



# Warehouse Connections Reading List

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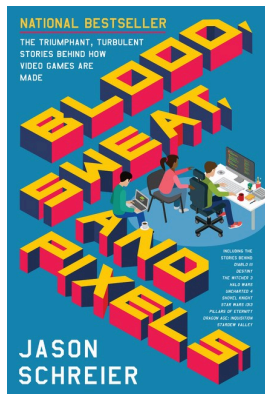


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## Books about Video Games

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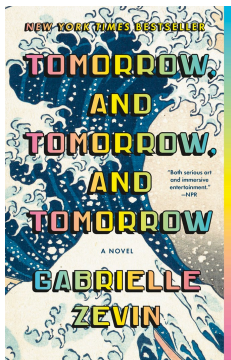
### ***Blood, Sweat, and Pixels: The Triumphant, Turbulent Stories Behind How Video Games Are Made*** by Jason Schreier



These stories include an intimate look at how Stardew Valley's single developer spent five years making one of the most successful indie games ever made, and another that uncovers the truth behind the mysterious (and canceled) Star Wars 1313.

**Why we love it:** After reading this, it's a wonder video games get made at all.

### ***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*** by Gabrielle Zevin

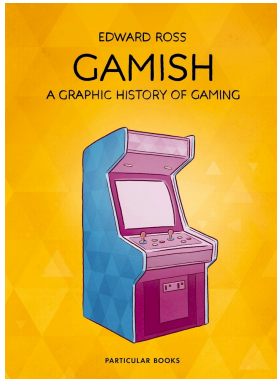


On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom.

These friends, since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, Ichigo. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

**Why we love it:** It's one of our favorite novels (we've recommended it before), and it's a love story! With video games!

## ***Gamish***, a graphic novel by Edward Ross



Like many teenagers around the world, Edward Ross grew up on a steady diet of video games and fascinating gadgets. As he continued to obsess over video games while drawing comic books, he started wondering what it was that made them more than just a pastime. Why do we play?

This gorgeously illustrated book takes us deep into the history of video games, from the early prototypes created in the late 1940s through the growth of the medium in the 1970s and into the modern era, in which games are a crucial part of mainstream culture.

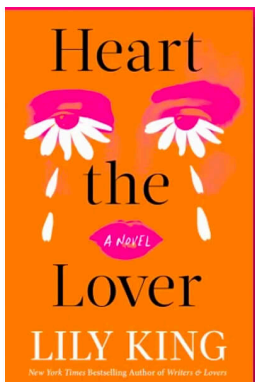
**Why we love it:** The drawings are filled with wonderful little references to games past and present, and half the fun was trying to guess them all. A wonderful read.

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## **Women Supporting Women**

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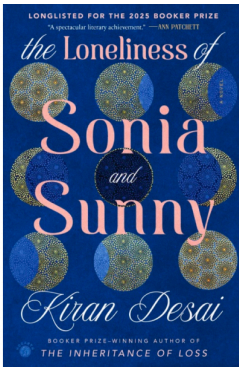
### ***Heart the Lover*** by Lily King



The story focuses on Jordan—a successful novelist—who looks back on her college years and tries to piece together how that formative time shaped her. At the center of the plot is a charged triangle of ambition and desire between Jordan and both Sam, a devout and emotionally complicated classmate, and Yash, whose creative freedom and warmth tug at Jordan's heart. Anyone who has ever dug deep to try to understand who they really are—and who they might have been before—will feel acutely invested in Jordan's journey.

**Why we love it:** This makes us nostalgic for our youth.

## **The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny** by Kiran Desai

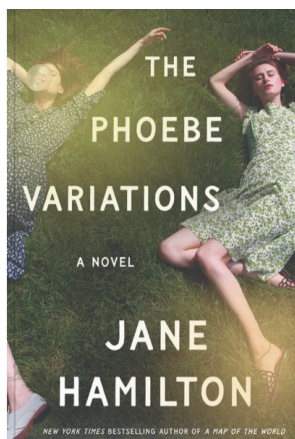


When Sonia and Sunny first glimpse each other on an overnight train, they are immediately captivated, yet also embarrassed by the fact that their grandparents had once tried to matchmake them, a clumsy meddling that only served to drive Sonia and Sunny apart.

Sonia, an aspiring novelist who recently completed her studies in the snowy mountains of Vermont, has returned to her family in India, fearing she is haunted by a dark spell cast by an artist to whom she had once turned for intimacy and inspiration. Sunny, a struggling journalist resettled in New York City, is attempting to flee his imperious mother and the violence of his warring clan. Uncertain of their future, Sonia and Sunny embark on a search for happiness together as they confront the many alienations of our modern world.

**Why we love it:** It's an epic tale with fabulous side characters.

## ***The Phoebe Variations*** by Jane Hamilton



Phoebe, a woman in her 60s, reflects on her late teenage years and complex relationship with her birth family. As her story unfolds, she chronicles her deep friendship with an equally dynamic young woman, Luna, the reverberations of adoption, and her adolescent rebellion. There's also a fun backdrop that includes a family of 14 children, mostly boys, that largely shapes Phoebe.

**Why we love it:** We can't resist a quirky and tender coming-of-age story.

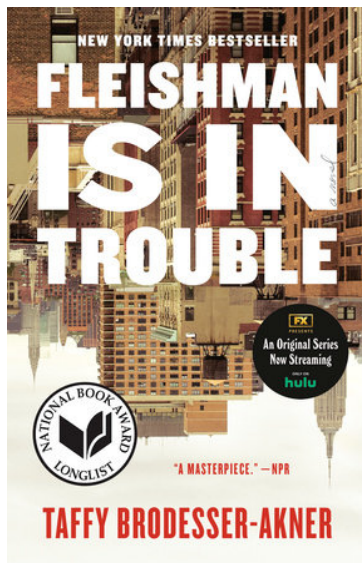
## ***The Wilderness*** by Angela Flournoy



Desiree, January, Monique, and Nakia are in their early twenties and at the beginning. Of their careers, of marriage, of motherhood, and of big-city lives in New York and Los Angeles. Together, they are finding their way through the *wilderness*, that period of life when the reality of contemporary adulthood—overwhelming, mysterious, and full of freedom and consequences—swoops in and stays.

**Why we love it:** She captures with disarming wit and electric language how the most profound connections over a lifetime can lie in the tangled, uncertain thicket of friendship.

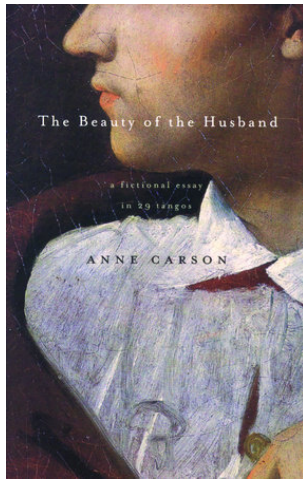
## ***Fleishman Is in Trouble*** by Taffy Brodesser-Akner



Toby Fleishman thought he knew what to expect when he and his wife of almost fifteen years separated: weekends and every other holiday with the kids, some residual bitterness, the occasional moment of tension in their co-parenting negotiations. He could not have predicted that one day, in the middle of his summer of sexual emancipation, Rachel would just drop their two children off at his place and simply not return. He had been working so hard to find equilibrium in his single life. The winds of his optimism, long dormant, had finally begun to pick up. Now this.

**Why we love it:** It's hilarious, insightful, and a little unsettling.

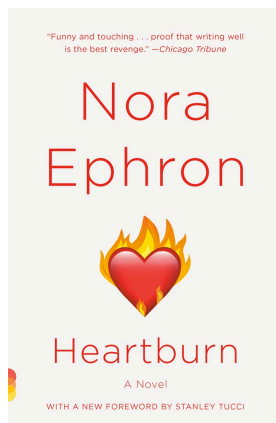
***The Beauty of the Husband: A Fictional Essay in 29 Tangos*** by Anne Carson



This clear-eyed, brutal, moving, darkly funny book tells a single story in an immediate, accessible voice — 29 “tangos” of narrative verse that take us vividly through erotic, painful, and heartbreaking scenes from a long-time marriage that falls apart.

**Why we love it:** A tango (like a marriage) is something you have to dance to the end.

***Heartburn*** by Nora Ephron



Is it possible to write a sidesplitting novel about the breakup of the perfect marriage? In this case the answer is a resounding yes.

Seven months into her pregnancy, Rachel Samstat discovers that her husband, Mark, is in love with another woman. The fact that the other woman has "a neck as long as an arm and a nose as long as a thumb and you should see her legs" is no consolation. Food sometimes is, though, since Rachel writes cookbooks for a living. And in between trying to win Mark back and loudly

wishing him dead, Ephron's irrepressible heroine offers some of her favorite recipes.

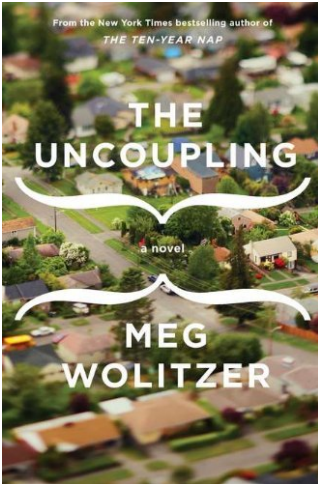
**Why we love it:** The creator of *Sleepless in Seattle* reminds us that comedy depends on anguish as surely as a proper gravy depends on flour and butter.

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## Books Based on *Lysistrata*

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### ***The Uncoupling*** by Meg Wolitzer



When the elliptical new drama teacher at Stellar Plains High School chooses for the school play *Lysistrata* -the comedy by Aristophanes in which women stop having sex with men in order to end a war-a strange spell seems to be cast over the school. Or, at least, over the women. One by one throughout the high school community, perfectly healthy, normal women and teenage girls turn away from their husbands and boyfriends in the bedroom, for reasons they don't really understand.

**Why we love it:** It's funny and provocative and about female desire...

### ***Shut Out*** by Kody Keplinger



At Hamilton High, it's a civil war: the football team versus the soccer team. And for her part, Lissa is sick of it. Her quarterback boyfriend, Randy, is always ditching her to go pick a fight with the soccer team or to prank their locker room. She is done competing with a bunch of sweaty boys for her own boyfriend's attention.

Lissa decides to end the rivalry once and for all: She and the other players' girlfriends go on a hookup strike. The boys won't get any action from them until the football and soccer teams make peace.

**Why we love it:** This young adult novel is written by a teenager!