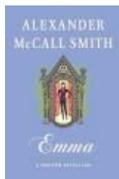


## Staff Picks July 2017



**Eileen**

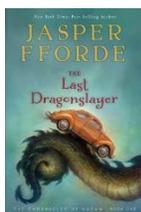
### **Emma: A Modern Retelling by Alexander McCall Smith:**

The author of the No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency moves Jane Austen's Emma to the present day, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the beloved classic. Much stays the same -- Emma is still sure her understanding of any situation is far superior-- while the details change-- she's home from university to launch her interior design business. McCall Smith does wonders fulling out the backstory and motivations of the characters while working within Austen's plot. A substantial retelling: if you like this, try *The Austen Project* by Cathleen Flynn or *Emma Approved*, a YouTube series. There's also the other books in the Austen tribute series: *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfield, *Sense and Sensibility* by Joanna Trollope, and *Northanger Abbey* by Val McDermid.

**Ann**

### **This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki:**

This was my first foray into graphic novels! *This One Summer* uses subtle details to tell a story about two adolescent girls over the span of a summer as they encounter some of the more complicated realities of life. This one will appeal to older Teens (and nostalgic adults) who enjoyed Raina Telgemeier's graphic novels (*Smile*, *Sisters*, & *Drama*).



**Sarah**

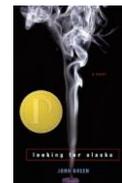
### **The Last Dragonslayer by Jasper Fforde:**

This book is for fans of Harry Potter, Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman, and anyone who loves British humor. An unlikely orphan, who runs an employment agency for magicians in a land where magic is fading, finds out she plays a powerful role in the future of the last remaining Dragon and the undeveloped Dragonlands. Hi-jinx, quirky characters, and an obsidian-toothed Quarkbeast who eats everything, (including curried pancakes and the tableware they are served on), will take you on a wild romp through the UnUnited Kingdom, (strikingly similar to the United Kingdom), where magic is fading. The last Dragon is penned up on acres of land awaiting his death foretold by unreliable clairvoyants. Meanwhile, as the locals tailgate outside the border of the Dragonlands waiting to stake their land claims, a battle for the Dragonlands is being prepared for by an unscrupulous King, Duke, a Superstar, and a large corporation.

**Katherine**

### **Looking for Alaska by John Green:**

An award-winning young adult novel of danger, vice, and first love, set at a boarding school.



**Elizabeth**

### **Les Misérables (DVD):**

*Les Misérables* is a spectacularly beautiful movie adaptation of the epic musical that takes viewers on an inspiring journey with a man named Jean Valjean, or prisoner #24601, as he tries to make something out of himself after being imprisoned and escaping parole. The musical also captures the stories of the people around him and how their lives intertwine in 19<sup>th</sup> century France. The songs in this musical are award-winning and rightfully so because they are so moving and perfect. Even if almost every line in the movie being sung might seem to be a bit of an overkill, it's still a gorgeous piece of cinema. Whether it makes you laugh, cry, or just feel inspired this is a movie that every person should have the good fortune of beholding.