Reading Parable of the Sower now is just as affecting as when it came out - if anything, we feel closer to the dystopian world of small communities fighting a rising tide of chaos Butler depicts than we were in the 90s. An intense coming-of-age tale. ~ Anne J. (CW: death, fire, sexual violence (threatened))

Following Krishan's journey to a funeral in war-torn north Sri Lanka, this novel steeped in philosophy and ancient poetry also tells us what it's like to live now, in a world where photographs of the recent civil war are easily accessible online. I actually gasped at its beauty. ~Dylan Z. (CW: suicide, war)

After watching the anime movies, I thought I would check out the source material and this is n fun dark fantasy, and its a fun take on the post apocalypse genre. ~Joseph G. (CW: horror, mayhem, fantasy violence)
Don't Look Up

"Don't Look Up" is a movie that is currently streaming on Netflix. It has a star studded cast and some fun cameos as well. The entire film is a metaphor about our modern times. We are so preoccupied by social media and skepticism of science that we can't see our world dying. ~Ted G. (CW: violence, drug use, sex scenes, mass extinction event)

Reclamation

Gayle Jessup White dives into her family’s complex history, stretching back to Thomas Jefferson and the people he enslaved at Monticello. This is recommended for anyone interested in genealogy or American history. ~Tom W. (CW: mentions of rape and torture)

RECLAMATION

Gayle Jessup White

Good Talk

Mira Jacob

This is a graphic novel exploring the life of the author, who is an Indian American. The plot jumps between present day and when she was growing up, and expresses concerns about post 9/11 fear of the Muslim/Indian community, meeting parental expectations, and more. ~Sam R.
Nothing But Blackened Teeth
Cassandra Khaw

This short novella is easy to blitz through in a couple of hours, and that’s great because once you start you won’t want to stop. A dysfunctional group of friends heads to a haunted house for an elopement, and it all goes horribly wrong. ~Anne J.

(CW: mention of mental trauma, ghosts, graphic depictions of murder, violence)

Abbott Elementary

This new laugh-out-loud comedy is centered around a group of public school teachers doing their best to serve their students while also getting caught up in some hijinks along the way. This show is perfect for anyone who loves workplace sitcoms like Parks & Rec and Superstore! ~Megan S.

These Precious Days
Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett is known for writing some of the best-loved and most critically-acclaimed novels of the last 25+ years, but it turns out that she writes some pretty good nonfiction, too. I found it easy to sink into this collection of essays. ~Stephanie K.

(CW: death, gun violence, alcohol, monsters)
Mr. Robot

This series touches a lot of important topics, such as power struggles, mental health, cybersecurity and more. Each episode is intense, emotional, and will leave you on the edge of your seat. ~Sam R.
(CW: mental health struggles (particularly re: schizophrenia), violence, some disturbing images)

A Marvellous Light
Freya Marske

You start reading it for the magic, but you keep reading for the simmering relationship between Edwin and Robin. A delightful romantic and magical escape for the dead of winter. ~Chase S.

Beautiful Country: A Memoir
Qian Julie Wang

Qian Julie Wang has given us a compelling, heartbreaking, and important memoir. Wang spent five years as an undocumented immigrant here and encounters brutal racism and poverty yet remains resilient and even hopeful at times. Please read this book! ~Kary H.