

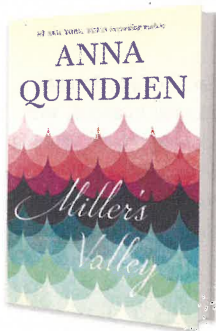
INVESTIGATING LOIS LANE: The Turbulent History Of The Daily Planet's Ace Reporter
By Tim Hanley

(Chicago Review Press)
⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪

Lois Lane is one of the most iconic comic book characters in the world. For over 75 years, she's stood by the Man of Steel as the human element behind the alien powerhouse. Yet, as

author Tim Hanley brilliantly illuminates, the character played a minimal role in *Superman* comics, mostly fulfilling the position of love interest. Hanley goes through Lane's entire comic history, from her debut as a reporter trying to break away from being a romance guru, to the era when readers begged for her to be "punished" for getting in Superman's way, to her evolution as a woman who had to choose between her goals and being the wife of a superhero.

When female writers, the rise of feminism, and readers' desire to see Lane shine converged, however, she was finally plucked from domestic squabbles to be her own leader and hero. For those who grew up with the more well-rounded versions of Lane created for the animated *Superman* series and *Smallville*, this book is a reminder that our girl Lois has come a long way. —PRINCESS WEEKES



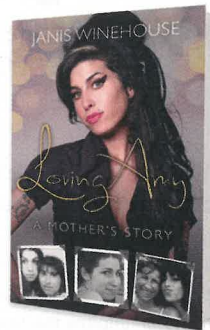
MILLER'S VALLEY: A Novel
By Anna Quindlen

(Random House)
⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪

Mimi Miller's family had always lived in Miller's Valley. For generations, they farmed in spite of floods, learned to accept that the carpets would get ruined and the animals stranded, and in the morning they'd dry out and repair. But throughout

Mimi's childhood, as friends moved away, her older brothers became strangers, and she began to imagine her life outside her small town, government men became a constant presence. These men wanted to move the people of Miller's Valley out, and they had a plan to wash the town's entire history out with them.

Anna Quindlen's novel of a childhood examined by someone who literally can't go home again is an incredibly engaging read. Her observations about life's more mundane moments make an unremarkable coming-of-age narrative compelling. Though some of the biggest plot points are heavily telegraphed early on, she incorporates a haunting surprise into the final pages that will stick with you. Mimi acts as a relatable narrator, but through her eyes few other characters are able to fully develop, with little agency beyond what they are to her—boyfriend, brother, old friend. Still, *Miller's Valley* takes familiar themes and manages to make them fresh and new. —MOLLY HORAN



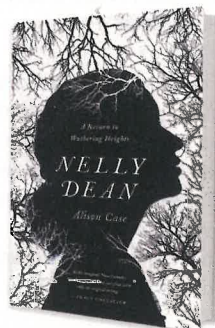
LOVING AMY: A Mother's Story
By Janis Winehouse

(Thomas Dunne Books)
⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪

What happens when a famously troubled rock star is your child? This question was a harrowing reality for Janis Winehouse, mother of the late musical powerhouse Amy Winehouse. In her piercing memoir, *Loving Amy*, Janis captures the conflicting emotions involved in lov-

ing—and ultimately losing—a child caught in the grip of addiction. Amy is depicted as a walking contradiction. She was fearless—once proudly boasting that she "out-Jaggered" Mick Jagger during a collaborative performance—but helpless when it came to her coping mechanisms (mainly drugs, alcohol, and bulimia). Amy's many highs and lows left no one unscathed. "I'd been reduced to this person who was just 'around,'" writes Janis, "a powerless bystander watching my child kill herself."

Loving Amy is raw, powerful, and incredibly difficult at times, particularly during the passage in which Janis recalls seeing her daughter's lifeless body. And it will resonate with anyone who has lost someone to addiction. "I have continually asked what I could have done differently. Was there a point when this course could have been avoided or altered?" Janis writes, before reminding both the reader and herself that, "no one could have saved Amy except Amy." —HELEN MATATOV



NELLY DEAN: A Return to Wuthering Heights
By Alison Case

(Pegasus Books)
⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪⓪

The title of author Alison Case's debut novel gets straight to the point. In the tradition of books like *Wide Sargasso Sea*, which reimagined the lives of characters from *Jane Eyre*, this mesmerizing read takes us back to the moors

and that home of tumultuous love, *Wuthering Heights*. But this time, readers learn the story of a character originally written as a narrative device—servant Nelly Dean.

Case's talents and imagination are well on display in her homage to the gothic classic. And the author clearly kept a careful eye on the details of the original (most likely, to appease *Wuthering Heights'* passionate fans). Instead of wholly fabricating plot points, Case takes the time to tease Nelly's narrative out of the original, developing her relationships and providing a back-story that precisely meshes with the tale we already know and love. Case also adds new magic and romance, sweeping the reader along toward a satisfying ending. Fans hoping for a return to Heathcliff and Catherine's passionate affair will be disappointed; Case doesn't attempt to rehash Brontë. Lucky for readers, however, Nelly Dean's story is just as compelling, exciting, and satisfying. —ANN MAYHEW