

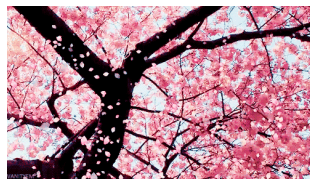
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J.T. ELLISON



GOOD GIRLS LIE Is On Sale, Things Keeping Me Happy, and Delish Au Gratin Potatoes

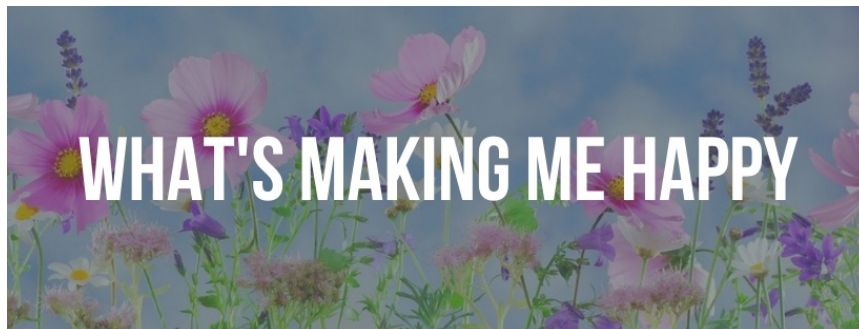
April 2020 Newsletter
Vol. 216

Hello GentleReader,



April already, my birth month, and a quarter of the year gone. 2020 was my “Year of Enough” and yes, I’d say we’ve all had enough by now. I admit it’s surreal to look out the front door at the bird feeder on a sunny day—it seems nothing has changed at all. Of course it has. Everything has changed. Nothing will ever be the same. But there is light at the end of the tunnel, and I for one am focused on that. And in the meantime, I am focused on the now.

There are so many things making me happy right now! Whenever I feel the edge of despair slipping in, I turn to this list of gratitudes and take a deep breath. We’re going to be okay.



- Group texts with my author friends and family
- Watching the cats chirp at the birds on the feeder (So funny)
- My Blue Spruce cuttings that we’re trying to root (the big tree is diseased and needs to come down, so I’m trying to make sure its spirit lives on)
- [The Wall Street Journal Wine Club](#) (self-explanatory)
- My husband’s green thumb, since he can grow food for us (I have a black thumb. It’s bad.)
- [Glenfarclas Traditional Fudge](#) (Oh. My.)
- The audiobook of [Outlander](#) (Because it’s 30,000 hours long)
- My [leather stirrups bookmark](#) (Bought years ago by accident, I love seeing the stirrups sticking out of the bottom of my current read)
- [Daily Harvest](#) smoothies (The source of 90% of our fruit and veg each day)
- String on a Stick – AKA the minions favorite plaything (I can write one-handed and tease them with it, perfect entertainment. Plus, no need to go to the store for cat toys!)

- Lunch Hour with my husband (I've always enjoyed going out to lunch with Randy, and now I get to do it every day!)
- [Watching these little fluffballs grow](#) (they're a week old!)
- Sitting in the driveway in the sun (Vitamin D, baby)
- My [current work in progress](#) (Which, truthfully, in turns infuriates and delights, but still.)

What's keeping you happy during these trying times?

☒☒☒ Good Girls Lie Is On Sale!



Great news! For the very first time, GOOD GIRLS LIE is on sale at digital retailers for \$4.99!

At The Goode School, there are truths, and there are lies, and then there is everything that really happened.

"GOOD GIRLS LIE is a superb psychological thriller...a deliciously dark, wickedly plotted suspense story...with drama, secret societies, cliques, illicit affairs, manipulation, and, of course, murder, and it's the sort of book you never want to end." —**Crime By The Book**

I WANT IT!

☒ A New Way to Buy Books – Bookshop!

There's a new kid on the block for book shopping called Bookshop. Obviously, if your local bookstore is still fulfilling orders, great. If not, and going forward, Bookshop is your resource. The books are discounted, just like buying online, but a portion of the sale goes to help indie bookstores! How cool is that? I have a small storefront on there for my current recommendations, my books, and my favorite writing books. [Check it out!](#)

☒ ICYMI: THE LAST SECOND Mass Market Is Here



THE LAST SECOND released in mass market paperback form last month! If you missed this one the first time around, now's your chance.

☒ What I'm Reading



[CODE NAME HÉLÈNE](#) by Ariel Lawhon

I had the great privilege of reading Code Name Hélène early, and I have to tell you, you are going to LOVE this book. Nancy Wake, Aussie expat turned spy in World War II, is one of the most engaging heroines I've ever come across. She is smart, she is sassy, she is bravery personified, and she is utterly brought to life by Ariel Lawhon's incredible writing and exhaustive research. That the White Mouse is a real person makes this story all the better. If you want to experience genuine courage in the face of true evil, and a compelling love story to boot, trust me, this is the book you want to read this week. I know you'll love it just as much as I did.

[THE LOOK-ALIKE](#) by Erica Spindler

A stellar mystery from one of my all-time favorite authors, THE LOOK-ALIKE is classic Spindler, murderous twists and turns and a hot romance. What's not to love! I've been reading Erica since well before I was first published. Her work influenced my writing tremendously. And as happens so often in our industry, our heroes become our dear friends. She's been a mentor, a shoulder to cry on, a sounding board, and a co-author. I adore her and her work. You'll love her latest!

[ALL YOUR TWISTED SECRETS](#) by Diana Urban

This is an absolute nail-biter. Diana Urban takes the locked room puzzle mystery and gives it a modern, scary, young adult twist. Young fans of Agatha Christie will be entranced.

[THE DUTCH HOUSE](#) by Ann Patchett

On a group text this week, one of my friends asked for an audio recommendation. I had to throw in my fave audiobook of the year thus far - Tom Hanks reading THE DUTCH HOUSE by Ann Patchett. Oh. My. I'm telling you - there is something about his frank narration - and it is frank - that just worked for me. I adore acting in an audiobook read, truly appreciate when the narrator can take on the characters with different voices and inflections (Julia Whelan is one of the best at this, BTW. I will listen to anything she reads.) But Hanks just goes straight at this, and I felt like I was being told a story by a friend sitting across from me at a restaurant table. Seriously brilliant stuff. Do you have a favorite audio book narrator?

☒ New On A WORD ON WORDS

I got to talk with the fabulous [Lisa Unger in The Stranger Inside](#) and [Ruta Sepetys in The Fountains of Silence](#).

Mary Laura Philpott sat down with [Gish Jen in The Resisters](#).

As always, #KeepReading!

☒☒ April Recipe: Au Gratin Potatoes



The easiest, ultimate comfort food, au gratin potatoes are rich and creamy and yummy, perfect for the last chilly days of the year. I took one bite of this recipe and declared it Supper Club worthy. If I'm willing to serve a dish to my friends, you know it's good. And it's GF, too!

GRATIN TIME!

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! Shine on, you crazy diamonds. Stay safe, stay well, and I'll see you next month.

peace and hugs,



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Here's a kitten for your troubles.



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