

# FANTASTIC BOOKS...

## ...AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

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# COLLECTION - A CORE SERVICE

Libraries continue to evolve, but the one thing we've always done is create (and promote) robust print collections for readers.

This is especially important in small, rural communities, where the library is the best (and sometimes only) game in town for books.

Where do we start?

# YOUR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Creates a collection that supports a library's mission
- Explains how the collection is selected - and Deselected
- Provides guidelines to staff for maintaining a collection
- Provides consistent position for library board
- Educates the public

<https://ncls.libguides.com/directors/policies>

# IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO INCLUDE:

- Purpose of the policy
- Scope of collection
- Selection criteria
- Responsibility for collection management
- Deselection (weeding)
- Intellectual Freedom statement
- Request for Reconsideration form
- Donations

# SOME SELECTION CRITERIA TO CONSIDER:

- Reputation and/or authority of author/publisher
- Literary or artistic quality
- Anticipated demand/popular appeal
- Local interest/local creators
- Date of publication
- Cost and availability
- Format/durability
- Relevance to the existing collection

# SELECTION CRITERIA TO NOT CONSIDER:

- The potential for loss
- The potential for controversy

# SELF-CENSORSHIP

If you avoid purchasing materials to avoid causing offense, or withdraw materials for the same reason, that's self-censorship.

If you follow the guidelines set out in your board-approved collection development policy, you will be providing a balanced and diverse collection that will serve your entire community.

# MORE ON BALANCE AND DIVERSITY

- A variety of subjects, genres
- A wide range of backgrounds, viewpoints, and experiences
- Established authors vs. debuts
- Wildly popular vs. Under the radar
- Enduring value (core collection) vs. cultural conversation



# WHAT IS THE CULTURAL CONVERSATION?

What's going on in your community, the country, and the world is infusing the public discourse, and a well-curated library collection is a part of that discourse.

What are people talking about? Hearing about? Curious about?

# WHO SELECTS?

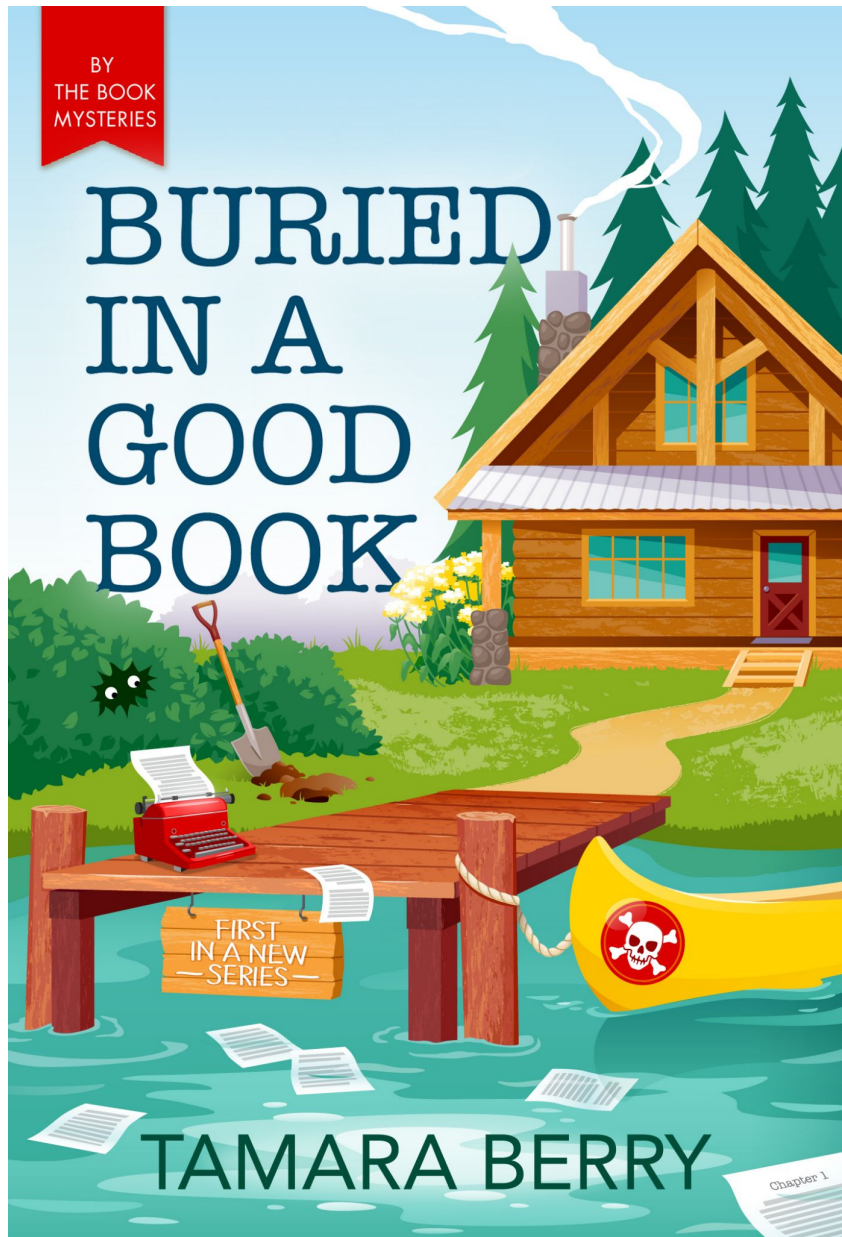
Typically, the library director shares the responsibility of collection management with other staff.

However, many small (and solo) library staffers have to purchase for multiple (or all) genres and age levels.

If you're not an expert in all genres or subjects, don't worry. There are many resources available for selectors.

# FANTASTIC BOOKS!

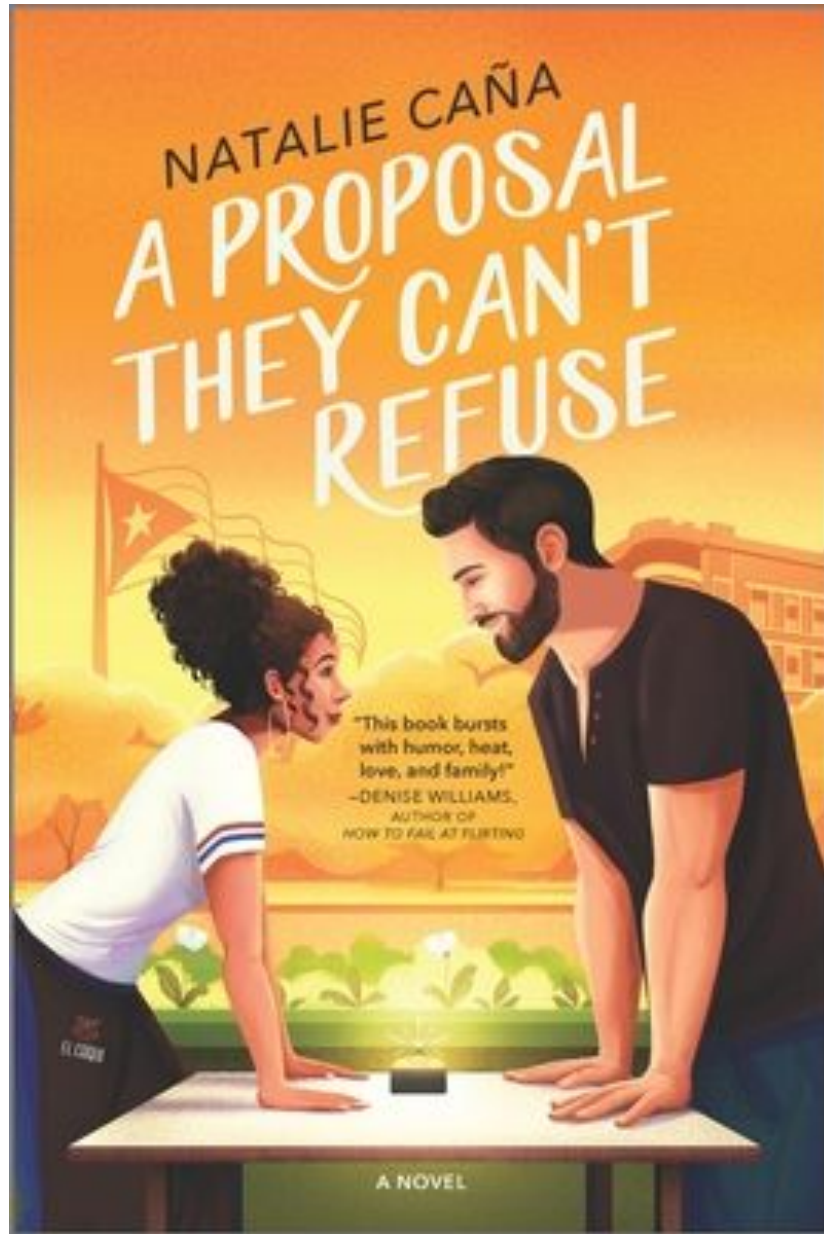
(All descriptions from Goodreads)



Bestselling thriller writer Tess Harrow is almost at the end of her rope when she arrives with her teenage daughter at her grandfather's rustic cabin in the woods. She hopes this will be a time for them to heal and bond after Tess's recent divorce, but they've barely made it through the door when an explosion shakes the cabin. Suddenly it's raining fish guts and...is that a human arm?

- First in a series
- Genre circulates well for my readers
- Positive critical review
- Positive reader reviews
- Works for my budget

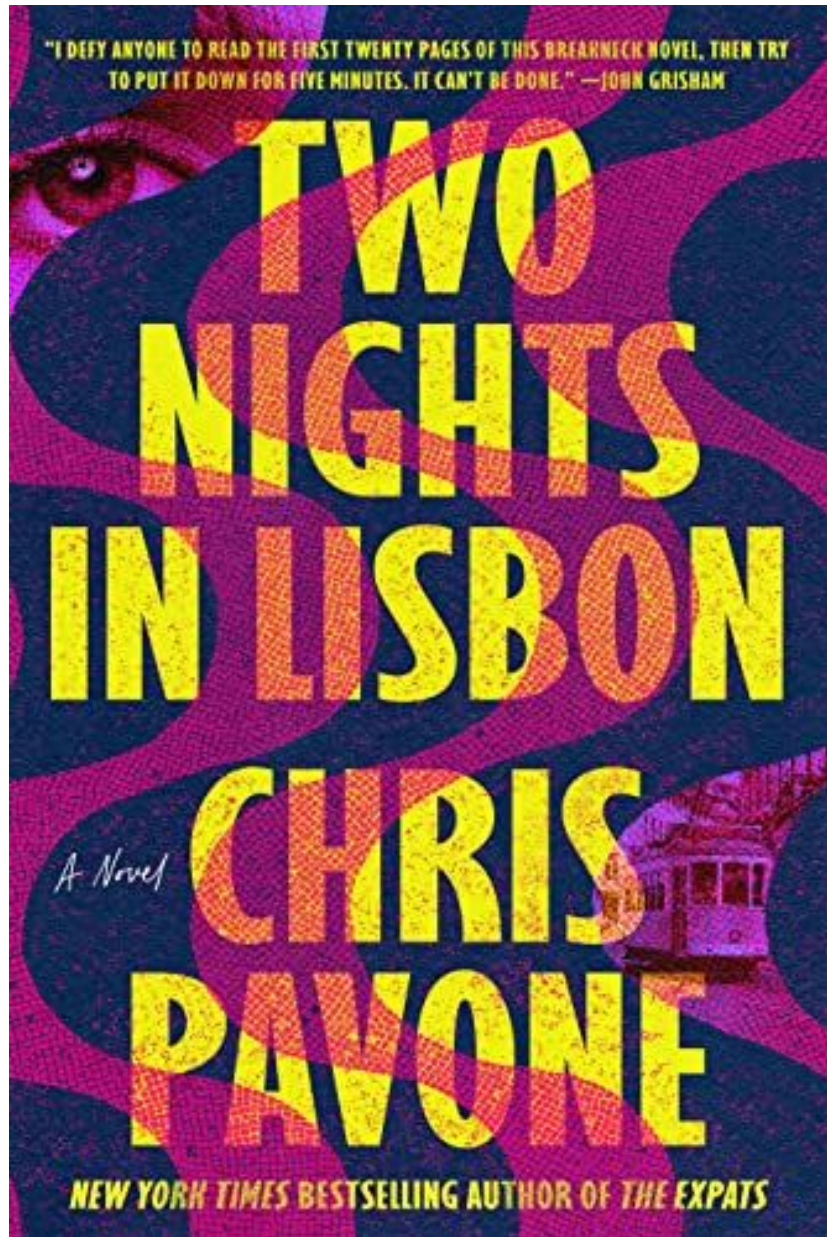
Release date: May 24



Natalie Caña turns up the heat, humor and heart in this debut rom-com about a Puerto Rican chef and an Irish American whiskey distiller forced into a fake engagement by their scheming octogenarian grandfathers.

- Diverse representation
- Positive critical reviews
- Positive reader reviews
- Genre circulates well for my readers
- Works for my budget

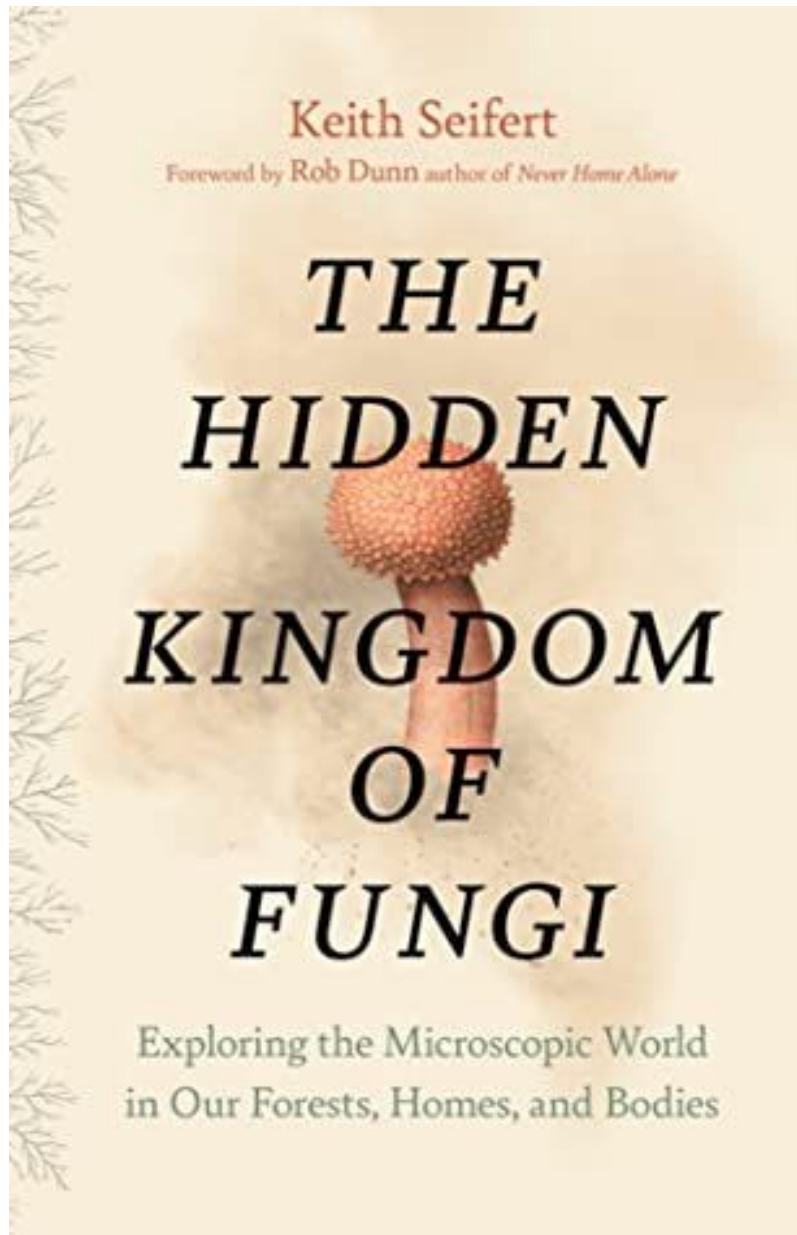
Release date: May 24



Tautly wound and expertly crafted, *Two Nights in Lisbon* is a riveting thriller about a woman under pressure, and how far she will go when everything is on the line.

- Positive critical reviews
- Positive reader reviews
- Genre circulates well for my readers
- Format works for my budget
- Filling an evolving need

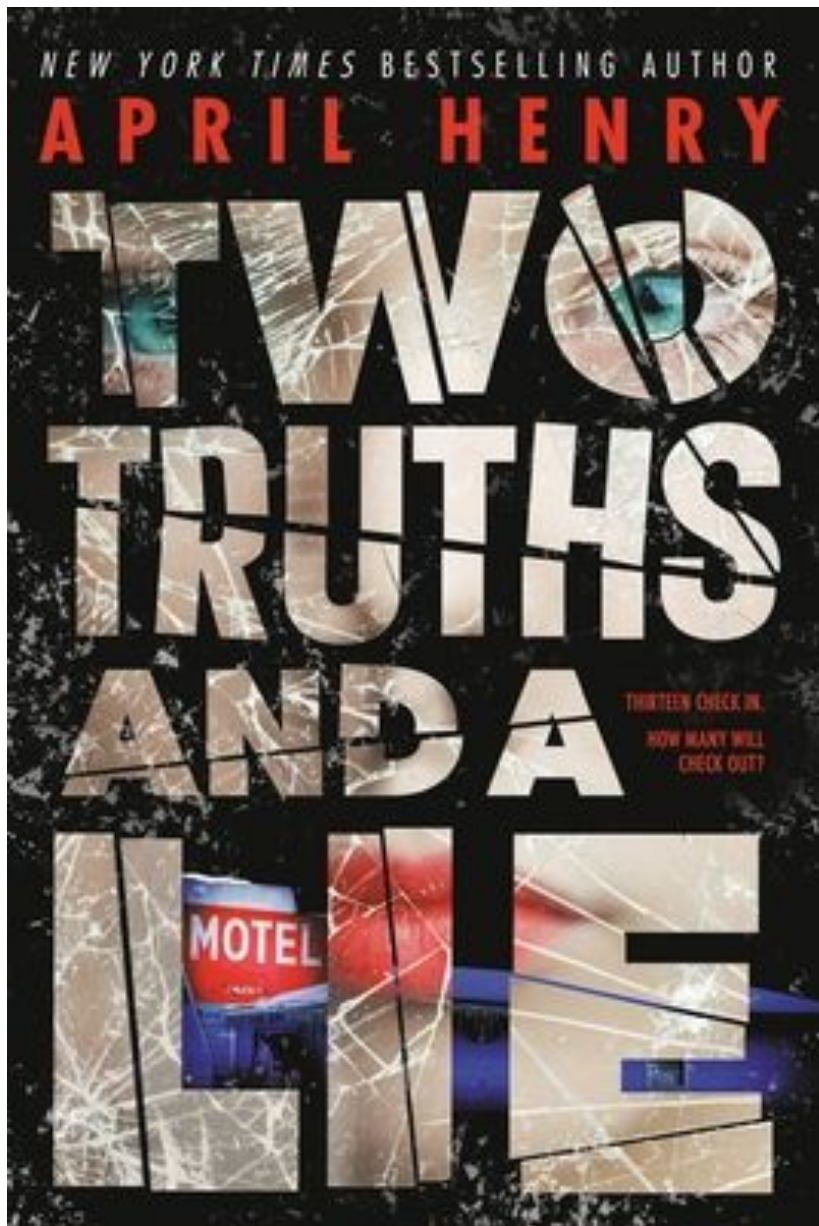
Release date: May 24



The Hidden Kingdom of Fungi traces the intricate connections between fungi and all life on Earth to show how these remarkable microbes enrich our lives: from releasing the carbon in plants for the benefit of all organisms to transmitting information between trees, to producing life-changing medicine, to adding umami flavor and B vitamins to our food.

- Cultural conversation (climate change)
- Fills a gap/under the radar
- Positive critical reviews
- Works for my budget

Release date: May 24

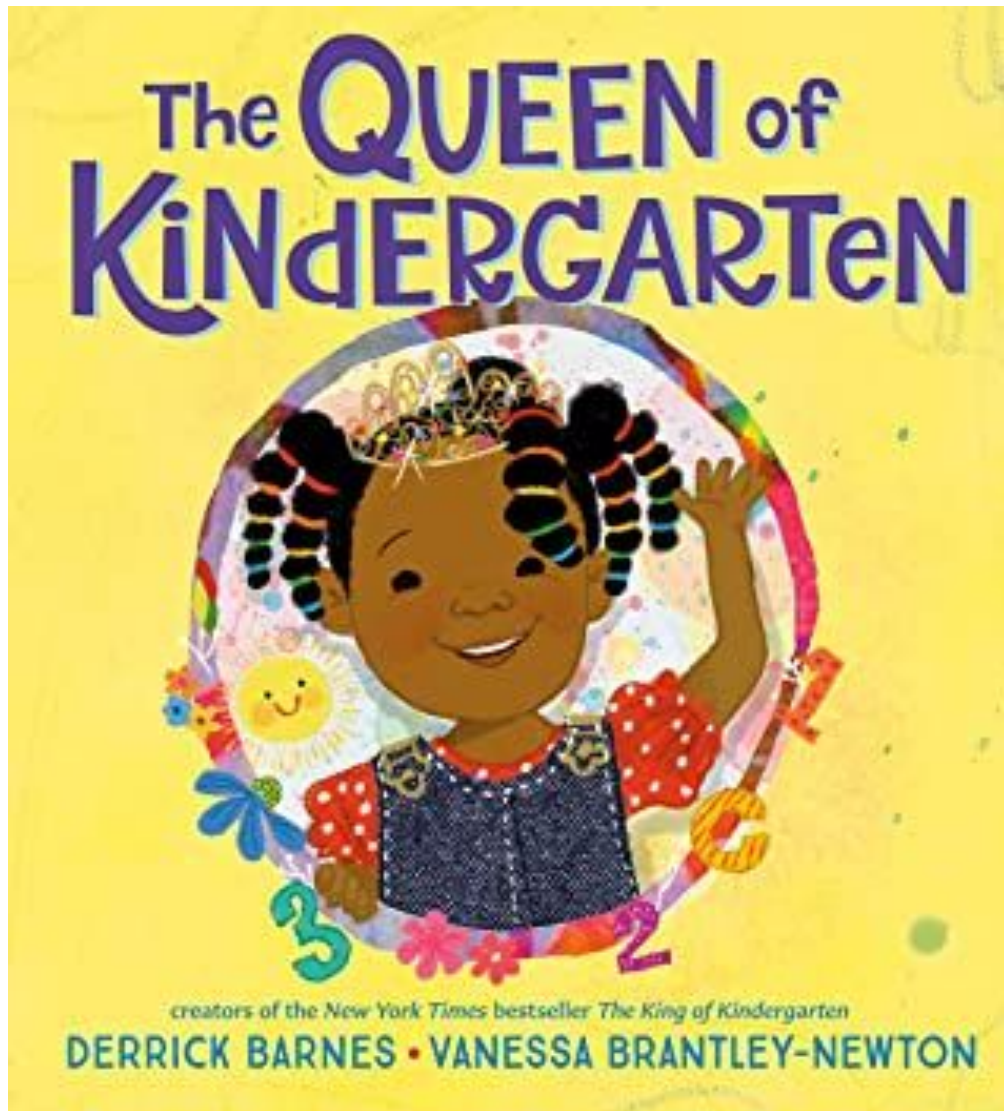


Nell has always wanted to be an actor, but doubts her ability. On the way to a contest, an unexpected blizzard strands her acting troupe in a creepy motel... Suddenly a night of harmless fun turns into a matter of life and death. As guests go missing, it becomes clear that a murderer is hiding in their midst ready to strike again.

- Popular genre
- Fills a gap
- Positive critical review
- Works for my budget

Release date: May 24





MJ is more than ready for her first day of kindergarten! With her hair freshly braided and her mom's special tiara on her head, she knows she's going to rock kindergarten. But the tiara isn't just for show—it also reminds her of all the good things she brings to the classroom, stuff like her kindness, friendliness, and impressive soccer skills, too!

- Award-winning author
- Popular sub-genre (back to school)
- Follow up to popular title
- Positive reader reviews
- Works for my budget

Release date: May 24

# WHERE TO FIND THEM!

**Review sources, awards lists, and more!**

# REVIEWS

- Library Journal
- School Library Journal
- Kirkus Reviews
- Booklist
- BookPage
- Publishers Weekly
- Horn Book
- Goodreads

# MEDIA/POP CULTURE

- Newspapers - NYT, Washington Post, USA Today
- Magazines - Entertainment Weekly, People
- Radio & TV - NPR, PBS, your local affiliates
- Celebrity picks - Oprah, Jenna, Reese, et al.
- Movies and TV tie-ins
- Podcasts

# AWARDS

- Man Booker
- National Book Award
- Carnegie Medals (Fiction and Nonfiction)
- Youth Media Awards (Newbery, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, etc.)
- Edgar, Agatha
- Hugo, Nebula
- Stoker, Shirley Jackson

# LISTS

- LibraryReads
- Bookseller picks – Amazon, IndieNext, Barnes & Noble
- Bookish websites/e-newsletters – Book Riot, The Millions, Shelf Awareness, LitHub, CrimeReads, Fantastic Fiction)
- Holds lists!

# SOCIAL MEDIA TO FOLLOW

- Authors
- Publishers
- Bookstores
- Other libraries

#booktok

#bookstagram

# RELEASE DATES

- Library Journal's Book Pulse – Run Your Week!
- Publishers Weekly On-Sale Calendar
- Kirkus Coming Soon
- Fantastic Fiction Coming Soon
- Free Booklist Webinars



# HOW TO MANAGE?

- RSS feed – blog reader
- Perpetual cart
- Build time for book discovery into your routine

**FREE STUFF!**

**How to handle donations**

**You do not have to add  
everything you are given.**

**Or even anything.**

# CONSIDER:

- Condition (Like new only!)
- Your established selection criteria
- Non-collection uses (book sale, replacements)

# SOME FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM:

- Buy pre-pub – you should have books on the shelves the same day people can buy them (supply chain notwithstanding...)
- Part of the life cycle of your collection is promotion – shine a light on all your fantastic books!
- In order to make room for all these new purchases, **you will have to weed.**

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Check out our Collection Development & RA guide!  
<https://ncls.libguides.com/books>

[ALA Collection Development Tools](#)