town. Nothing should divide their family, neither marriage nor spinsterhood.

There's something for everyone to love in this literary-historical-mystery-thriller. Happily, Amanda Flower's fans won't have to wait long for their next adventure with Emily Dickinson and Willa Noble. Book three in the series, *I Died for Beauty*, is set for release in winter 2025.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

Matthews, Olivia. *Against the Currant* (Spice Isle Bakery Mystery #1).

New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2023.

Matthews, Olivia. *Hard Dough Homicide* (Spice Isle Bakery Mystery #2).

New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2023.

Ohio author Olivia Matthews cooks up two installments for her newest cozy mystery series featuring the Spice Isle Bakery set in the heart of Brooklyn. Spice Isle Bakery is a West Indian bakery run by Lyndsay Murray and her extended family. Her mother, father, grandmother, aunties, uncles, and cousins are always there to lend a hand—and some drama from time to time.

In book one, *Against the Currant*, Lyndsay opens Spice Isle Bakery, excited to work side by side with her family and celebrate her Grenadian heritage. She

has the business acumen, while her family bakes and cooks to delight the entire neighborhood, even the local police. On opening day, grouchy neighborhood competitor Claudio Fabrizi shows up, ranting about how the new bakery is driving his customers away. The next day, Fabrizi is found murdered in his shop. All fingers point toward Lyndsay. Thankfully, Lyndsay also possesses some sleuthing skills. Can she find the true killer and clear her name?



In book two, *Hard Dough Homicide*, Lyndsay Murray is thrilled with the Spice Isle Bakery's hard-earned success, especially after its rough launch. She is asked by a high school principal, who was her mother's boss in the past, to cater a retirement dinner for six guests at her shop. Lyndsay reluctantly says yes. When the retiring principal dies at the meal, Lyndsay knows she's in trouble. Can she solve another murder mystery and save her family's bakery?

The Spice Isle Bakery mystery series is filled with memorable characters, suspenseful plots, and plenty of culinary descriptions that will make your mouth water. Lyndsay Murray's pluck, determination, and dedication to her family will have you rooting for her throughout each thrilling mystery. Be sure to pair your reading with a trip out for a West Indian meal, or try one of the recipes included at the end of each book. You'll make Lyndsay and her family proud.

REVIEWED BY MIRIAM KAHN, LIBRARIAN, COLUMBUS, OH

POETRY

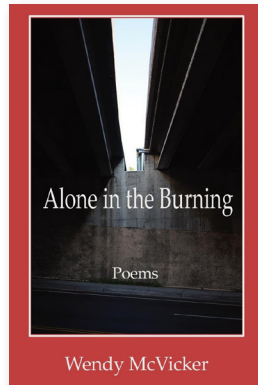
McVicker, Wendy. *Alone in the Burning*.

Russell, KY: Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2024.

Alone in the Burning, the latest publication by Wendy McVicker, former Athens, Ohio, poet laureate and Ohio Arts Council poet-in-the-schools, is a powerful look at the ways the defenseless learn to live defensively in a dangerous household—one where “gas seeps serpentine along the rug,” where “pillows muffled sound it was better not to hear,” where “things broke / windows /

bottles / toys . . . later, bones / later, hearts . . .” and where the speaker is “lassoed / and yanked back in / to the blazing / house.”

The initial poem of the collection asks “How to tell this story from the heart of the fire?” The answer follows: with the alchemy of language, of course, which can also tell “a story about a girl who learned to live in books” (“Found”). However, the girl also learned that stories, too, can be dangerous. From *Bambi*, the girl has learned it is better to be still than to run because:



the doe
broke and ran
across the clearing

That’s when the gun
found her

In *Peter Pan*, a crocodile who “has swallowed time”:

. . . circled the dark
lagoon
In that story the children
were lost
(and never found)

The speaker, who cares for her two smaller brothers, identifies with Wendy Darling:

When I was alone
it was my job to save
the lost boys
I could not

Early on, the speaker realizes, “The children flew to enter this world, but here they found only danger. Where are the grownups? Lost too” (“Lost”). And in the next-to-the-last poem, when the speaker observes, “Wendy and her brothers flew in from Neverland to find the casement windows closed and themselves replaced in the nursery” (“Found”), the reader realizes there is no happy ending for these children and no ready answers for one who digs back through memories in search of understanding.

Of the twenty-eight poems in the collection, twenty-two begin with the phrase, “When I was alone” — underscoring, perhaps, a vulnerable child’s greatest fear—and end with ways the speaker has found to save herself. The other six, “Lost,” “Unearthed (1),” “Unearthed (2),” “Unearthed (3),” “Unearthed (4),” and “Found,” placed strategically among the other poems, duplicate the process of recovering long-buried memories.

“Does this story have a moral?” the speaker asks in “Found,” then answers her own question: “That is what she is still trying to find out.” But what she has learned is that:

You can walk around
for a long time
with a broken heart
And no one will notice
least of all
you

KATE FOX IS THE AUTHOR OF *THE COMPANY MISERY LOVES* (SHEILA-NA-GIG EDITIONS), A COLLECTION OF POEMS, AND TWO POETRY CHAPBOOKS: *THE LAZARUS METHOD* (KENT STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS) AND *WALKING OFF THE MAP* (SEVEN KITCHENS PRESS). A FORMER EDITOR OF THE *OHIOANA QUARTERLY*, SHE LIVES IN ATHENS, OHIO, WITH HER PARTNER, WRITER AND STEINBECK SCHOLAR ROBERT DEMOTT, AND THEIR TWO ENGLISH SETTERS, KATIE AND PATCH.

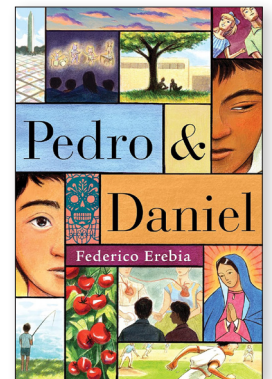
MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Erebia, Federico. *Pedro & Daniel*.

Hoboken, NJ: Levine Querido, 2023.

When asked to bring his favorite thing to show-and-tell in his kindergarten class one day, Pedro brought his brother Daniel.

In this semi-autobiographical novel, Federico Erebia details the coming-of-age of two young Latino boys growing up in an abusive home in Ohio in the 1970s. Pedro is an introvert who bears the brunt of his mother’s abuse, while Daniel is carefree and nurtures a love for Spanish dichos, or sayings. Each is gay and neurodivergent, and much of the novel explores their



struggles with their identities and relationships, with the only constant being their love for one another.

This book is often difficult to read due to its subject matter, but Erebia thoughtfully includes a list of trigger warnings and resources for readers who may struggle with the material. *Pedro & Daniel* is also a non-traditional novel, with periodic breaks in the prose for more experimental verse sections. However, the frequent use of Spanish words and dichos should be no barrier to non-Spanish-speaking readers; the author translates most within the text, and includes a glossary at the end of all the sayings. The bilingual storytelling only enhances the experience.

Readers should not expect a plot so much as a character study told through vignettes. The time between each one grows longer as the boys grow up, so most of the book is spent in their early childhood years, while their teen and college years at times felt rushed. More sensitive readers may be put off by the focus on their sexual maturation. The dialogue between the boys is also clunky at times, but the heart is always there.

Anyone may see themselves in one boy or the other as they navigate life's challenges. *Pedro & Daniel* is heartfelt and tragic in its exploration of intersectional identities and family bonds. Federico Erebia doesn't shy away from anything in this frankly honest book that pays tribute to his relationship with his own brother.

REVIEWED BY KATHERINE LARIMER, WRITER AND ASPIRING EDITOR

Quinlan, Skye. *Don't Be A Drag*.

Salem, MA: Page Street YA, 2024.

Skye Quinlan's *Don't Be A Drag* is a powerful exploration of what it means to be yourself, with engaging storytelling and characters you can't help but root for.

Eighteen-year-old Briar Vincent spends the summer before her senior year with her older brother Beau, a drag queen known on stage as Bow Regard, in New York City. Growing up bisexual, anxious, and depressed in rural Texas, her parents hope this summer



with her brother will be good for Briar's mental health. Briar plans to spend her time laying low and hanging out backstage while her brother performs—but all that changes when she hears one drag king, Spencer Read, insult another young drag king's art. Instead, Briar enters the Drag King of the Year competition, hell-bent on beating Spencer and taking him down a peg, despite never having done drag or even performed on stage before. Along the way, Briar meets a lovable cast of characters, including Achilles, the nonbinary drag king Spencer insulted; Jacklynn Hyde, an older drag queen who agrees to mentor Briar; and Selene, the young woman who performs as Spencer Read, and who is less annoying than (but equally as cute as) her onstage persona. Does Briar have what it takes to win Drag King of the Year, and can she find herself along the way?

Quinlan is an excellent storyteller, bringing their story to life through strong character development, vivid detail, and engaging plot. They do a thorough job introducing readers to the world of drag—not just the work that goes into being a drag performer, but the idea of drag as an art form, the freedom of expression, and, importantly, the strong sense of community and camaraderie among drag performers. I liked that Quinlan chose to focus on drag kings (people who perform drag in masculine clothing), who often aren't depicted in mainstream media as much as drag queens. They also present the diversity of gender expression in the drag community, from Achilles, who uses they/them pronouns throughout, to Beau and Spencer, who use different names and pronouns offstage and on. I found the written format especially helpful for conveying this gender fluidity: depending on the name or pronouns Quinlan used to describe a character, I could picture when they were in drag, or how that character was choosing to express themselves in a particular scene.

Much as Quinlan portrays the drag scene in all its complexity and authenticity, they don't shy away from discussing mental health. Several of the characters struggle with their mental health or are neurodivergent—but this is never presented as the only part of their personality. At one point, Briar is overcome by her depression, and we, as readers, are there with her as she struggles to find the will to live, feeling that she is a burden to her family and new friends. But we also experience how concerned the people in her life are for her, and how they will do everything in their power to support her and love her unconditionally. Quinlan

includes a list of trigger warnings in their author’s note, along with resources for readers who might be struggling. This allows readers to make an informed decision about whether or not they want to read *Don’t Be A Drag* at any particular moment, and allows them to be forewarned about topics or scenes they may struggle with. Because this book deals with mental health and discusses hatred towards the queer community and the importance of consent, I was very glad that Quinlan included this note, and I hope that other authors follow their lead.

I highly recommend *Don’t Be A Drag* for both teens and adults. As someone who isn’t part of the drag community, I enjoyed learning more about drag performers, and seeing Briar discover that community and the opportunities it provides. *Don’t Be A Drag* explores the many ways that finding a community can help you find yourself, and reaffirms that everyone, no matter their struggles, deserves to be loved and accepted. As Briar says towards the end of the novel, “Even if I don’t win Drag King of the Year when this is over, I’ve won my life back . . . Now I just have to hold on to it.”

CHARLOTTE HOUGHTON IS A TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIAN WITH THE PICKERINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY IN PICKERINGTON, OH

Stamper, Phil. *Eli Over Easy*.

New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2023.

In *Eli Over Easy*, Phil Stamper tenderly portrays the life of a thirteen-year-old boy struggling to navigate the meaning of his world. Through Eli’s eyes, the reader participates in all of his challenges and his outcomes, both the negative and the positive.

Prior to the beginning of the book, Eli’s mom died suddenly, leaving Eli and his dad to deal with her loss in different ways. Eli feels empty and alone, while his dad clams up, not communicating, and also becomes overprotective. When his dad is at work, Eli is not allowed to leave the apartment, use the kitchen, or do anything else that might be considered “dangerous.” Fortunately for Eli, his cousin Riley provides a sounding board for all of his “how to deal with life” questions, as well as becomes his support system as he embarks on a



summer program coding class. Eli is happy to return the favor and lend an ear when Riley needs advice on how to handle audience challenges on her daily video game streaming posts.

Throughout the book, Eli and his dad both deal with his mom’s death as they navigate their everyday lives in New York City—a city they barely know, having lived there for less than a year. Eli particularly wishes his father would simply talk more about his mom. When this doesn’t happen, he looks for alternative ways to connect with her. This leads Eli to discover secret cooking videos made by his mom that he finds on her computer.

As Eli becomes increasingly engaged in these videos and cooking, he develops a plan to combine his new culinary interest with his longtime love of coding. This becomes the perfect end project for his summer coding class. But how can he hope to bring his idea to fruition when his father won’t even let him use the stove?

Thankfully, Eli has Mrs. Martinez as his neighbor. Mrs. Martinez keeps an eye on him during the day while his father is at work. She also has a grandson, Mat, visiting for the summer. Mat and Eli hit it off as friends, and it is with Mat’s encouragement (and Mrs. Martinez’s supervision) that Eli practices and develops his cooking skills with the goal to create a website that gives tips on how to make chocolate chip cookies. But before this becomes a reality, Eli and Mat first have to crack many dozens of eggs—both literally and figuratively.

Throughout the story, Stamper writes with compassion and depth to provide opportunities for the reader to feel Eli’s emotions. Whether it is dealing with the relentless waves of sorrow from his mother’s death (“anytime I stumble upon an old photo or think too much about her, I get caught up in this web of grief”), or understanding his friendship with Mat (“which makes my whole body tingle”), or sorting out how to communicate with his dad (“I hate lying to Dad, but he just doesn’t get it”), Eli’s core of friendships enables him to work through his heartache and ultimately establish positive communication opportunities with his father.

Eli Over Easy is a wonderful middle grade book for older tweens and younger teens. It is especially helpful for children learning about life and its many emotional hurdles, including death, peer challenges, generational communication skills, and gender preferences. Stamper

carefully weaves in these meaningful topics, allowing the reader to feel comfortable and to better understand different ways of reflecting on life.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

JUVENILE

Tosi, Christina. *Just the Right Cake.*

Illus. by Emily Balsley.

New York, NY: Rocky Pond Books, 2023.

Christina Tosi's newest picture book, *Just the Right Cake*, presents a positive story that encourages children, including the main character Phil, to challenge themselves and go beyond the ordinary. Emily Balsley's colorful illustrations add to the cheerfulness, while highlighting the meaning of the book.



Phil's joy of creating and baking allows him to share visiting time with his parents and his friend as he bakes chocolate cakes, peanut butter cookies, brownies, and s'mores. While Phil enjoys all of these experiences—along with the final baked good creations—he keeps thinking that something is missing and he wants more.

As he ponders this need and desire, he suddenly has a eureka moment. Why can't he add the different baking ingredients he likes to create his own cake? Marshmallow cream and graham cracker crumbs, a main ingredient for s'mores, become the filling layers for Phil's favorite chocolate cake recipe. He tops the concoction with peanut butter icing, and all his favorites are combined into one delicious cake treat!

As Phil processes designing his own cake creation, readers discover ways to challenge themselves and to take risks. Creating can be fun and have positive results! Phil also provides examples of how life changes, and how adapting to these changes can bring new ideas and understanding.

From an educational perspective, reading *Just the Right Cake* provides opportunities for children to learn more about life. Not only do they learn about risk-taking and challenging oneself to take an idea and extend it, but they also learn that they can adapt to changes and whatever life may send their way. Through inferential clues, Tosi hints at the fact that Phil's parents recently divorced, and that Phil has figured out ways to share experiences with both his mother and father, while also maintaining his interests and friendships.

Just the Right Cake is an ideal picture book to read at home, as well as in the classroom. Children will discover more about how to challenge and trust their ideas while learning how to adapt to new life situations.

REVIEWED BY CHARLOTTE L. STIVERSON, EDUCATOR, RETIRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

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Book List

Our collection at Ohioana is always growing. To qualify for addition to our collection, a title must be written, illustrated, edited, photographed, and/or translated by an Ohioan **OR** contain content related to Ohio or Ohioans.

An “Ohioan” is defined as:

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- Someone with a current, permanent residence in Ohio

For more information, please contact us at ohioana@ohioana.org.

The following books were added to Ohioana’s collection between October and December 2024.

NONFICTION

Anderson, Jarod K. *Something in the Woods Loves You*. New York, NY: Timber Press, 2024.

Bats can hear shapes, plants can eat light, and bees can dance maps. When his life took him to a painfully dark place, the poet behind *The CryptoNaturalist* podcast, Jarod K. Anderson, found comfort and redemption in these facts and a shift in perspective. *Something in the Woods Loves You* tells the story of the darkest stretch of a young person’s life, and how deliberate and meditative encounters with plants and animals helped him see the light at every turn.

Bobel, Peg, and Linda G. Whitman, eds. *Native Americans of the Cuyahoga Valley: From Early Peoples to Contemporary Issues (Ohio History and Culture)*. Akron, OH: University of Akron Press, 2024. *Native Americans of the Cuyahoga Valley* presents an accessible distillation of the complex history of Native peoples of the region, from precontact times to today. Essential to anyone seeking an understanding of the history of the Cuyahoga Valley and Northeast Ohio, the book includes essays on archaeology, history, and contemporary issues in today’s Native American communities.

Cavanaugh, J. F. *Gotham Herdsmen II: 1939–New York World’s Fair–1951*. Columbus, OH: The Dairy World Club, 1951.

Among the several thousands of people who worked at the New York World’s Fair in 1939 were sixty-two hand-picked young men drawn from agricultural colleges in the US and Canada. Their job: taking care of the purebred cows at the Borden dairy exhibit. Compiled and edited by J. F. Cavanaugh, assistant secretary of the American Jersey Cattle Club, *Gotham Herdsmen II* is about these men and a memorable time in America’s agricultural history.

Darnowsky, Sabrina, ed. *Sowing the Seed of Truth: Orthodox Quaker Sermons of Murray Shipley (1873–1876)*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 2024.

In the early 1870s, Murray Shipley, a well-respected minister, began making notes about his preaching. His writings give today’s readers a

unique glimpse of the preaching of Gurneyite Friends, who made up the largest of the segments of American Quakerism after 1820.

DiFrancesco, Alex. *Breaking the Curse: A Memoir About Trauma, Healing, and Italian Witchcraft*. New York, NY: Seven Stories Press, 2024.

In *Breaking the Curse*, Alex DiFrancesco takes their own crushing experiences of assault, addiction, and transphobic violence as the starting point for a journey to self-reclamation. Reeling in the aftermath of a rape that played out as painfully in public as in private, DiFrancesco begins to pursue spirituality in earnest, searching for an ancestral connection to magic as a form of protection and a pathway to transformation.

Drury, John. *Bobby and Carolyn: A Memoir of My Two Mothers*. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2024.

When poet John Philip Drury’s mother, Bobby, falls in love with voluptuous opera singer Carolyn Long, his father leaves to attempt his own singing career in New York City, and John grows up inside the tumultuous relationship of the two women. Opera programs, operatically slammed doors, Bobby’s work as a bank teller, Carolyn’s piano and music lessons in the living room—all become elements in the making of the young poet-to-be. Written back-and-forth in time, Drury’s memoir examines his experience growing up with the kindness and perspective of a biographer.

Figliuzzi, Frank. *Long Haul: Hunting the Highway Serial Killers*. Boston, MA: Mariner Books, 2024.

From the FBI's former assistant director, *Long Haul: Hunting the Highway Serial Killers* is a shocking journey to the dark side of America's highways, revealing the FBI Highway Serial Killings Initiative's hunt for the long-haul truckers behind an astonishing 850 murders—and counting.

Frazier, Ian. *Paradise Bronx: The Life and Times of New York's Greatest Borough*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2024.

For the past fifteen years, Ian Frazier has been walking the Bronx. *Paradise Bronx* reveals the amazingly rich and tumultuous history of this borough: from Jonas Bronck, who bought land from the local Native Americans, to the formerly gang-wracked South Bronx that gave birth to hip-hop.

Freeman, Chelsea. *Redemption: My Story of Childhood Abuse, from Brokenness to a Lifetime of Healing*. Meadville, PA: Felton Books, 2024.

This book is a true and raw account of abuse and the damage it does to the hearts of those who endure it.

Gerber, Scott Douglas. *Law and Religion in Colonial America: The Dissenting Colonies*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2024.

The legal history of colonial America reveals that the country has been devoted to the free exercise of religion since well before the First Amendment was ratified. Indeed, the two colonies originally most opposed to religious liberty for anyone who did not share their views,

Connecticut and Massachusetts, eventually became bastions of it. Scott Douglas Gerber offers new insights about each of the five English American colonies founded for religious reasons—Maryland, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts—and challenges the conventional view that colonial America had a unified religious history.

Harper, Thomas MacFarLand. *Ancient Native American Stone Faces and Other Local Artifacts of Rocky River, Ohio*. Rocky River, OH: Thomas MacFarLand Harper, 2024. The first book by Thomas MacFarLand Harper, an amateur archaeologist and charter member of the Cleveland Fossil Society, featuring artifacts and treasures from around the Rocky River area.

Harper, Thomas MacFarLand. *Rocky River, Ohio: Where the River Ends*. Rocky River, OH: Rocky River Historical Society, 2013. This comprehensive look at Rocky River, Ohio, includes 230 pages and 822 photos of over 3,000 Rocky River residents—from civic organizations, schools, churches, and more—over a span of twenty-five years. This book raised over \$25,000 for the Rocky River Historical Society.

Henion, Leigh Ann. *Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark*. New York, NY: Algonquin Books, 2024. From *New York Times*–bestselling nature writer Leigh Ann Henion comes a celebration of what goes on outside in the dark: from blooming moon gardens to synchronous fireflies that blink in unison like an orchestra of light.

Herdendorf, Charles E. *Lake Erie Islands, Reefs, & Shoals: Geology, Natural History, and Cultural Development, United States and Canada*. Sheffield Village, OH: Sheffield Village Historical Society/EcoSphere Associates, 2024. An overview of the geologic and natural history features of the Islands region of Lake Erie. Extensively researched and written by Charles E. Herdendorf, Academy Professor of Geological Services and Zoology at The Ohio State University.

Herrel, Edie Mae Hamilton. *Bexley Historical Portraits of Memories*. Bexley, OH: Bexley Historical Society, 2023.

Edie Mae Hamilton Herrel, a 1947 graduate of Bexley High School, has had a deep love and commitment to her community throughout her life. *Bexley Historical Portraits of Memories* portrays Bexley's early history through Herrel's artwork and her extensive photo collection. Ohioana Library's copy of this book is number 36 of 50.

Jones, Janice. *Dr. Beare's Daughter: Growing Up Adopted, Adored, and Afraid: A True Story*. Fort Myers, FL: Lou-Jan Press, 2024.

In 1947 in Celina, Ohio, Ralph Beare, a charismatic doctor and surgeon, and his socialite wife, Lou, adopted a four-and-a-half-month-old orphan, Janice. Finding herself an outlier in her family and at school, Janice struggled to be that elusive, golden child she imagined her parents really wanted. Despite her efforts to be that perfect child, her true self sometimes slipped out to take charge—and then there was trouble.

Kirker, Constance L., and Mary Newman. *Mango: A Global History*. London, UK: Reaktion, 2024.

This beautifully illustrated book takes readers on a tour through the rich world of mangoes, which inspire fervent devotion across the world.

Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. *Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees*. New York, NY: Ecco, 2024.

From *New York Times* bestselling-author Aimee Nezhukumatathil, *Bite by Bite* is a lyrical book of short essays about food, offering a banquet of tastes, smells, memories, associations, and marvelous curiosities from nature.

Peterson, Charles A. *Memorial Day in Granville, 1873–1936: An Ohio Village Shapes a Tradition (Granville Historical Society Pocket History Series Book 9)*. Granville, OH: Granville Historical Society, 2023.

Based on extensive research through local archives, this book traces the history of Memorial Day, what it meant for Granville, and how Granville contributed to this national holiday.

Rolfes, Steven J. *Beware the Banshee's Cry: The Folklore & History of Messengers of Death*. Woodbury, MN: Llewellyn Publications, 2024.

Journey to the Emerald Isle and beyond as you explore the history and mystery of banshees. From the Morrigan to the Doppelgänger, author Steven J. Rolfes examines these messengers of death and how they have captivated humanity for centuries.

Staley, David J. *Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019. In *Alternative Universities*, David J. Staley argues that modern universities suffer from a poverty of imagination about how to reinvent themselves. In this exercise in speculative design, Staley proposes ten models of innovation in higher education that expand our ideas of the structure and scope of the university, suggesting possibilities for what its future might look like.

Staley, David J. *Brain, Mind, and Internet: A Deep History and Future*. London, UK: Palgrave Pivot, 2014.

This essay places the emerging brain-Internet interface within a broad historical context: that the Internet represents merely the next stage in a very long history of human cognition whereby the brain couples with symbolic technologies. Understanding this history provides a way to imagine the future of brain-Internet cognition.

Staley, David J. *Historical Imagination*. London, UK: Routledge, 2020. *Historical Imagination* examines the threshold between what historians consider to be proper, imagination-free history and the malpractice of excessive imagination, asking where the boundary sits between the two and the limits of permitted imagination for the historian.

Staley, David J., and Dominic D. J. Endicott. *Knowledge Towns: Colleges and Universities as Talent Magnets (Higher Education and the City)*. Baltimore, MD: Johns

Hopkins University Press, 2023. In *Knowledge Towns*, David J. Staley and Dominic D. J. Endicott argue that the location of a college or university is a necessary piece of any region's effort to attract remote knowledge workers and accelerate economic development and creative placemaking, especially in the post-pandemic rebuilding of America's society and economy.

Staley, David J. *Visionary Histories*. Tempe, AZ: Arizona State University, 2022.

This collection of essays, drawn from David J. Staley's "Next" column in *Columbus Underground*, argues that we cannot predict the future, since a prediction assumes that the future is already in existence someplace, waiting for the forward movement of time to encounter it.

FICTION

Alam, Rumaan. *Entitlement*. New York, NY: Riverhead Books, 2024. *Entitlement* is a tale for our new gilded age, a story that considers questions about need and worth, race and privilege, philanthropy and generosity, passion and obsession. It is a provocative novel about the American imagination.

Ali, Kazim. *Indian Winter*. Toronto, Canada: Coach House Books, 2024. A queer writer travelling through India can't escape the regrets of his past, nor the impending ruin of his present.

Anderson, Leslie J. *The Unmothers*. Philadelphia, PA: Quirk Books, 2024. In this raw and lyrical folk horror novel, a journalist sent to a small

town begins to unravel a dark secret that the local women have been keeping for generations.

Banks, Zariah L. *Beauty Beheld (A Beauty is Her Name Novel #1)*. Cleveland, OH: Eparke Press, 2023. Life is almost perfect for Patience Hampton. She enjoys her work as a voice actor, has a supportive network of family and friends, and is expecting a proposal from her boyfriend, Daniel. But when Patience is blindsided with shocking news, everything she's placed her trust in comes crashing down.

Castleman, Michele. *And Then There Was One*. Cambridge, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2024. Six weeks after Lyla Smith dragged her sister's dead body onto the Lake Erie shore, she escapes her small Ohio town (and her feelings for her sister's girlfriend) to work as a nanny for distant relatives on their remote private island. Lyla's first family dinner is a tense affair—especially when the matriarch, Crystal Payne, takes a sip from her wineglass and dies. Suddenly, everyone is a suspect.

Castleman, Michele. *Stolen Hearts*. Cambridge, NY: Bold Strokes Books, 2024. Seventeen-year-old Ella Gatz is alone when a thief enters her father's mansion on Halloween night. Ella fights the intruder, but fails to stop the theft of *Her Heart*, her late mother's favorite painting. When her father, the CEO of a security firm, refuses to report the crime for fear of the humiliation, Ella determines to hunt down the culprit and reclaim *Her Heart*. She only has one clue: a long, pink-and-blond strand of hair.

Flinn, Patti. *The Devil's Berries (The Last Favorite's Page #2)*. Blacklick, OH: Gilded Orange Books, 2024.

Serving Madame du Barry by day and rubbing shoulders with revolutionaries at night, Louis-Benoit Zamor is ready to find his greatness. But the Ancient Regime isn't done with him yet. Much like the deadly devil's berries, Madame's bitter anger takes root at the chateau. Zamor will discover that when facing the devil in disguise, only one thing is for sure: Every fox must survive its own hunt.

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *A is for Amish (Amish ABCs #1)*. New York, NY: Kensington, 2024.

In a heartwarming new series from *New York Times*–bestselling author Shelley Shepard Gray, four siblings take a genuine leap of faith when they move to their grandparents' farm in rural Ohio and decide to become Amish.

Gray, Shelley Shepard. *Unforgiven*. New York, NY: Fleming H. Revell Company, 2024.

Ex-con Seth Zimmerman has spent the last three years making amends by helping the vulnerable in his former Amish community. Lately, this mission includes calling on Tabitha Yoder, whose divorce from her abusive husband has isolated her from the community. An uneasy friendship is just starting to take hold between them when small gifts begin to appear at Tabitha's home—gifts that can only be from her ex-husband.

Grossberg, Ben. *The Spring Before Obergefell*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2024.

It's not easy for anyone to find love, let alone a middle-aged gay man in

small-town America. Mike Breck works multiple part-time jobs and bickers constantly with his father, an angry conservative who moved in after Mike's mother died. When Mike meets a local guy, Dave—who is just as lonely as he is—he starts to think that maybe he doesn't have to be alone, leading him to look more honestly at himself and his future.

Henry, Emily. *Funny Story*. New York, NY: Berkley, 2024.

A shimmering, joyful new novel about a pair of opposites with the wrong thing in common, from #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author Emily Henry.

Herriman, Nancy. *No Rest for the Departed (Mystery of Old San Francisco #7)*. Gillette, NJ: Beyond the Page Publishing, 2024.

Detective Nick Greaves has always been haunted by the death of his younger sister. That pain is brought vividly to the surface when a dead body fished out of the bay turns out to be her former beau. Certain that the man was murdered to cover up what he knew about his sister's tragic end, Nick is determined to find the man's killer.

Hlad, Alan. *Fleeing France*. New York, NY: John Scognamiglio Books, 2024.

Driving an ambulance in France after the fall of Dunkirk, an American nightclub singer races to evacuate a British pilot and a Jewish orphan across more than 4,000 miles towards a precarious freedom. Inspired by real wartime events, *Fleeing France* is an emotional, action-packed story of sacrifice, hope, and devotion.

Huber, Anna Lee. *The Cold Light of Day (Verity Kent #7)*. New York, NY: Kensington, 2024.

Remarkable heroine Verity Kent must follow the leads of a dangerous investigation that will pull her into a conspiracy spilling dangerously out onto the streets of war-torn Dublin, Ireland.

Huber, Anna Lee. *A Deceptive Composition (Lady Darby #12)*.

New York, NY: Berkley, 2024.

Lady Kiera Darby and her dashing husband, Sebastian Gage, hope they've finally found peace after a tumultuous summer, but long-buried family secrets soon threaten to unravel their lives.

Jane, Emily. *On Earth as It Is on Television*. Glendale, CA: Hyperion Avenue, 2024.

In Emily Jane's rollicking debut, when spaceships arrive and then depart suddenly without a word, the certainty that we are not alone in the universe turns to intense uncertainty as to our place within it.

Okorafor, Nnedi. *She Who Knows*. New York, NY: DAW, 2024.

Part science fiction, part fantasy, and entirely infused with West African culture and spirituality, this novella offers an intimate glimpse into the life of a teenager whose coming of age will herald a new age for her world. Set in the universe Nnedi Okorafor first introduced in the World Fantasy Award-winning novel *Who Fears Death*, this is the first in the *She Who Knows* trilogy.

Raasch, Sara. *The Nightmare Before Kissmas*. New York, NY:

Bramble, 2024.

Red, White & Royal Blue meets *The Nightmare Before Christmas* in a

sexy, quirky rom-com where the golden-hearted Prince of Christmas falls for the totally off-limits Prince of Halloween.

Roberts, Les. *An Only Child*. Lutz, FL: Down & Out Books, 2024.

The latest novel of suspense from legendary mystery author Les Roberts features a newly released prison inmate who becomes involved in a mysterious disappearance.

Shailer, Janet. *Murder in an Ohio River Town*. Columbus, OH:

Proving Press, 2024.

A retired history teacher uses sleuthing skills and the local library to track down a murderer and determine the victim's true identity.

Sines, Dottie. *Where the Stars Cross*. New York, NY: The Wild Rose Press, 2024.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Ellie suffers another crash—that of her marriage. Feeling as damaged as the stained-glass panels she refurbishes for Chicago's historic structures, she decides to visit her aunt in Marietta, Ohio. She's not looking for love—until she encounters charming towboat captain Wyatt.

Stine, R. L. *Stuff of Nightmares: No Holiday for Murder*. New York, NY: BOOM! Studios, 2024.

Two horrific holiday haunts in one chilling collection from the beloved R. L. Stine, penning his first comic series for his adult fans.

Thacker, Corky. *Family of Choice: Raising Each Other*. Tampa, FL:

Gatekeeper Press, 2024.

Family of Choice: Raising Each Other features four Alcoholics Anonymous recovery "family" members who

help each other navigate life, death, success, fear, love, loss, grief, and renewal—developing spirituality and bonds they can rely on.

Webber, Heather. *A Certain Kind of Starlight*. New York, NY: Forge Books, 2024.

Under the bright side of the stars, Addie and Tessa Jane come to see that magic can be found in trusting yourself, that falling apart is simply a chance to rise up again, and that the heart usually knows the best path through the darkness.

Westerbeke, Douglas. *A Short Walk Through a Wide World*. New York, NY: Avid Reader Press, 2024.

An epic debut that charts the incredible, adventurous life of one woman as she journeys across the globe, trying to outrun a mysterious curse that will destroy her if she stops moving.

POETRY

Britt, Miss. *Sincerely Yours: My Poems and Thoughts*. Cleveland, OH: GemStar, 2018.

Both a diary and a letter to the reader, *Sincerely Yours: My Poems and Thoughts* is a collection of personal poems reflecting on love, life, belief, and self-esteem.

Bryner, Jeanne. *In Velvet: New and Selected Poems*. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2024.

In this new collection of poetry, Jeanne Bryner celebrates and mourns those unstudied and unsung: the nurse who baptizes a dying husband from a blue paper cup, the firefighter kneeling beside the gurney of a toddler, a schoolteacher

carrying a disabled child, and so many more.

Geiger, Timothy. *In a Field of Hallowed Be*. West Caldwell, NJ: Terrapin Books, 2024.

Timothy Geiger's *In a Field of Hallowed Be* combines traditions of prayer and calendar with wild, earthly inventions, from the ecstatic to the elegiac.

Gold, Maxwell I. *Tiny Oblivions and Mutual Self Destructions*. Bowie, MD: Raw Dog Screaming Press, 2024.

Tiny Oblivions and Mutual Self Destructions weaves the anxious pall of cosmic dread with the bones of the bizarre and the strange into a new collection of weird poetry.

Heath, William. *Inventing the Americas*. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2024. The thirteen-poem sequence of *Inventing the Americas* depicts the true yet fabulous tale of how Christóbal Colón and Americus Vespucci explored the Western Hemisphere, and why the continents were named for the latter. Based on years of research and teaching, William Heath captures history with poetic precision and intricate detail, even though some events are almost beyond belief.

Janning, Doc. *Before Today—Beyond Tomorrow: Poems from the Multiverse*. Los Angeles, CA: A poetic exploration of Doc Janning's firm belief that all of reality is the detritus of the past, which is Before Today, transformed on the forge of the now, into what may become in the future, which is Beyond Tomorrow.

Kanke, Jennifer Schomburg. *The Swellest Wife Anyone Ever Had: Poems*. American Fork, UT: Kelsay Books, 2024.

Strong roots, strong heart, strong voice—Jennifer Schomburg Kanke has it all, and she shares her poetic gifts generously in this rich and accomplished book about the life and marriage of her beloved Granny.

Kropf, John. *A Midwestern Heart: Poems*. Huron, OH: Bottom Dog Press, 2024.

Sandusky native John Kropf finds beauty in the commonplace in his new poetry collection, *A Midwestern Heart*. The annual ritual of burning leaves turns into a communion with the heavens as Kropf captures the Midwestern feeling of each season.

Lambert, Paula J. *As If This Did Not Happen Every Day*. Russell, KY: Sheila-Na-Gig Editions, 2024. *As If This Did Not Happen Every Day* moves forward from the mostly-bird-oriented poems Paula J. Lambert has been working on for years, focusing now on fish, whales, turtles, snakes, and other creatures.

Metres, Philip. *Fugitive/Refuge*. Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2024.

Dynamically pairing traditional and experimental forms, Philip Metres traces ancient and modern migrations in an investigation of the ever-shifting idea of home.

Music, Theofania. *Endure My Company: Photography and Poetry of Light and Sound*. Columbus, OH: Theofania Music, 2023.

Have you wondered what music's journey would be like from the moment a composer hears or sees a melody to when you hear the music?

This is a glimpse into a composer's life and mind using poetry and photography.

Ok, Cindy Juyoung. *Ward Toward*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2024.

In the 118th volume of the Yale Series of Younger Poets, Cindy Juyoung Ok moves assuredly between spaces—from the psych ward to a prison cell, from divided countries to hospice wards. She plumbs these institutions of constraint, ward to ward, and the role of each reality's language, word to word, as she uncovers fractured private codes and shares them in argument, song, and prayer.

Salmons, Chuck. *The Grace of Gazing Inward: Poems in Response to the Art of Alice Carpenter*. Illus. by Alice Carpenter. Loveland, OH: Dos Madres Press, 2024.

The modern ekphrastic poems in *The Grace of Gazing Inward* seek to engage in a conversation with artwork created by Alice Carpenter. Each poem responds to a particular monotype—an art form that incorporates aspects of painting and printmaking. Through highly lyrical poems paired with Carpenter's monotypes, poet Chuck Salmons considers such questions as identity, human relationships with nature and each other, and the nature of art.

Santer, Rikki. *Zebra Lashes*. Newberg, OR: Fernwood Press, 2024.

In *Zebra Lashes*, Rikki Santer's thirteenth poetry collection, she demonstrates her delight in wordplay, as well as her knack to forge elements of surprise, philosophical meditations, and inventive renderings of subject matter.

Wagner, Sara Moore. *Lady Wing Shot*. Spokane, WA: Lynx House Press, 2024.

Lady Wing Shot is an exploration of the life of famed sharpshooter Annie Oakley, who was called both the “Peerless Lady Wing Shot” and “Little Sure Shot,” a name given to her by Sitting Bull. Illuminating the woman behind the mask of fame, this collection connects Oakley to both her own historical context and the present by exploring how her exploits challenged notions of femininity, white supremacy, and American gun culture.

MIDDLE GRADE & YOUNG ADULT

Arnold, David. *Luminous Beings*. Illus. by Jose Pimienta. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2024.

Ty and Burger have known each other since before they could walk. But this shared history is nothing compared to their plans for the future: make a killer documentary about humanity’s recent brush with extinction, apply to film school together, and achieve legendary status as the next great filmmaking duo! But Ty has a secret that will shake the foundations of their friendship and force them both to wonder if growing up means letting go of the people they once were.

Berne, Emma Carlson. *The Ultimate Driving Book: The Essential Guide for First-Time Drivers and Car Owners*. Illus. by Shaw Nielsen. New York, NY: Odd Dot, 2024. From changing a tire, to merging onto a highway, to checking and

filling your own oil, *The Ultimate Driving Book* is the go-to manual for new and seasoned drivers alike. With 160 pages of full-color illustrations throughout, drivers will have all the step-by-steps they need to navigate life on the road.

Brady, Dustin. *Treasure in the White City (World’s Worst Time Machine #2)*. Illus. by Dave Bardin. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2024.

The \$3 time machine strikes again! This time, Liam Chapman and his best friend, Elsa, find themselves in the legendary “White City” at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago. The friends will need to rely on each other like never before—and find a lot of pickles.

Brady, Dustin. *World’s Worst Time Machine*. Illus. by Dave Bardin. Kansas City, MO: Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2023.

Liam Chapman just bought a real, working time machine for only \$3! Sure, it’s labeled “World’s Worst Time Machine,” but how bad could it be? Turns out, it’s so much worse than Liam could have ever imagined.

Bycel, Josh, and Rich Korson. *Stephen Curry: The Official Graphic Novel (Stephen Curry Sports Superheroes #1)*. Illus. by Damion Scott. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2024. A graphic novel about Stephen Curry’s underdog story and meteoric rise to becoming one of the greatest basketball players of all time.

Carson, Mary Kay. *Urban Coyotes*. Illus. by Tom Uhlman. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 2024.

A new addition to the acclaimed Scientists in the Field series, *Urban*

Coyotes follows the scientists of the Urban Coyote Research Project as they track, study, and care for coyotes living among humans in Chicago.

Cline, Ernest. *Bridge to Bat City*. New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2024.

From #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author Ernest Cline comes a (mostly) true tall tale about an unexpected friendship between a young girl and a music-loving colony of bats.

Davis, Ronni. *This Night is Ours*. New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2024.

For one teen girl, the summer before college brings uncertainty about the future and a budding romance. Ronni Davis spins a whirlwind summer romp full of cotton candy, funnel cake, and the sweetness of first love.

Dickens, Charles. *Little Christmas Carol: The Illustrated Edition*.

Illus. by Joe Sutphin. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2024. In 1843, Charles Dickens penned a Christmas tale starring an endearing humbug named Ebenezer Scrooge. That story, which has captivated readers for over 150 years, is now accompanied by the delightful illustrations of Joe Sutphin. With charming woodland characters and settings that families will adore, *Little Christmas Carol* brings Dickens’ classic tale to a new generation of readers.

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Dreams (Out of My Mind #3)*. New York, NY: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2024.

Melody flies to London to speak at a convention about differently abled kids in this stunning sequel

to the acclaimed *New York Times*–bestselling middle grade novels *Out of My Mind* and *Out of My Heart*.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *The Stolen Key (Mysteries of Trash and Treasure #3)*. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books, 2024.
New York Times–bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix delivers the thrilling conclusion to her middle grade Mysteries of Trash and Treasure series as Colin and Nevaeh unravel their most personal mystery yet.

Maraniss, Andrew. *Beyond the Game: LeBron James*. Illus. by DeAndrea Hodge. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers, 2024.
Beyond the Game: LeBron James is the first title in a new nonfiction chapter book series about athletes who have stepped up beyond sports to make a difference in the world.

McDaniel, Tiffany. *A Sky Full of Dragons (The Wand Keepers #1)*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2024.
 For younger fans of series like *Witchlings* and *Eva Evergreen* comes a light-hearted and whimsical middle grade fantasy about a young girl who must save her witch aunt from an uncommonly voracious hat.

Merrell, Billy. *Who Was Langston Hughes?* Illus. by Gregory Copeland. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2024.
 Discover how a young boy from the Midwest became one of the most important writers and activists of the Harlem Renaissance in this addition to the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling series.

Messner, Kate. *The Next Scientist: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of the World's Great Scientists*. Illus. by Julia Kuo. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle, 2024.
 How does a kid grow up to become a scientist? This nonfiction picture book from *New York Times*–bestselling author Kate Messner explores the unexpected beginnings behind some of the most fascinating discoveries in scientific history.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Arthur Ashe (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Arthur Ashe, a tennis legend who paved the way for future Black athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Bill Russell (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Bill Russell, a basketball legend who paved the way for future Black athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Cheryl Miller (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Cheryl Miller, a basketball great who paved the way for future Black female athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Doug Williams (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Doug Williams, a football great who paved the way for future Black athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Jesse Owens (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Jesse Owens, a track-and-field legend who paved the way for future Black athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Venus and Serena Williams (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the lives and careers of Venus and Serena Williams, two tennis trailblazers who paved the way for future Black female athletes.

Morgan, David Lee, Jr. *Wilma Rudolph (Black Trailblazers in Sports)*. Mendota Heights, MN: North Star Editions, 2024.
 This book introduces readers to the life and career of Wilma Rudolph, a track-and-field legend who paved the way for future Black female athletes.

Mugford, Simon. *Sports Superstars: Simone Biles*. Illus. by Dan Green. London, UK: Welbeck Children's Books, 2024.
 Packed with fun facts and inspirational quotes, *Sports Superstars: Simone Biles* is an easy-to-read fan guide that follows Biles' amazing journey to become the world's most famous gymnast.

Parris, Wendy. *Stage Fright*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press, 2024.
 Thirteen-year-old Avery plans a séance at a deserted theater to bond with her friends, only to realize they're locked inside with someone—or something—else.

Raasch, Sara, and Beth Revis. *The Fate of Magic (Witch and Hunter #2)*. New York, NY: Sourcebooks Fire, 2024.

This breathtaking sequel to the instant *New York Times* bestseller *Night of the Witch* culminates with a sweeping romance and an epic battle to determine the fate of magic and the world.

Raasch, Sara. *A Sword in Slumber (Queen's Council #4)*. Glendale, CA: Disney Hyperion, 2024.

In this sweeping series of interconnected novels that can be read out of order, Disney's Princesses grow up—and learn to rule—guided by the magical Queen's Council. In *A Sword in Slumber*, Aurora must learn how to rule—not just as queen, but as emperor of a nation.

Rex, Adam. *The Story of Gumluck and the Dragon's Eggs (Gumluck the Wizard #2)*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2024.

Introducing the second tale in the laugh-out-loud and critically acclaimed chapter book series from *New York Times*-bestselling author Adam Rex.

Reynolds, Justin A. *Running in Flip Flops from the End of the World*.

New York, NY: Scholastic, 2024.

A hilarious new story from Justin A. Reynolds that asks: What happens when five unsupervised kids face the apocalypse under outrageously silly circumstances?

Ruhlman, Michael. *If You Can't Take the Heat*. New York, NY:

Penguin Workshop, 2024.

From James Beard Award-winning author Michael Ruhlman, *If You*

Can't Take the Heat is a coming-of-age story about finding a new life and love in the kitchen . . . and trying not to get burned along the way.

Stine, R. L. *Goblin Monday (Goosebumps House of Shivers #2)*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2024.

Mario is spending winter break with his neighbors, Todd and Jewel, on their family vacation to Vermont. He is excited to see snow for the first time and meet his friend's grandparents. Todd and Jewel's grandparents love telling tall tales about goblins, elves, and trolls. When Mario spots a blur of green fur in the garden, he wonders if the stories could be real. He's determined to find out more, but the truth might be more dangerous than fiction.

Stine, R. L. *Night of the Living Mummy (Goosebumps House of Shivers #3)*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2024.

Happy Silverman is excited about his class trip to the museum. He loves learning about Ancient Egypt and can't wait to see real mummies. At the museum, Happy leans as close to the mummy display as he possibly can. Suddenly, his head spins and he hears an unfamiliar voice ringing inside his mind. Now, the mummy is inside Happy's brain and needs his help . . . or else.

Stine, R. L. *Shark Night*. Ashland, OR: Blackstone Publishing, 2024.

Alone in a water tank, Liam, holding a camera, watches as a twenty-foot-long hammerhead shark is about to be lowered in with him. Liam is helping his mom film a documentary for the Danger Channel. A twelve-year-old battling a shark—it'll be a sensation! This one is actually old,

gentle, and nearly toothless, so Liam has nothing to worry about. What could possibly go wrong?

Stine, R. L. *Stinetinglers 3: MORE Chilling Stories by the Master of Scary Tales*. New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends, 2024.

From R. L. Stine, the master of horror for young readers, comes ten new stories that are sure to send shivers down your spine.

Subity, Sam. *Valor Wings*. New York, NY: Scholastic, 2024.

A thrilling World War II adventure blending history and fantasy that reimagines the evacuation of Dunkirk with dragons.

Warga, Jasmine. *A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall*. New York, NY: HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray, 2024.

From Jasmine Warga, the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *A Rover's Story* and *Other Words for Home*, comes an extraordinary story about two friends, a ghost, a missing painting, and a turtle named Agatha.

Williams, Carol. *The Supernatural Files of CJ Delaney*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2024.

Possessed dogs, missing livestock, cloaked figures . . . CJ Delaney's summer vacation just got weird in this debut middle grade novel from Carol Williams.

Woods, Brenda. *With Just One Wing*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2024.

A poignant, heartfelt story about an adopted boy and the bird he rescues by Coretta Scott King Honor winner Brenda Woods.

JUVENILE

Awan, Jashar. *Towed By Toad*. Toronto, Canada: Tundra Books, 2024.

Hop on a tow-truck ride with Toad as he learns that everyone needs help sometimes—even the helpers.

Bonilla, Lindsay. *You've Got This*. Illus. by Keisha Morris. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2024.

This joyful, rhyming picture book helps kids tackle scary moments with a mantra to inspire confidence.

Chung, Jocelyn. *When Love is More Than Words*. Illus. by Julia Kuo. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2024.

There are so many ways to say “I love you” without saying a word! A little girl sees the love shown in her family by the way they nurture one another through stories, food, and spending time together. With great-grandparents, grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings around, there are so many ways for love to shine through.

Clark, Karen Henry. *Library Girl: How Nancy Pearl Became America's Most Celebrated Librarian*. Illus. by Sheryl Murray. Seattle, WA: Little Bigfoot, 2022.

Library Girl is the inspiring childhood story of how Nancy Pearl—a beloved librarian, author, and Seattle icon—discovered her strengths and realized her passion. It is a loving tribute to the power books and librarians have to transform children's lives.

Curry, Stephen. *I Am Extraordinary*. Illus. by Geneva Bowers. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2024.

In his sophomore picture book, NBA superstar Stephen Curry encourages kids to embrace the differences that make them extraordinary.

Curry, Stephen. *I Have a Superpower*. Illus. by Geneva Bowers. New York, NY: Penguin Workshop, 2022.

Akron native and four-time NBA champion Stephen Curry makes a splash with his picture book debut inspiring young readers to unlock their very own superpower.

Daywalt, Drew. *The Crayons Give Thanks*. Illus. by Oliver Jeffers. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2024.

The hilarious crayons from *The Day the Crayons Quit* are ready to give thanks.

Draper, Sharon M. *Bella Ballerina*. Illus. by Ebony Glenn. New York, NY: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2024.

From *New York Times*–bestselling author Sharon M. Draper comes a debut picture book about a timid ballerina who learns that the show must go on—and will—with a little help from her friends.

Hillenbrand, Will. *Little Red: Autumn on the Farm*. New York, NY: Christy Ottaviano Books, 2024. Little Red—a heroic pickup truck who can fix anything—is determined to help his many truck friends in this autumn-themed story.

Matula, Christina, and Erica Lyons. *Mixed-Up Mooncakes*. Illus. by Tracy Subisak. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books, 2024.

This beautiful tribute to fall festivals—Mid-Autumn Festival

and Sukkot—celebrates family, multicultural heritage, and the bounty of the season.

McBeth, T. L. *I am NOT Santa Claus!* New York, NY: Flamingo Books, 2024.

A clever picture book about a man with a white beard and a red hat who, despite all evidence to the contrary, insists that he is NOT Santa Claus.

Peot, Margaret. *Crows: An Egg-to-Sky Story*. Essex, CT: Muddy Boots, 2024.

This beautifully illustrated nonfiction picture book introduces children to the fascinating world of crows, from how they raise their young and learn to fly to their unique ways of communicating.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Hornbeam Gets It Done*. Illus. by Arthur Howard. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books, 2024.

Hornbeam and his friends embark on three enterprising and entertaining new adventures in the second book in the Hornbeam series.

Webb, Shardae. *I See Me in the ABCs: Exploring the World of Fruits and Veggies Through the Alphabet*. Illus. by Juanita Golondrina. Mayfield Heights, OH: Webbd Publishing, 2023.

This vibrantly illustrated picture book features a colorful array of fruits and vegetables, providing an interactive way for kids to learn and discover the world of healthy eating. With its representative format, little readers can also learn and recognize common names in the African American community.

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We don't want anyone to miss out, so we're **extending our \$95 Premium Membership anniversary discount**. You can be part of the festival early-access event by renewing or joining our Premium Membership level at a **discounted rate of \$95 for your first year!** This special price will be available through May 1, 2025, and will then increase to \$150. Ohioana Library memberships make great gifts for family and friends, too!

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