Downton Shabby
Hopwood DePrees

An easy read, and a true story that illustrates the power of building a community. The author discovers that the family tales of a castle in England are true. Unfortunately, it has fallen into disrepair. Follow along as the long process of extensive restoration begins. ~Pam S.
(CW: Historical Violence)

The Half Life of Valery K
Natasha Pulley

If you loved HBO’s Chernobyl miniseries, this book is for you! Based on an actual event in the Soviet Union’s history, Pulley does an amazing job of pulling you into the world and keeping you entertained and reading long after you should have gone to bed. ~Anne J.
(CW: Eugenics, Physical Violence, Nuclear Fallout)

George Michael: A Life
James Gavin

This biography follows a shy teenager who blossomed into the commanding creative force behind both Wham! and a very successful solo career. A casual fan like myself will learn so much about the singer's origins and the pain and longing behind his polished pop star persona. ~Stephanie K.
Abbott Elementary

We’ve recommended this before but if you haven’t watched yet, now is the time to binge Abbott Elementary season 1! You’re guaranteed to fall in love with these teachers. If you have seen it, it’s time for a rewatch - season 2 starts in September and is going to have 22 episodes! ~Emily K.

I Am Not Okay With This

If you like Stranger Things, you will absolutely fall in love with this show on Netflix! A coming-of-age story with a bit of off-beat comedy and drama, and dash of horror. This is the perfect show to start the fall season off with. ~Chase S. (CW: Horror Sequences)

Honeytrap

An American FBI agent and a Soviet agent fall in love after being assigned to work together on an assassination attempt in 1959. Their relationship evolves over the next 30+ years. This is a romantic, soft treat of a romance novel available on our Romance Kindle. ~Trisha R.
The American Sector

This is a neat documentary about the Berlin Wall and its long, strange afterlife in the United States. The filmmakers travel to pieces of the wall on display across the US, from schools and museums to more quirky settings, like a CTA station or a Passion Play park in Arkansas. ~Tom W.

All That's Left in the World

This book is equal parts heartwarming and adventurous. I loved that while it deals with serious issues (death, plague, fear), it does so through the eyes of two boys who find hope and humor together. ~Chase S. (CW: pandemic, death, PG-13 violence).

Lore Olympus

Lore Olympus is a contemporary reimagining of the tale of Hades & Persephone. This graphic novel is not only stunning & captivating for it's artwork, but also for the world building and character development. This book has consumed all of my attention! You won’t be disappointed. ~Felycia N. (CW: domestic abuse, rape, scene of torture, trauma/PTSD, alcohol abuse, drug abuse).