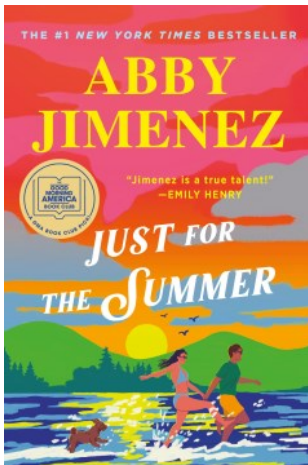
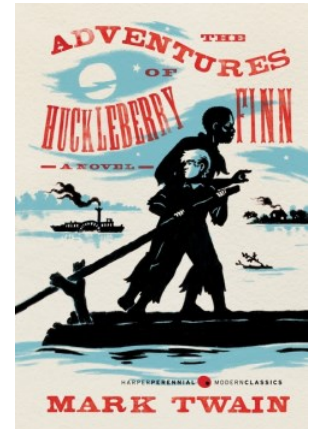
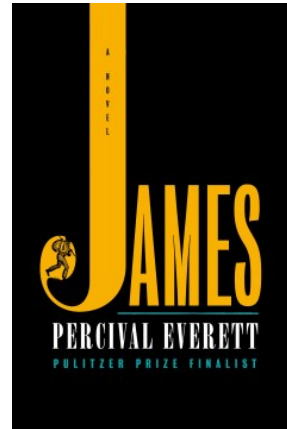




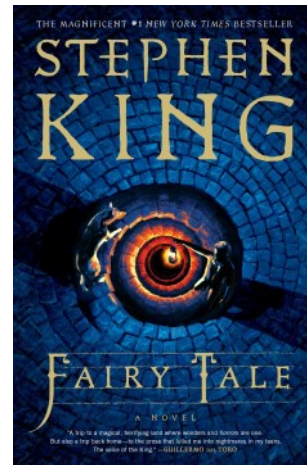
Ellen's PICKS



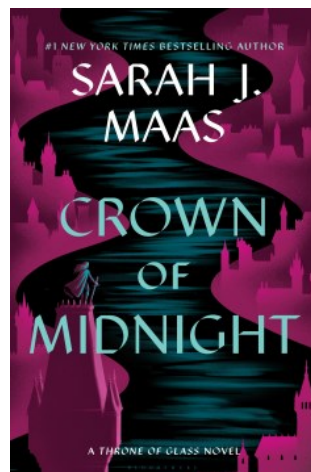
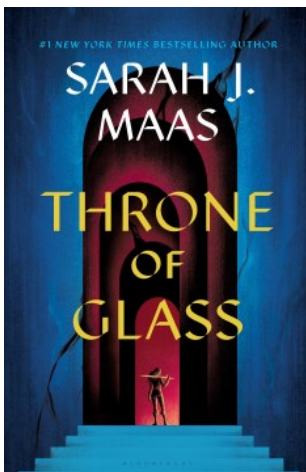
James is a wonderful poignant companion to Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. It tells the story from the perspective of Jim, the slave. I listened to the HF book first as a refresher (free on Hoopla with your library card!) James has a few surprises that I totally did not expect! I am not at all surprised at the attention this book is getting. Highly recommend!



As far as I am concerned Jimenez is the GOAT of RomCom authors. Each and every one is laugh-out-loud funny, but also includes real world issues such as mental health, broken families, etc. My only criticism is that she doesn't write them fast enough.



This one has it all: a teenage hero with flaws, an alternate magical world with giant insects and monsters, a princess, some average citizens who rise to defend their own, some very bad guys, and best of all a lovable, loyal dog! It's a long one, but worth it!



I finally ventured into the YA series of Throne of Glass with the first two books. (There are 7 books total in this series). These first two involve a lot of world building and setting the scene for who the characters are and what they are trying to do. We meet our heroine Celaena, who was taken as an orphan and trained to an assassin. She excels at her craft and eventually is brought to the King's Palace to compete to be his #1 Assassin. If she wins the competition, she will gain her freedom for the first time in her life. Along the way, she encounters some magic within the palace and she must decide if the magic is going to help her or hurt her. The 2nd book continues her journey! Great escapism reading!