

Best Fiction Reads of 2024
by
Vicky Calmes, Director of the Colby Community Library

40. The Secrets of Us by Lucinda Berry

Foster sisters Krystal and Nichole have always been there for each other, so when Nichole is committed to a psychiatric hospital after trying to kill her husband, Krystal drops everything to defend her. Scarred by a hard upbringing, Nichole and Krystal managed to construct comfortable lives for themselves. Krystal became a respected lawyer, and Nichole was happily married to an architect—until Nichole starts raving that her husband is not her husband, believing that he is an imposter.

Note: *If you enjoyed this book, Lucinda Berry has several other titles written in the same psychological thriller style.*

39. The Housemaid by Freida McFadden

Being the maid for the Winchester family is Millie's last chance to start fresh. The Winchesters do not know who she really is or what she is capable of. Millie soon learns, however, that the Winchesters' secrets are far more dangerous than her own. This twisty read is the first book in the Maid Series trilogy.

38. The Housemaid's Secret by Freida McFadden

Millie finds that it is hard to find an employer who does not ask too many questions about her past. When the Garricks miraculously give her a job cleaning their stunning penthouse with views across the city and preparing fancy meals in their shiny kitchen, she is relieved. Strangely, she never meets Mrs. Garrick until the bedroom door gently swings open, and what Millie sees changes everything. How far is she willing to go to make the wrongdoer pay? This is the second Maid Series book.

37. The Housemaid is Watching by Freida McFadden

Millie used to clean other people's houses—now, she cannot believe she actually has a beautiful home and an attentive husband. Her past, she thinks, is far behind her. Strange things are happening: a shadowy figure is watching, Millie's husband leaves the house late at night, and a woman who lives across the way warns Millie to be careful of her neighbors. Could this quiet suburban street be the most dangerous place of all? Enjoy the final book in this trilogy.

Note: *Freida McFadden has numerous other titles. If you like her style in the Maid Series, keep reading her other stand-alone titles.*

36. Remember Her Name by Lisa Regan (#21 in series)

Detective Josie Quinn investigates a series of murders where the victims are found with polaroid photos at the scene, leading her to suspect a twisted killer who is taunting her by targeting cases from her past. Josie is forced to delve deep into her own history to catch the perpetrator and stop the killings before more lives are lost. (If you like this kind of series, start at #1)

35. Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali

Ellie and Homa, two young girls, form a deep friendship in Iran during the 1970s, sharing dreams of becoming "lion women" - strong and independent women. Their bond is fractured when Ellie's family returns to a privileged lifestyle, leaving Homa behind. They later reconnect as political turmoil in Iran intensifies, leading to a devastating betrayal that forever alters their lives and explores the complexities of friendship, class, and the struggle for women's rights under a repressive regime.

34. House of Glass by Sarah Pekkanen

A young nanny plunged to her death—or was she pushed? A nine-year-old girl begins collecting sharp objects and refuses to speak. A lawyer whose job it is to uncover who in the family is a victim and who is a murderer is puzzled. How can you find out the truth when everyone here is lying?

33. The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich

Gary Geist, a terrified young man set to inherit two farms, is desperate to marry Kismet Poe. Hugo, a gentle red-haired, home-schooled giant, is also in love with Kismet. He is determined to steal her and is eager to be a home wrecker. Kismet's mother, Crystal, hauls sugar beets for Gary's family, and on her nightly runs, tunes into the darkness of late-night radio, sees visions of guardian angels, and worries for the future: her daughter's and her own. Add to this storyline the half-life of herbicides and pesticides, the effects of climate change, the depletion of natural resources, and the sudden economic meltdown of 2008-2009 and a page-turning novel results.

32. Tell Me Everything by Elizabeth Strout

It is autumn in Maine, and the town lawyer Bob Burgess has become enmeshed in an unfolding murder investigation, defending a lonely, isolated man accused of killing his mother. He has also fallen into a deep and abiding friendship with the acclaimed writer Lucy Barton, who lives down the road in a house by the sea with her ex-husband, William. Together, Lucy and Bob go on walks and talk about their lives, their fears and regrets, and what might have been. Lucy, meanwhile, is finally introduced to the iconic Olive Kitteridge, now living in a retirement community on the edge of town. They spend afternoons together in Olive's apartment, telling each other stories about "unrecorded lives" as Olive calls them.

31. Truth about the Devlins by Lisa Scottoline

TJ Devlin is the charming disappointment in the prominent Devlin family, all of whom are lawyers at their highly successful firm—except him. After a stint in prison and rehab for alcoholism, TJ cannot get hired anywhere except at the firm, in a make-work job with the title of investigator. One night, TJ's world turns upside down after his older brother John confesses that he just murdered one of the clients, an accountant he had confronted with proof of embezzlement. It seems impossible coming from John, the favorite son. TJ plunges into the investigation, seizing the chance to prove his worth and save his brother. In no time, TJ and John find themselves entangled in a lethal web of deception and murder.

30. Betrayal by Phillip Margolin

Robin Lockwood is now a prominent defense attorney in Portland, Oregon, but a decade ago, she was a ranked and rising MMA fighter. Her career came to a quick end when she was knocked out and concussed in the first round by Mandy Kerrigan, a much more talented fighter. Now the situation could not be more different, with Kerrigan on her last legs, her career nearly over, arrested for the quadruple murder of the entire Finch family...and Kerrigan's only possible friend is the attorney she beat so many years ago. To complicate matters further, the DA that Robin is facing is the man she has just started dating, the first person she has begun seeing seriously after her husband was killed.

29. Hidden Pictures by Jason Rekulak

Mallory Quinn is fresh out of rehab when she takes a job as a babysitter for Ted and Caroline Maxwell. She is to look after their five-year-old son, Teddy. Mallory immediately loves it. She bonds with Teddy, a sweet, shy boy who is never without his sketchbook and pencil. His drawings are the usual fare: trees, rabbits, balloons. Then, Teddy's artwork becomes increasingly sinister, and his stick figures quickly evolve into gruesome, lifelike sketches well beyond the ability of any five-year-old. Mallory begins to wonder if these are glimpses of a long-unsolved murder. Knowing just how crazy it all sounds, Mallory nevertheless sets out to decipher the images and save Teddy before it is too late.

28. End of Story by A.J. Finn

With mere months to live, reclusive mystery novelist Sebastian Trapp invites an expert in detective fiction, Nicky Hunter, to his spectacular San Francisco mansion to help draft his life story . . . living alongside his beautiful second wife, Diana; his wayward nephew, Freddy; and his protective daughter, Madeleine. Soon Nicky finds herself caught in an irresistible case of real-life “detective fever.” Twenty years earlier—on New Year’s Eve 1999—Sebastian’s first wife and teenaged son vanished from different locations, never to be seen again. Did the perfect crime writer commit the perfect crime? And why has he emerged from seclusion, two decades later, to allow a stranger to dig into his past?

27. Last One at the Wedding by Jason Rekulak

Frank Szatowski is shocked when his daughter, Maggie, calls him for the first time in three years. He was convinced that their estrangement would become permanent. He is even more surprised when she invites him to her upcoming wedding in New Hampshire. Frank is ecstatic, and determined to finally make things right. He arrives to find that the wedding is at a private estate—very secluded, very luxurious, very much out of his league. It seems that Maggie failed to mention that she is marrying Aidan Gardner, the son of a famous tech billionaire. Feeling desperately out of place, Frank focuses on reconnecting with Maggie and getting to know her new family. It is difficult: Aidan is withdrawn and evasive; Maggie does not seem to have time for him; and he finds that the locals are disturbingly hostile to the Gardners. Frank needs to know more about this family his daughter is marrying into, but if he pushes too hard, he could lose Maggie forever.

26. Resurrection Walk by Michael Connelly

Defense attorney Mickey Haller is back, taking the long shot cases, where the chances of winning are one in a million. After getting a wrongfully convicted man out of prison, he is inundated with pleas from incarcerated people claiming innocence. He enlists his half-brother, retired LAPD Detective Harry Bosch, to weed through the letters, knowing most claims will be false. Bosch pulls a needle from the haystack: a woman in prison for killing her husband, a sheriff’s deputy, but who still maintains her innocence. Bosch reviews the case and sees elements that do not add up, and a sheriff’s department intent on bringing quick justice in the killing of one of its own.

25. The Storm We Made by Vanessa Chan

Malaya, 1945. Cecily Alcantara’s family is in terrible danger: her fifteen-year-old son, Abel, has disappeared, and her youngest daughter, Jasmin, is confined in a basement to prevent being pressed into service at the comfort stations. Her eldest daughter Jujube, who works at a tea house frequented by drunk Japanese soldiers, becomes angrier by the day. Cecily knows two things: that this is all her fault; and that her family must never learn the truth. A decade prior, Cecily had been desperate to be more than a housewife to a low-level bureaucrat in British-colonized Malaya. A chance meeting with the charismatic General Fujiwara lured her into a life of espionage, pursuing dreams of an “Asia for Asians.” Ten years later as the war reaches its apex, her actions have caught up with her. Now her family is on the brink of destruction—and she will do anything to save them.

24. Truths I Never Told You by Kelly Rimmer

With her father recently moved to a care facility for his worsening dementia, Beth Walsh volunteers to clear out the family home and is surprised to discover the door to her childhood playroom padlocked. She is even more shocked at what is behind it—a hoarder’s mess of her father’s paintings, mounds of discarded papers, and miscellaneous junk. As she picks through the clutter, she finds a journal entry. Beth and her siblings grew up believing their mother died in a car accident, but this note suggests something much darker. Beth soon pieces together a disturbing portrait of a woman suffering from postpartum depression and a husband who bears little resemblance to the loving father Beth and her siblings know.

23. The Guest by B.A. Paris

Iris and Gabriel have just arrived home from a holiday to find one of their closest friends, Laure, is in their house. The atmosphere quickly becomes tense as she oversteps her welcome. Laure has walked out on her husband—and their good friend—Pierre, over his confession of an affair and a secret child. Iris and Gabriel want to be supportive of their friends, but as Laure's mood becomes increasingly unpredictable, her presence takes its toll. Iris and Gabriel's only respite comes in the form of a couple new to town but with them comes their gardener, who has a checkered past. Soon, secrets from all their pasts will unravel, some more dangerous than they could have known.

22. Still See You Everywhere by Lisa Gardner

Frankie Elkin is an expert at finding the missing persons that the rest of the world has forgotten, but even she could not have anticipated this latest request—to locate the long-lost sister of a female serial killer facing execution in three weeks' time. Pierson has finally received a lead on the whereabouts of the sister who was kidnapped over a decade ago, and she needs Frankie's help to find her. Twelve years ago, five-year-old Leilani went missing in Hawaii. The main suspect? Pierson's tech mogul ex-boyfriend, Sanders MacManus. Now, on a remote island in the middle of the Pacific—the site of MacManus's latest vanity project—fresh evidence has appeared. In order to learn the truth and possibly save a young woman's life, Frankie must go undercover at the isolated base camp. Her challenge: A dozen strangers. Countless dangerous secrets. Zero means of calling for help. Then, the storm rolls in...

21. No One Can Know by Kate Alice Marshall

Fourteen years ago, the Palmer sisters—Emma, Juliette, and Daphne—left their home in Arden Hills and never returned. But when Emma discovers she is pregnant and her husband loses his job, she has no option but to return to the house that she and her estranged sisters still own . . . and where their parents were murdered. Emma has never told anyone what she saw the night her parents died, even when she became the prime suspect. Her presence in the house threatens to uncover secrets that have stayed hidden for years, and the sisters are drawn together once again. As they face their memories of the past, rivalries restart, connections are forged, and, for the first time, Emma starts to ask questions about what really happened.

20. All Good People Here by Ashley Flowers

Everyone from Wakarusa, Indiana, remembers the case of January Jacobs, who was found dead in a ditch hours after her family awoke to find her gone. Margot Davies was six at the time, the same age as January—and they were next-door neighbors. In the twenty years since, Margot has grown up, moved away, and become a big-city journalist, but she is always been haunted by the fear that it could have been her. The worst part is, January's killer has never been brought to justice. When Margot returns home to help care for her sick uncle, it feels like walking into a time capsule. Wakarusa is exactly how she remembered: genial, stifled, secretive. Then news breaks about five-year-old Natalie Clark from the next town over, who has gone missing under eerily similar circumstances. With all the old feelings rushing back, Margot vows to find Natalie and solve January's murder once and for all. Could it be the same person who kidnapped Natalie?

19. The New Couple in 5B by Lisa Unger

Rosie and Chad Lowan are barely making ends meet in New York City when they receive life-changing news: Chad's late uncle has left them his luxury apartment at the historic Windermere. With its prewar elegance and impeccably uniformed doorman, the building is the epitome of old New York charm. At first, the building and its eclectic tenants could not feel more welcoming. As the Lowans settle into their new home, Rosie starts to suspect that there is more to the Windermere than meets the eye. Why is the doorman ever-present? Why are there cameras everywhere? And why have so many gruesome crimes occurred there throughout the years? When one of the neighbors turns up dead, Rosie must get to the truth about the Windermere before she, too, falls under its dangerous spell.

18. Crow Talk by Eileen Garvin

Frankie O’Neill and Anne Ryan would seem to have nothing in common. Frankie is a lonely ornithologist struggling to salvage her dissertation on the spotted owl following a rift with her advisor. Anne is an Irish musician far from home and family, raising her five-year-old son, Aiden, who refuses to speak. At Beauty Bay, a community of summer homes nestled on the shores of June Lake, in the remote foothills of Mount Adams, it is off-season with most houses shuttered for the fall. Frankie, adrift, returns to the rundown caretaker’s cottage that has been in the hardworking O’Neill family for generations—a beloved place and a constant reminder of the family she has lost. Anne, in the wake of a tragedy that has disrupted her career and silenced her music, has fled to the neighboring house, a showy summer home owned by her husband’s wealthy family.

17. Invisible Hour by Alice Hoffman

One June day when Mia Jacob can no longer see a way to survive, the power of words saves her. *The Scarlet Letter* was written almost two hundred years earlier, but it seems to tell the story of Mia’s mother, Ivy, and their life inside the Community—an oppressive cult in western Massachusetts where contact with the outside world is forbidden. How could this be? How could Nathaniel Hawthorne have so perfectly captured the pain and loss that Mia carries inside her?

16. Good Half Gone by Tarryn Fisher

Iris Walsh saw her twin sister, Piper, get kidnapped—so why does no one believe her? Iris narrowly escaped her twin sister’s fate as a teen: abducted in broad daylight and long gone before she could convince the cops there was anything to investigate. With Piper presumed a runaway and no evidence to go on but Iris’s scattered memories, the case quickly goes cold. Ever since that terrible day, Iris’s search for Piper has bordered on obsession. Chasing leads across years and following clues that all seem to point to a single name, Iris does everything she can to get close to the only person who might know the answer to the question that still haunts her: where did Piper go? And if the police still will not help, she will just have to find the answer herself--using her criminal psychology degree to intern at the isolated psychiatric hospital on Shoal Island, where secrets lurk in the shadows and are kept under lock and key. Iris soon realizes that something even more sinister is simmering beneath the surface of the Shoal, and that the patients are not the only ones being observed...

15. First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston

Evie Porter has everything a nice, Southern girl could want: a perfect, doting boyfriend, a house with a white picket fence and a garden, a fancy group of friends. The only catch: Evie Porter does not exist. The identity comes first: Evie Porter. Once she is given a name and location by her mysterious boss Mr. Smith, she learns everything there is to know about the town and the people in it. Then the mark: Ryan Sumner. The last piece of the puzzle is the job. Evie is not privy to Mr. Smith’s real identity, but she knows this job will be different. Ryan has gotten under her skin, and she is starting to envision a different sort of life for herself. Evie cannot make any mistakes—especially after what happened last time. Because the one thing she is worked her entire life to keep clean, the one identity she could always go back to—her real identity—just walked right into this town. Evie Porter must stay one step ahead of her past while making sure there is still a future in front of her.

14. None of This is True by Lisa Jewell

Celebrating her forty-fifth birthday at her local pub, popular podcaster Alix Summers crosses paths with an unassuming woman called Josie Fair. Josie, it turns out, is also celebrating her forty-fifth birthday. A few days later, Alix and Josie bump into each other again, this time outside Alix’s children’s school. Josie has been listening to Alix’s podcasts and thinks she might be an interesting subject for her series. Alix cannot quite resist the temptation to make the podcast. Slowly she starts to realize that Josie has been hiding some very dark secrets, and before she knows it, Josie has made her way into Alix’s life—and into her home.

13. When I'm Dead by Hannah Morrissey

On a bone-chilling October night, Medical Examiner Rowan Winthrop investigates the death of her daughter's best friend. Hours later, the tragedy hits even closer to home when she makes a devastating discovery—her daughter, Chloe, is gone. A morbid mosaic of clues forces Rowan and her husband to question how deeply they really knew their daughter. As they work closely to peel back the layers of this case, they begin to unearth disturbing details about Chloe and her secret transgressions...details that threaten to tear them apart.

12. Mockingbird Summer by Lynda Rutledge

In segregated High Cotton, Texas, in 1964, the racial divide is as clear as the railroad tracks running through town. It is also where two girls are going to shake things up. This is the last summer of thirteen-year-old Corky Corcoran's childhood, and her family hires a Haitian housekeeper who brings her daughter, America, along with her. Corky is quick to befriend America and eager to share her favorite new "grown-up" novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. America's take on it is different and profoundly personal. As their friendship grows, Corky finds out so much more about America's life and her hidden skill: she can run as fast as Olympian Wilma Rudolph! When Corky asks America to play with her girls' softball team for the annual church rivals game, it is a move that crosses the color line and sets off a firestorm. As tensions escalate, it fast becomes a season of big changes in High Cotton. For Corky, those changes will last a lifetime.

11. After Annie by Anna Quindlen

When Annie Brown dies suddenly, her husband, her four young children, and her closest friend are left to struggle without the woman who centered their lives. Bill Brown finds himself overwhelmed, and Annie's best friend Annemarie is lost to old bad habits without Annie's support. It is Annie's daughter, Ali, who is forced to try to care for her younger brothers and even her father, who managed to maintain some semblance of their former lives for them all, and who confronted the complicated truths of adulthood. Yet, over the course of the next year, while Annie looms large in their memories, all three are able to grow, to change, even to become stronger and more sure of themselves. The enduring power Annie gave to those who loved her is the power to love and to go on without her.

10. She's Not Sorry by Mary Kubica

An ICU nurse accidentally uncovers a patient's frightening past in this chilling thriller. Meghan Michaels is trying to find balance between being a single mom to a teenage daughter and working as a full time nurse. While on duty at the hospital one day, a patient named Caitlin arrives in a coma with a traumatic brain injury, having jumped from a bridge and plunging over twenty feet to the train tracks below. When a witness comes forward with shocking details about the fall, it calls everything they know into question. Was Caitlin pushed, and if so, by whom and why? Meghan has always tried to stay emotionally detached from her patients, but this time, she mistakenly lets herself get too close until she is deeply entangled in Caitlin's and her family's lives. Only when it is too late, does she realize that she and her daughter could be the next victims.

9. Daughter of Mine by Megan Miranda

When Hazel Sharp, daughter of Mirror Lake's longtime local detective, unexpectedly inherits her childhood home, she is warily drawn back to the town—and people—she left behind almost a decade earlier. Hazel's not the only relic of the past to return: a drought has descended on the region, and as the water level in the lake drops, long-hidden secrets begin to emerge...including evidence that may help finally explain the mystery of her mother's disappearance.

8. **Saving Emma by Allen Eskens**

When Boady Sanden first receives the case of Elijah Matthews, he is certain there is not much he can do. Elijah, who believes himself to be a prophet, has been locked up in a psychiatric hospital for the past four years, convicted of brutally murdering the pastor of a megachurch. As a law professor working for the Innocence Project, Boady agrees to look into Elijah's file. When he does, he is alarmed to find threads that lead back to the death of his colleague and friend, Ben Pruitt, a man shot to death four years earlier in Boady's own home.

7. **Only the Beautiful by Susan Meissner**

California, 1938—When she loses her parents in an accident, sixteen-year-old Rosanne is taken in by the owners of the vineyard where she has lived her whole life as the vinedresser's daughter. She moves into Celine and Truman Calvert's spacious house with a secret, however—Rosie sees colors when she hears sound. She promised her mother she would never reveal her little-understood ability to anyone, but the weight of her isolation and grief prove too much for her. Driven by her loneliness, she not only breaks the vow to her mother, but in a desperate moment lets down her guard and ends up pregnant. Banished by the Calverts, Rosanne believes she is bound for a home for unwed mothers, and having lost her family she treasures her pregnancy as the chance for a future one. She soon finds out she is not going to a home of any kind but to a place far worse than anything she could have imagined.

Austria, 1947—After witnessing firsthand Adolf Hitler's brutal pursuit of hereditary purity—especially with regard to "different children"—Helen Calvert, Truman's sister, is ready to return to America for good. When she arrives at her brother's peaceful vineyard after decades working abroad, she is shocked to learn what really happened nine years earlier to the vinedresser's daughter, a girl whom Helen had long ago befriended. In her determination to find Rosanne, Helen discovers that while the war had been won in Europe, there are still terrifying battles to be fought at home.

6. **Sisters Under the Rising Sun by Heather Morris**

In the midst of World War II, an English musician, Norah Chambers, places her eight-year-old daughter Sally on a ship leaving Singapore, desperate to keep her safe from the Japanese army as they move down through the Pacific. Norah remains to care for her husband and elderly parents, knowing she may never see her child again. Sister Nesta James, a Welsh Australian nurse, has enlisted to tend to Allied troops. As Singapore falls to the Japanese, she joins the terrified cargo of people, including the heartbroken Norah, crammed aboard the *Vyner Brooke* merchant ship. Only two days later, they are bombarded from the air off the coast of Indonesia, and in a matter of hours, the *Vyner Brooke* lies broken on the seabed. After surviving a brutal 24 hours in the sea, Nesta and Norah reach the beaches of a remote island, only to be captured by the Japanese and held in one of their notorious POW camps. The camps are places of starvation and brutality, where disease runs rampant. Sisters in arms, Norah and Nesta fight side by side every day, helping whoever they can, and discovering in themselves and each other extraordinary reserves of courage, resourcefulness, and determination.

5. **Northwoods by Amy Pease**

Eli North is not okay. His drinking is getting worse by the day, his emotional wounds after a deployment to Afghanistan are as raw as ever, his marriage and career are over, and the only job he can hold down is with the local sheriff's department. That is only because the sheriff is his mother—and she is overwhelmed with small town Shaky Lake's dwindling budget and the fallout from the opioid epidemic. The Northwoods of Wisconsin may be a vacationer's paradise, but amidst the fishing trips and campfires and Paul Bunyan festivals, something sinister is taking shape. When the body of a teenage boy is found in the lake, it sets in motion an investigation that leads Eli to a wealthy enclave with a violent past, a pharmaceutical salesman, and a missing teenage girl. Soon, Eli and his mother, along with a young FBI agent, are on the hunt for more than just a killer.

4. **Camino Ghosts by John Grisham**

In this new thriller on Camino Island, popular bookseller Bruce Cable tells Mercer Mann an irresistible tale that might be her next novel. A giant resort developer is using its political muscle and deep pockets to claim ownership of a deserted island between Florida and Georgia. Only the last living inhabitant of the island, Lovely Jackson, stands in its way. What the developer does not know is that the island has a remarkable history and locals believe it is cursed.

3. **The Women by Kristin Hannah**

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. In 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. War is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

2. **Weyward by Emilia Hart**

This book weaves together the stories of three extraordinary women across five centuries:

2019: Under cover of darkness, Kate flees London for ramshackle Weyward Cottage, inherited from a great aunt she barely remembers. She begins to suspect that her great aunt had a secret; it is one that lurks in the bones of the cottage, hidden ever since the witch-hunts of the 17th century.

1619: Altha is awaiting trial for the murder of a local farmer who was stampeded to death by his herd. Unusual women have always been deemed dangerous, and as the evidence for witchcraft is set out against Altha, she knows it will take all of her powers to maintain her freedom.

1942: As World War II rages, Violet is trapped in her family's grand, crumbling estate. The only traces Violet has of her mother, long deceased, who was rumored to have gone mad before her death, are a locket bearing the initial “W” and the word “Weyward” scratched into the baseboard of her bedroom.

And the number one title for 2024...

1. **Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt**

Remarkably Bright Creatures is an exploration of friendship and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus.

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she is doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but would not dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors—until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. Now, Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it is too late.