

Introduction

Goodreads is a social media platform where users can review books and connect with readers. While Goodreads is exciting for an avid reader like me, the UI is overwhelming to navigate. Processes such as sorting and tagging take too many clicks and content is disorganized. Through my redesign, I streamline the experience so users can focus on book discovery and community.

Current Interface: www.goodreads.com

The dashboard features a header with navigation links (Home, My Books, Browse, Community) and a search bar. Below the header, there's a section for 'CURRENTLY READING' showing 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. To the right, there's a 'UPDATES' section with a post from 'Leen' about reading 'After Dark' by Haruki Murakami, followed by another update from 'Anna' about wanting to read 'Storms Of My Grandchildren: The Truth About The Climate Catastrophe And Our Last Chance To Save Humanity' by James Hansen.

Fig 1. Dashboard

This screenshot shows the initial part of a user profile for 'idk'. It includes a placeholder profile picture, sections for 'IDK'S FAVORITE BOOKS' (with a grid of book covers), 'IDK'S BOOKSHELVES' (listing 'read', 'currently-reading', and 'to-read' counts), and a 'YEAR IN BOOKS' summary.

Fig 2. Profile - Beginning

This screenshot shows the latter part of the user profile 'idk'. It includes sections for 'IDK IS CURRENTLY READING' (showing progress on 'Great Expectations'), 'IDK'S RECENT UPDATES' (listing recent reads like 'Slaughterhouse-Five' and 'East of Eden'), and 'PEOPLE IDK IS FOLLOWING' (a grid of user profiles).

Fig 3. Profile - Middle / End

Current Interface

INTUITIVE DESIGN

- Profile and book pages are long and unstructured, user has no way to navigate to a subtopic without considerable scrolling and searching.

Fig 2, 3, 6.

- On the profile page, the bookshelf images are blurry and don't allow users to easily view titles. *Fig 2.*

EASE OF LEARNING

- Bulk tagging books is confusing; user has to find a specific button to show checkboxes to begin bulk tagging.

Fig 5.

- The left bar in the Dashboard disappears in mobile mode with no way to access that information, making it difficult for user to learn how to find the same information on different screen sizes.

EFFICIENCY OF USE

- Community and personal menus are lengthy to read and have overlapping items (Groups, Discussions) *Fig 4.*
- Header is difficult to navigate because icons look similar (Group vs Profile). *Fig 4.*
- Unnecessary comment button on the posts lead users to an existing comment box underneath. *Fig 1.*

MEMORABILITY

- The left half of the dashboard contains 8 different sections that don't relate (awards, your shelf, company information), difficult to remember where certain information is. *Fig 1.*

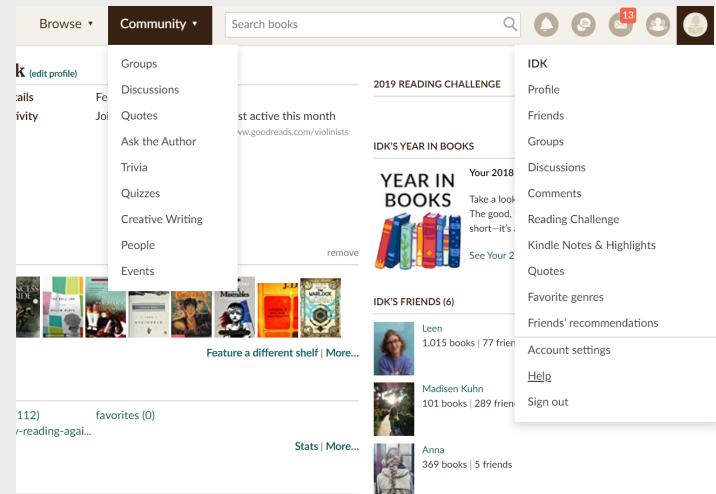


Fig 4. Header menus

Fig 5. My Books Page

Fig 6-7. Book Profile Page

Proposed Wireframes

INTUITIVE DESIGN

- Profile and book pages are divided into logical categories (Favorites, Activities). **Fig 13, 14.**
- Interactive book image carousel lets users identify books on the shelf easily, uses a half-hidden book as an affordance to let the user see more books, titles appear on hover. **Fig 14.**

EASE OF LEARNING

- Easily bulk tag with checkboxes and a sticky header at the top to help the user tag as they search. **Fig 12.**
- Layout is now optimized for mobile and tablet; if a user switches screens, the interface remains similar. **Fig 12.**

EFFICIENCY OF USE

- Easily navigate header because of fewer, distinct icons. **Fig 11.**
- Header submenus don't have repeating items. **Fig 11.**
- Submenus appear on hover for easier access. **Fig 11.**

MEMORABILITY

- Place the "currently reading" on the right part of the dashboard, dedicated to status and updates to make it easy to remember its location. **Fig 8.**
- Profile and book pages contain sidebar navigation where the user can see what section they are currently in, while navigating to other sections easily. **Fig 13, 14.**

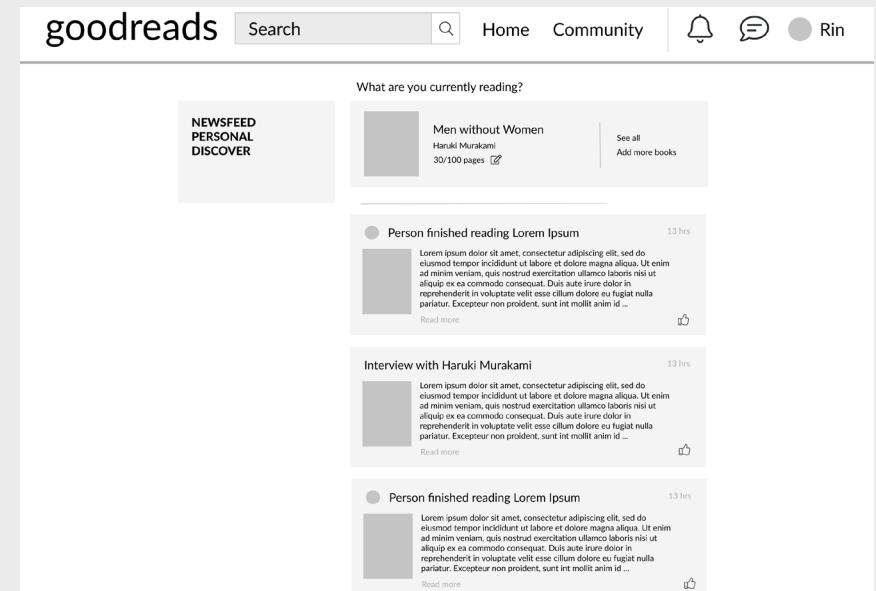


Fig 8. Dashboard, Newsfeed Section.

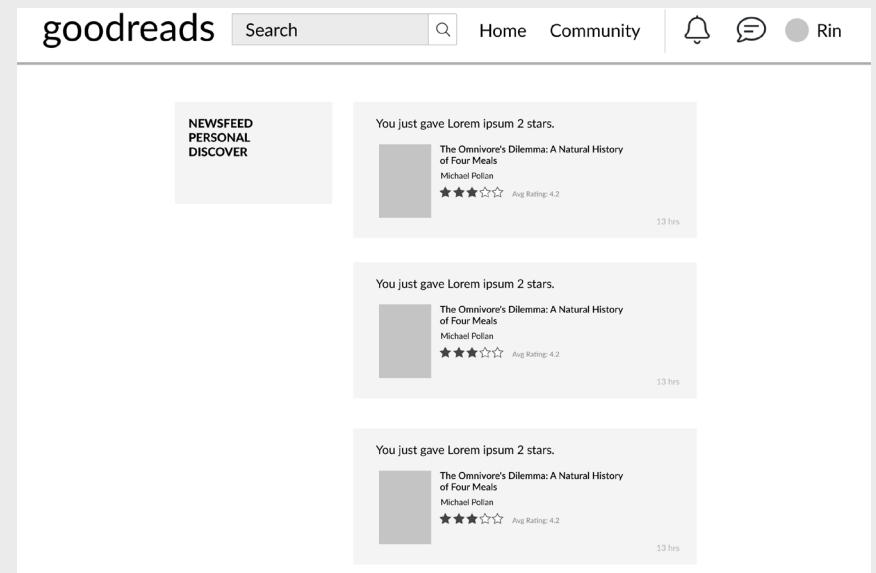


Fig 9. Dashboard, Personal Section.

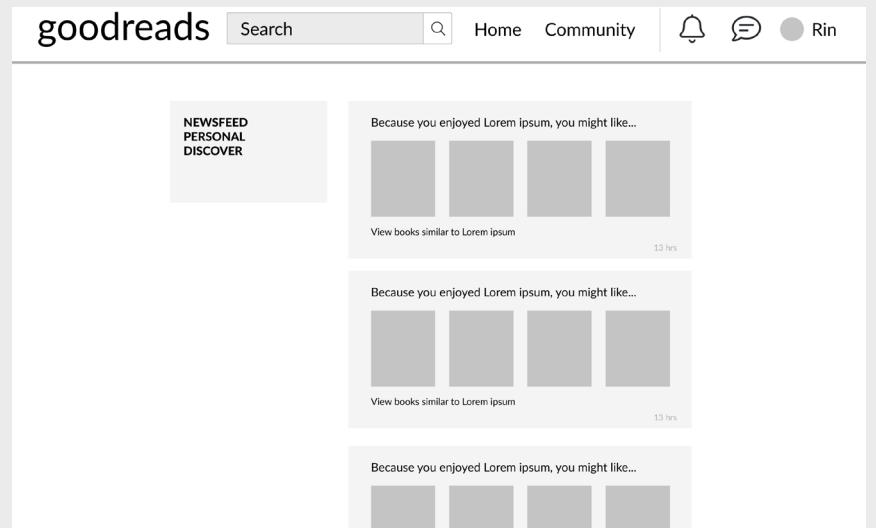


Fig 10. Dashboard, Discovery Section

Proposed Wireframes

CONTINUED

Fig 11. Sample
Menus on Hover
for All Pages

Fig 12.

My Books Page

Proposed Wireframes

CONTINUED

The wireframe shows a book profile page for "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links for Home and Community. On the left, a sidebar lists "JANE EYRE", "FRIEND ACTIVITY", "RELATED BOOKS", and "REVIEWS". The main content area features a large book cover placeholder, the title "Jane Eyre", the author "Charlotte Bronte", and a 4-star rating. Below this is a section for "Your rating" with a 5-star placeholder. A dropdown menu shows "Read" and a link to "Get a copy on Amazon, library, kindle.". The "FRIEND ACTIVITY" section shows a comment from "Janice rated" and another from "Judith rated", both with 5-star ratings. A "See more" link is present. The "RELATED BOOKS" section shows six placeholder book covers.

Fig 13.

Book Profile Page

The wireframe shows a user profile page for "Rin". At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links for Home and Community. On the left, a sidebar lists "PROFILE", "FAVORITES", "ACTIVITY", and "QUOTES", with "FAVORITES" currently selected. The main content area shows Rin's profile picture, name "Rin", and handle "@username". It also displays "150 friends • 100 books read • 123 reviews" and a bio placeholder. Below this is a "FAVORITES" section under "BOOKS" with six placeholder book covers. Further down are sections for "SHELVES", "AUTHORS", and "GENRES", each with a list of placeholder names and a "See more" link. The "ACTIVITY" section shows a recent update: "Finished reading Gone with the Wind" posted 13 hrs ago.

Fig 14.

User Profile Page

Navigation Overview

4 CORE PAGES

goodreads

Search



Home Community



Rin

What are you currently reading?

NEWSFEED
PERSONAL
DISCOVER

Men without Women

Haruki Murakami

30/100 pages

See all

Add more books

Person finished reading Lorem Ipsum

13 hrs

Interview with Haruki Murakami

13 hrs

Person finished reading Lorem Ipsum

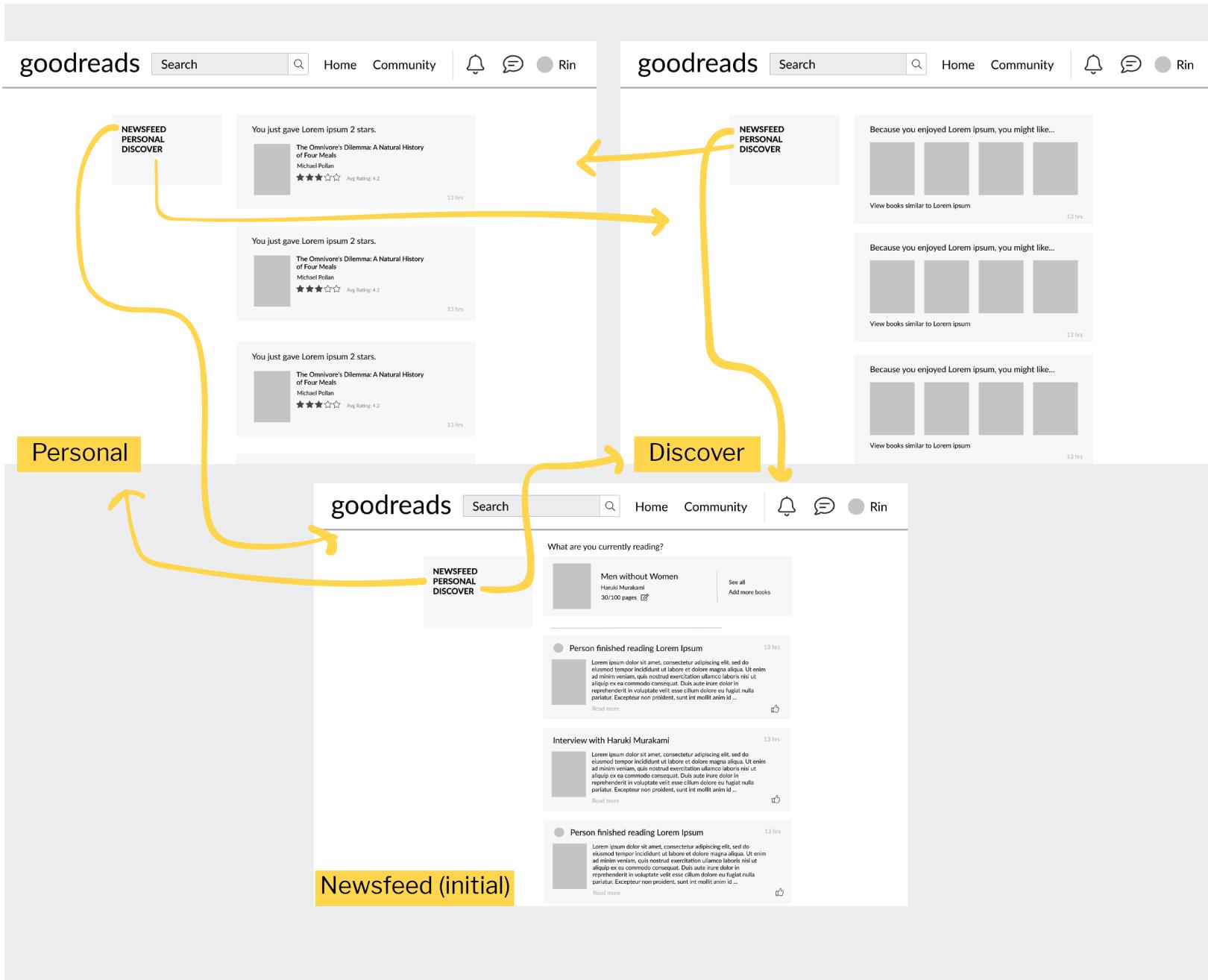
13 hrs

Read more

13 hrs

Navigation Overview

DASHBOARD PAGE (1 PAGE, 3 SECTIONS)



Note:

Regarding grading requirements, my 4 low fidelity wireframes are the Dashboard, Book Profile, User Profile and My Books Page.

I consider the Dashboard to one page composed of three sections, which is why there are three screens for this single page. Additionally, the header has its own mock on the previous page to illustrate that component.

Visual Redesign, Dashboard Page

Through my redesign of the Goodreads Dashboard (refer to **Fig. 1** for original), I simplified the interface, created intentional visual hierarchy, and reorganized information. The header is easier to navigate due to the streamlined design, with no repeating links under the user profile and community. By setting consistent and clear typographic elements (intentional choices of serif vs sans serif, bold, italics, color, size), there is strong visual hierarchy. I employed a consistent color palette that associates interaction with greens, link accents with warm browns, and grayscale for borders/footers/information hierarchy. Lastly, I refactored the information from the original dashboard into 3 subsections, which improves navigation flow by letting the user easily find the information without being overwhelmed with a text-heavy page.



Fig 15. New Color Palette

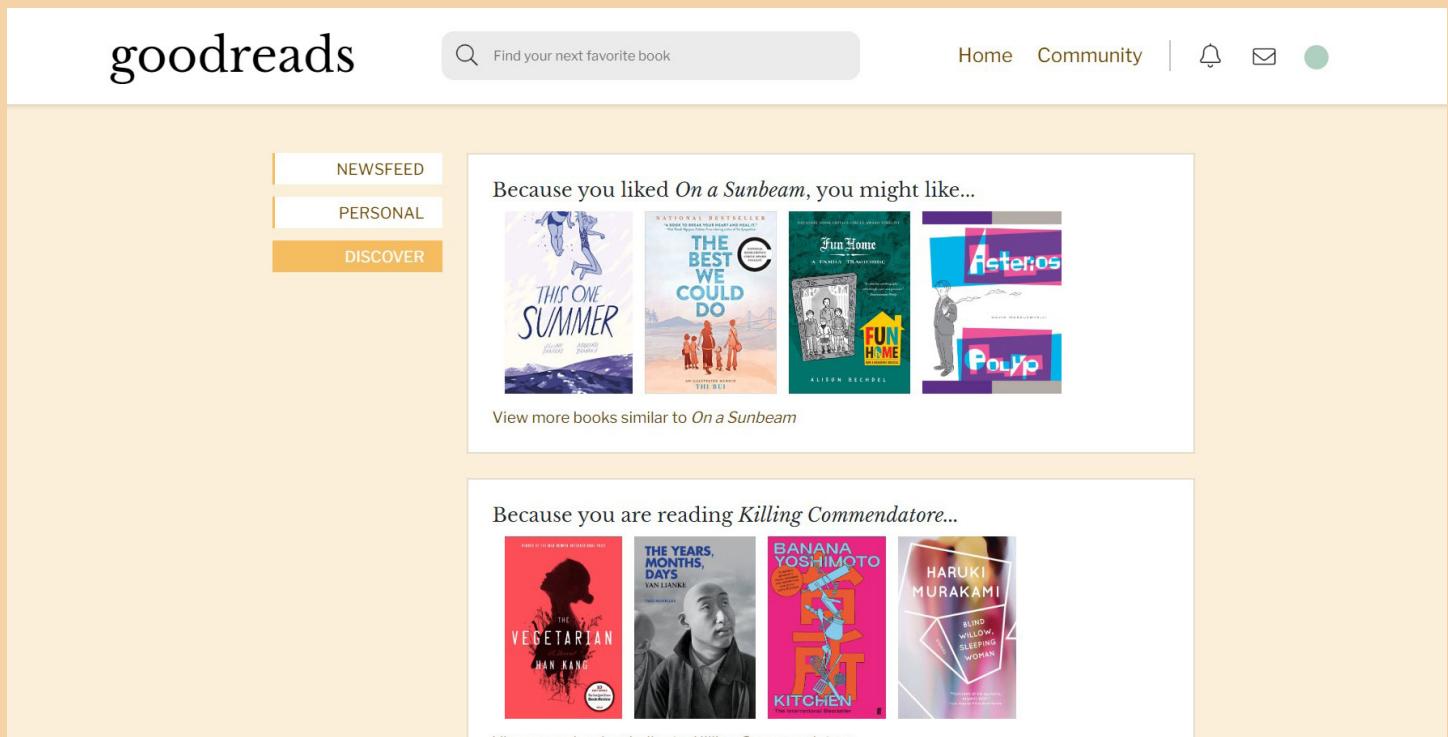
Fig 16. Dashboard Landing Page

A screenshot of the Goodreads Dashboard landing page. The top navigation bar includes a search bar, 'Home', 'Community', a notification bell, an envelope icon, and a user profile picture. A vertical sidebar on the left offers 'NEWSFEED', 'PERSONAL', and 'DISCOVER' options. The main content area features a 'What are you currently reading?' section for 'Killing Commendatore' by Haruki Murakami, showing a 4.1 rating. Below this, a 'Khaki finished reading Lincoln in the Bardo' section shows the book cover and a long block of placeholder text.

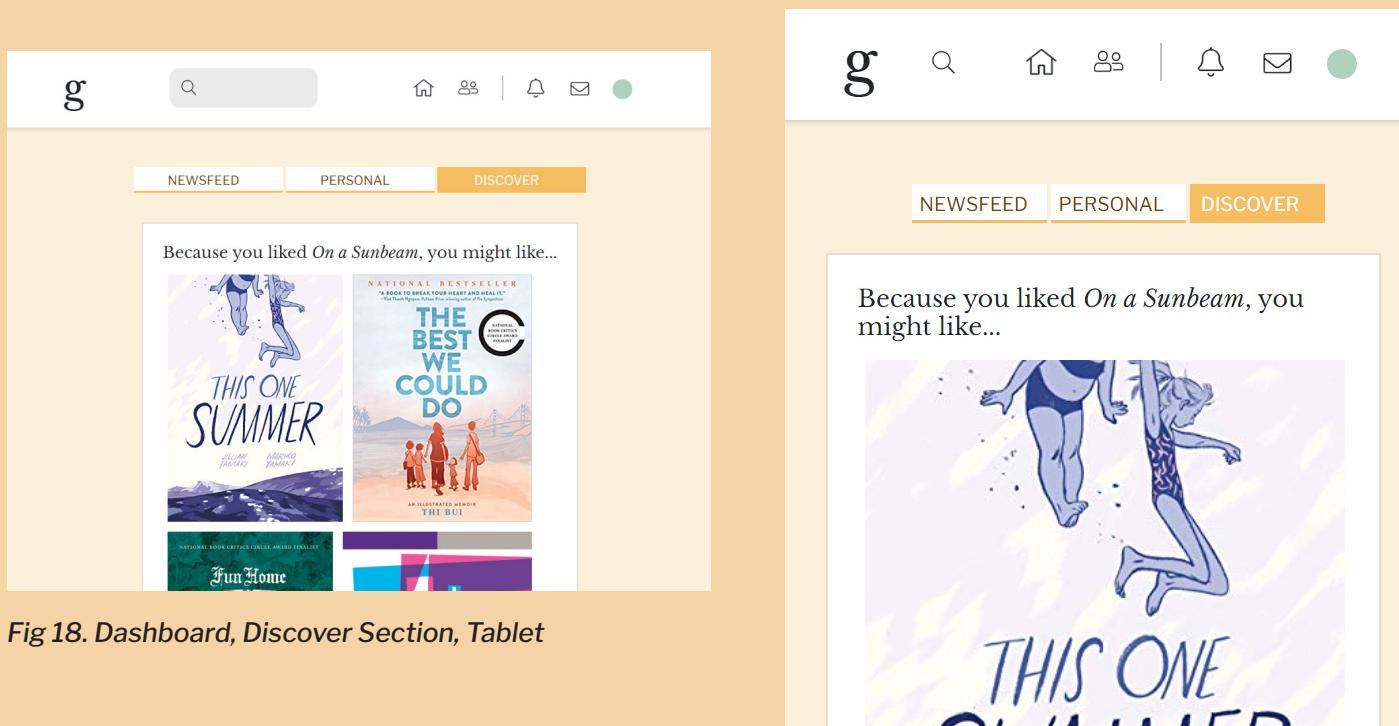
Visual Redesign, Dashboard Page

MOCK UPS FOR DESKTOP, TABLET, AND SCREEN.

Fig 17. Dashboard, Discover Section, Desktop



The desktop version of the Goodreads dashboard features a navigation bar at the top with the 'goodreads' logo, a search bar, and links for 'Home', 'Community', and notifications. On the left, there's a vertical sidebar with 'NEWSFEED', 'PERSONAL', and 'DISCOVER' buttons, where 'DISCOVER' is highlighted in orange. The main content area displays two sections of book recommendations. The first section, titled 'Because you liked *On a Sunbeam*, you might like...', shows four book covers: 'THIS ONE SUMMER' by Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki, 'THE BEST WE COULD DO' by Thi Bui, 'Fun Home' by Alison Bechdel, and 'Astérix' by René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo. Below this is a link to 'View more books similar to *On a Sunbeam*'. The second section, titled 'Because you are reading *Killing Commendatore*...', shows four book covers: 'THE VEGETARIAN' by Han Kang, 'THE YEARS, MONTHS, DAYS' by Yan Lianke, 'BANANA YOSHIMOTO' by Banana Yoshimoto, and 'HARUKI MURAKAMI' by Haruki Murakami. Below this is a link to 'View more books similar to *Killing Commendatore*'.



The tablet version of the Goodreads dashboard has a similar layout to the desktop version. It includes a navigation bar with the 'g' logo, search, home, profile, and notification icons. The sidebar on the left has 'NEWSFEED', 'PERSONAL', and 'DISCOVER' buttons, with 'DISCOVER' being orange. The main content area shows the same two sections of book recommendations as the desktop version, with the 'THIS ONE SUMMER' and 'THE BEST WE COULD DO' covers being larger and more prominent.

Fig 18. Dashboard, Discover Section, Tablet

Fig 19. Dashboard, Discover Section, Phone

Visual Redesign

ANNOTATED MOCK UP FOR DASHBOARD

Header title becomes a logo-esque “g” for phone and tablet.

Search is 20% of the browser width. Flexbox header allows logo, search, and navigation to be evenly spaced.

Home and community links are text; transforms into icons in tablet and mobile layout.

goodreads

Find your next favorite book

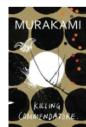
Home Community



Navigation sidebar with fixed position transforms into a header with relative position for phone and tablet.

NEWSFEED
PERSONAL
DISCOVER

What are you currently reading?



Killing Commendatore

Haruki Murakami



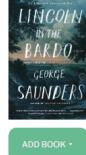
Average rating: 4.1 stars

See all
Add more

Standard two column flexbox on desktop. This “See all” sidebar becomes footer when window width is less than 800px.

Content width shrinks relative to three break points: greater than 800px, greater than 470px, and less than 470px.

Khaki finished reading Lincoln in the Bardo



ADD BOOK

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Read More



13 hours ago

When resizing, footer shrinks in respect to the content size.

Exclusive Goodreads interview with Viet Thanh Nguyen regarding *The Sympathizer*



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goodreads

Find your next favorite book

Home Community



NEWSFEED
PERSONAL
DISCOVER

Because you liked *On a Sunbeam*, you might like...



View more books similar to *On a Sunbeam*

Suggestions box is 4 column in desktop, 2 column in tablet, and a single column in mobile view.