

The 10 Best Novels of 2024: Must-Read Masterpieces

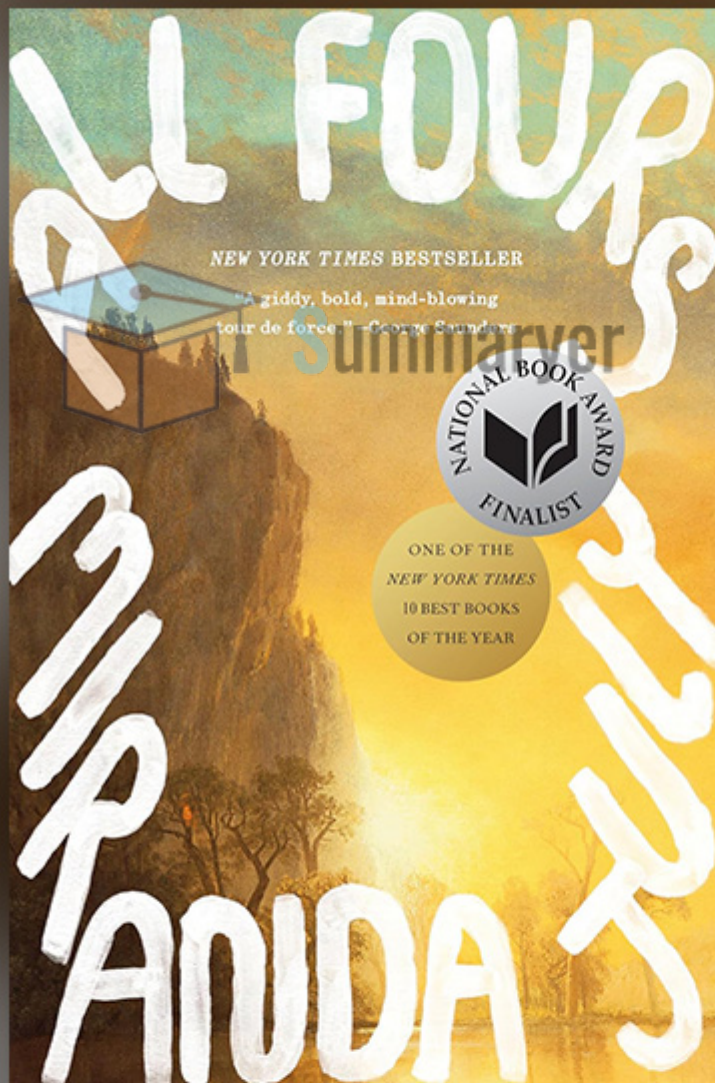




In 2024, the literary world was graced with numerous compelling novels that captivated readers and critics alike. Based on authoritative reviews and media

recommendations, here are 10 standout American novels from that year:





All Fours

by Miranda July

Miranda July

journey of

Finalist

NYT T

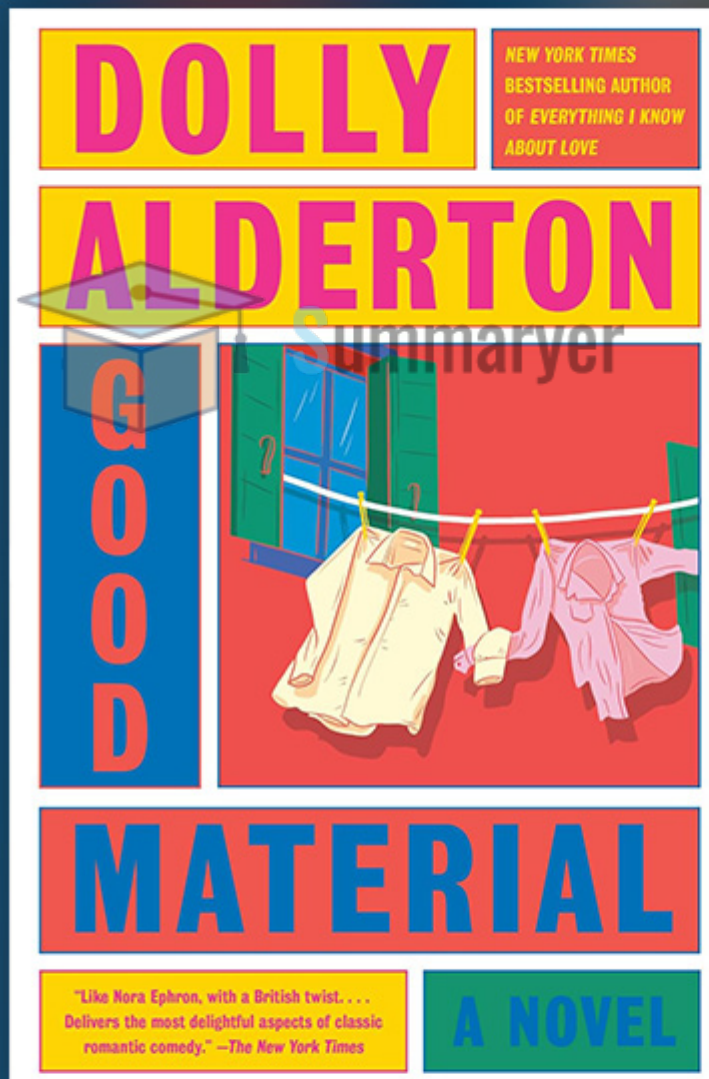
TV ad

A bold, in

1. [All Fours by Miranda July](#)

Why Read It? A revelation of midlife reinvention, *All Fours* is Miranda July at her most audacious and tender. When a woman impulsively abandons her road trip to hole up in a motel, her surreal self-discovery—blurring desire, art, and identity—will leave you breathless. *The New York Times* named it a Top 10 Book of 2024 for its razor-sharp wit and emotional bravery. Dive in if you crave a story that's as unpredictable as it is deeply human.





Good

by Dolly Alderton

*Follows a
and self-d*

Sunday

NYT To

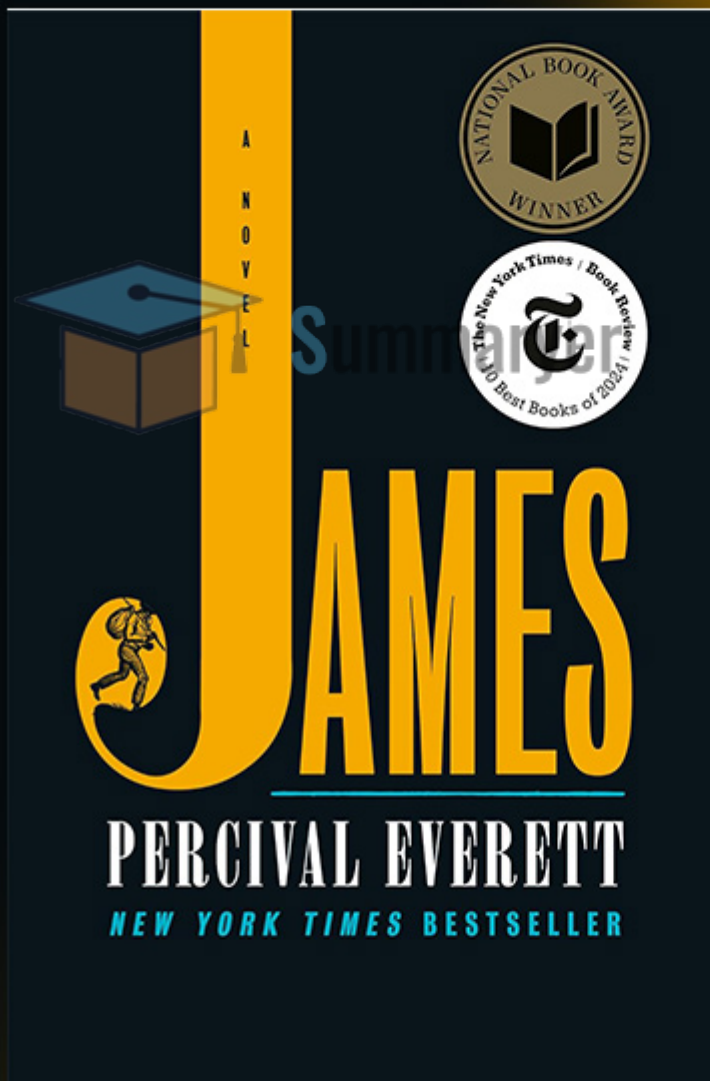
Film ri

A witty, ho

2. [Good Material](#) by Dolly Alderton

Why Read It? Dolly Alderton's *Good Material* is the ultimate breakup novel for the modern age. With her signature humor and heart, Alderton dissects love, friendship, and the messy aftermath of relationships. Named a *NYT* Top 10 Book, it's packed with laugh-out-loud moments and poignant truths—perfect for anyone who's ever loved, lost, and lived to swipe right again.





James
by Percival

*A brilliant
seeks free*

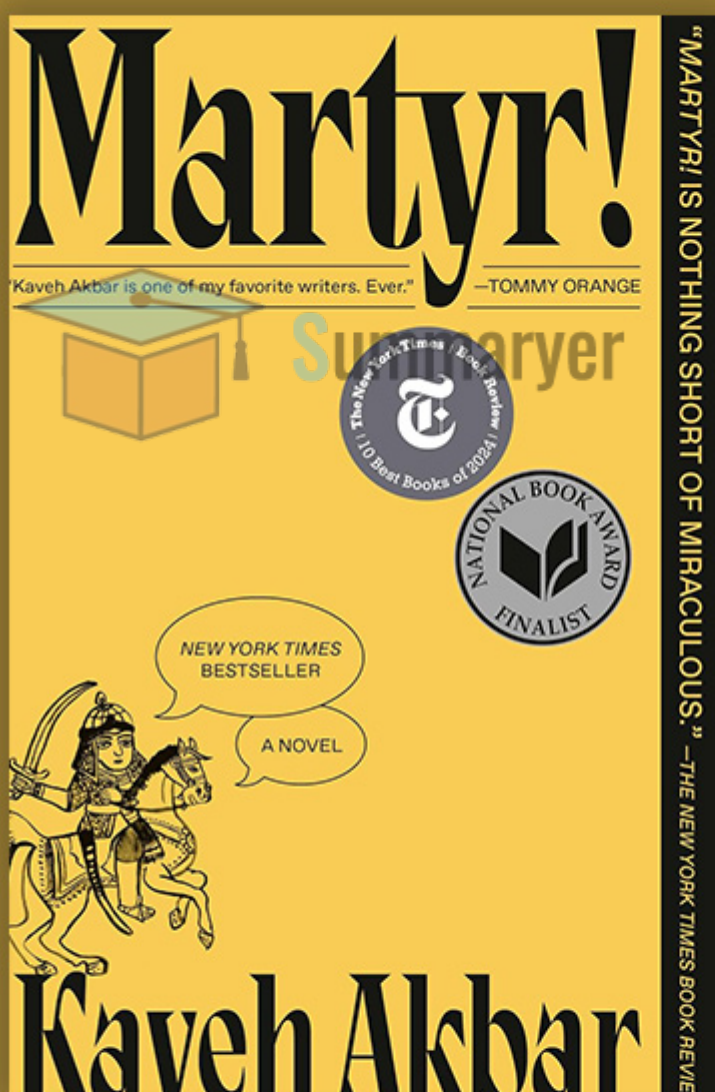
*Winner
NYT To
Adapta*

*A profound
redefines*

3. *James* by Percival Everett

Why Read It? A radical reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from enslaved Jim's perspective, *James* is a masterpiece of subversion and survival. Percival Everett's genius lies in his ability to weave satire, tragedy, and defiance into a narrative that feels urgently contemporary. If you believe great literature should challenge and electrify, this is your next read.





Martyr!
by Kaveh Akbar

*Centers on
the ghosts*

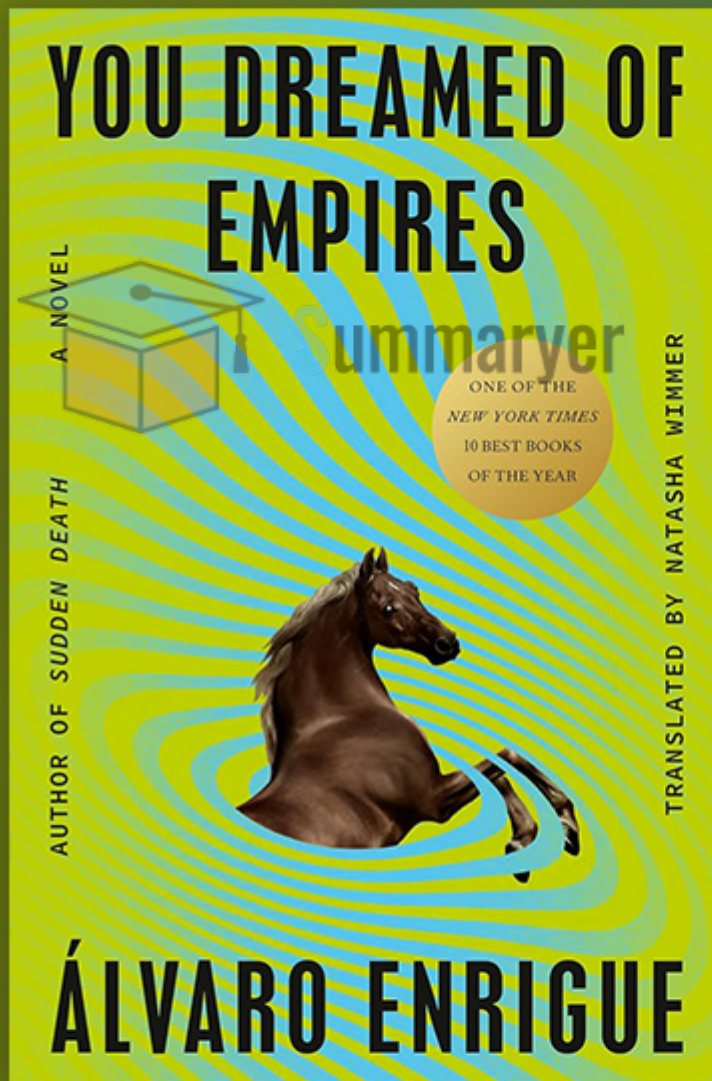
*Finalist
One of
Limited*

*A lyrical and
and survival*

4. *Martyr!* by Kaveh Akbar

Why Read It? Poet Kaveh Akbar's debut novel is a lyrical explosion—part addiction memoir, part existential quest. A grieving Iranian-American man becomes obsessed with a dying artist who courted martyrdom, leading to a transcendent meditation on pain and purpose. *Martyr!* will wreck you, then stitch you back together with its beauty.





You
by Álvaro Enrique

A stunning
Hernán Cortés

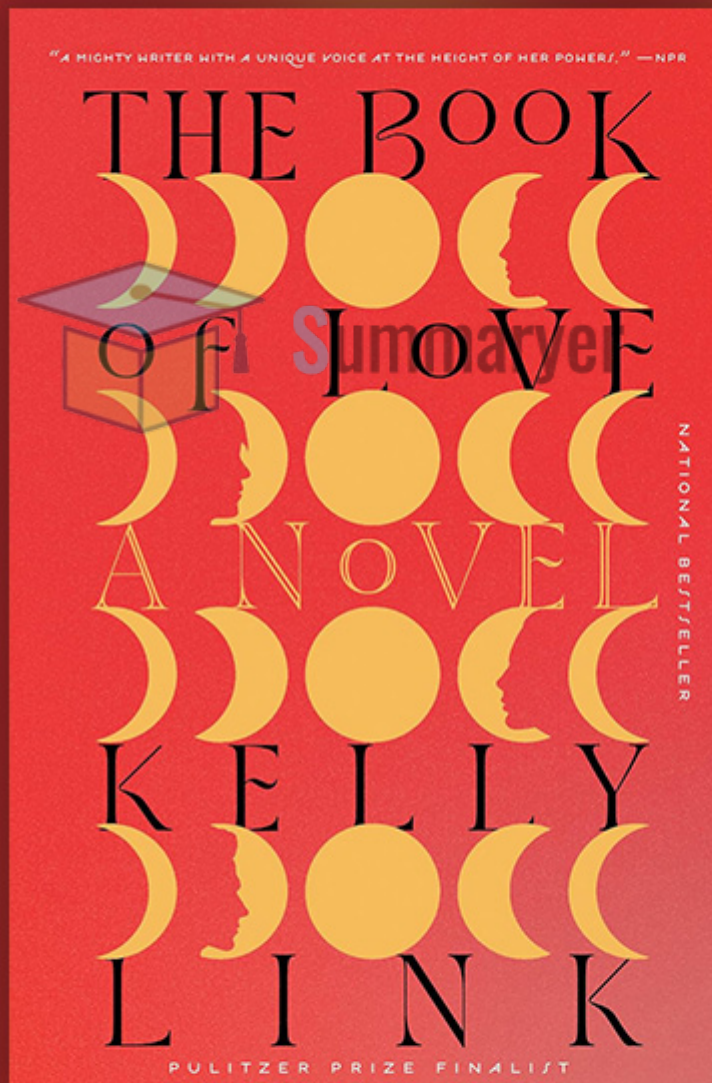
Winner
NYT Nonfiction
Option

A mesmerizing
history.

5. *You Dreamed of Empires* by Álvaro Enrique

Why Read It? A hallucinatory re-creation of Cortés's encounter with Moctezuma, this *NYT* standout blends history and myth into a fever dream of conquest and resistance. Enrique's prose is electric, his vision daring. For lovers of *Cloud Atlas* or *The Name of the Rose*, this is a mind-bending trip through time.





The
by Kelly Link

*A spellbinding
love in all*

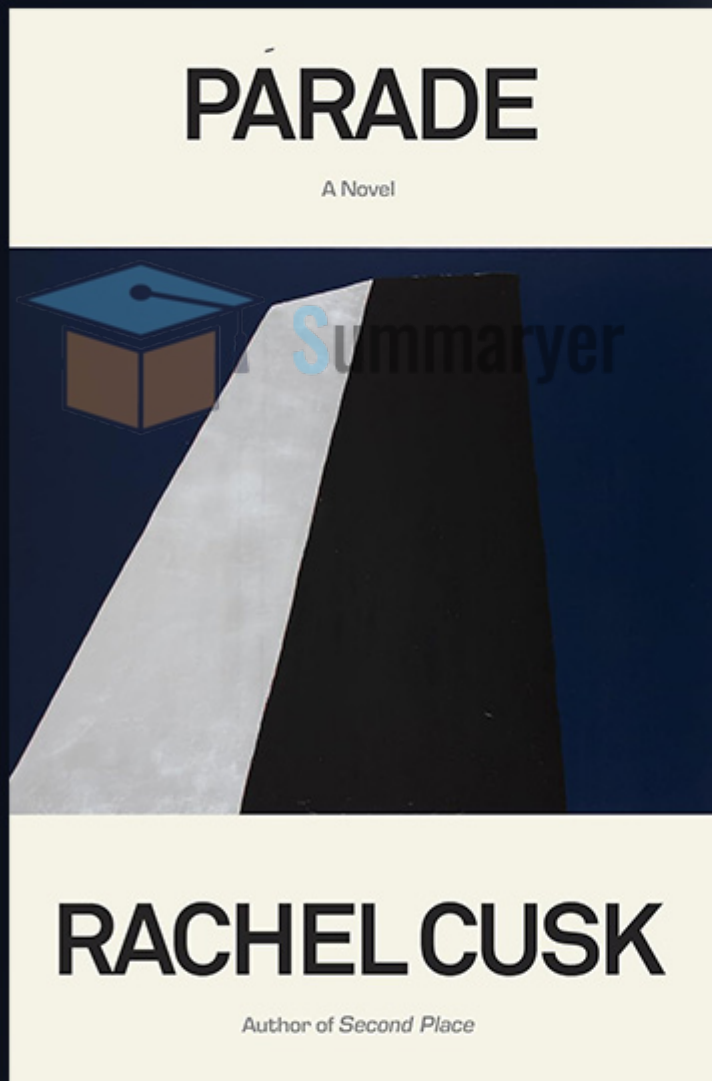
*Winner
Time Magazine
TV adaptation*

*A dazzling
magic of a*

6. *The Book of Love* by Kelly Link

Why Read It? Kelly Link's long-awaited debut novel is a spellbinding tapestry of love, ghosts, and small-town secrets. Blending fantasy and raw emotion, *The Book of Love* feels like reading a whispered spell—one that lingers long after the last page. If you adored *Her Body and Other Parties*, prepare to be enchanted.





Para
by Rachel C

A sharp, in
illusions w

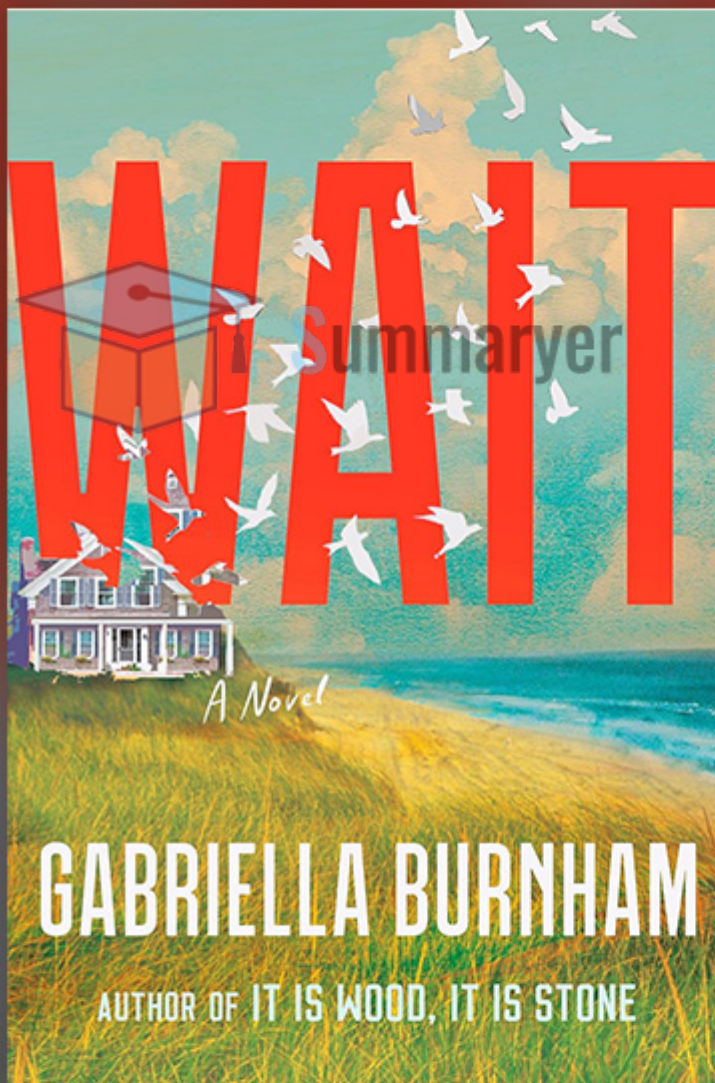
Shortl
One of
Limited

A brilliant
grand para

7. Parade by Rachel Cusk

Why Read It? Rachel Cusk's *Parade* is a cerebral, gorgeously unsettling exploration of art and identity. Through fragmented narratives and piercing insights, Cusk dismantles the illusions of selfhood. For fans of autofiction or anyone who relishes prose that crackles with intelligence, this is essential reading.





Wait

by Gabriella Burnham

Explores the meaning of waiting for love

Longlisted for the Pulitzer Prize

Oprah's Book Club pick

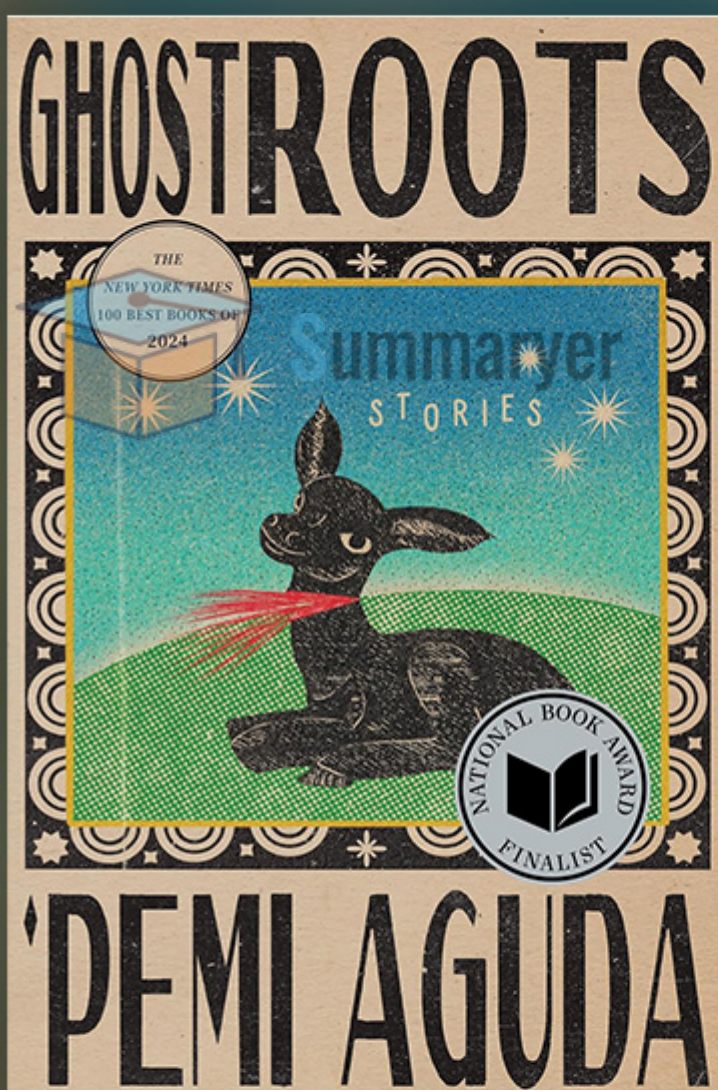
Rights sold to 12 languages

A haunting story of waiting for ourselves

8. [Wait by Gabriella Burnham](#)

Why Read It? A haunting ode to longing, *Wait* follows two sisters on a sun-drenched island where time stretches and bends. Burnham's prose shimmers with quiet intensity, capturing the ache of absence and the fragile hope of return. Perfect for devotees of *Normal People* or *The Girls*.





Ghos

by Pemi Ag

Blends ma

and the po

Winne

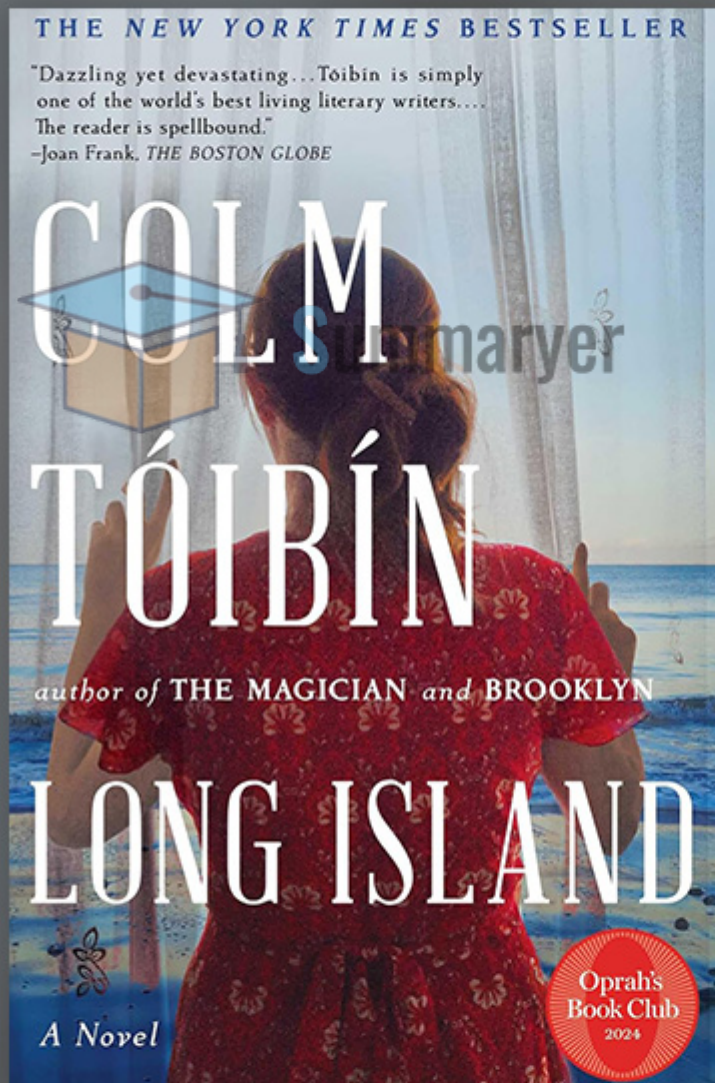
Esquire

In deve

A chilling,

Why Read It? A Nigerian family's secrets unfold through lush, magical realism in this breathtaking debut. Aguda's storytelling—steeped in folklore and modernity—will remind you of Helen Oyeyemi with its eerie elegance. If you yearn for tales where ghosts and grief intertwine, *Ghostroots* is your next obsession.





Long

by Colm Tóibín

A profound

following

Winner

NYT Best

Sequel

A deeply

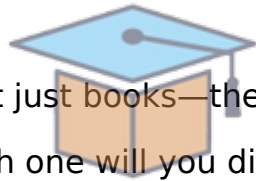
powerful

10. Long Island by Colm Tóibín

Why Read It? Tóibín returns to the quiet power of *Brooklyn* with this sequel, following Eilis Lacey decades later as a new crisis forces her to confront past choices. A masterclass in restraint and emotion, *Long Island* proves that the most devastating storms brew beneath still surfaces.

Final Hook:

These novels aren't just books—they're doorways into lives, worlds, and truths you'll carry forever. Which one will you dive into first?



Summary