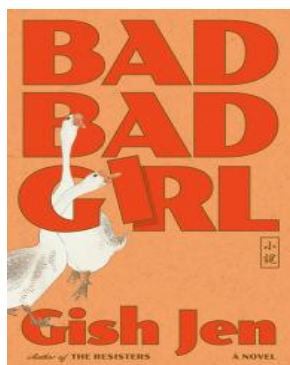


The “Ultimate” List of the Best Reviewed Fiction & Nonfiction Books of 2025

(** based on a compilation of worldwide reviews **)

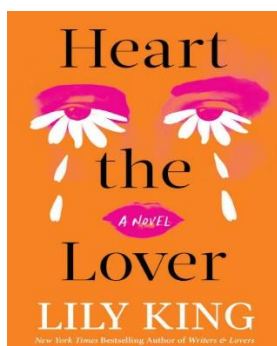
1. Bad Bad Girl — Gish Jen



Reviews: 14 Rave · 3 Positive

A clever, empathetic novel
blending memory
and imagined mother/daughter
conversations
with wit and insight.

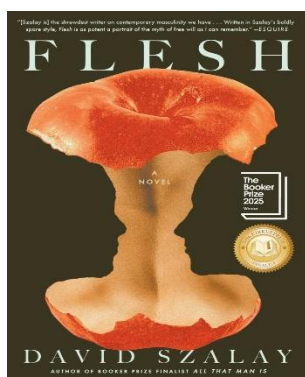
2. Heart the Lover — Lily King



**Reviews: 14 Rave · 1 Positive
· 1 Mixed**

A tender, multi-layered story
of love, memory,
and enduring emotional ties.

3. Flesh — David Szalay

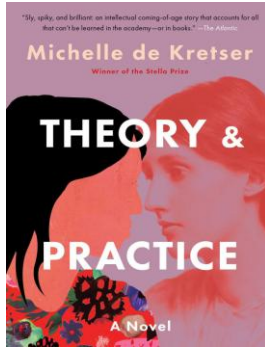


**Reviews: 18 Rave · 2 Positive · 1
Mixed**

WINNER BOOKER PRIZE!

A spare, haunting portrait of a man
shaped by hardship and chance.

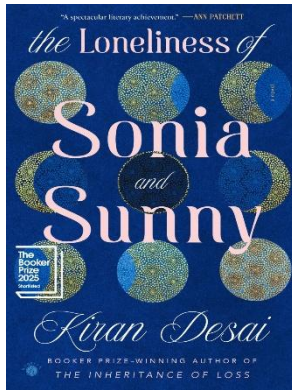
4. Theory & Practice — Michelle de Kretser



**Reviews: 20 Rave • 2 Positive
• 2 Mixed**

A witty, ambitious blend of fact and fiction skewering academic life.

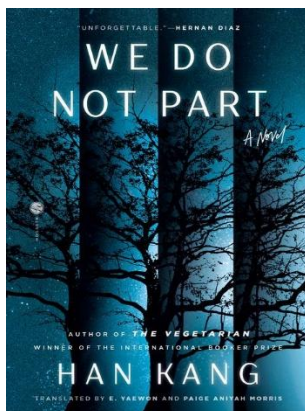
5. The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny — Kiran Desai



**Reviews: 14 Rave • 1 Positive •
2 Mixed**

An epic, richly imagined tale of love, family, and cultural identity spanning continents.

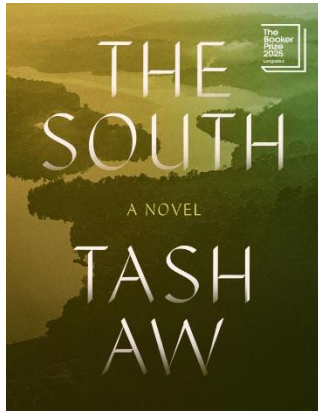
6. We Do Not Part — Han Kang



**Reviews: 21 Rave • 5 Positive •
1 Mixed • 1 Pan**

A poetic, deeply evocative novel weaving intimate voices with collective memories. Nobel Prize winner.

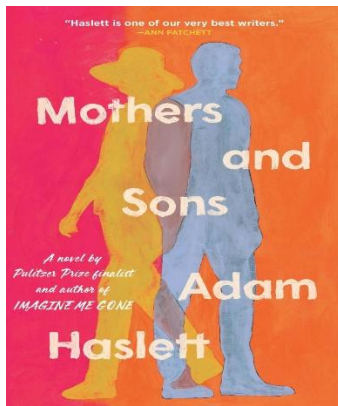
7. The South — Tash Aw



Reviews: 12 Rave • 4 Positive • 2 Mixed

A quietly expansive story with nuanced, evocative scenes and subtle depth.

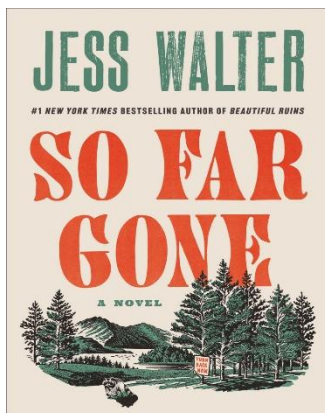
8. Mothers and Sons — Adam Haslett



Reviews: 12 Rave • 2 Positive • 3 Mixed

A deeply empathetic narrative tracing family bonds, estrangement, and the long shadows of past trauma.

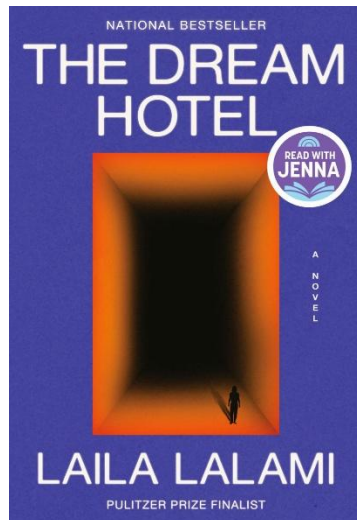
9. So Far Gone — Jess Walter



Reviews: 12 Rave • 2 Positive • 3 Mixed

A searing, funny, and human story about reconnection, resilience, and hope.

10. The Dream Hotel — Laila Lalami



Reviews: 12 Rave • 9 Positive • 1 Mixed

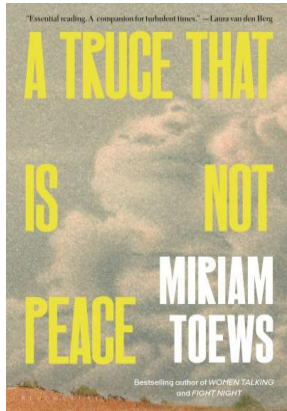
A vivid near-future speculative novel about surveillance, privacy, and autonomy in a tech-driven society.

📖 Scoring Key Compiled from more than 150 publications. Every outlet from the New York Times to the Sydney Morning Herald and Los Angeles Review of Books.

RAVE = 5 pts • POSITIVE = 3 pts • MIXED = 1 pt • PAN = -5 pts

Best Reviewed Nonfiction of 2025

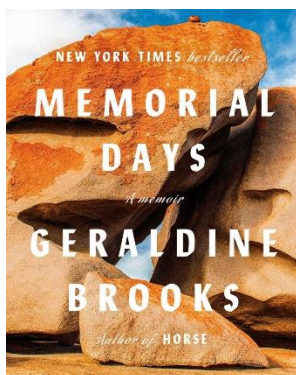
1. A Truce That Is Not Peace — Miriam Toews



Reviews: 12 Rave • 1 Positive

A layered, deeply reflective work on grief, guilt, and the act of living after devastating loss, blending personal narrative with philosophical insight.

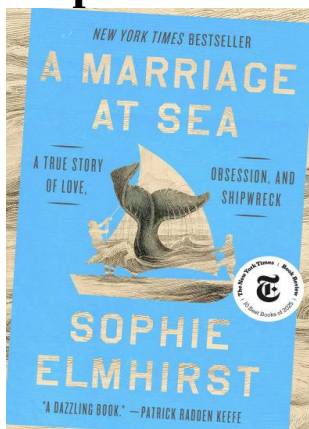
2. Memorial Days — Geraldine Brooks



Reviews: 16 Rave • 2 Positive

An intimate, day-by-day memoir that captures poignant meaning in grief and resilience with finely tuned storytelling.

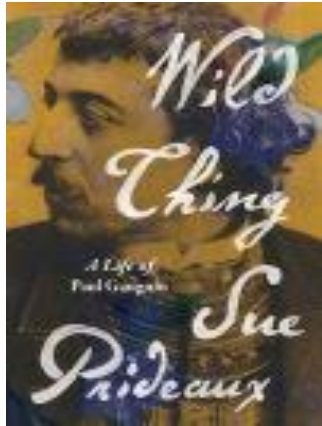
3. A Marriage at Sea: True Story of Love, Obsession, and Shipwreck — Sophie Elmhirst



Reviews: 12 Rave • 3 Positive

More than a shipwreck narrative — a gripping true story of love, strength, and survival told with narrative energy and emotional depth.

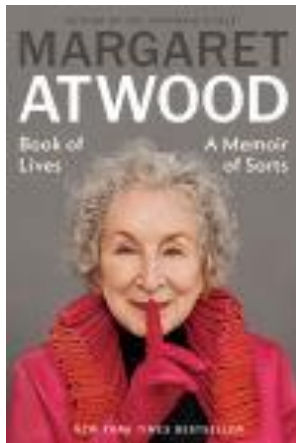
4. Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin — Sue Prideaux



Reviews: 10 Rave • 5 Positive • 1 Mixed

A vivid and incisive biography that illuminates the artist's contradictions and radical life with compelling analysis.

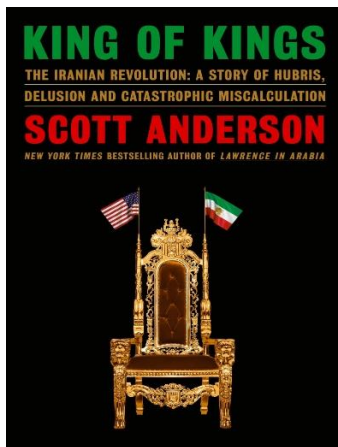
5. Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts — Margaret Atwood



Reviews: 13 Rave • 2 Positive • 2 Mixed

Atwood's introspective memoir combines storytelling and reflection, earning praise for its warmth, wit, and breadth of life experience.

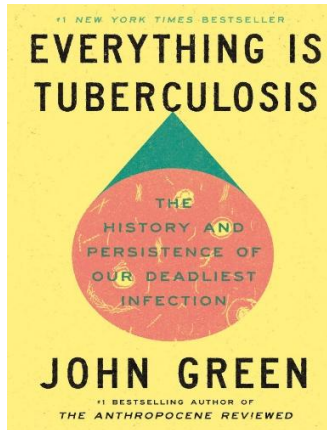
6. King of Kings: The Iranian Revolution — Scott Anderson



Reviews: 12 Rave • 3 Positive • 1 Mixed

A sweeping, thoroughly researched chronicle of the Iranian Revolution and its global impact, blending history and narrative insight.

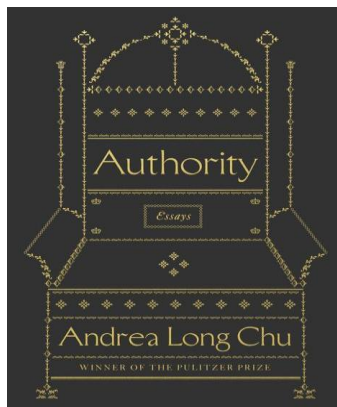
7. Everything Is Tuberculosis — John Green



Reviews: 10 Rave · 4 Positive · 2 Mixed

A surprising and informative history of tuberculosis that reframes cultural, medical, and human factors shaping disease and society.

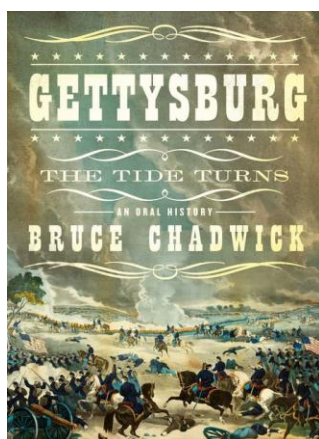
8. Authority: Essays — Andrea Long Chu



Reviews: 11 Rave · 3 Positive · 1 Mixed

A thought-provoking collection of essays on criticism, culture, identity, and authority — sharp, incisive, and widely discussed.

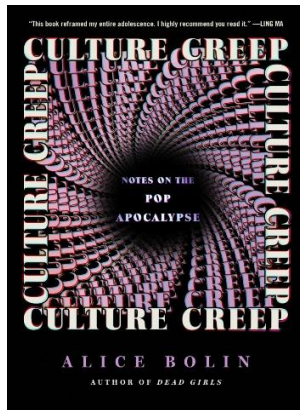
9. Gettysburg: The Tide Turns — Bruce Chadwick



Reviews: 10 Rave · 3 Positive · 2 Mixed

A richly detailed oral history of one of the Civil War's pivotal battles, bringing firsthand voices to a defining moment.

10. Culture Creep: Notes on the Pop Apocalypse — Alice Bolin



Reviews: 12 Rave · 4 Positive · 1 Mixed

An engaging essay collection that examines internet culture, social trends, and modern anxieties with wit and insight.