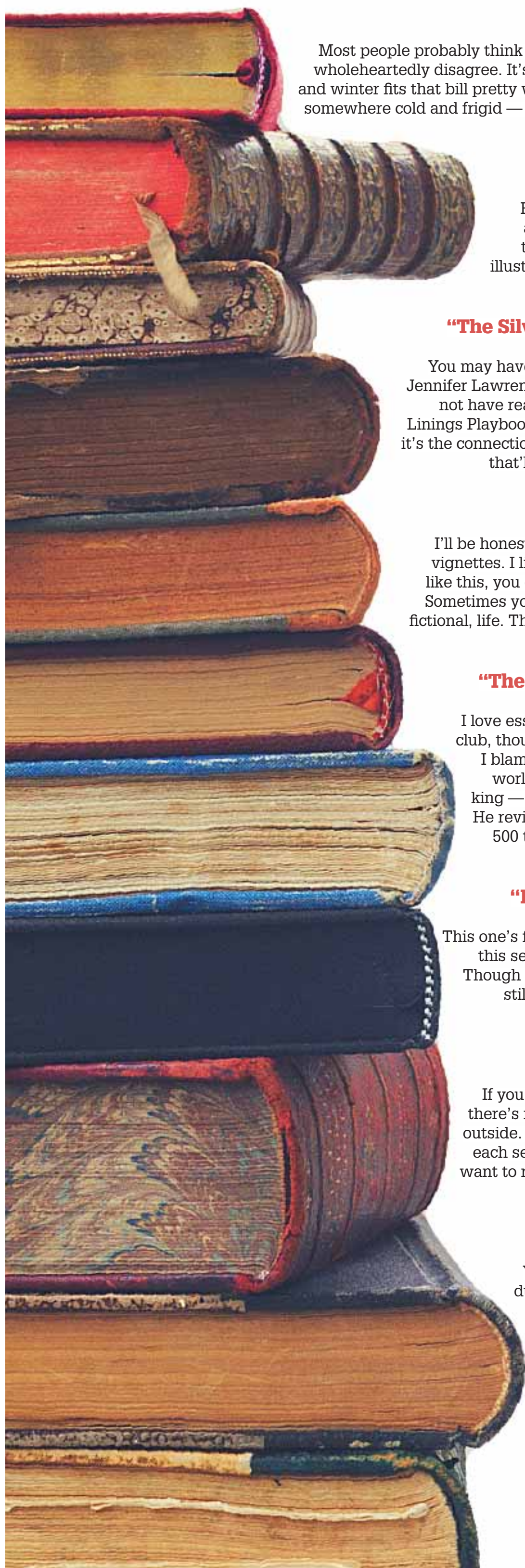


8 books to cozy up with this winter

By Ellie Albin
ealbin@iu.edu | @EllieAlbin1



Ah, winter — a fantastic season to read. It's cold, snowy and cozy; all these elements are just trying to tell you it's time to stay inside and read a book. Knowing where to start can be difficult, especially during a busy time of year, so here are eight books from an array of genres to get you started:

“Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley

Most people probably think that “Frankenstein” is solely a Halloween read, but I wholeheartedly disagree. It's really a tale about loneliness and finding belonging, and winter fits that bill pretty well. Not to mention that part of the story takes place somewhere cold and frigid — the Arctic Ocean — making for some literally chilling imagery.

“Hyperbole and a Half” by Allie Brosh

Everyone needs a good laugh, especially if you've got a case of the winter blues. Allie Brosh is easily one of the funniest authors I've ever read, and her simplistic illustrations work brilliantly to convey her invasive — and hilarious — thoughts.

“The Silver Linings Playbook” by Matthew Quick

You may have seen “Silver Linings Playbook” — the film that won Jennifer Lawrence her Oscar for Best Actress in 2013 — but you may not have read the book the movie was adapted from. “The Silver Linings Playbook” gives glimpses of Christmas and snowstorms, but it's the connection between the two main characters, Pat and Tiffany, that'll warm your heart and solidify it as a winter favorite.

“Almost, Maine” by John Cariani

I'll be honest: I don't usually love books that follow a million little vignettes. I like to watch character development, and with a book like this, you don't get that. But you don't always need that, right? Sometimes you just want to briefly pass through someone's, albeit fictional, life. The short stories are sweet and cute, making for a feel-good winter read.

“The Anthropocene Reviewed” by John Green

I love essays more than any other type of writing. It's a lonely club, though — novels are wildly more popular, and I can't say I blame anyone for that. This book really is the best of both worlds, though, because we've got the young adult novel king — John Green — and his gorgeous collection of essays. He reviews human-centric inventions, from the Indianapolis 500 to the QWERTY keyboard, on a five-star scale. One of the best books I've ever read, hands down.

“It's Kind of a Funny Story” by Ned Vizzini

This one's for all the students out there who are exhausted from this semester and need some time to reflect this December. Though it takes some dark turns, “It's Kind of a Funny Story” still has goofy moments and endearing characters, even throughout his stay in a mental hospital.

“Anna Karenina” by Leo Tolstoy

If you're really going to get into the Russian literary canon, there's no better time to start than when it's cold and snowy outside. Plus, if you're diligent and don't dwell too much over each sentence, it's quicker than you think. And who doesn't want to read about agrarian versus city lifestyle? Star-crossed lovers? Adultery? It's action-packed, honestly.

“Why We Broke Up” by Daniel Handler

You always need to read about a romance or breakup during cuffing season. Either one is fitting, honestly — and this time we're going with a break-up read, as the title alludes. “Why We Broke Up” lives up to its name: it's a story of two people, Min and Ed, unexpectedly falling for each other and then falling apart. It's a bit sad — but not totally heartbreaking — so if that's what you need, this book's for you.