

*The Woman They Could Not Silence*

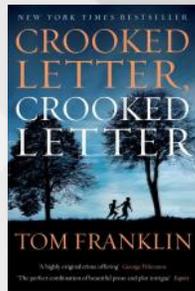
Kate Moore

September 13

1860: Elizabeth Packard, housewife and mother of six, is facing a battle. Her husband of twenty-one years is plotting against her because he feels increasingly threatened by Elizabeth's intellect and independence. One summer morning, he has her committed to an insane asylum.

The conditions are horrific inside the Illinois State Hospital. But most disturbing is that Elizabeth is not the only sane woman in the institution. There are many women on her ward who've been committed not because they need medical treatment, but to keep them in line.

No one is willing to fight for their freedom and they cannot possibly fight for themselves. But Elizabeth is about to discover that the merit of losing everything is that you then have nothing to lose.



*Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*

Tom Franklin

October 11

In the late 1970s, Larry Ott and Silas "32" Jones were boyhood pals. Larry was the child of lower-middle-class white parents, and Silas, the son of a poor, single black mother. Yet for a few months the boys shared a special bond. But then tragedy struck: Larry took a girl on a date and she was never heard from again. She was never found and Larry never confessed, but all eyes rested on him as the culprit. More than twenty years have passed. Larry, a mechanic, lives a solitary existence. Silas has returned as a constable. He and Larry have no reason to cross paths until another girl disappears and Larry is blamed again. And now the two men who once called each other friend are forced to confront the past they've buried and ignored for decades.



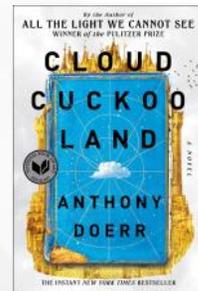
*Something Wicked This Way Comes*

Ray Bradbury

November 1

*Due to the election, we will meet the first Tuesday of November*

For those who still dream and remember, for those yet to experience the hypnotic power of its dark poetry, step inside. The show is about to begin. Cooger & Dark's Pandemonium Shadow Show has come to Green Town, Illinois, to destroy every life touched by its strange and sinister mystery. The carnival rolls in sometime after midnight, ushering in Halloween a week early. A calliope's shrill siren song beckons to all with a seductive promise of dreams and youth regained. Two boys will discover the secret of its smoke, mazes, and mirrors; two friends who will soon know all too well the heavy cost of wishes...and the stuff of nightmares.



*Cloud Cuckoo Land*

Anthony Doerr

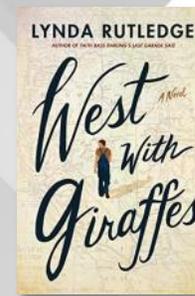
December 13

Constantinople, 1453: An orphaned seamstress and a cursed boy with a love for animals risk everything on opposite sides of a city wall to protect the people they love.

Idaho, 2020: An impoverished, idealistic kid seeks revenge on a world that's crumbling around him. Can he go through with it when a gentle old man stands between him and his plans?

Unknown, Sometime in the Future: With her tiny community in peril, Konstance is the last hope for the human race. To find a way forward, she must look to the oldest stories of all for guidance.

Bound together by a single ancient text, these tales interweave to form a tapestry of solace and resilience and a celebration of storytelling itself.



*West with Giraffes*

Lynda Rutledge

January 10

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Woodrow. This tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, an old man with a past, a young photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.



*All the Children Are Home*

Patry Francis

February 14

When Dahlia decided to become a foster mother, she had a few caveats: no newborns, no delinquents, and above all, no girls. An incident years before left her a virtual prisoner in her own home, forever wary of the heart-break and limitation of a girl's life.

Eleven years after they began fostering, the Moscatellis are raising three children as their own and Dahlia and Louie consider their family complete, but when the social worker begs them to take a young girl who has been horrifically abused and neglected, they can't say no.

Six-year-old Agnes Juniper arrives with no knowledge of her Native American heritage. Before long, this stranger in their midst has strengthened the bond in this unusual family, showing them how to contend with outside forces that want to tear them apart.