

August 2025

Illuminated Stacks

The official newsletter of the Stoneham Public Library

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street Stoneham, MA 02180

[Please note our reduced operating hours:](#)

Adult Services | (781) 438-1324

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 9 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

Children's Services | (781) 438-1325

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 7 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

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[Click here to visit our website!](#)

Follow us on social media:



"Every day we should hear at least one little song, read one good poem, see one exquisite picture, and, if possible, speak a few sensible words."



-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The Month at a Glance



The Trustees of the Library

Will meet at 7 PM on Monday, August 11th, in the Stoneham Room. A hybrid option is also available. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment or listen to the proceedings.

If you are interested in view the meeting virtually, use the following link to join: <https://bit.ly/SPLTrustees> or call in at +1 (646) 931-3860.

Meeting ID: 876 9866 6972

Passcode: 823496

[Click here to learn more about our Trustees,](#)
[as well as to view minutes from past meetings.](#)

Stoneham Public Library's Newest Podcast: *She's Got a Book for Every Situation*

If you like to listen to podcasts, you'll be glad to hear that another one of our librarians, Anna Powers, has started a podcast, *She's Got a Book for Every Situation*, where she discusses one of her favorite things: books! Tune in to hear all about her latest reads. [You can watch the first episode on Youtube by clicking here.](#)



Kill-A-Watt Meter

Do you have an appliance or two that might be running up your electric bill? Need help making more economical decisions about what you keep plugged in? If so, you'll want to check out N S T A R ' s [Kill-A-Watt Meter from our Library of Things](#). With this device, you can kill some unnecessary watts, and save some energy (and money)!



Paddle Boston Pass

Paddle Boston Passes are back! With this pass, you can rent a paddle boat, kayak, or canoe for a 10% discount at several locations in eastern Massachusetts from summertime through mid-October (weather permitting).



Please note that this pass must be picked up at and returned to the Stoneham Public Library. Also, it is **not valid for Fourth of July Fireworks Rentals or any other special event or activity.**

[Click here to visit the Paddle Boston website](#), which has site listings and information about rental rates.

[Click here to check pass availability, and to make a reservation](#) (via the Stoneham Public Library's website).

Adult Services

Summer Reading Guide

The images in this section are hyperlinked. Click on each image to be directed to a curated list of those titles in our catalogue!



STONEHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY'S

Summer Reading Guide 2025



Scan this code to
access these books in
our catalog!





♦ **The Names,**
Florence Knapp

♦ **The Original Daughter,**
Jeremiah Wei

♦ **The View From Lake Como,**
Adriana Trigiani

♦ **Three Days in June,**
Anne Tyler

♦ **Food Person,**
Adam Roberts

♦ **Story She Left Behind,**
Patti Callahan Henry

♦ **Harlem Rhapsody,**
Victoria Christopher Murray

♦ **The Emperor of Gladness,**
Ocean Vuong

♦ **The Stolen Queen,**
Fiona Davis

♦ **Happy Land,**
Dolen Perkins-Valdez

♦ **Let's Call Her Barbie,**
Renee Rosen

♦ **Homeseeking,**
Karissa Chen



★ Non-Fiction



★ **Original Sin,**
Jake Tapper & Alex Thompson

★ **Empire of AI,**
Karen Hao

★ **Murderland,**
Caroline Fraser

★ **The Raider,**
Stephen R. Platt

★ **Everything is Tuberculosis,**
John Green

★ **The Book of Alchemy,**
Suleika Jaouad

★ **Sucker Punch,**
Scaachi Koul

★ **John & Paul,**
Ian Leslie

★ **The Wager**
David Grann

★ **The Divorce Colony,**
April White

★ **The Art Spy,**
Michelle Young

★ **We Can Do Hard Things,**
Abby Wambach, Amanda Doyle,
Glennon Doyle



Mystery



✦ **This is Not a Game,**
Kelly Mullen

✦ **Famous Last Words,**
Gillian McAllister

✦ **The Missing Half,**
Ashley Flowers

✦ **This Book Will Bury Me,**
Ashley Winstead

✦ **With a Vengeance,**
Riley Sager

✦ **The Tenant,**
Freida McFadden

✦ **The Note,**
Alafair Burke

✦ **The Woman in Suite 11,**
Ruth Ware

✦ **Don't Let Him In,**
Lisa Jewell

✦ **It Happened on the Lake,**
Lisa Jackson

✦ **The Perfect Divorce,**
Jeneva Rose

✦ **Coram House,**
Bailey Seybolt



Romance



✦ **Dream On, Ramona Riley,**
Ashley Herring Blake

✦ **Great Big Beautiful Life,**
Emily Henry

✦ **Say You'll Remember Me,**
Abby Jimenez

✦ **One Golden Summer,**
Carley Fortune

✦ **Swept Away,**
Beth O'Leary

✦ **Cover Story,**
Celia Laskey

✦ **Summer in the City,**
Alex Aster

✦ **Sounds Like Love,**
Ashley Poston

✦ **Atmosphere,**
Taylor Jenkins Reid

✦ **Earl Crush,**
Alexandra Vasti

✦ **Problematic Summer
Romance,** Ali Hazelwood

✦ **The Love Haters,**
Katherine Center

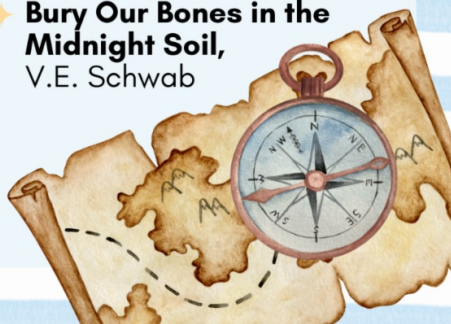


Fantasy & Sci-Fi



- ♦ **The Sirens,**
Emilia Hart
- ♦ **The Bewitching**
Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- ♦ **The Sun Blessed Prince,**
Lindsey Byrd
- ♦ **Gifted & Talented,**
Olivie Blake
- ♦ **The Raven Scholar,**
Antonia Hodgson
- ♦ **City of All Seasons,**
Oliver K. Langmead & Aliya Whiteley
- ♦ **When We Were Real,**
Daryl Gregory

- ♦ **Where the Axe Is Buried,**
Ray Nayler
- ♦ **The Ephemera Collector,**
Stacy Nathaniel Jackson
- ♦ **The Amalfi Curse,**
Sarah Penner
- ♦ **Terrestrial History,**
Joe Mungo Reed
- ♦ **Bury Our Bones in the
Midnight Soil,**
V.E. Schwab



Mondays

Flow Yoga Summer Series Every Monday @ 11 am The Teen Zone

Join Sheila Kelley for a summer series of flow yoga, sponsored by the [Friends of Stoneham Library](#)!* Happening every Monday morning at 11am, for six weeks, starting July 14th and ending August 18th. Please bring your own mat.

YOGA FLOW



Registration is required. Click the hyperlinks below to be directed to the registration page for each session:

[August 4th](#) | [August 11th](#) | [August 18th](#)

*These classes were made possible with contributions to the [Friends of Stoneham Library](#) by patrons like you. To help keep programs like these available, consider making a \$10 donation to the Friends.

Monday Night Book Group

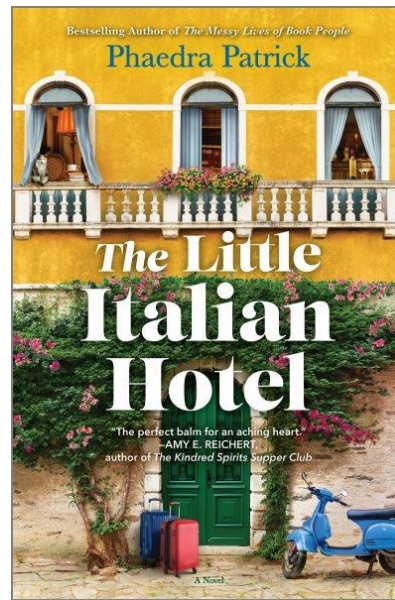
August 25th @ 7 pm

The Stoneham Room

This month's selection is [The Little Italian Hotel](#) by Phaedra Patrick.

The group always looks forward to welcoming new members to the conversation. Registration not required.

For information, contact Maureen:
saltzman@noblenet.org.



Gentle Yoga Summer Series

Every Monday @ 7 pm

The Teen Zone

Join Joanna Palermo for a summer series of gentle yoga, sponsored by the [Friends of Stoneham Library](#)! *Happening every Monday night at 7pm, for six weeks, starting July 14th and ending August 18th. Bring your own mat.



Registration is required. Click the hyperlinks below to be directed to the registration page for each session:

[August 4th](#) | [August 11th](#) | [August 18th](#)

*These classes were made possible with contributions to the [Friends of Stoneham Library](#) by patrons like you. To help keep programs like these available, consider making a \$10 donation to the Friends.

Wednesdays

Documentary Wow! Discussion

LA 92 (2017)

August 6th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *Wait for Your Laugh* (2017). [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Film Club Discussion

A Real Pain (2024)

August 20th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *A Real Pain* (2024). Dave will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Thursdays

Chess Club for Adults

Every Thursday @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room OR
The Teen Zone



Are you interested in learning how to play chess? Looking for something new and fun to do? Do you like to play chess, but don't have anyone to play with? Chess players of all kinds -- beginners and experts, casual and serious -- are welcome to attend the Stoneham Public Library's Chess Club for Adults! This is a drop-in style program, and takes place every Thursday at 7 P. M in either the Stoneham Room or the Teen Zone. While chess boards will be provided, players are encouraged to bring their own. Chess clocks will also be available.

No registration required. Age demographic is for individuals who are 18 years or older. See [our calendar](#) or our programming board in the library lobby for each evening's location.

Contact Matthew:
msowyrda@noblenet.org
781-438-1324

Chess Club Drop-in

Every Thursday @ 7 pm

The Stoneham Room OR
The Teen Zone

This drop-in program is for anyone looking to play chess with others. **There will not be a staff member leading the meeting.** Meetings will take place at 7pm on every Thursday of the month in the Marcy Room, except the Thursday on which Chess Club for Adults is held. While some chess boards will be provided, players are also encouraged to bring their own boards.



No registration required. Age demographic is for individuals who are 18 years or older. See [our calendar](#) or our programming board in the library lobby for each evening's location.

Contact Matthew:
msowyrda@noblenet.org
781-438-1324

Embroidery with YuChin

August 14th @ 7 pm
The Teen Zone



"Embroidery with YuChin" is a monthly workshop held at the Stoneham Library. The 1.5 hour event takes place from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month (though the date may change due to holiday or weather conditions). Since its inception in October 2024, many members have found it a source of fun and joy. Beginner and new members are encouraged to join, with hours for new members from 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. [Registration is required.](#)

Age limit: 15 and older.

Please stop by to learn more about embroidery. Note: Materials are not provided for this program. Do not attend the workshop if you're experiencing any sick symptoms.

The Enchanted Pages Society

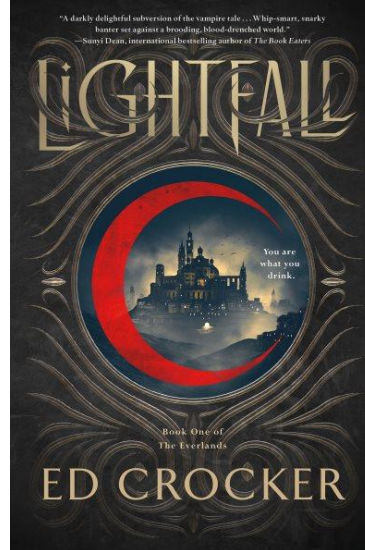
Reads: [Lightfall by Ed Crocker](#)

August 28th @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

Join our newest book club, The Enchanted Pages Society, where fantasy lovers unite to explore magical worlds and unforgettable adventures. Dive into spellbinding books, discuss captivating plots, and connect with fellow readers! We meet on the last Thursday of the month! Pick up a copy of this month's title, [*Lightfall* by Ed Crocker](#), at the main circulation desk. **Registration is required. People ages 16 and up are welcome.**

[Click here to learn more about this title, and to register for this program.](#)

Questions? Contact Anna:
apowers@noblenet.org.



Fridays

Documentary Wow!

Screening
LA 92 (2017)

August 1st @ 1 pm
The Stoneham Room

This month's selection is *LA 92* (2017).

"Twenty-five years after the verdict in the Rodney King trial sparked several days of protests, violence and looting in Los Angeles, filmmakers examine that tumultuous period through rarely seen archival footage."



All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. Due to budget cuts, we can no longer provide snacks. See Dave's review of the documentary in the Staff Reviews section below.

Rated: R | Run Time: 1h 54m | Genres: Documentary, Crime, History | Directed by: Daniel Lindsay, T.J. Martin | Starring: Henry Alfaro, Danny Bakewell, John D. Barnett

Friday Movie Matinee

A Real Pain (2024)

August 15th @ 1 pm
The Stoneham Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *A Real Pain* (2024).

Mismatched cousins reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother, but their old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required.

Due to budget cuts, we will no longer be able to provide snacks. See Dave's review of the film in the Staff Reviews section below.



Rated: R | Run Time: 1h 30m | Genres: Comedy, Drama |
Directed by: Jesse Eisenberg | Written by: Jesse Eisenberg |
Starring: Kieran Culkin, Jesse Eisenberg, Olha Bosova

Special Programs

Author Talk with Jay Falk

Tuesday, August 5th @ 2 pm (Virtual)*



Smithsonian

Delve into the fascinating world of birds through astonishing photography and clear explanations in this absorbing global guide, [*The Bird Book: The Stories, Science, and History of Birds*](#).

Birds are dinosaurs with a history going back millions of years. Our fascination with them runs deep in history, and our close association is

reflected in creation stories, myths, legends, songs, and children's stories.

Packed with information, beautiful photography, and illustrations, *The Bird Book* is a must-have for nature enthusiasts.

Dr. Jay Jinsing Falk is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the [Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute](#) and the [University of Colorado](#). He is an evolutionary biologist and behavioral ecologist fascinated by

the diversity that can be found within species, especially in sexual traits. During his PhD, he began studying [White-necked Jacobin hummingbirds](#) as a STRI Short-Term Fellow, and later as a Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow. His findings, that some females of this species look like males while others do not, has become the cornerstone of his research program. He is inspired by the dizzying array of feather coloration that can be found in hummingbirds. After completing his PhD at [Cornell University](#), he moved to the [University of Washington](#) to study hummingbird movement and metabolism. Now at the University of Colorado, he is investigating the genetics and development of feather coloration. Jay currently lives in Gamboa, Panamá, where he studies the hummingbirds that visit the feeders at his house on the edge of the forest.

[Registration is required for this program; click here to register.](#)

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM. See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

Author Talk with Casey McQuiston

Wednesday, August 20th @ 7 pm (Virtual)*

Bring an appetite for sizzling drama as we discuss New York Times bestselling author Casey McQuiston's latest romantic comedy, [The Pairing](#).



Casey McQuiston is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of romantic comedies, including *One Last Stop*, *Red, White & Royal Blue*, *I Kissed Shara Wheeler*, and *The Pairing*. *Red, White & Royal Blue* was adapted into a movie in 2023 and released on Amazon Prime. Casey was recently named on the 2022 *Time100 Next List*. Their writing has appeared in [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [Bon Appetit](#). Born and raised in southern Louisiana, Casey now lives in New York City with a poodle mix named Pepper.

[Click here to register for the program.](#)

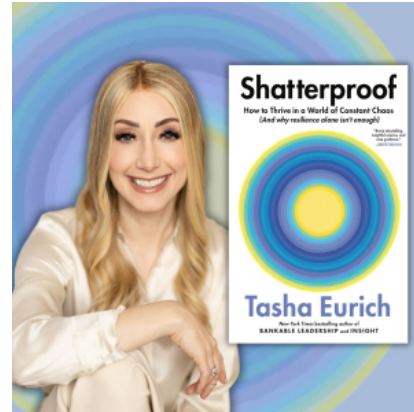
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calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

Author Talk with Tasha Eurich

Thursday, August 28th @ 2 pm (Virtual)*

Learn how to master the daily grind and become shatterproof in a tumultuous world with key insights by [Dr. Tasha Eurich](#) as she talks about her newest book, *[Shatterproof: How to Thrive in a World of Constant Chaos \(And why resilience alone isn't enough\)](#)*.



Are you working too much but feel like it's never enough? Have you turned the act of pretending you're "fine" into an art form? Does self-care feel like one more item on your already long to-do list?

We've been taught that resilience is the secret to navigating life's most difficult moments. But according to *New York Times* bestselling author, organizational psychologist, and researcher Dr. Tasha Eurich, there is one problem with this assumption. Scientifically, resilience isn't an unlimited resource, especially with the growing pressure and uncertainty we're experiencing today.

Dr. Tasha Eurich is an organizational psychologist, researcher, and *New York Times* bestselling author on a mission to help people and organizations thrive in an ever-changing world. Recognized as the world's leading self-awareness coach ([Marshall Goldsmith Coaching Awards](#)) and communication expert ([Global Gurus](#)), she's spent over two decades teaching people practical strategies to supercharge their self-awareness, sanity, and success. Her work has been featured in outlets like *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Harvard Business Review*, NPR, CNN, [NBC](#), and [Fast Company](#), as well as peer-

reviewed journals. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, rescuing dogs, and is a proud and unapologetic musical theater nerd.

[Click here to register for this program.](#)

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM. See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

[Youth Services](#)



The Junior Library renovation is starting!

The Junior Library renovation is finally starting up again! The Junior Room will be closed from **Monday, August 4th to Thursday, August 7th**. When the Junior Library reopens on **Friday, August 8th**, it will be in its new (temporary) location, the Marcy Room!

Monday, 8/4 & Tuesday, 8/5

The librarians will be packing up the Junior Room.

Wednesday, 8/6

The Junior collection and furniture will be moved.

The rest of the library will remain open during our normal hours, but **increased noise and foot traffic are expected.**

Thursday, 8/7

The librarians will be setting up their temporary location.

Friday, 8/8

The Junior Library will be open to patrons in the Marcy Room.

During the closure you will be able to pick up your Junior holds at the front desk.

For more information on what led to the renovation, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

To keep up with the progress of the renovation, and for frequently asked questions, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

Book Lists



[A Sense of Adventure](#)

World travel and exploration

[Dog Days](#)

Canine-friendly titles



Staff Reviews

LA 92 (2017)

David Huygens

Among several documentaries about the Los Angeles riots of 1992, *LA 92* (2017) is the one that goes for broke and presents only archival footage, letting the story tell itself without narration or interviews. The footage



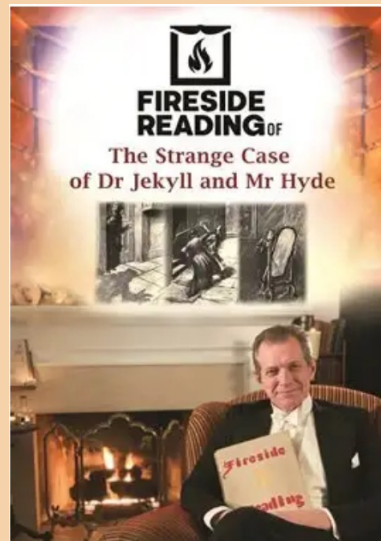
includes film and video of [the 1965 Watts Riots](#), the election of [mayor Tom Bradley](#) in 1973, [the shooting of Latasha Harlins](#), and finally the harrowing [Rodney King](#) videotape and the outbreak of violence throughout the city that followed. Along the way there are statements from President George H. W. Bush. Governor Pete Wilson, Presidential candidate Bill Clinton, LA Police Chief Darryl Gates, and more, creating an informative and brilliant mosaic.

It's really amazing that the directors, Daniel Lindsay and T. J. Martin, were able to put together such a strong narrative without applying the usual documentary techniques. The choice of footage and way it's edited is what carries the film, as well as a subtly effective music score by Danny Bensi and Saunder Jurriaans. *LA 92* has an approval rating of 97% on [Rotten Tomatoes](#), based on 29 reviews, and won the Primetime Emmy Award for Best Documentary. This very gripping and emotionally involving work gives the spectator an experience of unbelievable dramatic intensity, as well as a still-relevant lesson in history.

[*A Fireside Reading of The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson](#)

Matthew Sowyrda

Many of our readers, I am sure, have at least heard of [*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson](#). Or, maybe you have read this story about a man of science, who, like all of us, in one way or another, is a soul that is at war with itself.



To Dr. Jekyll, an irreproachable, well-educated, and upstanding citizen of 19th century London, it seems that traditional laws, values, and conventions impose an all-too-orderly way of life for the members of society. But what if, Jekyll proposes, there was a way to subvert these things -- without overturning or changing them -- so that one could simultaneously maintain his moral rectitude *and* relish in things that are socially forbidden? Looking to test this hypothesis with his advanced chemical training, Jekyll concocts a drug that, once consumed, transforms a gentle, benevolent doctor by day into a repulsive, murderous fiend by night. In the beginning, he delights in the duality that he has created, which causes an increasing concern in his lawyer and dearest friend, John Utterson. The longer Jekyll indulges in this practice, however, he comes to realize his error of extending himself beyond what is good and natural.

[Through Hoopla, I recently watched Gildart Jackson give a stellar](#)

[fireside reading](#) of this classic tale in which one man essentially becomes two. His performance is more like a one-man radio play rather than "just a reading", as he infuses a unique voice into each character, which, like [Dr. Frankenstein with his monster](#), brings the text and its diverse range of personalities to life. Jekyll is amiable, soft-spoken; Hyde is guttural, serpentine; Utterson is even-keeled, patrician-like. As you listen, you can picture dark and foggy city streets; the glow of kerosene lamps; people shivering as they brave falling snow and cold, wintry air; embers burning in some Victorian-era hearth.

I recommend Gildart Jackson's reading of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to anyone who likes old-time storytelling done by a crackling fire. Along with a drink and some headphones (and perhaps a copy of the book to read along), this will prove to be both a relaxing and a thought-provoking experience. The plot is similar to [The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde](#), a piece of fiction from the same historical period, in which young Dorian desires to remain young forever -- something that cannot and should not be -- and, after obtaining it, goes down a path of self-destruction. Readers who are keen on the story's philosophical elements might draw connections between the idea of a "higher" and a "lower" aspect of the human psyche and Socrates' figure of a chariot led by two horses -- one beautiful, the other grotesque -- which he uses to illustrate, respectively, the forms of virtue and vice ([Phaedrus](#)), as well as St. Paul's notion of the "two laws" at work within ourselves -- one leading to what is noble, and the other to what is base.

A Real Pain (2024)

David Huygens

[A Real Pain](#) (2024)

stars writer-director
Jesse Eisenberg as
David Kaplan, an



uptight New Yorker who undertakes a Jewish heritage tour with his free-spirited cousin, Benji (Academy Award winner Kieran Culkin), using money left to them by their recently-deceased grandmother. Arriving in [Poland](#) for the summer tour, David and Benji meet up with their tour group--an older married couple from Shaker Heights, Ohio; a recently-divorced woman from California; a survivor of [the Rwandan genocide](#); and their non-Jewish tour guide.

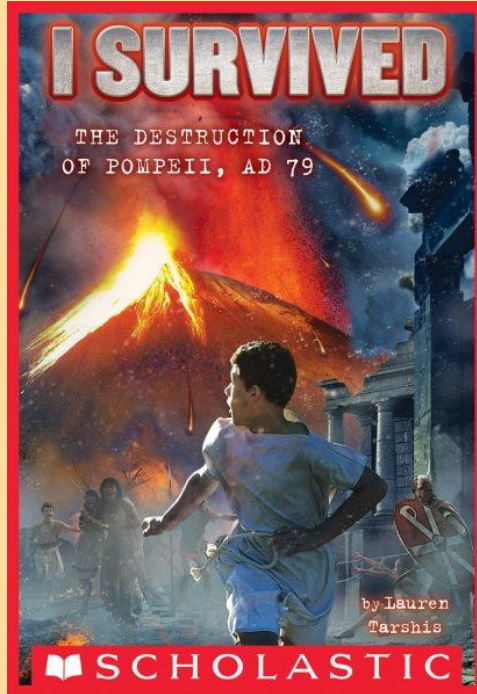
Benji's unfiltered personality soon disrupts the tour, sometimes in positive ways (loosening people up, bringing out their backstories), but at other times, causing hurt, anger, and misunderstandings. [The piano music of Chopin](#) underscores various scenes as the tour wends its way through the countryside, eventually arriving at a concentration camp where David and Benji's beloved grandmother was once imprisoned by the Nazis.

[Jennifer Grey](#), Daniel Oreskes and Will Sharpe are among the outstanding supporting cast in this dramatic comedy that is charming and disturbing, touching and revelatory. But the backbone of the film is the odd-couple relationship of the two leads, both of whom do outstanding jobs in conveying the joy and pain of family dynamics. It's a worthwhile movie, one I think you'll remember long after you see it.

***I Survived* (series)** by Laura Tarshis

Allie Hyland

The *I Survived* graphic novel series is a fast-paced, entertaining historical fiction series which stars young people in different historical events. From [the destruction of Pompeii](#) to [the great Molasses flood of Boston](#), a few to name, this 12-book series makes you want to learn more about the events that took place. Even adults will enjoy them, as I did. They have great illustrations as well and make you feel like you are there when reading the books. I highly recommend this series for those interested in learning more about different time periods of history. Each book is a new adventure!



[Click here to view a list of all the titles in this series!](#)

If Anything Happens to Me by Luanne Rice

A Teen Reader

If Anything Happens to Me by Luanne Rice was full of twists and unexpected findings.

Oliver is portrayed as this strong and determined sister who wants to find answers about her sister's disappearance. The story continuously reflects back on the relationships of sisters. It starts with descriptions of a seemingly normal group of friends who share a common interest. As the story progresses, these friends face



challenges within their lives leading to true friendship being tested. The secrets revealed turn lives upside down. This was really enjoyable to read and once I started reading I needed to know what happened next.

Stoneham Public Library | 431 Main Street | Stoneham, MA 02180 US

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