

Belgravia

By Julian Fellowes

Starts off at the battle of Waterloo and moves ahead from there for about 30-40 years. Wonderful social conflicts, who's going to inherit, class issues, etc. There's a fantastic hook that you have no idea was going to come. So good at describing everything.

The Universe Versus Alex Woods

By Gavin Extence

About an 11-year-old boy who gets hit in the head by a meteor. Ends up in a coma for two weeks. He's incredibly bright but very literal. It's all told from his perspective. Really odd but brilliant. He ends up hiding in a shed running from bullies and becomes friends with the owner. You'll laugh, cry, and love the characters.

Dead Wake

By Eric Larsen

About the sinking of the Lusitania. Non-fiction but told like a story. 1915 – a big cruise ship sunk by the German U-boats. A lot of it is following a German U-boat pilot who became well respected by the Germans because he was such a marksman and strategist. The Lusitania had been considered 100% safe – they thought the Germans would only shoot at warships and the route the ship was taking. Loved the history and storytelling and I couldn't put it down.

Unintended Consequences the United States at War

By Kenneth J. Hagan and Ian J. Pickerton

Presenting the premise that all the wars we have participated in have had unintended consequences. "Stunningly, Unintended Consequences contends that the vast majority of wars launched by the United States were unnecessary, avoidable, and catastrophically unpredictable. In a stark challenge to accepted scholarship, the authors show that the wars' unintended consequences far outweighed the initial calculated goals, and thus forced cataclysmic shifts in American domestic and foreign policy."

Heart-shaped Box

By Joe Hill

Really violent – very weird story but thought it was very well written. There's an old death metal musician – he sees an ad offering to sell someone's grandfather's ghost for \$1,000.00. Buys it and receives a metal box with the soul. The ghost stalks him relentlessly. Very interesting novel with a redemptive ending. It was fun to read.

Presumption of Guilt

By Archer Mayor

Author of a series of books based on Joe Gunther who works for the state with a small group that deals with the most puzzling of crimes. Centered in Brattleboro Vermont. Most recent one in the series. First chapter was set in Vernon, where there is a nuclear power plant. Right on in the descriptions of the area. The connection between the building of the plant, the discovery of a body buried under the cement 30 years before. Atmosphere great, problem is fascinating.

The Waters of Eternal Youth

by Donna Leon

Really an incredible book. Just discovered it.

The Hummingbird
by Stephen Kiernan

Main character is a hospice nurse- as her patient is dying he's helping her with her husband (Subtly) who has PTSD after three tours overseas. Very insightful as the two characters communicate with each other.

Absalom's Daughters
by Suzanne Feldman

Kind of a coming of age girl story. Two half sisters who didn't know they were half sisters for a while. They end up getting in this junk car and set off through the south in the 50's. A lot of fun and light.

The Translation of Love
by Lynne Kutsukake

Amazing book about that period where everyone was put into camps, and then they had a choice at some point to go back to Japan or move somewhere east of the rocky mountains. Her family chooses to go back to Tokyo, which is war devastated. Really kept me turning the pages.