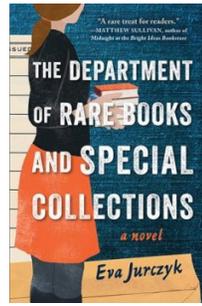


## Further Reading

### **The Department of Rare Books ... (Jan 2022)**

**by : Jurczyk, Eva**

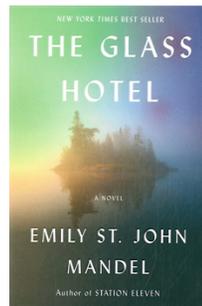
Working in the rare books department of a large university, Liesl Weiss discovers that a priceless book has gone missing as well as the librarian, and, investigating both disappearances, learns a shocking truth that shakes the very foundation on which she has built her life.



### **The Glass Hotel (Mar 2020)**

**by Mandel, Emily St. John**

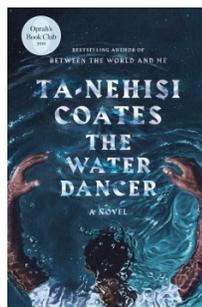
From the author of 'Station Eleven' comes a captivating novel of money, beauty, white-collar crime, ghosts and moral compromise in which a woman disappears from a container ship off the coast of Mauritania and a massive Ponzi scheme implodes in New York, dragging countless fortunes with it.



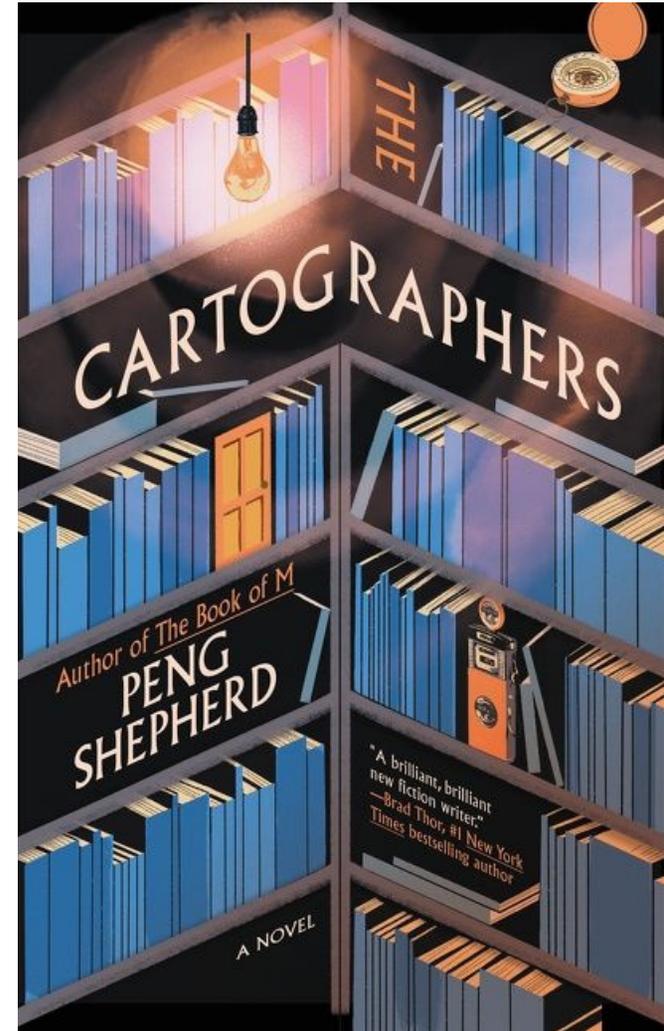
### **The Water Dancer (Sep 2019)**

**by Coates, Ta-Nehisi**

A Virginia slave narrowly escapes a drowning death through the intervention of a mysterious force that compels his escape and personal underground war against slavery.



# BOOK DISCUSSION



## Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of *The Cartographers*, Nell notes that the Fra Mauro Map's cardinal directions are upside down, with south above and north below. How does this hint at Nell's journey throughout the rest of the novel? Is there a "correct" way to view the world?
2. Did you have any initial theories as to what made the gas station map so valuable and dangerous? Were you surprised by the way the mystery unfolded?
3. Why do you think Peng Shepherd chose New York State as the main setting of *The Cartographers*? Did you learn anything new about the iconic locations Nell visits? What settings stood out to you most?
4. *The Cartographers* explores different eras of technology from ancient maps to library databases and contemporary search engines. Why do you think Nell is drawn to older tools? What are the pros and cons of older and newer search technology?
5. What was your first impression of Nell's father, Dr. Young? How did your understanding of him change by the end of the novel?
6. *The Cartographers* explores the misleading nature of representation, both for people and places. Is it possible to ever understand a person or a place entirely?
7. *The Cartographers* asks: what is the purpose of a map? By the end of the novel, did you feel that question was answered? How has *The Cartographers* changed the way you think about maps?
8. Think about the various characters who take up the quest of discovering the unknown. What motivates them? Do you think you would have what it takes to continue chasing the clues?
9. When do secrets protect, and when do they cause harm? Do you agree with the reasons why secrets were kept from Nell?
10. How do you interpret the ending of the novel? What thoughts and emotions did you experience as you finished the last page?
11. Has reading *The Cartographers* inspired you to consider what else could be hidden in plain sight? What secrets would you hope to discover?