Civilizations
Laurent Binet

This is a work of counter historical fiction. In this book the Vikings teach the indigenous people how to smelt iron. Columbus’ mission fails as the indigenous people are better able to fight back, and the Incan Empire sends ships East to discover the land of the rising sun.
~Ted G.

The Night Watchman
Louise Erdrich

Erdrich tells the story of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa community and its fight against a 1953 bill in Congress that would cease to recognize the tribes or its treaties with them. We follow the individual and common struggles of rich and engrossing characters. ~Stephanie K. (CW: rape and sexual assault, kidnapping, death, animal death)

Ain't Burned All the Bright
Jason Reynolds & Jason Griffin

This 15-minute read captures the emotional turmoil of the past two years - the many ways we’ve been unable to breathe. Reynolds and Griffin tap into feelings of fear, anxiety, and inertia, and then build you back up. Will stay with you long after.
~Nancy H.
All of Us Are Dead

Love a good buddy-apocalyptic series. For fans of The Walking Dead, 28 Days Later, & Train to Busan. ~Stevie N. (CW: suicide, gore, bullying, sexual assault, physical abuse)

Like Water for Chocolate

Like Water for Chocolate is a fanciful and earthy story about the intersection between culture and food and the emotional weight behind the recipes we cherish. With a serving of magical realism and dash of unrequited love, Laura Esquivel proves her literary genius. ~Jamie G. (CW: emotional abuse)

How High We Go in the Dark

A beautifully intricate look at humanity coming together during a climate plague. Sci-fi elements seamlessly blend into this series of interconnected stories that span hundreds of years as civilization fights to survive. This book blew me away! ~Anne J. (CW: plague, death of children, suicide, euthanasia, mass death, death of parent, terminal illness, chronic illness, medical content, medical trauma, animal death, confinement)
In the Mood for Love

This quiet and visually stunning love story set in 1960s Hong Kong is absolutely heartbreaking. Come for the aesthetics; stay for the music and mood. ~Stephanie K

The Memory Theater

This is straight up fairytale. And I loved it for that. The author is incredibly inventive and has a remarkable imaginative capacity. If you want to get swept away to another world, listen to the audiobook the narrator is impeccable. ~Chase S (CW: child abuse, gore, child death)

A Student of History

A grad student takes a job transcribing the memoirs of a Los Angeles oil heiress. As he is drawn into her world of privilege, he tries to untangle the mysteries of her family’s dark past. This is a quick read with compelling characters and unexpected twists. ~Tom W. (CW: death)
Spencer

I cannot get over how incredible Kristen Stewart is as Diana. This is a tale of the people's princess on her way to reclaim her identity as Diana Spencer. It's rare to find a character so endearing, so intimate, so vulnerable and yet in the end filled with such strength. ~Chase S. (CW: self-harm, eating disorders)

Diana Vreeland: Bon Mots, Words of Wisdom from the Empress of Fashion
Diana Vreeland

I don't know quite why this book from Rizzoli of Diana Vreeland quotes paired with colorful drawings is so effectively cheering, but it is. Short, easy, and bright - it's delightful. ~Trisha R.

The Storyteller
Dave Grohl

Dave Grohl launched the Foo Fighters in the mid 1990s and they are still performing. Dave narrates the audiobook and is funny. His life in music is full of casual anecdotes, like Sir Paul McCarthy taught his daughter to play the piano! ~Amy F.