The Hacienda
Isabel Cañas

If you loved Mexican Gothic, you'll also enjoy this spooky tale set in a haunted house in a rural Mexican valley just after the Mexican Revolution. Featuring a satisfying mystery, a Catholic priest who is also a witch, and a wonderfully complex main character. ~Anne J. (CW: depictions of death and suicide, fire and arson)

You Made a Fool of Death with Your Beauty
Akwaeyke Emezi

Feyi has been self-isolating from people, relationships, and life after losing her husband in a car accident five years ago. We follow her from Brooklyn to the Caribbean as she begins to confront her past and make her future, embracing joy and taking chances. Gorgeously written. ~Stephanie K. (CW: trauma, explicit sex)

Book Lovers
Emily Henry

It's a perfectly light summer read that focuses on two book lovers, hence the title. ~Amy F.
Black Sails

Black Sails is the swashbuckling prequel to Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel Treasure Island, centering around the dynamic duo of pirates Captain James Flint and Long John Silver and their quest for glory, gold, and freedom in the shadow of the oppressive British Empire. ~Jasmine H. (CW: violence, rape, dismemberment, implied homophobia, suicidal ideation.)

An Abolitionist's Handbook

Patrisse Cullors pulls from her extensive knowledge of activism work to gift us all 12 concrete ways to fight oppression, along with recommendations for further learning, and journal prompts to guide you through the ways you can take social justice actions in every day life. ~Emily K.

Rogues

Pistol

This is the story of the Sex Pistols based on the memoir of the guitar player Steve Jones. What makes this story fascinating is that one of the major characters turns out to be Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders. Who knew? An inside look at the most notorious Punk band ever. ~Ted G. (CW: explicit content throughout)

Hacks

This TV show got me hooked immediately with its engaging storytelling, brilliant character development, and a comedic flare that is refreshing to see. This show is about a washed up comedian getting paired with a hip, newbie writer as they debut a new standup show together. ~Sam R. (CW: suicide)

Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead

Emily Austin

In this dark but hilariously relatable novel, main character Gilda, an atheist lesbian, accidentally finds herself working as a receptionist at a Catholic church. I spent the entire time reading rooting for Gilda who maybe spends a bit too much time in her head. But don’t we all? ~Jamie G. (CW: animal death, anxiety attempted suicide, homophobia, panic attacks, self-harm)
The Bear

100% on Rotten Tomatoes. Saturated with heart and all the messy grime of an Italian beef joint, this is a tale of a restaurant that grows up from the ashes. If you love Chicago, you'll love this show! ~Chase S. (CW: suicide, workplace trauma)

The Will Darling Adventures Trilogy
KJ Charles

I love this 1920s M/M historical romance trilogy. Kit is an aristocrat and maybe a spy. Will is a secondhand bookshop owner and WWI veteran. The writing is smart and deft. Reminiscent of "golden age pulp fiction." Read them in order. On Libby/Hoopla in ebook and eaudiobook. ~Trisha R. (CW: explicit sex scenes, some violence)

The Silmarillion
J.R.R. Tolkien

Get familiar with the lore behind the next big show, Lord of the Rings: Rings of Power coming out in September. You'll discover why it's the greatest epic fantasy ever created. ~Chase S.