

The Short List

What Should I Read Next?

TOP PICKS FOR EVERY TASTE

By Kristyn Kusek Lewis

Powerful Read

Rest and Be Thankful, the achingly beautiful second novel by Emma Glass, is a glimpse into the innermost thoughts of Laura, a pediatric nurse teetering on the edge of burnout. While the story is brief, Glass, who's a practicing nurse herself, convincingly details what it's like to be pushed to exhaustion and still willing to sacrifice anything, possibly even yourself, for your patients.

Gripping Page-Turner

Zara Kaleel is a brilliant London attorney who left her prestigious career to be a case-worker at a sexual assault center. When she takes on a new client, a white teenage girl with facial deformities who's accused four Muslim classmates of rape, Zara finds herself at the center of a high-profile case. A fast-paced courtroom drama, *Take It Back* by Kia Abdullah asks tough questions about race, class, and gender while keeping you guessing until the (truly shocking) last page.

Thought-Provoking Tales

The 10 stories in *To Be a Man* by Nicole Krauss, set in locations around the world, feature some of life's most intimate moments—a young woman discovers her sexual power, a daughter visits her father's home after his death. All the stories explore a central theme: What makes us who we are? They're intriguing, familiar, and ripe for discussion. In other words, they're book-club gold.

You'll Laugh, You'll Cry

Survival of the Thickest, the new memoir by comedian and actor Michelle Buteau, is hilarious—like, snap-a-photo-of-a-page-and-send-it-to-friends funny. But this bracingly honest essay collection, in which Buteau insightfully reflects on everything from her body image to her interracial marriage to her difficult road to motherhood, is ultimately about the brave act of learning to love yourself.

Uplifting Charmer

In teensy Merinac, Kansas, two fried chicken shacks have had a long-standing rivalry. Nobody knows it better than Amanda, who grew up in one restaurant before marrying into the other. When a reality TV competition pits the two—as well as Amanda and her sister, Mae—against each other, the sisters discover that the stakes are much higher than the \$100,000 prize. *The Chicken Sisters* by KJ Dell'Antonia is a delightful look at sibling relationships and the unbreakable bonds of family.

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