



BOOKS What We're READING

By STEPH OPITZ

1. MEN WITHOUT WOMEN

by Haruki Murakami (Knopf)

Don't be fooled by the collection's title: Most of the men in these stories are portrayed in relation to the women in (or recently out of) their lives. Fans of Murakami's characteristic offbeat humor and quirky characters will be elated to return to his unmistakable voice. (Newcomers will love it, too, obviously.)

2. SAINTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

by J. Courtney Sullivan (Knopf)

Young Irish sisters sail to Boston to start their lives, but things go awry and they sever ties. Flash forward almost 50 years, when tragedy brings the estranged siblings together. Sullivan writes beautifully of the nuances and misunderstandings that can tear at a family's fabric, and the love that can mend. This book will take you on a ride through all the feels.

3. INTO THE WATER

by Paula Hawkins (Riverhead)

From the mega-selling, blockbusting *The Girl on the Train* author comes an equally addicting page-turner. In her multi-narrator style, Hawkins describes the strange circumstances surrounding Nel Abbott's drowning. With familial drama, murder mystery, even rumors of witchcraft, this novel has a little something for anyone looking for their next binge-read.

4. THE LEAVERS

by Lisa Ko (Algonquin)

Deming is just a child when he's sent away from his mom, back to China (his mother, a new American immigrant, couldn't afford him)—and that's only the beginning of his parental roller coaster. Consider this book a must-read: They may be fictional, but these characters have a lot to teach us about the difficulties of belonging and the plight of illegal immigrants.

5. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

by Elizabeth Strout (Random House)

While we recommend everything by the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer—like, say, her recent book *My Name Is Lucy Barton*—this novel, which explores life's complexities through interconnected stories, stands on its own. Despite some heavy material, it's a joy to read a modern master doing her thing.

6. YOU DON'T LOOK YOUR AGE: AND OTHER FAIRY TALES

by Sheila Nevins (Flatiron Books)

It's no surprise that the legendary HBO documentary producer Sheila Nevins (who has 32 Primetime Emmys!) knows how to tell a story. In her collection of hilarious, poignant, intimate essays and short stories, Nevins turns the spotlight onto the state of womanhood today: the good (feminism), the bad (heartbreaks), and the very real (accepting your jeans size).

GOOD VIBES ONLY

Culture writer and verified funnyperson on Twitter Scaachi Koul (follow her @Scaachi) leaves no stone unturned in her debut essay collection, *One Day We'll All Be Dead and None of This Will Matter* (Picador)



MARIE CLAIRE: Despite your very open, forthright online persona, this collection seems more personal—are you ready for that reader intimacy?

SCAACHI KOUL: Well, I don't want my dad to read the chapter about my pubic hair. He would've liked if I'd been a doctor. When I got into journalism school, my mom asked me if I wanted to be a pharmacist instead. But really, generally, my parents are supportive, even if they don't totally get it. I just forget that there's a world outside of my brain, and my editor, and my publisher, and I can't control that.

MC: You're no stranger to unsolicited feedback (see: Internet trolls); are you bracing yourself for more of the same with the book?

SK: The thing about Internet writing is that there's no fee to read something and then send me an angry tweet. But with a book, there's

a rate for entry. If you want to buy the book and hate it ... OK. I'm happy to use that to buy myself a coffee.

MC: Twitter's such a hotbed for bigotry—is there anything that can be done about it?

SK: Twitter seems to conflate free speech with giving everybody a megaphone. No one is owed that. I wish there was a remedy. If you're that upset with my work, you'll find a way to let me know. But I can find ways to not give a shit. Like drinking.

MC: Are you an optimist?

SK: I'm a pessimist, within reason. The title is bleak, but the hope is that not everything needs to be a disaster, because you're going to be dead and it literally will not have mattered. So try to enjoy yourself. —S.O.

