



THE SMART LIFE

A satirical novel predicts a win for Luddites.

Though our favorite tech tools may seem gifted from the gods or born in a white box, they sprang from the minds of mere mortals, as Courtney Maum reminds us in her novel *Touch* (Putnam), a hilarious workplace send-up and warm-hearted tale of a woman reconfiguring her priorities. Sloane Jacobsen, a trend forecaster with a hint of ESP, foresaw the rise of the touch screen "swipe," and now everyone wonders what she'll prophesy next. However, she's begun to find her full-on wired existence less than satisfying, especially since her boyfriend, a TED-esque celebrity whose daily uniform is a spandex bodysuit that masks his face, has proclaimed the demise of penetrative sex in favor of the cyber version. Is it a coincidence that Sloane discerns signs of a new phenomenon: that people were ready to separate their souls from their SIM cards? Is "in-personism" the next wave? At first you might feel lost without your device, Sloane concludes, though soon you'll find that "your mind—so tired, always on—[is] interpreting that sudden helplessness as the exact thing you have wanted."
—ERIN VANDERHOOF

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TITLES TO PICK UP NOW

We Are Never Meeting in Real Life.

by Samantha Irby

From the blogger behind *Bitches Gotta Eat* comes a seriocomic essay collection that will have you crying from laughter and then just crying. A boisterous medley of awkward sex, pop culture obsession, and coming-of-age.



Fen

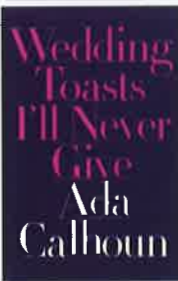
by Daisy Johnson

The 12 stories that comprise Johnson's lusty debut are a deep dive into symbolism, from a girl who seeks to starve herself into the shape of an eel to a house in love with its female inhabitant.

My Life with Bob

by Pamela Paul

For decades the editor of *The New York Times Book Review* has chronicled everything she's read—from *Miss Piggy's Guide to Life to The Magic Mountain*—in a journal she calls Bob (a.k.a. Book of Books). Now she's sharing these reflections, revealing a bibliophile's treasure trove of insights.



Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give

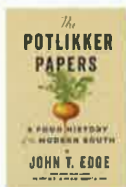
by Ada Calhoun

Raise a glass to these reality-check essays that are equal parts ode to marriage ("I adore my husband and plan to be with him forever") and sly acknowledgment of its challenges ("I also want to run screaming from the house because...[he] insists on falling asleep to *Frasier* reruns").

This Is Just My Face

by Gabourey Sidibe

A bubbly memoir by the *Precious* and *Empire* star that brims with winning anecdotes: an extreme hair-dye mishap, an excruciating blind date with a cabbie. But it's Sidibe's heartfelt exploration of insecurity and depression that makes us love her.



The Potlikker Papers

by John T. Edge

A leading food critic paints a panoramic mural of the South's culinary heritage, illuminating the region's troubled place at the American table and the unsung role of cooks in the quest for social justice.

Since We Fell

by Dennis Lehane

The *Mystic River* author lives up to his reputation as a master plotter with this slow-burn thriller featuring a journalist who suffers a career-ending breakdown on camera.



You Don't Look Your Age

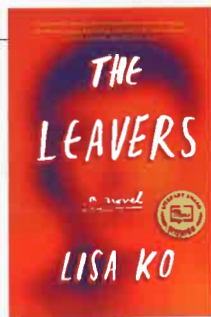
by Sheila Nevins

The glass ceiling-shattering president of HBO Documentary Films turns the lens on herself in an Ephronesque memoir that probes the petty, the poignant, and the heroic.

The Leavers

by Lisa Ko

Ko's searing first novel—the 2016 winner of the PEN/Bellwether Prize—chronicles undocumented Chinese immigrant Polly's sudden disappearance, which leaves her 11-year-old son to grapple with a mystery that scars him into adulthood.



Bad Dreams and Other Stories

by Tessa Hadley

A teenage girl surrenders her virginity to a laconic boy. Estranged sisters tap a fresh and bitter enmity. These consummately crafted tales reveal Hadley's unflinching audacity and her peerless gift for revealing ourselves as we are, not as we wish to be.

—H.C., N.B., E.V.