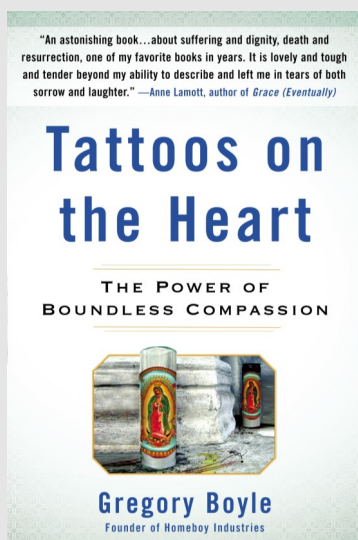


# READER SPOTLIGHT

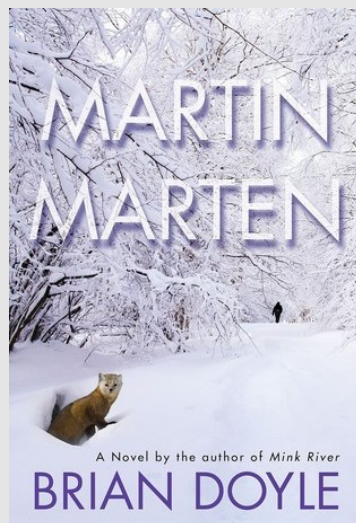
Welcome to monthly Reader Spotlight—in which we ask a library patron to tell us about their favorite books!

## Cheryl Harlan



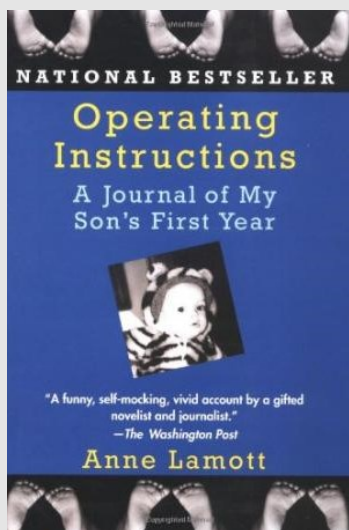
### Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle

"I'm a big fan of Father Greg Boyle. He's a Jesuit priest and is devoted to working with gang members in L.A. He's turned countless lives around. It's just a beautiful, straightforward, spiritual book. You should read this book because it will open up your heart."



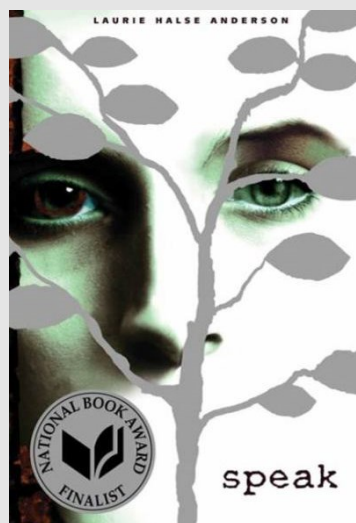
### Martin Marten by Brian Doyle

"I'll never forget the characters in this book. The kid and his saintly little sister, she's so quirky and lovable. And the marten is just as real as the human protagonist, they weave in and out in a graceful dance. It made me feel closer to nature, made me want to go to Oregon. It's just brilliant."



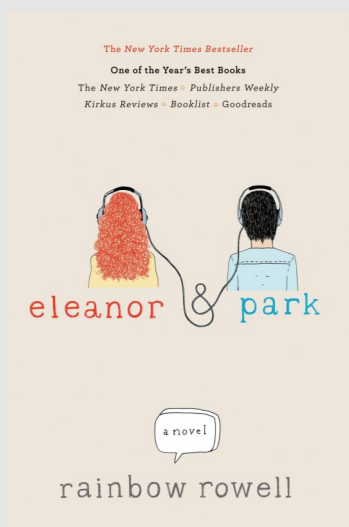
### Operating Instructions by Anne Lamott

"Anne Lamott is a recovering addict who swears like a sailor and walks hand in hand with Jesus. This is about the first year of her son's life, and it's just so real. It really takes you back to that first year which is such a rollercoaster. You'll laugh, you'll cry. It's visceral."



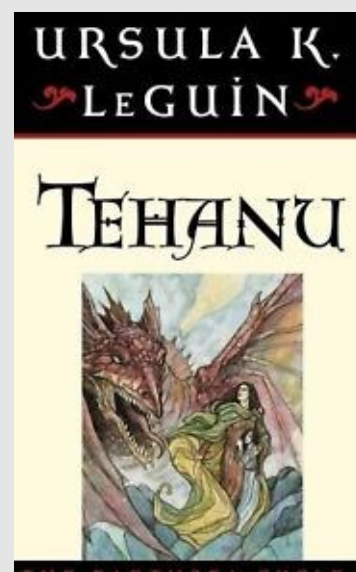
### Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

"*Speak* is about a girl entering high school. She goes to a party and a popular jock rapes her. She holds it inside and stops being able to speak. She goes through her first year of high school a total outcast and wreck. I work with young people, and now I take a second look when kids act out because you really don't know what people are dealing with."



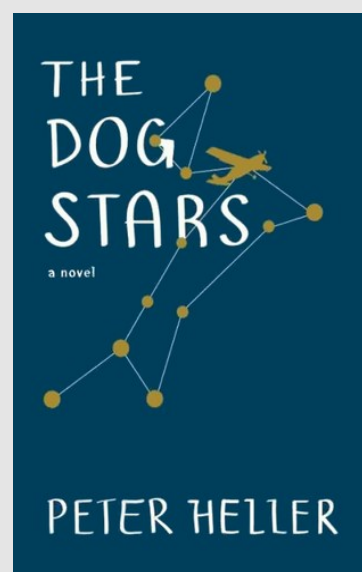
### Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

"The characters become such a part of your life. It's a quirky, unusual teen romance. There's deep subject matter about abuse and neglect and being the odd person out, but they have each other. This will hit you right where you live."



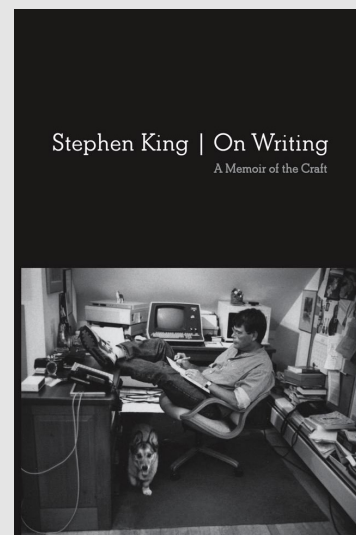
### Tehanu by Ursula K. Le Guin

"When people ask me my favorite book, I say *Tehanu*. It's the fourth book in the 'trilogy.' She thought she was done but kept thinking about the characters. Its commentary on relationships between men and woman is subtle and simplistic and yet deep. I've read it many times but I always think 'Wow, she just nailed it, in a few words.'"



### The Dog Stars by Peter Heller

"I like stories where you have to set up a place to live, start from scratch. It's a nesting thing, you imagine building your own life. In this book, the flu has killed almost everyone and the main character finds a safe hiding place to live for many years. He thinks he is alone. Even the songbirds are gone. I will hear songbirds and think back to this book, and it haunts me. The end is very satisfying."



### On Writing by Stephen King

"There's a particular section in this book that struck me hard. He says that as a writer, you are performing telepathy. You are projecting a picture, and someone else is picking it up, whether its now or 20 years in the future. You need to honor the connection between writer and reader."

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