



**Summer
Reading
List 2026**

Summer Reading List

Junior

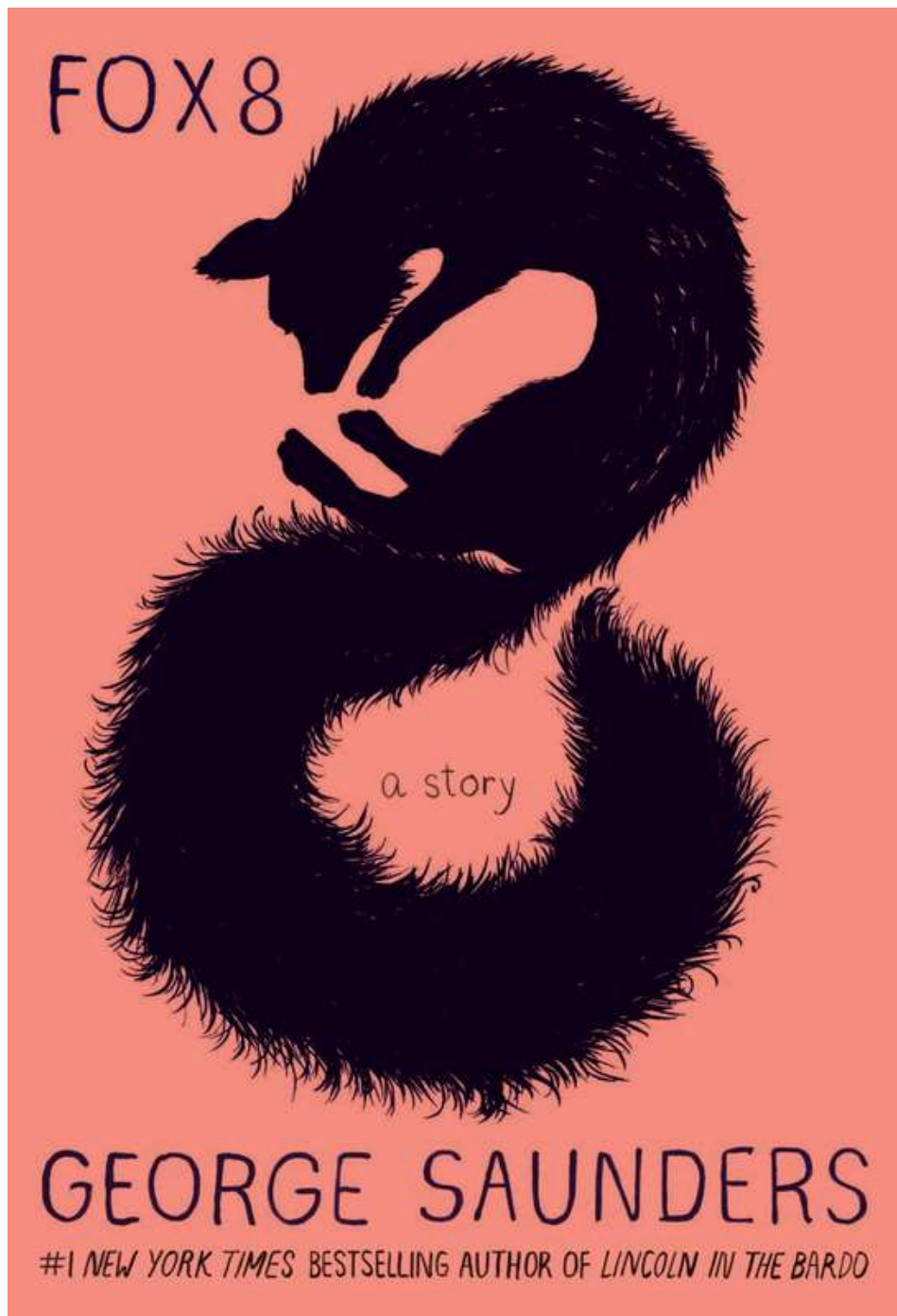
1. Fox 8 George Saunders
2. Watership Down by Richard Adams
3. The Tailor of Gloucester by Beatrix Potter
4. The Rabbits Shaun Tan
5. Moominsummer Madness by Tove Jansson
6. Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
7. Poison for Breakfast Lemony Snicket
8. The Seventh Most Important Thing Shelley Pearsall
9. To Night Owl from Dogfish Holly Goldberg Sloan Meg Wolitzer
10. The Smell of Other People's Houses Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock
11. Fatty Legs Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton, Christy Jordan-Fenton, Liz Amini-Holmes (Illustrator)
12. Tree. Table. Book. Lois Lowry
13. The Poet's Dog Patricia MacLachlan
14. The Girl Who Drank the Moon Kelly Barnhill
15. The Ogress and the Orphans Kelly Barnhill

Senior

1. The Summer Book by Tove Jansson
2. Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson
3. Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie
4. Into The Wild by Jon Krakauer
5. A Prayer for Owen Meany
6. Thirty-Two Words for Field: Lost Words of the Irish Landscape by Manchán Magan
7. House of Spirits by Isabel Allende.
8. Little by Edward Carey
9. Marigold and Rose by Louise Gluck
10. When The Wind Blows by Raymond Briggs
11. Convenience Store Woman Sayaka Murata
12. The Great Hunger Patrick Kavanagh
13. Almond by Won-Pyung Sohn
14. Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
15. Why The Moon Travels by Oein DeBharduin

Junior



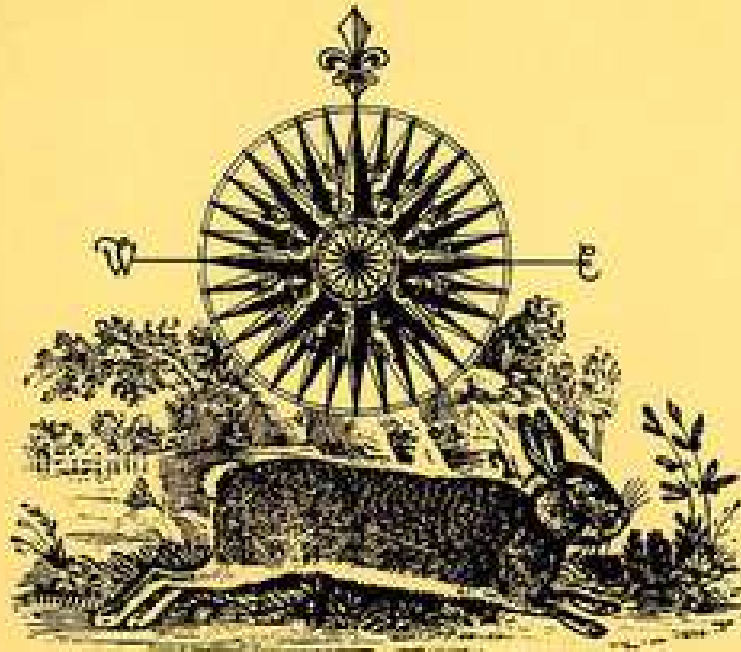


***Fox 8* George Saunders**

This book is written by a Fox, his name is Fox 8. Fox 8 is known as the daydreamer of his pack. One day Fox 8 teaches himself to speak "Yuman" by hiding in the bushes outside a house and listening to children's bedtime stories. The power of language fulfills his curiosity about people, even after "danjer" arrives in the form of a new shopping mall that cuts off his food supply. Fox 8 must embark on a harrowing quest to save his pack.

#1
AMERICA'S BESTSELLER!

AVON/19810/42.25



Watership Down

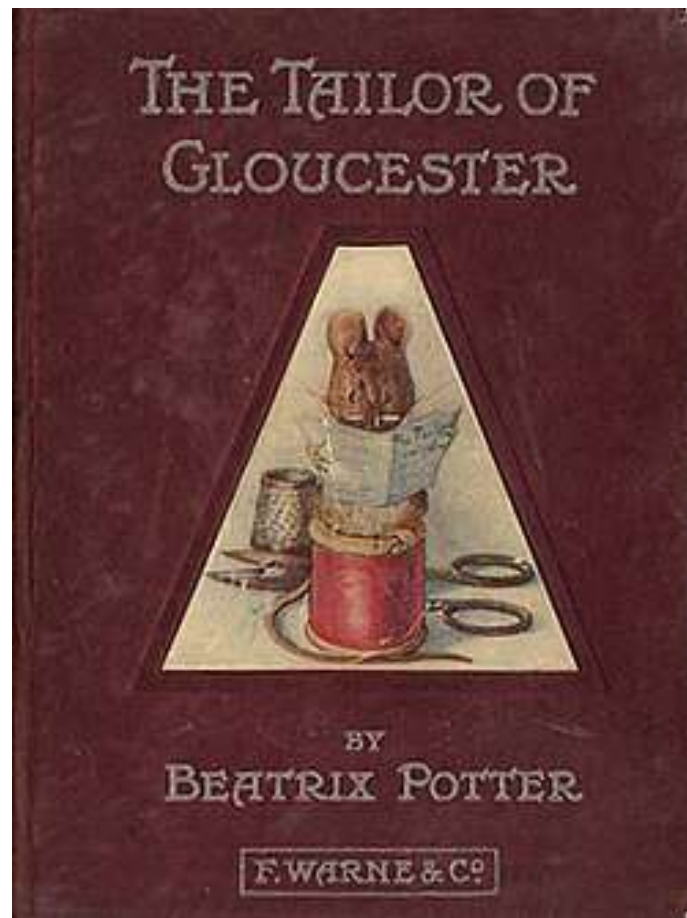
A novel by
Richard Adams

"I cannot imagine that any sensible reader
could come away from this novel
unaffected and unchanged!"

Peter Prescott, NEWSWEEK

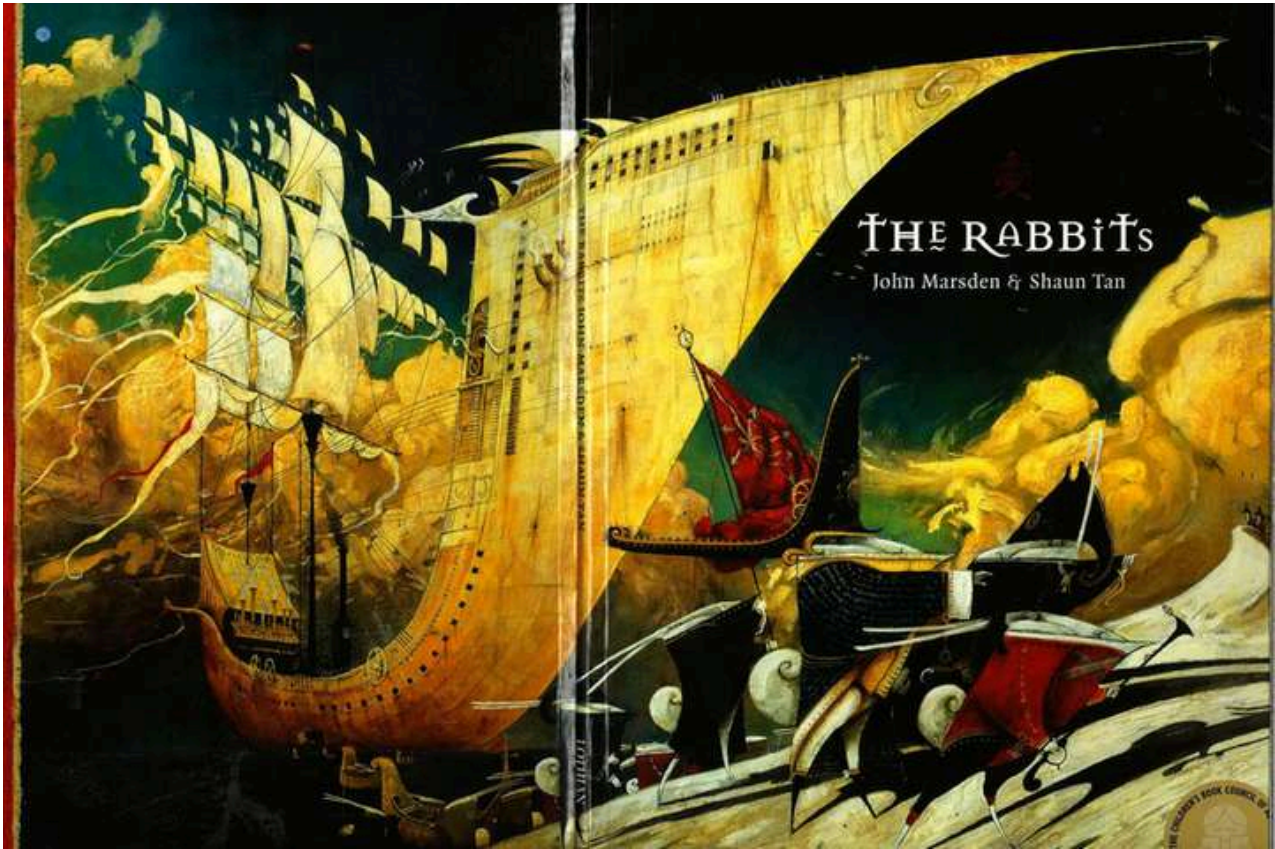
Watership Down by Richard Adams

Watership Down is about a small group of rabbits. The Rabbits live in their natural wild environment, with burrows but are anthropomorphised, possessing their own culture, language, proverbs, poetry, and mythology. The Rabbits must escape as their fields are in the process of destruction for a new housing estate.



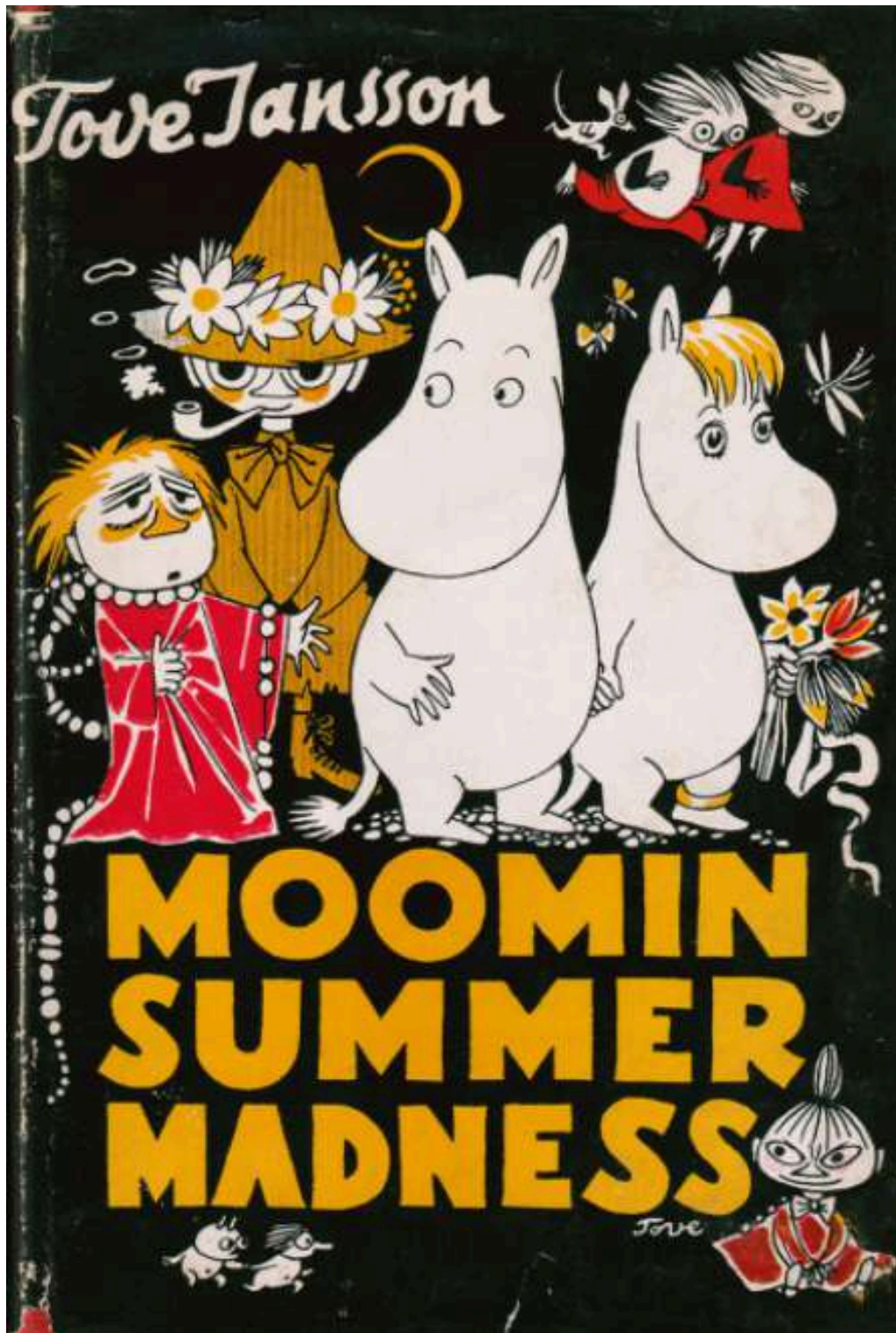
***The Tailor of Gloucester* by Beatrix Potter**

An elderly, impoverished Tailor is commissioned by the Mayor of Gloucester to make a finely embroidered coat for his wedding on Christmas Day. The Tailor realises he needs more of a cherry-coloured twist. The Tailor asks his cat Simpkin to take their last penny and go buy the yarn. The tailor discovers the cat has trapped some Mice under teacups and frees them. Simpkin returns to find his dinner, the Mice, has disappeared. Simpkin hides the yarn as revenge. The Mice make a cosy home in the Tailor's walls, watching him make clothes in awe, trying to copy him with the tiny scraps he leaves. Poor and malnourished, the Tailor becomes ill and unable to work. By Christmas Eve the coat has still not been finished. During the night the mice sneak into the tailor's workshop and repay him by sewing together the coat. Seeing their kindness, Simpkin feels guilty and gives his master back the twist. The Tailor wakes up on Christmas morning and finds the coat is finished. The Tailor does not know how this happened, it was like magic. A beautiful story about how magic is real. Magic is kindness.



***The Rabbits* by Shaun Tan**

The Rabbits is a fable about colonisation, told from the viewpoint of the colonised. An unseen narrator describes the coming of ‘rabbits’ in the most minimal detail, an encounter that is at first friendly and curious, but later darkens as it becomes apparent that the visitors are invaders. The style of the book is deliberately sparse and strange, with both text and image conveying an overall sense of bewilderment and anxiety as native numbat-like creatures witness environmental devastation under the wheels of a strange new culture.



***Moomin Midsummer Madness* by Tove Jansson**

One summer a grumbling volcano causes Moominvalley to flood, forcing the Moomins to leave their beloved home and find refuge on a floating theatre. When this casts adrift, leaving Moomintroll, the Snorkmaiden and Little My marooned on land, Moominsummer Madness ensues. Will they all be reunited before the final curtain?

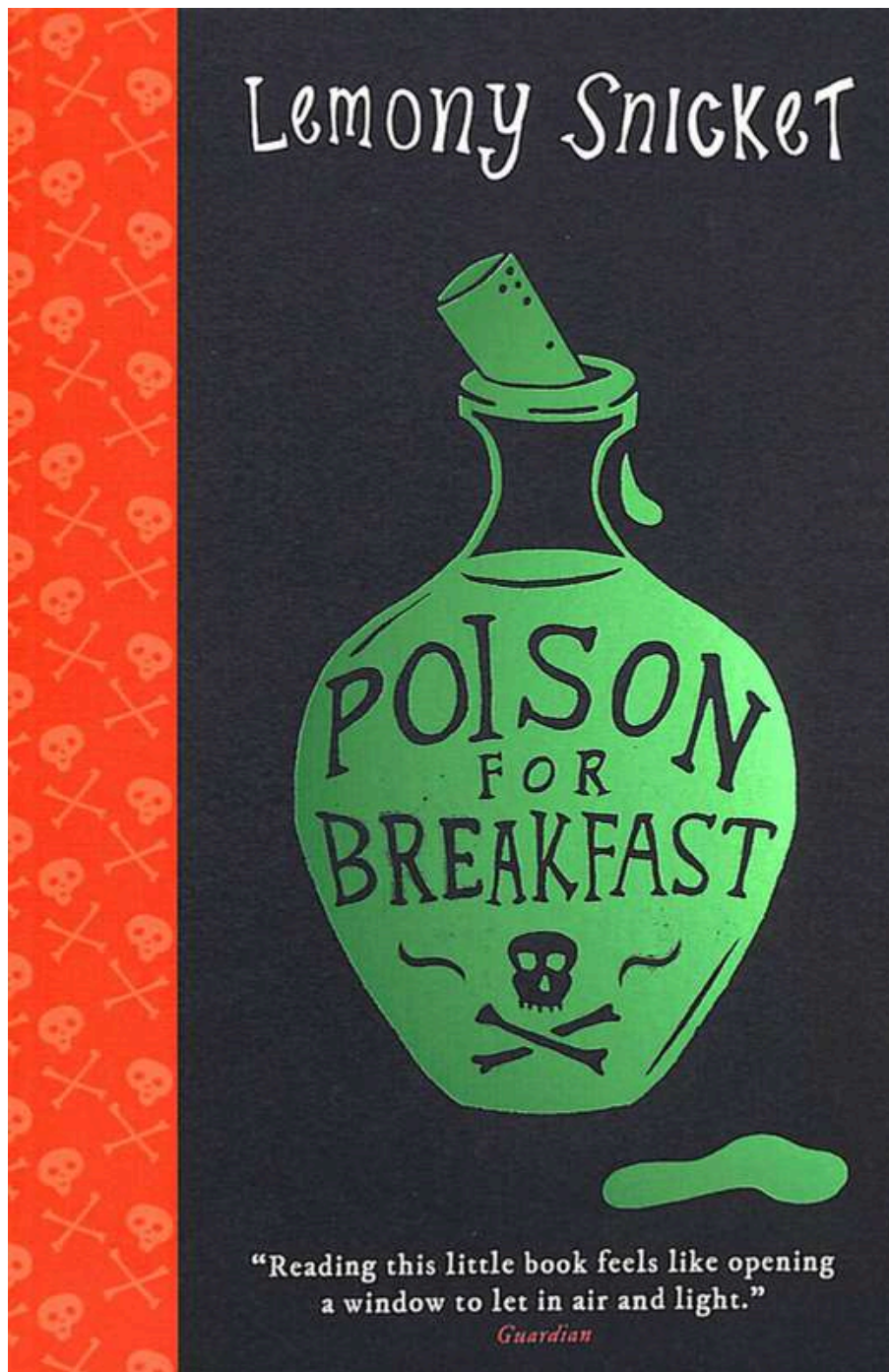
WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

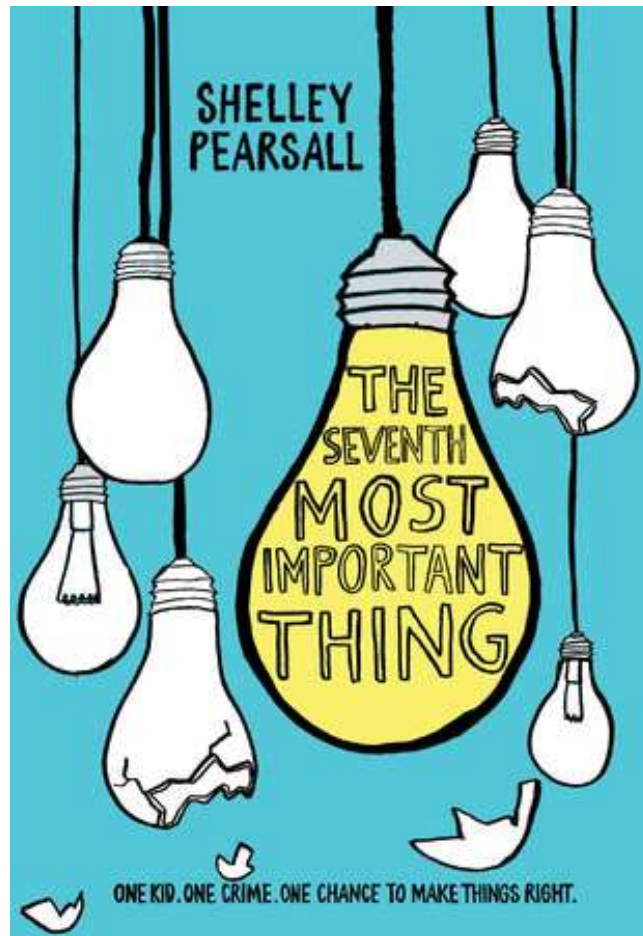
Where The Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

A little boy named Max is sent to bed without his supper after he wreaks such havoc through his household whilst dressed as a wolf. Max's bedroom transforms into a jungle environment and he sails to an island inhabited by monsters called the Wild Things. The Wild Things try to scare Max but this does not work, even though they are much bigger than him they do not scare him. Max is hailed as the king of the Wild Things. Max stops them from playing and sends them to bed without their supper. Max starts to feel lonely and decides to return home. The Wild Things do not want Max to go, and they throw themselves into fits of rage as he sails home. When Max returns to his bedroom he discovers a hot supper waiting for him.



***Poison for Breakfast* by Lemony Snicket**

This story begins with Lemony Snicket himself finding a puzzling note under his door writing, “You had poison for breakfast”. Following a winding trail of clues to solve the mystery of his own demise, Snicket takes us on a thought-provoking tour of his predilections: the proper way to prepare an egg, a perplexing idea called “tzimtzum,” the sublime pleasure of swimming in open water, and much else. This book teaches how one thinks.



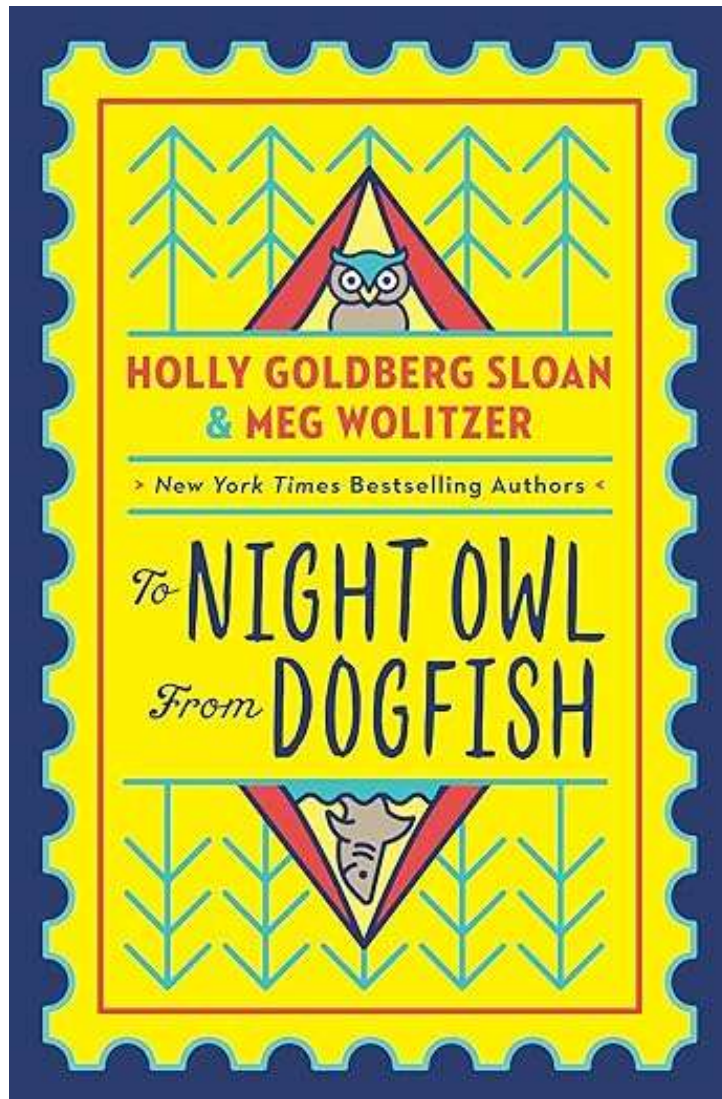
***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall**

One day Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker.

Arthur had his reasons but none of that mattered to the judge, he was ready to send Arthur to juvie for a long time. Surprisingly, the Junk Man himself offered an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

Arthur is given a rickety shopping cart and a list of the Seven Most Important Things: glass bottles, foil, cardboard, pieces of wood, lightbulbs, coffee cans, and mirrors. Arthur can't believe he is supposed to rummage through people's trash. However, it isn't long before Arthur realises there's more to the Junk Man than meets the eye, and the "trash" he's collecting is being transformed into something more precious than anyone could imagine. . . .

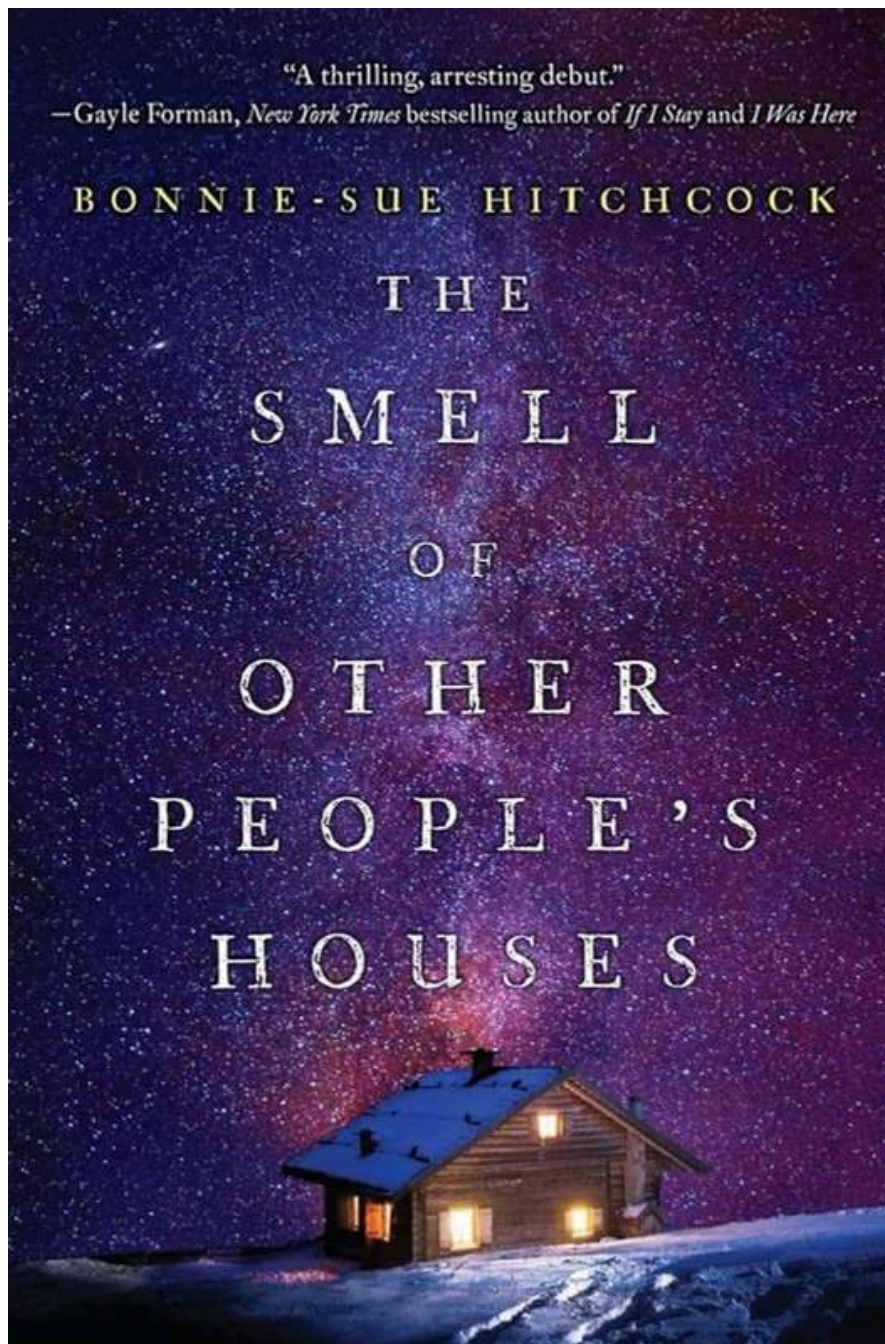
Inspired by the work of American folk artist **James Hampton**.



***To Night Owl from Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer**

Avery Bloom is a bookworm who is afraid of many things, she lives in New York City. Bett Devlin is fearless and loves all animals, she lives in California. Avery and Bett's Dads fall in love and send them, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that despite being quite different, the two girls will find common ground and become friends, or one day, even sisters.

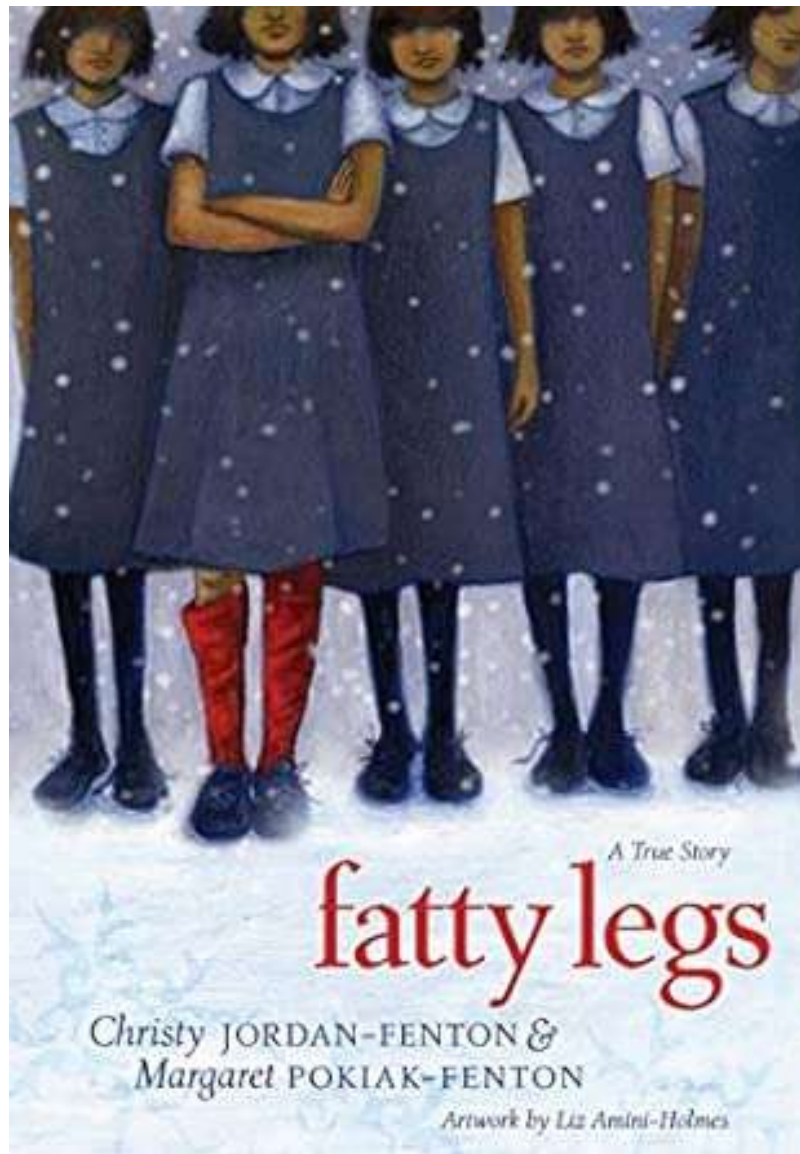
However, things soon go off the rails for the girls and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Now that they can't imagine life without each other, will the two girls (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?



***The Smell of Other People's Houses* by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock**

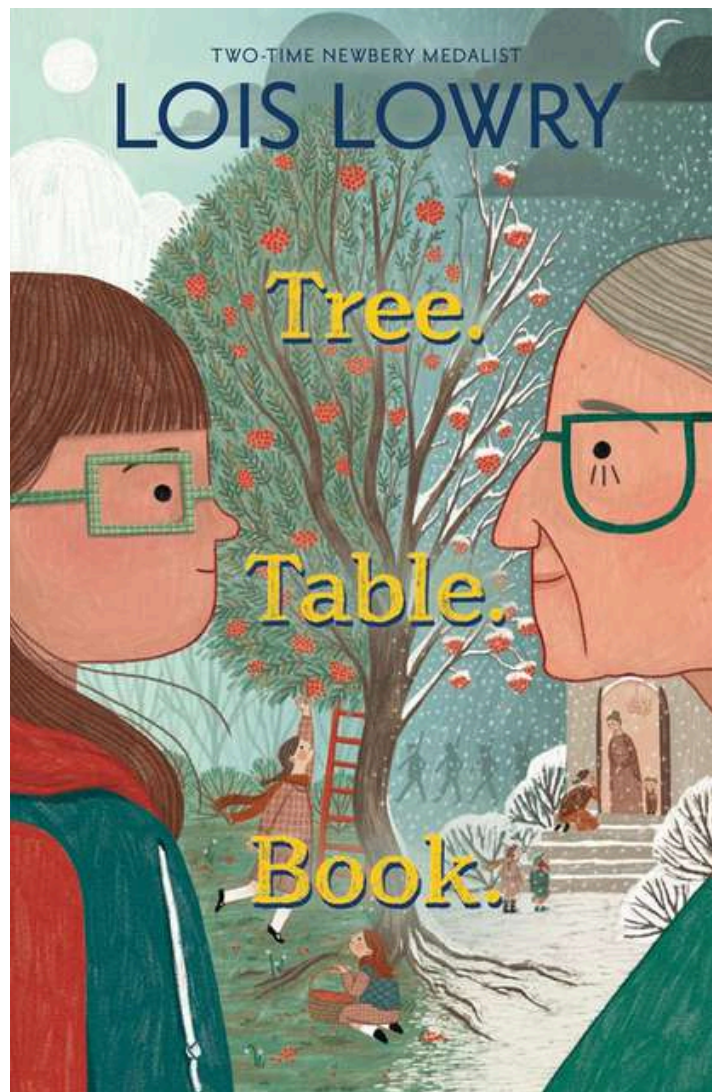
In Alaska, 1970, being a teenager here isn't like being a teenager anywhere else. Ruth has a secret that she can't hide forever. Dora wonders if she can ever truly escape where she comes from, even when good luck strikes. Alyce is trying to reconcile her desire to dance with the life she's always known on her family's fishing boat. Hank and his brothers decide it's safer to run away than to stay home... until one of them ends up in terrible danger.

Four very different lives are about to become entangled.



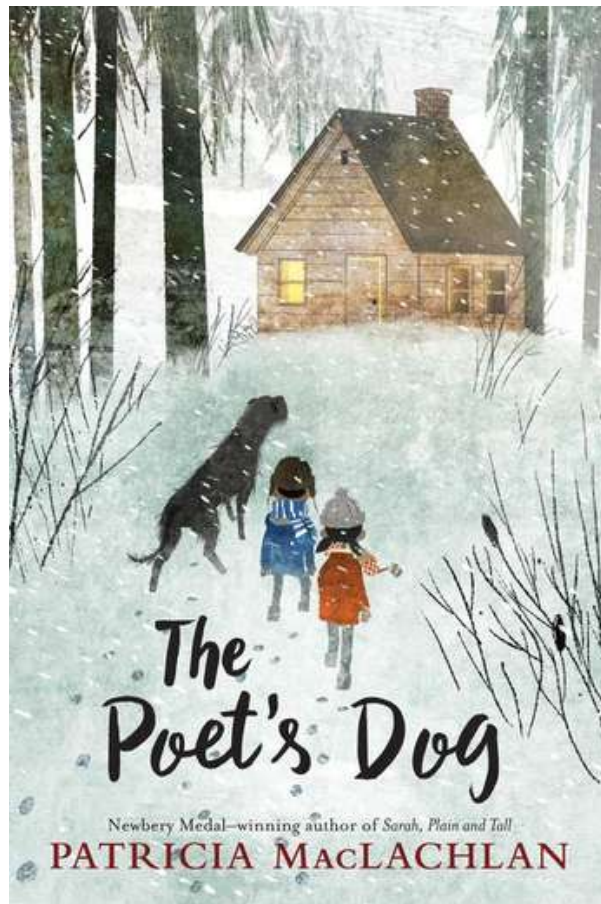
***Fatty Legs* by Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton, Christy Jordan-Fenton,
Liz Amini-Holmes (Illustrator)**

Fatty Legs is a memoir about a young Inuvialuit girl's two years at a religious residential school. After Olemaun entered residential school she did not see her parents for two years. During Olemaun's two years there she forgot her language, food, and just everything. When Olemaun returned home she could no longer communicate with her mother because her mother did not speak English. The reason why Olemaun told her story of the hardships of residential school was so other children would learn the truth of the experiences. Margaret-Olemaun Pokiak-Fenton returned to using her birth name of Olemaun at the age of 80. Olemaun means the stone that sharpens an ulu knife. Olemaun changed her name Margaret as a child and no longer felt a connection to her culture due to the assimilation process enforced at the residential school. Olemaun received a traditional tattoo of a caribou at age 81.



***Tree. Table. Book* by Lois Lowry**

Everyone knows the two Sophies are best friends. One Sophie is in elementary school and the other Sophie is rather quite elderly, but she has always been tip top, the best friend any girl struggling to fit in could ever have. The Sophies drink tea, have strong opinions about pretty much everything, and love each other dearly. But now the elder Sophie is having memory problems. Because elder Sophie is forgetting everything her son is planning to come steal her away forever. Young Sophie will never let this happen. Sophie will find elder Sophie's memory. However, when Sophie finds Sophie's memories, she hears sad stories of her dear friend, war, hunger, cruelty, and love.



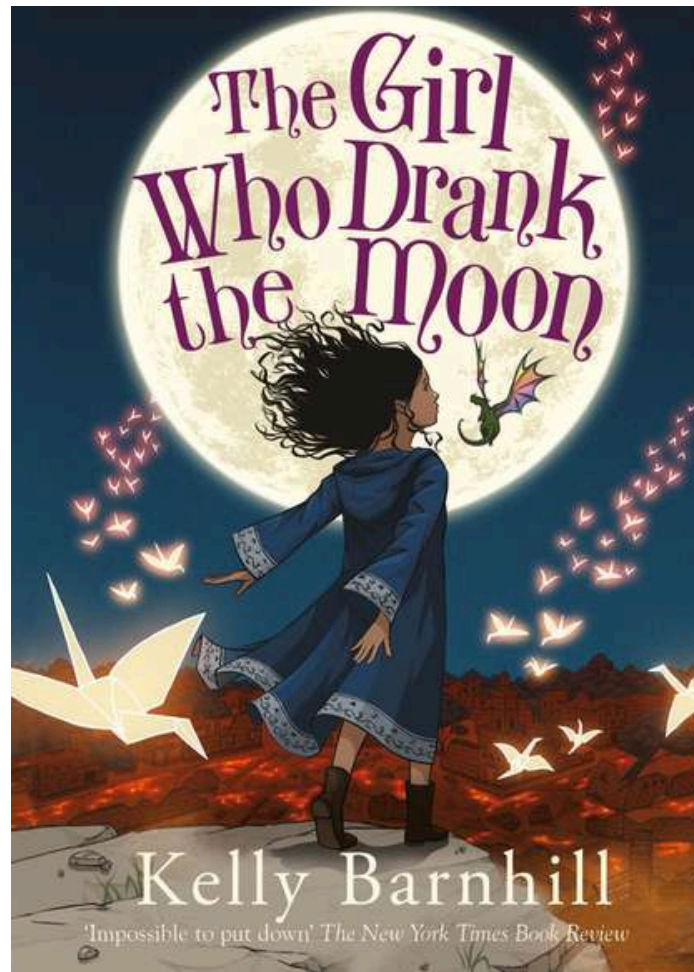
***The Poet's Dog* Patricia MacLachlan**

A story about two children, a poet, and a dog and how they help one another survive loss and recapture love.

Teddy is a gifted dog. Raised in a cabin by a poet named Sylvan, he grew up listening to sonnets read aloud and the comforting clicking of a keyboard. Although Teddy understands words, Sylvan always told him there are only two kinds of people in the world who can hear Teddy speak: poets and children.

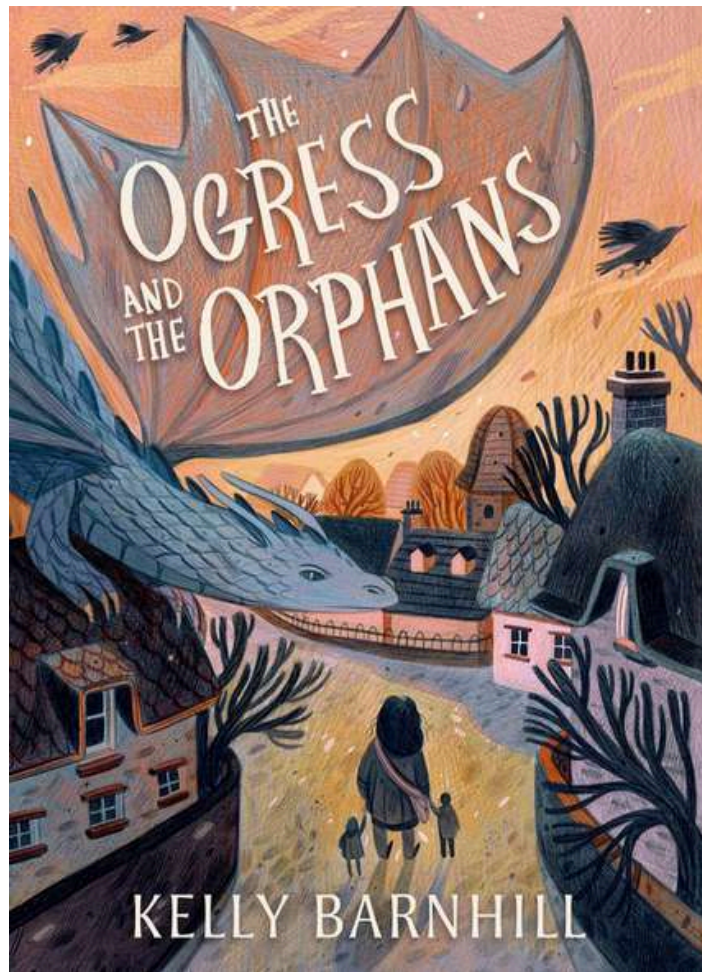
Then one day Teddy learns that Sylvan was right. When Teddy finds Nickel and Flora trapped in a snowstorm, he tells them that he will bring them home—and they understand him. The children are afraid of the howling wind, but not of Teddy's words. They follow him to a cabin in the woods, where the dog used to live with Sylvan . . . only now his owner is gone.

As they hole up in the cabin for shelter, Teddy is flooded with memories of Sylvan. What will Teddy do when his new friends go home? Can they help one another find what they have lost?



***The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill**

Every year the people of the protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise swamp monster and a perfectly tiny dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling an ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. But as Luna's 13th birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge, with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the tiger's heart is on the prowl.



***The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Barnhill**

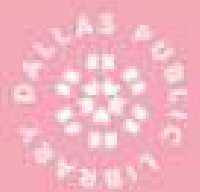
Stone-in-the-Glen, once a lovely town, has fallen on hard times. Fires, floods, and other calamities have caused the people to lose their library, their school, their park, and even their neighborliness. The people put their faith in the Mayor, a dazzling fellow who promises he alone can help. After all, he is a famous dragon slayer. (At least, no one has seen a dragon in his presence.) Only the clever children of the Orphan House and the kindly Ogress at the edge of town can see how dire the town's problems are.

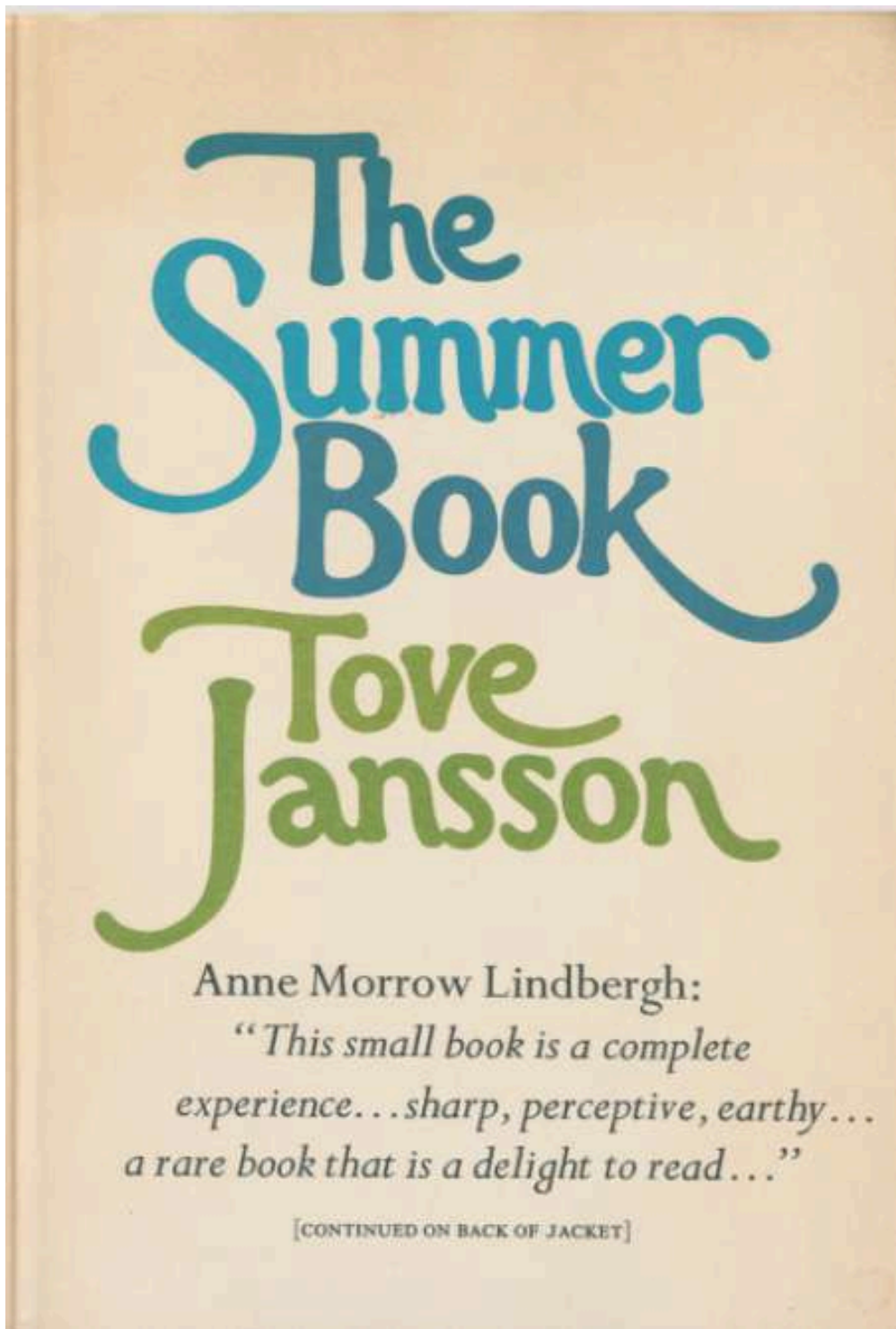
Then one day a child goes missing from the Orphan House. At the Mayor's suggestion, all eyes turn to the Ogress. The Orphans know this can't be: the Ogress, along with a flock of excellent crows, secretly delivers gifts to the people of Stone-in-the-Glen.

But how can the Orphans tell the story of the Ogress's goodness to people who refuse to listen? And how can they make their deluded neighbors see the real villain in their midst?

Senior

COOL
PEOPLE
LOVE
THE
LIBRARY



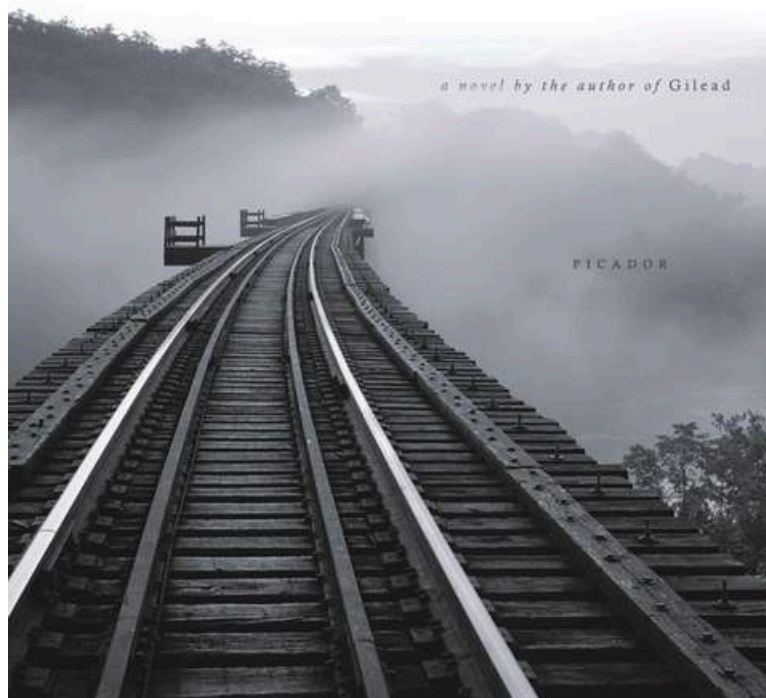


***The Summer Book* by Tove Jansson**

An elderly artist and her six-year-old granddaughter spend the summer together on a tiny island in the Gulf of Finland. As the two learn to adjust to each other's fears, whims, and yearnings, a fierce yet understated love emerges – one that encompasses not only the summer inhabitants but the very island itself.

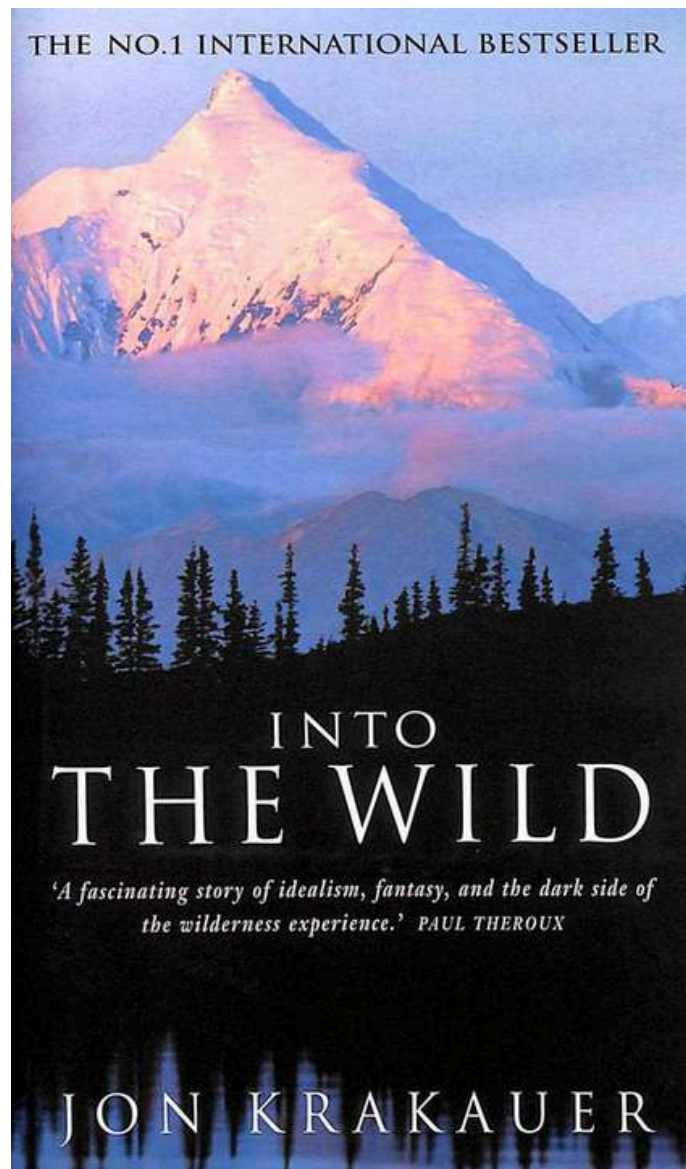


MARILYNNE ROBINSON
HOUSEKEEPING



***Housekeeping* by Marilynne Robinson**

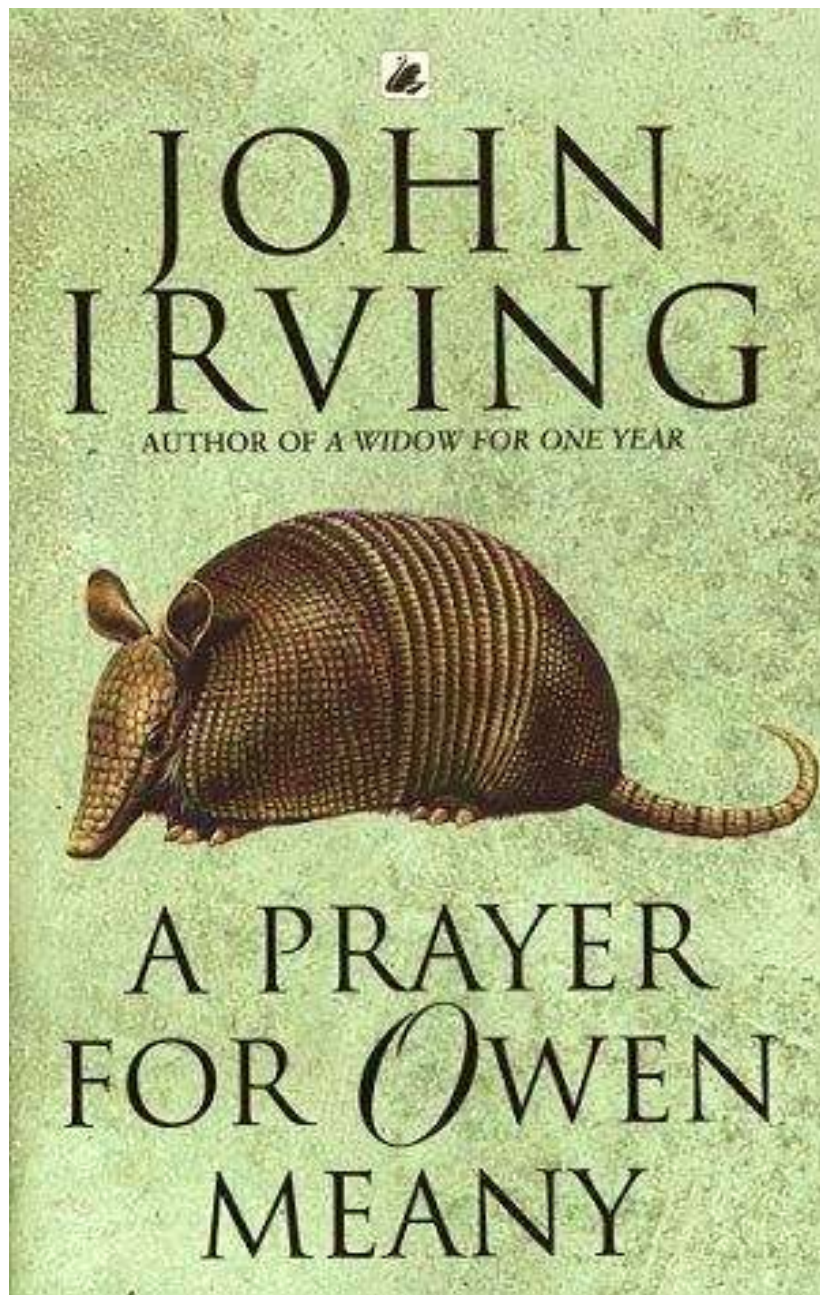
Housekeeping is the story of Ruth and her younger sister, Lucille, who grow up haphazardly, first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt. The family house is in the small Far West town of Fingerbone set on a glacial lake, the same lake where their grandfather died in a spectacular train wreck where the train fell into the lake and disappeared forever, and their mother drove off a cliff to her death. It is a town "chastened by an outsized landscape and extravagant weather, and chastened again by an awareness that the whole of human history had occurred elsewhere." Ruth and Lucille's struggle toward adulthood beautifully illuminates the price of loss and survival, and the dangerous and deep undertow of transience.



***Into The Wild* by Jon Krakauer**

In April 1992 a young man called Jon Krakauer from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How Christopher Johnson McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of *Into the Wild*.

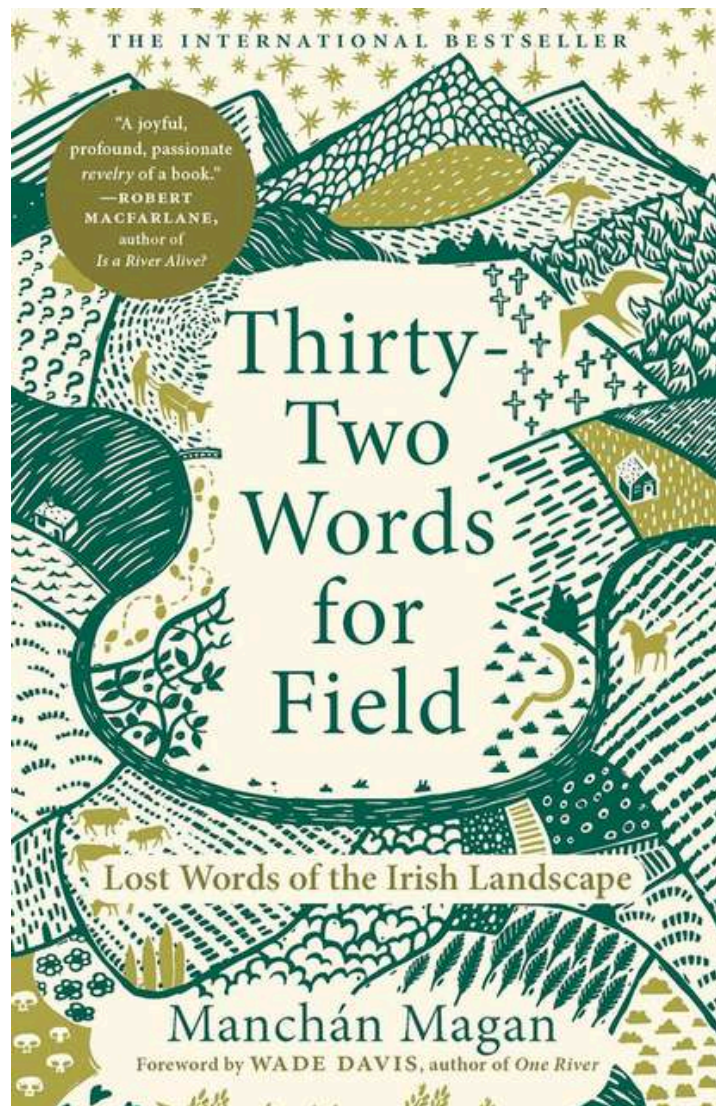
Krakauer's book explores riddles such as the profound pull of the American wilderness on our imagination; the allure of high-risk activities to young men of a certain cast of mind; and the complex, charged bond between fathers and sons.



A Prayer for Owen Meany by Owen Meany

When Owen Meany was eleven years old he was playing in a Little League baseball game in New Hampshire and accidentally hit a foul ball that killed his best friend's mother. Owen doesn't believe in accidents; he believes he is God's instrument and sets out to fulfill the fate he has prophesied for himself.

What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul is both extraordinary and terrifying. At moments a comic, self-deluded victim, but in the end the principal, tragic actor in a divine plan, Owen Meany is the most heartbreaking hero John Irving has yet created.



***Thirty-Two Words for Field: Lost Words of the Irish Landscape* by
Manchán Magan**

The Irish language has thirty-two words for field. Among them are:

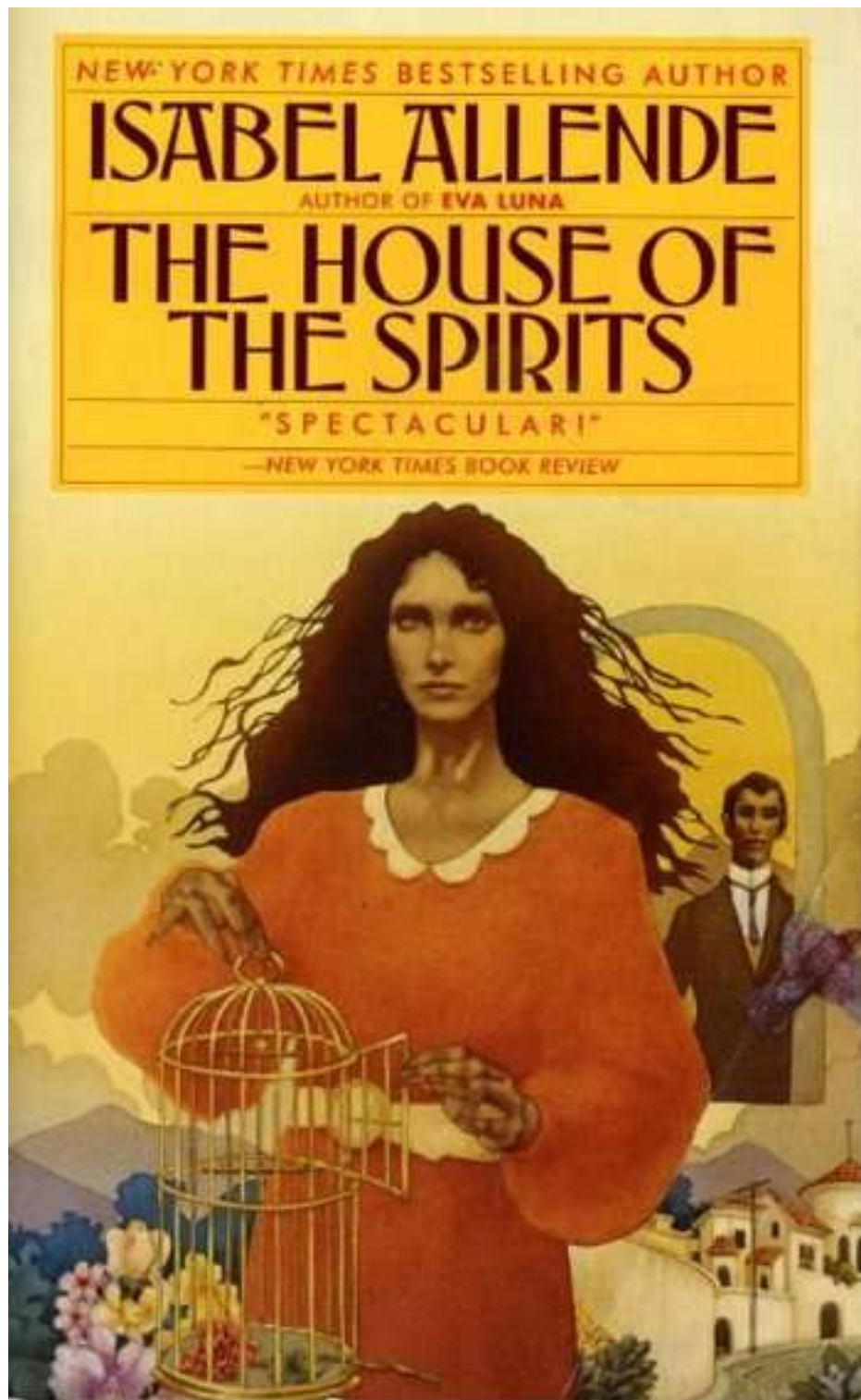
Geamhar - a field of corn-grass

Tuar - a field for cattle at night

Reidhlean - a field for games or dancing

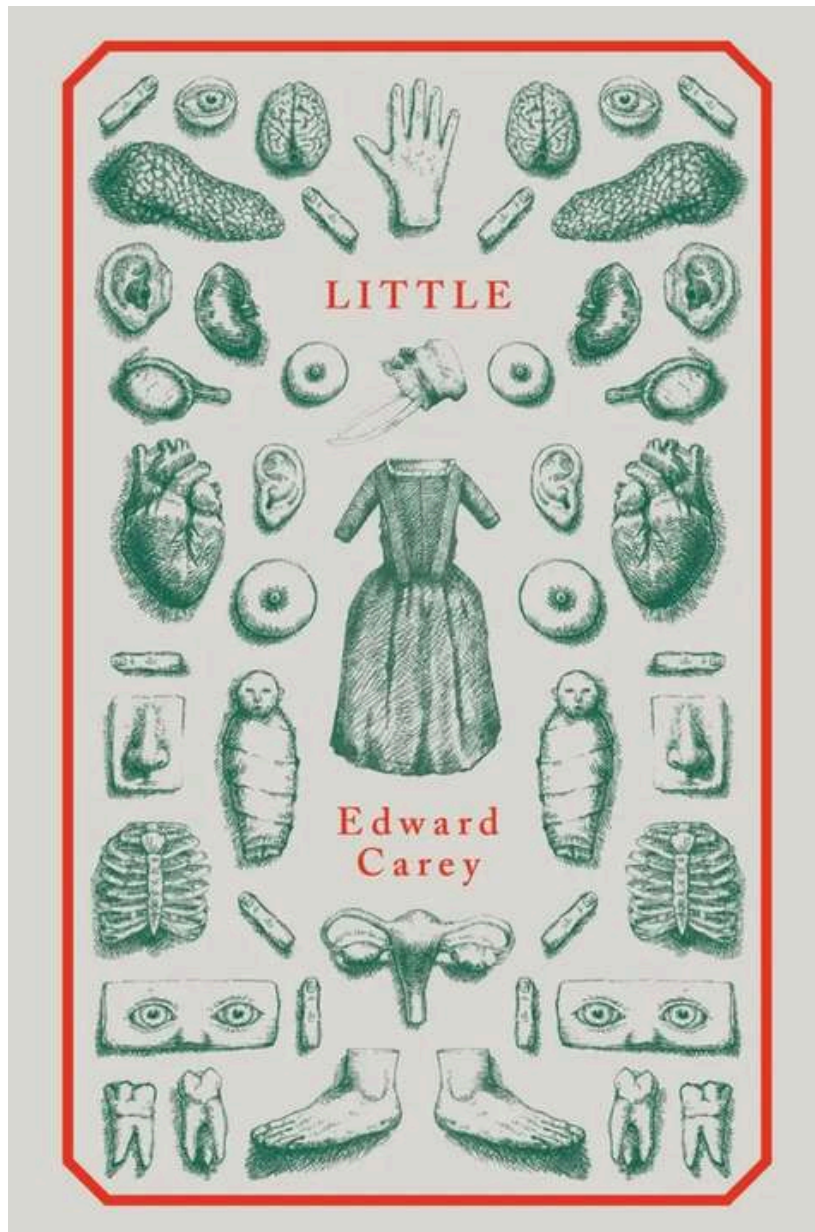
Cathairin - a field with a fairy-dwelling in it

The richness of a language closely tied to the natural landscape offered our ancestors a more magical way of seeing the world. Before we cast old words aside, let us consider the sublime beauty and profound oddness of the ancient tongue that has been spoken on this island for almost 3,000 years. In *Thirty-Two Words for Field*, Manchán Magan meditates on these words - and the nuances of a way of life that is disappearing with them.



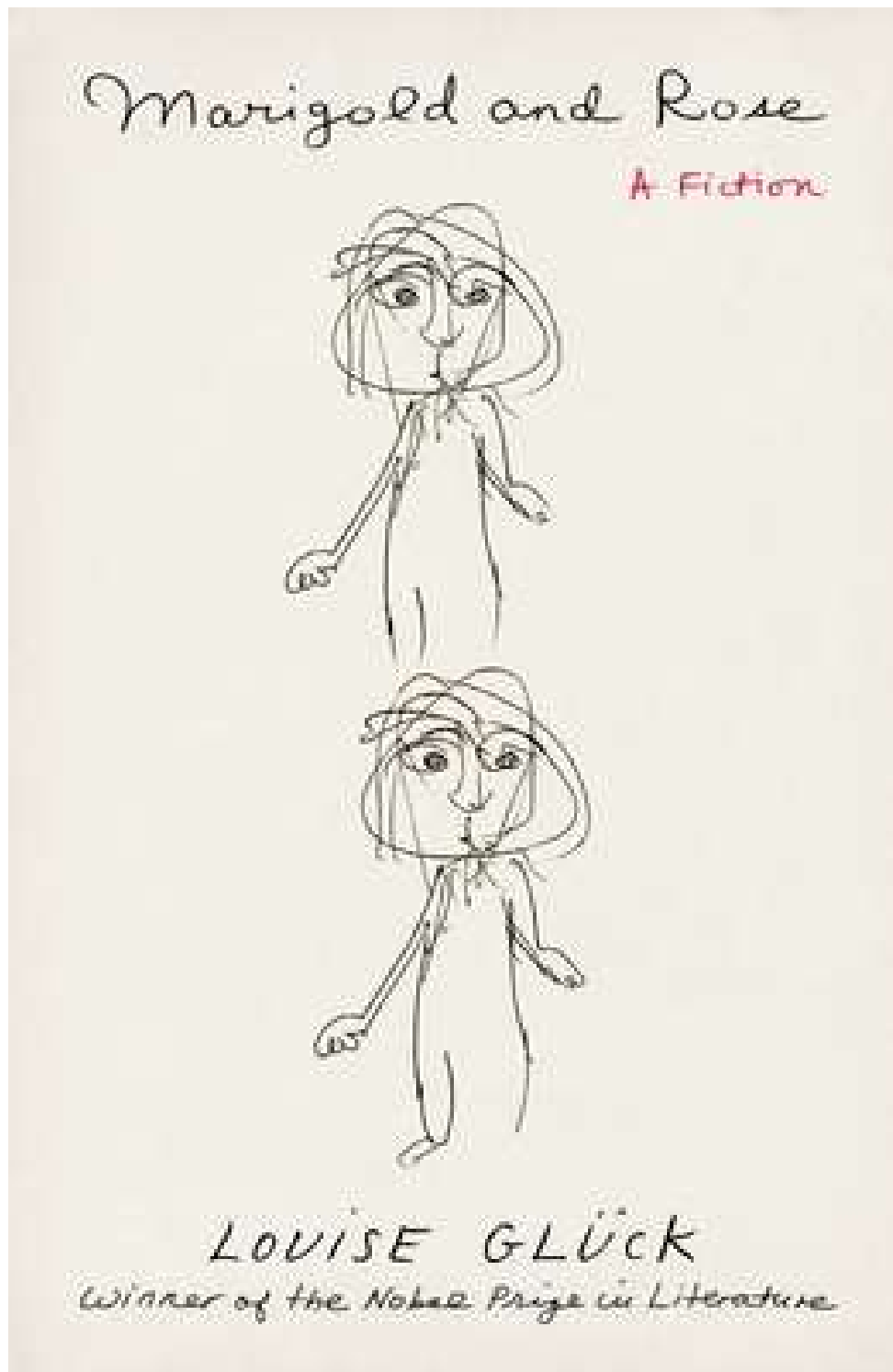
***House of the Spirits* by Isabel Allende**

This book tells the tale of the life of the Trueba family, spanning four generations, and tracing the post-colonial social and political upheavals of Chile. It all begins with the del Valle family, and the birth of their daughters, Rosa the Beautiful who is born with blue hair, and Clara who has paranormal powers and keeps a detailed diary of her life.



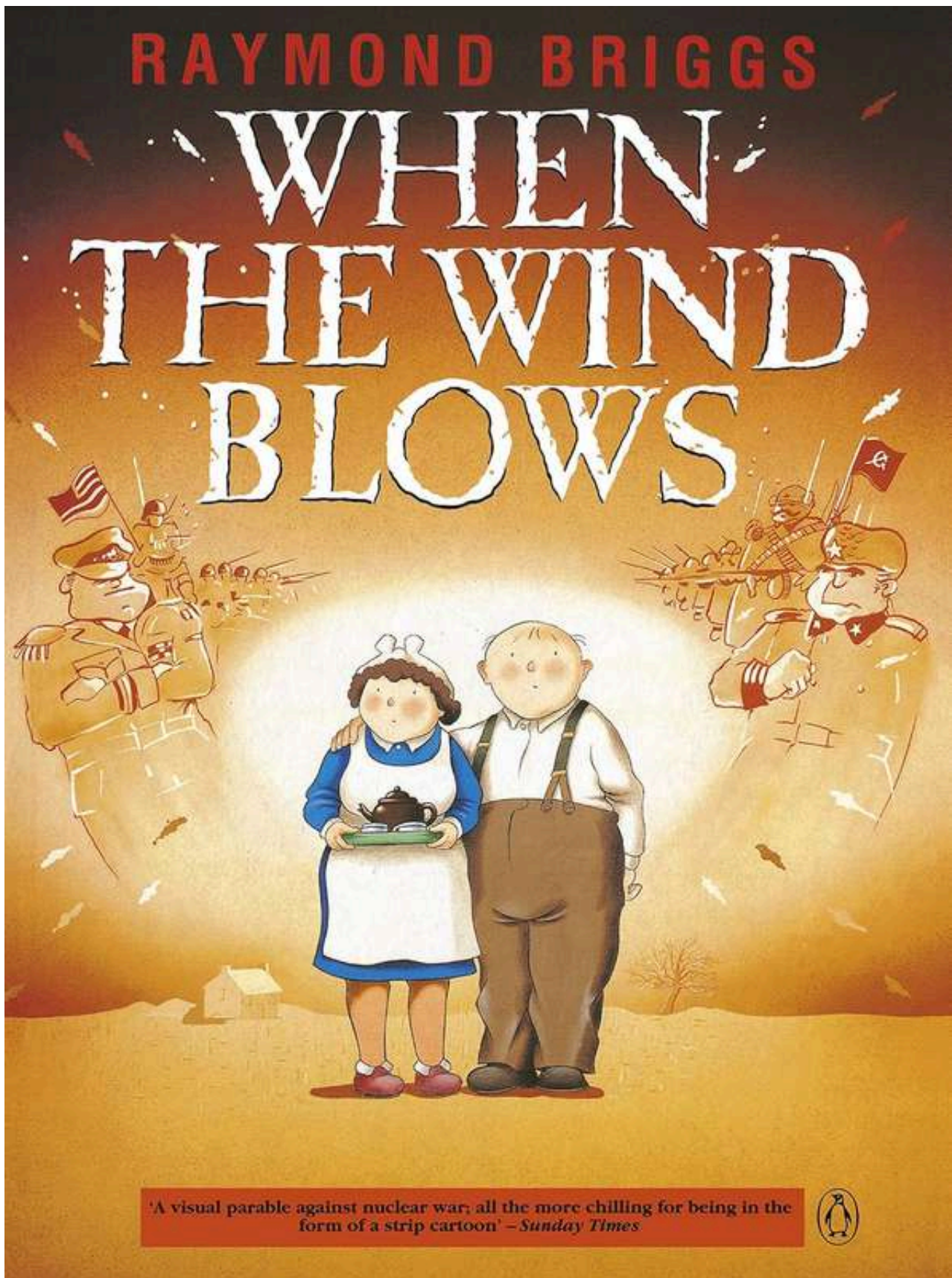
Little by Edward Carey

In 1761, a tiny, odd-looking girl named Marie is born in a village in Switzerland. After the death of her parents, she is apprenticed to an eccentric wax sculptor and whisked off to the seamy streets of Paris, where they meet a domineering widow and her quiet, pale son. Together, they convert an abandoned monkey house into an exhibition hall for wax heads, and the spectacle becomes a sensation. As word of her artistic talent spreads, Marie is called to Versailles, where she tutors a princess and saves Marie Antoinette in childbirth. But outside the palace walls, Paris is roiling: The revolutionary mob is demanding heads, and . . . at the wax museum, heads are what they do.



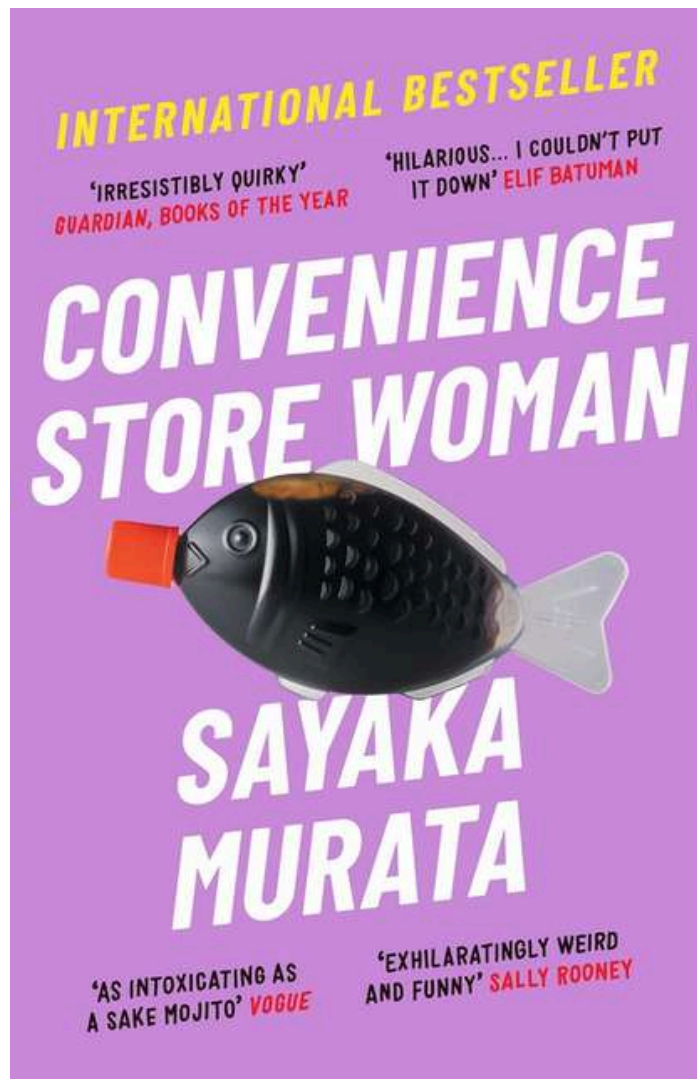
***Marigold and Rose* by Louise Glück**

Marigold and Rose chronicles the first year in the life of twin girls. Imagine a fairy tale that is also a multi-generational saga; a piece for two hands that is also a symphony; a poem that is also, in the spirit of Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, an incandescent act of autobiography. *Marigold and Rose* is an investigation of the great mystery of language and of time itself, of what is and what has been and what will be.



***When The Wind Blows* by Raymond Briggs**

Raymond Briggs' graphic novel depicts the effects of a nuclear attack on an elderly couple in his usual humorous yet macabre way.

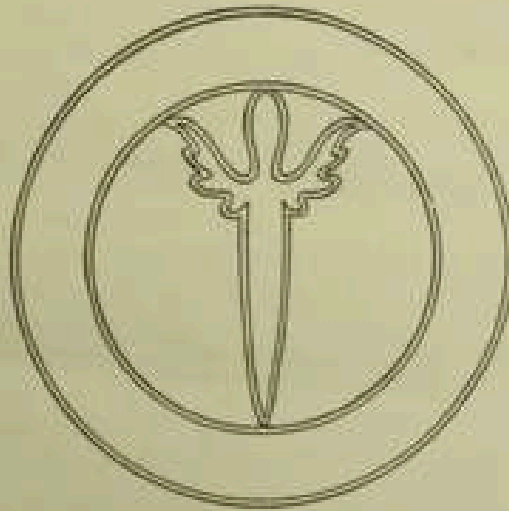


***Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata**

Keiko has never fit in. It is only when Keiko turns eighteen and begins working at the Hiromachi branch of “Smile Mart,” that she finds peace and purpose in her life. In the store, unlike anywhere else, she understands the rules of social interaction. The rules are laid in the store manual. Keiko does her best to copy the dress, mannerisms, and speech of her colleagues, playing the part of a normal person excellently. Keiko is very happy but the people around her keep pressuring her to find a husband and start a proper career, this prompts her to take desperate action...

A brilliant depiction of a world hidden from view, *Convenience Store Woman* is an ironic and sharp-eyed look at contemporary work culture and the pressures we all feel to conform, as well as a charming and completely fresh portrait of an unforgettable heroine.

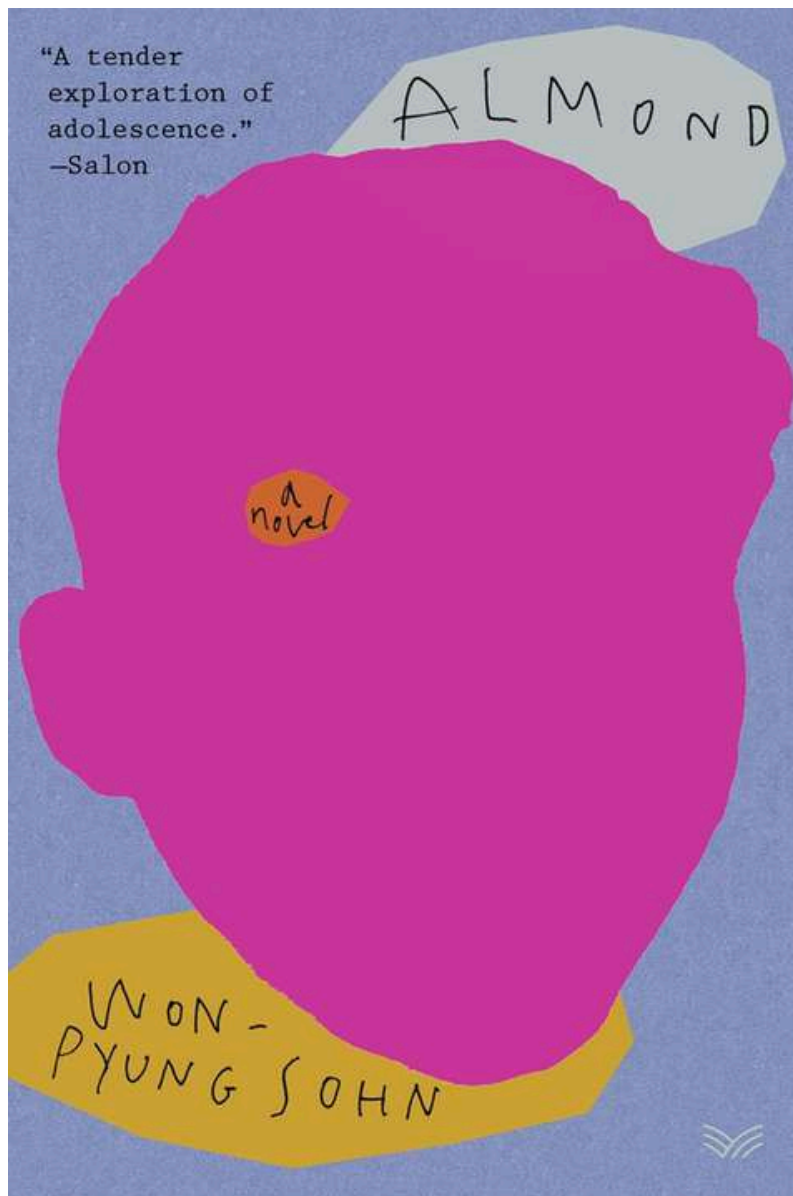
THE GREAT HUNGER
BY
PATRICK KAVANAGH



THE CUALA PRESS
DUBLIN IRELAND
MCMXLII

***The Great Hunger* by Patrick Kavanagh**

In choosing the title, *The Great Hunger*, for his long poem Kavanagh was referencing the famines that afflicted Ireland in the 1840s, when more than a million people died and another million emigrated. But Kavanagh was also writing about something else, about the way agrarian life can be an oppression of the imagination and of the spirit. The idea of an overemphasis on passion for the land, linked to a kind of intergenerational trauma rooted in events in the 19th century.

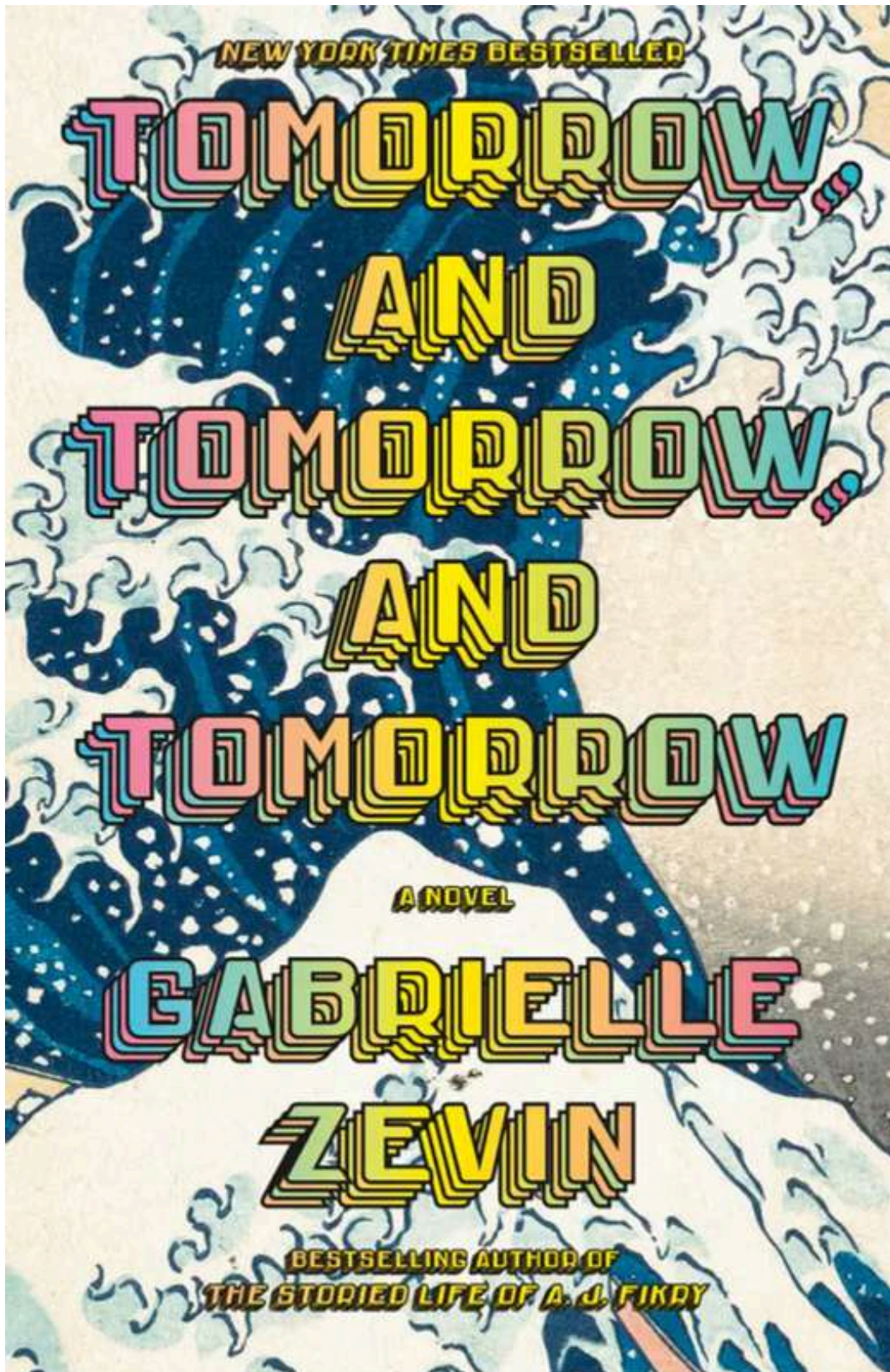


***Almond* by Won-Pyung Sohni**

This story is, in short, about a monster meeting another monster.

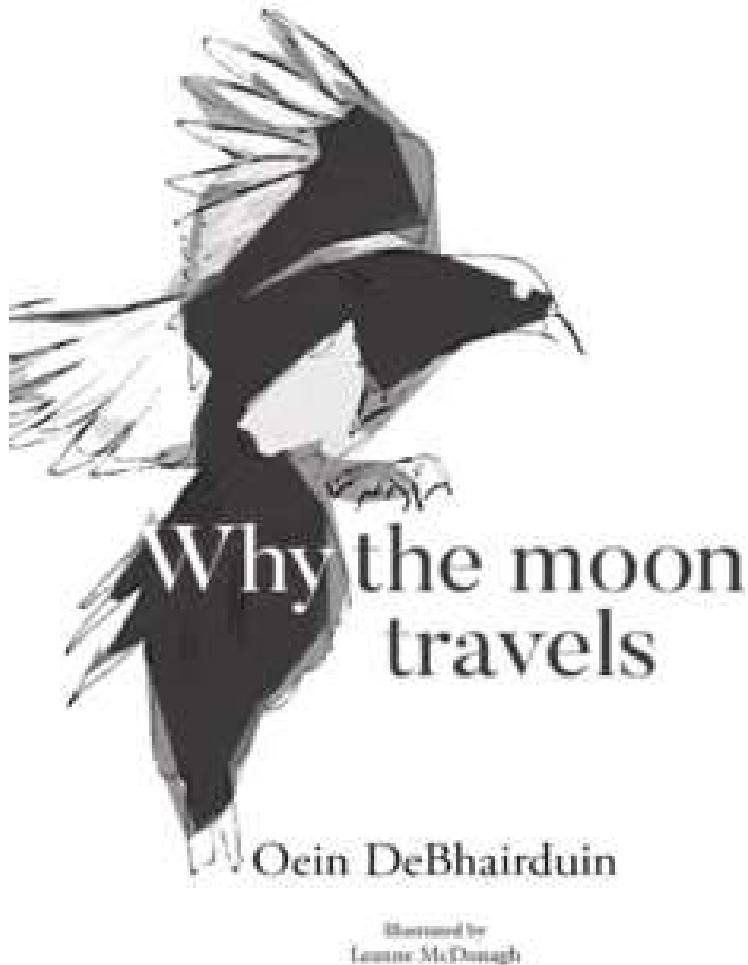
One of the monsters is me.

Yunjae was born with a brain condition called Alexithymia that makes it hard for him to feel emotions like fear or anger. He does not have friends- the two almond-shaped neurons located deep in his brain have seen to that. However, his devoted mother and grandmother aren't confused by his condition. Their little home above his mother's used bookstore is decorated with colorful post-it notes that remind him when to smile, when to say "thank you," and when to laugh. However, on Christmas Eve, Yunjae's sixteenth birthday, everything changes. A shocking act of random violence shatters his world, leaving him alone and on his own...



***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin**

A page turner about two childhood friends, once estranged, who reunite as adults to create video games, finding an intimacy in digital worlds that eludes them in their real lives. A love story for friendship and stories.



***Why The Moon Travels* by Oein DeBharduin**

Why The Moon Travels is a haunting collection of twenty tales rooted in the oral tradition of the Irish Traveller community. Brave vixens, prophetic owls and stalwart horses live alongside the human characters as guides, protectors, friends and foes while spirits, giants and fairies blur the lines between this world and the otherworld. Collected by Oein DeBhairduin throughout his childhood, retold in his lyrical style, and beautifully illustrated by Leanne McDonagh.



The End.
Have a magical
summer!