

# BOOK CLUB COLLECTION

## Fiction

### ***The Age of Innocence* – Edith Wharton** – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

*265 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, DVD, guide in penguin.com*

Edith Wharton's most famous novel, written immediately after the end of the First World War, is a brilliantly realized anatomy of New York society in the 1870s. The charming Newland Archer is content to live within its constraints until he meets Ellen Olenska, whose arrival threatens his impending marriage as well as his comfortable future. (publisher)

### ***The Alchemist* – Paulo Coelho**

*177 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in book*

The charming tale of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world, is compelling in its own right, but gains resonance through the many lessons Santiago learns during his adventures. He journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific wisdom as well, about becoming self-empowered, overcoming depression, and believing in dreams. (PW)

### ***Alias Grace* – Margaret Atwood**

*468 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A finalist for the Booker Prize, a national best-seller by the author of *The Handmaid's Tale* tells the story of an enigmatic Victorian woman accused of a double murder and the psychologist who treats her.

### ***All the Bright Places*- Jennifer Niven**

*388 pages, also available eBook, cd book, Playaway, eAudio*

Theodore Finch is fascinated by death, and he constantly thinks of ways he might kill himself. But each time, something good, no matter how small, stops him. Violet Markey lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister's recent death. When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, it's unclear who saves whom. And when they pair up on a project to discover the "natural wonders" of their state, both Finch and Violet make more important discoveries: It's only with Violet that Finch can be himself--a weird, funny, live-out-loud guy who's not such a freak after all. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, Finch's begins to shrink.

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

*367 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Sookie begins a search for answers that takes her to California, the Midwest, and back in time, to the 1940s, when an irrepressible woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family's filling station. Soon truck drivers are changing their routes to fill up at the All-Girl Filling Station. Then, Fritzi sees an opportunity for an even more groundbreaking adventure. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls at the All-Girl Filling Station, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life. (publisher)

***All the Truth That's in Me* – Julie Gardner Berry**

288 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book

Four years ago, Judith and her best friend disappeared from their small town of Roswell Station. Two years ago, only Judith returned, permanently mutilated, reviled and ignored by those who were once her friends and family. Unable to speak, Judith lives like a ghost in her own home, silently pouring out her thoughts to the boy who's owned her heart as long as she can remember--even if he doesn't know it--her childhood friend, Lucas. But when Roswell Station is attacked, long-buried secrets come to light, and Judith is forced to choose: continue to live in silence, or recover her voice, even if it means changing her world, and the lives around her, forever.

***Americanah*- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**-Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction

588 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in randomhouse.com

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful, self-assured Ifemelu heads for America, where despite her academic success, she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time. Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had hoped to join her, but with post-9/11 America closed to him, he instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. Fifteen years later, they reunite in a newly democratic Nigeria, and reignite their passion for each other and for their homeland. (publisher)

***Angle of Repose* – Wallace Stegner** – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

557 pages, also available- eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in penguin.com

The classic novel traces the lives and fortunes of four generations of one family as they attempt to build a life for themselves in the American West.

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

321 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com

Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.

***As the Poppies Bloomed*-Maral Boyadjian**

281 pages, also available eBook, eAudio

It is 1913 and late summer in the Ottoman Empire. The sun rises, full and golden, atop a lush, centuries-old village tucked into the highlands where the blood-red poppies bloom. Outside the village leader's home, the sound of voices carries past the grapevines to the lane where Anno, his youngest daughter, slips out unseen. She heads to a secret meeting place. She forgets that enemies surround her village. She forgets that her father meets each day with trepidation. She knows only the love she has for Daron, who waits for her as she hastens to him, once again breaking the ancient rules of courtship. Anno and Daron wish for nothing more than marriage and a better day alongside their neighbors, but neither is prepared for the dark, dangerous secret that Daron's father keeps or the upheaval that will soon envelop their village, their land, and their hearts.

***Astrid & Veronika* – Linda Olsson**

259 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, guide in book

A lyrical study of friendship, love, and loss chronicles the evolving relationship between Veronika, a young New Zealand writer struggling with a recent tragedy and trying to finish her novel, and Astrid, an older, reclusive neighbor who offers comfort in the form of companionship and home-cooked meals, in a debut novel set against the backdrop of small-town Sweden.

***Atonement* – Ian McEwan**

351 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com

The Booker Prize-winning author of *Amsterdam* creates a richly textured novel, set in 1935 England that follows thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis, who witnesses an event involving her sister Cecilia and her childhood friend Robbie Turner, as she becomes the victim of her own imagination, which tears her family apart and leads her on a lifelong search of truth and absolution.

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

*434 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in melaniebenjamin.com*

When Anne Morrow, a shy college senior with hidden literary aspirations, travels to Mexico City to spend Christmas with her family, she meets Colonel Charles Lindbergh, fresh off his celebrated 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. Enthralled by Charles's assurance and fame, Anne is certain the aviator has scarcely noticed her. But she is wrong. Charles sees in Anne a kindred spirit, a fellow adventurer, and her world will be changed forever. The two marry in a headline-making wedding. In the years that follow, Anne becomes the first licensed female glider pilot in the United States. But despite this and other major achievements, she is viewed merely as the aviator's wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring 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. (publisher)

***The Bean Trees* – Barbara Kingsolver**

*246 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Taylor Greer leaves her poverty-stricken life in Kentucky and heads west, picking up an abandoned Native American baby girl whom she names Turtle and finds a new home in Tucson.

***The Bear and the Nightingale*- Katherine Arden**

*322 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, large print*

Winter lasts most of the year at the edge of the Russian wilderness, and in the long nights, Vasilisa and her siblings love to gather by the fire to listen to their nurse's fairy tales. Above all, Vasya loves the story of Frost, the blue-eyed winter demon. Wise Russians fear him, for he claims unwary souls, and they honor the spirits that protect their homes from evil. Then Vasya's widowed father brings home a new wife from Moscow. Fiercely devout, Vasya's stepmother forbids her family from honoring their household spirits, but Vasya fears what this may bring. And indeed, misfortune begins to stalk the village. But Vasya's stepmother only grows harsher, determined to remake the village to her liking and to groom her rebellious stepdaughter for marriage or a convent. As the village's defenses weaken and evil from the forest creeps nearer, Vasilisa must call upon dangerous gifts she has long concealed--to protect her family from a threat sprung to life from her nurse's most frightening tales.

***Bel Canto* – Ann Patchett**

*318 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

***Beneath a Marble Sky* – John Shors**

*344 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in book*

In seventeenth-century Hindustan, the reigning emperor, grieving over the death of his beloved wife, commissions the construction of the Taj Mahal as a monument to their lasting relationship, in an account narrated by Princess Jahanara, the couple's daughter, who embarks on a love affair with the architect of the landmark. John Shors, a Colorado College graduate, is available for discussion for your meeting via johnshors.com.

***Betrayed*-Donnell Bell**

*264 pages, also available-eBook, guide in donnellannbell.com*

When Oklahoma City resident, Irene Turner learns the incomprehensible, that the stillborn baby she delivered 28-years earlier is alive, she takes the evidence to where her daughter now lives—Denver Colorado. Detective Nate Paxton can't believe what Irene Turner shows him. Kinsey Masters, a world-class athlete, raised by a prominent Denver family, an unattainable woman he's known and loved for years, was stolen at birth. Irene Turner, Nate Paxton, and Kinsey Masters are united in a sordid conspiracy. But, it's who the conspirators turn out to be that will leave the trio shaken and in disbelief. Irene's foundation of trust will be ripped from its core, as kidnapping, murder, and a thirst for revenge lead her to learn she's been *betrayed*. (author) Please contact this Colorado Springs author via her website with requests to attend your meetings.

**Big Stone Gap – Adriana Trigiani**

*272 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Town pharmacist and local spinster Ave Maria has been keeping the secrets of Stone Gap for a long time, but now a skeleton is about to tumble from her own family closet. Overflowing with humor and compassion, Big Stone Gap is the enchanting story of a woman who thinks life has passed her by, only to learn that the best is yet to come. Set in Virginia's Appalachian mountains, the novel follows Ave Maria Mulligan on her quest to discover just who she is and what she wants out of life. (Book Page)

**Bless Me, Ultima – Rudolfo Anaya**

*290 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in Novelist*

A lyrical coming-of-age story that The New York Times called "probably the best-known and most-respected contemporary Chicano fiction," this novel explores the complex relationship between medicine and belief.

**Blessings – Anna Quindlen**

*226 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

When a teenage couple abandons their baby at the gate of the estate owned by Lydia Blessing, Skip Cuddy, the estate caretaker, decides to raise the child himself, a decision that has a profound effect on the lives of everyone in the community.

**Blue Diary – Alice Hoffman**

*303 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

The revelation of a dark secret about Ethan Ford's true identity and his past threatens to turn a small Massachusetts town upside down as the truth shatters Monroe's small-town peace and tests the bonds between family and friends.

**The Book Thief – Markus Zusak**

*552 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

**Booked to Die – John Dunning**

*394 pages, also available-eBook, OneClick eAudio, no guide*

Denver homicide detective Cliff Janeway may not always play by the book, but he is an avid collector of rare and first editions. After a local bookscout is killed on his turf, Janeway would like nothing better than to rearrange the suspect's spine. But the suspect, local lowlife Jackie Newton, is a master at eluding the law, and Janeway's wrathful brand of off-duty justice costs him his badge. Turning to his lifelong passion, Janeway opens a small bookshop -- all the while searching for evidence to put Newton away. But when prized volumes in a highly sought-after collection begin to appear, so do dead bodies. Now, Janeway's life is about to start a precarious new chapter as he attempts to find out who's dealing death along with vintage Chandlers and Twains. (publisher)

**Broken for You – Stephanie Kallos**

*371 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Two very different women, each with her own dark secrets – wealthy, reclusive septuagenarian Margaret Hughes, living alone with her vast collection of priceless antiques, and Wanda Schultz, a brokenhearted young woman in search of her wayward boyfriend – find new meaning and redemption in their growing friendship with each other.

**Calling Invisible Women – Jeanne Ray**

*225 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Feeling unattractive and unappreciated as she enters her fifties, wife and mother Clover wakes up one morning and discovers that she has actually become invisible, a condition that goes unnoticed by her family.

***The Cellist of Sarajevo* – Steven Galloway – 2013 APPR title**

235 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in [uspenguingroup.com](http://uspenguingroup.com)

While a cellist plays at the site of a mortar attack to commemorate the deaths of twenty-two friends and neighbors, two other men set out in search of bread and water to keep themselves alive, and a woman sniper secretly protects the life of the cellist as her army becomes increasingly threatening.

***The Chaperone* – Laura Moriarty**

406 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](http://readinggroupguides.com)

Accompanying a future famous actress, Louise Brooks, from her Wichita home to New York, chaperone Cora Carlisle shares a life-changing five-week period with her ambitious teenage charge during which she discovers the promise of the twentieth century and her own purpose in life.

***Chasing Sylvia Beach* – Cynthia Morris**

382 pages, guide in [chasingsylviabeach.com](http://chasingsylviabeach.com)

Lily Heller's affaire de coeur with Paris has existed almost as long as her love for books. Smitten with the city's literary Golden Age of the twenties, the young bookstore clerk from Denver dreams of a life like that of bold expatriate Sylvia Beach, who founded the famed Shakespeare and Company bookshop and became her own literary legend. An impromptu trip to the City of Light carries Lily further than her imagination ever took her. Arriving unexpectedly in 1937 Paris—penniless, friendless, and clueless—Lily must rely on her wobbly French and her wits. But a mysterious invitation offers her entrée into the glittering inner circle of Sylvia Beach herself. This clue leads her further into the complex and dangerous Paris on the brink of war—and it's not the friendly literary community she had imagined. In her quest to return home, Lily finds herself enmeshed in an undercover league of time-traveling bibliophiles. Charged with a daunting task, along the way Lily falls for a gallant young Frenchman, discusses the art of writing with Ernest Hemingway and Gertrude Stein, and runs afoul of a dashing Nazi agent. In order to escape unscathed, Lily must make choices that force her to reconcile her past and that may revise literary history forever. (author) Please contact this Colorado author via the above website for possible book club visits.

***Chihuahua of the Baskervilles* – Esri Allbritten**

289 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [esriallbritten.com](http://esriallbritten.com)

Charlotte Baskerville is the founder of Petey's Closet, a clothing catalog for small dogs. When the glowing form of Charlotte's dead Chihuahua appears, the staff of *Tripping Magazine* investigates. Is it a ghost, or someone teaching a dead dog new tricks – like murder? *Tripping Magazine* is a low-budget travel rag covering destinations of supposedly paranormal interest. Charlotte represents the perfect story – not only is she haunted, but she lives in Manitou Springs, Colorado, home of the Emma Crawford Memorial Coffin Race and other macabre entertainments. *Tripping's* three-person staff — Angus MacGregor (editor and opportunist), Michael Abernathy (skeptic and wannabe novelist) and Suki Oota (highly sexed photographer) – goes to Manitou Springs, where the ghost howls advice and spells out threats in tiny paw prints. Is it real, or the creation of someone who wants the Baskerville fortune, over Charlotte's dead body? (publisher) Contact this Colorado author for visits via her website.

***Christmas Days: 12 Stories and 12 Feasts for 12 Days*- Jeanette Winterson**

292 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio

For years Jeanette Winterson has loved writing a new story at Christmas time and here she brings together twelve of her brilliantly imaginative, funny and bold tales, along with twelve delicious recipes for the Twelve Days of Christmas. These tales give the reader a portal into the spirit of the season, where time slows down and magic starts to happen. From jovial spirits to a donkey with a golden nose, a haunted house to a SnowMama, Winterson's innovative stories encompass the childlike and spooky wonder of Christmas. Perfect for reading by the fire with loved ones, or while traveling home for the holidays. Enjoy the season of peace and goodwill, mystery, and a little bit of magic courtesy of one of our most fearless and accomplished writers.

***City of Tranquil Light*– Bo Caldwell**

287 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book

Will Kiehn is seemingly destined for life as a humble farmer in the Midwest when, having felt a call from God, he travels to the vast North China Plain in the early twentieth-century. There he is surprised by love and weds a strong and determined fellow Mennonite missionary, Katherine. They soon find themselves witnesses to the crumbling of a more than two-thousand-year-old dynasty that plunges the country into decades of civil war. As the couple works to improve the lives of the people of Kuang P'ing Ch'eng, City of Tranquil Light, a place they come to love and face incredible hardship, will their faith and relationship be enough to sustain them?

***Claire of the Sea Light* – Edwidge Danicat**

238 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in randomhouse.com

Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè—Claire of the Sea Light—suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, painful secrets, haunting memories, and startling truths are unearthed. In this stunning novel about intertwined lives, Edwidge Danticat crafts a tightly woven, breathtaking tapestry that explores the mysterious bonds we share—with the natural world and with one another. (publisher)

***Cleopatra's Daughter* – Michelle Moran**

447 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in michellemoran.com

A tale inspired by the lives of the children of Cleopatra and Marc Antony finds Selene, her twin Alexander and their younger brother Ptolemy sent to the palace of a formidable family rival after the deaths of their parents, where they adapt to Roman culture while making perilous journeys toward adulthood.

***Code Name Verity* – Elizabeth Wein -Michael L. Printz Award Honor book**

352 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in bookbrowse.com

On Oct. 11th, 1943, a British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. But just one of the girls has a chance at survival. Arrested by the Gestapo, Verity is given a choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution. They'll get the truth out of her. Only, it won't be what they expect. (publisher)

***Cold Comfort Farm* –Stella Gibbons- Winner of the 1933 Femina Vie Heureuse Prize**

233 pages, also available-cdbook, eAudio, DVD, no guide

A hilarious parody of D. H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy's earthy, melodramatic novels, the deliriously entertaining *Cold Comfort Farm* is "very probably the funniest book ever written" (*The Sunday Times*). When sensible, sophisticated Flora Poste is orphaned at nineteen, she decides her only choice is to descend upon relatives in deepest Sussex. At the aptly named Cold Comfort Farm, she meets the doomed Starkadders: cousin Judith; Amos; their sons, Seth and Reuben; and Aunt Ada Doom. But Flora loves nothing better than to organize other people. (publisher)

***The Constant Princess* – Philippa Gregory**

393 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book

A richly detailed fictional portrait of Henry VIII's first wife, Katherine of Aragon, the daughter of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain, follows her from her passionate youthful marriage to Henry's older brother, Arthur, her widowhood, her marriage to Henry and her denial of her true love for Arthur, and the divorce that led to Henry's second marriage to Anne Boleyn.

***Crazy Rich Asians* – Kevin Kwan**

*527 pages, also available- eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

When New Yorker Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home and quality time with the man she hopes to marry. But Nick has failed to give his girlfriend a few key details. One, that his childhood home looks like a palace; two, that he grew up riding in more private planes than cars; and three, that he just happens to be the country's most eligible bachelor. (publisher)

***Crossing to Safety* – Wallace Stegner**

*335 pages, also available eBook, cdbook, guide in litlovers.com*

*Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.(publisher)

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* – Mark Haddon**

*226 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

***The Custom of the Country*-Edith Wharton**

*413 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in penguin.com*

Edith Wharton's lacerating satire on marriage and materialism in turn-of-the-century New York features her most selfish, ruthless, and irresistibly outrageous female character. Undine Spragg is an exquisitely beautiful but ferociously acquisitive young woman from the Midwest who comes to New York to seek her fortune. She achieves her social ambitions but only at the highest cost to her family, her admirers, and her several husbands. Wharton lavished on Undine an imaginative energy that suggests she was as fascinated as she was appalled by the alluring monster she had created. (publisher)

***Cutting for Stone* – Abraham Verghese**

*667 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in Ethiopia, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

***Daughter of Fortune* – Isabel Allende**

*399 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Raised in the British colony of Valparaiso, Chile, after being abandoned as a baby, a pregnant Eliza follows her lover, Joaquin Andieta, to California at the height of the Gold Rush and finds adventure and adversity on her road to independence and love.

***Deadly Currents* –Beth Groundwater**

*300 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in bethgroundwater.com*

The Arkansas River is the heart and soul of Salida, Colorado. It fuels the small town's economy and thrums in the blood of twenty-seven-year-old Mandy Tanner, a river ranger. When a whitewater rafting accident occurs, she deftly executes a rescue, but a man dies anyway. But it wasn't the river rapids that killed him, it was poison. Tom King was a rich land developer with bitter business rivals, who cheated on his wife, refused to support his kayak-obsessed son, and infuriated environmentalists. Mandy cooperates with the local sheriff's department to solve the murder. But little does she know how greatly the case will affect those she loves, including her beloved Uncle Bill—the respected owner of an outfitting business, out of whose raft Tom King fell. She goes on an emotionally turbulent quest for the truth—and ends up in dangerous waters. (publisher) Contact this Colorado Springs author for visits via her website.

***Death Below Stairs- Jennifer Ashley***

*329 pages, also available- eBook, large print*

Highly sought-after young cook Kat Holloway takes a position in a Mayfair mansion and soon finds herself immersed in the odd household of Lord Rankin. Kat is fine with the family's eccentricities as long as they stay away from her kitchen, but trouble finds its way below stairs when her assistant is murdered. Afraid for her life, Kat turns to the mysterious Daniel McAdam for help. Daniel takes a position in the house as a footman and stand-in valet so he can investigate covertly, but Kat cooks up a suspect list of her own.

***The Diary of Mattie Spenser – Sandra Dallas***

*229 pages, also available-eBook, OneClick eAudio, guide in sandradallas.com*

Mattie agrees to marry the town's eligible bachelor, and soon she and Luke have set off to build a home in Colorado, and as they cross the wilderness she learns the truth about her new husband and finds love at last, in a poignant saga of pioneer life.

***The Dirty Girls Social Club - Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez***

*357 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

In the years after graduating from Boston University, six Latina friends from widely varied backgrounds meet every six months to dine, share the stories of their everyday lives, and offer advice to one another.

***The Dog Stars – Peter Heller***

*319 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in randomhouse.com*

Surviving a pandemic disease that has killed everyone he knows, a pilot establishes a shelter in an abandoned airport hangar before hearing a random radio transmission that compels him to risk his life to seek out other survivors.

***The Dressmaker – Kate Alcott***

*368 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in randomhouse.com*

A spirited young maid on board the Titanic captures the attentions of two men including a kindhearted sailor and an enigmatic Chicago millionaire and barely escapes with her life before witnessing media scorn targeting her famous designer mistress.

***Eating Heaven – Jennie Shortridge***

*269 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

Eleanor Samuels, a large and lonely food magazine writer, has some big-time food "issues" of her own. Faced with her favorite uncle's terminal illness, Eleanor becomes his primary caretaker, feeding him all his favorite foods one last time. As she cooks and cleans and tends to Uncle Benny's increasing needs, she discovers long-buried secrets about her emotionally frayed family that tear her world apart. Through cooking, nurturing, and a delicious flirtation with a new chef in town, Eleanor comes to terms with eating and love, family and forgiveness, and becoming comfortable in her own skin. (readinggroupguides.com)

***Eleanor & Park- Rainbow Rowell***

*328 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in macmillan.com*

Set over the course of one school year in 1986, this is the story of two star-crossed misfits--smart enough to know that first love almost never lasts, but brave and desperate enough to try.

***The Elegance of the Hedgehog – Muriel Barbery***

*325 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in Novelist*

The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.



### ***The End of Innocence-Allegra Jordan***

*309 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide provided*

In this enthralling story of love, loss, and divided loyalties, two students fall in love on the eve of WWI and must face a world at war—from opposing sides. Cambridge, MA, 1914: Helen Windship Brooks, the precocious daughter of the prestigious Boston family, is struggling to find herself at the renowned Harvard-Radcliffe university when carefree British playboy, Riley Spencer, and his brooding German poet-cousin, Wils Brandl, burst into her sheltered world. As Wils quietly helps the beautiful, spirited Helen navigate Harvard, they fall for each other against a backdrop of tyrannical professors, intellectual debates, and secluded boat rides on the Charles River. But with foreign tensions mounting and the country teetering on the brink of World War I, German-born Wils finds his future at Harvard—and in America—increasingly in danger. When both cousins are called to fight on opposing sides of the same war, Helen must decide if she is ready to fight her own battle for what she loves most. Based on the true story behind a mysterious and controversial World War I memorial at this world-famous university, *The End of Innocence* sweeps readers from the elaborate elegance of Boston's high society to Harvard's hallowed halls to Belgium's war-ravaged battlefields, offering a powerful and poignant vision of love and hope in the midst of a violent, broken world. (publisher)

### ***Every Day- David Levithan***

*324 pages, also available eBook, eAudio, DVD*

In his *New York Times* bestselling novel, David Levithan introduces readers to what *Entertainment Weekly* calls a “wise, wildly unique” love story about A, a teen who wakes up every morning in a different body, living a different life. There’s never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. It’s all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin’s girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with—day in, day out, day after day.

### ***Excellent Women – Barbara Pym***

*231 pages, guide in penguin.com*

*Excellent Women* is one of Barbara Pym's richest and most amusing high comedies. Mildred Lathbury is a clergyman's daughter and a mild-mannered spinster in 1950s England. She is one of those excellent women, the smart, supportive, repressed women who men take for granted. As Mildred gets embroiled in the lives of her new neighbors, anthropologist Helena Napier and her handsome, dashing husband, Rocky, and Julian Malory, the vicar next door, the novel presents a series of snapshots of human life as actually, and pluckily, lived in a vanishing world of manners and repressed desires. (publisher)

### ***Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury***

*179 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, DVD, readinggroupguides.com*

This novel is a soothsayer, warning of a future populated by non-readers and non-thinkers, a lost people with no sense of their history. At the same time it salutes those who dedicate their lives to the preservation and passing on of knowledge, and testifies to the quiet or passionate courage of the rebel with a cause. *Fahrenheit* also poses questions about the role(s) of government: Should it reflect the will of the people? Should government do the people's thinking for them?

### ***Faithful Place – Tana French***

*416 pages, also available in large print, eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in uspenguingroup.com*

In 1985, 19-year old Frank Mackey and his girlfriend, Rosie Daly, made secret plans to elope to England and start a new life together far away from their families, particularly the hard-drinking Mackeys. But when Rosie doesn't meet Frank the night they're meant to leave and he finds a note, Frank assumes she's left him behind. For 22 years, Frank, who becomes an undercover cop, stays away from Faithful Place, his childhood Dublin neighborhood. When his younger sister, Jackie, calls to tell him that someone found Rosie's suitcase hidden in an abandoned house, Frank reluctantly returns. Now everything he thought he knew is turned upside down: did Rosie really leave that night, or did someone stop her before she could? (PW)

***Faking It—Jennifer Crusie***

*449 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, no guide*

Meet the Goodnights, a respectable family who have run a respectable art gallery for generations. There's Gwen, the matriarch, who sedates herself with Double-Crostics and double vodkas; Eve, the oldest daughter, who has a slight identity problem (she has two); and Nadine, the granddaughter, who's ready to follow in the family footsteps as soon as she can find a set that isn't leading off a cliff. Holding everyone together is Matilda, the youngest daughter, who's inherited the secret locked down in the basement of the Goodnight Gallery, a secret that she's willing to do almost anything to keep, including breaking into a house in the dead of night to steal back her past. Meet the Dempseys, or at least meet Davy, a reformed con man who's just been ripped off for a cool three million by his financial manager, who then gallantly turned it over to Clea Lewis, the most beautiful sociopath Davy ever slept with. Davy wants the money back, but more than that, he'll do anything to keep Clea from winning, including breaking into her house in the dead of night to steal back his future. One collision in a closet later, Tilda and Davy reluctantly join forces to combat Clea, suspicious art collectors, a disgruntled heir, and an exasperated hit man, all the while coping with a mutant dachshund, a jukebox stuck in the sixties, questionable sex, a painting of three evil fishermen closing in on a dyspeptic tuna, multiple personalities, miscellaneous Goodnights and Dempseys, and the growing realization that they can't turn their backs on the people they were meant to be... or the people they were born to love.

***The First Phone Call from Heaven—Mitch Albom***

*326 pages, large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

This extraordinary novel, taking readers on a journey both of individual healing and society's response to the question of life after life, follows a single father just released from prison as he sets out to prove that the mysterious calls from beyond to the residents of Coldwater, Michigan, are nothing but a hoax.

***The Forgotten Garden – Kate Morton***

*560 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

Abandoned on a 1913 voyage to Australia, Nell is raised by a dock master and his wife who do not tell her until she grows up that she is not their child, a situation that causes her to return to England and eventually hand down her quest for answers to her granddaughter.

***Friday Night Knitting Club – Kate Jacobs***

*345 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Gathering for their weekly knitting club at a small yarn shop on Manhattan's Upper West Side, a group of friends shares such challenges as raising children, navigating the ups and downs of their careers, and pursuing uncertain relationships.

***The Ghost Bride – Yangsze Choo***

*362 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide in harpercollins.ca*

Li Lan, the daughter of a respectable Chinese family in colonial Malaysia, hopes for a favorable marriage, but her father has lost his fortune, and she has few suitors. Instead, the wealthy Lim family urges her to become a ghost bride for their son, who has recently died under mysterious circumstances. Rarely practiced, a traditional ghost marriage is used to placate a restless spirit. Such a union would guarantee Li Lan a home for the rest of her days, but at what price? Night after night, Li Lan is drawn into the shadowy parallel world of the Chinese afterlife, where she must uncover the Lim family's darkest secrets and the truth about her own family. (publisher)

***Girl Waits with Gun- Amy Stewart***

*408 pages, also available eBook, CD book,*

Constance Kopp doesn't quite fit the mold. She towers over most men, has no interest in marriage or domestic affairs, and has been isolated from the world since a family secret sent her and her sisters into hiding fifteen years ago. One day a belligerent and powerful silk factory owner runs down their buggy, and a dispute over damages turns into a war of bricks, bullets, and threats as he unleashes his gang on their family farm. When the sheriff enlists her help in convicting the men, Constance is forced to confront her past and defend her family -- and she does it in a way that few women of 1914 would have dared.

***Girl with a Pearl Earring – Tracy Chevalier***

*233 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

***The Girl With Seven Names- Hyeonseo Lee***

*304 pages, also available eBook, eAudio*

An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships - and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. (NYT)

***The Good Earth – Pearl Buck - Winner of the Pulitzer Prize***

*316 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in book*

A Chinese peasant overcomes the forces of nature and the frailties of human nature to become a wealthy landowner.

***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society - Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows***

*277 pages, also available-eBook, large print, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation.

***Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood***

*311 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A chilling look at the near future presents the story of Offred, a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead, once the United States, an oppressive world where women are no longer allowed to read and are valued only as long as they are viable for reproduction.

***Happily Ever After- Elizabeth Maxwell***

*308 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

At forty-six, Sadie Fuller's life isn't exactly romantic. She's an everyday mom in many ways, a little overweight, over-committed and struggling to raise an eleven-year-old girl as a single parent. But Sadie has a secret while the rest of suburbia sleeps, she makes a living writing erotica under the pseudonym K. T. Briggs. Though her own sex life is nothing worth noting, she's fabulous at creating steamy fantasies with perfectly waxed, incredibly fit, scantily clad characters. But everything changes when she encounters a strangely familiar man during a routine visit to Target. Is Sadie losing her mind, or has her latest hunky character wandered out of her manuscript and into reality? As Sadie tries to negotiate this bizarre new world, her eyes begin to open to romantic possibilities in places she never dreamed of looking . . . places where happily ever after might not be so far-fetched after all. (publisher)

### ***The Hate U Give- Angie Thomas***

*444 pages, also available teen book, teen cd book, teen bookplayer, eBook, eAudio*

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does--or does not--say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

### ***The Haunting of Hill House – Shirley Jackson***

*182 pages, also available-cBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in d.umn.edu*

First published in 1959, Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* has been hailed as a perfect work of unnerving terror. It is the story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly pile called Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of a "haunting"; Theodora, his lighthearted assistant; Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman well acquainted with poltergeists; and Luke, the future heir of Hill House. At first, their stay seems destined to be merely a spooky encounter with inexplicable phenomena. But Hill House is gathering its powers and soon it will choose one of them to make its own. (publisher)

### ***Heartburn- Nora Ephron***

*179 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, no guide*

Is it possible to write a sidesplitting novel about the breakup of the perfect marriage? If the writer is Nora Ephron, the answer is a resounding yes. For in this inspired confection of adultery, revenge, group therapy, and pot roast, the creator of *Sleepless in Seattle* reminds us that comedy depends on anguish as surely as a proper gravy depends on flour and butter. Seven months into her pregnancy, Rachel Samstat discovers that her husband, Mark, is in love with another woman. The fact that the other woman has "a neck as long as an arm and a nose as long as a thumb and you should see her legs" is no consolation. Food sometimes is, though, since Rachel writes cookbooks for a living. And in between trying to win Mark back and loudly wishing him dead, Ephron's irrepressible heroine offers some of her favorite recipes. (publisher)

### ***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter – Carson McCullers***

*359 pages, also available-eBook, large print, cdbook, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

With its profound sense of moral isolation and its compassionate glimpses into its characters' inner lives, the novel is considered McCullers' finest work. At its center is the deaf-mute John Singer, who becomes the confidant for all various types of misfits in a Georgia mill town during the 1930s. Each one yearns for escape from small town life. When Singer's mute companion goes insane, Singer moves into the Kelly house, where Mick Kelly, the book's heroine, finds solace in her music. Wonderfully attune to the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition, and with a deft sense for racial tensions in the South, McCullers spins a haunting, unforgettable story that gives voice to the rejected, the forgotten, and the mistreated -- and, through Mick Kelly, gives voice to the quiet, intensely personal search for beauty. (publisher)

### ***Honolulu – Alan Brennert***

*439 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in bookbrowse.com*

*Honolulu* is the rich, unforgettable story of a young picture bride who journeys to Hawai'i in 1914 in search of a better life. Instead of the affluent young husband and chance at an education that she has been promised, she is quickly married off to a poor, embittered laborer who takes his frustrations out on his new wife. Renaming herself Jin, she makes her own way in this strange land, finding both opportunity and prejudice. With the help of three of her fellow picture brides, Jin prospers along with her adopted city, now growing from a small territorial capital into the great multicultural city it is today. But paradise has its dark side, whether it's the daily struggle for survival in Honolulu's tenements, or a crime that will become the most infamous in the island's history. (publisher)

***The Housekeeper and the Professor – Yoko Ogawa***

*180 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

A strange relationship blossoms between a brilliant math professor suffering from short-term memory problems following a traumatic head injury and the young housekeeper, the mother of a ten-year-old son, hired to care for him, in an enchanting novel that explores what it means to live in the present and to be part of a family, albeit an unusual one.

***How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents-Julia Alvarez***

*311 pages, also available- eBook, CD book*

In this debut novel, the García sisters--Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofía--and their family must flee their home in the Dominican Republic after their father's role in an attempt to overthrow a tyrannical dictator is discovered. They arrive in New York City in 1960 to a life far removed from their existence in the Caribbean. In the wild and wondrous and not always welcoming U.S.A., their parents try to hold on to their old ways, but the girls try find new lives: by forgetting their Spanish, by straightening their hair and wearing fringed bell bottoms. For them, it is at once liberating and excruciating to be caught between the old world and the new. *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* sets the sisters free to tell their most intimate stories about how they came to be at home--and not at home--in America.

***How to Bake a Perfect Life – Barbara O’Neal aka Barbara Samuel***

*398 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in randomhouse.com*

Professional baker Ramona Gallagher is a master of an art that has sustained her through the most turbulent times, including a baby at fifteen and an endless family feud. But now Ramona's Old Colorado City bakery threatens to crumble around her. Literally. She's one water-heater disaster away from losing her grandmother's rambling Victorian and everything she's worked so hard to build. When Ramona's soldier son-in-law is wounded in Afghanistan, her daughter, Sophia, races to be at his side, leaving Ramona as the only suitable guardian for Sophia's thirteen-year-old stepdaughter, Katie. Heartbroken, Katie feels that she's being dumped again -- this time on the doorstep of a woman out of practice with mothering. By the Colorado Springs author of *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* and many others as Barbara Samuel and Ruth Wind. Contact Barbara via [barbaraoneal.com](http://barbaraoneal.com) with requests to attend your meetings.

***I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith***

*343 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in book*

The 1934 journal of seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain reveals her perspective on six stormy months in the eccentric and poverty-stricken life of her family in a ruined Suffolk castle, ending with the revelation that Cassandra is deeply in love. J.K. Rowling says, “This book has one of the most charismatic narrators I’ve ever met.”

***I Was Anastasia- Ariel Lawhon***

*333 pages, also available eBook, eAudio, large print*

Russia, July 17, 1918 : Under direct orders from Vladimir Lenin, Bolshevik secret police force Anastasia Romanov, along with the entire imperial family, into a damp basement in Siberia where they face a merciless firing squad. None survive. At least that is what the executioners have always claimed.

Germany, February 17, 1920 : A young woman bearing an uncanny resemblance to Anastasia Romanov is pulled shivering and senseless from a canal in Berlin. Refusing to explain her presence in the freezing water, she is taken to the hospital where an examination reveals that her body is riddled with countless, horrific scars. When she finally does speak, this frightened, mysterious woman claims to be the Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia.

Her detractors, convinced that the young woman is only after the immense Romanov fortune, insist on calling her by a different name: Anna Anderson. As rumors begin to circulate through European society that the youngest Romanov daughter has survived the massacre, old enemies and new threats are awakened. With a brilliantly crafted dual narrative structure, Lawhon wades into the most psychologically complex and emotionally compelling territory yet: the nature of identity itself. The question of who Anna Anderson is and what actually happened to Anastasia Romanov creates a saga that spans fifty years and touches three continents. This thrilling story is every bit as moving and momentous as it is harrowing and twisted.

***If You Only Knew-Kristan Higgins***

*411 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, no guide*

Letting go of her ex-husband is harder than wedding-dress designer Jenny Tate expected especially since his new wife wants to be Jenny's new best friend. Sensing this isn't exactly helping her achieve closure, Jenny trades the Manhattan skyline for her hometown up the Hudson, where she'll start her own business and bask in her sister Rachel's picture-perfect family life and maybe even find a little romance of her own with Leo, her downstairs neighbor, a guy who's utterly irresistible and annoyingly distant at the same time. Rachel's idyllic marriage, however, is imploding after she discovers her husband sexting with a colleague. She always thought she'd walk away in this situation, but her triplet daughters have her reconsidering her stance on adultery, much to Jenny's surprise. Rachel points to their parents' perfect marriage as a shining example of patience and forgiveness; but to protect her sister, Jenny may have to tarnish that memory and their relationship and reveal a family secret she's been keeping since childhood. Both Rachel and Jenny will have to come to terms with the past *and* the present and find a way to get what they want most of all. (publisher)

***The Impossible Lives of Greta Wells-Andrew Sean Greer***

*289 pages, also available-large print, eBook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

After the death of her beloved twin brother and the abandonment of her long-time lover, Greta Wells undergoes electroshock therapy. Over the course of the treatment, Greta finds herself repeatedly sent to 1918, 1941, and back to the present. Whisked from the gas-lit streets and horse-drawn carriages of the West Village to a martini-fueled lunch at the Oak Room, in these other worlds, Greta finds her brother alive and well though fearfully masking his true personality. And her former lover is now her devoted husband, but will he be unfaithful to her in this life as well? Greta Wells is fascinated by her alter egos: in 1941, she is a devoted mother; in 1918, she is a bohemian adulteress. Each reality has its own losses, its own rewards; each extracts a different price. Which life will she choose as she wrestles with the unpredictability of love and the consequences of even her most carefully considered choices? (publisher)

***The Intern's Handbook-Shane Kuhn***

*276 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, no guide*

John Lago is a very bad guy. But he's the very best at what he does. And what he does is infiltrate top-level companies and assassinate crooked executives while disguised as an intern. Interns are invisible. That's the secret behind HR, Inc., the elite "placement agency" that doubles as a network of assassins for hire who take down high-profile targets that wouldn't be able to remember an intern's name if their lives depended on it. At the ripe old age of almost twenty-five, John Lago is already New York City's most successful hit man. He's also an intern at a prestigious Manhattan law firm, clocking eighty hours a week getting coffee, answering phones, and doing all the grunt work actual employees are too lazy to do. He was hired to assassinate one of the firm's heavily guarded partners. His internship provides the perfect cover, enabling him to gather intel and gain access to pull off a clean, untraceable hit. Part confessional, part DIY manual, *The Intern's Handbook* chronicles John's final assignment, a twisted thrill ride in which he is pitted against the toughest—and sexiest—adversary he's ever faced: Alice, an FBI agent assigned to take down the same law partner he's been assigned to kill. (publisher)

***Into the Forest – Jean Hegland***

*193 pages, also available-eBook, guide in jeanhegland.com*

A delicately wrought modern fable about values, both of individual and of society, tells the moving story of two sisters struggling to survive while too much technology and information overwhelms the world around them.

***The Kitchen House- Kathleen Grissom***

*368 pages, also available-large print ,eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Orphaned while onboard ship from Ireland, seven-year-old Lavinia arrives on the steps of a tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by her white skin. Eventually, Lavinia is accepted into the world of the big house, where the master is absent and the mistress battles opium addiction. Lavinia finds herself perilously straddling two very different worlds. When she is forced to make a choice, loyalties are brought into question, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk. (publisher)

***Land of Shadows – Rachel Howzell Hall***

*317 pages, also available in eBook and large print*

Along the ever-changing border of gentrifying Los Angeles, seventeen-year-old Monique Darson is found dead at a condominium construction site, hanging in the closet of an unfinished unit. Homicide detective Elouise "Lou" Norton's new partner, Colin Taggart, fresh from the comparatively bucolic Colorado Springs police department, assumes it's a teenage suicide. Lou isn't buying the easy explanation. For one thing, the condo site is owned by Napoleon Crase, a self-made millionaire. . .and the man who may have murdered Lou's missing sister, Tori, thirty years ago. As Lou investigates the death of Monique Darson, she uncovers undeniable links between the two cases. But her department is skeptical. Lou is convinced that when she solves Monique's case she will finally bring her lost sister home. But as she gets closer to the truth, she also gets closer to a violent killer. After all this time, can he be brought to justice. . .before Lou becomes his next victim?

***The Language of Flowers – Vanessa Diffenbaugh***

*334 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Discovering the symbolic meanings of flowers while languishing in the foster-care system, eighteen-year-old Victoria is hired by a florist when her talent for helping others is discovered, a situation that leads her to confront a painful secret from her past.

***The Last Runaway – Tracy Chevalier***

*320 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in tchevalier.com*

Ohio 1850. For a modest English Quaker stranded far from home, life is a trial. Untethered from the moment she leaves England, fleeing personal disappointment, Honor Bright is forced by family tragedy to rely on strangers in an alien, untamed landscape. Drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad, a network helping runaway slaves escape to freedom, Honor befriends two exceptional people who embody the startling power of defiance. Eventually she must decide if she too can act on what she believes in, whatever the personal cost. (publisher)

***The Lemoncholy Life of Annie Aster-Scott Wilbanks***

*392 pages, also available-Freereading eBook, guide in book*

Annabelle Aster doesn't bow to convention—not even that of space and time—which makes the 1890s Kansas wheat field that has appeared in her modern-day San Francisco garden easy to accept. Even more peculiar is Elsbeth, the truculent schoolmarm who sends Annie letters through the mysterious brass mailbox perched on the picket fence that now divides their two worlds.

Annie and Elsbeth's search for an explanation to the hiccup in the universe linking their homes leads to an unsettling discovery—and potential disaster for both of them. Together they must solve the mystery of what connects them before one of them is convicted of a murder that has yet to happen...and yet somehow already did. (publisher)

***The Light Between Oceans – M.I. Stedman***

*345 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

Tom Sherbourne is a lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, a tiny island a half day's boat journey from the coast of Western Australia. When a baby washes up in a rowboat, he and his young wife Isabel decide to raise the child as their own. The baby seems like a gift from God, and the couple's reasoning for keeping her seduces the reader into entering the waters of treacherous morality even as Tom--whose moral code withstood the horrors of World War I--begins to waver. (Amazon)

***Like Water for Chocolate – Laura Esquivel***

*245 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, DVD, guide on file*

Despite the fact that she has fallen in love with a young man, Tita, the youngest of three daughters born to a tyrannical rancher must obey tradition and remain single and at home to care for her mother.

***Little Bee- Chris Cleave***

*271 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

The Somerset Maugham Award-winning author of Incendiary presents a tale of a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London, a story told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

***The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules- Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg***

*389 pages, also available- paperback, eBook, eAudio*

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel meets The Italian Job in internationally-bestselling author Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg's witty and insightful comedy of errors about a group of delinquent seniors whose desire for a better quality of life leads them to rob and ransom priceless artwork. Martha Andersson may be seventy-nine-years-old and live in a retirement home, but that doesn't mean she's ready to stop enjoying life. So when the new management of Diamond House starts cutting corners to save money, Martha and her four closest friends--Brains, The Rake, Christina and Anna-Gretta (a.k.a. The League of Pensioners)--won't stand for it. Fed up with early bedtimes and overcooked veggies, this group of feisty seniors sets about to regain their independence, improve their lot, and stand up for seniors everywhere. Their solution? White collar crime. What begins as a relatively straightforward robbery of a nearby luxury hotel quickly escalates into an unsolvable heist at the National Museum. With police baffled and the Mafia hot on their trail, the League of Pensioners has to stay one walker's length ahead if it's going to succeed....



***The Long Goodbye – Raymond Chandler***

*379 pages, also available-eBook, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

An encounter with a down-on-his-luck war veteran brings both adventure and trouble to cynical private detective Philip Marlowe when he discovers that the man is the prime suspect in the murder of his wealthy nymphomaniac wife and the target of a crazy gangster.

***Lost Lake – Sarah Addison Allen***

*296 pages, also available eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

Suley, Georgia, is home to Lost Lake Cottages and not much else. Which is why it's the perfect place for newly-widowed Kate and her eccentric eight-year-old daughter Devin to heal. Kate spent one memorable childhood summer at Lost Lake, had her first almost-kiss at Lost Lake, and met a boy named Wes at Lost Lake. It was a place for dreaming. But Kate doesn't believe in dreams anymore, and her Aunt Eby, Lost Lake's owner, wants to sell the place and move on. Lost Lake's magic is gone. As Kate discovers that time has a way of standing still at Lost Lake can she bring the cottages--and her heart--back to life? Because sometimes the things you love have a funny way of turning up again. And sometimes you never even know they were lost until they are found. (publisher)

***Loving Frank – Nancy Horan***

*362 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society.

***Maisie Dobbs – Jacqueline Winspear***

*294 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Maisie Dobbs isn't just any young housemaid. Through her own natural intelligence and the patronage of her benevolent employers she works her way into college at Cambridge. When World War I breaks out, Maisie goes to the front as a nurse. It is there that she learns that coincidences are meaningful and the truth elusive. After the War, Maisie sets up on her own as a private investigator. But her very first assignment, seemingly an ordinary infidelity case, soon reveals a much deeper, darker web of secrets, which will force Maisie to revisit the horrors of the Great War and the love she left behind. (publisher)

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

*368 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Forced to confront the realities of life in the twenty-first century when he falls in love with Pakistani widow Mrs. Ali, Major Pettigrew finds the relationship challenged by local prejudices that view Mrs. Ali, a Cambridge native, as a perpetual foreigner.

***Man Called Ove-Fredrik Backman***

*337 pages, also available in eBook, eAudio, CD Book, large print and DVD*

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon--the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.

**March – Geraldine Brooks – Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**

*280 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

In a story inspired by the father character in *Little Women* and drawn from the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father Bronson, a man leaves behind his family to serve in the Civil War and finds his marriage and beliefs profoundly challenged by his experiences.

**Memory Keeper's Daughter – Kim Edwards**

*401 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twin daughter during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from the baby's affliction with Down syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.

**Miracle and Other Christmas Stories – Connie Willis**

*288 pages, also available-eBook, no guide*

These eight tales boldly reimagine the stories of Christmas while celebrating the power of love and compassion. The winner of multiple Hugo and Nebula Awards, Connie Willis capture the timeless essence of generosity and goodwill in this magical collection of Christmas stories. (publisher)

**Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children - Ransom Riggs**

*352 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. And a strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children who once lived here—one of whom was his own grandfather—were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a desolate island for good reason. And somehow—impossible though it seems—they may still be alive.

**Moloka'i- Alan Brennert**

*389 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Dreaming of far-off lands away from her loving 1890s Honolulu home, seven-year-old Rachel is forcibly removed from her family when she contracts leprosy and is placed in a settlement, where she loses a series of new friends before new medical discoveries enable her reentry into the world.

**My Antonia- Willa Cather**

*228 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD book, Playaway*

*My Antonia* (1918) depicts the pioneering period of European settlement on the tall-grass prairie of the American midwest, with its beautiful yet terrifying landscape, rich ethnic mix of immigrants and native-born Americans, and communities who share life's joys and sorrows. Jim Burden recounts his memories of Antonia Shimerda, whose family settle in Nebraska from Bohemia. Together they share childhoods spent in a new world. Jim leaves the prairie for college and a career in the east, while Antonia devotes herself to her large family and productive farm. Her story is that of the land itself, a moving portrait of endurance and strength. Described on publication as 'one of the best [novels] that any American has ever done', *My Antonia* paradoxically took Cather out of the rank of provincial novelists as the same time that it celebrated the provinces, and mythologized a period of American history that had to be lost before its value could be understood.

***My Sister's Keeper- Jodi Picoult***

*423 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD Book, large print, DVD*

Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. By age thirteen, she has undergone countless surgeries, transfusions, and shots so that her older sister, Kate, can somehow fight the leukemia that has plagued her since childhood. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for Kate--a life and a role that she has never challenged...until now. Like most teenagers, Anna is beginning to question who she truly is. But unlike most teenagers, she has always been defined in terms of her sister--and so Anna makes a decision that for most would be unthinkable, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

***Myth of You and Me – Leah Stewart***

*276 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

A letter from a childhood best friend to whom she has not spoken in ten years and an odd legacy from her boss, elderly historian Oliver Doucet, sends thirty-year-old Cameron on a difficult mission to track down her old friend Sonia and hand-deliver a mysterious package to her, in a novel that celebrates the power, pain, and pleasure of friendship.

***Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro***

*288 pages, also available-cdbook, DVD, eBook, guide in book*

From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day* comes a devastating new novel of innocence, knowledge, and loss. As children Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. It was a place of mercurial cliques and mysterious rules where teachers were constantly reminding their charges of how special they were. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back at their shared past and understand just what it is that makes them special--and how that gift will shape the rest of their time together. Suspenseful, moving, beautifully atmospheric, *Never Let Me Go* is another classic. (Random House)

***The Next Thing on my List – Jill Smolinski***

*288 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Meet June Parker. She works for L.A. Rideshare, adores her rent-stabilized apartment in Santa Monica, and struggles with losing a few pesky pounds. But June's life is about to change. After a dark turn of events involving Weight Watchers, a chili recipe, and a car accident in which her passenger, Marissa, dies, June finds herself in possession of a list Marissa has written, "20 Things to Do by My 25th Birthday." Even though they barely knew each other, June is compelled by both guilt and a desire to set things right and finish the list for Marissa. The tasks before her range from inspiring (Run a 5K), to daring (Go braless), to near-impossible (Change someone's life), and as June races to achieve each goal before the deadline, she learns more about her own life than she ever bargained for. (publisher)

***The Night Circus – Erin Morgenstern***

*516 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway—a duel between two young magicians who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them, this is a game in which only one can be left standing, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. Despite themselves, however, they tumble headfirst into love—a deep, magical love that makes the lights flicker and the room grow warm whenever they so much as brush hands. True love or not, the game must play out, and the fates of everyone involved, from the cast of extraordinary circus performers to the patrons, hang in the balance, suspended as precariously as the daring acrobats overhead. (author)

### ***The Night Villa – Carol Goodman***

*413 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

The eruption of Italy's Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 buried a city and its people, including their treasures and secrets. Classics professor Sophie Chase travels to the beautiful island of Capri in to unravel the secrets of one unusual household, immersing herself in a culture simultaneously fascinating and frightening. Beneath layers of volcanic ash lies the Villa della Notte, home to first-century nobles who engaged in pagan rituals and a slave girl named Iusta whose life may have ended during the eruption—or may have helped to alter the course of Italy's religious history. As Sophie and her team piece together Iusta's story, they unearth a subterranean labyrinth and a set of invaluable antique documents believed lost to the ages. As Iusta races to escape Vesuvius's impending fury, Sophie rushes to uncover what happened to Iusta before all traces of her life disappear—or are erased. (author)

### ***The Nightingale- Kristin Hannah***

*440 pages, also available cd book, eBook, eAudio, large print book*

In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do, in droves of marching soldiers, in caravans of trucks and tanks, in planes that fill the skies and drop bombs upon the innocent. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything. Without food or money or hope, as danger escalates all around them, she is forced to make one impossible choice after another to keep her family alive. Vianne's sister, Isabelle, is a rebellious eighteen-year-old girl, searching for purpose with all the reckless passion of youth; While thousands of Parisians march into the unknown terrors of war, she meets G etan, a partisan who believes the French can fight the Nazis from within France, and she falls in love as only the young can...completely; But when he betrays her, Isabelle joins the Resistance and never looks back, risking her life time and again to save others.

### ***No One is Coming to Save Us- Stephanie Powell Watts***

*371 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD book, large print*

JJ Ferguson has returned home to Pinewood, North Carolina, to build his dream house and to pursue his high school sweetheart, Ava. But as he reenters his former world, where factories are in decline and the legacy of Jim Crow is still felt, he's startled to find that the people he once knew and loved have changed just as much as he has. Ava is now married and desperate for a baby, though she can't seem to carry one to term. Her husband, Henry, has grown distant, frustrated by the demise of the furniture industry, which has outsourced to China and stripped the area of jobs. Ava's mother, Sylvia, caters to and meddles with the lives of those around her, trying to fill the void left by her absent son. And Don, Sylvia's unworthy but charming husband, just won't stop hanging around. JJ's return--and his plans to build a huge mansion overlooking Pinewood and woo Ava--not only unsettles their family, but stirs up the entire town. The ostentatious wealth that JJ has attained forces everyone to consider the cards they've been dealt, what more they want and deserve, and how they might go about getting it. Can they reorient their lives to align with their wishes rather than their current realities? Or are they all already resigned to the rhythms of the particular lives they lead?

### ***No Place like Home – Barbara Samuel***

*298 pages, also available-large print, eBook, eAudio, no guide*

After leaving home more than 20 years ago, Jewel Sabatino returns to Pueblo, Colorado. She's broke and traveling with her 17-year-old son, Shane, and best friend, Michael, who is dying from AIDS. Nervous, not knowing what to expect, Jewel is pleasantly surprised by the family welcome, although her father, who told her she was dead to him when she rode off with her musician boyfriend all those years ago, is missing, a sign that he still feels the same way. She settles into the house her aunt left her, but Shane is having difficulty adjusting to small-town life, while Michael, her rock, is slowly losing the battle for life. Jewel sends for Michael's younger brother, Malachi, whom she has never met. The two have an instant sexual chemistry that causes her family to speculate, but Malachi has family issues of his own, which makes the overtures of the Sabatino clan difficult to accept. Samuel tells a truly heartwarming story that proves that sometimes you can go home again. (Booklist Reviews) By the Colorado Springs author of *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* and many others as Ruth Wind and Barbara O'Neal. Contact Barbara via [barbaraoneal.com](http://barbaraoneal.com) with requests to attend your meetings.

***The Number One Ladies' Detective Agency – Alexander McCall Smith***

*235 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Working in Gaborone, Botswana, Precious Ramotswe investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week.

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

*181 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

A middle-aged man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a most remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, and her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of Lettie in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse where she once lived, the unremembered past comes flooding back. And it is a past too strange, too frightening, too dangerous to have happened to anyone, let alone a small boy.

***Olive Kitteridge – Elizabeth Strout- Winner of the Pulitzer Prize Winner***

*270 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

The world of Olive Kitteridge, a retired school teacher in a small coastal town in Maine, is revealed in stories that explore her diverse roles in many lives, including a lounge singer haunted by a past love, her stoic husband, and her own resentful son.

***Once Upon Another Time-Diane Sawatzki***

*228 pages, also available-OneClick eBook, guide in book*

Kate MacKenzie is a young recently-widowed biology teacher in modern-day Seattle. When her grandfather suffers a heart attack, she rushes home to his bedside in Colorado. During her visit, she wonders whether to stay in the Northwest or move back to the Rockies and take over her grandparents' antique business. While out snowshoeing, she builds a fire in a cave and rests while a storm rages outside. When a bear startles her, she backs away and falls down a passage into another time, where a Ute Indian named Victor befriends her, but now she's trapped in 1863. As this intriguing story unfolds, Kate struggles to survive in the dangerous world of territorial Colorado while she tries to return to her home in the 21st century. Summoning her courage, she explores white and Native cultures, develops friendships, and maintains hope despite the uncertainty of time travel. Please contact Monument Library's own Diane Sawatzki via [pdpmark@hotmail.com](mailto:pdpmark@hotmail.com) with requests to attend a meeting or answer questions.

***The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared-Jonas Jonasson***

*384 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Confined to a nursing home and about to turn one hundred, Allan Karlsson, who has a larger-than-life back story as an explosives expert, climbs out of the window in his slippers and embarks on an unforgettable adventure involving thugs, a murderous elephant, and a very friendly hot dog stand operator.

***One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd – Jim Fergus***

*304 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Based on actual historical events, this novel follows the indomitable May Dodd as she travels to the Cheyenne, becomes the bride of Little Wolf, chief of that tribe, and struggles with living in and being loyal to two different worlds.

***Orange Mint and Honey – Carleen Brice***

*324 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

Left broke and burned out after graduate school, Shay Dixon makes the decision to reunite with her alcoholic mother and discovers a changed woman, who is now sober, with a positive outlook on life, a love of gardening, and a darling toddler named Sunny, in a debut novel from the Denver author about the extraordinary power of healing, forgiveness, and redemption.

***Orphan Train- Christina Baker Kline***

*278 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in harpercollins.com*

Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to aging out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories, Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life, answers that will ultimately free them both. (publisher)

***The Other Typist- Suzanne Rindell***

*359 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Working as a typist for the NYC Police Department in 1923, Rose Baker documents confessions of harrowing crimes and struggles with changing gender roles while clinging to her Victorian ideals and searching for nurturing companionship before becoming obsessed with a glamorous newcomer and her world of bobbed hair, smoking and speakeasies.

***Out Stealing Horses – Per Petterson***

*238 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

*Out Stealing Horses* has been embraced across the world as a classic, a novel of universal relevance and power. Panoramic and gripping, it tells the story of Trond Sander, a sixty-seven-year-old man who has moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk. From the moment Trond sees a strange figure coming out of the dark behind his home, the reader is immersed in a decades-deep story of searching and loss, and in the precise, irresistible prose of a newly crowned master of fiction. (readinggroupguides.com)

***Painted Drum – Louise Erdrich***

*277 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in harpercollins.com*

Discovering a cache of valuable Native American artifacts while appraising an estate in New Hampshire, Faye Travers investigates the history of a ceremonial drum, which possesses spiritual powers and changes the lives of people who encounter it.

***The Past Came Hunting – Donnell Bell***

*261 pages, also available-eBook, guide at donnellannbell.com*

Fifteen years ago a young Colorado Springs police officer arrested a teen runaway accused of aiding a convenience store robbery and attempted murder. She was innocent, but her testimony sent the real thief to jail for much longer. Now a young widow raising a son, the man she put in prison is free and seeking revenge. When she moves from Cañon City to Colorado Springs, she learns that her next-door neighbor is her arresting officer — and he may be the only one who can protect her and her son from the past he helped create. (author) Please contact this Colorado Springs author via her website with requests to attend your meetings.

***Peony in Love – Lisa See***

*284 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

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

***People of the Book – Geraldine Brooks***

*372 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding --- an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, and a white hair --- she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation. (readinggroupguides.com)

***Perfume: the Story of a Murderer – Patrick Suskind***

*255 pages, also available-large print, eBook, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

An odorless baby orphaned in a Paris gutter in 1738 grows to become a monster obsessed with his perfect sense of smell, and a desire to capture, by any means, the ultimate scent which will make him human.

***Persian Pickle Club – Sandra Dallas***

*196 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, OneClick eAudio, guide in sandradallas.com*

When a group of rural 1930s Kansas women, who gather each week to gossip and quilt, gains a new friend from the city who uncovers a long-kept secret about one of the members' husbands, the group bands together to support and protect one another.

***Persuasion-Jane Austen***

*250 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, DVD, guide in litlovers.com*

Her last completed novel, *Persuasion*, marries witty social realism to a 'Cinderella' love story. Anne Elliot, twenty-seven and still single, seems destined for spinsterhood. In her youth, she broke off an engagement to penniless Captain Wentworth at the insistence of her friend Lady Russell, acquiescing to the demands of her class at the expense of her happiness. But when Wentworth returns from the Napoleonic wars rich and famous, Anne finds her affection rekindled - even though Wentworth seems more interested in Anne's friend Louisa Musgrove. Set in the fashionable societies of Lyme Regis and Bath, *Persuasion* is a brilliant satire of vanity and pretension, but, above all, it is a love story tinged with the heartache of missed opportunities. (publisher)

***The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde***

*218 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in litlovers.com*

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is Oscar Wilde's enduringly popular story of a beautiful and corrupt man and the portrait that reveals all his secrets. Entranced by the perfection of his recently painted portrait, the youthful Dorian Gray expresses a wish that the figure on the canvas could age and change in his place. When his wish comes true, the portrait becomes his hideous secret as he follows a downward trajectory of decadence and cruelty that leaves its traces only in the portrait's degraded image. Wilde's unforgettable portrayal of a Faustian bargain and its consequences is narrated with his characteristic incisive wit and diamond-sharp prose. The result is a novel that is as flamboyant and controversial as its incomparable author. (publisher)

***Please Look After Mom – Kyung-sook Shin- Winner of the Man Asian Literary Prize***

*254 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

When sixty-nine-year-old So-nyo is separated from her husband among the crowds of the Seoul subway station, her family begins a desperate search to find her. Yet as long-held secrets and private sorrows begin to reveal themselves, they are forced to wonder: how well did they actually know the woman they called Mom?

***Pope Joan – Donna Woolfolk Cross***

*422 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

Set against the turbulent events of the Dark Ages, a fictional account of the controversial figure of historical record profiles a spirited woman who, disguised as a man, rose to rule Christianity as the only woman ever to become pope.

***A Prayer for Owen Meany – John Irving***

*543 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Owen Meany, the only child of a New Hampshire granite quarrier, believes he is God's instrument. He is. This is John Irving's most comic novel; yet Owen Meany is Mr. Irving's most heartbreaking character. (publisher)

***The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure – William Goldman***

*414 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, DVD, guide in book*

In 1941 a young boy lies bedridden from pneumonia. His perpetually disheveled and unattractive father, an immigrant from Florin with terribly broken English, shuffles into his bedroom carrying a book. The boy wants to know if it has any sports. His father says, "Fencing. Fighting. Torture. Poison. True love. Hate. Revenge. Giants. Hunters. Bad men. Good men. Beautifullest ladies. Snakes. Spiders. Beasts of all natures and descriptions. Pain. Death. Brave men. Coward men. Strongest men. Chases. Escapes. Lies. Truths. Passions. Miracles." And the little boy, though he doesn't know it, is about to change forever. As Goldman says, "What happened was just this. I got hooked on the story." (publisher)

***The Purple Hibiscus –Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie***

*307 pages, also available-eBook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home, a home that is silent and suffocating. As the country begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together.

***The Queen of Harlem- Brian Keith Jackson***

*256 pages, also available-eBook, guide in book*

An African American *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Mason Randolph, a black preppie of impeccable Southern pedigree, is bound for Stanford Law School after graduating from college. Before embarking on the path to his golden future, however, he takes a detour through Harlem, where he intends to live "authentically" with "real black people." Mason takes the name "Malik" and moves into the orbit of the ever fabulous Carmen, uptown diva and doyenne of Harlem. Carmen, always ready to have a handsome young man at her fabulous soirees and to add to her devoted entourage, happily takes him under her wing. Fueled by his parents' money and dodging the people who remember him as Mason Randolph, "Malik" masquerades as a "ghettonian," exploring the wonders and pleasures of a Harlem in the midst of a second Renaissance. But his odyssey takes a different turn when he meets Kyra, whose world mirrors the one he has abandoned. As he contemplates the choices Kyra has made, and begins to reexamine his own presumptions about identity and authenticity, Mason realizes that everyone has something to hide and that to get what we want, we have to be willing to let go of our secrets. (publisher)



***The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend-Katarina Bivald***

*394 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD book, large print*

Broken Wheel, Iowa, has never seen anyone like Sara, who traveled all the way from Sweden just to meet her book-loving pen pal, Amy. When she arrives, however, she finds Amy's funeral guests just leaving. The residents of Broken Wheel are happy to look after their bewildered visitor--there's not much else to do in a dying small town that's almost beyond repair. You certainly wouldn't open a bookstore. And definitely not with the tourist in charge. You'd need a vacant storefront (Main Street is full of them), books (Amy's house is full of them), and customers. The bookstore might be a little quirky. Then again, so is Sara. But Broken Wheel's own story might be more eccentric and surprising than she thought.

***Rebecca – Dame Daphne du Maurier***

*386 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in studyguides.org*

In this classic novel the reader is ushered into an isolated gray stone mansion on the windswept Cornish coast, as the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter recalls the chilling events that transpired as she began her new life as the young bride of a husband she barely knew. For in every corner of every room were phantoms of a time dead but not forgotten—a past devotedly preserved by the sinister housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers: a suite immaculate and untouched, clothing laid out and ready to be worn, but not by any of the great house's current occupants. With an eerie presentiment of evil tightening her heart, the second Mrs. de Winter walked in the shadow of her mysterious predecessor, determined to uncover the darkest secrets and shattering truths about Maxim's first wife—the late and hauntingly beautiful Rebecca. (publisher)

***Redeployment- Phil Klay*** Winner of the National Book Award

*291 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in penguin.com*

Phil Klay's *Redeployment* takes readers to the frontlines of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, asking us to understand what happened there, and what happened to the soldiers who returned. Interwoven with themes of brutality and faith, guilt and fear, helplessness and survival, the characters in these stories struggle to make meaning out of chaos. *Redeployment* is poised to become a classic in the tradition of war writing. Across nations and continents, Klay sets in devastating relief the two worlds a soldier inhabits: one of extremes and one of loss. Written with a hard-eyed realism and stunning emotional depth, this work marks Phil Klay as one of the most talented new voices of his generation. (publisher)

***The Red Tent – Anita Diamant***

*321 pages, also available-large print, eBook, eAudio, cdbook, guide in book*

In a story based on the Book of Genesis, Jacob's only daughter, Dinah, shares her unique perspectives on the origins of many of our modern religious practices and sexual politics, eager to impart the lessons in endurance and humanity she has learned from her father's wives.

***A Reliable Wife – Robert Goolrick***

*305 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman with a troubled past who lives in a remote nineteenth-century Wisconsin town, has advertised for a reliable wife; and his ad is answered by Catherine Land, a woman who makes every effort to hide her own dark secrets.

***Remember Me? – Sophie Kinsella***

*389 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Awakening in the hospital after a car crash believing that it is 2004 and that she is a twenty-five-year-old, disorganized, single sales associate, Lexi is stunned to find that she has lost three years in her life, she is the boss of her department, and she is married to a handsome millionaire, but her perfect new life begins to go awry, especially when a man shows up claiming to be her secret lover.

**Revolution – Jennifer Donnelly**

471 pages, also available- eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [randomhouse.com](#)

Andi Alpers is on the edge. She's angry at her father for leaving, angry at her mother for not being able to cope, and heartbroken by the loss of her younger brother, Truman. Rage and grief are destroying her. And she's about to be expelled from Brooklyn Heights' most prestigious private school when her father intervenes. Now Andi must accompany him to Paris for winter break. Alexandrine Paradis lived over two centuries ago. She dreamed of making her mark on the Paris stage, but a fateful encounter with a doomed prince of France cast her in a tragic role she didn't want—and couldn't escape. Two girls, two centuries apart. One never knowing the other. But when Andi finds Alexandrine's diary, she recognizes something in her words and is moved to the point of obsession. There's comfort and distraction for Andi in the journal's antique pages—until, on a midnight journey through the catacombs of Paris, Alexandrine's words transcend paper and time, and the past becomes suddenly, terrifyingly present. (publisher)

**The Rooftops of Tehran – Mahbod Seraji**

345 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book

"In his haunting debut novel, Mahbod Seraji brings humor and humanity to a story of secret love in the brutal last days of the Shah. Set against the background of repression that launched the Iranian revolution, Pasha's and Zari's story shows that love and hope among the young thrive even in the most oppressive of times. Seraji is a striking new talent." - Sandra Dallas, author of *Tallgrass* (publisher)

**The Rosie Project - Graeme Simsion**

295 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in book

The art of love is never a science: Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially inept professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers. Rosie Jarman possesses all these qualities. Don easily disqualifies her as a candidate for The Wife Project (even if she is quite intelligent for a barmaid). But Don is intrigued by Rosie's own quest to identify her biological father. When an unlikely relationship develops as they collaborate on The Father Project, Don is forced to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie and the realization that, despite your best scientific efforts, you don't find love, it finds you. (publisher)

**The Round House-Louise Erdrich -Winner of the National Book Award**

321 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [harpercollins.com](#)

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 that destroyed his family.

**The Samurai's Garden – Gail Tsukuyama**

211 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](#)

On the eve of the Second World War, a young Chinese man is sent to his family's summer home in Japan to recover from tuberculosis. He will rest, swim in the salubrious sea, and paint in the brilliant shoreside light. It will be quiet and solitary. But he meets four local residents - a lovely young Japanese girl and three older people. What then ensues is a tale that readers will find at once classical yet utterly unique. Young Stephen has his own adventure, but it is the unfolding story of Matsu, Sachi, and Kenzo that seizes your attention and will stay with you forever. ([readinggroupguides.com](#))

**Sarah's Key – Tatiana De Rosnay**

293 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in book

On the sixtieth anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by the French police in the Vel d'Hiv section of Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article on this dark episode during World War II and embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah, a young girl caught up in the raid.

### ***Savannah Blues* – Mary Kay Andrews**

*404 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Landing a catch like Talmadge Evans III got Eloise “Weezie” Foley a jewel of a town house in Savannah’s historic district. Divorcing Tal got her exiled to the backyard carriage house, where she has launched a spite-fest with Tal’s new fiancée, the elegant Caroline DeSantos. An antiques picker, Weezie combs Savannah’s steamy back alleys and garage sales for treasures when she’s not dealing with her loopy relatives or her hunky ex-boyfriend. But an unauthorized sneak preview at a sale lands Weezie smack in the middle of magnolia-scented murder, mayhem . . . and more. Dirty deals simmer all around her — just as her relationship with the hottest chef in town heats up and she finds out how delicious love can be the second time around. (author)

### ***Sea Creatures*-Susanna Daniel**

*314 pages, also available-eBNook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

When Georgia Qullian returns to her hometown of Miami, her toddler and husband in tow, she is hoping for a fresh start. They have left Illinois trailing scandal and disappointment in their wake, fallout from her husband’s severe sleep disorder. For months, their three-year-old son has refused to speak a word. On a whim, Georgia takes a job as an errand runner for a reclusive artist and is surprised at how her life changes dramatically. But soon the family’s challenges return, more complicated than before. Late that summer, as a hurricane bears down on South Florida, Georgia must face the fact that her decisions have put her only child in grave danger. (publisher)

### ***The Second Mrs. Hockaday*- Susan Rivers**

*264 pages, also available eBook, eAudio*

When Major Gryffth Hockaday is called to the front lines of the Civil War, his new bride is left to care for her husband’s three-hundred-acre farm and infant son. Placidia, a mere teenager herself living far from her family and completely unprepared to run a farm or raise a child, must endure the darkest days of the war on her own. By the time Major Hockaday returns two years later, Placidia is bound for jail, accused of having borne a child in his absence and murdering it. What really transpired in the two years he was away? A love story, a story of racial divide, and a story of the South as it fell in the war, *The Second Mrs. Hockaday* reveals how this generation--and the next--began to see their world anew.

### ***The Secret of Everything* – Barbara O’Neal**

*385 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in randomhouse.com*

Questioning her worth and identity after a disastrous accident, Tessa Harlow makes her way to a New Mexico town high in the mountains and finds purpose and healing in a culinary life. By the Colorado Springs author of *The Lost Recipe for Happiness* and many others as Barbara Samuel and Ruth Wind. Contact Barbara via [barbaraoneal.com](http://barbaraoneal.com) with requests to attend your meetings.

### ***The Secret Place*-Tana French**

*452 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Detective Stephen Moran has been waiting for his chance to join Dublin’s Murder Squad when sixteen-year-old Holly Mackey arrives in his office with a photo of a popular boy whose body was found at a girls’ boarding school a year earlier. The photo had been posted at *The Secret Place*, the school’s anonymous gossip board, and the caption says I KNOW WHO KILLED HIM. Stephen joins with Detective Antoinette Conway to reopen the case beneath the watchful eye of Holly’s father, fellow detective Frank Mackey, subject of French’s *Faithful Place*. With the clues leading back to Holly’s close-knit group of friends, to their rival clique, and to the tangle of relationships that bound them all to the murdered boy, the private underworld of teenage girls turns out to be more mysterious and more dangerous than the detectives imagined. (publisher)

***The Sense of an Ending* – Julian Barnes** –Winner of the Man Booker Prize

*163 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

This intense novel follows Tony Webster, a middle-aged man, as he contends with a past he never thought much about until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony thought he left this all behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world. (publisher)

***Shadowshaper*- Daniel Jose Older**

*297 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD book*

Sierra Santiago was looking forward to a fun summer of making art, hanging out with her friends, and skating around Brooklyn. But then a weird zombie guy crashes the first party of the season. Sierra's near-comatose abuelo begins to say "No importa" over and over. And when the graffiti murals in Bed-Stuy start to weep . . . Well, something stranger than the usual New York mayhem is going on. Sierra soon discovers a supernatural order called the Shadowshapers, who connect with spirits via paintings, music, and stories. Her grandfather once shared the order's secrets with an anthropologist, Dr. Jonathon Wick, who turned the Caribbean magic to his own foul ends. Now Wick wants to become the ultimate Shadowshaper by killing all the others, one by one. With the help of her friends and the hot graffiti artist Robbie, Sierra must dodge Wick's supernatural creations, harness her own Shadowshaping abilities, and save her family's past, present, and future.

***The Shadow of the Wind* – Carlos Ruiz Zafon**

*486 pages, also available-eBook, Playaway, eAudio,*

A great world city lies shrouded in secrets after the war, and a boy mourning the loss of his mother finds solace in his love for an extraordinary book called *The Shadow of the Wind*, by an author named Julian Carax. When the boy searches for Carax's other books, it begins to dawn on him, to his horror, that someone has been systematically destroying every copy of every book the man has ever written. Soon the boy realizes that *The Shadow of the Wind* is as dangerous to own as it is impossible to forget, for the mystery of its author's identity holds the key to an epic story of murder, madness, and doomed love that someone will go to any lengths to keep secret. (publisher)

***The Silent Land* – Graham Joyce**

*262 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, no guide*

When Jake and Zoe are buried under a flash avalanche while skiing in the French Pyrenees, they miraculously dig their way out from under the snow only to discover the world they knew has been overtaken by an eerie and absolute silence. With their phones cut off, and the village evacuated of every living soul, the young married couple begin to witness strange, unsettling events neither one can ignore. And as the days wear on, they are forced to confront frightening possibilities as they attempt to survive and escape the silent land they now inhabit.

***Skiping Christmas* – John Grisham**

*177 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, no guide*

Luther and Nora Krank decide to avoid the chaos and frenzy of Christmas by taking a Caribbean cruise during the holidays, but their plans have unexpected consequences.

***The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing*—Mira Jacobs**

512 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [randomhouse.com](#)

With depth, heart, and agility, debut novelist Mira Jacob takes us on a deftly plotted journey that ranges from 1970s India to suburban 1980s New Mexico to Seattle during the dot.com boom. *The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing* is an epic, irreverent testimony to the bonds of love, the pull of hope, and the power of making peace with life's uncertainties. Celebrated brain surgeon Thomas Eapen has been sitting on his porch, talking to dead relatives. At least that is the story his wife, Kamala, prone to exaggeration, tells their daughter, Amina, a photographer living in Seattle. Reluctantly Amina returns home and finds a situation that is far more complicated than her mother let on, with roots in a trip the family, including Amina's rebellious brother Akhil, took to India twenty years earlier. Confronted by Thomas's unwillingness to explain himself, strange looks from the hospital staff, and a series of puzzling items buried in her mother's garden, Amina soon realizes that the only way she can help her father is by coming to terms with her family's painful past. In doing so, she must reckon with the ghosts that haunt all of the Eapens. (publisher)

***Snow Child* – Eowyn Ivey**

391 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in [book](#)

A childless couple working a farm in the brutal landscape of 1920 Alaska discover a little girl living in the wilderness, with a red fox as a companion, and begin to love the strange, almost-supernatural child as their own.

***Snow Falling on Cedars* – David Guterson**

345 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, DVD, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](#)

A Japanese-American fisherman's 1954 murder trial becomes the backdrop of a story that follows a doomed love affair between a white boy and a Japanese girl, a simmering land dispute, and the wartime internment of San Pedro's Japanese residents.

***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* – Lisa See**

258 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in [book](#)

An evocative story of friendship set against the backdrop of a nineteenth-century China in which women suffered from foot binding, isolation, and illiteracy follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

***Something Real*—Heather Demetrios** Winner of the Susan P. Bloom PEN New England Discovery Award

406 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [heatherdemetrios.com](#)

Seventeen-year-old Bonnie™ Baker has grown up on TV--she and her twelve siblings are the stars of one-time hit reality show *Baker's Dozen*. Since the show's cancellation, Bonnie™ has tried to live a normal life, under the radar and out of the spotlight. But it's about to fall apart . . . because *Baker's Dozen* is going back on the air. Bonnie™'s mom and the show's producers won't let her quit and soon the life that she has so carefully built for herself, with real friends (and maybe even a real boyfriend), is in danger of being destroyed by the show. Bonnie™ needs to do something drastic if her life is ever going to be her own--even if it means being more exposed than ever before.

***South of Superior* – Ellen Airgood**

374 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](#)

When Madeline Stone walks away from Chicago and moves five hundred miles north to the coast of Lake Superior, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, she isn't prepared for how much her life will change. Charged with caring for an aging family friend, Madeline finds herself in the middle of beautiful nowhere with Gladys and Arbutus, two octogenarian sisters—one sharp and stubborn, the other sweeter than sunshine. As Madeline begins to experience the ways of the small, tight-knit town, she is drawn into the lives and dramas of its residents. It's a place where times are tough and debts run deep, but friendship, community, and compassion run deeper. As the story hurtles along—featuring a lost child, a dashed love, a car accident, a wedding, a fire, and a romantic reunion—Gladys, Arbutus, and the rest of the town teach Madeline more about life, love, and goodwill than she's learned in a lifetime. (publisher)

***The Space Between Us – Thrity Umrigar***

*321 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in book*

Captures the delicate balance of class and gender in contemporary India as witnessed through the lives of two women--Sera Dubash, an upper middle-class housewife, and Bhima, an illiterate domestic hardened by a life of loss and despair.

***A Star for Mrs. Blake – April Smith***

*329 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in randomhouse.com*

Cora Blake never dreamed she'd go to Paris. She's hardly ever left the small fishing village where she grew up. Yet in the summer of 1931, she is invited to travel to France with hundreds of other Gold Star Mothers, courtesy of the U.S. government, to say goodbye to their fallen sons, American casualties of World War I who were buried overseas. Chaperoned by a dashing West Point officer, Cora's group includes the wife of an immigrant chicken farmer; a housemaid; a socialite; a former tennis star in precarious mental health; and dozens of other women from all over the country. Along the way, the women will forge lifelong friendships as they face a death, a scandal, and a secret revealed. (publisher)

***State of Wonder – Ann Patchett***

*353 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide at readinggroupguides.com*

A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years--a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past.

***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry- Gabrielle Zevin***

*270 pages, also available-large print, eBook. cdbook. Playaway, IClick eAudio, guide in book*

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. "This novel has humor, romance, a touch of suspense, but most of all love--love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity in its imperfect glory." -- Eowyn Ivey, author of *The Snow Child* (publisher)

***The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie-Alan Bradley***

*373 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, large print, CD book*

Flavia, an 11-year-old with a chemistry lab, finds a corpse in a cucumber patch and applies the detective skills she learned plotting against her older sisters. This debut mystery by a Canadian author won the 2007 Crime Writer Association's Debut Dagger Award.

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

*369 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in knopfdoubleday.com*

Earl's All-You-Can-Eat diner in Plainview, Indiana, is home away from home for Odette, Clarice, and Barbara Jean. Dubbed "The Supremes" by high school pals in the tumultuous 1960s, they've weathered life's storms for over four decades and counseled one another through marriage and children, happiness and the blues. Now, however, they're about to face their most challenging year yet. Proud, talented Clarice is struggling to keep up appearances as she deals with her husband's humiliating infidelities; beautiful Barbara Jean is rocked by the tragic reverberations of a youthful love affair; and fearless Odette is about to embark on the most terrifying battle of her life. With wit, style and sublime talent, Edward Kelsey Moore brings together three devoted allies in a warmhearted novel that celebrates female friendship and second chances. (publisher)

***Tallgrass – Sandra Dallas***

*303 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Her life turned upside-down when a Japanese internment camp is opened in their small Colorado town, Rennie witnesses the way her community places suspicion on the newcomers when a young girl is murdered, an event that prompts Rennie's own perspective change and the discovery of dangerous secrets.

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

*371 pages, also available cd book, bookplayer, eAudio, eBook, large print*

Li-yan and her family align their lives around the seasons and the farming of tea. There is ritual and routine, and it has been ever thus for generations. Then one day a jeep appears at the village gate--the first automobile any of them have seen--and a stranger arrives. In this remote Yunnan village, the stranger finds the rare tea he has been seeking and a reticent Akha people. In her biggest seller, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, See introduced the Yao people to her readers. Here she shares the customs of another Chinese ethnic minority, the Akha, whose world will soon change. Li-yan, one of the few educated girls on her mountain, translates for the stranger and is among the first to reject the rules that have shaped her existence. When she has a baby outside of wedlock, rather than stand by tradition, she wraps her daughter in a blanket, with a tea cake hidden in her swaddling, and abandons her in the nearest city. After mother and daughter have gone their separate ways, Li-yan slowly emerges from the security and insularity of her village to encounter modern life while Haley grows up a privileged and well-loved California girl. Despite Haley's happy home life, she wonders about her origins; and Li-yan longs for her lost daughter. They both search for and find answers in the tea that has shaped their family's destiny for generations.

***Tender Is the Night – F. Scott Fitzgerald***

*317 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, Playaway, guide in classlit.about.com*

A story of Americans on the French Riviera in the 1930s is a portrait of psychological disintegration as a wealthy couple supports friends and hangers-on financially and emotionally at the cost of their own stability.

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

*193 pages, also available on cdbook, eBook, eAudio, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

One of the most important works of twentieth-century American literature, Zora Neale Hurston's beloved 1937 classic, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is an enduring Southern love story sparkling with wit, beauty, and heartfelt wisdom. Told in the captivating voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, it is the story of fair-skinned, fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose. A true literary wonder, Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published -- perhaps the most widely read and highly regarded novel in the entire canon of African American literature. (publisher)

***Then She Found Me – Elinor Lipman***

*307 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, DVD, no guide*

Meet April Epner, the serious, scholarly, adopted daughter of two equally staid parents. They die, but April finds that she's far from orphaned when her birth mother, Bernice Graverman, comes to claim April's heart and improve her wardrobe and love life, too. April is a Latin teacher, given to wearing flannel jumpers. Bernice is hostess of a third-rate daytime talk show and wears designer labels and toad-sized earrings. She descends upon April's quiet life with the tact of a size-six locust, and the delightful and surprising results of this unlikely reunion will keep you turning pages long after bedtime. (Amazon)

***These is My Words – Nancy Turner***

*384 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

In a novel based on the author's ancestress, Sarah Prine, a child of the westward expansion, records her dreams, marriage, adventures, joys, and sorrows in her diary.

***The Thirteenth Tale – Diane Setterfield***

*406 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

When her health begins failing, the mysterious author Vida Winter decides to let Margaret Lea, a biographer, write the truth about her life, but Margaret needs to verify the facts since Vida has a history of telling outlandish tales.

***This Is Where I Leave You – Jonathan Tropper***

*339 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, OneClick eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

The death of Judd Foxman's father marks the first time that the entire Foxman clan has congregated in years. There is, however, one conspicuous absence: Judd's wife, Jen, whose affair with his radio- shock-jock boss has recently become painfully public. Simultaneously mourning the demise of his father and his marriage, Judd joins his dysfunctional family as they reluctantly sit shiva-and spend seven days and nights under the same roof. The week quickly spins out of control as longstanding grudges resurface, secrets are revealed and old passions are reawakened. Then Jen delivers the clincher: she's pregnant. (publisher)

***Time of My Life – Allison Winn Scotch***

*291 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in book*

Despite her perfect family, Jillian Westfield cannot help but wonder about the life she has left behind and what might have happened if she had not married Henry or quit her job to be a stay-at-home mom, and gets the chance to find out when she wakes up in the middle of her life as it was seven years before.

***To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee***

*296 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A little girl whose father defends a black man accused of rape views the explosion of racial hate and violence in a small Alabama town.

***The Tortilla Curtain – T. C. Boyle***

*355 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

While leading their lives in their gated hilltop community in Los Angeles, Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher accidentally meet Mexican illegal aliens Candido and America Rincon, and their encounter brings them together in a relationship of error and misunderstanding.

***The Trench Angel-Michael Keenan Gutierrez***

*246 pages, also available-eBook, guide in assetlibrary.supadu.com*

Colorado, 1919. Photographer Neal Stephens, home from the War, is blackmailed by the sheriff over his secret marriage to a black woman in France. When the sheriff is murdered, Neal's investigation calls up memories of the trenches and his search for his dead wife, as he untangles the connections among the murder, the Colorado coal miners' strike, and his mysterious anarchist father. (publisher)

***The Truth about the Harry Quebec Affair- Joel Dicker***

*643 pages, also available eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in penguin.com*

The #1 internationally bestselling thriller, and ingenious book within a book, about the disappearance of a 15-year-old New Hampshire girl and, 30 years later, a young American writer's determination to clear his mentor's name-and find the inspiration for his next bestseller August 30, 1975: the day fifteen-year-old Nola Kellergan is glimpsed fleeing through the woods before she disappears; the day Somerset, New Hampshire, lost its innocence. Thirty-three years later, Marcus Goldman, a successful young novelist, visits Somerset to see his mentor, Harry Quebert, one of America's most respected writers, and to find a cure for his writer's block as his publisher's deadline looms. But Marcus's plans are violently upended when Harry is suddenly and sensationally implicated in the cold-case murder of Nola Kellergan-whom, he admits, he had an affair with. As the national media convicts Harry, Marcus launches his own investigation, following a trail of clues through his mentor's books, the backwoods and isolated beaches of New Hampshire, and the hidden history of Somerset's citizens and the man they hold most dear. To save Harry, his writing career, and eventually even himself, Marcus must answer three questions, all of which are mysteriously connected: Who killed Nola Kellergan? What happened one misty morning in Somerset in the summer of 1975? And how do you write a successful and true novel? (publisher)



### ***The Underground Railroad- Colson Whitehead***

*336 pages, also available eBook, eAudio, cdbook, large print, and Spanish*

From prize-winning, bestselling author Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hell for all the slaves, but especially bad for Cora; an outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is coming into womanhood--where even greater pain awaits. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned--Cora kills a young white boy who tries to capture her. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. (Oprah's Book Club)

### ***Unwind-Neal Shusterman***

*335 pages, also available- eBook, CD book, playaway*

In a society where unwanted teens are salvaged for their body parts, three runaways fight the system that would "unwind" them. Connor's parents want to be rid of him because he's a troublemaker. Risa has no parents and is being unwound to cut orphanage costs. Lev's unwinding has been planned since his birth, as part of his family's strict religion. Brought together by chance, and kept together by desperation, these three unlikely companions make a harrowing cross-country journey, knowing their lives hang in the balance. If they can survive until their eighteenth birthday, they can't be harmed -- but when every piece of them, from their hands to their hearts, are wanted by a world gone mad, eighteen seems far, far away. In *Unwind*, Boston Globe/Horn Book Award winner Neal Shusterman challenges readers' ideas about life -- not just where life begins, and where it ends, but what it truly means to be alive.

### ***Valley of the Moon- Melanie Gideon***

*394 pages, also available eBook*

San Francisco, 1975 . A single mother, Lux Lysander is overwhelmed, underpaid, and living on the edge of an emotional precipice. When her adored five-year-old son goes away to visit his grandparents, Lux takes a solo trip to Sonoma Valley--a chance to both lose herself and find herself again. Awakened at midnight, Lux steps outside to see a fog settled over the Sonoma landscape. Wandering toward a point of light in the distance, she emerges into a meadow on a sunny day. There she meets a group of people whose sweetly simple clothing, speech, and manners almost make them seem as if they are from another time. And then she realizes they are. Lux has stumbled upon an idyllic community cut off not only from the rest of the world but from time itself. The residents of Greengage tell a stunned and disoriented Lux that they've somehow been marooned in the early twentieth century. Now that she has inexplicably stepped into the past, it is not long before Lux is drawn in by its peace and beauty. Unlike the people of Greengage, Lux discovers that she is able to come and go. And over the years, Lux finds herself increasingly torn between her two lives. Her beloved son is very much a child of the modern world, but she feels continually pulled back to the only place she has ever truly felt at home.

### ***A Vintage Affair - Isabel Wolff***

*372 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide in litlovers.com*

Phoebe Swift's friends are stunned when she abruptly leaves a plum job to open her own vintage clothing shop in London but to Phoebe, the fulfillment of a dream, and her passion. Digging for finds in attics and wardrobes, Phoebe knows that when you buy a piece of vintage clothing, you're not just buying fabric and thread you are buying a piece of someone's past. But one particular article of clothing will soon unexpectedly change her life. Therese Bell, an elderly Frenchwoman, has an impressive clothing collection. But among the array of elegant suits and couture gowns, Phoebe finds a child's sky-blue coat an item with which Mrs. Bell is stubbornly reluctant to part. As the two women become friends, Phoebe will learn the poignant tale of that little blue coat. And she will discover an astonishing connection between herself and Therese Bell, one that will help her heal the pain of her own past and allow her to love again. (publisher)

### ***What She Left Behind*-Ellen Marie Wiseman**

*237 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, paperback, CD book*

Sara and her mom have a plan to finally escape Sara's abusive father. But when her mom doesn't show up as expected, Sara's terrified. Her father says that she's on a business trip, but Sara knows he's lying. Her mom is missing--and her dad had something to do with it. With each day that passes, Sara's more on edge. Her friends know that something's wrong, but she won't endanger anyone else with her secret. And with her dad growing increasingly violent, Sara must figure out what happened to her mom before it's too late...for them both.

### ***When You Reach Me* – Rebecca Stead –Winner of the Newbery Award**

*199 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in bestsellers.about.com*

This remarkable novel holds a fantastic puzzle at its heart. By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for emergencies is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

### ***Where'd You Go, Bernadette* – Maria Semple**

*330 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Bernadette Fox is notorious. To her Microsoft-guru husband, she's a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect, and to 15-year-old Bee, she is a best friend and, simply, Mom. Then Bernadette disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her promised reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to Seattle--and people in general--has made her so agoraphobic that a virtual assistant in India now runs her most basic errands. A trip to the end of the earth is problematic. To find her mother, Bee compiles email messages, official documents, secret correspondence--creating a compulsively readable and touching novel about misplaced genius and a mother and daughter's role in an absurd world. (publisher)

### ***The Whip* - Karen Kondazian**

*294 pages, guide in kondazian.com*

The Whip is inspired by the true story of a woman, Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst (1812-1879) who lived most of her extraordinary life as a man. As a young woman in Rhode Island, she fell in love and had a child. Her husband was lynched and her baby killed. The destruction of her family drove her west to California, dressed as a man, to track down the murder. Charley became a renowned stagecoach driver. She killed a famous outlaw, had a secret love affair, and lived with a housekeeper who, unaware of her true sex, fell in love with her. Charley was the first woman to vote in America (as a man). Her grave lies in Watsonville, California. (publisher)

### ***Winter Garden* – Kristin Hannah**

*436 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

Reunited when their beloved father falls ill, sisters Meredith and Nina find themselves under the shadow of their disapproving mother, whose painful history is hidden behind her rendition of a Russian fairy tale told to the sisters in childhood.

### ***Year of Wonders: a Novel of the Plague* – Geraldine Brooks**

*308 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Young Anna Frith, a vicar's maid, is faced with the loss of her family, the disintegration of her local community, and a passionate, illicit love as she and her village confront the horrors of the plague, in a historical novel based on real-life events in seventeenth-century England.

## **Nonfiction**

***The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America* – Timothy Egan**

*324 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in bestsellers.about.com*

Offers a dramatic account of the largest-ever forest fire in America, which cemented Teddy Roosevelt's legacy because the heroism shown by the forest rangers turned public opinion permanently in favor of the forests, which Roosevelt wanted to conserve, in a book by a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner.

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

*307 pages, also available-eBook, guide at bookbrowse.com*

Describes the deadly 1888 snowstorm in the Great Plains that killed more than five hundred people including numerous schoolchildren, describing how the storm devastated immigrant families and dramatically affected pioneer advancement.

***The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to his White Mother* – James McBride**

*228 pages, also available-large print, eBook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

A young African-American man describes growing up in an all-black Brooklyn housing project, one of twelve children of a white mother and black father, and discusses his mother's contributions to his life and coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity.

***Deep Survival: Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why / True Stories of Miraculous Endurance and Sudden Death* – Laurence Gonzales**

*318 pages, also available-cdbook, eAudio, guide available on deepsurvival.com*

An analysis of the science and psychology of wilderness survival examines case stories of people who have survived against the odds--or failed to survive despite comparatively better resources--in a volume that evaluates the conditions on a snowy mountaintop, in the ocean, in the jungle, and more.

***Devil in the White City* – Erik Larson 2010 APPR title**

*447 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A compelling account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 brings together the divergent stories of two very different men who played a key role in shaping the history of the event--visionary architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and Dr. Henry H. Holmes, an insatiable and charming serial killer.

***84, Charing Cross Road*-Helene Hanff**

*97 pages, also available- eBook, DVD*

This charming classic love story, first published in 1970, brings together twenty years of correspondence between Helene Hanff, at the time, a freelance writer living in New York City, and a used-book dealer in London at 84, Charing Cross Road. Through the years, though never meeting and separated both geographically and culturally, they share a winsome, sentimental friendship based on their common love for books. Their relationship, captured so acutely in these letters, is one that has touched the hearts of thousands of readers around the world.

***The End of Your Life Book Club*- Will Schwalbe**

*336 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

During her treatment for cancer, Mary Anne Schwalbe and her son Will spent many hours sitting in waiting rooms together. To pass the time, they would talk about the books they were reading. Once, by chance, they

read the same book at the same time and an informal book club of two was born. Through their wide-ranging reading, Will and Mary Anne and we, their fellow readers are reminded how books can be comforting, astonishing, and illuminating, changing the way that we feel about and interact with the world around us. (publisher)

***Extraordinary Women of the Rocky Mountain West – PPLD staff***

*325 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide provided by PPLD*

This recipient of a Finalist Award in the 2011 Women Writing the West WILLA Literary Awards competition brings us the real women who homesteaded, worked the ranches, built the cities, ran the businesses, brought art to the frontier, founded the institutions, preserved human history and natural wonders, fought against racial and gender discrimination, and advanced the cause of equality for women. The women of this book exhibited “can-do, forthright frontier spunk;” some were quiet, others were strident. They were nonviolent but definitely militant. Their stories are powerful, exciting, and inspiring, all the more for being the unsung heroines who carved a life out of a vast region and forged a society where strong, intelligent, capable women stood up to forces of nature and political opposition and conquered most obstacles. (PPLD)

***Galileo’s Daughter – Dava Sobel***

*420 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

Presents a biography of the scientist through the surviving letters of his illegitimate daughter Maria Celeste, who wrote him from the Florence convent where she lived from the age of thirteen.

***The Girl with Seven Names- Heyonseo Lee***

*304 pages, also available eBook, eAudio*

As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question and to realise that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty and starvation she witnessed surely her country could not be, as she had been told "the best on the planet"? Aged seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family.

***The Girls of Atomic City-Denise Kierman***

*373 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in book*

At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, and consumed more electricity than New York City, yet it was shrouded in such secrecy that it did not appear on any map. Thousands of civilians, many of them young women from small towns across the U.S., were recruited to this secret city, enticed by the promise of solid wages and war-ending work. What were they actually *doing* there? Very few knew. The purpose of this mysterious government project was kept a secret from the outside world and from the majority of the residents themselves. Some wondered why, despite the constant work and round-the-clock activity in this makeshift town, did no tangible product of any kind ever seem to leave its guarded gates? The women who kept this town running would find out at the end of the war, when Oak Ridge’s secret was revealed and changed the world forever.

***Glass Castle – Jeannette Walls***

*288 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

The second child of a scholarly, alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing from the Arizona desert, to Las Vegas, to an Appalachian mining town, during which her siblings and she fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

***Gold! Madness, Murder and Mayhem in the Colorado Rockies- Ian Paul Neligh***

*196 pages*

Gold! brings together the story of this metal's glittering legacy in the Centennial State and the madness, murder, and mayhem that came along with it. The book examines the rich history of the miners and treasure

hunters who came to face danger and hardships in the unforgiving Rocky Mountains. This story is unique in that it takes a look at the phenomenon of gold, the treasure hunters, both modern and historic, and brings them to life in a detailed and sharp narrative. *Gold!* is the story of an unusual subculture on the rise in the mountains of Colorado fueled by a delicate balance of hope, greed, and loss. It tells the story of men mostly forgotten by the world as they go in endless pursuit of an impossible fortune. It follows miners working their small, dangerous gold claims in mines over a hundred years old, to modern-day prospectors trying to strike it rich and counterbalance the weight of a struggling economy. The book also examines if those who spend their lives in search of riches--ever actually strike it rich.

***The Happiness Project: Or Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun – Gretchen Rubin***

*315 pages, also available-large print, eBook, guide in harpercollins.com*

Chronicles the author's year spent testing the edicts of conventional wisdom to assess their actual potential for improving life, describing how she engaged in various activities from getting more sleep and singing to her children to starting a blog and imitating a spiritual master.

***H is for Hawk-Helen MacDonald***

*300 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, large print, CD book, DVD*

When Helen Macdonald's father died suddenly on a London street, she was devastated. An experienced falconer—Helen had been captivated by hawks since childhood—she'd never before been tempted to train one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk. But in her grief, she saw that the goshawk's fierce and feral temperament mirrored her own. Resolving to purchase and raise the deadly creature as a means to cope with her loss, she adopted Mabel, and turned to the guidance of *The Once and Future King* author T.H. White's chronicle *The Goshawk* to begin her challenging endeavor. Projecting herself "in the hawk's wild mind to tame her" tested the limits of Macdonald's humanity and changed her life.

***Homer's Odyssey: A Fearless Feline Tale, or How I Learned about Love and Life With a Blind Wonder Cat – Gwen Cooper***

*299 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in gwencooper.com*

The last thing Gwen Cooper wanted was another cat. She already had two, not to mention a phenomenally underpaying job and a recently broken heart. Then Gwen's veterinarian called with a story about a three-week-old eyeless kitten who'd been abandoned. It was love at first sight. Everyone warned that Homer would always be an "underachiever." But the kitten nobody believed in quickly grew into a three-pound dynamo with a giant heart who eagerly made friends with every human who crossed his path. Homer scaled seven-foot bookcases with ease, survived being trapped alone for days after 9/11 in an apartment near the World Trade Center, and even saved Gwen's life when he chased off an intruder who broke into their home in the middle of the night. But it was Homer's unswerving loyalty, his infinite capacity for love, and his joy in the face of all obstacles that transformed Gwen's life. And by the time she met the man she would marry, she realized that Homer had taught her the most valuable lesson of all: Love isn't something you see with your eyes. (publisher)

***Hotel Florida: Truth, Love, and Death in the Spanish Civil War-Amanda Vaill***

*436 pages, also available-eBook, guide in fsgbookkeeping.com*

Madrid, 1936. In a city blasted by civil war, six people meet and find their lives changed forever. Ernest Hemingway, his career stalled, his marriage sour, hopes this war will give him fresh material and new romance; Martha Gellhorn, an ambitious novice journalist hungry for love and experience, thinks she will find both with Hemingway in Spain. Robert Capa and Gerda Taro, idealistic young photographers based in Paris, are inventing modern photojournalism as they capture history in the making. And Arturo Barea, Madrid's foreign press chief, and Ilsa Kulcsar, his Austrian deputy, are struggling to balance truth-telling with loyalty to their sometimes compromised cause—a struggle that places both of them in peril. *Hotel Florida* traces the tangled wartime destinies of these three couples against the backdrop of a critical moment in history. From the raw material of unpublished letters and diaries, official documents, and recovered reels of film, Amanda Vaill has created a narrative of love and reinvention that is, finally, a story about truth: finding it out, telling it, and living it—whatever the cost.

***How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain* - Lisa Feldman Barrett**

*425 pages, also available eBook, bookplayer*

Emotions feel automatic, like uncontrollable reactions to things we think and experience. Scientists have long supported this assumption by claiming that emotions are hardwired in the body or the brain. Today, however, the science of emotion is in the midst of a revolution on par with the discovery of relativity in physics and natural selection in biology—this paradigm shift has far-reaching implications for us all. Leading the charge is psychologist and neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett, whose theory of emotion is driving a deeper understanding of the mind and brain, and shedding new light on what it means to be human. Her research overturns the widely held belief that emotions are housed in different parts of the brain and are universally expressed and recognized. Instead, she has shown that emotion is constructed in the moment, by core systems that interact across the whole brain, aided by a lifetime of learning. This new theory means that you play a much greater role in your emotional life than you ever thought. Its repercussions are already shaking the foundations not only of psychology but also of medicine, the legal system, child-rearing, meditation, and even airport security.

***I Feel Bad About my Neck: and Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* - Nora Ephron**

*137 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

A collection of witty essays offers a hilarious look at the ups and downs of being a woman of a certain age, discussing the tribulations of maintenance and trying to stop the clock, menopause, empty nests, her experiences of being a White House intern during the JFK years, and more.

***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* – Maya Angelou**

*289 pages, also available-cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

The critically acclaimed author and poet recalls the anguish of her childhood in Arkansas and her adolescence in northern slums, in the first volume of an extraordinary autobiographical series.

***Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – Rebecca Skloot**

*384 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

***In the Sanctuary of Outcasts: A Memoir* - Neil White**

*316 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide in readinggroupguides.com*

White was a successful magazine publisher in 1993 when he was convicted of fraud and check kiting and sentenced to prison in Carville, Louisiana. He knew he was facing 18 months without his wife and two young children; he knew his enormous ego and ambition had landed him in prison; he knew he had to figure out a way to save his marriage and somehow rebound financially. What he didn't know was that the isolated 100-year-old facility at Carville was home to a leper colony of 130 patients. He learned that the patients (some severely disfigured and disabled) and the 250 inmates eyed each other suspiciously across the corridors and breezeway, each thinking the other was the scourge of the earth. Because his work detail brought him into frequent contact with the patients, White developed strong relationships with them. His favorite was Ella, a dignified and beatific elderly black woman, who had lived at Carville for more than 50 years. Among the inmates, White encountered counterfeiters and tax evaders along with drug traffickers and carjackers. When the Bureau of Prisons decided to evict the leprosy patients, tensions built on both sides. White, near the end of his sentence and struggling to come to grips with the consequences of his crime, is caught in the middle. He offers a memoir of personal transformation and a thoroughly engaging look at the social, economic, racial, and other barriers that separate individuals that harden, dissolve, and reconfigure themselves when people are involuntarily thrust together over long periods. (Booklist)

***The Invisible Wall – Herry Bernstein***

*321 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in randomhouse.com*

In a memoir set on the eve of World War I, the author describes growing up in a working-class town in northern England, where Jews and Christians were strictly divided, and how his sister's love for a Christian boy broke down the invisible social barrier.

***Kabul Beauty School: an American Woman Goes Behind the Veil – Deborah Rodriguez***

*283 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in book*

Soon after the fall of the Taliban, in 2001, Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian aid group. Surrounded by people whose skills--as doctors, nurses, and therapists--seemed eminently more practical than her own, Rodriguez, a hairdresser and mother from Michigan, despaired of being of any real use. Yet she found she had a gift for befriending Afghans, and once her profession became known she was eagerly sought out by Westerners desperate for a good haircut and by Afghan women, who have a long and proud tradition of running their own beauty salons. Thus the idea for the Kabul Beauty School was born. Within that small haven, the line between teacher and student quickly blurred as these vibrant women shared with Rodriguez their stories and their hearts, ultimately giving her the strength to leave her own unhealthy marriage and allow herself to love again. (readinggroupguides.com)

***Legends, Labors & Loves of William Jackson Palmer – PPLD staff***

*381 pages, also available-eBook, eAudio, guide provided by PPLD*

This book contains the keys to the many doors in Palmer's own castle—his personal life. However, there still are rooms, private and concealed, which no one can ever enter. This “unauthorized biography” of a truly remarkable and modest man will open every reader's eyes to a new view of William Jackson Palmer. There is no scandal, nor is there deception. However, in these pages you will not only find integrity, leadership, and compassion, but you will also witness Palmer's tenacious conviction, strength, and shrewdness—just how one imagines a true “founding father.”

***Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong – James W. Loewen***

Winner of the American Book Award

*444 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, questions on file*

Americans have lost touch with their history, and in *Lies My Teacher Told Me* Professor James Loewen shows why. After surveying eighteen leading high school American history texts, he has concluded that not one does a decent job of making history interesting or memorable. Marred by an embarrassing combination of blind patriotism, mindless optimism, sheer misinformation, and outright lies, these books omit almost all the ambiguity, passion, conflict, and drama from our past. (publisher)

***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid – Bill Bryson***

*270 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide at [bestsellers.about.com](http://bestsellers.about.com)*

The best-selling author of *A Walk in the Woods* and *I'm a Stranger Here Myself* describes his all-American childhood growing up as a member of the baby boom generation in the heart of Iowa, detailing his rich fantasy life as a superhero known as the Thunderbolt Kid and his remarkably normal 1950s family life.

***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon- David Grann***

*400 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [litlovers.com](http://litlovers.com)*

Interweaves the story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who vanished during a 1925 expedition into the Amazon to find an ancient civilization, with the author's own adventure-filled quest into the uncharted wilderness to uncover the mysteries surrounding Fawcett's final journey and the secrets of what really lies deep in the Amazon jungle.

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

*241 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

A poet describes how, after her husband left her for a relationship with a man and she subsequently was seriously injured in a car crash, she returned home to her close-knit Mennonite family and came to terms with her failed marriage and her choices in life.

***Norse Mythology- Neil Gaiman***

*293 pages, also available- eBook, eAudio, CD book, large print*

Neil Gaiman has long been inspired by ancient mythology in creating the fantastical realms of his fiction. Now he turns his attention back to the source, presenting a bravura rendition of the great northern tales. In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman stays true to the myths in envisioning the major Norse pantheon: Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki--son of a giant--blood brother to Odin and a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. Gaiman fashions these primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds and delves into the exploits of deities, dwarfs, and giants. Once, when Thor's hammer is stolen, Thor must disguise himself as a woman--difficult with his beard and huge appetite--to steal it back. More poignant is the tale in which the blood of Kvasir--the most sagacious of gods--is turned into a mead that infuses drinkers with poetry. The work culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and rebirth of a new time and people. Through Gaiman's deft and witty prose emerge these gods with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to duping others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions, making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.

***Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West – Dorothy Wickenden***

*286 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, guide in [simonandschuster.com](http://simonandschuster.com)*

In the summer of 1916, Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, New York, to teach school in the wilds of northwestern Colorado. They lived with a family of homesteaders in the Elkhead Mountains and rode to school on horseback, often in blinding blizzards. Their students walked or skied, in tattered clothes and shoes tied together with string. The young cattle rancher who had lured them west, Ferry Carpenter, had promised them the adventure of a lifetime. He hadn't let on that they would be considered dazzling prospective brides for the locals. (publisher)

***Outliers – Malcolm Gladwell***

*285 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in [bestsellers.about.com](http://bestsellers.about.com)*

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 and why the Beatles earned their fame.



***Radical Survivor* – Dr. Nancy Saltzman**

A 2015 *Shelf Unbound* Notable 100 book

225 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [nancysaltzman.com](http://nancysaltzman.com)

"I'm sorry. There were no survivors." Nancy Saltzman tried to absorb the caller's words. Her entire family had perished in a small plane crash. The caller was wrong, though. There was a survivor—Nancy would have to go on living. She had beaten cancer twice, but how could even the most resilient spirit live through this ultimate loss? *Radical Survivor* chronicles Nancy Saltzman's extraordinary saga. We share her struggle as she overcomes despair through a deep sense of purpose—learning that through time, friendship, and love, the heart can make room for both loved ones lost and happiness found. With the added richness and insights of letters Saltzman received, as well as her sons' journal entries, *Radical Survivor* traverses the full spectrum of human emotions, offering a compelling gift of hope. By the Colorado Springs award winning author, educator, and speaker. Please contact Nancy via her website with requests to attend your meetings.

***Reading Lolita in Tehran: a Memoir in Books* – Azar Nafisi**

347 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](http://readinggroupguides.com)

The author describes growing up in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the group of young women who came together at her home in secret every Thursday to read and discuss great books of Western literature.

***The Reason I Jump*-Naoki Higashida**

135 pages, also available eBook, CD book

You've never read a book like *The Reason I Jump*. Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within. Using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts that he is unable to speak out loud, Naoki answers even the most delicate questions that people want to know. Questions such as: "Why do people with autism talk so loudly and weirdly?" "Why do you line up your toy cars and blocks?" "Why don't you make eye contact when you're talking?" and "What's the reason you jump?" (Naoki's answer: "When I'm jumping, it's as if my feelings are going upward to the sky.") With disarming honesty and a generous heart, Naoki shares his unique point of view on not only autism but life itself. His insights--into the mystery of words, the wonders of laughter, and the elusiveness of memory--are so startling, so strange, and so powerful that you will never look at the world the same way again.

***Same Kind of Different As Me* – Ron Hall**

245 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, guide in book

Describes how the co-author, a man held under plantation-style slavery until he fled in the 1960s, suffered homelessness for an additional eighteen years before the wife of the other co-author, an art dealer accustomed to privilege, intervened to save the former's life.

***The Screwtape Letters: With Screwtape Proposes a Toast* – C.S. Lewis**

209 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in [readinggroupguides.com](http://readinggroupguides.com)

In this humorous and perceptive exchange between two devils, C. S. Lewis delves into moral questions about good vs. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. Through this wonderful tale, the reader emerges with a better understanding of what it means to live a faithful life.

***The Tender Bar: a Memoir* – J.R. Moehringer**

368 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, guide in [bookbrowse.com](http://bookbrowse.com)

A vivid memoir of growing up and coming of age with a single mother describes how the author received valuable life lessons and friendship at the neighborhood bar, an old-time New York saloon populated by a colorful assortment of characters who provided him with a kind of fatherhood by committee.

### ***Tipping Point - Malcolm Gladwell***

*279 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in gladwell.com*

An introduction to the Tipping Point theory explains how minor changes in ideas and products can increase their popularity and how small adjustments in an individual's immediate environment can alter group behavior.

### ***To Dad, from Kelly – Kelly Lytle***

*184 pages, guide at kellylytle.com*

When Rob Lytle died at age 56, three decades after his football stardom at the University of Michigan ended and his professional career with the Denver Broncos began, his son Kelly Lytle poured his mix of grief, adulation, regret, gratitude, and even criticism into a series of letters to the man he considered his best friend. What began as catharsis evolved into a memoir that starts strong and gains steam the way Rob Lytle did in his dashes down the football field. *To Dad, From Kelly* adds dimensions as the author has the insight and candor to peel away the cachet of having a celebrity father and reveal the underside of an all-consuming devotion to a sport. Along the way, Kelly shares his difficulties with keeping sports competition in perspective. This reflection on an unusually close and complicated father-son bond will be entertaining, poignant, and inspiring for readers who love sports and those who don't because—although football provides a backdrop—the book is really about family, zeal, and character. (author)

### ***Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage, and Survival – Velma Wallis***

*176 pages, also available-eBook, guide in harpercollins.com*

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom"-Ursula K. Le Guin. (publisher)

### ***Unbroken-Laura Hillenbrand***

*389 pages, also available-large print, eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide in book*

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. (publisher)

### ***A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail – Bill Bryson***

*397 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, guide provided*

The Appalachian Trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America—majestic mountains, silent forests, sparkling lakes. If you're going to take a hike, it's probably the place to go. And Bill Bryson is surely the most entertaining guide you'll find. (Amazon)

### ***Walks on the Margins: A Story of Bipolar Illness– Kathy Brandt and Max Maddox***

Finalist for the Iowa Review Award

*180 pages, also available-eBook, guide in [kathybrandtauthor.com](http://kathybrandtauthor.com)*

“There’s been an epiphany, Mom. Turn on the news,” Max pleaded from the precipice of mental illness. For him, the morning report was a window onto a new world; for his mother, it was a sign of something gone horribly awry. For both, it was the beginning of a journey that has lasted to this day. In *Walks on the Margins: A Story of Bipolar Illness*, mother and son weave alternating narratives into a fiercely candid story about the emotional turmoil and confusion of a family struggling with and surviving bipolar disorder. Please contact Kathy Brandt, a Colorado Springs author, via her website with requests to attend your meetings.

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

*315 pages, also available-eBook, cdbook, eAudio, DVD, guide in [randomhouse.com](http://randomhouse.com)*

Traces the personal crisis the author endured after the death of her mother and a painful divorce, which prompted her ambition to undertake a dangerous thousand-mile solo hike that both drove her to rock bottom and helped her to heal.

***You’re Stepping on My Cloak and Dagger- Roger Hall***

*219 pages, also available-eBook, no guide*

With a sharp eye and wry wit, Roger Hall recounts his experiences as an American Army officer assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) during World War II. First published in 1957 to critical and popular acclaim, his book has become a cult favorite in intelligence circles. The story follows Hall's experiences from a junior officer fleeing a tedious training assignment in Louisiana to his quirky and rigorous OSS training rituals in the United States, England, and Scotland. Quick to pick up on the skills necessary for behind-the-lines intelligence work, he became an expert instructor. But he was only reluctantly given operational duties because of his reputation as an iconoclast. In his droll story-telling style, Hall describes his first parachute jump in support of the French resistance as a comedy of errors that terminated prematurely. His last assignment in the war zone came when William Colby appointed him section head of an operations group that made its way on foot through Sweden. Called one of the funniest and most perceptive works ever written about life in the OSS, the book includes a wealth of unforgettable personalities that Hall encountered over the years.

***The Zookeeper’s Wife – Diane Ackerman***

*368 pages, also available-cdbook, Playaway, eAudio, guide in book*

Documents the heroic true story of Warsaw Zoo keepers and resistance activists Jan and Antonina Zabinski who, in the aftermath of Germany's invasion of Poland, saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish citizens by smuggling them into empty cages and their home villa.