

JENNIFER EGAN'S *THE CANDY HOUSE* IMAGINES WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF MEMORIES COULD BE EXTERNALIZED.

SHELF LIFE  
**JENNIFER EGAN**  
 The Pulitzer Prize-winning author takes our literary survey.

**MORE THAN A DECADE** after Jennifer Egan's *A Visit From the Goon Squad*—winner of both a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Critics Circle Award—comes sibling novel *The Candy House*, out April 5. Characters from the former populate the latter, including Bix Bouton, now a tech entrepreneur with a revolutionary yet controversial idea on downloading and sharing human memories. It is the sixth novel for the Chicago-born, San Francisco-raised, Brooklyn-based Egan, who's also the author of *Manhattan Beach* (winner of the 2018 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction), about a female diver in WWII-era Brooklyn. Dip into her book picks below.—RIZA CRUZ

**THE BOOK THAT..**  
**Kept me up way too late:** Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*. It's one of the best thrillers I've ever read, a Gothic novel that is also a whodunit. Published in 1860, it features one of the great literary villains—a charming, menacing bird lover, Count Fosco.

**Made me weep uncontrollably:** *Robot Dreams* by Sara Varon. A graphic novel about the love between a dog and a robot that's thwarted by bad luck. I'm devastated every time, and I don't even fully know why.

**I recommend over and over again:** *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke—the audio version in particular, read spectacularly by Chiwetel Ejiofor.

**I read in one sitting, it was that good:** *Country of Origin* by Don Lee. An un-put-downable thriller (and first novel!) involving a young American woman's disappearance into Tokyo's criminal sex trade. Lee has been exploring the complexities of race and ethnicity for decades in his fiction, and he gets better with every book.

**Made me laugh out loud:** *Love in a Cold Climate* by Nancy Mitford. Contains flat-out hilarious descriptions of life in upper-class England in the 1930s.

**I first bought:** *The Secret Life of Plants* by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird. I was 10 and obsessed with houseplants; I had more than a hundred in my bedroom.

**I've reread the most:** *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton. It's miraculous on every level: the sentence, the paragraph, the cultural, the intellectual. It's funny, sharp, and deeply tragic. I make new discoveries every time I read it.

**I'd want signed by the author:** *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. As a longtime fan of Nella Larsen's *Passing*, I found Bennett's novel a brilliant entry into a conversation I can't get enough of—about identity, disguise, dop-pelgängers, and self-creation in American life.

**That holds the recipe to a favorite dish:** The Macaroni and Cheese recipe in *The Little Big Book for Dads*, edited by Lena Tabori and H. Clark Wakabayashi. I juice it up with ham, truffle oil, and cayenne pepper.

For more book recommendations, visit [elle.com/shelf-life](http://elle.com/shelf-life).

THE BEST OF SPRING FICTION



**PORTRAIT OF A THIEF**  
 GRACE D. LI  
 APRIL 5  
 Li's debut centers on a group of Chinese American young adults offered life-changing money to steal precious antiquities from Western museums and return them to China. The thrilling plot provides excitement alongside Li's deft exploration of colonialism.

LESSONS in CHEMISTRY

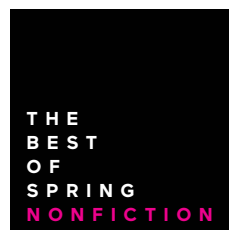


Bonnie Garmus

**LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY**  
 BONNIE GARMUS  
 APRIL 5  
 A chemist working against misogynistic '60s norms, Elizabeth Zott reluctantly begins hosting a cooking show geared toward housewives. Her ability to infuse science into the program empowers her female viewers and turns Zott into a star.



**MEMPHIS**  
 TARA M. STRINGFELLOW  
 APRIL 5  
 Stringfellow draws upon her own family's history for a debut novel that zeroes in on the trauma and joy of three generations of Memphis women. Powered by family bonds, they excel over decades, despite racism and sexism.—Adrienne Gaffney

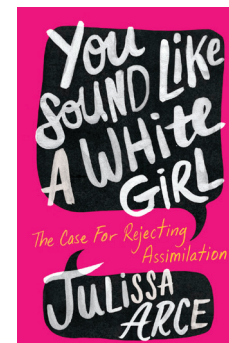
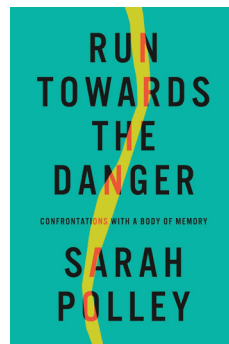


TALES OF IDENTITY, INVESTIGATION, AND RESILIENCE TOP ELLE'S SPRING READING LIST.



**TELL ME EVERYTHING**  
 ERIKA KROUSE  
 MARCH 15  
 Stalled in her writing career, Krouse lands a job as a private investigator based on her uncanny ability to get others to confess their secrets. *Tell Me Everything* follows her dogged efforts to investigate sexual assault allegations against players and recruits on a Big 12 university football team in Colorado, and a subsequent cover-up.

**RUN TOWARDS THE DANGER**  
 SARAH POLLEY  
 MARCH 1  
 In six essays, the actress, screenwriter, and director recounts stories that include childhood neglect, paralyzing stage fright, and dangerous film sets. Her thoughtful, revealing, and emotionally resonant storytelling matches the brilliance she's demonstrated in her work as a director of films like *Stories We Tell*, a documentary that explored her family history.—AG

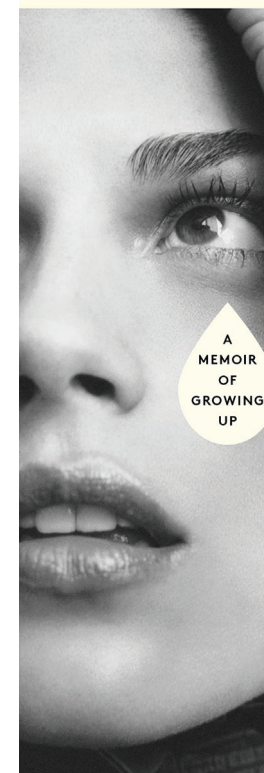


**YOU SOUND LIKE A WHITE GIRL**  
 JULISSA ARCE  
 MARCH 22  
 Arce established herself as a singular voice on immigration rights in her 2018 memoir *Someone Like Me*. Her latest nonfiction work, *You Sound Like a White Girl*, further examines the damage caused by America's push for assimilation, breaking down the myth that newcomers must abandon their culture to achieve a sense of belonging.

HOLLYWOOD TALES

AN BA

A TRIO OF MEMOIRS PROVIDES A DEEPER LOOK AT THREE CELEBRATED ACTRESSES.



A BLA

**MEAN BABY**  
 SELMA BLAIR  
 MAY 17  
 In 2018, Blair transformed from an actress into a disability advocate after publicly revealing her multiple sclerosis diagnosis. *Mean Baby* captures both the joys and sadness of a career in entertainment. Blair beautifully depicts memories from her unconventional childhood and the strange symptoms that haunted her for years.



VIOLA

**FINDING ME**  
 VIOLA DAVIS  
 APRIL 26  
 Long before the fame and awards, Davis was a young girl in Rhode Island, growing up amid severe poverty and family alcoholism. In *Finding Me*, she charts her unlikely path from a childhood of hunger to her student years at Juilliard to becoming one of the most respected actresses of our time. The light she shines on her struggles further illuminates her achievements.—AG

**HELLO, MOLLY!**  
 MOLLY SHANNON  
 APRIL 12  
 Shannon was the toast of television in 2021, with key roles in *The White Lotus* and *The Other Two*. Decades earlier, she was in a car crash that killed her mother, baby sister, and cousin. At the heart of *Hello, Molly!* is the connection she shares with her father, a complicated man who both raised her with love and was drunk driving at the time of the accident that transformed her life.

EGAN: PIETER M. VAN HATTEN.