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Glendale Library, Arts & Culture



Full Descriptions of Titles in the Collection —Fall 2024

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The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

In his first book for young adults, bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, the book chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy. Poignant drawings by acclaimed artist Ellen Forney reflect Junior's art. 2007 National Book Award winner. Fiction. Young Adult. 229 pages

Agatha Christie: an Elusive Woman By Lucy Worsley

Nobody in the world was more inadequate to act the heroine than I was." Why did Agatha Christie spend her career pretending that she was "just" an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn't? Her life is fascinating for its mysteries and its passions and, as Lucy Worsley says, "She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern." She went surfing in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through devastating mental illness. So why--despite all the evidence to the contrary—did Agatha present herself as a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure? Biography. 415 pages.

The Age of Dreaming by Nina Revoyr

Jun Nakayama was a silent film star in the early days of Hollywood, but by 1964, he is living in complete obscurity—until a young writer, Nick Bellinger, reveals that he has written a screenplay with Nakayama in mind. Jun is intrigued by the possibility of returning to movies, but he begins to worry that someone might delve too deeply into the past and uncover the events that led to the abrupt end of his career in 1922. These events include the changing racial tides in California and the unsolved murder of his favorite director, Ashley Bennett Tyler. Fiction. 327 pages

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

This inspirational fable is a charming tale of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy who dreams of a treasure in Egypt and leaves Spain to follow his dream. Reaching Egypt, Santiago has a fateful encounter with an alchemist who offers the traveler self-enlightenment and spiritual understanding. Magical, wise and gentle, this is a memorable read. Fiction. 197 pages LT

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption. Fiction. 560 pages LT

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot

"The stories of a young veterinarian making his way in the rugged English countryside and of the people and animals he met along the way? In the rolling dales of Yorkshire, a simple, rural region of northern England, a young veterinarian from Sunderland joins a new practice. A stranger in a strange land, he must quickly learn the odd dialect and humorous ways of the locals, master outdated equipment, and do his best to mend, treat, and heal pets and livestock alike.? This witty and heartwarming collection, based on the author's own experiences, became an international success, spawning sequels and winning over animal lovers everywhere.

Perhaps better than any other writer, James Herriot reveals the ties that bind us to the creatures in our lives.”
Autobiography. 442 pages

All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor’s Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor by Donald Stratton

In this extraordinary never-before-told eyewitness account of the Pearl Harbor attack—the only memoir ever written by a survivor of the USS *Arizona*—ninety-four-year-old veteran Donald Stratton finally shares his unforgettable personal tale of bravery and survival on December 7, 1941, his harrowing recovery, and his inspiring determination to return to the fight. Biography and Memoir. 306 pages. LT

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

A blind French girl on the run from the German occupation and a German orphan-turned-Resistance tracker struggle with their respective beliefs after meeting on the Brittany coast in the midst of World War II. 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 531 pages

The Almost Moon by Alice Sebold

For years Helen Knightly has given her life to others: to her haunted mother, to her enigmatic father, to her husband and now grown children. When she finally crosses a terrible boundary, her life comes rushing in at her in a way she never could have imagined. Unfolding over the next 24 hours, this searing, fast-paced novel explores the complex ties between mothers and daughters, wives and lovers, the meaning of devotion, and the line between love and hate. Fiction. 291 pages

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

A tour-de-force by rising indy comics star Gene Yang, *American Born Chinese* tells the story of three apparently unrelated characters: Jin Wang, who moves to a new neighborhood with his family only to discover that he’s the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the powerful Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest and greatest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny’s life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable. Finalist for Young People’s Literature; Winner, 2007 Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album; Winner, 2007 Michael L. Printz Award. Graphic Novel. Young Adult. 233 pages

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones

Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years for a crime Celestial knows he didn’t commit. Though fiercely independent, Celestial finds herself bereft and unmoored, taking comfort in Andre, her childhood friend, and best man at their wedding. As Roy’s time in prison passes, she is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy’s conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together. This stirring love story is a profoundly insightful look into the hearts and minds of three people who are at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control. Fiction. 317 pages

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

“Ten...” Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious “U.N. Owen.” “Nine...” At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead. “Eight...” Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one...one by one they begin to die. “Seven...” Who among them is the killer and will any of them survive? Mystery. 300 pages LT

Angela’s Ashes by Frank McCourt

“Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood,” writes Frank McCourt in this memoir of his own childhood. Colorfully and painfully told, often with great humor. 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Biography or Autobiography; 1996 National Book Critics Circle Award. Biography & Memoir. 363 pages

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

Almost twenty-five years after the infamous art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum—still the largest unsolved art theft in history—one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to the Boston studio of a young

artist. Claire Roth has entered into a Faustian bargain with a powerful gallery owner by agreeing to forge the Degas in exchange for a one-woman show in his renowned gallery. But as she begins her work, she starts to suspect that this long-missing masterpiece—the very one that had been hanging at the Gardner for one hundred years—may itself be a forgery. *The Art Forger* is a thrilling novel about seeing—and not seeing—the secrets that lie beneath the canvas.. Fiction. 384 pages.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker

When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains. Fiction. 394 pages

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2015**

Those looking for a cheerful read will enjoy this story of Enzo, a lab/terrier mix who narrates this story of his life with his best friend, race car driver Denny Swift. Love, despair, redemption and danger all mix in this delightful read with a dog who teaches people how to be human. Fiction. 321 pages LT

The Atomic Weight of Love by Elizabeth J. Church

A fascinating account of Meridian Wallace, a science-minded woman who falls in love with a brilliant man working on big things—in this case, the atomic bomb. She puts her dreams on hold in service to his, sure that it's only temporary and in these years meets other women who have done the same. Suddenly, it seems as if she has just faded into the background of her own life. Then the catalyst—a young man, both hippie and Vietnam veteran, who introduces her to many things, freedoms born of the era, and there is indecision. Ultimately Meridian reclaims herself, takes her identities over all those years and patches them together into a new and meaningful life. Woven throughout are interesting facts about human-like bird behavior and historical anecdotes, so while Meridian's story—a reflection of the changing role of women between the 1940's and 1970's—is the centerpiece, there are many other treasures along the way. Fiction. 368 pages

The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

A fictionalized account of the life of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife of aviator Charles Lindbergh and an accomplished pilot in her own right. In the years that follow their headline-making wedding, despite her own major achievements, Anne is viewed merely as the aviator's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for brings heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life's infinite possibilities for change and happiness. Fiction. 402 pages

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by Sijie Dal

At the height of Mao's infamous Cultural Revolution, two boys are among hundreds of thousands exiled to the countryside for "re-education." The narrator and his best friend, Luo, guilty of being the sons of doctors, find themselves in a remote village, where their meager distractions include a violin and the beautiful daughter of the local tailor. It is when the two discover a hidden stash of Western classics in Chinese translation that their re-education takes its most surprising turn. Fiction. 184 pages

The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2013**

Los Angeles Times journalist Tobar presents an original story of modern Southern California. Maureen and Scott Torres-Thompson live with their children in upscale Laguna Rancho Estates. After they disappear, live-in maid Araceli takes their two boys on a journey through sprawling Los Angeles to locate their grandfather. When Scott and Maureen finally return, they are devastated to learn that their boys are missing with an undocumented Mexican nanny and make a call that changes all their lives forever. Fiction. 422 pages

Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship by Gregory Boyle

In a nation deeply divided and plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins. Sergio, arrested at nine, in a gang by twelve, and serving time shortly thereafter, now works with the substance-abuse team at Homeboy to help others find sobriety. Jamal, abandoned by his family when he tried to attend school at age seven, gradually finds forgiveness for his schizophrenic mother. New father Cuco, who never knew his own dad, thinks of a daily adventure on which to

take his four-year-old son. These former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness. Biography and Memoir. 210 pages

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

Growing up in rural Kentucky, Marietta Greer had two goals: avoid getting pregnant and escape Kentucky. Headed west in an old Volkswagen she finds herself in Arizona with a baby, literally dropped into her arms in Oklahoma, and a car that has run out of gas. In Tucson she finds friendship and a home with other exiles. Kingsolver's first novel is a story of fear, flight and the meaning of home. Fiction. 232 pages

Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walter

The story begins in 1962. On a rocky patch of the sun-drenched Italian coastline, a young innkeeper, chest-deep in daydreams, looks out over the incandescent waters of the Ligurian Sea and spies an apparition: a tall, thin woman, a vision in white, approaching him on a boat. She is an actress, he soon 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. What unfolds is a dazzling, yet deeply human, roller coaster of a novel, spanning 50 years and nearly as many lives. Fiction. 337 pages

Becoming by Michelle Obama

A work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Biography and Memoir. 426 pages

The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie King

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees in Sussex when a young woman literally stumbles onto him on the Sussex Downs. Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical, and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes. Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern, twentieth-century woman proves a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. They are soon called to Wales to help Scotland Yard find the kidnapped daughter of an American senator, a case of international significance with clues that dip deep into Holmes's past. Mystery. 347 pages LT

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

A ragtag group takes over an embassy in an unnamed South American country just as a soprano is about to launch into song and entertain the embassy's guest of honor, a Japanese industrialist. Based loosely on a real event, this magical novel has hostages and terrorists bonding in the most civilized ways. Fiction. 318 pages LT

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

A vulnerable young girl wins a dream assignment on a big-time New York fashion magazine and finds herself plunged into a nightmare. An autobiographical account of Plath's own mental breakdown and suicide attempt, *The Bell Jar* is more than a confessional novel, it is a comic but painful statement of what happens to a woman's aspirations in a society that refuses to take them seriously... a society that expects electroshock to cure the despair of a sensitive, questioning young artist whose search for identity becomes a terrifying descent toward madness. Classic Fiction. 264 pages LT

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan

Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders. Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies

inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share. Based on a true story. Fiction. 513 pages

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

"July 1962. A Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia arrives in Maine to pick blueberries for the summer. Weeks later, four-year-old Ruthie, the family's youngest child, vanishes. She is last seen by her six-year-old brother, Joe, sitting on a favorite rock at the edge of a berry field. Joe will remain distraught by his sister's disappearance for years to come. In Maine, a young girl named Norma grows up as the only child of an affluent family. Her father is emotionally distant, her mother frustratingly overprotective. Norma is often troubled by recurring dreams and visions that seem more like memories than imagination. As she grows older, Norma slowly comes to realize there is something her parents aren't telling her. Unwilling to abandon her intuition, she will spend decades trying to uncover this family secret." Historical Fiction. 307 pages. LT

Better, Not Bitter by Yusef Salaam

This inspirational memoir serves as a call to action from prison reform activist Yusef Salaam, of the Exonerated Five, that will inspire us all to turn our stories into tools for change in the pursuit of racial justice. Yusef writes his narrative: growing up Black in central Harlem in the '80s, being raised by a strong, fierce mother and grandmother, his years of incarceration, his reentry, and exoneration. Yusef connects these stories to lessons and principles he learned that gave him the power to survive through the worst of life's experiences. He inspires readers to accept their own path, to understand their own sense of purpose. With his intimate personal insights, Yusef unpacks the systems built and designed for profit and the oppression of Black and Brown people. Biography. 288 pages

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Septys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life -- until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive? Young Adult Historical Fiction. 352 pages

Between Them: Remembering My Parents by Richard Ford

A stirring narrative of memory and parental love, Richard Ford tells of his mother, Edna, a feisty Catholic girl with a difficult past, and his father, Parker, a sweet-natured soft-spoken traveling salesman, both born at the turn of the twentieth century in rural Arkansas. For Ford, the questions of what his parents dreamed of and how they loved each other and him became a striking portrait of American life in the mid-century. With his celebrated candor, wit, and intelligence, the award-winning storyteller and creator of the iconic Frank Bascombe delivers an unforgettable exploration of memory, intimacy, and love. Biography and Memoir. 179 pages LT

Black Candle Women by Diane Marie Brown

"Generations of Montrose women--Augusta, Victoria, Willow--have lived together in their quaint two-story bungalow in California for years. They keep to themselves, never venture far from home, and their collection of tinctures and spells is an unspoken bond between them. But when seventeen-year-old Nickie Montrose brings home a boy for the first time, their quiet lives are thrown into disarray. For each member of the household, revealing this truth to Nickie also means reckoning with their own past choices and mistakes. And as new questions about long-held family beliefs emerge, the women are set on a collision course dating back to a voodoo shop in 1950s New Orleans's French Quarter--where a hidden story in a mysterious book may just hold the answers they seek in life and in love..." Fiction. 357 pages. LT

Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood

Iris Chase has been waiting fifty years to reveal what led to her sister's suicide. This saga, a novel within a novel, tells the story of a well-to-do Canadian family haunted by family problems and secrets. Grand storytelling on a grand level. Fiction. 521 pages

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni Morrison's virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing. Fiction. 205 pages

The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie

It's seven in the morning. The Bantrys wake to find the body of a young woman in their library. She is wearing an evening dress and heavy makeup, which is now smeared across her cheeks. But who is she? How did she get there? And what is the connection with another dead girl, whose charred remains are later discovered in an abandoned quarry? The respectable Bantrys invite Miss Marple to solve the mystery . . . before tongues start to wag. Mystery. 207 pages LT

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, the novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living 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. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul. Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature, 2007. Fiction. Young Adult. 552 pages

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Kentucky during the Depression is the setting of this appealing historical fiction title about the federally funded pack-horse librarians who delivered books to poverty-stricken people living in the back woods of the Appalachian Mountains. Librarian Cussy Mary Carter is a 19-year-old who lives in Troublesome Creek, Kentucky with her father and must contend not only with riding a mule in treacherous terrain to deliver books, but also with the discrimination she suffers because she has blue skin, the result of a rare genetic condition. Both personable and dedicated, Cussy is a sympathetic character and the hardships that she and the others suffer in rural Kentucky will keep readers engaged. Historical Fiction. 320 pages. LT

Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood by Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. *Born a Crime* is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages

Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World by Michael Pollan

A journalist focuses on the relationship between humans and four everyday plants—the apple, the tulip, the potato and marijuana. Plant and human history commingle in this surprising and engaging book. Nonfiction. 271 pages

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

by Daniel James Brown

It was an unlikely quest from the start. With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or

prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Nonfiction. 404 pages LT

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

"As a botanist and professor of plant ecology, the author has spent a career learning how to ask questions of nature using the tools of science. As a Potawatomi woman, she learned from elders, family, and history that the Potawatomi, as well as a majority of other cultures indigenous to the Americas, consider plants and animals to be our oldest teachers. In this book, she brings these two lenses of knowing together to reveal what it means to see humans as "the younger brothers of creation." As she explores these themes, she circles toward a central argument: the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the world. Once we begin to listen for the languages of other beings, we can begin to understand the innumerable life-giving gifts the world provides us and learn to offer our thanks, our care, and our own gifts in return." Non-fiction. 382 pages

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan

When twenty-four-year-old Susannah Cahalan woke up alone in a hospital room, strapped to her bed and unable to move or speak, she had no memory of how she'd gotten there. Days earlier, she had been on the threshold of a new, adult life: at the beginning of her first serious relationship and a promising career at a major New York newspaper. Now she was labeled violent, psychotic, a flight risk. What happened? Susannah tells the astonishing true story of her descent into madness, her family's inspiring faith in her, and the lifesaving diagnosis that nearly didn't happen. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages

The Bride Test by Helen Hoang

Khai Diep has no feelings. Well, he feels irritation when people move his things or contentment when ledgers balance down to the penny, but not big, important emotions—like grief. And love. He thinks he's defective. His family knows better—that his autism means he just processes emotions differently. When he steadfastly avoids relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride. As a mixed-race girl living in the slums of Ho Chi Minh City, Esme Tran has always felt out of place. When the opportunity arises to come to America and meet a potential husband, she can't turn it down, thinking this could be the break her family needs. Seducing Khai, however, doesn't go as planned. Esme's lessons in love seem to be working...but only on herself. She's hopelessly smitten with a man who's convinced he can never return her affection. With Esme's time in the United States dwindling, Khai is forced to understand he's been wrong all along. And there's more than one way to love. Fiction. 300 pages LT

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz

Oscar is a sweet but disastrously overweight ghetto nerd who—from the New Jersey home he shares with his old world mother and rebellious sister—dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Blame the fukú—a curse that has haunted Oscar's family for generations, following them on their epic journey from Santo Domingo to the USA. 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. Fiction. 339 pages

Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín

Eilis Lacey has come of age in small-town Ireland in the hard years following World War Two. When an Irish priest from Brooklyn offers to sponsor Eilis in America, she decides she must go, leaving her fragile mother and her charismatic sister behind. Eilis finds work in a department store on Fulton Street, and when she least expects it, finds love. Tony, who loves the Dodgers and his big Italian family, slowly wins her over with patient charm. But just as Eilis begins to fall in love, devastating news from Ireland threatens the promise of her future. Fiction. 262 pages.

Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka

This is the second book by our 2007 One Book/One Glendale author. With no central characters, this story of Japanese picture brides who have been matched with Japanese men living in California is narrated by a first-person chorus of women's voices. Voyaging across the Pacific, meeting the men whom they have never seen, taking up lives that are totally unfamiliar and suffering discrimination—the experiences are mostly bitter, but sometimes sweet. Historical Fiction. 129 pages

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Abducted from his comfortable California home, Buck the Saint Bernard Shepherd mix is sold as a sled dog during the Alaska/Yukon gold rush. Learning to survive the elements and the cruel people who control his life, Buck becomes the lead sled dog and then reverts to his canine roots. Originally published in 1903, this classic continues to be a compelling story and a great read. Classic Fiction. 133 pages

Cannery Row by John Steinbeck

Reading *Cannery Row* is to experience really great writing. Set during the Great Depression, this slight novel was originally published in 1948. Residents of a Monterey avenue live on the fringe of society—poor, but happy—and coalesce around a marine biologist named Doc. This book just rings with great characters and terrific storytelling. Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature. Classic Fiction. 196 pages

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant? by Roz Chast

An amazing portrait of two lives at their end and an only child coping as best she can, *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant* will show the full range of Roz Chast's talent as cartoonist and storyteller. In her first memoir, Roz Chast brings her signature wit to the topic of aging parents. Memoir (Graphic Novel format). 228 pages

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

Following her Pulitzer Prize winning book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, journalist Isabel Wilkerson shows how African Americans in the United States live and have always lived under a racial caste system, much like that in India. Deep, but easy to understand, research explains how this hierarchy and social order keep Black people at the bottom rung socially, culturally and economically. The author also uses painful examples of how this racist caste system has existed from the time Africans were brought to the continent as slaves and continues into the present. The author's idea about systemic abuse is original and she backs it up with thought-provoking arguments and examples. A breath-taking book, it will make for much discussion. Non-Fiction. 496 pages

Castle on Sunset by Shawn Levy

Hollywood's stars have favored the Chateau Marmont as a home away from home. An apartment house-turned-hotel, it has hosted generations of gossip and folklore. Situated above the Sunset Strip like a fairytale castle, the Chateau seems to come from another world entirely. Shawn Levy recounts the wild revelries and scandalous liaisons; the creative breakthroughs and marital breakdowns; the births and deaths that the Chateau has been a party to. Vivid, salacious, and richly informed, his book is a glittering tribute to Hollywood as seen from inside the walls of its most hallowed hotel. Biography. 384 pages

Circe by Madeline Miller

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child - not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring, like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power - the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur; Daedalus and his doomed son, Icarus; the murderous Medea; and, of course, wily Odysseus. But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from or the mortals she has come to love. Fiction. 393 pages

Clark and Division By Naomi Hirahara

"Chicago, 1944: Twenty-year-old Aki Ito and her parents have just been released from Manzanar, where they have been detained by the US government since the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, together with thousands of other Japanese Americans. The life in California the Itos were forced to leave behind is gone; instead, they are being resettled two thousand miles away in Chicago, where Aki's older sister, Rose, was sent months earlier and moved to the new Japanese American neighborhood near Clark and Division streets. But on the eve of the Ito family's reunion, Rose is killed by a subway train. Aki, who worshipped her sister, is stunned. Officials are ruling Rose's death a suicide. Aki cannot believe her perfect, polished, and optimistic sister would end her life.

Her instinct tells her there is much more to the story, and she knows she is the only person who could ever learn the truth." *Mystery*. 305 pages. LT

Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell

A long over-due tribute to the extraordinary woman who was Winston Churchill's closest confidant, fiercest critic and shrewdest political advisor that captures the intimate dynamic of one of history's most fateful marriages. By Winston Churchill's own admission, victory in the Second World War would have been "impossible without her." A deeply researched account that tells her life story, revealing how she was instrumental in softening FDR's initial dislike of her husband and paving the way for Britain's close relationship with America. It also provides a surprising account of her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt and their differing approaches to the war effort.. *Biography*. 448 pages

Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff

Cleopatra was the last queen of Egypt. Her palace shimmered with onyx, garnets, and gold but was richer still in political and sexual intrigue. Above all else, Cleopatra was a shrewd strategist and an ingenious negotiator. Though her life spanned fewer than 40 years, it reshaped the contours of the ancient world. In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. *Biography & Memoir*. 368 pages

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother by James McBride

This unique and moving story, told by her son, is about a Jewish woman raised in the South who moves to New York, marries twice, to African-American men, and raises 12 children. Poverty and racism cannot mar the great will of Ruth McBride Jordan and her desire to give her children a good life. A terrific book. *Biography & Memoir*. 291 pages

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

Anthony Doerr's second novel, *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a part historical fiction, part sci-fi, and part contemporary novel that spans throughout 700 years. The lives of five protagonists in the story, Anna and Omeir in 15th century Constantinople, Seymour and Zeno in present day Idaho, and Konstance on an interstellar ship in the 22nd century interweave through the discovery of the Ancient Greek play, Antonius Diogenes's "Cloud Cuckoo Land." The Greek tale tells the story of a shepherd Aethon who wishes to be a bird and fly to the heavenly sky in Cloud Cuckoo Land. The novel dives into the storyline of how the five characters are introduced to the myth through the support of librarians who preserved the story in the different time periods. Through the lives of these five diverse characters, Doerr's novel captures the power of storytelling and how books can offer solace to all in times of need. *Fiction*. 626 pages. LT

Color Purple by Alice Walker

"The Color Purple depicts the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century rural Georgia. Separated as girls, sisters Celie and Nettie sustain their loyalty to and hope in each other across time, distance, and silence. Through a series of letters spanning twenty years, first from Celie to God, then from the sisters to each other, the novel draws readers into the experiences of Celie, Nettie, Shug Avery, and Sofia." *Classic Fiction*. 286 pages

Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese

"Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, The Covenant of Water is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning--and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl--and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi--will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants." *Historical Fiction*. 724 pages. LT

Crying in the Bathroom By Erika L. Sánchez

Growing up as the daughter of Mexican immigrants in Chicago in the '90s, Erika Sanchez was a self-described pariah, misfit, and disappointment—a foul-mouthed, melancholic rabble-rouser who painted her nails black but also loved comedy, often laughing so hard with her friends that she had to leave her school classroom.

Twenty-five years later, she's now an award-winning novelist, poet, and essayist, but she's still got an irrepressible laugh, acerbic wit, and singular powers of perception about the world around her. Biography. 239 pages. LT

Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism by Amanda Montell

What makes "cults" so intriguing and frightening? What makes them powerful? We secretly want to know: could it happen to me? Amanda Montell's argument is that, on some level, it already has . . . Our culture tends to provide pretty flimsy answers to questions of cult influence, mostly having to do with vague talk of "brainwashing." But the true answer has nothing to do with freaky mind-control wizardry or Kool-Aid. In *Cultish*, Montell argues that the key to manufacturing intense ideology, community, and us/them attitudes all comes down to language. In both positive ways and shadowy ones, cultish language is something we hear—and are influenced by—every single day. Non-Fiction. 309 pages

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

As World War I entered its 10th month in May of 1915, the luxury liner, *Lusitania*, sailed out of New York harbor bound for Liverpool. Although Germany had declared the seas around Britain to be a war zone, the passengers were not concerned as the *Lusitania* was the fastest liner then in service and its captain believe in the gentlemanly strictures of warfare? that kept civilian ships safe from attack. However, Germany was determined to change the rules and Walter Schwieger, captain of the submarine, U-20, was glad to oblige. The result was one of the greatest disasters in history. Nonfiction. 430 pages

Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference by Joanne Oppenheim

In the early 1940's, Clara Breed was the children's librarian at the San Diego Public Library. But she was also friend to dozens of Japanese American children and teens when war broke out in December of 1941. The story of what happened to these American citizens is movingly told through letters that her young friends wrote to Miss Breed during their internment. This remarkable librarian and humanitarian served as a lifeline to these imprisoned young people, and was brave enough to speak out against a shameful chapter in American history. Non-Fiction. 288 pages

Demon Copperhead By Barbara Kingslover

Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, this is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. In a plot that never pauses for breath, relayed in his own unsparing voice, he braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities. Historical. 548 pages. LT

The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson

"On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became the fluky victor in a tight race for president. The country was bitterly at odds; Southern extremists were moving ever closer to destroying the Union, with one state after another seceding and Lincoln powerless to stop them. Slavery fueled the conflict, but somehow the passions of North and South came to focus on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter. Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals... Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late." Biography. 565 pages. LT

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

In this hardboiled story set in post-World War II Los Angeles, African American Easy Rawlins takes on the task of finding a missing woman and, in the process, finds his calling as a private detective. This powerful mystery is also a compelling look at race and gender. First title in the *Easy Rawlins* series. Mystery. 263 pages

Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson

The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 was a triumph of imagination that debuted Juicy Fruit Gum, Cracker Jack, Shredded Wheat and more electric lights strung in one place than had ever been seen before. Architect Daniel Burnham brought together some of the nation's greatest architects to build a White City on the fair site. While everyone was focused on the fair, a doctor went on a killing spree—murdering more than 200 people in his own slaughterhouse. Momentum builds and the book balances beauty with terror. Nonfiction. 447 pages LT

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Vicki Myron

The charming story of Dewey Readmore Books, the beloved library cat of Spencer, Iowa. Found stuffed into the returned book slot at the Spencer Public Library by library director Vicki Myron, Dewey won her heart, and the hearts of the staff, by pulling himself up and hobbling on frostbitten feet to nudge each of them in a gesture of thanks and love. For the next 19 years, he never stopped charming the people of Spencer. Nonfiction. 297 pages

Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell

Her world is turned upside down when World War II intrudes on the life of a young girl growing up in Shanghai with her beautiful mother and wheeler-dealer father. Moving to South Pasadena, the girl forgives her father's personal demons. Vivid descriptions of life in China and a local setting make this a very readable epic story. Historical Fiction. 378 pages

Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America by Beth Macy

A look at the central point of the opioid crisis in the United States. Opioid addiction has been a struggle for Americans for over twenty years. Macy takes the reader through the history of the opioid addiction crisis. From the labs and marketing departments of big pharma to local doctor's offices; wealthy suburbs to distressed small communities in Central Appalachia; from distant cities to once-idyllic farm towns; the spread of opioid addiction follows a tortuous trajectory that illustrates how this crisis has persisted for so long and become so firmly entrenched. Nonfiction. 376 pages LT

Driving While Black by Gretchen Sullivan Sorin

How the automobile fundamentally changed African American life—the true history beyond the Best Picture-winning movie. The ultimate symbol of independence and possibility, the automobile has shaped this country from the moment the first Model T rolled off Henry Ford's assembly line. Yet cars have always held distinct importance for African Americans, allowing black families to evade the many dangers presented by an entrenched racist society and to enjoy, in some measure, the freedom of the open road. Gretchen Sorin recovers a forgotten history of black motorists, and recounts their creation of a parallel, unseen world of travel guides, black only hotels, and informal communications networks that kept black drivers safe. At the heart of this story is Victor and Alma Green's famous Green Book, begun in 1936, which made possible that most basic American right, the family vacation, and encouraged a new method of resisting oppression. Enlivened by Sorin's personal history, *Driving While Black* opens an entirely new view onto the African American experience, and shows why travel was so central to the Civil Rights movement. Non-fiction. 332 pages

Drowning Ruth by Christina Schwarz

In the winter of 1919, a young mother named Mathilda Neumann drowns beneath the ice of a rural Wisconsin lake. The shock of her death dramatically changes the lives of her daughter, troubled sister, and husband. . . . Told in the voices of several of the main characters and skipping back and forth in time, the narrative gradually and tantalizingly reveals the dark family secrets and the unsettling discoveries that lead to the truth of what actually happened the night of the drowning. Historical Fiction. 338 pages LT

Dutch House by Ann Patchett

At the end of the Second World War, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives, they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested. Historical Fiction. 352 pages LT

Educated: A Memoir by Tara Westover

Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. Biography and Memoir. 334 pages LT

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond together save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living. And it is Raymond's big heart that will ultimately help Eleanor find the way to repair her own profoundly damaged one. Fiction. 332 pages. LT

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery

Told in alternating chapters, this is an unlikely story of the relationship between a French concierge and the precocious 12-year-old who lives in her Paris apartment building. Each hide their true personalities but bring out the best in each other. Much to discuss in this very unique and quietly philosophical story. Fiction. 325 pages

Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2008**

Originally a Pulitzer Prize-winning *Los Angeles Times* series, this is a true story. Many years after Enrique's mother has left Honduras to find work and send money home, teenage Enrique decides to join her and takes a perilous trip through Mexico to illegally enter the United States. The author risked her own safety, riding on top of speeding trains, to retrace Enrique's journey and report the story. This compelling work of Nonfiction illuminates the controversial topic of immigration and highlights a human tragedy. Nonfiction. 299 pages

Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton

A lonely New Englander, his wife and the cousin whom he loves share the tragic consequences of romance gone awry. The cold and barren setting echoes the deeply affecting story, which will keep the reader thinking long after the book is finished. Classic Fiction. 99 pages LT

Everything Here Is Beautiful by Mira T. Lee

Two Chinese-American sisters—Miranda, the older, responsible one, always her younger sister's protector; Lucia, the headstrong, unpredictable one, whose impulses are huge and, often, life changing. When Lucia starts hearing voices, it is Miranda who must find a way to reach her sister. Lucia impetuously plows ahead, but the bitter constant is that she is, in fact, mentally ill. Lucia lives life on a grand scale, until, inevitably, she crashes to earth. Miranda leaves her own self-contained life in Switzerland to rescue her sister again—but only Lucia can decide whether she wants to be saved. The bonds of sisterly devotion stretch across oceans—but what does it take to break them? Fiction. 358 pages

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake, and suddenly a once tight-knit family unravels in unexpected ways. As the daughter of a college professor and his stay-at-home wife in a small Ohio town in the 1970s, Lydia Lee is already unwittingly part of the greater societal changes going on all around her. But Lydia suffers from pressure that has nothing to do with tuning out and turning on. Her father is an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, and his ethnicity, and hers, make them conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows and some intrusive charges of miscegenation. Fiction. 326 pages

Excuse Me While I Disappear by Laurie Notaro

Laurie Notaro has proved everyone wrong: she didn't end up in rehab, prison, or cremated at a tender age. She just went gray. At past fifty, every hair's root is a symbol of knowledge (she knows how to use a landline), experience (she rode in a car with no seat belts), and superpowers (a gray-haired lady can get away with anything). Though navigating midlife is initially upsetting, the cracking noises coming from her new old body,

receiving regular junk mail from mortuaries, Laurie accepts it. And then some. With unintentional abandon, she shoplifts a bag of russet potatoes. Heckles a rude driver from her beat-up Prius. And engages in epic trolling on Nextdoor.com. That, says Laurie, is the brilliance of growing older. With each passing day, you lose an equivalent amount of fear. Memoir. 239 pages

Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah

Born in 1937 in a Chinese city 1,000 miles north of Shanghai, Adeline Yen Mah was raised in an affluent home during a time of great political and cultural upheaval. This memoir traces the life of Mah, whose mother died in childbirth and who is emotionally abused by her cruel father and Eurasian stepmother. Mah struggles against appalling circumstances and then escapes first to Hong Kong and then to the United States, where she becomes a doctor. Biography & Memoir. 278 pages

Farewell My Lovely by Raymond Chandler

Written by Raymond Chandler, whose Los Angeles detective stories are considered both classics and inspiration for future hardboiled crime novels, *Farewell My Lovely* is Chandler's third book to feature private detective Philip Marlow. The story is about a missing person and murder and is considered the author's finest work. Although fiction, the book's casual racism scattered throughout gives the reader an honest look at how racism permeated 1940's Los Angeles. Mystery. 292 pages

Finding Dorothy by Elizabeth Letts

Elizabeth Letts' *Finding Dorothy* describes the story of Maud Baum, the widow of Wizard of Oz author, Frank Baum. Maud's story traces in and out from the 1930s with her involvement of her late husband's film, to the beginnings of her life with Frank in South Dakota. The novel is told both during the making of the Hollywood film, and of the years of their lives together, describing the journey and inspiration for Frank's creation of the characters in *Wizard of Oz*. Maud becomes thus a protective figure both of the character of Dorothy, and of the actress who personifies her on screen. In *Finding Dorothy*, Letts recreates both a historical love story between Frank and Maud Baum and also highlights a story of female friendship. Historical Fiction. 384 pages. LT

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry

Set in Mumbai, India in 1975 during a period called The Emergency, when the government cracked down on civil liberties during a state of emergency, this is the story of four strangers of diverse backgrounds (a spirited widow, a young student and two tailors) who are thrust together and unexpectedly bond. Compared to a Dickens novel because of its epic sweep and realism, this involving story shows how the human spirit endures, even in difficult times. Fiction. 603 pages

Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

This inspirational book, part melodrama and part parable, weaves together three stories about an 83-year-old maintenance man. Combining stories of the man's early life, death and afterlife, the story is a compelling look at the meaning of life. Fiction. 196 pages

For All the Tea in China: How England Stole the World's Favorite Drink and Changed History by Sarah Rose

In the dramatic story of one of the greatest acts of corporate espionage ever committed, Sarah Rose recounts the fascinating, unlikely circumstances surrounding a turning point in economic history. By the middle of the 19th century, the British East India Company faced the loss of its monopoly on the fantastically lucrative tea trade with China, forcing it to make the drastic decision of sending Scottish botanist Robert Fortune to steal the crop from deep within China and bring it back to British plantations in India. Fortune's danger-filled odyssey reads like adventure fiction, revealing a long-forgotten chapter of the past and the wondrous origins of a seemingly ordinary beverage. Nonfiction. 259 pages

The Friend by Sigrid Nunez

When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with the unwanted dog he has left behind. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, a huge Great Dane traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction: dogs are prohibited in her apartment building. While others worry that grief has made her a victim of magical thinking, the woman refuses to be separated from the dog except for brief periods of time. Isolated from the

rest of the world, increasingly obsessed with the dog's care, determined to read its mind and fathom its heart, she comes dangerously close to unraveling. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them. 2018 National Book Award Winner. Fiction. 224 pages LT

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery. Historical Fiction. 480 pages LT

Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Seventy-seven-year-old John Ames, a preacher in a small Iowa town, gives a mesmerizing account of his own life and family history in the form of a letter to his young son. Written in simple, shimmering prose, this quiet and powerful novel won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction. 247 pages

The Giver by Lois Lowry

A 12-year-old boy who lives in a "Utopia," where the lack of painful emotions, disease, hunger and war have been traded for rigid rules and control over everyone, discovers the terrible truth about his community. Compelling and thought-provoking. Good choice for teens, but great discussion for adults. Fiction. Children's. 179 pages

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

The daughter of eccentric and tempestuous parents tells a heart-breaking and page-turning story of growing up in a wildly dysfunctional family. Original and darkly humorous, this is a triumphant autobiography with an author who never claims to be "poor pitiful me." Biography & Memoir. 288 pages

The God of the Woods By Liz Moore

When Barbara Van Laar is discovered missing from her summer camp bunk one morning in August 1975, it triggers a panicked, terrified search. Losing a camper is a horrific tragedy under any circumstances, but Barbara isn't just any camper, she's the daughter of the wealthy family who owns the camp--as well as the opulent nearby estate, and most of the land in sight. And this isn't the first time a Van Laar child has disappeared in this region: Barbara's older brother also went missing 16 years earlier, never to be found. How could this have happened yet again? Out of this gripping beginning, Liz Moore weaves a richly textured drama, both emotionally nuanced and propelled by a double-barreled mystery. Chasing down the layered secrets of the Van Laar family and the community working in its shadow, Moore's multi-threaded drama brings readers into the hearts of characters whose lives are forever changed by this eventful summer: Barbara's wounded, grieving mother; the "townie" whose family makes a living off this land; the 13-year-old camper struggling to find her way; and the outsider tasked with seeing the bigger picture, and uncovering the truth." Fiction. 478 pages. LT

The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker

The story of two supernatural creatures who appear mysteriously in 1899 New York. Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay, brought to life by a strange man who dabbles in dark Kabbalistic magic. Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire, born in the ancient Syrian Desert. Trapped in an old copper flask by Bedouin wizard centuries ago, he is released accidentally by a tinsmith in a Lower Manhattan shop. Fiction. 486 pages LT

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead. If Bod leaves the graveyard, then he will come under attack from the man Jack, who has already killed Bod's family. 2009 Winner Newbery Medal Award. Fiction. Children's. 313 pages

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

This classic novel captures the spirit of the Jazz Age and all its over-the-top excess that comes crashing down. Self-made and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby, deeply in love with Daisy Buchanan, the girl who marries another man while Gatsby is away, tries to use his wealth to regain Daisy. Crisply written, short and tragic. Classic Fiction. 180 pages

Great Short Poems edited by Paul Negri

This anthology of short verse offers poetry lovers an impressive sampling of more than 150 masterpieces spanning over 400 years of English and American literary history. Although short in length (the longest are 24 lines, most 16 lines or less), these poems are long on beauty, power, imagination, and originality. Included are such memorable compositions as John Donne's "Death Be Not Proud," Shakespeare's "When, in Disgrace with Fortune and Men's Eyes," "On His Blindness" by John Milton, William Blake's "The Tyger," Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," Byron's "She Walks in Beauty," Shelley's "Ozymandias," as well as works by Alfred Lord Tennyson, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manly Hopkins, Amy Lowell, William Butler Yeats, Robert Frost, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Langston Hughes, and many others. Poetry. 54 pages.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

After a staged terrorist attack kills the President and most of Congress, the government is deposed and taken over by the oppressive and all controlling Republic of Gilead. Offred, now a Handmaid serving in the household of the enigmatic Commander and his bitter wife, can remember a time when she lived with her husband and daughter and had a job, before she lost even her own name. Despite the danger, Offred learns to navigate the intimate secrets of those who control her every move, risking her life in breaking the rules in hopes of ending this oppression. Fiction. 311 pages LT

The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss by Edmund de Waal

This memoir by British ceramicist Edmund de Waal is about his family, the well-to-do Eprussi, a Jewish banking dynasty who lived in Odessa, Russia and Vienna, Austria. In 1938 the Nazis confiscated their property and their magnificent artwork. The family maid, however, had hidden a collection of Netsuke, tiny Japanese ivory and wood carvings, which eventually were inherited by the author. Wanting to know the history of the family and how the miniature artwork survived, de Waal explores the generations who came before him and how all their material possessions, except the Netsuke, were lost. This is a very moving and sensitive memoir. Biography. 354 pages

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community--heaven and earth--that sustain us". Historical Fiction. 385 pages. LT

Helen of Pasadena by Lian Dolan

Helen Fairchild, who left college to marry a Pasadena socialite and spends her days volunteering, discovers that her "wonderful life" is in jeopardy when her cheating husband is killed at the Rose Parade and she must sell her beautiful home in the Arroyo, get a job, find ways of keeping her son in private school and make her way in the world. This humorous parody of Pasadena is a cheerful book with a happy ending. For everyone who knows Pasadena and for readers who want a good laugh. Fiction. 304 pages

Hello Beautiful By Ann Napolitano

William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him. So it's a relief when his skill on the basketball court earns him a scholarship to college, far away from his childhood home. He soon meets Julia Padavano, a spirited and ambitious young woman who

surprises William with her appreciation of his quiet steadiness. With Julia comes her family; she is inseparable from her three younger sisters: Sylvie, the dreamer, is happiest with her nose in a book and imagines a future different from the expected path of wife and mother; Cecelia, the family's artist; and Emeline, who patiently takes care of all of them. Happily, the Padavanos fold Julia's new boyfriend into their loving, chaotic household. But then darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable loyalty to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations. Will the loyalty that once rooted them be strong enough to draw them back together when it matters most?" Historical. 387 pages. LT

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance

Shares the story of the author's family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle class life and the collective demons of the past. Biography and Memoir. 288 pages LT

Holly by Stephen King

In King's new novel, Holly is on her own, and up against a pair of unimaginably depraved and brilliantly disguised adversaries. When Penny Dahl calls the Finders Keepers detective agency hoping for help locating her missing daughter, Holly is reluctant to accept the case. Her partner, Pete, has Covid. Fiction. 449 pages. LT

Homecoming by Kate Morton

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek on the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia. Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for two decades, she now finds herself unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call out of nowhere summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and is seriously ill in the hospital. At Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. It is only when Jess skims through its pages that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this notorious event—a mystery that has never been satisfactorily resolved." Fiction. 547 pages. LT

Horse By Geraldine Brooks

"Kentucky, 1850. Jarrett, an enslaved groom, and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. As the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name painting the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack. New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a 19th equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance. Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian-American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly drawn to one another through their shared interest in the horse - one studying the stallion's bones for clues to his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred, Lexington, who became America's greatest stud sire, Horse is a gripping, multi-layered reckoning with the legacy of enslavement and racism in America". Historical Fiction. 401 pages. LT

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

When Chinese-American Henry Lee, who has just lost his wife, hears that the belongings of Japanese immigrants who were interned during WWII have been found in the basement of a Seattle hotel, he starts to think about his youth. As the narrative shifts from 1986 to the 1940s he thinks about the Japanese girl he was forbidden to love by his Japanese-hating father and how she and her family were interned. Henry also reflects on how the distance between himself and his father is being duplicated by his distance from his own son. Historical Fiction. 290 pages LT

The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan

Focusing on the relationship between two half sisters, Chinese-born Kwan and Chinese-American younger sister Olivia, this story explores a familiar Amy Tan theme—family members at odds with each other. Although

Kwan tries to introduce Olivia to Chinese culture, Olivia resists but discovers that she has absorbed much about Chinese superstitions and spirits. The story climaxes when the sisters travel to the village of their ancestors and learn that more than just ordinary senses are needed to truly experience the world. Fiction. 358 pages

The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty

Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret, something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others as well. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive. Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all; she is an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as orderly and spotless as her home. But that letter is about to change everything, and not just for her: Rachel and Tess barely know Cecilia or each other, but they too are about to feel the earth-shattering repercussions of her husband's secret. Fiction. 445 pages

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. Biography & Memoir. 368 pages

I'll Be Gone in the Dark by Michelle McNamara

For more than ten years, a mysterious and violent predator committed fifty sexual assaults in Northern California before moving south, where he perpetrated ten sadistic murders. Then he disappeared, eluding capture by multiple police forces and some of the best detectives in the area. Three decades later, Michelle McNamara, a true crime journalist who created the popular website TrueCrimeDiary.com, was determined to find the violent psychopath she called "the Golden State Killer." Michelle pored over police reports, interviewed victims, and embedded herself in the online communities that were as obsessed with the case as she was. Non-Fiction. 368 pages

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks, a cancer-stricken African-American woman living in poverty, unknowingly becomes the source of an immortal line of cells whose ability to grow in the laboratory play a role in crucial scientific discoveries. Sympathetically telling the story of Henrietta's life and death, the book takes a look at the medical ethics of scientists and medical companies that made money from Lacks' cells but did not reimburse her family, which continued to live in poverty and poor health. Much to talk about. Biography & Memoir. 369 pages

In Everything I See Your Hand By Naira Kuzmich

What's the difference between leaving the motherland and leaving the literal mother? When does the journey toward self-possession become something closer to self-exile? Living daily in the tension between assimilation, disillusionment, and desire, the Armenian-American protagonists of *In Everything I See Your Hand* struggle with the belief that their futures are already decided, futures that can only be escaped through death or departure—if they can be escaped at all. In these ten brilliant stories, Naira Kuzmich spins variations of immigrant life in the Little Armenia neighborhood of Los Angeles. Kuzmich finished this collection before her death at age twenty-nine. Melding empathy, savvy, and candor through ardently wrought language, these stories are gifts that seduce, devastate, and shine. Fiction. 186 pages

In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Based on historical events, this story is about the three Mirabal sisters who try to help overthrow a dictatorship in the Dominican Republic and in the process become martyrs for a cause. Known as las mariposas (the butterflies), each sister is different and the characterizations are strong. The story starts slowly and builds to gripping intensity. Historical Fiction. 325 pages

Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

What would possess a smart young man, recently graduated from college, to literally walk away from his life and possessions and wander into the wilds of Alaska, where his body was eventually found in 1992? Jon Krakauer, who wrote *Into Thin Air* about climbing Mt. Everest, movingly traces this true story from the young man's childhood to his efforts to survive and then his death. Nonfiction. 207 pages

The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. The novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty-five 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. Fiction. 258 pages.

The Island of Missing Trees By Elif Shafak

"Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, meet at a taverna on the island they both call home. In the taverna, hidden beneath garlands of garlic, chili peppers and creeping honeysuckle, Kostas and Defne grow in their forbidden love for each other. A fig tree stretches through a cavity in the roof, and this tree bears witness to their hushed, happy meetings and eventually, to their silent, surreptitious departures. The tree is there when war breaks out, when the capital is reduced to ashes and rubble, and when the teenagers vanish. Decades later, Kostas returns. He is a botanist looking for native species, but really, he's searching for lost love. Years later a *Ficus carica* grows in the back garden of a house in London where Ada Kazantzakis lives. This tree is her only connection to an island she has never visited -- her only connection to her family's troubled history and her complex identity as she seeks to untangle years of secrets to find her place in the world." Fiction. 353 pages. LT

Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

Set on the Korean island of Jeju, *The Island of Sea Women* follows Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls from very different backgrounds, as they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective. This beautiful, thoughtful novel illuminates a unique and unforgettable culture, one where the women are in charge, engaging in dangerous physical work, and the men take care of the children. Historical fiction. 374 pages

Is This Tomorrow: A Novel by Caroline Leavitt

In 1956, divorced working-mom Ava Lark rents a house with her 12-year-old son, Lewis, in a Boston suburb. Lewis befriends the only other fatherless kids in the neighborhood: Jimmy and Rose. One afternoon, Jimmy goes missing, which alters the life of Ava, Rose, and Lewis. Fiction. 360 pages

James by Percival Everett

"When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond. While many narrative set pieces of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light." Fiction. 302 pages. LT

The Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler

Five women and one man form a book group that will only read and discuss novels by Jane Austen. As the characters meet monthly, they not only debate the Austen characters and narratives, but also reveal their own lives and feelings. With good company and a happy ending, this is a great book group title. Fiction. 288 pages

The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende

In 1939, as Poland falls under the shadow of the Nazis, young Alma Belasco is sent away to live with a wealthy aunt and uncle in California. Her life is quickly changed when she meets the son of her aunt's gardener, Ichimei Fukuda. Young love blossoms between them, until they are cruelly separated when Ichimei and his

family are relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp. Throughout their lifetimes, they manage to reunite again and again, but theirs is a love they are forever forced to hide from the prejudiced eyes of the world. Decades later, Alma is nearing the end of her life and forges a friendship with Irina Bazili—a care worker with her own troubled past—at a nursing home in California. As Irina begins to form a relationship with Alma's grandson, Seth, the pair investigates a series of mysterious gifts and letters sent to Alma in an effort to uncover the secret of Alma's mysterious Japanese lover. Fiction. 336 pages LT

Julie and Romeo by Jeanne Ray

Inspired by the classic Shakespeare play, *Julie and Romeo* is a contemporary love story between two characters of a certain age. Julie Roseman and Romeo Cacciamani, Bostonian florists now in their 60's with adult children and past marriages, were raised to despise and avoid each other's families without even knowing why. Surprised by their strong attraction to each other, the couple hide their blossoming relationship. Romance, family turmoil, revealed secrets and good humor make this a light and enjoyable read. Fiction. 240 pages

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice. Biography and Memoir. 349 pages

Kathy Fiscus by William Deverell

Kathy Fiscus tells the story of the first live, breaking-news TV spectacle in American history. At dusk on a spring evening in 1949, a three-year old girl fell down an abandoned well shaft in the backyard of her family's home in Southern California. Across more than two full days of a fevered rescue attempt, the fate of Kathy Fiscus remained unknown. Rescue workers—ditch diggers, miners, cesspool laborers, World War II veterans—dug and bored holes deep into the aquifer below, hoping to tunnel across to the old well shaft that the little girl had somehow tumbled down. Non-Fiction. 164 pages

Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. One Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, watched as her family was murdered. David Grann revisits a shocking series of crimes in which dozens of people were murdered in cold blood. Non-Fiction. 400 pages LT

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Dana, a modern African-American woman living in Altadena, California, is about to celebrate her 26th birthday when she is snatched from her home and transported to the Antebellum South where she has been summoned to save a slave-owning white man. As Dana travels back and forth through time she discovers that this man will father a daughter who will become Dana's ancestor. Science Fiction. 287 pages

The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

In 1790, Lavinia, a seven-year-old Irish orphan with no memory of her past, arrives on a tobacco plantation where she is put to work as an indentured servant with the kitchen house slaves. Though she becomes deeply bonded to her new family, Lavinia is also slowly accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. As time passes she finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds, and when loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare and lives are at risk. Fiction. 368 pages

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

Betrayal and redemption are two powerful themes in this stunning debut novel about a boy named Amir, son of a well-to-do Afghan merchant, who betrays his best friend, the servant boy Hassan. Amir and his father immigrate to America, but Amir cannot forget his friend. Learning that the Taliban have killed Hassan, the now adult Amir returns home to rescue Hassan's son. Great storytelling, surprising plot twists and indelible characters that truly come to life make this a very memorable story. Fiction. 372 pages

Lady Tan's Circle of Women By Lisa See

"Lady Tan's Circle of Women is the latest historical fiction book by Lisa See based on the life of Tan Yunxian, a woman physician in the Ming dynasty during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Tan Yunxian was born into an elite family but one haunted with death, separations and loneliness.." Historical Fiction. 352 pages. LT

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions, but for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. Now 18 and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a public 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. Fiction. 334 pages LT

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave--"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"--wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have...and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about living. Fiction. 206 pages LT

The Last Painting of Sarah de Vos by Dominic Smith

In 1631, Sara de Vos is admitted as a master painter to the Guild of St. Luke's in Holland, the first woman to be so recognized. Three hundred years later, only one work attributed to de Vos is known to remain--a haunting winter scene, *At the Edge of a Wood*, which hangs over the bed of a wealthy descendant of the original owner. An Australian grad student, Ellie Shipley, struggling to stay afloat in New York, agrees to paint a forgery of the landscape, a decision that will haunt her. Because now, half a century later, she's curating an exhibit of female Dutch painters, and both versions threaten to arrive. Historical Fiction. 304 pages LT

Leave Only Footprints by Conor Knighton

When Conor Knighton decided to spend a year wandering through "America's Best Idea," he was worried the whole thing might end up being his worst idea. But, after a broken engagement and a broken heart, he desperately needed a change of scenery. The ambitious plan he cooked up went a bit overboard in that department; Knighton set out to visit every single one of America's National Parks, from Acadia to Zion. *Leave Only Footprints* is the memoir of his year spent traveling across the United States, a journey that yielded his "On the Trail" series, which quickly became one of CBS Sunday Morning's most beloved segments. In this smart, informative, and often hilarious book, he'll share how his journey through these natural wonders, unchanged by man, ended up changing his worldview on everything from God to politics to love and technology. Memoir. 323 pages

Less by Andrew Sean Greer

You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world. QUESTION: How do you arrange to skip town? ANSWER: You accept them all. *What would possibly go wrong?* Arthur Less will almost fall in love in Paris, almost fall to his death in Berlin, barely escape to a Moroccan ski chalet from a Saharan sandstorm, accidentally book himself as the (only) writer-in-residence at a Christian Retreat Center in Southern India, and encounter, on a desert island in the Arabian Sea, the last person on Earth he wants to face. Somewhere in there: he will turn fifty. Through it all, there is his first love. And there is his last. 2018 Pulitzer Prize Winner. Fiction. 272 pages LT

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the 1960s and despite the fact that she is a scientist, her peers are very unscientific when it comes to equality. The only good thing to happen to her on the road to professional fulfillment is a run-in with her super-star colleague Calvin Evans (well, she stole his beakers). The only man who ever treated her - and her ideas - as equal, Calvin is already a legend and Nobel nominee. He's also awkward, kind and tenacious. Theirs is true chemistry. But as events are never as predictable as chemical

reactions, three years later Elizabeth Zott is an unwed, single mother (did we mention it's the early 60s??) and the star of America's most beloved cooking show *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's singular approach to cooking ('take one pint of H₂O and add a pinch of sodium chloride') and independent example are proving revolutionary. Because Elizabeth isn't just teaching women how to cook, she's teaching them how to change the status quo." Historical Fiction. 390 pages. LT

The Library Book by Susan Orlean -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2019**

Chronicles the Los Angeles Public Library fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and around the world, from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity; brings each department of the library to vivid life through on-the-ground reporting; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; reflects on her own experiences in libraries; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago. Non-Fiction. 317 pages

The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day's journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Fiction. 345 pages

The Light of Days by Judy Batalion

One of the most important stories of World War II, a spectacular, searing history that brings to light the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who became resistance fighters—a group of unknown heroes whose exploits have never been chronicled in full, until now. *Light of Days* takes us back to 1939 and introduces us to Renia Kukielka, a weapons smuggler and messenger who risked death traveling across occupied Poland on foot and by train. Joining Renia are other women who served as couriers, armed fighters, intelligence agents, and saboteurs, all who put their lives in mortal danger to carry out their missions. Batalion follows these women through the savage destruction of the ghettos, arrest and internment in Gestapo prisons and concentration camps, and for a lucky few—like Renia, who orchestrated her own audacious escape from a brutal Nazi jail—into the late 20th century and beyond. Biography. 558 pages. LT

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelley

Manhattan, 1939. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday's biggest problem is resisting the advances of a married actor. Across the Atlantic Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish Catholic teenager, is affected when Germany declares war on Poland. As tensions rise Caroline's interest in aiding the war effort in France grows; she hears about the dire situation at the Ravensbrück all-female concentration camp. Kasia's carefree youth is replaced by a fervor for the Polish resistance movement. Through Ravensbrück-- and the horrific atrocities taking place there told in part by an infamous German surgeon, Herta Oberheuser-- the two women's lives converge in unprecedented ways. Historical Fiction. 502 pages

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York. Historical Fiction. 576 pages. LT

Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders

February 1862. The Civil War is less than one year old. The fighting has begun in earnest, and the nation has begun to realize it is in for a long, bloody struggle. Meanwhile, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. This novel takes place during and after the death of Willie and deals with the president's grief at his loss. The bulk of the novel, which takes place over the

course of a single evening, is set in the *bardo*—an intermediate space between life and rebirth. Winner of the 2017 Man Booker Prize. Historical Fiction. 350 pages LT

The Little Paris Bookshop by Meg Wolitzer

Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened. After Perdu is finally tempted to read the letter, he hauls anchor and departs on a mission to the south of France, hoping to make peace with his loss and discover the end of the story. Joined by a bestselling but blocked author and a lovelorn Italian chef, Perdu travels along the country's rivers, dispensing his wisdom and his books, showing that the literary world can take the human soul on a journey to heal itself.. Fiction. 408 pages

Little Women by Louisa Mae Alcott

The four March sisters—Amy, Beth, Jo and Meg—live in genteel poverty with their mother Marmee while their father is away during the Civil War. This American classic, a lively portrait of how one family lived in the 19th century, could be paired with a contemporary novel, *March* by Geraldine Brooks, which chronicles the life of Mr. March while he is absent from the family. Good choice for teens. Classic Fiction. 461 pages

Los Angeles Noir edited by Denise Hamilton – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2010**

Glendale author Denise Hamilton updates the classic crime genre with this collection of 17 contemporary noir short stories, each set in a different neighborhood of Los Angeles. The authors, including Michael Connelly, Patt Morrison, Naomi Hirahara and Hamilton herself, each give their special take on modern hardboiled mysteries. Mystery. 348 pages

L.A. Weather by María Amparo Escandón **ONE BOOK / ONE COUNTY 2024**

L.A. is parched, dry as a bone, and all Oscar, the weather-obsessed patriarch of the Alvarado family, desperately wants is a little rain. He's harboring a costly secret that distracts him from everything else. His wife, Keila, desperate for a life with a little more intimacy and a little less Weather Channel, feels she has no choice but to end their marriage. Their three daughters--Claudia, a television chef with a hard-hearted attitude; Olivia, a successful architect who suffers from gentrification guilt; and Patricia, a social media wizard who has an uncanny knack for connecting with audiences but not with her lovers--are blindsided and left questioning everything they know. Each will have to take a critical look at her own relationships and make some tough decisions along the way. With quick-wit and humor, Maria Amparo Escandón follows the Alvarado family as they wrestle with impending evacuations, secrets, deception, and betrayal, and their toughest decision yet: whether to stick together or burn it all down." Fiction. 319 pages. LT

Lost City of Z by David Grann

After stumbling upon a hidden trove of diaries, New Yorker writer David Grann set out to solve "the greatest exploration mystery of the twentieth century": what happened to British explorer Percy Fawcett. In 1925 Fawcett ventured into the Amazon to find an ancient civilization. For centuries Europeans believed the world's largest jungle concealed the glittering El Dorado. Thousands had died looking for it, leaving many convinced that the Amazon was truly inimical to humankind. But Fawcett had spent years building his scientific case. Captivating the imagination of millions, he embarked with his 21-year-old son, determined to prove that this ancient civilization--which he dubbed "Z"--existed. Then he and his expedition vanished. Fawcett's fate--and the clues he left behind--became an obsession for hundreds who followed him. As Grann delved deeper into Fawcett's mystery, and the greater mystery of the Amazon, he found himself irresistibly drawn into the "green hell." Nonfiction. 339 pages

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Both poignant and compelling, this is a fictional account of Frank Lloyd Wright's affair with Mamah Borthwick Cheney. When Mamah and the architect left their spouses and combined family of nine children to escape to Europe, great scandal ensued. Wright went on to build Taliesin, an inspired house in Wisconsin, for himself and Mamah, but tragedy followed. The book captures Mamah's moral quandary and how she, an educated woman, felt constrained by the social mores of the times. A nuanced and satisfying read. Historical Fiction. 377 pages

Luckiest Girl Alive by Jessica Knoll

As a teenager at the prestigious Bradley School, 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. There's something else buried in her past that still haunts her, something private and painful that threatens to bubble to the surface and destroy everything. The question remains: will breaking her silence destroy all that she has worked for—or, will it at long last, set Ani free? Fiction. 341 pages

Mad Honey By Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

"Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising a beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in, and taking over her father's beekeeping business. Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start. And for just a short while, these new beginnings are exactly what Olivia and Lily need. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl in school, and Lily can't help but fall for him, too. With Ash, she feels happy for the first time. Yet at times, she wonders if she can trust him completely . . . Then one day, Olivia receives a phone call: Lily is dead, and Asher is being questioned by the police. Olivia is adamant that her son is innocent. But she would be lying if she didn't acknowledge the flashes of his father's temper in him, and as the case against him unfolds, she realizes he's hidden more than he's shared with her". Fiction. 452 pages. LT

The Madness of Crowds By Louise Penny

"You're a coward." Time and again, as the New Year approaches, that charge is leveled against Armand Gamache. While the residents of the Quebec village of Three Pines take advantage of the deep snow to ski and toboggan, to drink hot chocolate in the bistro and share meals together, the Chief Inspector finds his holiday with his family interrupted by a simple request. He's asked to provide security for what promises to be a non-event. A visiting Professor of Statistics will be giving a lecture at the nearby university. While he is perplexed as to why the head of homicide for the Surete du Quebec would be assigned this task, it sounds easy enough. That is until Gamache starts looking into Professor Abigail Robinson and discovers an agenda so repulsive he begs the university to cancel the lecture... Abigail Robinson promises that, if they follow her, ça va bien aller. All will be well. But not, Gamache and his team know, for everyone. When a murder is committed, it falls to Armand Gamache, his second-in-command Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and their team to investigate the crime as well as this extraordinary popular delusion. And the madness of crowds. Mystery. 436 pages. LT

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land

"At 28, Stephanie Land's plans of breaking free from the roots of her hometown in the Pacific Northwest to chase her dreams of attending a university and becoming a writer, were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unplanned pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet, and, with a tenacious grip on her dream to provide her daughter the very best life possible. She wrote the true stories that weren't being told: the stories of overworked and underpaid Americans. It is an inspiring testament to the strength, determination, and ultimate triumph of the human spirit." Biography and Memoir. 273 pages

Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear

Maisie Dobbs got her start as a maid in an aristocratic London household when she was thirteen. Her employer, suffragette Lady Rowan Compton, soon became her patron, taking the remarkably bright youngster under her wing. Lady Rowan's friend, Maurice Blanche, often retained as an investigator by the European elite, recognized Maisie's intuitive gifts and helped her earn admission to the prestigious Girton College in Cambridge, where Maisie planned to complete her education.

The outbreak of war changed everything. Maisie trained as a nurse, then left for France to serve at the Front, where she found—and lost—an important part of herself. Ten years after the Armistice, in the spring of 1929, Maisie sets out on her own as a private investigator, one who has learned that coincidences are meaningful, and truth elusive. Her very first case involves suspected infidelity but reveals something very different. Mystery. 320 pages

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

With his stiff upper lip, widower Major Ernest Pettigrew is the personification of English values and very different from his greedy son. When the son wants to sell a family heirloom, Major Pettigrew finds an ally in the local Pakistani shopkeeper Jamina Ali and friendship turns into romance. The two must then navigate local gossip and prejudice. Stylish, witty and with unforgettable characters. Fiction. 368 pages

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is a grumble Gus of the first degree. Rules are made to be followed, signs are meant to be obeyed, and don't even get him started about computers and mobile phones. In truth, Ove has been this way his whole life, but he's gotten worse in the last four years since his wife, Sonia, died, taking with her all the color in a world Ove sees as black-and-white. Ove has decided life without Sonia is not worth living and plans to join her in the next world. But a young couple and their two children (a third is on the way) move in next door, his oldest friend and most feared enemy is about to be forcibly removed to a nursing home, and a street-scarred cat insinuates itself into his life. Suddenly, Ove's suicide plans get delayed as he helps solve neighboring crises large and small. Fiction. 337 pages

March by Geraldine Brooks

Exploring the devastation and moral complexity of the Civil War, this novel re-imagines Mr. March, the father and chaplain who has gone to war in *Little Women*. His early idealism lost, Mr. March presses on to find himself at both at a home he visited in his youth and at a liberated plantation where he is almost killed. Rescued, in the hospital and all but broken man, March revives and returns home, where he finds certainty and stability in fatherhood. 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 280 pages

The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman

Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. Instead she is married off to a widower with three children to save her father's business. When her husband dies suddenly and his handsome, much younger nephew, Frédéric, arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story. They begin a defiant, passionate love affair that sparks a scandal that affects all of her family, including her favorite son, who will become one of the greatest artists of France. Historical Fiction. 369 pages

Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyon Woo

"In December 1848, a young enslaved couple named Ellen and William Craft traveled openly by rail, coach and steamship from Macon, Georgia, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ellen, who passed for white, disguised herself as a wealthy disabled man, with William as "his" slave. Woo follows their journey north, and in joining the abolitionist lecture circuit. When the new Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 put them at risk, they fled from the United States. Their very existence challenged the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all." Biography. 410 pages

Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris

Humorist David Sedaris mocks himself and mines life's simple events for some very amusing and caustic observations. Whether writing about overcoming a lisp, trying to master French, his brother's spicy language or learning to play the guitar, the author makes us laugh. Not everything is funny to everybody, but readers with absurd and quirky senses of humor will laugh out loud. Nonfiction. 272 pages

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

An impoverished young Japanese girl becomes a geisha during the 1930s. This seductive and unique story describes the elaborate and mysterious life of a geisha and is rich with detail. Historical Fiction. 530 pages

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides

"I was born twice: first, as a baby girl in January of 1960; and then again, as a teenage boy...in August of 1974." So begins this story of hermaphrodite Calliope Stephanides who becomes the teenage boy Cal and narrates the story of his life that of his Greek family. The author helps readers overcome the initial surprise and become comfortable with different ideas of gender and individuality. 2003 Pulitzer Prize. Fiction. 529 pages

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Her life unsettled and full of disappointment Nora Seeds checks into the Midnight Library where, taken from shelves and shelves, she tests out lives she could have lived and different choices she could have made. Haig

is an inspirational author and has written an uplifting and thought-provoking novel where Nora and readers can discard regret and embrace life. This popular title comes at a time when many readers are contemplating the state of their own lives. Fiction. 304 pages LT

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan

After a layoff during the Great Recession sidelines his tech career, Clay Jannon takes a job at the titular bookstore in San Francisco and soon realizes that the establishment is a façade for a strange secret. Fiction. 288 pages

Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame By Olivia Ford

"Nothing could be more out of character, but after fifty-nine years of marriage, as her husband Bernard's health declines, and her friends' lives become focused on their grandchildren--which Jenny never had--Jenny decides she wants a little something for herself. So she secretly applies to be a contestant on the prime-time TV show Britain Bakes. By putting herself in the limelight, has Jenny created a recipe for disaster?" Fiction. 374 pages. LT

My Antonia by Willa Cather

This classic story of Antonia, a spirited immigrant in 19th century Nebraska, is as memorable for its main character as it is for its portrait of pioneer life. Romantic and beautifully written. Classic Fiction. 219 pages

My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor

An instant American icon—the first Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court—tells the story of her life before becoming a judge in an inspiring, surprisingly personal memoir. With startling candor and intimacy, Sonia Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a progress that is testament to her extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. Biography & Memoir. 315 pages

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

A modern masterpiece from one of Italy's most acclaimed authors, *My Brilliant Friend* is a rich, intense, and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila. Ferrante's inimitable style lends itself perfectly to a meticulous portrait of these two women that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship. The story begins in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Growing up on these tough streets the two girls learn to rely on each other ahead of anyone or anything else. As they grow, as their paths repeatedly diverge and converge, Elena and Lila remain best friends whose respective destinies are reflected and refracted in the other. Through the lives of these two women, Ferrante tells the story of a neighborhood, a city, and a country as it is transformed in ways that, in turn, also transform the relationship between her protagonists, the unforgettable Elena and Lila. Fiction. 331 pages

My Grandfather's Blessings by Rachel Naomi Remen

"In *My Grandfather's Blessings*, Rachel Naomi Remen, a cancer physician and master storyteller, uses her luminous stories to remind us of the power of our kindness and the joy of being alive. Dr. Remen's grandfather, an orthodox rabbi and scholar of the Kabbalah, saw life as a web of connection and knew that everyone belonged to him, and that he belonged to everyone. He taught her that blessing one another is what fills our emptiness, heals our loneliness, and connects us more deeply to life." Non-Fiction. 382 pages. LT

My Italian Bulldozer by Alexander McCall Smith

Paul Stuart, a renowned food writer, finds himself at loose ends after his longtime girlfriend leaves him for her personal trainer. To cheer him up, Paul's editor, Gloria, encourages him to finish his latest cookbook on-site in Tuscany, hoping that a change of scenery (plus the occasional truffled pasta and glass of red wine) will offer a cure for both heartache and writer's block. But upon Paul's arrival, things don't quite go as planned. A mishap with his rental-car reservation leaves him stranded, until a newfound friend leads him to an intriguing alternative: a bulldozer. With little choice in the matter, Paul accepts the offer, and as he journeys (well, slowly trundles) into the idyllic hillside town of Montalcino, he discovers that the bulldozer may be the least of the surprises that await him. What follows is a delightful romp through the lush sights and flavors of the Tuscan countryside, as Paul encounters a rich cast of characters, including a young American woman who awakens in him something unexpected. Fiction. 232 pages

My Life in France by Julia Child

Bon Appetit! Julia Child's final book (she passed away at the age of 91 in 2004) recalls her love affair with France. Living in France with her much-adored husband Paul from 1948-1954, she experiences the excitement of all things French—culture, cuisine and learning to cook at the celebrated Cordon Bleu cooking school. The six foot two inch Child's gentle stories are spirited and delightful. Nonfiction. 352 pages

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Right after a newlywed Indian couple moves to Cambridge, Massachusetts, their son is born and, through an odd set of circumstances, is given the name Gogol. As the parents try to navigate American life, second generation Gogol has his own problems trying to fit in and make his way in the world. Beautifully written, comic and tragic, this many layered story has great appeal. Fiction. 291 pages

Necessary Trouble by Drew Gilpin Faust

"A privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. For Drew Gilpin, the acceptance of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing. Urged to become 'well adjusted' and to fill the role of a poised young lady that her upbringing imposed, she found resistance was necessary for her survival. During the 1960s, through her love of learning and her active engagement in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements, Drew forged a path of her own—one that would eventually lead her to become a historian of the very conflicts that were instrumental in shaping the world she grew up in." Autobiography. 304 pages

News of the World by Paulette Jiles

It is 1870 and Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. An elderly widower who has lived through three wars and fought in two of them, the captain enjoys his rootless, solitary existence. In the aftermath of the Civil War, Captain Kidd, is offered fifty dollars to bring an orphan girl, who was kidnapped and raised by Kiowa raiders, from Wichita Falls back to her family in San Antonio. Explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust. Historical Fiction. 218 pages

The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman* takes place in the 1950s in rural North Dakota's Turtle Mountain Reservation and tells the story of Thomas Wazhashk, the night watchman of the reservation and a Chippewa Council member. The story begins during the time an "emancipation" bill is headed towards Congress in 1953. The intent of the bill is to terminate Native Americans rights to their land in order to assimilate tribal members with mainstream American society. Understanding that deprived of federal support their identity would cease to exist, Thomas strives to fight against this bill. Interwoven with Thomas's story is that of a character from a younger generation, Pixie (Patrice) Paranteau, a recent high school graduate who works on the reservation as a jewel bearer in order to support her family. Pixie's challenges with adulthood include trying to understand her identity as a Native American woman while living in a predominantly white world. While trying to understand her identity, she is also determined to find her older sister, Vera, who is possibly missing. Erdrich's novel traces the path of these characters, as well the lives of other people living on Turtle Mountain Reservation as emancipation looms, and reflects on how people from different generations within the threatened community can fight to claim their identity. Historical Fiction. 451 pages. LT

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Two sisters living in Nazi-occupied France during World War II choose different paths to survive the harsh realities of war. One sister must find a way to protect her and her daughter from the Nazis that move into her town while her husband fights for France. The other, younger sister ventures to Paris to join the rebellion and prove her worth. Their stories of love and loss intertwine throughout the novel as they each discover themselves and the strength within them. Fiction. 608 pages

The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott

On a dim winter afternoon, a young Irish immigrant opens a gas tap in his Brooklyn tenement. He is determined to prove—to the subway bosses who have recently fired him, to his pregnant wife—that "the hours of his life . . . belonged to himself alone." In the aftermath of the fire that follows, Sister St. Saviour, an aging nun, a Little Nursing Sister of the Sick Poor, appears, unbidden, to direct the way forward for his widow and his unborn child. In Catholic Brooklyn in the early part of the twentieth century, decorum, superstition, and shame

collude to erase the man's brief existence, and yet his suicide, though never spoken of, reverberates through many lives—testing the limits and the demands of love and sacrifice, of forgiveness and forgetfulness, even through multiple generations. Fiction. 247 pages.

North Woods by Daniel Mason

"When a pair of young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to apples. A pair of spinster twins navigate war and famine, envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths a mass grave--only to discover that the ancient trees refuse to give up their secrets. A lovelorn painter, a sinister conman, a stalking panther, a lusty beetle: As each inhabitant confronts the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive." Historical Fiction. 372 pages. LT

The Number One Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith

More of a leisurely read than a mystery, this gentle story about "traditionally-sized" Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's first, and maybe only, lady detective is delightful. With sass, great detecting skills and common sense, she solves a variety of cases. Pull up a chair, make a cup of bush tea and enjoy the first in a series. Fiction. 235 pages

Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout

The cranky, bossy, sad, brave and beloved Olive Kitteridge returns in ***Olive Again***. Although Elizabeth Strout said she would not revisit Olive, the author has with this collection of short stories (chapters) that are linked together. The book begins two years after the death of Olive's husband Henry and tracks many of the characters introduced in the first book. The characters, covering a broad range of ages and charged interactions, share both hearts and minds. The title character is not always onstage but is a presence. Beautifully written and alive with compassion, this sequel is more than welcome. Fiction. 320 pages

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

Thirteen short stories, set in a small town in Maine, are linked together by the character of Olive Kitteridge, a seventh-grade math teacher. Though the stories often pack an emotional wallop, there are also flashes of humor. 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction/Short Stories. 270 pages

On Gold Mountain by Lisa See

Lisa See's first book is the autobiographical saga of her family, beginning with her Chinese, great-grandfather Fong See, who came to California in 1871 to work on the railroad, and his second wife, Caucasian Lettice Pruett. Taking place over a hundred year period, the book describes the family's fractured relationships and hard work that brought them success and failure. The final couple depicted in the book is See's eccentric parents, Richard and Carolyn See. As in her fiction work, it is the women's stories that are the most powerful. Terrific history that reads like fiction. Nonfiction. 394 pages

101 Great American Poems edited by The American Poetry & Literacy Project

Focusing on popular verse from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this treasury of great American poems offers a taste of the nation's rich poetic legacy. Selected for both popularity and literary quality, the compilation includes Robert Frost's "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening," Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing," and Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Concord Hymn," as well as poems by Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, T. S. Eliot, Marianne Moore, and many other notables. Poetry. 80 pages

102 Minutes: The Untold Story of the Fight to Survive Inside the Twin Towers by Jim Dwyer and Kevin Flynn.

Why and how did some people escape from the World Trade Towers and why did some die? This heart-pounding, meticulous account written by two newspaper reporters is a different approach to a painfully familiar subject. Focuses on the human experience and allows readers to put themselves in the place of the men and women who lived and died. Nonfiction. 322 pages

The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood

The story of your life never starts at the beginning. Don't they teach you anything at school?

So says 104-year-old Ona to the 11-year-old boy who's been sent to help her out every Saturday morning. As he refills the bird feeders and tidies the garden shed, Ona tells him about her long life, from first love to second chances. Soon she's confessing secrets she has kept hidden for decades. One Saturday, the boy doesn't show up. Ona starts to think he's not so special after all, but then his father arrives on her doorstep, determined to finish his son's good deed. The boy's mother is not so far behind. Ona is set to discover that the world can surprise us at any age, and that sometimes sharing a loss is the only way to find ourselves again. Fiction. 326 pages

The Orphan Keeper by Cameron Wright

Based on a remarkable true story of Taj Rowland. Seven-year-old Chellamuthu's life is forever changed when he is kidnapped from his village in India, sold to a Christian orphanage, and then adopted by an unsuspecting couple in the United States. It takes months before the boy can speak enough English to tell his parents that he already has a family back in India. Horrified, they try their best to track down his Indian family, but all avenues lead to dead ends. More than a decade later, Taj meets Priya, a girl from southern India with surprising ties to his past. Is she the key to unveil the secrets of his childhood or is it too late? Historical Fiction. 432 pages

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson

The son of an influential father who runs an orphan work camp, Pak Jun Do rises to prominence using instinctive talents and eventually becomes a professional kidnapper and romantic rival to Kim Jong Il. 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Fiction. 456 pages

The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff

Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep... When Noa discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her. And in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the snowy night. Noa finds refuge with a German circus, but she must learn the flying trapeze act so she can blend in undetected, spurning the resentment of the lead aerialist, Astrid. At first rivals, Noa and Astrid soon forge a powerful bond. But as the facade that protects them proves increasingly tenuous, Noa and Astrid must decide whether their friendship is enough to save one another—or if the secrets that burn between them will destroy everything. Fiction. 368 pages

The Other Americans by Laila Lalami

From the Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of *The Moor's Account*, here is a timely and powerful new novel about the suspicious death of a Moroccan immigrant—at once a family saga, a murder mystery, and a love story, informed by the treacherous fault lines of American culture. Late one spring night, as Driss Guerraoui is walking across a darkened intersection in California, he's killed by a speeding car. Coleman, a detective who is slowly discovering her son's secrets; Anderson, a neighbor trying to reconnect with his family; and the murdered man himself. As the characters—deeply divided by race, religion, and class—tell their stories, connections among them emerge, even as Driss's family confronts its secrets, a town faces its hypocrisies, and love—messy and unpredictable—is born. Multicultural Fiction. 301 pages

Our Missing Hearts By Celeste Ng

"Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in Harvard University's library. Bird knows to not ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve 'American culture' in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird's mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old. Bird has grown up disavowing his mother and her poems; he doesn't know her work or what happened to her, and he knows he shouldn't wonder. But when he receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, he is drawn into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she poured into his head as a child, through the ranks of an underground network of librarians, into the lives of the children who have been taken, and finally to New York City, where a new act of defiance may be the beginning of much-needed change. Fiction. 335 pages. LT

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell identifies the qualities of successful people, posing theories about the cultural, family, and idiosyncratic factors that shape high achievers, in a resource that covers such topics as the secrets of software billionaires, why certain cultures are associated with better academic performance, and why the Beatles earned their fame. Nonfiction. 309 pages

The Overstory by Richard Powers

"An air force loadmaster in the Vietnam War is shot out of the sky, then saved by falling into a banyan. An artist inherits a hundred years of photographic portraits, all of the same doomed American chestnut. A hard-partying undergraduate in the late 1980s electrocutes herself, dies, and is sent back to life by creatures of air and light. A hearing-and speech-impaired scientist discovers that trees are communicating with one another. These four, and five other strangers -- each summoned in different ways by trees -- are brought together in a last and violent stand to save the continent's few remaining acres of virgin forest." Fiction. 502 pages. LT

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in early 1900s Korea with Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family, whose unplanned pregnancy threatens to shame them all. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young tubercular minister offers to marry and bring her to Japan. So begins a sweeping saga of an exceptional family in exile from its homeland and caught in the indifferent arc of history. Through desperate struggles and hard-won triumphs, its members are bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity. Multicultural Fiction. 512 pages

Pancakes in Paris by Craig Carlson

Craig Carlsons' Pancakes in Paris tells his story of opening an American breakfast themed diner in Paris, France. The idea came to Carlson while he was studying abroad in Paris and became nostalgic for American pancakes. The book tells his story of overcoming language barriers, securing funding for financing his business idea, and acquiring all of the ingredients and components necessary to start up a restaurant in an area foreign to him. In 2003, his diner, Breakfast in America opened its doors, and this book retells the journey and provides answers to questions about the many challenges he faced along the way. Biography. 320 pages

The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien

In the Paris Library, Janet Skeslien Charles writes a historical story about the heroic work of librarians during World War II. Set in 1939, protagonist Odile Souchet is a young librarian who has landed a new job working at the American Library in Paris. In 1940, shortly after starting her role, the Nazi Party occupy Paris and establish the Vichy government. The novel details the Library's connection to the public as library staff deal with book confiscations and bannings during the German occupation. Charles also honors the work of librarians like Souchet who risked their lives to provide materials to patrons, both by sending materials to soldiers, as well as by refusing to bar Jewish patrons from reading. Souchet's story is retold in Montana in 1983 when she befriends her teenage neighbor, Lily Jacobsen and together their lives interweave as they form a bond over their love of books and the power of literature. Historical Fiction. 353 pages. LT

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

Eating her birthday cake on her ninth birthday, Rose Edelstein discovers that she has an odd gift: she can literally taste the emotions of whoever prepares her food, giving her unwanted insight into the secret emotional lives of other people. Magical realism in Los Angeles. With plot surprises and interesting characters, this coming-of-age story is both odd and beguiling. Fiction. 292 pages

The Perfume Collector by Kathleen Tessaro

Newlywed Grace Monroe doesn't fit anyone's expectations of a successful 1950s London socialite, least of all her own. When she receives an unexpected inheritance from a complete stranger, Madame Eva d'Orsey, Grace is drawn to uncover the identity of her mysterious benefactor. Weaving through the decades, from 1920s New York to Monte Carlo, Paris, and London, the story Grace uncovers is that of an extraordinary woman who inspired one of Paris's greatest perfumers. Immortalized in three evocative perfumes, Eva d'Orsey's history will transform Grace's life forever, forcing her to choose between the woman she is expected to be and the person she really is. Fiction. 464 pages

Personal History by Katherine Graham

From a sheltered and wealthy childhood (at boarding school she wore the same dirty sweater over and over because she did not know how to do laundry) to marriage to a formidable and unstable husband who takes the reins of her family business to her own independence as one of the most powerful women in the United States, this is a biography of Katherine Graham. The story of her life is framed by the changing role of women and against the political events in Washington and culminates in her involvement in exposing the Watergate scandal. 1998 Pulitzer Prize. Biography & Memoir. 642 pages

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict

Set in the Gilded Age, Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray's *The Personal Librarian* is a historical fiction account of the life of Belle de Costa Greene, a Black female librarian who curated the Pierpont Morgan Library (now the Morgan Library and Museum) in New York City. Based on a true story, the novel details how Greene spent her professional career working with American financier and banker, J.P. Morgan to develop the library's rare book and manuscript collections, all while passing as a white woman. The novel details Greene's experiences of struggling with race, gender, and identity in the early 20th century, while also highlighting her achievements in establishing a renowned collection aimed at being accessible to the public. Historical Fiction. 341 pages. LT

The Plot Against America by Phillip Roth

In this stunning novel of "alternative history" President Franklin Roosevelt is defeated by Charles Lindbergh in the 1940 election and Lindbergh begins a campaign against Jews. In this atmosphere of religious hatred a Jewish family is divided by those who see the final outcome of the intolerance and those who have been persuaded it is in their best interest. This stunning novel, which is often quite funny, balances personal, domestic and national events and challenges the reader to think about what happens when a government limits religious freedom in the name of national interest. Fiction. 391 pages

The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum

Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer Deborah Blum follows New York City's first forensic scientists to discover a fascinating Jazz Age story of chemistry and detection, poison and murder. She draws from highly original research to track the fascinating, perilous days when a pair of forensic scientists, chief medical examiner Charles Norris and toxicologist Alexander Gettler, began their trailblazing chemical detective work, fighting to end an era when untraceable poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Nonfiction. 319 pages

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Doomed by his own self-righteousness, a Baptist minister's move to the Congo with his family becomes a foolhardy and dangerous venture. With its great background detail, excellent characterizations and biting humor, this is both a compelling family saga and a tragic look at Africa. Fiction. 546 pages

The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg

New York Times business reporter Charles Duhigg takes us to the thrilling edge of scientific discoveries that explain why habits exist and how they can be changed. With penetrating intelligence and an ability to distill vast amounts of information into engrossing narratives, he brings to life a whole new understanding of human nature and its potential for transformation. Along the way we learn why some people and companies struggle to change, despite years of trying, while others seem to remake themselves overnight. Nonfiction. 371 pages

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the suit of a snobbish gentleman, as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters. Classic Fiction. 435 pages LT

The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio by Terry Ryan

Introduces Evelyn Ryan, an enterprising woman who kept poverty at bay with wit, poetry, and perfect prose during the "contest era" of the 1950s and 1960s. Standing up to the church, her alcoholic husband, and antiquated ideas about women, Evelyn turned every financial challenge into an opportunity for innovation, all the while raising her six sons and four daughters with the belief that miracles are an everyday occurrence. Evelyn Ryan's story is told by her daughter Terry with an infectious joy that shows how a winning spirit and sense of humor can triumph over adversity every time. Biography & Memoir. 351 pages

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled "quiet," it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society—from van Gogh's sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer. Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* shows how dramatically we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so. Nonfiction. 352 pages

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore

As World War I raged across the globe, hundreds of young women toiled away at the radium-dial factories, where they painted clock faces with a mysterious new substance called radium. Assured by their bosses that the luminous material was safe, the women themselves shone brightly in the dark, covered from head to toe with the glowing dust. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" were considered the luckiest alive--until they began to fall mysteriously ill. As the fatal poison of the radium took hold, they found themselves embroiled in one of America's biggest scandals and a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights. *The Radium Girls* explores the strength of extraordinary women in the face of almost impossible circumstances and the astonishing legacy they left behind. Non-Fiction. 496 pages. LT

Reading Lolita in Tehran by Afar Nafisi

After she resigned from her job as a university professor in Iran, the author invited seven former students to secretly read and discuss great books of Western literature—books that were banned by the government. As the women read and talked they began to share stories of their own lives, the repression they experienced and their small acts of freedom in the face of that repression. Nonfiction. 356 pages

Ready Player One by Ernest Cline

In the year 2044, reality is an ugly place. The only time teenage Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the virtual utopia known as the OASIS. Wade's devoted his life to studying the puzzles hidden within this world's digital confines--puzzles that are based on their creator's obsession with the pop culture of decades past and promise massive power and fortune to whoever can unlock them. But when Wade stumbles upon the first clue, he finds himself beset by players willing to kill to take this ultimate prize. The race is on, and if Wade's going to survive, he'll have to win--and confront the real world he's always been so desperate to escape. Fantasy Fiction. 374 pages. LT

The Red Lotus by Chris Bohjalian

This suspenseful and elegantly plotted thriller is about a young man who goes missing during a bicycle trip in Vietnam. The man's girlfriend, an emergency room doctor, returns to the United States, but begins exploring the mysteries surrounding her boyfriend, including the possibility he lied about his background and that he had strange marks on his hands. With lots of twists and turns and a "right out of the news" storyline about plague and biological warfare, this is an exciting and diverting novel. Fiction. 400 pages LT

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph, and a tribal midwife in Biblical times, assists the women who enter the red tent, the place where they are sequestered during menses and childbirth. Sharing gossip and encouragement, they bring to life the women of the Bible. Historical Fiction. 321 pages

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. Fiction. 360 pages. LT

The Rent Collector by Camron Wright

Sang Ly struggles to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia's largest municipal dump. Under threat of eviction by an embittered old drunk who is charged with collecting rents from the poor of Stung Meanchey, Sang Ly embarks on a desperate journey to save her ailing son from a life of ignorance and poverty. Multicultural Fiction. 271 pages

The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House by Kate Andersen Brower

America's First Families are unknowable in many ways. No one has insight into their true character like the people who serve their meals and make their beds every day. Full of stories and details by turns dramatic, humorous, and heartwarming, *The Residence* reveals daily life in the White House as it is really lived through the voices of the maids, butlers, cooks, florists, doormen, engineers, and others who tend to the needs of the President and First Family. Non-Fiction. 315 pages LT

The Ride of Her Life By Elizabeth Letts

In 1954, Annie Wilkins, a sixty-three-year-old farmer from Maine, embarked on an impossible journey. She had no relatives left, she'd lost her family farm to back taxes, and her doctor had just given her two years to live--but only if she lived restfully. He offered her a spot in the county's charity home. Instead, she decided she wanted to see the Pacific Ocean just once before she died. She bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, loaded up her horse, and headed out from Maine in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. She had no map, no GPS, no phone. But she had her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unflinching belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness. Between 1954 and 1956, Annie trudged through blizzards, forded rivers, climbed mountains, and clung to the narrow shoulder as cars whipped by her at terrifying speeds, she captured the imagination of an apprehensive Cold War America. At a time when small towns were being bypassed by Eisenhower's brand-new interstate highway system, and the reach and impact of television was just beginning to be understood, Annie and her four-footed companions inspired an outpouring of neighborliness in a rapidly changing world. Biography. 336 pages. LT

Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend by Susan Orlean

Allegedly found in the ruins of a bombed-out dog kennel in France during World War I, then brought to Los Angeles by Lee Duncan, the soldier who found and trained him, by 1927 Rin Tin Tin had become Hollywood's number one box-office star. This is a poignant exploration of the enduring bond between humans and animals. It is also a richly textured history of twentieth-century entertainment and entrepreneurship. It spans ninety years and explores everything from the shift in status of dogs from working farmhands to beloved family members, from the birth of obedience training to the evolution of dog breeding, from the rise of Hollywood to the past and present of dogs in war. Non-Fiction. 324 pages LT

Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars by Nathalia Holt

In the 1940s and 50s, when the newly minted Jet Propulsion Laboratory needed quick-thinking mathematicians to calculate velocities and plot trajectories, they didn't turn to male graduates. Rather, they recruited an elite group of young women who, with only pencil, paper, and mathematical prowess, transformed rocket design, helped bring about the first American satellites, and made the exploration of the solar system possible. For the first time, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* tells the stories of these women--known as "human computers"--who broke the boundaries of both gender and science. Based on extensive research and interviews with all the living members of the team, *Rise of the Rocket Girls* offers a unique perspective on the role of women in science: both where we've been, and the far reaches of space to which we're heading. Non-Fiction. 338 pages

Rough Sleepers By Tracy Kidder

When Jim O'Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, the chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? Jim took the job because he felt he couldn't refuse. But that year turned into his life's calling. Tracy Kidder spent five years following Dr. O'Connell and his colleagues as they served their thousands of homeless patients. In this illuminating book we travel with O'Connell as he navigates the city, offering medical care, socks, soup, empathy, humor, and friendship to some of the city's most endangered citizens. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends." Biography. 320 pages

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, 14-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person who destroyed his family. 2012 National Book Award. Fiction. 321 pages

The Rules of Civility by Amor Towles

Set in New York City in 1938, *Rules of Civility* tells the story of a watershed year in the life of an uncompromising 25-year-old named Katey Kontent. Armed with little more than a formidable intellect, a bracing wit, and her own brand of cool nerve, Katey embarks on a journey from a Wall Street secretarial pool through the upper echelons of New York society in search of a brighter future. Fiction. 335 pages

The Samurai's Garden by Gail Tsukiyama

Just as the Japanese are invading China, a young Chinese man with tuberculosis is sent to a small Japanese village to recuperate. His relationships with the locals bring him to a greater wisdom about love, honor and loss. Historical Fiction. 211 pages

The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2014**

World War I is spreading across Europe, and Elizabeth Endicott has volunteered to deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide. In Syria, she becomes friendly with Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. Flash forward to the present, where we meet Laura Petrosian, a novelist living in suburban New York who has never really given her Armenian heritage much thought. But when an old friend calls, she embarks on a journey back through her family's history that reveals a wrenching secret buried for generations. This spellbinding tale travels between Aleppo, Syria in 1915 and Bronxville, New York in 2012—a historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage. Fiction. 299 pages

Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari

100,000 years ago, at least six human species inhabited the earth. Today there is just one. Us. Homo sapiens. In *Sapiens*, Dr Yuval Noah Harari spans the whole of human history, from the very first humans to walk the earth to the radical – and sometimes devastating – breakthroughs of the Cognitive, Agricultural and Scientific Revolutions. Drawing on insights from biology, anthropology, paleontology and economics, he explores how the currents of history have shaped our human societies, the animals and plants around us, and even our personalities. Bold, wide-ranging and provocative, *Sapiens* challenges everything we thought we knew about being human: our thoughts, our actions, our power ... and our future. Nonfiction. 443 pages

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosney

Two stories converge in this remarkable historical novel. In 1942 German occupied Paris Sarah, the daughter of a Jewish family about to be taken by the Nazis, locks her brother in a closet so he is not taken away, but the family wonders if it will be able to return and rescue the young boy. Skipping ahead to 2002 an American journalist, married to a Frenchman, discovers that the apartment where she lives once housed Jews that were deported. When the journalist decides to unravel what happened to the family that once lived there, the history of the boy and the family is discovered. Historical Fiction. 293 pages LT

Savor By Fatima Ali

Fatima Ali won the hearts of viewers as the season fifteen "Fan Favorite" of Bravo's Top Chef. After the taping wrapped and before the shows aired, Fati was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer, which eventually became terminal... The result is this stunning and lyrical ode to the food, family, and countries Fatima loved so much. Written both during Fati's last weeks and posthumously, this deftly woven memoir integrates the perspectives of Fatima at its core, with supporting chapters from her mother Farazeh's perspective. Flashing between past and present, readers will be transported back to Fatima's childhood, unfurling alongside that of her mother, as both were deeply affected by the cultural barriers they faced, shaping the course of their lives. At the same time, food plays an important role throughout, from the rustic stalls of the outdoor markets of Lahore to the kitchen and dining room of Meadowood, the acclaimed 3-Michelin-Star restaurant where Fatima apprenticed. Fati reflects on her life and her identity--as a chef, a daughter, a queer woman--exploring and defining her sexuality, oftentimes butting up against the more conservative and traditional views of those in her native Pakistan. This triumphant memoir is at once an exploration into the sense of wonder that made Fatima so special, and a shining testament to the resilience of the human spirit. It is, at its core, an

exploration into what it means to truly live, a profound and exquisite portrait of a life that will resonate for many years to come"-- Provided by publisher. Memoir. 354 pages

The Secret History by Donna Tartt

Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality their lives are changed profoundly and forever, and they discover how hard it can be to truly live and how easy it is to kill. Fiction. 559 pages

The Secrets Between Us by Thrity Umrigar

"It isn't the words we speak that make us who we are. Or even the deeds we do. It is the secrets buried in our hearts." Poor and illiterate, Bhima had faithfully worked for the Dubash family, an upper-middle-class Parsi household, for more than twenty years. Yet after courageously speaking the truth about a heinous crime perpetrated against her own family, the devoted servant was cruelly fired. The sting of that dismissal was made more painful coming from Sera Dubash, the temperamental employer who had long been Bhima's only confidante. A woman who has endured despair and loss with stoicism, Bhima must now find some other way to support herself and her granddaughter, Maya. A perceptive novel that evokes the complexities of life in modern India and the harsh realities faced by women born without privilege as they struggle to survive. Multicultural Fiction. 357 pages LT

Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

"When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's. It belongs to Johanna Bongor, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28 year old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world. The inspiration couldn't come at a better time for Emsley. With her business failing, an unexpected love turning up in her life, and family secrets unraveling, can she find answers in the past?" Historical Fiction. 351 pages

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

"Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one in the journalism community is more astounded than Monique herself... Regardless of why Evelyn has chosen her to write her biography, Monique is determined to use this opportunity to jumpstart her career. Summoned to Evelyn's Upper East Side apartment, Monique listens as Evelyn unfurls her story: from making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the late 80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way. As Evelyn's life unfolds, revealing a ruthless ambition, an unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love, Monique begins to feel a very a real connection to the actress. But as Evelyn's story catches up with the present, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways." Fiction. 391 pages. LT

1776 by David McCullough

Historian McCullough captures the turbulent and momentous year of 1776 when American and British politicians struggled to reach a compromise, but eventually were led to war. Presenting well-rounded portraits of George Washington and King George III, the author cuts through mythology to address the personalities and motivations of each man. The book also vividly depicts the dismal conditions the soldiers from both sides endured and explains how a ragtag group of Americans won a war against the world's greatest empire. Enthralling and superbly written. Nonfiction. 386 pages

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

This international bestseller is an original and unusual novel that lures the reader into a magical world. Set in 1950s Barcelona, Spain, young Daniel is taken to a secret library by his father and told to choose a book. The chosen book is by an obscure author whose books are being tracked down and burned by a mysterious stranger. Thus young Daniel grows into adulthood transfixed by the book and all that surrounds it. Compelling reading. Fiction. 486 pages

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2009**

Spanning 1937 to 1957, this is the story of sisters Pearl and May whose lives in Shanghai are disrupted by arranged marriages and the Japanese invasion of China and who must immigrate to California. Incarcerated at the Ellis Island-like Angel Island, they then are able to come to Los Angeles Chinatown, where they start new lives. Rich in history and detail, this book is a wonderful exploration of the relationship of two sisters. Historical Fiction. 314 pages

Signal Fires By Dani Shapiro

Late on a summer night in 1985, three teenagers are in a tragic car crash on the quiet, suburban Division Avenue. A girl is killed, and Theo and Sarah Wilf are left with a devastating secret that will haunt their family forever. By the time the Shenkmans move in across the street, the accident has faded into the past, but secrets haunt both families and cause them to become intimately intertwined. When Waldo Shenkman, a brilliant but lonely child, befriends Ben Wilf, who is struggling with his wife's decline from Alzheimer's, he once again entangles the families' fates and sets in motion the spellbinding, unforgettable climax"-- Provided by publisher. Fiction. 217 pages

Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward

Jojo and his toddler sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents, Mam and Pop, and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Leonie is simultaneously tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, which only come to her when she's high; Mam is dying of cancer; and quiet, steady Pop tries to run the household and teach Jojo how to be a man. When the white father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she packs her kids and a friend into her car and sets out across the state for Parchman farm, the Mississippi State Penitentiary, on a journey rife with danger and promise. Fiction. 320 pages LT

Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

One of the world's great anti-war books. Centering on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we are afraid to know. Classic Fiction. 275 pages

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey

Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead, and especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart—he breaking under the weight of the work of the farm; she crumbling from loneliness and despair. In a moment of levity during the season's first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning the snow child is gone, but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees. They come to love this little girl, who calls herself Faina, as their own daughter, but in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear. Fiction. 391 pages LT

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Two 19th century Chinese girls, meant to be friends for life, are imprisoned by rigid rules of conduct, which require that their feet be bound. This engrossing and poignant novel, which takes the girls into womanhood, is based on the author's meticulous research. Historical Fiction. 269 pages

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

Two cultures clash in this extraordinary story of a Hmong (Laotian) immigrant family with a very ill child and the California doctors who try to care for her. The author of this thought-provoking, beautifully woven story never takes sides. Nonfiction. 341 pages

A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler

"It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon. . . ." This is how Abby Whitshank always describes the day she fell in love with Red in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate an indefinable kind of specialness, but like all families, their stories reveal only part of the picture: Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's parents, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to the grandchildren carrying the Whitshank legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four

generations of lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn house that has always been their anchor. Fiction. 384 pages LT

State of Wonder by Ann Patchett

The author of *Bel Canto* returns with a plot-twisting and page-turning novel. Dr. Marina Singh, a research assistant for a pharmaceutical company in Minnesota, is sent to Brazil to locate the remains of a fellow worker, who went into the rainforest to find the reclusive Dr. Annick Swenson, who is researching fertility. The author's magnificent descriptions of the flora and fauna are matched by the creative plot and characters. Masterful storytelling. Fiction. 353 pages

The Status of All Things by Liz Fenton

Kate is a thirty-five-year-old woman who is obsessed with social media. So when her fiancé, Max, breaks things off at their rehearsal dinner—to be with Kate's close friend and coworker, no less—she goes straight to Facebook to share it with the world. But something's changed. Suddenly, Kate's real life starts to mirror whatever she writes in her Facebook status. With all the power at her fingertips, and heartbroken and confused over why Max left her, Kate goes back in time to rewrite their history. Kate's two best friends, Jules and Liam, are the only ones who know the truth. In order to convince them she's really time traveled, Kate offers to use her Facebook status to help improve their lives. But her attempts to help them don't go exactly as planned, and every effort to get Max back seems to only backfire, causing Kate to wonder if it's really possible to change her fate. Fiction. 294 pages

Stealing Home by Eric Nisbaum

"Dodger Stadium is an American icon. The oldest ballpark west of the Mississippi -- and the third oldest overall -- it is a shrine to baseball and an essential feature of the Los Angeles cityscape. Yet the story of how it was built has a dark side. In *Stealing Home*, Eric Nisbaum -- a fluent Spanish-speaker, Dodgers fan, and lifelong Angeleno -- tells the stories of the people whose homes were destroyed, their conflict with the bureaucrats and money men of Los Angeles—notably Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, and a well-intentioned activist named Frank Wilkinson -- and shows how their lives were overrun by the wheel of history. *Stealing Home* is a vibrant work of baseball and urban history, a story about how our ideals can betray us, and the people who pay the price when they do"-- Provided by publisher. Nonfiction. 331 pages

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

Based on more than 40 interviews with Jobs conducted over two years, as well as interviews with more than a hundred family members, friends, adversaries, competitors, and colleagues, Isaacson wrote a riveting story of the roller-coaster life and searingly intense personality of a creative entrepreneur whose passion for perfection and ferocious drive revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing. Biography & Memoir. 630 pages

Stones for Ibarra by Harriet Doerr

Thinking that it will be an idyllic adventure, a San Francisco couple moves to Mexico to re-start a family business. Living without electricity and water in an unfamiliar culture, Sara and Richard experience life in a subtle and surprising way. Great depth of character and setting add to the quiet quality of the book. Fiction. 214 pages

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Charbonnet

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew. Fiction. 260 pages LT

The Story of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio

band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew. Fiction. 253 pages

The Storyteller's Secret by Sejal Badani

Nothing prepares Jaya, a New York journalist, for the heartbreak of her third miscarriage and the slow unraveling of her marriage in its wake. Desperate to assuage her deep anguish, she decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past. Intoxicated by the sights, smells, and sounds she experiences, Jaya becomes an eager student of the culture. But it is Ravi—her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant—who reveals the resilience, struggles, secret love, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation. Through her courageous grandmother's arrestingly romantic and heart-wrenching story, Jaya discovers the legacy bequeathed to her and a strength that, until now, she never knew was possible. Multicultural Fiction. 400 pages

The Sun Down Motel by Simone St. James

Things go bump in the night with this supernatural thriller. Viv Delaney, on her way from Chicago to New York City, stops at the Sun Down Motel and then takes a job as a clerk. She notices that there are odd things about the motel (doors that do not close and burning odors) and wonders what happened to those young women who have disappeared. Viv herself disappears and now years later her niece is trying to track down what happened. For horror fans. Fiction. 352 pages LT

The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen

It is April 1975, and Saigon is in chaos. At his villa, a general of the South Vietnamese army is drinking whiskey and, with the help of his trusted captain, drawing up a list of those who will be given passage aboard the last flights out of the country. The general and his compatriots start a new life in Los Angeles, unaware that one among their number, the captain, is secretly observing and reporting on the group to a higher-up in the Viet Cong. The Sympathizer is the story of this captain: a man brought up by an absent French father and a poor Vietnamese mother, a man who went to university in America, but returned to Vietnam to fight for the Communist cause. A gripping spy novel, an astute exploration of extreme politics, and a moving love story, The Sympathizer explores a life between two worlds and examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in literature, film, and the wars we fight today. 2016 Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction. Historical Fiction. 371 pages LT

Table for 9: Supreme Court Food Traditions & Recipes By Clare Cushman

Food traditions have always been important at the Supreme Court as the Justices have purposefully sought occasions to break bread together to reinforce cordiality and cooperation. This book provides a fascinating glimpse into the culinary customs at the Court with behind-the-scenes photos and stories of the Justices eating at tables hidden behind the bench in the Courtroom; lunching together in their private dining room; hosting welcome and farewell dinners for each other in their homes, at the Court or on the yacht *Sequoia*; sharing breakfast with law clerks in the cafeteria; and being invited by the President to the White House. It also features recipes associated with the Justices and their families, from John Marshall's *Quoit Club Punch* to Mrs. Neil M. Gorsuch's *English Marmalade*, and reveals the culinary predilections and regional food traditions of individual Justices. Table for 9 includes 43 recipes, and more than 100 photos, letters and artifacts, including the painted tin ammunition box from the Civil War Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. used to bring his lunch to the Court. Non-Fiction. 164 pages.

Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Gregory Boyle

As a pastor working in a neighborhood with the highest concentration of murderous gang activity in Los Angeles, Gregory Boyle created Homeboy Industries nearly 20 years ago as an organization to provide jobs, job training, and encouragement so that young people could work together and learn the mutual respect that comes from collaboration. This collection presents parables about kinship and the sacredness of life drawn from Boyle's years of working with gangs. Nonfiction. 217 pages

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See

In a remote Chinese mountain village, Li-yan and her family align their lives around the farming of tea. Life goes on as it has for generations--until a stranger appears, bringing the modern world to the lives of the Akha people. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, begins to reject customs that shaped her early life. When she has a baby out of wedlock, she leaves her near an orphanage. While Li-yan leaves her village for an education, a business, and city life, her daughter, Haley, is raised in California by loving adoptive

parents. Haley wonders about her origins and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. Multicultural Fiction. 371 pages

Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt

There's only one person who has ever truly understood 14-year-old June Elbus, and that's her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can only be herself in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life—someone who will help her to heal, and to question what she thinks she knows about Finn, her family, and even her own heart. Fiction. 360 pages

Ten Percent Thief by Lavanya Lakshminarayan

A bold, biting satirical near-future mosaic novel about a city run along 'meritocratic' lines, the injustice it creates, and the revolution that will destroy it. We are the future of the human race. Welcome to Apex City, formerly Bangalore. Here, technology is the key to survival, productivity is power, and even the self must be engineered, for the only noble goal in life: success. Everything is decided by the mathematically perfect Bell Curve. The system has no flaws, and cannot be questioned. Until a single daring theft sets events in motion that will change the city forever." Science Fiction. 363 pages

Testaments by Margaret Atwood

When the van door slammed on Offred's future at the end of *The Handmaid's Tale*, readers had no way of telling what lay ahead for her—freedom, prison or death. With *The Testaments*, the wait is over. Margaret Atwood's sequel picks up the story more than fifteen years after Offred stepped into the unknown, with the explosive testaments of three female narrators from Gilead. In this brilliant sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, acclaimed author Margaret Atwood answers the questions that have tantalized readers for decades. "Dear Readers: Everything you've ever asked me about Gilead and its inner workings is the inspiration for this book. Well, almost everything! The other inspiration is the world we've been living in." --Margaret Atwood. Science Fiction. 419 pages LT

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

Janie Crawford tells the story of her life in a series of flashbacks, which she relates to her friend Phoebe. Sharing the experiences of an African American woman in the early 1900s, Janie describes her quest for fulfillment. The author, a prominent member of the Harlem Renaissance, pioneered the use of dialect long before it was used in *The Help*. Classic Fiction. 286 pages

There, There by Tommy Orange

Follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism. Multicultural Fiction. 400 pages LT

They Called Us Enemy by George Takei

This graphic novel illustrates the life of Japanese American author and activist George Takei and documents his story of growing up in a Japanese internment camp in America. The memoir recounts the mistreatment and racism that Takei and his family experienced living as second-class citizens after the result of World War II. In this touching piece, Takei describes how his parents instilled happiness and hope in his upbringing with uplifting moments that clash against the government hysteria that they were experiencing in the political climate. He describes channeling his childhood trauma into bettering the future of American democracy through participation in political events. Memoir. 208 pages

The 33: Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in the Chilean Mine, and the Miracle That Set Them Free by Hector Tobar

When the San José mine collapsed outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, it trapped thirty-three miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for a record-breaking sixty-nine days. After the disaster, Pulitzer Prize-

winning journalist Héctor Tobar received exclusive access to the miners and their tales, and in *Deep Down Dark*, he brings them to haunting, visceral life. We learn what it was like to be imprisoned inside a mountain, understand the horror of being slowly consumed by hunger, and experience the awe of working in such a place—one filled with danger and that often felt alive. A masterwork of narrative journalism and a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit, *Deep Down Dark* captures the profound ways in which the lives of everyone involved in the catastrophe were forever changed. Nonfiction. 336 pages

This is Where I Leave You by Jonathan Tropper

The death of Judd Foxman's father marks the first time that the entire Foxman family—including Judd's mother, brothers, and sister—have been together in years. Conspicuously absent: Judd's wife, Jen, whose 14-month affair with Judd's radio-shock-jock boss has recently become painfully public. Simultaneously mourning the death of his father and the demise of his marriage, Judd joins the rest of the Foxmans as they reluctantly submit to their patriarch's dying request: to spend the seven days following the funeral together. In the same house. Like a family. Fiction. 339 pages

To Capture What We Cannot Keep by Beatrice Colin

In February 1887, Caitriona Wallace and Émile Nougier meet in a hot air balloon, floating high above Paris, France—a moment of pure possibility. But back on firm ground, their vastly different social strata become clear. Cait is a widow who because of her precarious financial situation is forced to chaperone two wealthy Scottish charges. Émile is expected to take on the bourgeois stability of his family's business and choose a suitable wife. As the Eiffel Tower rises, a marvel of steel and air and light, the subject of extreme controversy and a symbol of the future, Cait and Émile must decide what their love is worth. Raises probing questions about a woman's place in that world, the overarching reach of class distinctions, and the sacrifices love requires of us all. Historical Fiction. 289 pages LT

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus—three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up. 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Classic Fiction. 336 pages LT

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

"In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew. Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart." Fiction. 309 pages. LT

The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2018**

The story of illegal aliens in California, told through the eyes of two very different couples, one well-off Anglos, the other illegal Mexicans living in a canyon. The novel chronicles their relationship against the background of growing hostility between immigrants and natives. Fiction. 355 pages

A Touch of Stardust by Kate Alcott

When Julie Crawford leaves Fort Wayne, Indiana, for Hollywood, she never imagines she'll cross paths with fellow Hoosier Carole Lombard. The only job Julie's able to find is one in the studio publicity office of the notoriously demanding producer David O. Selznick, who is busy burning through directors, writers, and money as he films *Gone with the Wind*. When Lombard hires her as an assistant, and invites her into the glamorous world she shares with still-married Clark Gable, Julie must fend off the overly curious reporters, hoping to prevent details about the affair from slipping out. Historical Fiction. 296 pages

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Considered very frank when published more than 50 years ago, this story of a girl growing up in the squalor of turn-of-the-century New York is now considered a classic. Francie Nolan, a dreamer like her father and practical like her mother, is like a tree that grows out of the cement and survives the odds. Gentle and memorable, this book appeals to adults and teens. Classic Fiction. 493 pages LT

Turn of Mind by Alice LaPlante – **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2011**

Once a brilliant orthopedic surgeon who specialized in hands, Dr. Jennifer White retired when she started experiencing the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Now she narrates her own story, sometimes with the precision of her former career and sometimes through the prism of her unreliable mind. When her best friend turns up murdered, with several fingers surgically removed, Dr. White is the prime suspect. The suspense develops in this unusual and page-turning mystery. Fiction. 307 pages

The Tuscan Child by Rhys Bowen

In 1944, British bomber pilot Hugo Langley parachuted from his stricken plane into the verdant fields of German-occupied Tuscany. Badly wounded, he found refuge in a ruined monastery and in the arms of Sofia Bartoli. But the love that kindled between them was shaken by an irreversible betrayal. Nearly thirty years later, Hugo's estranged daughter, Joanna, has returned home to the English countryside to arrange her father's funeral. Among his personal effects is an unopened letter addressed to Sofia. In it is a startling revelation. Still dealing with the emotional wounds of her own personal trauma, Joanna embarks on a healing journey to Tuscany to understand her father's history—and maybe come to understand herself as well. Joanna soon discovers that some would prefer the past be left undisturbed, but she has come too far to let go of her father's secrets now... Historical Fiction. 336 pages LT

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett

A novella that celebrates the pleasure of reading. When the Queen in pursuit of her wandering corgis stumbles upon a mobile library, she feels duty bound to borrow a book. Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word. Fiction. 120 pages

The Vanishing Half by Britt Bennett

Spanning half a century, from the 1940s to the 1990's, this novel is about twin sisters Desiree and Stella Vignes who were raised in a fictional Louisiana town that is home to light-skinned African Americans who only marry people who look like them. Light skin does not save the sisters from having their father lynched by white people or their mother from working as a maid. As the sisters grow older they realize they cannot stay in their home town and run off to New Orleans. Desiree decides to pass for being white and Stella decides to marry the darkest man she can find. One sister moves to Los Angeles, marries a man who knows nothing about her past and has a white child and the other sister returns home with her dark child. Desiree and Stella's children eventually meet and try to put together the pieces of their mothers' lives. Fiction. 352 pages LT

Victory with Valor by Barbara Robison

Carrie Catt Chapman was a leading suffragist in the United States who played a key role in both speaking out and lobbying for the 19th Amendment, which allowed women to vote. Long fascinated by her relative Catt, the author decided to fictionalize Catt's life but keep the facts and historical personalities of the Women's Suffrage Movement. The book is very detailed and offers an up close description of the hard and often strategic work of obtaining the right to vote. The book was published in 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Historical Fiction. 388 pages

The Wager: a Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder By David Grann

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They were survivors of His Majesty's Ship the Wager, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 on a secret mission during an imperial war with Spain. While the Wager had been chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon known as "the prize of all the oceans," it had wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing 2500 miles of storm-wracked seas... This boat contained just three castaways, and they had a very different story to tell... It became clear that while stranded on the island the crew had fallen into anarchy, with warring factions fighting for dominion over the barren wilderness. As accusations of treachery and murder

flew, the Admiralty convened a court martial to determine who was telling the truth. The stakes were life-and-death--for whomever the court found guilty could hang". Non-Fiction. 329 pages. LT

Waiting by Ha Jin

Reflecting the changes in Chinese communism from the '60s to the '80s, the novel focuses on Lin Kong, a military doctor who agrees, as his mother is dying, to an arranged marriage. His bride, Shuyu, turns out to be a country woman who looks far older than her 26 years and who has, to Lin's great embarrassment, lotus (bound) feet. While Shuyu remains at Lin's family home in Goose Village, nursing first his mother and then his ailing father, and bearing Lin a daughter, Lin lives far away in an army hospital compound, visiting only once a year. Caught in a loveless marriage, Lin is attracted to a nurse, Manna Wu, an attachment forbidden by communist strictures. According to local Party rules, Lin cannot divorce his wife without her permission until they have been separated for 18 years. 1999 National Book Award Winner; 2000 PEN/Faulkner Winner; 2000 Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Fiction. 340 pages

Water from My Heart by Charles Martin

Charlie Finn had to grow up fast, living alone by age sixteen. Highly intelligent, he earned a life-changing scholarship to Harvard, where he learned how to survive and thrive on the outskirts of privileged society. That skill served him well in the cutthroat business world, as it does in more lucrative but dangerous ventures he now operates off the coast of Miami. Charlie tries to separate relationships from work. But when his choices produce devastating consequences, he sets out to right wrongs, traveling to Central America where he will meet those who have paid for his actions, including a woman and her young daughter. Fiction. 366 pages LT

The Water Is Wide by Pat Conroy

The well-known author's second book is an autobiographical account of his experiences as a teacher on a small impoverished island off the coast of South Carolina. Teaching students who have never even heard of George Washington, Conroy optimistically reaches out to give them a glimpse into a wider world. This is a funny and touching book. Biography & Memoir. 294 pages

West With Giraffes by Lynda Ruthledge

"Few true friends have I known and two were giraffes ... ' Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. But when he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling the unforgettable experience he cannot take to his grave. It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes. Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late." Historical Fiction. 356 pages. LT

What You Are Looking For is In the Library by Michiko Aoyama

"What are you looking for? So asks Tokyo's most enigmatic librarian. For Sayuri Komachi is able to sense exactly what each visitor to her library is searching for and provide just the book recommendation to help them find it. A restless retail assistant looks to gain new skills, a mother tries to overcome demotion at work after maternity leave, a conscientious accountant yearns to open an antique store, a recently retired salaryman searches for newfound purpose. In Komachi's unique book recommendations they will find just what they need to achieve their dreams." Fiction. 300 pages. LT

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. And just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality. 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? Memoir. 256 pages LT

When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka -- **ONE BOOK / ONE GLENDALE 2007**

A Japanese American family is forced to leave their Berkeley home during World War II and is incarcerated in a Utah internment camp. Sparsely told and modest in length, the story is related by each of the four family members. Historical Fiction. 144 pages

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens. Fiction. 384 pages LT

White Oleander by Janet Fitch

Twelve-year-old Astrid, whose free-spirited mother is convicted of murder, is forced to become a foster child in three very different Los Angeles homes. With sensitive characterizations and spot-on locale descriptions, this is also a very provocative portrait of people in need. Fiction. 446 pages

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West by Gregory Maguire

This magical story of the Land of Oz, before and up to the time Dorothy arrives, tells the story of Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West. Born with green skin and huge teeth, she turns out to be a character we never knew, one with spirit, panache and intelligence. Fiction. Fantasy. 409 pages

The Windfall by Diksha Basu

For the past thirty years, Mr. and Mrs. Jha's lives have been defined by cramped spaces, cut corners, gossiping neighbors, and the small dramas of stolen yoga pants and stale marriages. They thought they'd settled comfortably into their golden years, pleased with their son's acceptance into an American business school. But then Mr. Jha comes into an enormous and unexpected sum of money, and moves his wife from their housing complex in East Delhi to the super-rich side of town, where he becomes eager to fit in as a man of status: skinny ties, hired guards, shoe-polishing machines, and all. Illuminates with warmth and heart the precariousness of social status, the fragility of pride, and, above all, the human drive to build and share a home. Even the rich, it turns out, need to belong somewhere. Multicultural Fiction. 318 pages LT

Winter Counts by David Heska Wanbli Weiden

Virgil Wounded Horse is the local enforcer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When justice is denied by the American legal system or the tribal council, Virgil is hired to deliver his own punishment, the kind that's hard to forget. But when heroin makes its way into the reservation and finds Virgil's nephew, his vigilantism suddenly becomes personal. He enlists the help of his ex-girlfriend and sets out to learn where the drugs are coming from, and how to make them stop. Mystery. 336 pages

A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell

"The never-before-told story of one woman's heroism that changed the course of the Second World War. In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: "She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her." This spy was Virginia Hall, a young American woman--rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg--who talked her way into the spy organization dubbed Churchill's "ministry of ungentlemanly warfare," and, before the United States had even entered the war, became the first woman to deploy to occupied France. Virginia Hall was one of the greatest spies in American history, yet her story remains untold. Just as she did in *Clementine*, Sonia Purnell uncovers the captivating story of a powerful, influential, yet shockingly overlooked heroine of the Second World War. At a time when sending female secret agents into enemy territory was still strictly forbidden, Virginia Hall came to be known as the "Madonna of the Resistance," coordinating a network of spies to blow up bridges, report on German troop movements, arrange equipment drops for Resistance agents, and recruit and train guerilla fighters. Even as her face covered WANTED posters throughout Europe, Virginia refused order after order to evacuate. She finally escaped with

her life in a grueling hike over the Pyrenees into Spain, her cover blown, and her associates all imprisoned or executed. But, adamant that she had "more lives to save," she dove back in as soon as she could, organizing forces to sabotage enemy lines and back up Allied forces landing on Normandy beaches. Told with Purnell's signature insight and novelistic panache, *A Woman of No Importance* is the breathtaking story of how one woman's fierce persistence helped win the war" Biography. 352 pages. LT

The Women by Kristin Hannah

"When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America." Fiction. 471 pages. LT

The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck

Set at the end of World War II, in a crumbling Bavarian castle that once played host to all of German high society, a powerful and propulsive story of three widows whose lives and fates become intertwined—an affecting, shocking, and ultimately redemptive novel. Historical Fiction. 368 pages LT

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. The book begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. Fiction. Children's. 315 pages

World According to Fannie Davis by Bridgett M. Davis

The World According to Fannie Davis is Bridgett Davis's unforgettable coming of age in a family with a secret. The upper middle class splendor in which she and her siblings so happily lived was made possible by her mother's business in the Numbers, the informal lottery that powered African American communities across the United States. A poignant and revealing examination of how one family lifted itself out of poverty and into a completely different life, for good and bad, *The World According to Fannie Davis* introduces us to an unforgettable matriarch, and her daughter, whose ways of understanding still resonate today. Biography and Memoir. 308 pages

The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman

Berlin. Hanni Kohn knows she must send her twelve-year-old daughter away to save her from the Nazi regime. Ettie, the daughter of a renowned rabbi, offers hope of salvation when she creates a mystical Jewish creature, a rare and unusual golem, who is sworn to protect Lea. Once Ava is brought to life, she and Lea and Ettie become eternally entwined, their paths fated to cross, their fortunes linked. In Paris Lea meets her soulmate. From there she travels to a convent in western France known for its silver roses; then a school in a mountaintop village where three thousand Jews were saved. Meanwhile, Ettie is in hiding, waiting to become the fighter she's destined to be. Historical Fiction. 372 pages. LT

The Year of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion

Writers Joan Didion and her husband John Gregory Dunne were a couple well known for their innovative books and solid marriage. When Dunne died of a heart attack, just after the two had returned from the hospital where their only child was lying in a coma, Didion tries to make sense of a world where little makes sense. This memoir is how one woman tries to get a grip on the unthinkable. 2005 National Book Award. Biography & Memoir. 227 pages LT

The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom

Set in East New Orleans, about 7 miles from the famed French Quarter, a family's yellow house was home to a mother, married twice, and a family of 12 children. In this memoir the youngest daughter tells the story of the house, purchased with insurance after the death of her mother's first husband. Looking nice on the outside the

house was decrepit on the interior. Without doors on the cabinets, plumbing that did not work and full of termites, the house was witness to the lives of family members and the author chronicles their stories and the story of the region's poor economy and institutional racism. When Hurricane Katrina destroys the house brothers and sisters are relocated around the country the author must reckon with the idea whether she must define herself by that place from which she came. The memoir celebrates family bonds, but the fury over the injustices they suffered is always near the surface. Biography and Memoir. 400 pages

Yinka, Where is Your Husband? by Lizzie Damilola Blackburn

Meet Yinka: a 30-something, Oxford educated, British Nigerian woman with a well-paid job, good friends, and a mother whose constant refrain is " Yinka, where is your husband?" Yinka Nigerian aunties frequently pray for her delivery from singledom, her girlfriends think she's too traditional (she's saving herself for marriage!), her sister thinks she needs to get over her ex already, and the men in her life...well, that's a whole other story. But Yinka herself has always believed that true love will find her when the time is right. Still, when her cousin gets engaged, Yinka commences Operation Find A Date for Rachel's Wedding. Aided by a spreadsheet and her best friend, Yinka is determined to succeed. Will Yinka find herself a husband? And what if the thing she really needs to find is herself?". Fiction. 373 pages. LT

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman

Cool-headed and clever Warsaw Zookeeper Jan Zabinski and his wife Antonina sheltered Jews and war resisters by hiding them in bombed out animal cages, and in their own house, in World War II Poland. Antonina's quiet, but knowing, personality and great kinship with animals highlight this marvelous true story. Sympathetic and quietly humorous, this marvelous work is a special treat for animal lovers. Nonfiction. 368 pages