

# NMRT BULLETIN

*A monthly digest from ALA New Members Round Table*



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## NMRT'S UPLIFTING PICKS OF 2020!

Believe it or not, the end of this whirlwind year is upon us. We asked NMRT Executive Board members about some of the books and media picks that helped get them through 2020 - whether those were new releases, old favorites, or an overlooked gem from the TBR list! We hope you'll find something to enjoy here and maybe get some more ideas to keep you hopeful about what 2021 has in store.

*- Sarah Burchart, NMRT Communications Committee*

### Favorite Uplifting Books

**The Sweeney Sisters by Lian Dolan** - "I picked it up as an ARC at Midwinter 2020. It starts out juicy and really comes together at the end. It was well written and took me out of the chaos that is/was 2020." - Nicole LaMoreaux

**Wow, No Thank You.: Essays by Samantha Irby** - "While dealing with some very serious issues (e.g., chronic illness, racism, relationships), Irby brings an irreverent sense of humor that kept me up laughing late into the night. Highly recommend for getting your mind off of 2020." - Dani Brecher Cook

**His Only Wife by Peace Adzo Medie** - Madison Sullivan

**The Bees by Laline Paull** - "Reminded me of Watership Down, and was wonderfully written." - Jennifer Wilhelm

# NMRT UPLIFTING PICKS OF 2020

## Favorite Audiobooks & Podcasts

**Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight** - Madison Sullivan

**The Southern Lady Code: Essays by Helen Ellis** - "It turns out the author is from my hometown, but like me now lives in New York City. We did not know each other when we were in Alabama, but hearing about old haunts and hearing short essays by a fellow Alabama transplant made me reminiscent and brought back some good memories." - Nicole LaMoreaux

**The Michelle Obama Podcast** - Jennifer Wilhelm

**Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness podcast** - "There's always a super interesting guest, and JVN is so excited about every topic, it's contagious. I've learned about everything from the history of cat domestication to labor rights in America right now. I wish I could bring as much energy to everything as JVN does!" - Dani Brecher Cook

## Nostalgic Favorites We Turned Back To

**Le Petit Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry** - "It's been a favorite of mine since grade school. When in doubt, read *Le Petit Prince*. The message and the illustrations will always bring me out of a funk." - Nicole LaMoreaux

**If I Had a Little Dream by Nina Laden** - "It is a beautifully illustrated book (illus. by Melissa Castrillon) that never fails to make me tear up. In a good way!" - Jennifer Wilhelm

## Other Highlights of the Year

"Watching reruns of TV shows that I watched as a kid or on Nick at Nite when I was a kid like *Taxi*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Wings*, *The Addams Family*, and *Who's the Boss*. There is something comforting about kind of already knowing what is going to happen." - Nicole LaMoreaux

"I'll be honest, I mostly read post-apocalyptic and thrillers, but my friend just introduced me to Sarah Maas' books and they've been a really fun escape this year!" - Jennifer Wilhelm

**Heavy: An American Memoir by Kiese Laymon, The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett, Not a Novel: a Memoir in Pieces by Jenny Erpenbeck** - Madison Sullivan

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