

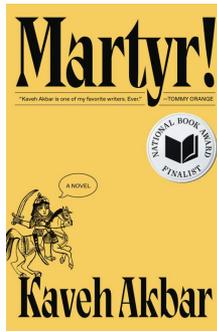


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ADULT FICTION

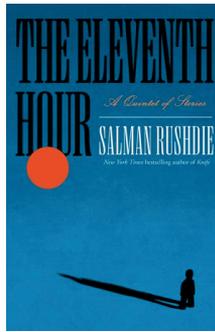


MARTYR!

By Kaveh Akbar

Cyrus Shams—drunk, addict and poet—mines the stories of his past to derive connection, from his mother's downed plane over the Persian Gulf to his father's life in the muck of a Midwest factory farm. *"Beautiful prose and a journey of a narrative. Kaveh Akbar writes dialogue that is both philosophical and incredibly human. Amazing read!"* – Jason

Literary Fiction

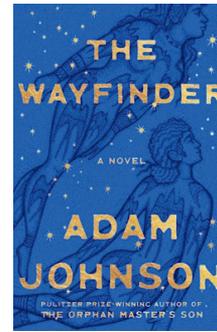


THE ELEVENTH HOUR

By Salman Rushdie

Rushdie asks what captures our attention near end-of-life. "If old age was thought of as an evening, ending in midnight oblivion, they were well into the eleventh hour." Fans will recognize a new entry in the Bombay neighborhood of *Midnight's Children*, alongside newer tales— including one tragicomic haunting. Deeply reflective, the collection sings with Rushdie's usual poetic imagination.

Short Stories

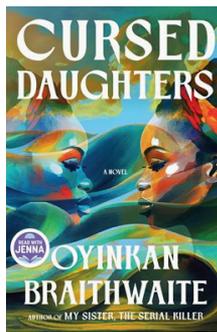


THE WAYFINDER

By Adam Johnson

For fans of *Circe*. A lush historical epic set in the Polynesian islands during the Tu'i Tonga Empire. With her Manumotu people on the edge of starvation, teenaged Kōrero navigates an ocean-spanning dominion built on bloodshed and extraction. A high-stakes novel that will transport readers completely.

Historical Fiction, Mythology Retelling

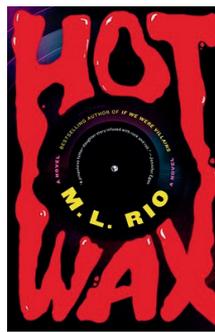


CURSED DAUGHTERS

By Oyinkan Braithwaite

For fans of Helen Oyeyemi and Carmen Maria Machado. Braithwaite's novel trails cursed women through sharp, darkly funny and vivid vignettes. Falodun family are scorned in love— a curse on their daughters after an ancestor's affair. *The New York Times* hails this "lush and spooky" modern fable for subverting fairy-tale tropes while bringing the same glittering edge as *My Sister, the Serial Killer*.

Literary Fiction



HOT WAX

By ML Rio

An evocative ride through the jagged liner notes of one audiophile's life. *Hot Wax* rips open Suzanne's pain on two timelines— shifting between the epic shadow of her dad across her childhood, and (later) the fallout as she speeds away from a bad marriage in his '68 Ranchero. *"Visceral, sensory, and a paean to the way memory moves through sound and film, this book cuts you with unexpected emotion."* – AC

Literary Fiction, Thriller



DREAM COUNT

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Four lives intersect: a Nigerian writer abroad, her housekeeper raising a daughter through hardship, an accomplished best friend, and an outspoken cousin — strong women all caught at a crossroads. *"Spanning multiple countries and pivoting smoothly through a range of socioeconomic realities, these stories will feel familiar to anyone who has ever wanted more out of life."* – Abby

Literary Fiction



ATMOSPHERE

By Taylor Jenkins Reid

Fans will adore Reid's latest. Set at NASA in the 80's, with a queer love story and out-of-this-world themes, this would make a great unexpected pick for your regency romance reader. Expect compelling romantic tension in the backdrop of a memorable historical time. *"Her love for the stars got her to space only to find out what her heart needed most was on solid ground."* – Jessica

Historical Fiction, Romance



GOOD SPIRITS

By BK Borison

What happens when the Ghost of Christmas Past catches feelings for his assignment? He starts dreaming of a future together, and the result is magic! Don't miss this spirited story filled with mayhem, mischief, and holiday charm. Borison writes with the sweetness and authenticity that all romance authors aspire to achieve. Available in paperback, this is a great size for a stocking stuffer—but also a perfect read year-round.

Paranormal Romance, Cozy



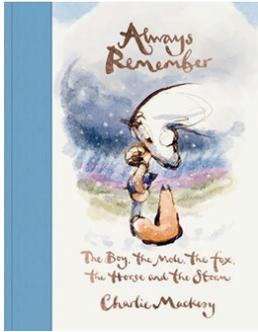
JULIA SONG IS UNDATEABLE

By Susan Lee

Susan Lee's adult debut is a funny, vulnerable and relatable rom-com setup. Meet Julia Song, CEO of Starlight Cosmetics, flourishing in her career while combatting family expectations. When Julia's ailing 80 year-old grandmother begs to see her married, Julia solicits dating help from neighbor Tae. A great pick for the Abby Jimenez reader.

Romance, Local Author

ADULT FICTION

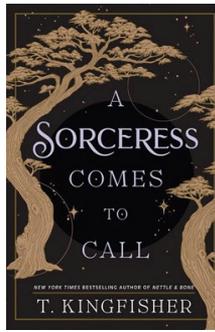


ALWAYS REMEMBER: THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX, THE HORSE AND THE STORM

By Charlie Mackesy

What if Mary Oliver wrote Winnie-the-Pooh? Revisiting the beloved characters of *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*, Mackesy's picture-book style fable for adults offers reassurance to the reader weathering difficult times. Mackesy's distinctive, soft and tender artistic style is rendered in warm, bright colors. With its reminder to be gentle with ourselves and hold onto wonder, this is a touching work of art.

Literary Graphic Novel, Self-Help



A SORCERESS COMES TO CALL

By T Kingfisher

"I read the first few pages of A Sorceress Comes to Call and was so viscerally terrified by Cordelia's magically-forced obedience, I thought about not reading further. However, in only three pages, Kingfisher forced me to care so strongly for her protagonist that I could not face not knowing Cordelia's fate. I stayed up until 1:30am reading this dark retelling of The Goose Girl and was happy I did." – Sarah

Fantasy, Fairytale Retelling



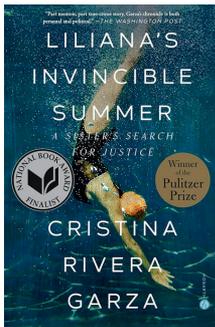
THE KEEPER OF MAGICAL THINGS

By Julie Leong

A cozy sapphic fantasy for fans of *The House in the Cerulean Sea*. Filled with simple courage and quiet, endearing characters, the novel tracks two mages on their journey to a village untouched by magic. These heroines clash: one stern and brilliant, the other a gentle-spirited apprentice. But as their task begins to spark something more between them, their magic also starts to draw in the wary citizens of Shpelling.

Romance

ADULT NONFICTION

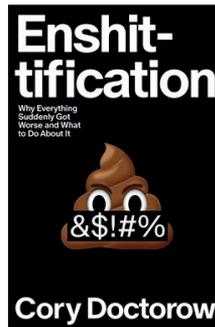


LILIANA'S INVINCIBLE SUMMER: A SISTER'S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

By Cristina Rivera Garza

Deeply vulnerable, compellingly bold and thoroughly researched, this Pulitzer Prize-winning history of loss is easily one of the best nonfiction books of the year. *"A beautiful and powerful book about grief, misogyny, and cultural violence. The author looks for answers and more information about the murder of her sister in Mexico City decades ago."* – Miguel

Autobiography, True Crime



ENSHITTIFICATION: WHY EVERYTHING SUDDENLY GOT WORSE AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

By Cory Doctorow

Doctorow shows how a handful of profitable companies are slowly breaking the internet, one platform and service at a time. Tech billionaires, far from helping streamline services, are taking over the online world and breaking it down to make maximum profits for themselves. Author-signed copies are at Library Shop Mission Hills.

Social Science, Popular Culture, Business



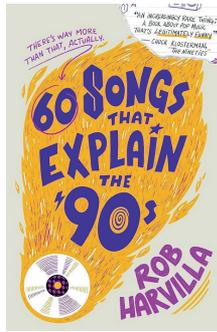
EVERY SCREEN ON THE PLANET: THE WAR OVER TIKTOK

By Emily Baker-White

Emily Baker-White understands TikTok like few others. A 2024 NYFWA Impact Award winner for her groundbreaking coverage of the platform, this dogged journalist details ByteDance's misuse of surveillance – not only of TikTok users, but also of reporters covering the company (including herself). A fascinating book and signed by the author herself, this is mandatory reading for the chronically online.

Technology, Business, Politics

ADULT NONFICTION

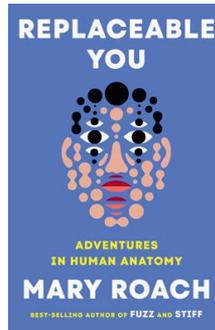


60 SONGS THAT EXPLAIN THE 90'S

By Rob Harvilla

A companion to the popular podcast, this *Rolling Stone*-approved tome distills the times and iconic sounds of an era. "A fantastic mix of nostalgia, music journalism and comedic rant. Harvilla weaves together 90's music and pop culture in a fun and super readable narrative." – Jason

Music, Popular Culture

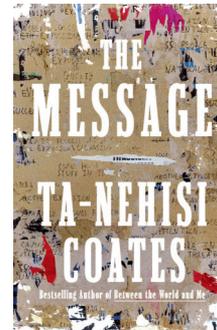


REPLACEABLE YOU

By Mary Roach

A strange and sharp deep dive into biomedical technology and the replaceable parts of our bodies. Mary Roach once again delivers her trademark, gleeful humor— with a researcher's ability to blow past embarrassment to give you the VERY best of fun facts. Buff up on your small-talk with *Replaceable You* before attending any New Year dinner parties.

Science

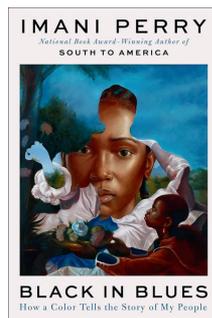


THE MESSAGE

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Coates visits Dakar, Senegal, South Carolina and Palestine. In each place, the celebrated writer holds up the larger-than-life myths and stories which once informed his understanding, and examines those ideas with a closer eye: how much of what we think we know about the world is just narrative and mythmaking? A great pick for the progressive deep-thinker in your life.

Social Science, Essays

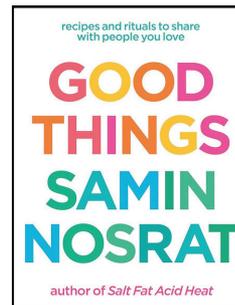


BLACK IN BLUES:HOW A COLOR TELLS THE STORY OF MY PEOPLE

By Imani Perry

A National Book Award-winning author draws out new, compelling insight from the familiar. Perry mines the deep history of the color blue within Black experience, from singing the blues to indigo blue dye. For a people whose story has undergone erasure, Perry notes, it is often necessary to "piece together clues and uncover hidden histories." She does so in the most vivid and unique way.

History, Essays

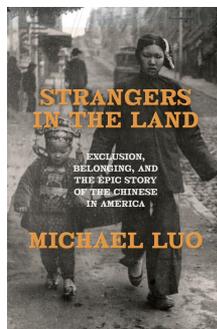


GOOD THINGS: RECIPES AND RITUALS TO SHARE WITH PEOPLE YOU LOVE

By Samin Nosrat

"Stop clowning around and see your loved ones! Eat good food and don't make it hard. These— and specific hosting recipes from a skillful and beloved chef— are the lessons of Good Things by Samin Nosrat. Reminding us that to have good times we have to make them, this cookbook-manifesto is a perfect gift to share with the people you'd invite to Friendsgiving." – AC

Cooking, Hosting

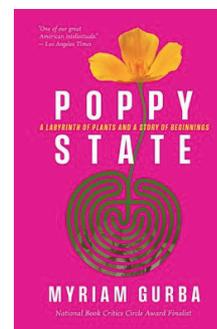


STRANGERS IN THE LAND: EXCLUSION, BELONGING, AND THE EPIC STORY OF THE CHINESE IN AMERICA

By Mike Luo

Executive editor of *The New Yorker* and former investigative journalist at *The New York Times*, Mike Luo is a history buff's history buff. Within a narrow topic— Chinese immigrant experience in the U.S.— Luo's research offers an expansive and detailed tapestry rich with personal stories and contributions. An empathetic and triumphant counterpoint to the bigotry which inspired it.

History



POPPY STATE: A LABYRINTH OF PLANTS AND A STORY OF BEGINNINGS

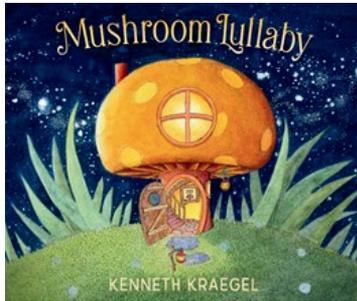
By Myriam Gurba

For fans of Robin Wall Kimmerer, Gurba explores the botany and history of California, with particular notice of how identity is cultivated within our natural landscapes. Gurba's father helped plant her first garden while working as an educator for the children of migrant workers. From the Angeles National Forest to your own garden, *Poppy State* is a rich portrait of our collective heritage caked in earth.

Natural History, Autobiography

YOUNG READERS

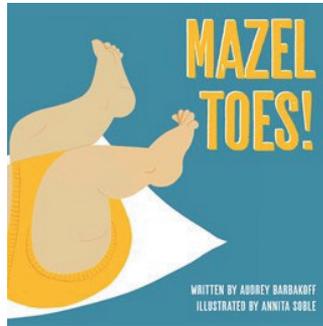
BOARD BOOKS (FOR READERS 0 TO 3)



MUSHROOM LULLABY

By Kenneth Kraegel

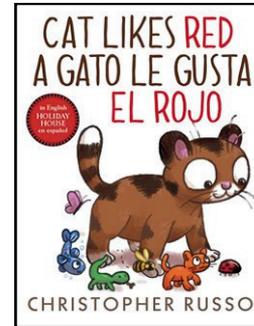
Mushroom Lullaby is a soothing and whimsical bedtime story for fans of the *Brambly Hedge* series and other sweet nature stories.



MAZEL TOES!

By Dr. Audrey Barbakoff and illustrated by Annita Soble

This new board book is a joyful celebration of Jewish culture and includes a glossary of Yiddish words at the back. Author Dr. Audrey Barbakoff is a librarian!

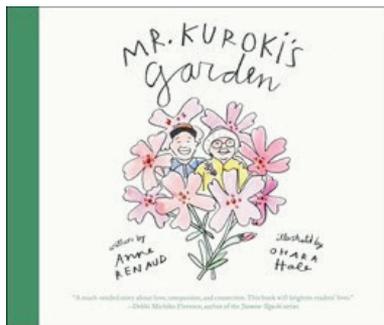


CAT LIKES RED / A GATO LE GUSTA EL ROJO

By Christopher Russo

This board book from a debut author has flown under the radar so far, but it is beautifully illustrated and a perfect pick for cat-loving new parents.

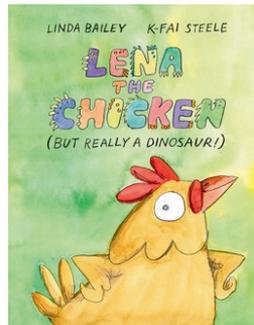
PICTURE BOOKS



MR. KUROKI'S GARDEN

By Anne Renaud and illustrated by Ohara Hale

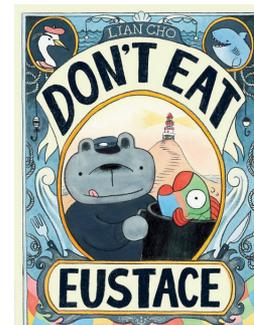
This lovely picture book is about the real story of Mr. and Mrs. Kuroki and their former dairy farm-turned-expansive pink flower garden in Shintomi, Japan. Ohara Hale's illustrations are reminiscent of *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans, and hold the same sweetness and simplicity.



LENA THE CHICKEN (BUT REALLY A DINOSAUR!)

By Linda Bailey and illustrated by K-Fai Steele

For fans of *Click Clack Moo* by Doreen Cronin, this is a fun and silly read with a tenacious chicken/dinosaur at the helm.

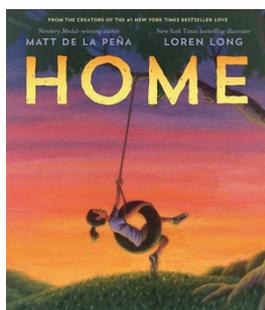


DON'T EAT EUSTACE

By Lian Cho

Is your young reader giggly, chaotic, and a little devious? They will delight in the uncertain friendship of Eustace and Bear.

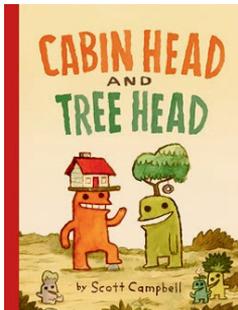
EARLY READERS



HOME

By Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Loren Long

"We are so fortunate to be alive at a time when there are new Matt de la Peña and Loren Long books to look forward to. This poignant collaboration explores what it means to feel safe and belong in a space or a moment. Home celebrates connection, community, mindfulness, and resilience in the face of natural disasters and housing uncertainty." – Sarah



CABIN HEAD AND TREE HEAD

By Scott Campbell

A charming, goofy read for fans of *Dog Man*. This graphic novel has been described as Frog and Toad meets Bill and Ted– and is laugh-out-loud funny. Highly recommended heartily by Drew Daywalt, Jon Klassen, and (of course) Library Shop SD.

(for ages 5 to 7)



DORY FANTASMAGORY: CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

By Abby Hanlon

Dory Fantasmagory is silly, fun, and perfect for fans of Judy Moody and Junie B. Jones. In this book, an energetic little sister joins her first ever soccer team, and chaos ensues. Check out the whole series!

(Chapter Book, Ages 6 to 9)

YOUNG READERS

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION



EXTREME PLACES: THE MOST REMOTE HOMES ON EARTH

By Giles Laroche

A richly informative and beautifully illustrated book for kids with a zest for knowledge. From steep mountains to island villages, Laroche shows families making their homes in unique areas.



MEGA

By Jules Howard and illustrated by Gavin Scott

A fun exploration of the LARGEST large animals. *MEGA* is the next step for readers who have aged out of the *Who Would Win* series from Jerry Pallotta, but are still eager for zoological nonfiction.

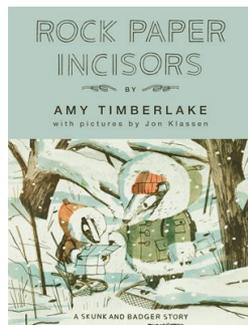


GREEKING OUT: TALES FROM THE UNDERWORLD

By Kenny Curtis and Jillian Hughes and illustrated by Javier Espila

For the kids who love Greek mythology and spooky reads. Mission accomplished!

MIDDLE READER BOOKS



ROCK PAPER INCISORS: A SKUNK AND BADGER STORY

By Amy Timberlake and illustrated by Jon Klassen

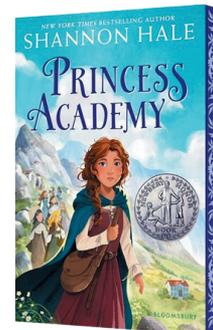
For fans of the dry humor of the *Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel, this is a great selection for a young reader who has recently aged out of chapter books.



COACH

By Jason Reynolds

A new addition to the award-winning *Track* series, Reynolds tackles complicated topics in a way that challenges young readers but leads with care and hope. This installment introduces readers to Coach Brody as a young athlete.



PRINCESS ACADEMY

By Shannon Hale

The deluxe twentieth anniversary edition of a Newbery Award-winning classic, *Princess Academy* would make an excellent gift for fans of *The Land of Stories* series from Chris Colfer or *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine.



SCARLET MORNING

By ND Stevenson

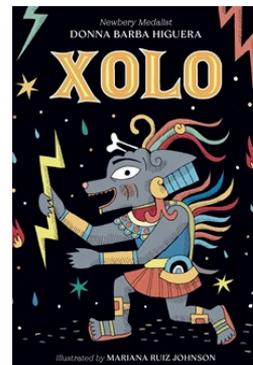
For fans of *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell, this is the newest middle grade book from the author of *Nimona*.



KINDRED DRAGONS

By Sarah Mensinga

This is the next book for any young reader who loved *The Tea Dragon Society* by K. O'Neill, but wished it was eighty pages longer.



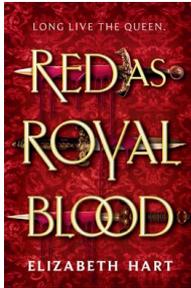
XOLO

By Donna Barba Higuera and illustrated by Mariana Ruiz Johnson

Xolo is a graphic novel reimagining of the Aztec myth of Quetzalcoatl from an iconic author-illustrator pairing.

YOUNG READERS

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS



RED AS ROYAL BLOOD

By Elizabeth Hart

This sharp medieval mystery is perfect for fans of *The Inheritance Games* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes.



THE MONSTROUS KIND

By Lydia Gregovic

This paranormal, immersive zombie romance-mystery came out in paperback this year and has flown woefully under the radar.



WORLD OF HOWL BOXED SET

By Diana Wynne Jones

This boxed set includes paperback editions of all three of the books in the beloved *World of Howl* series which inspired Hayao Miyazaki's movie, *Howl's Moving Castle*. These cozy, feel-good fantasy reads are perfect for anyone just entering the YA sphere.



THE LEAVING ROOM

By Amber McBride

"I am surprised but delighted by the popularity of novels-in-verse among young readers. *The Leaving Room* artfully and gently explores the liminal space between life and death." – Sarah

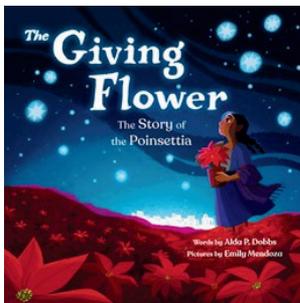


ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN

By XiXi Tian

This coming-of-age California road trip story is for fans of emotionally-gripping realistic fiction.

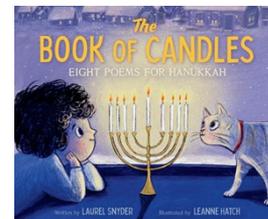
HOLIDAY BOOKS



THE GIVING FLOWER: STORY OF THE POINSETTIA

By Alda P. Dobbs and illustrated by Emily Mendoza

This nonfiction picture book follows the history of the poinsettia, starting with the Nahuatl people in ancient Mexico.



THE BOOK OF CANDLES

By Laurel Snyder and illustrated by Leanne Hatch

A picture book of 8 poems that celebrate Jewish traditions and the power of community, connection.

Board Book, Ages 0-3

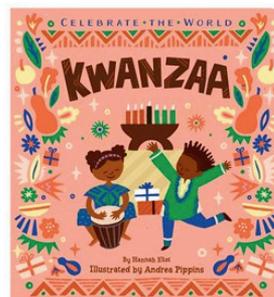


LOVE IS A CANDLE

By Boxer Books

The colorful die-cut shapes in this board book celebrate the symbols and traditions of Hanukkah.

Board Book, Ages 0-3

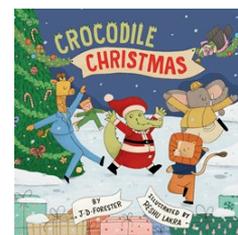


KWANZAA

By Hannah Eliot and illustrated by Andrea Pippins

This board book is a cheerful and vibrantly illustrated introduction to the Kwanzaa.

Board Book, Ages 0-3

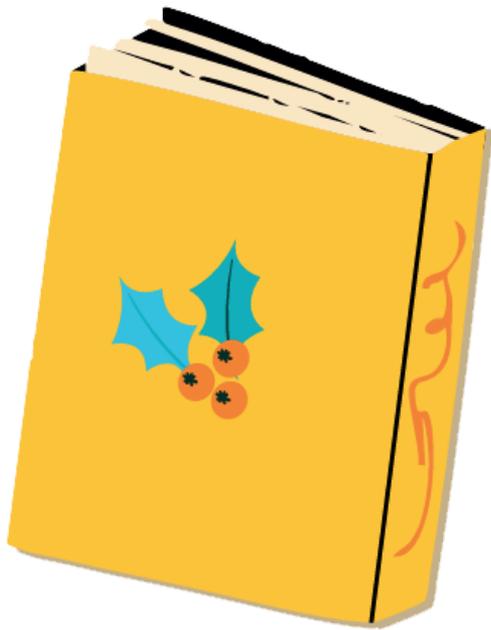


CROCODILE CHRISTMAS

By J. D. Forester and illustrated by Reshu Lakra

Reshu Lakra is an illustrator to watch, and her animal illustrations make this a fun, playful read. In this board book, the animals join together to play dress up for Christmas. Who is that hiding under the big, red hat?

Board Book, Ages 0-3



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Visit us online for signed books, fun gifts, and even more recommendations.

WHO ARE WE?



Library Shop SD is a neighborhood independent bookstore run by Library Foundation SD. We offer a well-curated selection of new books and gifts for book nerds and library lovers. Stop by for book recommendations, niche literary treasures, and author events. Proceeds from sales at Library Shop SD Support support all 37 branches of the San Diego Public Library