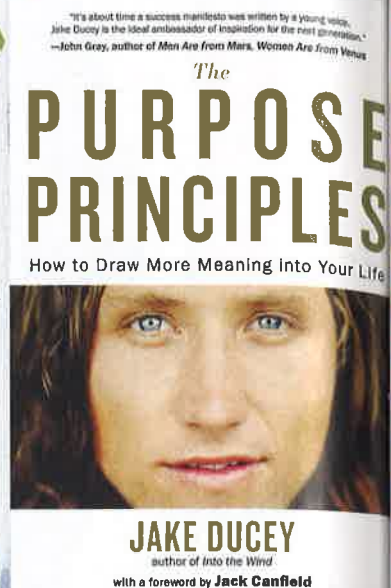
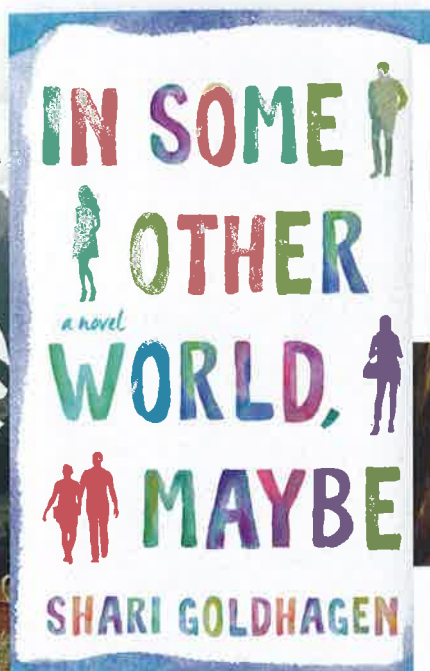
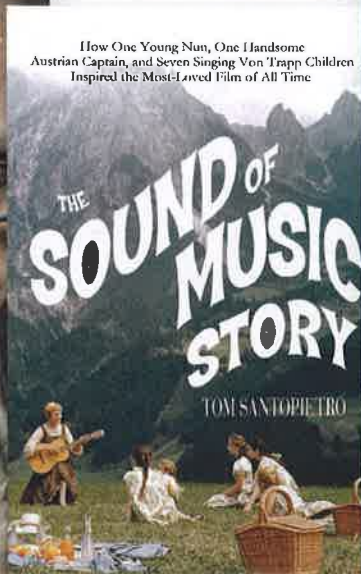
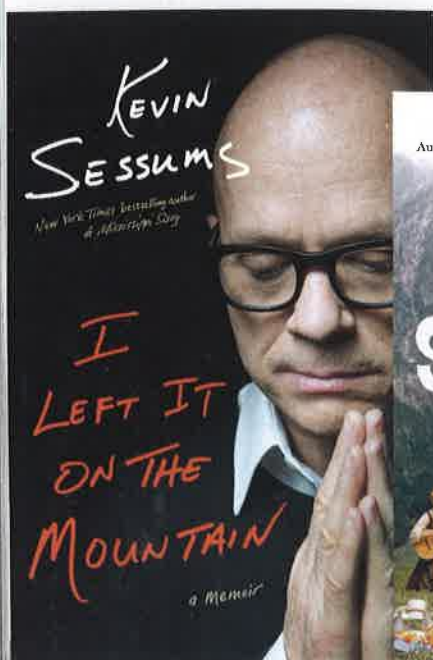


A NOVEL IDEA



Hollywood Page-Turners

There's a reason Hollywood is called Tinseltown: All that glitters is not gold, especially when it comes to aspirations of fame and fortune. Still, it's easy to get swept up in the magic of the movies, and besides, who doesn't love a happy ending? For your consideration, here are our book picks that feature Hollywood in a lead or supporting role. *By Barbara Bellesi*

"I LEFT IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" Kevin Sessums

We're used to reading articles about celebrities falling from grace, but what happens when the journalist himself is about to self-destruct? Celebrity journalist Kevin Sessums' life of excess rivaled those of his wild-child subjects. Diagnosed with HIV and descending into drug addiction, the former actor set out to write his own comeback story. From the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, across the Camino de Santiago de Compostelo, and back stateside to the beaches of Cape Cod, Sessums sought and found redemption. His memoir is a dark telling of his otherwise star-studded life (Andy Warhol, Madonna, and Courtney Love are among the players), but it's also a story of hope and salvation.

"THE SOUND OF MUSIC STORY" Tom Santopietro

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the movie version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "The Sound of Music," and Santopietro's book is the ultimate commemoration. From behind-the-scenes stories of both the performers and production in both Hollywood and Austria to the real story of Maria von Trapp and recent interviews with members of the von Trapp family, this book is a must-read for any movie musical buff. Fun fact: After "Cleopatra" brought 20th Century Fox to its knees financially, "The Sound of Music" was nearly canceled. Fifty years later, we're thankful those studio execs gave Julie Andrews and company a chance.

"IN SOME OTHER WORLD, MAYBE" Shari Goldhagen

If you're a reader who likes ensemble Hollywood films, then get ready for the ensemble cast in Goldhagen's novel about three groups of teenagers all heading to see the same movie in different parts of the country. For most of the teens, the movie promises a temporary escape from their worries, but for one, being a mere spectator at the movies isn't enough, and Hollywood beckons with its sparkly promises of fame and fortune. This is the second novel from Goldhagen, a critically acclaimed author who combines advanced writing and literature degrees with her background as a gossip writer for the likes of "The National Enquirer" and "Us Weekly," among others.

"THE PURPOSE PRINCIPLES" Jake Ducey

Hollywood may seem like the land of overnight success stories, but in reality, it took years of hard work (and hard knocks) for many celebrities to earn their places on the red carpet. In "The Purpose Principles," Jake Ducey tells the background stories of how the likes of Taylor Swift, Dave Matthews, Stephen King, and Will Smith went from obscurity to stardom through old-fashioned determination. Ducey, a TEDx motivational speaker, bases his instructional book on stories of success – and failure – of some of the world's most successful people and influencers. No matter what your end goal, Ducey's book will get you focused and confident for living your life with passion and purpose.