

VANITY FAIR

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

December 12, 2016

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2016/12/best-new-books-zodiac-sign>

The Books You Should Be Reading Now, According to Your Zodiac Sign

Yes, we even included some for the Ophiuchuses.

BY JULIA VITALE

We look to stars to guide us through so many things: who we are, whom we should date, when to make a career change, and, you are a terrible pickup artist, how to start a conversation at a bar. Why not add one more thing to the list: What to read?

Below, VF.com finds your literary zodiac match for the month:



SAGITTARIUS: 12/17-1/20

*For the adventurous and humorous

How to Drink Like a Billionaire: Mastering Wine with Joie de Vivre, by Mark Oldman (Regan Arts; 10/11) This high-class guide is an adventure into the world of wine and includes extravagant suggestions like how to properly use a champagne sabre. Because what kind of a billionaire doesn't know how to chop a bottle?

The African Svelte: Ingenious Misspellings That Make Surprising Sense, by Daniel Menaker with Roz Chast (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 10/25) A collection of witty linguistic errors—"it's a doggy-dog world"—inspired by the author's time at *The New Yorker*.

CAPRICORN: 1/20-2/16

*For the close-knit and family oriented

Swing Time, by Zadie Smith (Penguin Press; 11/15) The British author's novel grapples with race, feminism, and fame as it follows a woman from her childhood in East London through her career as an assistant to a prima-donna musician.

AQUARIUS: 2/16-3/11

*For the progressive and independent-minded

Future Sex: A New Kind of Free Love, by Emily Witt (Farrar, Straus & Giroux; 10/11) Witt reports on modern dating, pornography, and other sex industries, making way for a fascinating read that casts the Internet as a large and ever-growing player in our hedonistic world.

PISCES: 3/11-4/8

*For the compassionate and intuitive

Truevine: Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South, by Beth Macy (Little, Brown; 10/18) The jarring true story of black albino twins in the Jim Crow South who were kidnapped and forced into a traveling circus—and of the mother who fought to bring them back.

Frantumaglia, by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions; 11/1) This compilation of letters, essays, reflections, and interviews offers a glimpse into Ferrante's own desire for anonymity, released just weeks after an Italian journalist possibly outed the famously pseudonymous author.

ARIES: 4/18-5/13:

*Courageous and tough

His Bloody Project, by Graeme MacCrae Burnet (Skyhorse; 10/18) Set against a triple murder in late 19th-century Scotland, this crime novel is written like evidence being “uncovered” by the author, adding an extra element of suspense to the cryptic tale. This risky choice reaped a fine reward: a place on the Man Booker Prize short list. *Haunted: On Ghosts, Witches, Vampires, Zombies, and Other Monsters of the Natural and Supernatural Worlds*, by Leo Braudy (Yale University; 10/25) Harden your inner courage before picking up this book, which looks at the ways in which fear has led us to conjure—and then dread—ghosts, witches, zombies, and other fantastical monsters.

TAURUS: 5/13-6/21

*Reliable and determined

Nobody’s Son, by Mark Slouka (Norton; 10/18) Slouka’s memoir delves not only into his life as the child of Czechoslovakian refugees, but the painful experiences of his parents—during W. W. II and the iron-fist rule of the Soviet Union—as well.

GEMINI: 6/21-7/20

*Curious and enjoy exchanging ideas

Not Just Jane, by Shelley DeWees (Harper Perennial; 10/25) Yes, it has taken over 200 years for someone to shed light on 19th-century British female authors other than Jane Austen and the Brontës. But, that embarrassment aside, DeWees’s deep dive into the careers of seven obscure yet still influential writers shines a new and revealing light on English literature.

CANCER: 7/20-8/10

*Imaginative and intuitive

Do Not Say We Have Nothing, by Madeleine Thien (W.W. Norton; 10/11) Also on the Man Booker short list, this novel explores two successive generations as they come to terms with China’s Cultural Revolution and its legacy. Don’t be put off by the intense family tree—the book is accessible and enthralling and makes something as far off as an obscure village in Communist China feel profoundly real.

LEO: 8/10-9/16

*Generous and warm-hearted

Christmas Days, by Jeanette Winterson (Grove; 12/6) The author of *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* compiles 12 of her best holiday-related stories, and then adds a new one for good measure. If you know the author, you already love her; if you don’t know her, you’ll now have 13 reasons to love her.

VIRGO: 9/16-10/30

*Analytical and hardworking

Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less, by Alex Soojung-Kim Pang (Basic Books; 12/6) Consider this a much-needed guide for the overworked: a credible, factual case for chilling out and getting rest, by a well-known Silicon Valley consultant.

LIBRA: 10/30-11/23

*Well-balanced

If Our Bodies Could Talk: A Guide to Operating and Maintaining a Human Body, by James Hamblin (Doubleday; 12/27) A book that answers your real health questions—like are your five-cup-coffee days really making you live longer, like that nail salon magazine claimed?

SCORPIO: 11/23-11/29

*Brave and stubborn

***No Knives in the Kitchens of This City*, by Khaled Khalifa** (The American University in Cairo Press; 10/15) Set in the second half of the 20th century in Syria, this historical-fiction novel follows the tragedy and chaos of Aleppo, under Assad, and a family struggling to survive within it all.

More, by Hakan Gunday (Arcade; 10/18) Centered around a young boy's transformation as he works alongside his human-trafficker father, the Turkish writer's new novel is not for the faint of heart. Summon your bravery and delve in, though, because the book, which won the 2016 French Prix Médicis, is both relevant and fresh in its subject matter and the questions that it raises about humanity.

OPHIUCHUS: 11/29-12/17

*Spirited and impulsive

***Toussaint Louverture: A Revolutionary Life*, by Philippe Girard** (Basic Books; 11/22) An ode to the passionate commander of the Haitian revolution, arguably the most successful slave revolt in human history.

The Boat Rocker, by Ha Jin (Pantheon; 10/25) Jin's lively, witty novel follows a Chinese expat in New York City who's made a career out of reporting on exposés of his home country.