

Please Note:

Contact your local library to check the availability of each bag and to reserve them for your book club. These bags cannot be put “on hold” from your home computer, so you must contact your local library to “book” them. Bags can be checked out for up to eight weeks, and can be reserved up to eleven months in advance. Bags cannot be renewed.

Library Abbreviations

HA	Haverford Township Free Library
MA	Marple Public Library
PP	Prospect Park Free Library
RK	Rachel Kohl Community Library
DE	DCLS Administrative Headquarters
UP	Upper Darby Library—Primos Branch
CR	J. Lewis Crozer Library

No need to call these libraries directly—your local library can help you!

Bag Contents:

All bags owned by DCLS Administrative Headquarters contain:

- 8 regular print books
- 3 large print books
- 1 book on CD

Most bags owned by the Haverford Township Free Library and the Rachel Kohl Community Library contain:

- 8 regular print books
- 1 large print book
- 1 book on CD

Most bags owned by the J. Lewis Crozer Library and the Prospect Free Library contain:

- 10 regular print books

Most bags owned by the Marple Public Library contain:

- 8 regular print books
- 2 large print books

Most bags owned by the Upper Darby Library Primos Branch contain:

- 12 regular print books

All bags contain group discussion guides and author biographies



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BOOK CLUB

Book Club in a Bag List

A listing of all adult book-
clubs-in-bags throughout
Delaware County Libraries

Fall 2017

***The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough**

On a winter day in 1903, two unknown brothers from Ohio changed history. But it would take the world some time to believe what had happened: the age of flight had begun, with the first heavier-than-air, powered machine carrying a pilot. Who were these men and how was it that they achieved what they did?

HA

BIOGRAPHY; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks**

When plague comes to an isolated British village in the year 1666, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition, even as prayers turn to murderous witch-hunting.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC; LUSH

***The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers**

Bound together since basic training, two young soldiers, Privates Murphy and Bartle, have been dropped in Iraq, into a war neither is prepared for. As reality begins to blur into hazy nightmare, Murphy becomes increasingly unmoored from the world around him and Bartle takes impossible actions.

DE

LITERARY FICTION; LYRICAL; DARK; REFLECTIVE

***Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald* by Therese Anne Fowler**

When Southern belle Zelda Sayre meets F. Scott Fitzgerald she is 17 years old and he is a young army lieutenant. Before long, Zelda has fallen for him despite his unsuitability. What follows is the story of their passionate, troubled marriage in the heart of the Jazz Age.

HA

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; DRAMATIC; WITTY

***The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman**

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers leveled most of Warsaw, including the zoo. With most of their cages empty, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews and Polish resistors into the empty cages and their villa.

HA

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING; SUSPENSEFUL

***The 19th Wife* by David Ebershoff**

In 1875 Utah, Ann Eliza Young has just left her powerful husband, Brigham Young, the leader and prophet of the Mormon Church. Expelled from the religion and an outcast, Ann Eliza crusades against polygamy in the United States. In the present day, a murder involving a polygamist family unfolds, as Jordan Scott, a young man cast out of his fundamentalist sect years ago tries to determine the truth of his father's death.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***22 Britannia Road* by Amanda Hodgkinson**

At the end of World War II, Silvana and her eight-year-old son Aurek board the ship that will take them from Poland to England. After living wild in the forests for years, carrying a terrible secret, all Silvana knows is that she and Aurek are survivors. Everything else is lost. Waiting in England for them is her husband Janusz, who has not seen his wife or son in six years. He has reinvented himself as an Englishman in hopes of forgetting the past. But the six years apart have changed them all.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; ENGAGING

***The Accidental* by Ali Smith**

Amber, thirty-something and barefoot, shows up at the door of the Norfolk cottage that the Smarts are renting for the summer. She talks her way in. She tells nothing but lies. She stays for dinner. As she insinuates herself into the family, the questions of who she is and how she's come to be there drop away. Instead, dazzled by her seeming exoticism, the Smarts begin to examine the accidents of their lives through the searing lens of Amber's perceptions.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; EXPERIMENTAL; FAMILY LIFE

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

Mark Twain's classic stories of a young boy coming of age along the Mississippi River, surrounded by an unforgettable cast of characters, including Huck Finn.

UP

CLASSIC FICTION; FUNNY; COMING OF AGE

***The Age of Miracles* by Karen Thompson Walker**

On an ordinary Saturday in California, 11-year-old Julia awakes to discover that the rotation of the earth has suddenly begun to slow. As she struggles to navigate this new world, with its constantly shifting landscape, Julia is also coping with the normal disasters of everyday life, including the fractures in her parents' marriage and the anxious thrill of first love.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; HAUNTING; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho**

This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and inspiring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. A beautiful fable about following one's own destiny.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; SPIRITUAL; FABLES

***All Fall Down* by Jennifer Weiner**

Allison Weiss got her happy ending—a handsome husband, adorable daughter, a job she loves, and a big house in the suburbs. But while when she reads a magazine quiz about addiction, she starts to wonder about her use of prescription drugs. The pills help her manage the realities of her life: that her husband is distant, that her daughter is acting out, that her father's Alzheimer's is worsening. She tells herself they let her make it through the day...but what if her increasing drug use is turning into her biggest problem of all?

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; ISSUE-ORIENTED

***All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr**

The story of a Marie Laure, a blind French girl whose father has built her a model of their town to help her navigate on her own, and Werner, a German orphan who grew up fascinated by a crude radio, whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING; LYRICAL

***Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed**

At 22, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother's death, her family scattered and her marriage ended. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she would hike over 1,000 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

RK

MEMOIR; DESCRIPTIVE; GRIEF

***Wilde Lake* by Laura Lippman**

As Lu Brant prepares for her first trial as newly-elected state's attorney, the case dredges up painful memories, reminding her family of the night her brother, AJ, saved his best friend at the cost of another man's life. Now Lu wonders if the events of 1980 happened as she remembers them, and, if there is such a thing as the whole truth, if she would be better off not knowing it.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah**

Meredith and Nina are as different as two sisters can be. When their beloved father falls ill, they are suddenly reunited, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother. The only link they shared was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told them at bedtime. Now, on his deathbed, their father promises to tell it one last time—all the way to the end.

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; EMOTIONAL

***The Winter People* by Jennifer McMahon**

Coming of age in an old farmhouse, 19-year-old Ruthie begins a search for her vanished agoraphobic mother and discovers the century-old diary of the farmhouse's long-ago resident, a grieving mother named Sara Harrison Shea who died under mysterious circumstances in 1908, just months after the death of her own daughter.

DE

INTRICATELY PLOTTED; ATMOSPHERIC

***While Beauty Slept* by Elizabeth Blackwell**

When Elise Dalriss's great-granddaughter recounts a tale about a beautiful princess awakened by a handsome prince, it opens a door to the past, a door Elise has kept locked for years: she was the companion to the real princess who slept—and only she knows the truth of what happened so many years go.

DE

FANTASY; FAIRY TALES

***While My Sister Sleeps* by Barbara Delinsky**

Two sisters are in the prime of their lives when Robin suffers a massive heart attack from which she may never regain consciousness. It's up to Molly to make tough decisions. But soon she will make discoveries that threaten to shatter her relationship with her sister.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOODY; MOVING

***The Widow's War* by Sally Cabot Gunning**

When Lyddie Berry's husband of 20 years, Edward, is lost in a whaling disaster, her grief is doubled upon the realization that her property and rights are now legally in the hands of her nearest male relative: her daughter's overbearing husband, whom Lyddie cannot abide. She decides to challenge both law and custom for control of her own destiny. She soon discovers the price of her bold "war" for personal freedom to be heartbreakingly dear.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress* by Ariel Lawhorn**

One summer night in 1930, Judge Joseph Crater steps into a New York City cab and is never heard from again. Behind this great man are three women, each with her own tale to tell: Stella, his fashionable wife, the picture of propriety; Maria, their steadfast maid, indebted to the judge; and Ritzi, his showgirl mistress, willing to seize any chance to break out of the chorus line. Soon, the twisted truth will emerge.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC; SUSPENSEFUL

***The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flagg**

A hilarious mystery about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are., spanning decades, generations, and America in the 1940s and today and centering around five women who worked in a Phillips 66 gas station during the World War II years.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; HEARTWARMING

***Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* by Kris Radish**

Katherine Givens, an attorney and single mother, finds her life turned upside down when she receives an unexpected bequest from her late friend, Annie Freeman, taking her and four other women on a life-changing road trip as they celebrate female friendship.

PP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; MOVING

***Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Running into a long-ago friend sparks memories of the 1970s for August, transporting her to a time and place where friendship was everything—until it wasn't. For August and her friends, Brooklyn was a place where they believed they were beautiful, talented, brilliant—part of a future that belonged to them. But beneath the hopeful veneer was another Brooklyn, one where precious innocence meets the all-too-real perils of growing up.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; SPARE; FRIENDSHIP; COMING OF AGE

***The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker**

A successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace. Neither his wife nor his daughter Julia who have no idea where he might be until they discover an old love letter written years ago to a woman in Burma. Intent on solving the mystery of her father's past, Julia travels to the village where the woman lived, where she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; MOVING; LOVE STORY

***The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein**

Enzo knows he's different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he's educated himself through television and the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life and all that he and his family have been through.

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Ashford Affair* by Lauren Willig**

As a lawyer in a large Manhattan firm, Clementine Evans has finally achieved almost everything she's been working toward—but now she's not sure it's enough. After a broken engagement, a relative lets slip hints about a long-buried family secret, leading Clementine on a journey into the past that could change everything.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGAS; ROMANTIC

***The Astronaut Wives Club* by Lily Koppel**

As America's Mercury Seven astronauts were launched on death-defying missions, television cameras focused on their young wives. Overnight, these women were transformed into American royalty. As their celebrity rose and tragedy began to touch their lives, the women formed a friendship and special bonds that would withstand the tests of time.

RK

NON-FICTION; WOMEN IN HISTORY; FRIENDSHIPS

***Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil DeGrasse Tyson**

What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than our most celebrated and beloved astrophysicist. But today, few of us have time to contemplate the cosmos; so Neil DeGrasse Tyson brings the universe down to Earth.

HA

NON-FICTION; SCIENCE

***What is the What* by Dave Eggers**

In a heartrending and astonishing novel, Eggers illuminates the history of the civil war in Sudan through the eyes of Valentino Achak Deng, a refugee now living in the U.S. Readers follow his life as he's driven from his home as a boy and walks, with thousands of orphans, to Ethiopia, where he finds safety—for a time.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; INSPIRING; DARK; MOVING

***What Was Mine* by Helen Klein Ross**

Lucy Wakefield is a seemingly ordinary woman who does something extraordinary in a desperate moment: she takes a baby from a shopping cart and raises her as her own. It's a secret she manages to hide from everyone in her life for over two decades. When her grown daughter, Mia, discovers the awful truth of her origins, it causes a ripple effect that alters many lives.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi**

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worthy of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

HA

NON-FICTION; HEARTWRENCHING

***Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple**

When her hilarious, volatile, talented, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her. Told mostly in emails, official correspondence, and secret correspondence, this is a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; ENGAGING; LIGHTHEARTED

***Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire**

In 1962, at the age of 11, Carlos Eire was one of 14,000 children airlifted out of Cuba, his parents left behind. His life until then is the subject of this wry, heartbreaking, intoxicatingly beautiful memoir of growing up in a privileged Havana household—and of being exiled from his own childhood by the Cuban revolution.

HA
MEMOIR; MOVING; LYRICAL

***War and Turpentine* by Stefan Hertmans**

Shortly before his death in 1981, Stefan Hertmans' grandfather gave a couple of filled exercise books. Stories he'd heard as a child had led Hertmans to suspect that their contents might be disturbing, and for years he didn't dare open them. When he finally did, he discovered unexpected secrets of his grandfather's life in Belgium in the late 19th century and during World War I, and how he dealt with his grief in the silence of painting. Drawing on these diary entries, Hertmans has produced a poetic novelization of his grandfather's story, brought to life with great imaginative power and vivid detail.

HA
LITERARY FICTION; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

***The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson**

In this beautifully-written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America.

HA
NON-FICTION; DETAIL-ORIENTED; SOCIAL HISTORY

***The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown**

Unwillingly brought together to care for their ailing mother, sisters Bianca, Cordelia, and Rose, who were named after Shakespearean characters by their father, find that what they've been avoiding—each other, their small hometown, themselves—might offer more than they expected

DE
CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; LIGHHEARTED; SNARKY

***The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin**

Anne Morrow, the shy daughter of a U.S. ambassador, has often stood in the shadows. So when she meets aviator Charles Lindbergh, she's certain he hasn't noticed her. But Charles sees in her a kindred spirit and fellow adventurer and her world will be changed forever.

MA
BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; HISTORICAL FICTION

***Away* by Amy Bloom**

Arriving in America alone after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, determined to make her way in a new world, Lillian Leyb receives word that her daughter, Sophie, might still be alive. Lillian embarks on a risky odyssey that takes her from the world of the Yiddish theater on New York's Lower East Side, to Seattle's Jazz District, and up to Alaska, toward Siberia.

HA
HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; REFLECTIVE

***Beartown* by Fredrik Backman**

Beartown is a tiny, struggling community nestled deep in the forest of Sweden. If their junior hockey team wins the national semi-final, they might just attract a new ice rink and bring in much-needed business and funds. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden for a group of teenage boys to bear, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that leaves a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil.

HA
CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LYRICAL; HAUNTING; COMING OF AGE

***Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter**

The story begins in 1962. On a rocky patch of sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper looks out over the waters of the Ligurian Sea and sees a tall, thin woman, a vision white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he learns, an American starlet, and she is dying. And the story begins again today, half a world away, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot—searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier.

RK
CONTEMPORARY FICTION; ROMANTIC; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg**

Eliza Naumann, an ordinary nine-year-old in a family of extraordinary people, takes everyone by surprise when she sweeps a series of regional spelling bees. Her father, Saul, takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. In this altered reality, Saul inducts her into his hallowed study and lavishes upon her attention previously reserved for her brother, Aaron. But when her mother's secret life triggers a familial explosion, it is Eliza who must order the chaos.

PP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; COMING OF AGE; FAMILY LIFE

***The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King**

When Mary Russell meets famed detective Sherlock Holmes, she discovers that he is also a beekeeper and becomes his pupil in both beekeeping and detective work. She soon finds herself on the trail of kidnappers and discovers a plot to kill both Mary herself and Holmes.

HA

HISTORICAL MYSTERY; LYRICAL; COMPELLING

***Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue**

Jende Jonga has brought his wife, Neni, and son to New York from Cameroon in hopes of finding a better life. He lands a chauffeur job with Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers, opening a new world of experiences and wealth to the Jongas. But this world of power and privilege conceals troubling secrets. When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job, even as their marriage threatens to fall apart.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but 18 years later she is still not free. She has too many memories of the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Her new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and word: Beloved.

CR

HISTORICAL FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM; DARK

***Vanessa and Her Sister* by Priya Parmar**

London, 1905: The city is alight with change, and the Stephen siblings—Vanessa, Thoby, Adrian, and Virginia—are at the forefront. The four leave their childhood home for Bloomsbury, where they bring together a circle of bright, outrageous, artistic friends. An intimate glimpse into the life of the Bloomsbury circle, with Vanessa Bell and her sister, Virginia Woolf, at its center.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; VIBRANT

***The View from Garden City* by Carolyn Baugh**

The moving story of a young American student living in the Garden City district of Cairo. Having come to study Arabic, she learns far more from the Egyptian women, young and old, she meets within the swirl and tumult of Garden City. Living, loving, and flourishing amid the fierce inflexibility of tradition, these women reveal a fascinating world of arranged marriages, secret romances, and the often turbulent bonds between four generations of mothers and daughters.

UP

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler**

Kate Battista is stuck. She's working at a nursery school despite her intelligence and living at home with her brilliant but scattered scientist father, and her pretty, bratty younger sister, Bunny. When her father's assistant, Pyotr, is about to be deported, he begs Kate to marry him to keep him there, forcing her to decide what it is that she really wants from life.

UP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LIGHHEARTED; LOVE STORY; QUIRKY

***A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan**

Working side-by-side for a record label, aging former punk rocker Bennie Salazar and passionate, troubled young Sasha hide illicit secrets from one another. Readers discover the pasts of both in detail, along with the secret lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs over many years and across the world.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; EXPERIMENTAL

***Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan**

At age 35, Fanny van de Grift Osbourne leaves her philandering husband in San Francisco and sets sail for Belgium to study art, with her three children and nanny in tow. Not long after her arrival, though, tragedy strikes, and they head to a quiet artists' colony in France to recover. There she meets Robert Louis Stevenson, 10 years her junior, who is instantly smitten with her. The two eventually begin a fierce, unconventional love affair, spanning decades.

HA

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

Plantation life is hellish for all slaves but especially bad for Cora, who is an outcast even among her fellow Africans. When Caesar, a recent arrival, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. But this Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor—engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM; DARK

***The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce**

Meet Harold Fry, recently retired. He lives in a small English village with his wife, Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next. Then one morning, he receives a note in the mail from a woman he hasn't seen or heard from in 20 years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. Harold becomes convinced Queenie will live if walks the 600 miles to see her.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; HEARTWARMING

***The Unseen World* by Liz Moore**

Ada Sibelius has grown up raised by David, her brilliant, eccentric, socially inept single father, who directs a computer science lab in 1980s Boston. When his mind begins to falter, leaving her virtually an orphan, she is taken in by one of David's colleagues and embarks on a mission to uncover her father's secrets.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; FAMILY LIFE

***Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Written as an open letter to his young son, Ta-Nehisi Coates uses both personal experiences and historical events to poignantly ask difficult questions about the role of race in our history and our nation today, using events in his own life and U.S. history. A timely work that will resonate with all those who have experienced or witnessed racism in their lives.

HA

MEMOIR; HAUNTING; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty**

The story of three women in a seaside town, each at a crossroads. There's Madeline, funny, biting, and passionate dealing with the arrival of her ex-husband and his new wife; Celeste, the beautiful queen of the social set, but who is grappling with an unbearable situation at home; and Jane, a young single mom new to town who harbors secret doubts about her son.

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Blessings* by Elise Juska**

When John Blessing dies and leaves behind a wife and two small children, the loss reverberates across his extended family for years to come, revealing the interior worlds of a close-knit Irish Catholic family and the rituals that unite them.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING

***Blue Asylum* by Kathy Hepinstall**

Arrested and convicted of madness for seeking justice for her plantation owner husband's slaves at the height of the Civil War, Iris Dunleavy is sent away to Sanibel Asylum on a remote Florida island to be restored to a good, compliant woman. While there, Iris meets a wonderful collection of residents—some seemingly sane, some wrongly convinced they're crazy, some charmingly odd, some dangerously unstable. But which of these is Ambrose Weller, the war-haunted Confederate soldier whose memories terrorize him into wild fits, but whose gentleness and dark eyes beckon to Iris?

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**

11-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in a world whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different. In fact, Pecola's life does change—in painful, devastating ways. This is Pulitzer Prize winning author Toni Morrison's first novel.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; COMING OF AGE; DARK

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak**

A personified death relates the story of Liesel, a young German girl recently placed in a foster family outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau.

DE, RK, HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMING OF AGE; MOVING

***The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant**

Addie Baum is born in 1900 to immigrant parents unprepared for America's influence on their daughters. At 85, she recounts the story of her life to her 22-year-old granddaughter, beginning when she was 15 and first found her voice and the friends who would shape her, providing a fascinating look at a generation of women finding their place in a changing world.

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMING OF AGE

***The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown**

This is the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew, a team with wild goals of Olympic gold that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans, defeating elite rivals at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics. An irresistible story about beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times.

HA

NON-FICTION; SURVIVAL STORY

8

***Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty**

Sam and Clementine have a wonderful, if busy, life, with two little girls, a new dream job for Sam, and a promising audition for Clementine, a cellist. But Clementine's relationship with her oldest friend, Erika, is a complicated one. So when Erika mentions a barbecue with her larger-than-life neighbors, Tiffany and Vid, it seems like a welcome respite. Two months later, Sam and Clementine can't stop asking themselves: what if we hadn't gone?

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; FRIENDSHIP

***The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy**

For over 50 years, the Turners have lived on Yarrow Street. Their house has seen 13 children get gone and grown—and some of them come back again. It has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. When their powerful mother falls ill, the Turners are called home to decide their house's fate and to reckon with how their past haunts shape their future.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGA

***The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis**

In 1923, 15-year-old Hattie Shepherd flees Georgia and settles in Philadelphia, hoping for a better life. Instead, she marries a man who will bring her nothing but disappointment and watches helplessly as her firstborn twins succumb to an illness a few pennies could have prevented. Hattie gives birth to nine more children whom raises with grit and mettle and not an ounce of the tenderness they crave, as she vows to prepare for a world she is certain will not be kind.

DE

FAMILY SAGA; HISTORICAL FICTION

***Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, appeared. So began one of the most remarkable and extraordinary odysseys of World War II—the story of Louis Zamperini.

DE

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING; SURVIVAL STORY

57

***The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht**

Natalia is a young doctor on a mission of mercy at an orphanage in a Balkan country mending from years of conflict. As she works, she can feel both the gathering of age-old superstitions and secrets and the grief of her own private, hurtful mystery: the inexplicable circumstances surrounding the recent death of her beloved grandfather. To try to find answers, she turns to the stories he told her when she was a child, especially those from *The Jungle Book*.

RK

LITERARY FICTION; MYSTICAL; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom**

The inventor of the world's first clock is punished for trying to measure God's greatest gift. He is banished to a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of all who come after him seeking more days, more years. Eventually, with his soul nearly broken, Father Time is granted his freedom, along with a magical hourglass and a mission: a chance to redeem himself by teaching two earthly people the true meaning of time.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; INSPIRING; MOVING; SPARE

***The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger**

The story of Henry, an adventurous librarian, and Clare, a beautiful art student. They meet when Clare is six and Henry thirty-six; they marry when Clare is twenty-three and Henry thirty-one. Impossible but true, because Henry is the first known sufferer of Chrono-Displacement Disorder. A funny, poignant tale of boy meets girl with a twist: what if one of them couldn't stop slipping in and out of time?

PP

SCIENCE FICTION; LOVE STORY; MOVING

***A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith**

The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg in Brooklyn. By turns heartbreaking, and uplifting the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and threaded with family connectedness.

HA

CLASSIC FICTION; COMING OF AGE; FAMILY SAGA

***Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Robin Wall Kimmerer approaches the natural world with both the scientific rigor demanded by her profession as a botanist and her background as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which views plants and animals as our greatest teachers. Here, with dazzling prose, she brings together the two seemingly opposite approaches.

DE

NON-FICTION; SCIENCE

***The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz**

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick, Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, he dreams of the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien, a dream that may never come true thanks to the curse that has haunted his family for generations.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM

***The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka**

In eight incantatory sections, this novel traces the extraordinary lives of a group of young Japanese women known as "picture brides" nearly a century ago—from their arduous journey by boat, where they exchange photos of their husbands, imagining uncertain futures in an unknown land; to their arrival in San Francisco where they faced back-breaking migrant work, children who reject their heritage, and the prospect of wartime internment.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; POETIC; EXPERIMENTAL

***Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks**

Growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor in 1665, amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans. Bethia Mayfield is a restless and curious girl who yearns for an education that is closed to her due to her gender. At age twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a secret friendship that draws each into the alien world of the other.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; LYRICAL; LUSH

***Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth**

In the 1950s, 22-year-old Jenny Lee leaves her comfortable home to move into a convent and become a midwife in London's East End slums. While delivering babies across the city, she encounters a colorful cast of women, from the plucky, warm-hearted nuns with whom she lived to the woman with 24 children who can't speak English and beyond.

RK

MEMOIR; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Cane River* by Lalita Tademy**

Beginning with her own great-great-great-grandmother, Lalita Tademy chronicles four generations of strong, determined black women as they battle injustice to unite their family and forge success on their own terms. These are women whose lives began in slavery, who weather the Civil War, and who grapple with the contradictions of emancipation, Jim Crow, and the pre-Civil Rights south.

CR

FAMILY SAGA; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

***Cartwheel* by Jennifer DuBois**

Just weeks after arriving in Buenos Aires for her semester abroad, Lily Hayes becomes the prime suspect in the brutal murder of her roommate, Katy. As the case takes shape, Lily appears alternately sinister and guileless through the eyes of those around her, including the media, her family, the man who loves her, and the man who wants to see her convicted.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; HAUNTING

***A Change in Altitude* by Anita Shreve**

Margaret and Patrick have been married just a few months when they set off on what they hope will be a great adventure—a year living in Kenya. Margaret quickly realizes there is a great deal she doesn't know about her new home, and about her own husband. When a British couple invites them to join on a climbing expedition to Mount Kenya, they eagerly agree. But a horrific accident occurs and Margaret must come to terms with what happened.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; REFLECTIVE; LEISURELY PACED

***That Bright Land* by Terry Roberts**

Set a year after the end of the Civil War, this novel follows Jacob Ballard, a former Union soldier and spy who has been sent south to find a serial killer responsible for the violent deaths of Union veterans. Based on true events, this is the story of a violent, fragile nation in the wake of the Civil War and a man who must exorcise his own demons to catch one.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING

***Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston**

When sixteen-year-old Janie is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with sixty acres. Over the years, Janie endures two stifling marriages before meeting the man of her dreams, who offers not diamonds but a packet of flowering seeds.

UP

CLASSIC FICTION; MELANCHOLY

***Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism* by Temple Grandin**

In this unprecedented book, gifted animal scientist and autistic woman Temple Grandin delivers a report from the country of autism. Writing from the dual perspective of a scientist and an autistic person, she tells us how that country is experienced by its inhabitants and how she managed to breach its boundaries to function in the outside world.

HA

NON-FICTION; SCIENCE

***Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher**

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. From the tapes, Hannah's recorded voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out why.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUICIDE; MOVING

***Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family* by Patricia Volk**

Patricia Volk's memoir lets readers into her big, crazy, loving, cheerful, infuriating, wonderful family, where you're never just hungry—you're starving to death, and you're never just full—you're stuffed. Volk's family fed New York from 1888 when her great-grandfather introduced pastrami to America until 1988, when her father closed his garment district restaurant.

PP

MEMOIR; FUNNY; FAMILY SAGA

***The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can Eat* by Edward Kelsey Moore**

Forging a friendship at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean meet regularly at the first diner owned by black proprietors in their Indiana city. They are watched through the years by a big-hearted man who observes their struggles with school, marriage, motherhood, and beyond.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS; FRIENDSHIP

***The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See**

When a woman in rural China has a baby out of wedlock she gives her daughter up for adoption, rather than stand by tradition. As the years pass, mother Li-yan slowly ventures into the modern world, while daughter Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl, but wonders about her origins, while Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE

***Tea Time for the Traditionally Built* by Alexander McCall Smith**

Precious Ramotswe tries to recover her trusty white van after her husband sells it and replaces it with a characterless modern vehicle, while the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency tries to discover if a local football team's games are fixed.

DE

MYSTERY; COZY; HEARTWARMING; LEISURELY PACED

***Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult**

After her life is shattered by a devastating act of violence, June Nealon is forced to make a pivotal choice that involves her twelve-year old daughter, in desperate need of a heart transplant, and a criminal seeking salvation, with whom June shares a painful history.

DE

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty**

Just a few years before becoming a silent-film star and an icon, 15-year-old Louise Brooks leaves Wichita, Kansas, for a prestigious New York dance school. Much to her annoyance, she is accompanied by complicated but traditional Cora Carlisle, a 36-year-old chaperone who is neither her mother nor her friend. Over the course of their relationship, Cora finds that she is liberated in a way she could not have imagined.

RK

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; ENGAGING

***The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin**

Thousands of impoverished European immigrants were promised that the American prairie offered land, freedom, and hope. The blizzard of 1888 revealed that their free homestead was a hard, unforgiving place governed by natural forces they could neither understand nor control. America's heartland would never be the same.

HA

NON-FICTION; DRAMATIC

***China Dolls* by Lisa See**

Ruby, Helen, and Grace, three girls from very different backgrounds, find themselves competing at the same audition for showgirl roles at San Francisco's exclusive "Oriental" nightclub, the Forbidden City. Despite their differences, the girls grow to depend on each other. Then, everything changes in a heartbeat with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Suddenly, the government is sending innocent Japanese people to internment camps under suspicion, and Ruby is one of them. But which of her friends betrayed her?

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; FRIENDSHIP

***Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain**

Brought to Kenya from England as a child and then abandoned by her mother, Beryl is raised by both her father and the native Kipsigis tribe who share his estate. Her unconventional upbringing transforms Beryl into a bold young woman. But even the wild child must grow up sometime, and when everything Beryl knows and trusts dissolves, she is catapulted into a string of disastrous relationships.

HA

WOMEN IN HISTORY; CONTEMPORARY FICTION

***City of Thieves* by David Benioff**

When Lev is caught looting the body of a dead German paratrooper in Leningrad, he is dragged to jail, fearing for his life, where he shares a cell with Kolya. Instead of being executed for their crimes, Lev and Kolya are given the chance to save their own lives by agreeing to an outrageous task: secure a dozen eggs in a city cut off from all. The two embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible.

DE

FUNNY; SUSPENSEFUL; HISTORICAL FICTION

***The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah**

Ghetto-born Winter is the young, wealthy daughter of a prominent Brooklyn drug-dealing family. Quick-witted, sexy, and business-minded, she knows and loves the streets like the curves of her own body. When the unthinkable happens and her father is sent to prison, her skill set is put to the test like never before.

CR

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; GRITTY

***Come Home* by Lisa Scottoline**

Jill's life is turned upside-down when her former stepdaughter Abby shows up on her doorstep with shocking news: Jill's ex-husband is dead. Abby insists he was murdered and begs Jill to help find his killer. The investigation she undertakes threatens to rip apart Jill's new family and even endanger her own life. But she can't turn her back on a child once called her own.

DE

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED; SUSPENSEFUL

***Stella Bain* by Anita Shreve**

When Stella Bain is found suffering from severe shell shock in an exclusive guest house in London, surgeon August Bridge and his wife selflessly agree to take her in. A gesture of goodwill turns into something more as Bridge quickly develops a clinical interest in his houseguest. Stella had been working as a nurse's aide near the front, but now she can't remember anything prior to four months earlier when she was found wounded on a French battlefield.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; ENGAGING

***Still Alice* by Lisa Genova**

Alice Howland, happily married with three grown children, is a celebrated Harvard professor at the height of her career when she notices a forgetfulness creeping into her life. As confusion starts to cloud her thinking and her memory begins to fail her, she receives a devastating diagnosis: early onset Alzheimer's.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; REFLECTIVE

***Still Life with Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen**

Rebecca Winter is a 60-year-old photographer, once revered as a feminist icon, whose work isn't selling as briskly as it once did. Needing a fresh start and the space to rediscover her creative spark, she sublets her New York City apartment and rents a cabin the country. There, she finds new inspiration in the series of wooden crosses she discovers during hikes in the surrounding woods.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; ROMANTIC; MOVING; SPARE

***The Story of Beautiful Girl* by Rachel Simon**

In 1968, Lynn timer, a woman with a developmental disability, and Homan, a deaf African-American man, are locked away in a mental institution. Deep in love, they escape and find refuge with a widow named Martha. But the couple isn't alone: Lynn timer has just given birth a baby girl. When the authorities catch up to them, Homan escapes and Lynn timer is caught. Before she's forced back, she whispers two words to Martha: "Hide her."

DE

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Soloist* by Steve Lopez**

Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez has a chance meeting with Nathaniel Ayers, a schizophrenic homeless man playing the violin on the street one day. While he initially thinks of Ayers as another opportunity for a column, he begins to unearth his past, discovering that he had once been a promising classical bass student at Julliard, one of the few African-Americans there.

HA

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING; BITTERSWEET

***The Sound of Gravel* by Ruth Wariner**

Ruth Wariner was the 39th of her father's 42 children. Growing up on a farm in rural Mexico, preachers at her church taught that women can only ascend to heaven through polygamous marriage and giving birth to as many children as possible. After her father, the founding prophet of the colony, is brutally murdered, she and her siblings spend their childhoods going back and forth between Mexico and the U.S., where Ruth begins to realize there might be something more for her besides this fanatical sect.

HA

MEMOIR; FAMILY SAGA; COMING OF AGE

***The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar**

Set in modern India, this is the story of two achingly real women: Sera Dubash, an upper-middle-class housewife whose opulent surroundings hide the shame of her abusive marriage, and Bhima, a stoic illiterate hardened by a life of loss and despair, who has worked in the Dubas household for more than 20 years.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; CULTURE CLASH; MOVING

***State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett**

As Dr. Marina Singh embarks upon an uncertain odyssey into the infect-infested Amazon, she will be forced to surrender herself to the lush but forbidding world that awaits within the jungle. Tasked with finding her former mentor Dr. Annick Swenson, a researcher who was disappeared while working on a valuable new drug, she will have to confront her own memories of tragedy and sacrifice.

DE

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; MOVING; FAST-PACED

***Committed* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

While traveling the world following her divorce, as chronicled in *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert fell in love with Felipe, a Brazilian living in Indonesia. The couple swore eternal love but also vowed never to marry. Then the US government gave them an ultimatum: get married, or Felipe could never enter America again.

DE

MEMOIR; WITTY

***Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett**

One Sunday afternoon in Southern California, Bert Cousins shows up at Franny Keating's christening party uninvited. Before evening falls, he has kissed Franny's mother, Beverly—thus setting in motion the dissolution of their respective marriages and the joining of two families. Spanning five decades, this novel explores how this chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; COMING OF AGE

***The Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Sean Greer**

Born with the physical appearance of an elderly man, Max Tivoli grows mentally like any other child, but his body appears to age backwards, growing younger each year. And yet, his physical curse proves to be a blessing, especially when it comes to love, as he is able to win the same woman in three consecutive encounters, years apart, when she fails to recognize him.

PP

FANTASY; MAGICAL REALISM; LOVE STORY

***The Cookbook Collector* by Allegra Goodman**

Emily and Jessamine Bach are opposites in every way: Emily is a career-minded up-and-comer in Silicon Valley, while Jess is a dreamy romantic working in an antiquarian book shop. This is a rich, surprising novel about the substitutions we make when we can't find what we're looking for: reading cookbooks instead of cooking, speculating instead of creating, collecting instead of living.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; MOODY; WITTY

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon**

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotion. He can't stand to be touched. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher is autistic. When he is 15, his carefully world falls apart when he finds his neighbor's dog impaled on a garden fork and decides to track down the real killer.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; COMING OF AGE; BITTERSWEET

***Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese**

Marion and Shiva are twin brothers born of a secret union between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Ethiopia. When their love for the same woman drives them apart, Marion flees to America, where his past eventually catches up with him.

RK

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch**

Physics professor Jason Dessen is kidnapped by a masked abductor. When he wakes up, the world he knew is no longer there. His wife is not his wife, his son has never been born, and he's no longer just a professor but a celebrated genius. Which world is real? And how can he make it back to the family he loves?

HA

SCIENCE FICTION; LOVE STORY

***Darktown* by Thomas Mullen**

It's 1948 and the Atlanta Police Department has just been forced to hire its first black officers. Tensions are high within the department, and the new officers' authority is limited at best: they can't arrest white suspects; they can't drive a squad car; they can't even use the police headquarters and must instead operate out of the basement of a gym. Then a black woman last seen driving with a white man is found dead, and no one seems to care except for Boggs and Smith, two black cops from very different backgrounds.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; POLICE PROCEDURAL; DARK

***The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes**

Tony Webster first met Adrian Finn at school. Adrian was a little more serious, certainly more intelligent, but they swore to stay friends for life. Now Tony is in middle age with a career, a marriage, and a divorce. He's certainly never tried to hurt anybody. But memory is imperfect, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove.

UP

LITERARY FICTION; DARK; HAUNTING

***The Shark Club* by Ann Taylor Kidd**

On a summer day on the beach in Florida, two extraordinary things happen to Maeve Donnelly. First, she is kissed by Daniel, the boy of her dreams. Then, she is bitten by a blacktip shark. 18 years later, Maeve has thrown herself into her work as a world-traveling marine biologist discovering more about the minds of misunderstood sharks. But when she has to return home, she finds unresolved family and romantic relationships waiting for her.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LIGHTHEARTED; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult**

African-American nurse Ruth Jefferson finds herself in an impossible and devastating situation when the newborn son of a white supremacist couple dies after she is instructed not to go near him, forcing her not to intervene. This gripping moral dilemma will make readers question everything they know about power, privilege, and race.

HA

CONTROVERSIAL; CONTEMPORARY FICTION; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Soldier's Wife* by Margaret Leroy**

As World War II draws closer and closer to Guernsey, Vivienne de la Mare knows that sacrifices will have to be made, not just for herself, but for her two young daughters and her mother-in-law. The last thing she expects is to fall in love with Gunther, one of the enigmatic German soldiers taking up residence next to her home. As their relationship intensifies, so do the pressures on Vivienne.

MA, RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay**

A journalist working on a story about Vel’ d’Hiv, a velodrome in which French Jews were held before being sent to concentration camps uncovers disturbing family secrets that lead her to the story of Sarah, a 10-year-old who was brutally arrested along with her family in 1942 Paris—but not before locking her little brother in a cupboard in the family’s apartment, thinking she will be back in a few hours.

RK, HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING

***Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* by Beth Hoffman**

12-year-old CeeCee has longbeen the caretaker of Camille, her psychotic mother Camille, who has long been the laughingstock of the town. When tragedy strikes, Tootie Caldwell, a previously-unknown great-aunt, comes to the rescue and whisks CeeCee away to Savannah, catapulting her into a world of Southern charm and eccentricities that seems to be run entirely by women.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LIGHTEARTED; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; COMING OF AGE

***The Scribe of Siena* by Melodie Winawer**

Neurosurgeon Beatrice Trovato knows that her deep empathy for her patients is starting to impede her work. When beloved brother dies, she welcomes travels the unexpected trip to Siena to take care of his estate. Upon finding the journal and paintings of fourteenth-century artist Gabriele Accorsi, Beatrice sees a startling image of her own face in his work and is suddenly transported back to 1347 Siena. After falling in love, she must decide in which century she belongs.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; FANTASY; FAMILY SAGA

***The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton**

During a summer party at the family farm in the English countryside, 16-year-old Laurel Nicolson has escaped to her childhood treehouse and is dreaming of the future. She sees a stranger up the long road to the farm, then sees her mother stop to talk to him. Before the day is over, she will witness a shocking crime—one that will challenge everything she knows about her family.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; MYSTERY; COMING OF AGE

***The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey**

Scotland Yard Inspector Alan Grant is intrigued by a portrait of Richard III. Could such a sensitive face have actually belonged to a heinous villain—a king who killed his brother’s children to secure his own crown? Grant seeks what kind of man Richard was and who killed the princes in the tower.

HA

MYSTERY; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; COMPELLING

***Defending Jacob* by William Landay**

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for over 20 years. He is respected in his community, tenacious in the courtroom and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But when a shocking crime shakes their town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: his 14-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; HAUNTING

***The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

In 1893 Chicago, during the height of the World’s Fair, two used the festivity, celebration, and optimism about a rapidly changing world to become the top of their chosen professions. Daniel Hudson Burnham, an architect and the fair’s director of works soon became the master builder of one of the country’s most important structures. Meanwhile, young doctor H.H. Holmes used the fair as a way to lure innocent victims into his “World’s Fair Hotel,” which was, in reality, a torture palace he had designed in which to murder people.

PP

NON-FICTION; TRUE CRIME; INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

***The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger**

Andrea Sachs, a small-town girl fresh out of college, lands “the job a million girls would die for,” working as the assistant to Miranda Priestly, editor-in-chief of Runway Magazine, hoping the experience she gains in putting up with ridiculous tasks and an abusive boss will someday land her a job at the magazine of her choosing. But Andrea starts to realize that the job girls would die for just might kill her.

PP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; ENGAGING; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***The Dinner* by Herman Koch**

Meeting at an Amsterdam restaurant for dinner, two couples move from small talk to the wrenching shared challenge of their teenage sons' act of violence that has triggered a police investigation and revealed the extent to which each family will go to protect those they love.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED; DARK

***Do Not Become Alarmed* by Maile Meloy**

When cousins Liv and Nora decide to take their families on a holiday cruise, everyone is thrilled. The ship's comforts and possibilities seem infinite. But when they all go ashore in beautiful Central America, a series of minor misfortunes leads the families farther and farther from the ship's safety. One minute the children are there. The next, they're gone. What follows is a riveting, revealing story told from the perspectives of the adults and the children, as the once-happy parents—now turning on one another and blaming themselves—try to recover their children and their lives.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***The Doctor's Daughter* by Hilma Wolitzer**

Alice Brill struggles to come to terms with the hidden truths of her life and all that it is and is not—her unrealized aspirations as a writer, her lackadaisical marriage, her troubled younger son, and her father, who is slipping into senility in a nursing home.

MA

CHARACTER-DRIVEN; PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION

***The Double Bind* by Chris Bohjalian**

While working at a homeless shelter, Laurel Estabrook encounters Bobbie Crocker, a seemingly gentle elderly man with a history of mental illness and a box of secret photos chronicling a life spent photographing the lives of musicians and celebrities. When Bobbie dies suddenly, Laurel embarks on an obsessive search for the truth behind the photos.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; MOODY; LYRICAL

16

***The Round House* by Louise Erdrich**

One Sunday in 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. The details of the crime are slow to surface as Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to reveal what happened, either to the police, or to her husband or her 13-year-old son, Joe. In one day, Joe's life is irrevocably transformed. He tries to heal his mother, but she won't leave her bed. Increasingly alone, Joe finds himself thrust into an adult world for which he is ill-prepared.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; MOVING; COMING OF AGE

***The Royal We* by Heather Cocks and Jessica Morgan**

American Rebecca Porter is seeking adventure when she goes to study at Oxford University. There, she finds herself living down the hall from Prince Nicholas, Great Britain's future king. When she can't resist falling for Nick, the man behind the prince, it propels her into a world she did not expect to inhabit, under a spotlight she is not prepared to face.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; ENGAGING; LIGHTHEARTED

***The Saffron Kitchen* by Yasmin Crowther**

When her troubled past resurfaces with tragic consequences for her pregnant daughter, Sara, Maryam departs for the remote Iranian village where she was raised and disowned by her father. When Sara decides to follow, she finally learns the price her mother paid to secure her own freedom.

MA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; COMING OF AGE

***Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward**

Esch and her three brothers are stocking food for a looming hurricane, but there isn't much to save. Esch can't keep anything down lately—she's fourteen and pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is stealing scraps for his pit bull, and Randall and Junior are trying to stake their. Told over the course of twelve days building up to Hurricane Katrina, the family keeps pulling themselves up to struggle another day.

UP

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; DARK

49

***The Rent Collector* by Camron Steve Wright**

For Kim Ly and Sang Ly, survival at the largest municipal waste dump in all of Cambodia is a daily struggle. Just when things seem to be at their worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about the bad-tempered rent collector who comes demanding money—a secret that sets in motion a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; MOVING; LYRICAL

***The River at Night* by Erica Ferencik**

Four friends decide to take a much-needed whitewater rafting trip. There's Pia, pursuing her lost youth in questionable ways; Wini, who has just endured a divorce; emergency room nurse Rachel, dealing with a possible drinking problem; and Sandra, a teacher dealing with an emotionally abusive husband. The women must fight to survive in the aftermath of an accident in this high-stakes drama.

HA

SUSPENSEFUL; CONTEMPORARY FICTION

***The River of No Return* by Bee Ridgway**

200 years after he was about to die on a battlefield, Lord Nicholas Falcott wakes up in 21st-century London. A secretive fraternity of time travelers, tell him there is no return. But Nick yearns for beautiful Julia Percy, who remains in 1815. As fate and the fraying fabric of time draw Nick and Julia together once again, the lovers must match wits and gamble their hearts against the rules of time itself.

UP

FANTASY; HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion**

Don Tillman, a professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. Determined to find the perfect partner, he embarks upon the Wife Project. Enter Rosie Jarman, a woman on a quest of her own who meets almost none of his criteria, but who befriends Don, sparking an unlikely relationship and forcing the scientifically-minded Don to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie—and the realization that love is not always what looks good on paper.

DE, HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; HEARTWARMING; ENGAGING

***Down River* by John Hart**

Adam Chase, a man with a violent streak and scars from a supremely damaged childhood, has just returned to Rowan County, North Carolina, five years after being narrowly acquitted of a murder he did not commit. No one knows what to make of his return, but when bodies start turning up, the small town rises against him, and Adam again finds himself embroiled in the fight of his life.

DE

MYSTERY; MOODY; SUSPENSEFUL

***Dr. Mütter's Marvels* by Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz**

Although he died at just 48, Dr. Thomas Dent Mütter, a trailblazing plastic surgeon in Philadelphia, was an audacious medical innovator who pioneered the use of ether as anesthesia, the sterilization of surgical tools, and a compassion-based vision for helping the severely deformed, which clashed spectacularly with the sentiments of his time. This book vividly chronicles how Mütter's efforts helped establish Philadelphia as a global mecca for medical innovation, despite intense resistance from numerous rivals.

HA

BIOGRAPHY; SCIENCE; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Dressmaker* by Kate Alcott**

Tess, an aspiring seamstress, is over the moon. She has just been hired by famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon to be her personal maid on board the *Titanic*. But soon, disaster strikes and Tess barely escapes with her life. Once back on land, rumors begin to circulate about Lady Duff Gordon's highly questionable on-board actions.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; SURVIVAL STORY

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green**

16-year-old Hazel, a Stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has never been anything but terminal, despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that bought her a few years. But when a boy named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; EMOTIONALLY INTENSE; COMING OF AGE

***Five Miles South of Peculiar* by Angela Elwell Hunt**

Darlene Caldwell is a pillar of her community, where she has spent a lifetime tending Sycamores, an estate located five miles south of a small town called Peculiar. Sycamores is the kingdom where she reigns as queen—until her limelight-stealing twin sister, Carlene, unexpectedly returns. Their youngest sister, Magnolia, haunted by a tragic romance, has never wanted to live anywhere but Sycamores, but must make a difficult choice when she meets a man haunted by his own tragedy. Can these three sisters discover who they're meant to be when life takes an unforeseen detour?

PP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; LIGHTHEARTED

***Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris**

When Framboise Simon returns to a small French village the locals don't recognize her as the daughter of the infamous Mirabelle Dartigen, the woman they still hold responsible for a terrible tragedy during the German occupation. There, Framboise discovers it's harder than she imagined to find the new start she longs for, especially when faced with a recipe book she's inherited from her mother.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; DESCRIPTIVE; LUSH

***Flags of Our Fathers* by James Bradley**

Chronicling one of the most famous moments in military history, Bradley captures the glory, the triumph, the heartbreak, and the legacy of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima.

PP

NON-FICTION; HISTORY

***Fly Away Home* by Jennifer Weiner**

After decades of marriage and reinventing herself as the perfect politician's wife, Sylvie Serfer finds herself on the wrong end of a heartbreaking betrayal by her senator husband. Together with two daughters, Diana and Lizzie, Sylvie retreats to a beach house for an escape and the possibility of new beginnings.

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; MOVING

***Quiet* by Susan Cain**

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over working in teams. Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so.

HA

NON-FICTION; OFFBEAT; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight**

Kate is in the middle of the biggest meeting of her career when she gets a phone call from her 15-year-old daughter's exclusive private school. Amelia has been caught cheating and suspended. But by the time Kate gets there, it's too late. Amelia has jumped to her death—or so the school tells her. But when Kate, clouded by grief, gets an anonymous text message—"She didn't jump"—she must reconstruct the last days in the life of the daughter she couldn't save.

MA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick**

Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman with a troubled past, has advertised for a reliable wife; his ad is answered by Catherine Land, who is not who Ralph is expecting. She is both complex and devious, haunted by a terrible past and motivated by greed. Her plan is simple: she will win his devotion and then slowly poison him and leave a wealthy widow.

DE

SUSPENSEFUL; PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION

***Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier**

In 1810, a brother and sister uncover the fossilized skull of an unknown animal in the cliffs on the south coast of England. Mary Anning, who has a talent for finding such fossils and whose discoveries have already shaken the scientific community, finds herself in danger of becoming an outcast. She takes solace in an unexpected friendship with Elizabeth Philpot, a prickly spinster with her own passion for fossils.

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC

***Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross**

For a thousand years, her existence has been denied—Pope Joan, the ninth-century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female to ever sit on the throne of St. Peter. Now this riveting novel paints a sweeping portrait of an unforgettable heroine who struggles against restrictions her soul cannot accept.

PP

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; CONTROVERSIAL

***The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake**

On the eve of the United States' entrance into World War II, Iris James, the postmistress in Franklin, a small Cape Cod town, does the unthinkable: she doesn't deliver a letter. In London, Frankie Bard is working with Edward R. Murrow, reporting on the radio. One night in a bomb shelter, she meets a doctor from Cape Cod with a letter in his pocket, a letter Frankie vows to deliver when she returns home. The two stories collide in a way no one could have foreseen.

DE, MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; ROMANTIC

***Primates of Park Avenue* by Wednesday Martin**

Wednesday Martin, a professional anthropologist, compares the behavior of the wealthy mothers whom she lived among on the Upper East Side in New York City to primate social behavior, with its rules and rituals about dominance, hierarchy, mating practices, physical adornment, and anxiety.

HA

NON-FICTION; OFFBEAT

***The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio* by Terry Ryan**

Evelyn Ryan, wife of an alcoholic husband and mother of ten children, lived in a time and place where women did not seek jobs outside the home, but where she was the only reliable provider for her large family. She was encouraged to take in laundry to make ends meet, but could barely keep up with the laundry of her own massive family. Instead, she decided to bring in extra money and acquire the things her family needed by entering contests, composing jingles, poems, and essays.

PP

MEMOIR; INSPIRATIONAL

***Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen**

Patty and Walter Berglund were the pioneers of old St. Paul—the gentrifiers, the hands-on parents, the avant-garde of the Whole Foods generation. But now, the Berglunds have become a mystery. Why has their teenage son moved in with the aggressively Republican family next door? Why has Walter taken a job working with Big Coal? Most of all, what's happened to Patty, who has become unhinged right before the street's attentive eyes?

UP

LITERARY FICTION; SNARKY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***Frog Music* by Emma Donoghue**

In 1876 San Francisco, amidst a record-breaking heat wave and a smallpox epidemic, a young woman named Jenny is shot dead through the window of a railroad saloon. The survivor, her friend Blance Beunon, is a French burlesque dancer who will risk it all to bring Jenny's murderer to justice over the next three days.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAST-PACED; ATMOSPHERIC

***Garden Spells* by Sarah Addison Allen**

The Waverley women are heirs to an unusual legacy that grows behind their home in North Carolina, where an apple tree bears magical fruit. For nearly a decade, Claire Waverley has been at peace with this inheritance, living alone in the house. Then her younger sister returns, turning Claire's routine existence upside-down.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LIGHTHEARTED; MAGICAL REALISM

***A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles**

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and sentenced to house arrest in a luxury hotel across the street from the Kremlin, where he must watch while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russia history unfold outside of his door. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; LUSH

***The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins**

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night, stopping at the same signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck, inventing stories about their perfect life, not unlike the one she recently lost. Then the woman goes missing, and Rachel manages to insert herself into the police investigation of the disappearance.

HA

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Girls* by Emma Cline**

Set end of the 1960s, *The Girls* opens at the start of a summer, with thoughtful, lonely teenager Evie Boyd noticing a group of girls in the park. Soon she is drawn into the circle of a soon-to-be-infamous cult and the man who is its charismatic leader.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; COMING OF AGE

***The Girls from Ames* by Jeffrey Zaslow**

The Ames girls are 11 childhood friends who formed a special bond growing up in Ames, Iowa. Now grown up, they have a lifetime of memories in common, some evocative of their generation, and some that will resonate with any woman who has ever had a friend.

MA

BIOGRAPHY; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

This memoir recounts the author's unusual upbringing by destitute, dysfunctional parents and the resourceful means by which she and her siblings survived.

HA

MEMOIR; FAMILY SAGA; SURVIVAL STORY; COMING OF AGE

***Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee**

Scout Finch returns home to Maycomb to visit her father, and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; FAMILY SAGA

***People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks**

In 1996, Hannah Heath, an Australian rare-book expert is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. When she discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the priceless and beautiful book's ancient binding, she begins to unlock its mysteries, ushering readers into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation to its creation.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson**

At the heart of this play stands the Charles family's prized possession, an ornately carved upright piano, which now sits in Berniece Charles's Pittsburgh home. Then her brother, Boy Willie, bursts back into her life with his dream of buying the Mississippi land their family once worked as slaves by selling the piano.

CR

DRAMA; FAMILY LIFE; ALLEGORICAL; HAUNTING

***Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult**

The peace of Paradise, PA, is shattered by the discovery of a dead infant in the barn of an Amish farmer. The town is even more shaken up when 18-year-old Katie Fisher, an unmarried Amish woman, is proven to be the mother of the infant and arrested for murder. 100 miles away in Philadelphia, defense attorney Ellie Hathaway has just turned down a chance to be partner at her law firm and takes off for an open-ended stay at her great-aunt's home in Paradise. There, fate brings her to Katie Fisher, a client who truly needs her, not just one who can afford her.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC; HAUNTING

***Please Look After Mom* by Kyong-Sook Shin**

When 69-year-old So-nyo is separated from her husband, her family, desperately searching for her, begin to question how well they really know the woman they called Mom. Narrated by Mom's daughter, son, husband, and by Mom herself at the shattering conclusion, this novel pieces together a life that appears ordinary but is anything but.

RK

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; COMPELLING; FAMILY LIFE

***Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf**

In Holt, Colorado, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. Her husband died years ago, as did his wife, and in such a small town they have naturally known each other for decades; in fact, Addie was quite fond of Louis' wife. Their children lives hours away, and the nights of empty houses and quiet have become terribly lonely. So Addie, to Louis' initial surprise, proposes that they spend time together, just to talk—in bed at night.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; ROMANTIC; BITTERSWEET

***Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell**

Malcolm Gladwell takes readers on an intellectual journey through the world of “outliers”—the best and brightest, the most famous, and the most successful. He asks the question: what makes high-achievers different? His answer is that we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and not to where they are from.

HA

NON-FICTION; PROVOCATIVE; ASTUTE

***The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain**

Quiet, 28-year-old Hadley has all but given up on love-until a mutual friend introduces her to Ernest Hemingway and her life is changed forever. After a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group. Hadley, unprepared for the hard-drinking, fast-living life of Jazz Age Paris, finds herself having to put up with impoverished living and shattering loneliness to prop up her husband's career.

DE, RK

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; ROMANTIC

***Peony in Love* by Lisa See**

In 17th-century China, three women become emotionally involved with the Peony Pavilion, a famed opera rumored to cause lovesickness and even death. One of these women is Peony, the cloistered daughter of a wealthy scholar, who succumbs to its spell only to return after her death as a “hungry ghost” to haunt her former fiancé who has married another.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED; DESCRIPTIVE

***Gold* by Chris Cleave**

World-class athletes Kate and Zoe have been friends and rivals since they met training for track cycling at the age of nineteen. They've loved, fought, betrayed, forgiven, consoled, gloried, and grown up together. Now, at thirty-two, they are facing their last and biggest race. Kate is the more naturally gifted of the two, but Zoe has a compulsive need to win at any cost; her obsession may threaten her relationship with Kate.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti**

Twelve-year-old Ren is missing his left hand. How it was lost is a mystery that Ren has been trying to solve his entire life, as well as who his parents are, and why he was abandoned as an infant at an orphanage for boys. Then a young man named Benjamin Nab appears, claiming to be Ren's long-lost brother and to have all the answers he so longs for. But is he who he says he is?

DE

COMING OF AGE; HISTORICAL FICTION; EERIE

***Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery**

Emma Gatewood told her family that she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than \$200. The next anybody heard from her, this farm-raised 67-year-old grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. And in September 1955, having survived a rattlesnake strike, two hurricanes, and a run-in with gangsters from Harlem, she stood atop Maine's Mount Katahdin.

HA

BIOGRAPHY; INSPIRING

***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens**

Humble, orphaned Pip receives a mysterious summons to the house of Miss Havisham and her cold, beautiful ward, Estella, forming the prelude to his “great expectations.” How Pip comes into his fortune, what he does with it, and what he discovers through his secret benefactor are the ingredients of his struggle for moral redemption.

DE

CLASSIC FICTION; COMING OF AGE

***The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

When narrator Nick Carraway meets him, Jay Gatsby is a self-made Long Island millionaire on a quest to reunite with and impress his long-lost love, Daisy. But as his past comes to light—with tragic results—it seems that no one is quite who they seem to be.

MA

CLASSIC FICTION; LYRICAL; ALLEGORICAL

***A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty* by Joshilyn Jackson**

15-year-old Mosey Slocumb—spirited, sassy, and on the cusp of womanhood—is shaken when a small grave is unearthed in her backyard and is determined to figure out why it's there. A powerful saga of three generations of women and the meaning of family.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; COMING OF AGE

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Beth Shaffer & Annie Barrows**

The post-World War II story of Juliet Ashton, a writer looking for her next book subject, and the inhabitants of the British island of Guernsey, with whom Juliet corresponds and learns an amazing story of resistance, courage, and wit in the face of Nazi occupation.

RK, HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; BITTERSWEET

***H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald**

When Helen Macdonald's father died suddenly on a London street, she was devastated. An experienced falconer, she'd never been tempted to train one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk. But in her grief, she saw that the goshawk's fierce and feral temperament mirrored her own and decided to adopt and train one of her own.

HA

MEMOIR; SCIENCE; GRIEF

***Half-Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls**

A novel based on the life of the author's grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, who learned to break horses in childhood, journeyed 500 miles as a teen to become a teacher, and ran a vast ranch in Arizona.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; SPARE; DRAMATIC; HEARTWARMING

***The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman**

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home. Although the house he lived in is gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a remarkable girl, her mother and her grandmother. There, his past comes flooding back, though it is one too strange and too frightening to have really happened to anyone, let alone a little boy.

DE

FANTASY; MYSTICAL; EERIE

***Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline**

Close to aging out of the foster care system, Molly Ayer takes a community service position helping a 91-year-old woman named Vivian. Molly discovers that they are more alike than different as she learns about Vivian's past as an Irish immigrant put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies were determined by luck and fate.

DE, MA, HA

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; HISTORICAL FICTION

***The Other Queen* by Philippa Gregory**

Mary, Queen of Scots trusted the promise of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, for sanctuary when she fled from rebels in Scotland. Instead, she finds herself imprisoned as the "guest" of George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, and his indomitable wife. The couple is certain that serving as Mary's host will bring them favor at court and are horrified to learn that the job will bankrupt them. As their home becomes the epicenter of intrigue and rebellion against Elizabeth, their loyalty to each other and to their sovereign come into question.

DE

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore**

Two kids with the same name were born blocks apart in the same decaying city within a few years of each other. One grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, army officer, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys, one name, and the journey of a generation.

HA

NON-FICTION; SOCIAL HISTORY

***Night* by Elie Wiesel**

A candid, horrific, and deeply poignant autobiographical account of Wiesel's survival as a teenager in the Nazi death camps. Much more than a litany of daily terrors and rampant sadism at Auschwitz and Buchenwald, it also eloquently addresses many of the philosophical and personal questions of what the Holocaust was and what its legacy is and will be.

HA

MEMOIR; HAUNTING; SURVIVAL STORY

***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

Sisters Vianne and Isabelle have always been close. Younger, bolder Isabelle lives in Paris while Vianne is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. But when World War II strikes, Antoine is sent off to fight and the sisters reunite to try to survive.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin**

A compelling chronicle of a nation and its leaders during the period when modern America was created. Goodwin paints a comprehensive portrait that fills in a historical gap in the story of our nation under the Roosevelts, weaving together a number of story lines—the Roosevelts' marriage and partnership, Eleanor's life as First Lady, and FDR's White House and its impact on America as well as on a world at war.

HA

NON-FICTION; DETAILED-ORIENTED

***Normal* by Warren Ellis**

When Adam Dearden, a foresight strategist, arrives a Normal Head, a safe place in the wilds of Oregon for those who have developed the dreaded "abyss gaze," he is desperate to unplug. But then a patient goes missing from his locked bedroom, leaving behind nothing but a pile of insects in his wake, a staff investigation ensues and surveillance becomes total. As the mystery unravels, Dearden uncovers a conspiracy that calls everything into question.

HA

SCIENCE FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; EERIE

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

The story of Offred, a young woman in a dystopian near-future who is one of the not-so-lucky few women to still be able to bear children. She is forced by an oppressive regime into service as a "handmaid" to a powerful commander and his barren wife who hope for a child of their own. A vision of our society radically overturned by a theocratic revolution.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; HAUNTING; DISTURBING

***The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin**

Gretchen Rubin chronicles her adventures during the 12 months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Among other things, she found that novelty and challenge are powerful sources of happiness, and that money can help buy happiness, when spent wisely.

RK

MEMOIR; EXPERIMENTAL

***The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson**

An 80-year-old mansion harboring dark secrets comes to menacing life in this classic, spine-chilling tale from Shirley Jackson. Eleanor begins to see and hear things that the house's other guests cannot. Is it all her imagination, or is she the only one who can perceive the evil that lurks in Hill House?

RK

CLASSIC FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC; CREEPY; MENACING

***Heft* by Liz Moore**

Former academic Arthur Opp weighs 550 pounds and hasn't left his rambling Brooklyn home in a decade. Twenty miles away in Yonkers, Kel navigates life as a poor kid in a rich school and pins his hopes on what seems like a promising baseball career. After nearly two decades of silence, it is an unexpected phone call—a plea for help—from Charlene, Kel's mother and a former student of Arthur's, that sets in motion the winning story of two improbable heroes whose unexpected connection transforms both their lives.

MA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; BITTERSWEET; REFLECTIVE

***Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance**

J.D. Vance, a former Marine and Yale Law School graduate, this is a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class, delving into his own personal story and drawing on a wide array of sociological studies.

HA

MEMOIR; SOCIAL HISTORY; CULTURE CLASH

***The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss**

14-year-old Alma Singer believes she might discover the cure for her mother's loneliness in the manuscript of an old book her mother is translating, she sets out in search of its author. Across New York, an old spends his days dreaming of the long-lost love, left behind in Poland, which inspired him to write a book. And though he doesn't know it yet, that book has crossed its own oceans on its journey.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING

***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Two half-sisters, are born into different villages in 18th-century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman in lives in comfort in the Cape Coast Castle, while Esi is imprisoned beneath her in the castle's dungeons, sold into the booming slave trade. One thread of the novel follows Effia's descendants in Ghana; the other follows Esi's in America, both providing a searing look at the long-lasting legacy of the slave trade.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; DARK

***Homer and Langley* by E.L. Doctorow**

Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness, or perhaps greatness, by mustard gas in World War I. They live as recluses in their once-grand Fifth Avenue mansion, scavenging the city streets for the things they think they can use. The epic events of the century play out in the lives of these two brothers, who want nothing more than to shut out the world.

DE

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LYRICAL

***The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri**

On the heels of their arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle together in Cambridge. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the result of bringing old ways to the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his odd name.

LITERARY FICTION; STYLISTICALLY COMPLEX; LYRICAL

***Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain**

After the death of her parents, 15-year-old Ivy Hart is left to care for her grandmother, older sister, and nephew as tenants on their mid-20th-century tobacco farm, struggling with her grandmother's aging, her sister's mental illness, and her own epilepsy. She connects with Grace County's newest social worker, Jane Forrester, who quickly becomes emotionally invested in the lives of the Hart family at the risk of straining her personal and professional relationships.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; HAUNTING; ISSUE-ORIENTED

***The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney**

Every family has its problems. But even among them, the Plumb family stands out as spectacularly dysfunctional. Years of simmering tension finally reach a boiling point as Melodie, Beatrice, and Jack Plumb gather to confront their older brother, Leo, freshly released from rehab after a drunk driving accident endangered the siblings' joint trust fund, "The Nest," finally about to be released to them after years of waiting.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; DRAMATIC; FAMILY LIFE

***News of the World* by Paulette Jiles**

In the wake of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kidd, a 70-year-old retired Army captain, does live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world, enjoying his rootless, solitary existence. Then he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver Johanna, a young orphan raised by Kiowa raiders who killed her family, to relatives she doesn't remember 400 miles away.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; HEARTWARMING

***My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante**

Beginning in the 1950s in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples, this first book in Ferrante's four-volume story spans almost sixty years, as its protagonists, the fiery and unforgettable Lila, and the bookish narrator, Elena, become women, wives, mothers, and leaders while maintaining a complex friendship.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FRIENDSHIP; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman**

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is 77 years old and crazy. She's also Elsa's best and only friend. At night, she takes refuge in her grandmother's stories in the land of Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody is different and nobody needs to be normal. When her grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of letters to people she's wronged, Elsa's greatest adventure begins.

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; LIGHTHEARTED

***My Life with Bob* by Pamela Paul**

Pamela Paul, editor of *The New York Times Book Review*, has kept a single book by her side for 28 years—reliable if frayed, anonymous-looking yet deeply personal. This book has a name: Bob. Bob is Paul's Book of Books, in which she has recorded every book she's ever read, a journey in reading that reflects her inner life. Her life, in turn, influences the books she chooses, whether for solace or escape, information or sheer entertainment.

HA

MEMOIR; REFLECTIVE

***Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane**

When they were children, Sean Devine, Jimmy Marcus, and Dave Boyle were friends—until a strange car pulled up to their street. One boy got in, two did not, and something terrible happened that ended their friendship and changed their lives. Now, years later, murder has tied their lives together again.

PP

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford**

When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***A House in the Sky* by Amanda Lindhout**

Amanda Lindhout worked as a cocktail waitress in Calgary until she saved enough to fulfill her dreams of traveling the world. She backpacked across the globe and made a career as a TV reporter in Afghanistan and Iraq. When she traveled to Somalia, she was abducted by masked men and held captive for 460 days.

DE, HA

MEMOIR; SURVIVAL STORY

***A Hundred Flowers* by Gail Tsuyikama**

Set during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, this novel follows the struggles of Kai Ying to safeguard her family when her teacher husband is arrested and sent to a "reeducation" labor camp for criticizing the Communist Party.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body* by Roxane Gay**

Roxane Gay writes with intimacy and sensitivity about food and body, using her own emotional and psychological struggles as a means of exploring our shared anxieties over pleasure, consumption, appearance, and health.

HA

MEMOIR; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty**

Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all. But when she finds a letter written by her living husband to be read only after his death, everything is about to change, not only for her, but for Rachel and Tess, women in the community who barely know Cecilia but are about to feel the shocking repercussions of her husband's secret.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WITTY; SUSPENSEFUL

***I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. At 15, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head while riding the bus home from school. The journey that followed has inspired millions.

DE
MEMOIR; INSPIRATIONAL

***I Dare Me* by Lu Ann Cahn**

For 365 days, Lu Ann Cahn made a point of doing something she had never done before, some as simple as doing an old task in a new way, some creative and extreme.

MA
MEMOIR; WITTY

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black woman from the South, but cells taken from her without her knowledge became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells, they are still alive and aiding medical advancement today, though Henrietta has been dead for over 60 years.

DE, RK
BIOGRAPHY; SCIENCE; ASTOUNDING; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume**

In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life. 35 years earlier, when Miri was 15 and in love for the first time, a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling.

UP
LITERARY FICTION; ENGAGING; COMING OF AGE

***Ines of My Soul* by Isabel Allende**

Ines Suarez flees Spain to seek a life in the New World. As Ines makes her way to Chile, she begins a fiery romance with Pedro de Valdivia, field marshal to Francisco Pizarro. Together, the lovers will build the city of Santiago—and wage war against the native Chileans.

DE
HISTORICAL FICTION; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LYRICAL

***The Mothers* by Brit Bennett**

It’s the last year of high school for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken 17-year-old beauty. Mourning her mother following her recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor’s son. The pregnancy that results from this young romance—and the cover-up that follows—will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth.

HA
LITERARY FICTION; COMING OF AGE; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan**

The Great Recession has shuffled Clay Jannon out of his life as a San Francisco web-design drone and landed him a new gig working the night shift at Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore. There are only a few customers, but they come in repeatedly and never seem to actually buy anything. Soon Clay has roped his friends into helping him unravel this mystery.

HA
LITERARY FICTION; CHARMING; SUSPENSEFUL

***Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan**

It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her family on her husband’s Mississippi Delta farm—a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family’s struggles, two young men—one Laura’s brother-in-law, Jamie, the other the son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm—return home from the war to work the land. Their unlikely friendship drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion.

MA
HISTORICAL FICTION; PLOT-DRIVEN; HAUNTING; MOVING

***Murder at the Vicarage* by Agatha Christie**

Miss Marple is led on her first case to a crime scene at the local vicarage. Colonel Protheroe, the magistrate whom everyone in town hates, has been shot through the head. No one heard the shots. There are no leads. Yet everyone in town seems to have a reason to want the Colonel dead. It’s a race against the clock as Miss Marple sets out on the twisted trail of the mysterious killer without so much as a bit of help from the local police.

PP
MYSTERY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED; SUSPENSEFUL

***A Mercy* by Toni Morrison**

In exchange for a bad debt, an Anglo-Dutch trader takes on a Florens, young slave girl, despite his professed distaste for dealing in “flesh.” Rejected by her mother, Florens searches for love, first from an older servant woman at her new master’s home and then from a handsome free blacksmith.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; STYLISTICALLY COMPLEX; HAUNTING

***Midnight Rising* by Tony Horowitz**

Plotted in secret, launched in the dark, John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry was a pivotal moment in U.S. history. Few Americans know the true story of the men and women who launched a desperate strike at the slaveholding south. Horowitz portrays Brown’s uprising in vivid color, revealing a country on the brink of explosive conflict.

HA

NON-FICTION; ENGROSSING

***Mischling* by Affinity Konar**

In 1944, twins Pearl and Stasha arrive at Auschwitz with their mother and grandfather. Their identical nature puts them in a population known as Mengele’s Zoo, where they experience both privileges and horrors unknown to the others in the camp and find themselves stripped of the personalities they once shared, altered by the burdens of guilt and pain

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; HAUNTING; DARK

***Moshi Moshi* by Banana Yoshimoto**

Yoshie’s much-loved musician father has died in a suicide pact with an unknown woman. It is only when Yoshie and her mother move to a traditional Tokyo neighborhood of narrow streets, quirky shops, and friendly residents that they can finally begin to put the painful past behind them. But despite their attempts to move forward, Yoshie is haunted by nightmares in which her father is looking for the phone he left behind on the day he died, or on which she is trying unsuccessfully to call him. Is her dead father trying to communicate a message to her through these dreams?

HA

LITERARY FICTION; CHARMING; COMING OF AGE

***Inferno* by Dan Brown**

In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology and religious iconography, Robert Langdon, is drawn into a harrowing world centered on one of history’s most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces—Dante’s *Inferno*. Against this backdrop, Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle.

DE

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; THRILLER

***The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai**

In a crumbling house at the foot of Mount Kachenjunga, in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside-down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai.

MA

LITERARY FICTION; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***The Intelligencer* by Leslie Silbert**

In 1593, playwright Christopher Marlowe undertook his final spy mission and was killed under suspicious circumstances. In present-day New York, Kate Morgan, a Renaissance scholar-turned-P.I. investigates a shocking heist and murder involving an antique manuscript recently unearthed in London. What secrets could it hold? And how, centuries later, could it drive someone to kill?

PP

MYSTERY; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; SPY FICTION

***The Interestings* by Meg Wolitzer**

In the 1970s, six teenagers at a summer camp for the arts become inseparable. Decades later the bond remains powerful, but so much else has changed; the kind of creativity that is rewarded at 15 is not always enough to propel someone through life at 30. Jules, an aspiring comic actress, eventually resigns herself to a more practical occupation and lifestyle. But Ash and Ethan, her now-married best friends, stay true to their initial artistic dreams and become shockingly successful. An exploration of the meaning of talent, the nature of envy, and how all of it can shift precipitously over the course of a friendship.

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING

***Intuition* by Allegra Goodman**

Sandy and Marion are co-directors of an institute for cancer research in desperate need of a grant. When the experiments of Cliff, one of their post-doctoral mentees begin to work, they can hardly believe their luck. But Robin, his colleague and girlfriend, suspects the unthinkable: that his findings are fraudulent. As she makes her private doubts public and Cliff maintains his innocence, a life-changing controversy engulfs the lab and everyone in it.

MA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; MOODY; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd**

On her 11th birthday, Sarah Grimke is given ownership of 10-year-old Handful, who is to be her housemaid. Readers follow their remarkable journey over the next 35 years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement, and the uneasy ways of love.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING

***The Irresistible Henry House* by Lisa Grunwald**

From a "practice baby"—an orphaned child placed in the care of young women training to someday become mothers—to his adult adventures in 1960s New York, Disney's Burbank Studios, and the Beatles' London, Henry House remains handsome, charming, universally adored—but never entirely accessible to the women he encounters as he attempts to transcend his damaged childhood.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; INTROSPECTIVE; EMOTIONAL

***The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende**

As Poland falls under the shadow of Nazis, Alma Belasco's parents send her away to live in safety with an aunt and uncle in their mansion in San Francisco. There, she meets and falls in love with Ichimei, the quiet and gentle son of the family's Japanese gardener. They are cruelly pulled apart as, like so many Japanese-Americans, Ichimei is forced into an internment camp.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; LOVE STORY

***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, after a dust storm nearly killed him and his crew, thinking him dead, evacuated, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. But despite overwhelming odds, Mark's not ready to give up yet.

RK

SCIENCE FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; SNARKY

***Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes**

Louisa Clark is an ordinary young woman living an exceedingly ordinary life. She takes a badly-needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair-bound after an accident and pretty sure he can no longer live the way he is. Will is acerbic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

DE, RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; LOVE STORY; HEARTWRENCHING

***The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards**

On a winter night in 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. But when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect his wife, Norah, he makes a split-second decision: he asks his nurse to take the baby to an institution and never reveal the secret. But the nurse, Caroline, can't bring herself to leave the baby and raises her as her own.

PP

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; MELANCHOLY

***Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen**

After Rhoda Janzen turned 40, her world turned upside down. Bad enough that her brilliant husband of fifteen years left her for Bob, a guy he met on Gay.com, but that same week, a car accident left her with serious injuries. So she moved back home—with her Mennonite parents.

HA

MEMOIR; CULTURE CLASH; QUIRKY

***A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman**

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon with staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. Beneath his cranky exterior, there is a story and a sadness. When one morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the beginning of a comical and heartwarming tale about the impact one life can have on countless others.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; BITTERSWEET

***Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan**

11-year-old Anna Kerrigan is accompanying her father to the home of a mysterious, wealthy man named Dexter Styles. Years later, with the country fighting in World War II and her father disappeared, Anna is working as the Brooklyn Navy Yard's first female diver. She soon reencounters Styles at a nightclub and begins to unravel the complex mystery of her father's life.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; VIVID; COMPELLING

***March* by Geraldine Brooks**

An idealistic abolitionist, March—the absent father from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*—has gone as chaplain to serve the Union cause in the Civil War. But the war tests his faith not only in the Union—which is also capable of barbarism and racism—but in himself. As he recovers from a near-fatal illness, March must reassemble and reconnect with his family, who has no idea of what he has endured.

MA, HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC; LYRICAL

***The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman**

Growing up on St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel's life is not hers to control—she is married off to a widower to save her father's business. When her husband dies and his handsome nephew arrives from France, Rachel seizes her own life story, beginning a passionate love affair that affects everyone, including her favorite son, who will become one of the greatest French artists: Camille Pissarro.

HA

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LOVE STORY

***Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil* by Deborah Rodriguez**

Deborah Rodriguez, a hairdresser from Michigan, opened Afghanistan's first beauty school in 2001, when she traveled there shortly after the fall of the Taliban. Though it had corporate and international sponsors, the small haven of the beauty school quickly became a place where women could share their stories.

HA

NON-FICTION; CULTURE CLASH; INSPIRING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann**

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma, due to a discovery of oil beneath their land. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. In the remnants of the Wild West virtually anyone who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, in what became the organization's first major homicide investigation.

HA

NON-FICTION; TRUE CRIME

***The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom**

When Lavinia, a white servant girl, violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and the best in the slaves she has come to call her family. When she is forced to make a choice, loyalties are called into question, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal**

When Lars Thorvald's wife falls in love with wine—and a dashing sommelier—he is left to raise their baby, Eva, alone. He is determined to pass his love of food onto his daughter. As Eva grows, she finds her solace and salvation in the flavors of her native Minnesota. From Scandinavian lutefisk to hydroponic chocolate habaneros, each ingredient represents a part of Eva's journey as she becomes the star chef behind a legendary secret pop-up supper club.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; QUIRKY

***The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**

Amir is the son of a wealthy Kabul merchant, a member of the ruling class of Pashtuns. Hassan, his servant, is a Hazara, a despised and impoverished caste. Their uncommon bond is torn by Amir's choice to abandon his friend amid ethnic, political, and racial tensions. But years later, Amir journeys back to a distant world to try to right past wrongs against the only true friend he ever had.

PP

LITERARY FICTION; DRAMATIC; HAUNTING; DARK

***The Knitting Circle* by Ann Hood**

Grieving over the sudden loss of her only child, Mary Baxter joins a knitting circle in Providence, Rhode Island, as a way to fill the empty hours and lonely days. The women there welcome her, each teaching Mary a new knitting technique and, as they do, revealing their own personal stories of loss, love, and hope.

HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; GRIEF; FRIENDSHIP; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Known World* by Edward P. Jones**

The story of Henry Townsend, a black farmer and former slave who falls under the tutelage of William Robbins, the most powerful man in Manchester County, Virginia. Making certain he never circumvents the law, Townsend runs his affairs with unusual discipline. When he dies unexpectedly, his widow, Caldonia, is unable to uphold the estate's order and chaos ensues.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC; DARK

***The Kommandant's Girl* by Pam Jenoff**

19-year-old Emma Bau has been married only three weeks when Nazi tanks thunder into her native Poland. Within days, her husband has been forced into hiding underground, leaving Emma imprisoned in the city's Jewish ghetto. But soon she is rescued by the resistance and taken to live with Jacob's Catholic aunt Krysia in Krakow, where she assumes a new identity as a gentile. Her already precarious is complicated by her introduction to Kommandant Richwalder, a high-ranking Nazi official who hires her to work as his assistant.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***Luckiest Girl Alive* by Jessica Knoll**

As a teenager, Ani FaNelli endured a shocking, public humiliation that left her desperate to reinvent herself. Now, with a glamorous job, expensive wardrobe, and handsome blue blood fiancé, she's this close to living the perfect life she's worked so hard to achieve. But Ani has a secret, something private and painful that threatens to destroy everything.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson**

Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in a village in England, until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, a Pakistani shopkeeper in town. Soon their friendship begins to blossom into something more as they bond over their shared love of literature and the loss of their spouses. But will their relationship survive in a society that considers Mrs. Ali a foreigner?

RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; ROMANTIC

***The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett**

Sam Spade is hired by Miss Wonderley to track down her sister, who has eloped with a louse called Floyd Thursby. But Miss Wonderley is actually the beautiful and treacherous Brigid O'Shaughnessy, and soon Spade finds himself both hunter and hunted.

UP

CLASSIC FICTION; MYSTERY; HARD-BOILED

***Maman's Homesick Pie* by Donia Bijan**

For Donia Bijan's family, food has been the language they use to tell their stories and to communicate their love. In 1978, when the Islamic Revolution in Iran threatened their safety, they fled to California's Bay Area, where the familiar flavors of her mother's cooking formed a bridge to the life they left behind. Now, through the prism of food, Bijan, an award-winning chef, unwinds her own story, finding that her mother is at the heart of it all.

PP

MEMOIR; HEARTWARMING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Little Heathens* by Mildred Armstrong Kalish**

Mildred Armstrong Kalish's memoir of her Iowa childhood, set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, captures a vanished way of traditional living and a specific moment in American history. Filled with recipes and how-tos for everything from catching and skinning a rabbit to preparing homemade skin and hair beautifiers, apple cream pie, and the world's best head cheese, Kalish portrays a world of hardship and hard work tempered by simple rewards.

HA

MEMOIR; FAMILY LIFE; TOUCHING; JOYFUL

***Longbourn* by Jo Baker**

In this irresistibly imagined belowstairs answer to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the servants take center stage. Sarah, the orphaned housemaid, spends her days scrubbing the laundry, polishing the floors, and emptying the chamber pots for the Bennet household. But there is just as much romance, heartbreak, and intrigue downstairs at Longbourn as there is upstairs.

DE

HISTORICAL FICTION; ROMANTIC

***The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Harr**

Francesca Cappelletti, a young art history graduate student from Rome, stumbles across a clue in a dusty archive that hints at the location of a Caravaggio painting, lost for nearly two centuries. She tracks it across a continent and hundreds of years of history. But it is not until she meets Sergio Bendetti, an art restorer working in Ireland, that she finally manages to assemble the pieces of the puzzle.

HA

NON-FICTION; ART HISTORY; SUSPENSEFUL

***Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan**

It's 1903 and Mamah Borthwick Cheney and her husband, Edwin, have commissioned renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design a new home for them. During the construction of the house, an attraction developed between Mamah and Frank, each married with children and they began a years-long affair that would shock Chicago society and forever change their lives.

HA

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; BITTERSWEET; MOODY

***The Lace Reader* by Brunonia Barry**

All of the Whitney women in Salem, Massachusetts, can read futures from a piece of lace. But the last time Towner read, it killed her sister and nearly robbed Towner of her sanity. Vowing never to read lace again, her resolve is tested when faced with the mysterious, unsolvable disappearance of her beloved Great Aunt Eva, Salem's original Lace Reader.

DE

MYSTERY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh**

Now Eighteen and emancipated from the foster care system, Victoria has nowhere to go and she sleeps in a park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life.

RK, HA

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; EMOTIONAL; LUSH

***The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch**

What wisdom would you impart to the world if you knew it was your last chance? When Randy Pausch was asked to give a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it was his last—he had just been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But his lecture wasn't about death; rather, it's about overcoming obstacles, enabling the dreams of others, and seizing every moment.

DE

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING; MOVING

***The Last Runaway* by Tracy Chevalier**

Forced to leave England and struggling with an illness in the wake of a family tragedy, Quaker Honor Bright is forced to rely on strangers in the harsh landscape of 1850 Ohio. She is compelled to join the Underground Railroad network to help runaway slaves escape to freedom, where she befriends two surprising women who embody the remarkable power of defiance. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal costs.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; LYRICAL; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg**

Ask most women whether they have the right to equality at work and the answer will be a resounding yes. But ask the same women whether they'd feel confident asking for a raise, a promotion, or equal pay, and some reticence creeps in. Sheryl Sandberg examines why this is and what women can do to help themselves and to make the small changes in their life that can effect change on a more universal scale.

HA

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Letters from Home* by Kristina McMorris**

It's 1944 and Liz Stephens has little interest in attending a USO club dance with her friends Betty and Julia. She doesn't need a flirtation with a lonely serviceman when she's set to marry her childhood sweetheart. Yet something happens the moment Liz sees Morgan McClain. When Betty asks her to ghostwrite a letter to Morgan, stationed overseas, Liz reluctantly agrees, and becomes torn by her feelings for a man who doesn't know her true identity.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; BITTERSWEET; LOVE STORY

***Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson**

Ursula Todd is born on a cold, snowy night in 1910—twice. As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century, Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives, it appears as though Ursula has the ability to alter the course of history, should she so choose.

MA

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING; STYLISTICALLY COMPLEX

***The Life We Bury* by Allan Eskens**

Joe Talbert is a junior at the University of Minnesota when he receives a class assignment to write a biography of someone who has lived an interesting life. At a nursing home, he meets Carl Iverson, a man dying of cancer who has been medically paroled after spending thirty years in prison for the murder of a fourteen-year-old girl.

HA

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; MYSTERY

***The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman**

After four years at war, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia takes a job as a lighthouse keeper with his wife, Isabel. After two miscarriages and a stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries. Outside, she finds a boat washed ashore, carrying a dead man and a living baby. Isabel insists the baby is a gift from God, and, against Tom's better judgment, the couple takes the child in to raise as their own.

DE, RK

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; HAUNTING; MELANCHOLY

***Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly**

The lives of three women in 1939 Europe—Caroline, a New Yorker working at the French consulate; Kasia, a Polish teenager working as a courier for the underground resistance; and Herta, an ambitious young German doctor—are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbruck, the concentration camp for women.

HA

HISTORICAL FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave**

This is the story of two women and the tenuous friendship that blooms between two strangers—one a 16-year-old illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London. Their lives collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice, the kind of choice no one should ever have to make. Two years later, they meet again and the story begins.

MA, RK

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; DARK

***Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng**

Shaker Heights, Ohio, is a small, quiet suburb of Cleveland where everything is planned. Nobody embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is following the rules. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic artist and single mother with a past, who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons.

HA

LITERARY FICTION; ENGROSSING; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES