

WTBBL Recommended Reads: Meaningful Moves

We've all been there: sweat dripping into our eyes, muscles groaning in protest after carrying box after box, thinking to ourselves, "I will never move EVER again." Of course, this move was probably for a good reason – skyrocketing rent, loud neighbors, break ups – whatever led to this herculean feat you're performing, there's a story there. Immerse yourself in these tales of growing pains, earthshaking upheavals, and homesickness as we pay homage to this necessary, but sometimes uncomfortable period in one's life.

Circe by Madeline Miller, 2018. ([BR022648](#), [DB090711](#))

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child; not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology. – Book description from library catalog

Anne of Greenville by Mariko Tamaki, 2022.

([DB114727](#))

In this modern reimagining of Anne of Green Gables, Anne is a queer, Japanese-American, ABBA-loving singer/actor/writer of disco-operas who longs to be understood for her artistic genius. Recently relocated to middle-of-nowhere Greenville and starting at a new school, Anne has a tendency to: A) fall in love quickly, deeply, and effervescently, and B) fly off the handle in the face of jerks. Both personality quirks quickly come into play when the soccer team boos the premiere of her disco performance, which introduces her to her new BFF, Berry, and she soon after meets the girl of her dreams, Gilly. Anne finds herself in a love triangle she never expected. – Book description adapted from Goodreads

Outlawed by Anna North, 2021. ([DB102210](#))

The day of her wedding, 17-year-old Ada's life looks good; she loves her husband, and she loves working as an apprentice to her mother, a respected midwife. But after a year of marriage and no pregnancy in a town where barren women are routinely hanged as witches, her survival depends on leaving behind everything she knows. She joins up with the notorious Hole in the Wall Gang, a band of outlaws led by a preacher-turned-robber known to all as the Kid. Charismatic, grandiose, and mercurial, the Kid is determined to create a safe haven for outcast women. But to make this dream a reality, the Gang hatches a treacherous plan that may get them all killed. – Book description from Goodreads

Can't Spell Treason Without Tea: A Cozy Fantasy Steeped with Love by Rebecca Thorne, 2024.

([DB121399](#))

All Reyna and Kianthe want is to open a bookshop that serves tea. Worn wooden floors, plants on every table, firelight drifting between the rafters... all complemented by love and good company. The thing is, Reyna works as one of the Queen's private guards, and Kianthe is the most powerful mage in existence. Leaving their lives isn't so easy. But after an assassin takes Reyna hostage, she decides she's thoroughly done risking her life for a self-centered queen. Meanwhile, Kianthe has been waiting for a chance to flee responsibility—all the better that her girlfriend is on board. Together, they settle in Tawney, a town nestled in the icy tundra near dragon country, and open the shop of their dreams. – Book description from Goodreads

Mad About You: A Novel by Mhairi McFarlane, 2022.

([DB110414](#))

Harriet is single...and living down the hall from her ex. She needs a new apartment, like, yesterday. Enter Cal Clarke, a hopeless romantic who just experienced his own wedding-related disaster. Harriet and Cal are like chalk and cheese, but as they go from strangers to roommates to friends, it becomes clear they're both running from something. – Book description adapted from Goodreads

Exit West: A Novel by Mohsin Hamid, 2017.
([BR022136](#), [DB087691](#))

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet—sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors—doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. – Book description from Goodreads

Tempest [#3, Old West] by Beverly Jenkins, 2018.
([DB091812](#))

Regan Carmichael is an independent, adventurous frontierswoman who chooses to become a mail-order bride to a physician in the Wyoming Territory. Shooting Dr. Colton Lee in the shoulder is an honest error, but soon Regan wonders if her entire plan to marry a man she's never met is a mistake. Colton, who buried his heart along with his first wife, insists he only wants someone to care for his daughter. Yet Regan is drawn to the unmistakable desire in his gaze. – Book description from library catalog

The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches by Sangu Mandanna, 2022. ([BR025362](#), [DB110401](#))

Mika is hiding the fact that she is a witch, except when she posts videos online “pretending” to be a witch. But one day, someone does take these videos seriously and begs her to come to the remote and mysterious Nowhere House to teach three young witches how to control their magic. Mika accepts, and in addition to her charges finds herself tangled up in the lives of the other residents of Nowhere House, including the handsome and prickly librarian, Jamie. When peril comes knocking at their door, Mika will need to protect the found family she didn’t know she was looking for. – Book description adapted from publisher’s website

Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language by Eva Hoffman, 1989. ([DB030917](#))

When her parents brought her from the war-ravaged, faded elegance of her native Cracow in 1959 to settle in well-manicured, suburban Vancouver, Eva Hoffman was thirteen years old. Entering into adolescence, she endured the painful pull of nostalgia and struggled to express herself in a strange unyielding new language. Her spiritual and intellectual odyssey continued in college and led her ultimately to New York’s literary world yet still she felt caught between two languages, two cultures. But her perspective also made her a keen observer of an America in the flux of change. – Book description from Amazon

Just Like Home by Sarah Gailey, 2022. ([DB111782](#))

"Come home." Vera's mother called, and Vera obeyed. In spite of their long estrangement, in spite of the memories - she's come back to the home of a serial killer. Back to face the love she had for her father and the bodies he buried there, beneath the house he'd built for his family. Coming home is hard enough for Vera, and to make things worse, she and her mother aren't alone. A parasitic artist has moved into the guest house out back and is slowly stripping Vera's childhood for spare parts. He insists that he isn't the one leaving notes around the house in her father's handwriting... but who else could it possibly be? There are secrets yet undiscovered in the foundations of the notorious Crowder House. Vera must face them and find out for herself just how deep the rot goes. – Book description from publisher's website

A Year in Provence by Peter Mayle, 1989. ([DB033617](#))

The Mayles often visited Provence and dreamed of spending a year under the Provencal sun. Their chance came when they fell in love with a 200-year-old farmhouse at the foot of the Luberon Mountains, a dwelling built of stone in the haphazard manner of houses that spread to accommodate a growing family. Beginning with lunch on New Year's Day, Mayle chronicles a year of rural life that was governed by the seasons, not the days. – Book description from library catalog

Big Swiss: A Novel by Jen Beagin, 2023. ([DB113281](#))

After breaking up with her longtime boyfriend, Greta, 45, moves to an isolated colony of washed-up artists in Hudson, New York. There, she finds work transcribing therapy sessions for a local sex therapist named Om. All seems to be going well until one of the voices from her transcription work starts to sound all too familiar in her everyday life. This darkly hilarious tale of longing, lust, and trauma reads as a cautionary tale about how running away from one's problems inevitably ends up with one being snapped back like a rubber band into a mire of unresolved trauma. This book has everything: extramarital romps, indoor beehives, dog park politics, domesticated donkeys, and more! – Book description from library staff