

Hi, Best Friend 🐾

We are pronouncing that fall is officially here! Goodbye summer, hello sweaters, pumpkins and spooky-ooky reads galore. We're so inspired by the season, and we have some fun recent blog posts that are sure to put you in the Autumnal spirit!

Pick A Coffee And We'll Give You A Book To Read

sips International Coffee Day is Oct. 1, and what's better than a grabbing a coffee and pairing with a good book?



First things first: Is it really fall if you haven't grabbed a coffee to pair with your current read? Take our BuzzFeed [quiz](#) to find out which book pairs well with the coffee of your choosing! And you can check out the full blog post [here](#).



Anyone else looking at their TBRs with anxiety as the end of the year approaches? Something about graphic novels and comic books are really great to help reset when you're in a reading slump. [Read more](#) to check out some of the Books Forward staff's favs!



You can't say nonfiction is boring when you're picking up one of these unbelievable reads! These reads will have you on the edge of your seat like any good thriller would – except these are all real. Check out the full list [here](#)!

And don't forget to check out our October highlighted titles! With Halloween on the horizon, we had to feature some thrilling new reads to match the season. From mystery to murder and everything in between, one of these suspenseful picks will get you in the spooky spirit!

— The Books Forward team

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



"They're Gone"

BY E.A. BARRES (E.A. AYMAR)

Two men from vastly different backgrounds are murdered one after another on the same night, in the same fashion: one bullet in the head, another in the heart. The two slayings sends their wives on a desperate search for answers — and a desperate attempt to save their families' lives. Grief takes a heavy toll on northern Virginia freelance editor Deb Linh Thomas when she learns of her husband's murder. But Baltimore bartender Cessy Castillo is less bereft when her abusive husband, ex-cop Hector Ramirez, is killed. But it turns out he was deep in hock — and now Cessy's expected to pay up. As Deb joins forces with Cessy, their investigation reveals an ever-darker web of clues, but if they're not careful, they may just end up like their husbands.

"Watch Her"

BY EDWIN HILL

Harvard librarian Hester Thursby becomes enmeshed with a powerful Boston family desperate to keep their deepest secrets from coming to light. And the more Hester and Detective Angela White investigate the break-in at the home of the Matsons, owners of the prestigious Prescott University, the less they believe, leaving Hester to unravel the lies. Between financial transgressions, a long-ago tragedy, and rumors of infidelity, it's clear the Matsons aren't immune to scandal or mishap. But when one of the missing students turns up dead, the mystery takes on new urgency. Hester is edging closer to the truth, but as a decades-old secret collides with new lies, a killer grows more determined to keep the past buried with the dead.



"Should Grace Fail"

BY PRISCILLA PATON

Staying alive depends on knowing whom to trust and when to run. When a man who saves lives has his own brutally taken, Detectives Erik Jansson and Deb Metzger have their empathy and their wariness pushed to the limit. The murdered man rescued trafficked teen addicts from a crime boss, but he was also an alcoholic who left the police force under suspicion. Is his murderer a drug dealer, a pimp, a corrupt police colleague, all of the above? Or could the killer be a victim who lashed out at her savior? To solve the case, blunt Deb has to insinuate herself with the hotel matriarch. Reserved Erik needs to earn the trust of wrongfully accused teens. If they don't catch the killer, the best friend and the pianist are as good as dead.



And we have so many other awesome titles available for selection this month! Check out the links below and fill out the forms for the books you're interested in receiving. Forms will close **October 11**, so make sure to get your requests in by then!

[HISTORICAL FICTION](#)
[MIDDLE GRADE](#)
[MYSTERY/THRILLER](#)
[SHORT STORIES](#)

[WOMEN'S FICTION](#)
[MEMOIRS](#)
[NONFICTION](#)
[SCI-FI/FANTASY](#)

FEATURED FRIENDS

For the month of October, we're super excited to feature two #BooksForwardFriends who are BFFs themselves! Read more about @caseythereader and @shelfmadewoman!



1. How did y'all first connect?

Casey: Hmm, I can't remember exactly! I do remember when Kati changed her Instagram username to @shelfmadewoman and I thought, "This person seems clever and kind and I will make her my friend," and somehow I did get her to be friends with me!

Kati: We connected on bookstagram! I'm almost certain I started following Casey because she's a fellow LGBTQIA+ community member!

2. Have you ever had a big disagreement over a book?

Casey: I wouldn't call it a big disagreement, but I loved "Disappearing Earth" by Julia Phillips and I know Kati did not! I think it was a case of expectations, though, I maybe hyped it up too much!

Kati: I don't think we've ever been at each other's necks about a book... but I know Casey liked "Disappearing Earth" and I didn't. We're both too polite to yuck the other's yum. I think her words were "aw, that's too bad, I really liked that one."

3. If your BFF was a book, what book would they be?

Casey: I think Kati might be "Juliet Takes A Breath" by Gabby Rivera. Joyful, smart, loving, and always willing to learn more and grow.

Kati: Ooooh! Casey would be a Talia Hibbert book (I'm thinking "Take A Hint, Dani Brown") because they are both queer, thoughtful, and make me feel happy and safe.

4. If you could make your BFF read ONE book, what would it be?

Casey: This is hard because she's already read all the ones that immediately come to mind! I think I would have to choose "The Stars and the Blackness Between Them" by Junauda Petrus. It's queer YA and so beautiful and real and heartfelt – I think Kati would like it (pack tissues though, Kati, it's sad).

Kati: This one is hard! I think I'd make her read "A Court of Wings and Ruin" because we both keep putting it off and we just need to read it together already!!

5. What's one book that your BFF has recommended that had an impact on your life?

Casey: "Freshwater" by Akwaeke Emezi. It struck me so deeply and I still think all the time about what it has to say about identity and mental health. I also had to immediately go out and read Emezi's other books, and they are now one of my all time favorite authors.

Kati: I have a bout 1 million books on my shelves that Casey has recommended and that I still need to read!! But she definitely influenced me to read both "Patsy" and "Juliet Takes A Breath," which were both brilliant and I consider to be very important to me.

6. If your BFF could meet one author, who would it be? Would they be starstruck or totally cool?

Casey: If Kati were to meet T. Kira Madden I think she would pass out from happiness!

Kati: Casey and I both see authors fairly often... but I think we would both be starstruck to meet Akwaeke Emezi. Their books are so amazing, I may or may not have screamed when I finally saw Casey reading Freshwater this year!!!

7. What's the best advice your BFF has ever given you?

Casey: Kati is a wonderful mental health advocate, and I have learned so much from her. I think the best advice I've taken from her is to practice speaking openly about your mental health. The more we work to take away the stigma around having mental health issues, the more people will feel safe and supported in getting the help they need.

Kati: Casey is the BEST at giving advice. She's great at being objective and encouraging at the same time. Without being too specific, she's basically told me to get up, dust off, and try again when I've felt like I've failed. She holds me accountable but gives me space to make mistakes as a person.

Want you and your friend to be a featured BFF? Email ellen@booksforward.com for more info.

FEATURED POSTS



@themagicalpages



@pages.for.sanity

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6

Willa Goodfellow will talk about her road to recovery and her book "Prozac Monologues" in a virtual event hosted by NAMI Central Oregon at 9 p.m. EDT/6 p.m. PDT.
https://www.facebook.com/events/782641029164945/?active_tab=discussion

Frank Thoms reads from and discusses his new book "Behind the Red Veil" with Tidepool Bookshop at 7:30 p.m. EDT/4:30 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.tidepoolbookshop.com/event/frank-thoms-behind-red-veil>

October 7

Nicola's Books hosts a cozy author panel (grab your fav coffee or tea) with **Debra H. Goldstein**, Molly Macrae and Vickie Fee at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.nicolasbooks.com/event/cozy-mysteries-coffee-author-panel>

In this Evening with the Authors, **Nancy Burke** and **Jenny Milchman** hold a conversation for Watching Booksellers at 7:30 p.m. EDT/4:30 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/burning/register>

Jenny Milchman discusses "The Second Mother" in a virtual event for Mysterious Galaxy at 10 p.m. EDT/7 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.mystgalaxy.com/event/virtual-event-jenny-milchman-discussing-second-mother>

October 8

The Boulder Bookstore hosts a Mystery Authors Panel featuring **Debra H. Goldstein**, Scott Graham, Cynthia Kuhn, Margaret Mizushima, and Becky Clark at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.boulderbookstore.net/event/mystery-authors-panel>

October 9

Jenny Milchman celebrates her new book, "The Second Mother," with a discussion with NYT bestseller Cynthia Swanson for Old Firehouse Books at 8 p.m. EDT/5 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/event-with-jenny-milchman-for-the-second-mother-tickets-122116448585>

Debra H. Goldstein joins mystery authors Becky Clark, Cynthia Kuhn, Scott Graham, and Margaret Mizushima for a Facebook Live event with Murder by the Books at 8 p.m. EDT/5 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.murderbooks.com/goldstein>

October 14

Join the Dark Thrills and Sweet Chills Happy Hour at the Fox Cities Book Festival with **E.A. Barres (E.A. Aymar)**, Jennifer Hillier, and Andrea Bartz at 9 p.m. EDT/6 p.m. PDT.
<https://foxcitiesbookfestival.org/event/dark-thrills-and-sweet-chills-happy-hour-with-thriller-writers-jennifer-hillier-andrea-bartz-and-e-a-aymar/>

October 19

Debra H. Goldstein joins mystery authors Kelly Oliver and Maddie Day for a virtual event with Novel at 7 p.m. EDT/4 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.murderbooks.com/goldstein>

October 22

Join **Margaret Ghielmetti** in conversation with Patricia Ann McNair for an event with City Lit Books at 7:30 p.m. EDT/4:30 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.citylitbooks.com/event/virtual-author-event-braveish-margaret%26Aodavis-ghielmetti-conversation-patricia-ann-mcnair>

October 24

Donna O'Donnell Figurski joins Brain Injury Alliance Arizona for a Coffee with the Authors event at 1:30 p.m. EDT/10:30 a.m. PDT.
<https://www.biaaz.org/event/coffee-with-the-authors-10-24/>

October 25

E.A. Barres (E.A. Aymar) joins Alex Segura and Rea Frey to discuss "Book Marketing During A Pandemic" with The Ivy Bookshop at 6:30 p.m. EDT/3:30 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.theivybookshop.com/upcomingevent/17098>

October 26

E.A. Barres (E.A. Aymar) joins Greer Macallister and Bethanne Patrick to talk "Writing Outside of Books" for with the Fairfax Country Library at 7 p.m. EDT/4 P.M. PDT.
<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7079849?k=621086d03e76ab19907aa19b9e5f0a5d>

October 29

Tori Eldridge to discuss "The Ninja's Blade" while in conversation with Meg Gardiner for BookPeople at 8 p.m. EDT/5 p.m. PDT.
<https://www.bookpeople.com/event/virtual-event-tori-eldridge-ninjas-blade>

Jenny Milchman is interviewed by Elaine Viets in this event with Murder on the Beach at 5 p.m. EDT/2 p.m. PDT.
<https://murderonthebeach.com/upcoming-events-2/>



BFFs is an inclusive program that celebrates and uplifts authors and influencers from all backgrounds. Members agree and understand that any hate, racism, violence or bigotry will not be tolerated. Our BFFs are changemakers that have a real, positive influence on our world.

Got questions? Check out our complete BFFs FAQ [here!](#)

Don't see the answer to your question, or just want to geek out with us? Visit booksforward.com/bffs or email our BFFs ambassador, senior publicist Ellen Whitfield, at ellen@booksforward.com.