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Hudson Williams has pretty good taste in books.

(AND THE INTERNET IS LOSING ITS MIND ABOUT IT.)

BRITTANY ALLEN (<https://lithub.com/author/brittanyallen/>). — MAY 29, 2026

Hudson Williams, the Canadian sweetheart behind the smash hit *Heated Rivalry* (<https://lithub.com/why-heated-rivalry-is-the-perfect-adaptation-of-the-romance-novels-strict-conventions/>), has pledged his allegiance to the English department. Your favorite hockey hunk is a

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reader, people. And we must say, the ice king's got pretty good taste.

According to this close read (<https://x.com/myshailya/status/2025122817747157486?s=20>)

lovingly assembled by a super-fan, Williams is rarely spotted without a book in his hand. He's now

name-checked multiple Joan Didion titles in interviews, and was once photographed *next to* (<https://x.com/myshailya/status/2034970135375814801?s=20>) a copy of Knausgaard's *My Struggle* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9780374534141>). His personal motto comes from Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9780451419439>).

And according to Anna Tingley in *Variety* (<https://variety.com/2026/shopping/news/hudson-williams-favorite-books-stoner-martyr-buy-online-1236760031/>), fans are taking note. Sales and borrows of Williams' favorite titles are up from coast to coast. "One librarian noted that *Martyr!* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9780593685778>) immediately grew a mounting waiting list after he posted about it on Instagram," Tingley reported, "while bookstores across the country have created display tables dedicated to his recommendations."

whole section for hudson and being named as hudson

williams book club. you don't mess with hudfluence 🍷

pic.twitter.com/RR381NA8kM

(<https://t.co/RR381NA8kM>)

— armaya 🇵🇸 (@armayamkyla) May 24, 2026

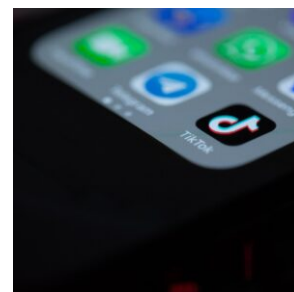
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As the celebrity book clubs continue to surprise us, call me curious. Here are some of Williams' favorite books.



Kaveh Akbar, *Martyr!* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9780593685778>)

Williams apparently loves this National Book Award finalist. Here's the man's recommendation, via IG: "For anyone's who's felt like a diletante [sic] artist or for biracial people who feel disconnected from their culture(s). Also for agnostic atheists." Bespoke!



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([/CATEGORY/LIT-HUB-DAILY/](https://category/lit-hub-daily/)).

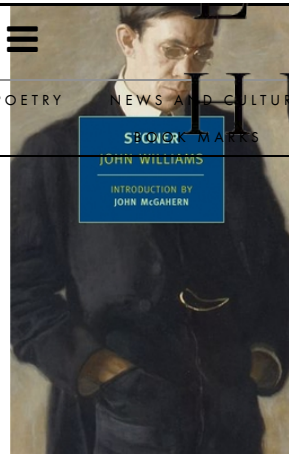
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**The strange practice of
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references in YA
books**

([https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/books-the-strange-practice-of-updating-the-cultural-references-in-ya-books-from-2006.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/29/books/the-strange-practice-of-updating-the-cultural-references-in-ya-books-from-2006.html))

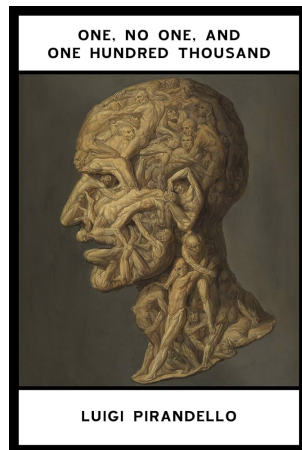
**Ed Simon on the
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(<https://hedgehogreview.com>)

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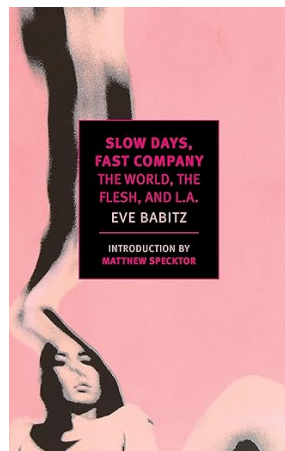
John Williams, *Stoner* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9781590171998>)

Perhaps no surprise that this particular king loves a quiet tale of yearning. Williams the younger called this 1985 novel “beautiful in its simplicity” in a recent story (<https://x.com/myshailya/status/2057236338639049211?s=20>).



Luigi Pirandello, *One, No One, and One Hundred Thousand*
(<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9781946774774>)

Rounding out the curveball category—is that a thing in hockey? Curveballs?—is this philosophical treatise from a 19th century Sicilian dramatist. Pirandello’s dense meditation on identity is, according to Williams (<https://x.com/myshailya/status/2025122843672056081?s=20>), “the best thing ever of all time.” Okay!



[features/thr/posts/how-many-divisions-has-the-pope?](#)

The therapeutic value of rereading

(<https://granta.com/therapy-as-re-reading/>).

MORE NEWS

(<https://lithub.com/lit-hub-daily-may-29-2026/>).

CrimeReads

(<https://crimereads.com>)



(<https://crimereads.com/finally-moriarty-is-getting-his-own-tv-show/>).

Finally, Moriarty is Getting His Own TV Show

(<https://crimereads.com/finally-moriarty-is-getting-his-own-tv-show/>).

BY OLIVIA RUTIGLIANO

(<https://crimereads.com/author/olivia-rutigliano/>)

How Would Ian Fleming Write James Bond Today?

(<https://crimereads.com/how-would-ian-fleming-write-james-bond-today/>).

BY KIM SHERWOOD

(<https://crimereads.com/author/kim-sherwood/>)

The Top 10 Classic Detective Novels, According to Jeffrey Archer

(<https://crimereads.com/top-10-classic-detective-novels-according-to-jeffrey-archer/>)

Eve Babitz, *Sex and Rage* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9781619029354>) and Eve Babitz, *Slow*

[according-to-jeffrey-archer/](#)

Days and Fast Company (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9781681370088>)

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BY JEFFREY ARCHER

The boy's a rabid Babitz fan. He's recommended not one but two titles by the cool bard of 70s Los

(<https://crimereads.com/author/ji>)

Angeles, and has also spent some time with her frenemy, Joan Didion. (*Play it As it Lays* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9780374529949>) apparently "goes down like absinthe.")

I'm wondering if Hudson has gotten around to Lili Anolik's probing double biography yet. *Didion and Babitz* (<https://bookshop.org/a/132/9781668065495>) seems a natural next step.

Ah, the bookish jock. Just another reason to love *Heated Rivalry*. Conor Storrie, you're up.

[book recommendations \(https://lithub.com/tag/book-recommendations/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/book-recommendations/)

[Eve Babitz \(https://lithub.com/tag/eve-babitz/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/eve-babitz/)

[Heated Rivalry \(https://lithub.com/tag/heated-rivalry/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/heated-rivalry/)

[Hudson Williams \(https://lithub.com/tag/hudson-williams/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/hudson-williams/)

[Joan Didion \(https://lithub.com/tag/joan-didion/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/joan-didion/)

[Les Miserables \(https://lithub.com/tag/les-miserables/\)](https://lithub.com/tag/les-miserables/)

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Brittany Allen



Brittany K. Allen is a writer and actor living in Brooklyn.

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(<https://bookmarks.reviews/the-best-reviewed-books-of-the-week-5-29-2026>)

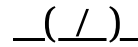
[The Best Reviewed Books of the Month](#)

(<https://bookmarks.reviews/the-best-reviewed-books-of-the-week-5-29-2026>)

"As usual Strout manages to create scenes of intense intimacy in prose that feels as..."



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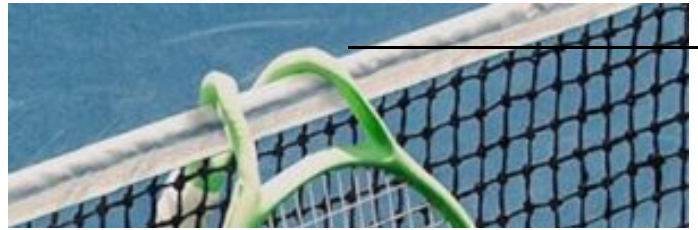
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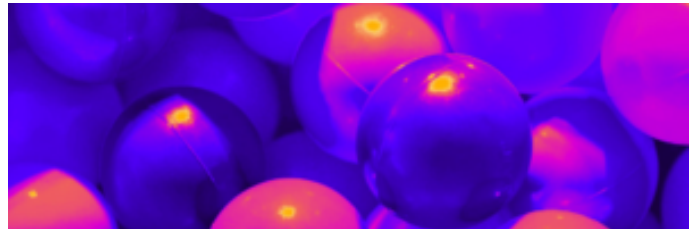
Tending the Fire: Exploring AIDS Writing of the Last Ten Years
(<https://lithub.com/tending-the-fire-exploring-aids-writing-of-the-last-ten-years/>).



The 13 Best Book Covers of May (<https://lithub.com/the-13-best-book-covers-of-may-3/>).



May's Best Reviewed Nonfiction (<https://lithub.com/mays-best-reviewed-nonfiction-2/>).



Jump Into the Ball Pit: Emily Rapp Black on the Creative Power of Play (<https://lithub.com/jump-into-the-ball-pit-emily-rapp-black-on-the-creative-power-of-play/>).

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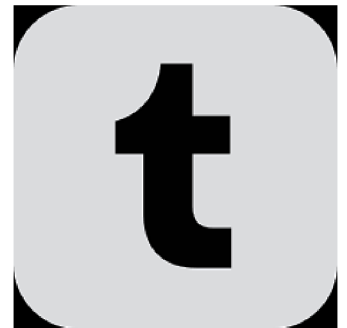
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