

FLORENCE! FOSTER!! JENKINS!!!: The Life of the World's Worst Opera Singer
By Darryl W. Bullock

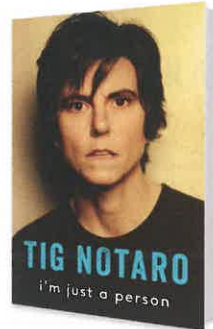
(The Overlook Press)

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A wealthy New York socialite with big dreams of being a famous singer but absolutely zero talent, Florence Foster Jenkins used her money and influence to shove her way into show busi-

ness. Her unlikely career culminated in a sold-out 1944 engagement at Carnegie Hall. And her efforts are now about to be immortalized by none other than Meryl Streep, who will be playing Jenkins in a film biopic out August 12.

Just in time for the Hollywood blitz, author Darryl Bullock's biography of "the world's worst opera singer" digs into Jenkins' ancestry, marriages, social life, opera career (which she didn't launch until age 62), and her hilariously scathing reviews. "Florence made her debut as a singer in April 1912," Bullock writes, "fittingly, the same year the Titanic sank." Inspired by this bio I sought out recordings of Jenkins and it's true; she sounds like a piano falling down the stairs. But what she lacked in talent, she made up for with moxie. And thanks to the support of her family and friends, she had one of the most unusual vocal careers in history. —WHITNEY DWIRE



I'M JUST A PERSON
By Tig Notaro

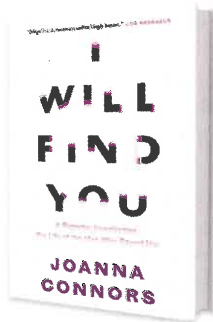
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Comedian Tig Notaro's life was going well until 2012, when she nearly died from an intestinal infection, lost her mother to a freak accident, went through a breakup, and was diagnosed with breast cancer. At the time, she talked about it all during a heartfelt,

darkly funny L.A. set that opened with the line, "Hello, how are you, I have cancer," and lit up the Internet (with help from Louis CK), launching Notaro from moderate success to household name.

In this memoir, Notaro delves into that difficult period, writing openly about simultaneously experiencing tremendous loss and success. If you don't already know who Notaro is, this brief read (just over 100 pages) probably isn't for you. For those familiar with her story, however, whether through her comedy or her former podcast *Professor Blastoff*, *I'm Just a Person* will fill in the blanks with hilarious and touching details about her wild mother and their complicated relationship, her militaristic stepdad, her absent father, her relationship quirks, and her double mastectomy, all told in Notaro's signature dry, conversational style. If you're a superfan, like myself, you'll likely find yourself wanting more. —LISA BUTTERWORTH



I WILL FIND YOU: A Reporter Investigates the Life of the Man Who Raped Her
By Joanna Connors

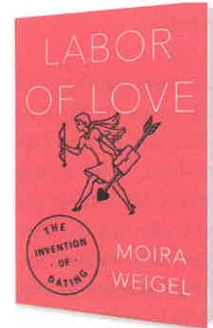
(Atlantic Monthly Press)

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At one point in her life, journalist Joanna Connors was fearless. But then a brutal rape stripped her of her confidence and left her on a "secret island of fear." For two decades, she lived with countless

phobias, delusional worries, and thoughts of suicide. *I Will Find You* recounts her unusual quest to move past her trauma by learning more about the man who raped her. She explains her unorthodox method of healing by writing, "I wanted to do what human beings have done for thousands of years—tell the stories that help us understand who we are and what happened in our lives to shape us."

Connors interviews siblings and friends of David Francis, the man who was convicted of her rape and died in prison while serving his sentence. Their accounts suggest that in his own way, Francis, too, was a victim; his upbringing ripe with violence, abuse, poverty, and racism. In the process of learning about her rapist, Connors heals her wounds and creates an inspirational and captivating memoir. —HELEN MATATOV



LABOR OF LOVE: The Invention of Dating
By Moira Weigel

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

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It's no mystery that dating is hard. Actually, it's downright terrifying. We all know the thrills and chills of cruising bars—or Tinder and Grindr—hoping that "I" will one day turn into "we." Historian Moira Weigel's new book, *La-*

bor of Love, helps demystify this tender topic by introducing readers to how our modern courtship rituals began. From shop girls to gay clubs, Weigel explores it all, with each brief chapter revealing a different piece of the love puzzle.

Much juicier than your average history book, *Labor of Love* offers up little-known tidbits about the Lower East Side's evolving bar scene in N.Y.C., the stereotypical hookup culture of college campuses, and advice on testing your own limits when searching for "the one." Weigel's narrative might even change the way readers see the politics of romance (yes, that really is a thing). Overall, the book reads like a documentary about something you never knew could be so interesting. After taking it all in, you're bound to whip out a few of the tastiest bits of trivia on your next first date. —MADISON NUNES