



## Rebecca picked these just for you!

Hi Aaron!

Thank you for using DMPL Book Chat. Below are some suggestions based on your reading preferences.

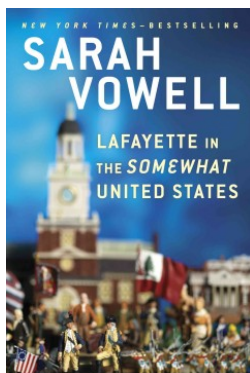
All of these choices will work for the category of Recommended by a Book Chat Librarian, if you're working your way through the 2022 DMPL Reading Challenge. Basically if you think something might fit, it does!

If you've read one of these or I've totally missed the mark, please let me know (I have [a page of suggestions](#)) and I'll pull something else for you! If you like a book we've picked, we can find more like it for you. If you don't like a book or you've already read something, tell us that too! We'll adjust our suggestions as we learn more about your preferences.

Happy Reading!  
-Rebecca

**Have questions? Contact the Book Chat team**  
**515-248-6286**  
**[RecReads@dmpl.org](mailto:RecReads@dmpl.org)**

These titles have been carefully suggested for you by  
podcast:



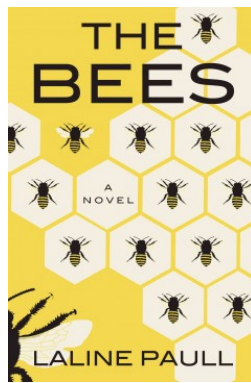
### *Lafayette in the somewhat United States*

by Sarah Vowell

A portrait of the popular French Revolutionary War hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, discusses his nonpartisan influence on a fledgling United States, his relationships with the Founding Fathers and his contributions during the contentious 1824 presidential election. By the best-selling author of *Assassination Vacation*.

**Why this book?** From what you described in your request, it sounds like you like a deep dive on topics that are almost kinda background knowledge. Vowell has a really fun way of talking about points in history and why they are important to the overall picture. I wouldn't be surprised if you are laughing at points while reading this. Lafayette is also an interesting player in history, although I don't think he gets much air time outside of history classes in Louisiana.

It is available on Libby as an e-audiobook and it has a full cast of star narrators such as Dave Eggers, John Stewart, and more!



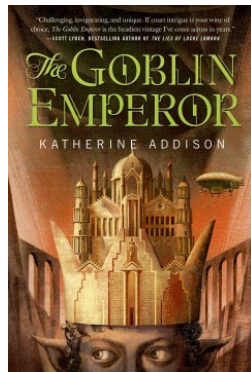
### *The bees*

by Laline Paull

A member of the lowest caste in her orchard hive, Flora 717, due to her courage and strength, finds her way into the Queen's inner sanctum where she discovers secrets about the hive that cause her to challenge authority and perform unthinkable acts.

**Why this book?** At the outset, this might seem like an odd choice, but go on this journey with me. "Accept, Obey, Serve." Definitely sounds like the beginning of a deeply intertwined web of political intrigue, but it all takes place in a beehive. I think that you'll really enjoy the examinations of caste systems, the "hive mind," and how delicate the balance of power can really be.

We don't have an e-audio copy via Libby, but an audio version does exist out there.



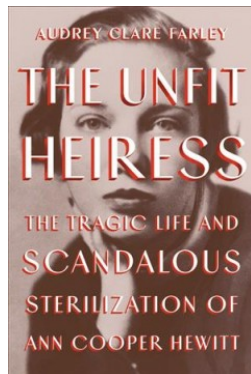
### *The Goblin Emperor*

by Katherine Addison

Reluctantly elevated to the throne when his father and brothers are killed in a suspicious accident, an exiled half-goblin is rapidly overwhelmed by ambitious sycophants, imperial burdens and dangerous plots while searching for friendship and love.

**Why this book?** I really think that you'll enjoy the elements of high fantasy and sci-fi in a super detailed world with a large cast of characters and a fair amount of intrigue. You'll get some of that inter-species communication that you enjoyed in the Expanse series with a deep history and lore. An interesting bit in this book is its discussion of language. This book, sadly, seems a bit underrated overall.

This is available on Libby as an audiobook, but it is currently checked out so it might be a minute before it gets to you.



### *The unfit heiress : the tragic life and scandalous sterilization of Ann Cooper Hewitt*

by Audrey Clare Farley

Documents the sobering 1934 court battle between Ann Cooper Hewitt and her socialite mother, citing the eugenics law that permitted the former to be declared unfit for promiscuity and sterilized without her knowledge.

**Why this book?** Based on your preferences for narrative nonfiction and in particular authors like Erik Larson and Patrick Radden Keefe and your mention of *Hidden Figures*, I think that this might be a good choice for you. I think you'll enjoy how Farley explores the history of eugenics, women's reproductive rights, mental health, and weird family dynamics while mixing it with a high stakes court case.

This sadly is not available as an e-audiobook on Libby, but an audio version of this book does exist.



### *We have always been here*

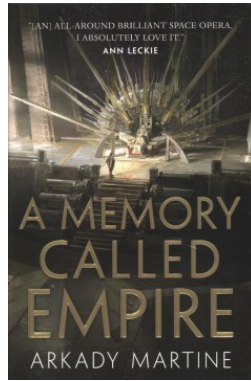
by Lena Nguyen

The behavioral psychologist onboard a survey ship headed to a planet ripe for colonization, Dr. Grace Park must determine the origin of a strange phenomenon that is causing the crew to suffer mental breaks without losing her own mind in the process.

**Why this book?** In all the titles you listed and descriptions of books that you like, it sounds like you are often interested in the journey of how and why something has happened. So I thought I'd bring you a book that really feels like a thriller, but has a lot of that worldbuilding that is present in sci-fi and fantasy. Dr. Park has to navigate all of these

cultural norms that she is unfamiliar from the A.I. with while trying to determine what is basically wrecking the mission. This book is intricately written with flawed yet fascinating characters.

Not available on Libby as an e-audio, but one does exist out there!



### *A memory called empire*

by Arkady Martine

Taking over for an ambassador who died a suspicious death, Mahit Dzmare investigates the potential murder while navigating the alien culture of the multi-system Teixcalaanli Empire, which is hiding a technological secret that could impact the universe.

**Why this book:** An action-packed, suspenseful, and engaging space opera! It opens with a murder! Mahit not only has to try to figure out how her predecessor died and who wanted him dead. But she spends a lot of time involved in those inter species relations and the merging of her culture and history along with those of Teixcalaanli. The writing as also been described as evocative. This is a series starter and the second book called *A Desolation Called Peace* is out now!

This one is available as an e-audiobook on Libby.



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