

**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR**  
**J.T. ELLISON**



**TEAR ME APART is on sale and how to escape this summer**

**May/June 2020 Newsletter**  
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Hello GentleReader,



It is the summer of our discontent. Quarantined nerves are fraying. We're faced with conflicting information from the very people we need to trust. We're all working our tails off and puzzles are losing their charm. And insult to injury, it's starting to get humid. I don't know about you, but it's time for an escape.

But how do you escape when you can't leave home?

Books, of course.

If there was ever a time to set up a private corner of your house, build a small fort, and take a book and flashlight under the blankets, now is it.

Books are the very best escape. It doesn't matter what you're into, from the Omegaverse to weighty tomes of war, from light and happy beach reads to wicked mysteries, memoirs or scifi or historicals or romance or YA or horror, books are our way out. There's a lot of books below for you to think about, books I'm reading, have read, or want to read. I hope one or two pique your interest.

I've been reading a biography of Churchill, and the strange parallels to our situation can't be ignored. We know the face of the enemy, but have no idea how it is camouflaged, nor when it could come for us. But it exists, out there somewhere, lurking.

I know so many of you have been more than inconvenienced by COVID, have been much more personally affected, and my thoughts are with you. All of us stand with you.

We will get through this, friends. Happier days are ahead.

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I've been hard at work for the past several months on a new novel [HER DARK LIES](#), which will be out February 16, 2021. I'm happy to share that since we spoke last, I turned the book into my editor, which means I am now looking forward, testing the waters of What's Next? I have a secret project that's nearly finished – more on that soon, I promise – and a short story to write for a cool anthology. I have a solid idea for the next standalone, which I'll probably start writing in July. We've nearly wrapped Season 5 of [A Word on Words](#), and that means I can finally take a breath for a few weeks. I haven't had a break in months, so I'm going to take a social media sabbatical and try to plow through a stack of books. I'm so, so behind in my reading this year. An emotional staycation is in order.

While I'm away, I'm going to work on my focus, which has been terrible fractured, like everyone else's, I'm sure. In the meantime, here are the things getting me through.



- [Bookdarts](#)
- Perfectly curated Instagram feeds ([@valentinahortus](#) and [@lifeinlit](#))
- [Farmgirl Flowers](#)
- Big, weighty books about serious subjects like war and grief
- Dark Chocolate Chunk Kind Bars
- My [yoga blanket](#)
- Moving furniture and sweeping out bad energy from the corners
- Beautiful fabrics ([The Reset](#))
- Old replays of Dodgers games
- [Momentum Plus screen saver](#) and Pomodoro timer
- [Ugmonk Face Masks](#)

## TEAR ME APART Is On Sale!



Since you need a getaway right now... may I suggest TEAR ME APART? This book is the story of a mother willing to do anything to protect her daughter even as their carefully constructed world unravels around them. Only \$2.99!

**Get your copy!**

[Kindle](#) | [Nook](#) | [Apple Books](#) | [Google Play](#) | [Kobo](#) | [ebooks.com](#)

## ☒ What I'm Reading



**[THE HERD](#) by Andrea Bartz**

What a ride! THE HERD is sharp, smart, and utterly bingeable read. I had zero idea where the mystery was going, and loved sitting back and letting the story unfold, and unfold, and unfold. Complex characters, dark secrets, topical setting, mean girls – what’s not to like?

**[THIS IS HOW I LIED](#) by Heather Gudenkauf**

Utterly chilling, THIS IS HOW I LIED is a deep, twisting mystery from a writer hitting her stride. You won’t see it coming, and you won’t be able to turn away. Heather is such a multi-faceted author, always taking chances and elevating her craft. I admit I was deeply disturbed by certain aspects of this book, (hence... utterly chilling) but I loved the structure and the deviousness of the characters. A great read.

**[THE GLASS HOTEL](#) by Emily St. John Mandel**

Quarantine is an interesting reading time. I either want to read something so light and fluffy I can’t help but feel good, or, I want to read darkly human, philosophically compelling works that resonate deeply and make me think about how life can be better lived or more impactfully. THE GLASS HOTEL falls into the latter category. A brilliantly structured book, it’s a bit quieter than STATION ELEVEN, but it’s beautifully written, wonderfully realized, and a thoughtful work of art. And I got to interview Emily for A WORD ON WORDS, which was incredible! A favorite author for me.

**[AFTERLIFE](#) by Julia Alvarez**

A beautiful story of grief, and sisterhood, and doing the right thing even when it makes you sad or uncomfortable, and how loss shapes us all. Julia was also a guest of A WORD ON WORDS and it was a joy getting to know her.

**☒ What's On My "To Be Read" Pile...**



Now that the new book is done and turned in, and I have a few moments to breathe, it’s time to tackle my towering TBR pile. I have been saving so many books for

this moment. Planning what to pleasure read isn’t normally my strong suit. I go with whatever strikes me at the moment. But I’ve been saving some for a reward. These are the books I can’t wait to dig into. Are any of these on your summer reading list?

**[BEACH READ](#) by Emily Henry**

**[CHOSEN ONES](#) by Veronica Roth**

**[STRAY](#) by Stephanie Danler**

[PRETTY THINGS](#) by Janelle Brown

[THE GIRLS IN THE GARDEN](#) by Lisa Jewell

[THE WIFE STALKER](#) by Liv Constantine

[THE ART OF THE ENGLISH MURDER](#) by Lucy Worsley

## ☒☒☒ May/June Recipe: Orange Rosemary Bundt Cake



A delicate cake is the very best summer dessert. This lovely orange rosemary bundt recipe comes from the New York Times. I've made it several times now and I can't begin to tell you how much we enjoy it. Taking it GF has been a bit of a challenge, but I'm always up for a challenge. I'm giving it you straight, and with the GF instructions, so everyone can enjoy. YUM!

EAT YOUR CAKE!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#). And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

That's all for now! Hang in there, eat some cake, read a good book, and I'll see you next month.

peace and hugs,



**PS: Do you get my blog posts in your inbox?** Sign up for as it releases (usually once or twice a week), as a weekly digest, or by RSS feed.

DAILY

WEEKLY

RSS FEED

### Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles.



Did you like this month's newsletter? Share it with a friend!



### J.T. Ellison

P.O. Box 218453  
Nashville, TN 37221  
USA



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