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BOOK CLUB

Book Club in a Bag List

A listing of all adult book clubs in bags
throughout Delaware County
libraries.

Winter 2021

Please Note:

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

Library Abbreviation Codes

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

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

Bag Contents

All bags owned by DCLS Administrative Headquarters (DE) contain:

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

Most bags owned by the Haverford Township Free Library (HA) and the Rachel Kohl Community Library (RK) contain:

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

Most bags owned by the J. Lewis Crozer Library (CR) and the Prospect Park Free Library (PP) contain:

10 regular print books

Most bags owned by the Marple Public Library (MA) contain:

8 regular print books
2 large print books

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

12 regular print books

All bags contain group discussion guides and author biographies.

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

When beautiful, reckless Southern belle Zelda Sayre meets F. Scott Fitzgerald at a country club dance in 1918, she is 17 years old and he is a young army lieutenant stationed in Alabama. Before long, the “ungettable” Zelda has fallen for him, despite his unsuitability: Scott isn’t wealthy or prominent or even a Southerner, and keeps insisting, absurdly, that his writing will bring him both fortune and fame. Her father is deeply unimpressed. But after Scott sells his first novel, Zelda optimistically boards a train north to marry him. What follows is the story of their troubled, passionate marriage in the heart of the Jazz Age.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; DRAMATIC; WITTY

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

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers leveled most of Warsaw, including the zoo. With most of their cages empty, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews and Polish resisters into the empty cages. Another dozen “guests” hid inside the Zabinskis’ villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and animal inhabitants.

NON-FICTION; INSPIRING

80

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

In 1875 Utah, Ann Eliza Young has just left her powerful husband Brigham Young, prophet and leader of the Mormon Church. Expelled from the religion and an outcast, Ann Eliza embarks on a crusade to end polygamy in the United States. In the present day, a murder involving a polygamist family unfolds as Jordan Scott, a young man cast out of his fundamentalist sect years ago, must reenter the world that threw him aside in order to discover the truth behind his father’s death.

HISTORICAL MYSTERY; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

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

At the end of World War II, Silvana and her near-feral 8-year-old son Aurek board the ship that will take them from Poland to England. After living wild in the forests for years, carrying a terrible secret, all Silvana knows is that she and Aurek are survivors. Everything else is lost. Waiting for them in England is her husband Janusz, who has not seen his wife or son in six years. He has reinvented himself as an Englishman in hopes of forgetting the past. But the years apart have changed them all.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ENGAGING

***The Accidental* by Ali Smith**

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

LITERARY FICTION; EXPERIMENTAL; FAMILY LIFE

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

On the banks of the Mississippi River, Tom Sawyer and his friends seek out adventure at every turn. Then one fateful night in the graveyard, they witness a murder. The boys make an oath to never reveal the secret, and they run away to be pirates in search of treasure. But when Tom gets trapped in a cave with scary Injun Joe, can he escape unharmed?

CLASSIC FICTION; HUMOROUS; CHARMING

***The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn**

In the aftermath of World War II, unwed American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant. She's also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in France during the war, might still be alive. When Charlie's parents banish her to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of, she flees to London, determined to find out what happened to Rose. There, she finds Eve Gardiner, a woman who worked as a spy for the Alice Network during World War I. Their chance meeting launches them both on a mission for the truth.

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; GRIPPING

***All Adults Here* by Emma Straub**

When Astrid Strick witnesses a school bus accident in the center of town, it jostles loose a memory from her young parenting days, decades earlier. Suddenly, Astrid realizes she was not the parent she thought she'd been to her three now-grown children. Now, Astrid's youngest son is drifting, making his own parenting mistakes. Her daughter is pregnant yet struggling to give up her adolescence. And her eldest seems to measure his life by standards no one else shares. It might be that only Astrid's 13-year-old granddaughter and her new friend understand the courage it takes to tell the truth to the people you love most.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; UPLIFTING; FAMILY DRAMA

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

Mrs. Sookie Earle has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to putting her feet up. But then one day, a package arrives. Its contents knock Sookie sideways, propelling her back to the 1940s, and to four irrepressible sisters whose wartime adventures force them to reimagine who they are and what they are capable of.

FUNNY; HEARTWARMING; UPBEAT

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING; LYRICAL

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

When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. The story of 1666 unfolds through Anna's eyes, as she and her fellow villagers confront the spread of disease and superstition. As death reaches into every household and villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must find the strength to confront the disintegration of her community and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles and grows, a year of catastrophe becomes instead *annus mirabilis*, a "year of wonders." This richly detailed novel was inspired by the true story of Eyam, a village in the rugged hill country of England.

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC; LUSH

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

In Al Tafari, Iraq, 21-year-old Private Bartle and 18-year-old Private Murphy cling to life as their platoon launches a bloody battle for the city. In the endless days that follow, the young soldiers do everything to protect each other from the forces that press in from all sides: the insurgents, physical fatigue, and the mental stress that comes from constant danger. Bound together since basic training when their tough-as-nails Sergeant ordered Bartle to watch over Murphy, the two have been dropped into a war neither of them is prepared for. As reality blurs into nightmare, Murphy becomes increasingly unmoored from the world around him and Bartle takes impossible actions.

LYRICAL; REFLECTIVE; DARK

***The Yellow House* by Patricia Falvey**

In 20th century Northern Ireland, Eileen O'Neill's family is torn apart by religious intolerance and secrets from the past. Determined to reclaim her ancestral home and reunite her family, Eileen begins working at the local mill, saving her money and holding fast to her dream. As war is declared on a local and global scale, she can't separate the politics from the personal impact the conflict has on her own life. She is torn between two men, each drawing her to one extreme: one is a charismatic and passionate political activist determined to win Irish independence at any cost, while the other is a wealthy and handsome black sheep of his pacifist family who owns the mill where she works.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY; WOMEN'S LIVES

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

19-year-old Ruthie lives in a farmhouse with her mother, Alice, and her younger sister. Alice has always insisted that they live off the grid, a decision that has weighty consequences when Ruthie wakes up one morning to find that Alice, who is agoraphobic, has vanished. In her search for clues, she is startled to find beneath the floorboards of her mother's bedroom a copy of a diary that belonged to Sara Harrison Shea, the mysterious former inhabitant of the farmhouse.

INTRICATELY PLOTTED; ATMOSPHERIC

***The Woman in the Window* by AJ Finn**

Anna Fox lives alone, a recluse in her New York City home, unable to venture outside. She spends her days drinking wine (maybe too much), watching old movies, recalling happier times...and spying on her neighbors. Then the Russells move into the house across the way: a father, a mother, their teenage son. A perfect family. But when Anna is gazing out her window one night, she sees something she shouldn't.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck**

Amid the ashes of Nazi Germany's defeat, Marianne von Lingenfels returns to the once-grand castle of her husband's ancestors. The widow of a resistor murdered in the failed plot to assassinate Hitler, Marianne plans to uphold the promise she made to her husband's conspirators: to find and protect their wives. She makes her way across Europe, rescuing first six-year-old Martin from a Nazi reeducation home, then his mother, the beautiful and naïve Benita, and then Ania, another resistor's wife and her two boys.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC; WOMEN'S LIVES

***Writers & Lovers* by Lily King**

Blindsided by her mother's sudden death and wrecked by a recent love affair, Casey Peabody has arrived in Massachusetts without a plan. A former child golf prodigy, she now waits tables in Harvard Square and rents a tiny, moldy room where she works on the novel she's been writing for six years. At 31, Casey is still clutching onto something nearly all of her old friends have let go of: the determination to live a creative life. When she falls for two very different men at the same time, her world fractures even more.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC; WOMEN'S LIVES

***All You Can Ever Know* by Nicole Chung**

Nicole Chung was born severely premature, placed for adoption by her Korean parents and raised by a white family. From her early childhood, she heard the story of her adoption as a comforting, prepackaged myth. She believed that her biological parents had made the ultimate sacrifice in hopes of giving her a better life; that forever feeling slightly out of place was simply her fate. But as she grew up, she wondered if the story she'd been told was the whole truth.

MEMOIR; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES; INSIGHTFUL

***America for Beginners* by Leah Franqui**

Pival Sengupta has done something she never expected to do: she's booked a trip to America. Recently widowed, she is traveling thousands of miles from Kolkata to New York to begin a cross-country journey to California, where she hopes to uncover the truth about her beloved son, Rahi. Slowly making her way from coast to coast, along with two unlikely traveling companions, Pival finds that her understanding of her son and her hopes of a reunion with him are challenged by her new knowledge of his adoptive country.

LITERARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS

***American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins**

Lydia lives in Acapulco, Mexico, with her son Luca and her journalist husband. She runs a bookstore in town, where she strikes up an unlikely friendship with Javier, who's erudite and charming; he's also the *jefe* of the newest drug cartel whose gruesome deeds have taken over Acapulco. When Lydia's husband's profile of Javier is published, their lives will never be the same. Forced to flee, Lydia and Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class existence, instantly transformed into migrants.

SUSPENSEFUL; INTENSE; CONTROVERSIAL

***An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones**

Newlyweds Roy and Celestial are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined: Roy is arrested and sentenced to twelve years in prison for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit.

LITERARY FICTION; HEART-WRENCHING; BITTERSWEET

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

Katherine Givens, an attorney and single mother, finds her life turned upside down when she receives an unexpected bequest—in the form of a pair of red sneakers filled with ashes and a note—from her late friend, Annie Freeman, taking her and four other women on a life-changing road trip as they celebrate the bonds of friendship.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES

***An Anonymous Girl* by Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen**

When Jessica Farris signs up for a psychology study conducted by the mysterious Dr. Fields, she thinks all she'll have to do is answer a few questions, collect her money, and leave. But as the questions grow more intense and invasive and the sessions become outings where Jess is told what to wear and how to act, she begins to feel as though Dr. Shields might know what she's thinking...and what she has been hiding.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***Another Brooklyn* by Jacqueline Woodson**

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

LITERARY FICTION; LYRICAL; SPARE; FRIENDSHIPS

***Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman**

Viewing an apartment normal doesn't turn into a life-or-death situation. But this particular open house has become just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes everyone in the apartment hostage. As the pressure mounts, the 8 strangers inside slowly begin opening up to one another and reveal long-hidden truths. As police surround the premises and TV channels broadcast the hostage situation live, the tension builds and even deeper secrets are slowly revealed. Soon, the robber must decide which is more terrifying: facing the police or staying with this group of impossible people.

FUNNY; LIGHTHEARTED

***Wild Game* by Adrienne Brodeur**

On a hot night on Cape Cod when Adrienne Brodeur was 14, her mother Malabar woke her at midnight with five words that would set the course of both their lives for years to come: *Ben Souther just kissed me*. From then on, Malabar came to rely on her daughter to help orchestrate what would become an epic affair with her husband's closest friend. The affair would have calamitous consequences for all involved, impacting Adrienne's life in profound ways.

MEMOIR; MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS

***Wild* by Cheryl Strayed**

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

MEMOIR; GRIEF; NATURE

***Wilde Lake* by Laura Lippman**

As Luisa "Lu" Brant prepares for her first trial as the newly elected—and first female—state's attorney in Maryland, the case dredges up painful memories, reminding her and her family of the night her brother AJ saved his best friend at the cost of another man's life. Now, Lu wonders if the events of 1980 happen as she remembers them. What details might have been withheld from her as a child? And, if there is such a thing as the whole truth, would she be better off not knowing it?

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; ATMOSPHERIC

***Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah**

Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as two sisters can be. But when their beloved father becomes ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother Anya, who, even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between the sisters was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told them at night. Now, on his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time—and this time, it will be told all the way to the end.

HISTORICAL FICTION; EMOTIONAL

***White Houses* by Amy Bloom**

Lorena Hickok first meets Eleanor Roosevelt while reporting on FDR's first presidential campaign. Having grown up worse than poor in South Dakota and reinvented herself as the most prominent woman reporter in America, Hick, as she is known to her friends and admirers, is not quite instantly charmed by the idealistic, patrician Eleanor. But then as her connection with the future First Lady deepens into intimacy, what begins as a powerful passion matures into a lasting love and a life that Hick never expected to have.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY; WOMEN'S LIVES

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

When Lyddie Berry's worst fear is realized and her husband Edward, a Massachusetts whaler, does not return home, she finds herself doubly cursed. She is overwhelmed by grief, and her property and rights are now legally in the hands of her nearest male relative: her daughter's overbearing husband, whom Lyddie cannot abide. Lyddie decides to challenge both law and custom for control of her destiny, but she soon discovers the price of her bold war for personal freedom to be heartbreakingly dear.

HISTORICAL FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES

***The Wife Between Us* by Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekkanen**

The divorce has just become final, and Richard is already engaged to someone else. One woman is determined to change that situation—no matter what it takes. Soon a tangle of lies binds her life to Richard and his new fiancée. A tangle of lies...that hide some dangerous truths. Twisted and deliciously chilling, this novel explores the complexities of marriage and those dangerous truths we ignore for love

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; PLOT TWISTS

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

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

ATMOSPHERIC; SUSPENSEFUL; HISTORICAL FICTION

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

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

LITERARY FICTION; MOVING; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Ask Again, Yes* by Mary Beth Keane**

Francis Gleeson and Brian Stanhope are two NYPD rookies assigned to the same precinct in 1973. They're not close friends on the job, but find themselves living next door to each other outside the city. What goes on behind closed doors in both houses—the loneliness of Francis's wife, Lena, and the instability of Brian's wife, Anne—sets the stage for the stunning events to come, brought on by the friendship and love that blossoms between Francis's youngest daughter Kate and Brian's son Peter, who are born six months apart.

FICTION; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; FAMILY DRAMA

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

As America's Mercury Seven astronauts were launched on death-defying missions, television cameras focused on the brave smiles of their young wives. Overnight, these women were transformed from military wives into American royalty. They had tea with Jackie Kennedy, appeared on magazine covers, and grew into fashion icons. As their celebrity rose and divorce and tragedy began to touch their lives, the women formed bonds that would withstand the tests of time.

NON-FICTION; WOMEN IN HISTORY; FRIENDSHIPS

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

When Anne Morrow travels to Mexico City to spend Christmas with her family, she meets Charles Lindbergh, fresh off his celebrated 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. Enthralled, Anne is certain he has scarcely noticed her. But she is wrong: Charles sees in Anne a kindred spirit and a fellow adventurer. In the years following their marriage, Anne becomes the first female glider pilot in the United States. But despite all of her achievements, history still views her as merely as the aviator's wife.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LOVE STORY

***Beartown* by Fredrik Backman**

Beartown is a tiny, struggling community nestled deep in the forest of Sweden. If their junior hockey team wins the national semi-final, they might just attract a new ice rink and revitalize the town's economy. Being responsible for the hopes of an entire town is a heavy burden for a group of boys to bear, and the semi-final match is the catalyst for a violent act that leaves a young girl traumatized and a town in turmoil. Accusations travel through all of Beartown, leaving no one unaffected. **COMING OF AGE; LYRICAL; HAUNTING**

***Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter**

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

***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

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

***Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg**

Eliza Naumann, an ordinary 9-year-old in a family of extraordinary people, takes everyone by surprise when she sweeps a series of regional spelling bees. Her father, Saul, takes it as a sign that she is destined for greatness. Saul inducts her into his study and lavishes upon her attention previously reserved for her brother. But when her mother's secret life triggers an explosion, Eliza must order the chaos. **COMING OF AGE; FAMILY LIFE**

***Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens**

Rumors of the Marsh Girl have long haunted Barkley Cove. So in 1969, when Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life—until the unthinkable happens. **HAUNTING; COMING OF AGE**

***Where the Past Begins* by Amy Tan**

Amy Tan is at her most intimate in revealing truths and inspirations that underlie her extraordinary fiction. By delving into memories of her traumatic childhood, confessions of self-doubt in her journals, and heartbreaking letters to and from her mother, Tan gives evidence that it was both unlikely and inevitable that she would be a writer. She also writes for the first time about her complex relationship with her father, who died when she was just 15. **MEMOIR; THOUGHT-PROVOKING**

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

Bernadette is notorious. To her fellow private-school mothers, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect; and to 15-year-old Bee, she's Mom. Then she disappears. It began when Bee aced her report card and claimed her reward: a family trip to Antarctica. But Bernadette's intensifying allergy to people in general has made her agoraphobic. To find her, Bee compiles emails, invoices, and school memos that reveal a secret Bernadette has been hiding for decades. **FUNNY; LIGHTHEARTED**

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

When Elise Dalriss's great-granddaughter recounts a tale about a beautiful princess awakened by a handsome prince's kiss, it opens a door to the past, a door Elise has kept locked for years. A lifetime ago, she was the companion to the real princess who slept—and only she knows the truth of what happened so many years ago. As the memories start to unfold, Elise is plunged back into a magnificent world behind the opulent palace walls. **FANTASY; FAIRY TALES**

***The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Hiram Walker was born into bondage. When his mother was sold away, Hiram was robbed of all memory of her—but was gifted with a mysterious power. Years later, when Hiram almost drowns in a river, that same power saves his life. This brush with death births an urgency in Hiram and a daring scheme: to escape from the only home he’s ever known. So begins a journey that takes Hiram from the corruption of Virginia’s plantations to desperate guerilla cells in the wilderness. Even as he’s enlisted in the underground war between slavers and the enslaved, Hiram’s resolve to rescue the family he left behind endures.
HISTORICAL FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM

***We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter**

It’s the spring of 1939 and the Kurc family are doing their best to live normal lives, even as the shadow of war grows closer. The talk around the family Seder table is of new babies and budding romance, not of the increasing hardships threatening Jews in their hometown of Radom, Poland. But soon the horrors overtaking Europe will become inescapable and the Kurcs will be flung to the far corners of the world, each desperately trying to navigate their own path to safety.
HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; HEART-WRENCHING

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

The Andreas family are readers. Their father, a renowned Shakespeare professor, has named his three daughters after Shakespearean women. When the sisters return home, ostensibly to care for their ailing mother but really to lick their respective wounds, they soon discover that everything they’ve been running from—each other, their small hometown, themselves—might offer more than they expected.
DOMESTIC FICTION; WITTY; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

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

Lucy Wakefield is a seemingly ordinary woman who does something extraordinary in a desperate moment: she takes a baby girl from a shopping cart and raises her as her own. It’s a secret she manages to hide from everyone in her life for over two decades. But when her grown daughter, Mia, discovers the awful truth of her origins, she is overwhelmed by confusion and anger; the knowledge causes a ripple effect that alters many lives.
PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Beekeeper’s Apprentice* by Laurie R. King**

Long retired, Sherlock Holmes quietly pursues his study of honeybee behavior on the Sussex Downs. He never imagined he would encounter anyone whose intellect matched his own, much less an audacious teenage girl with a penchant for both detection and beekeeping. Miss Mary Russell becomes Holmes’ pupil. But when an elusive villain enters the picture, their partnership is put to a real test, and Mary finds herself on the trail of kidnappers.
HISTORICAL MYSTERY; LYRICAL; COMPELLING

***Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate**

In 1939, 12-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life on their family’s Mississippi River shanty-boat—until things suddenly go very wrong and the children are taken to a shady orphanage. Faced with the facility’s cruel director, Rill fights to keep her siblings together. In the present day, Avery Stafford lives a life of privilege that is shattered when a visit home forces her to examine questions about her family’s history.
HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; FAMILY SAGA

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

Jende Jonga has brought his wife, Nene, and their son to New York from Cameroon in hopes of finding a better life. He lands a chauffeur job with Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers, opening a world of experience and wealth. But when the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, and dark secrets are revealed, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende’s job, even as their marriage threatens to fall apart.

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LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

***Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande**

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But the goals of medicine seem too often to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering. Gawande, himself a surgeon, addresses his profession’s ultimate limitation in this book, full of eye-opening research and riveting storytelling.
NON-FICTION; HEALTH & MEDICINE; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Beloved* by Toni Morrison**

Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later, she is still not free. She has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad, yet she is still held captive by memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. Meanwhile, Sethe's house has long been troubled by the angry, destructive ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose engraved tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved. But when a teenage girl arrives, calling herself Beloved, Sethe's terrible secret explodes into the present.

HISTORICAL FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM; DARK

***Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan**

Italian teenager Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow. Then, in an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after he is injured, Pino, only 18, is recruited to be the personal driver for Hitler's left hand in Italy.

HISTORICAL FICTION; SPY STORIES; WAR

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

Written as an open letter to his son, Ta-Nehisi Coates poignantly asks difficult questions about the role of race in our history and our nation today, told through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children's lives were taken. A timely work that will resonate with all those who have experienced or witnessed racism in their lives.

MEMOIR; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

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

The story of three women in a seaside town, each at a crossroads. There's Madeline, dealing with the arrival in town of her ex-husband and his new wife; beautiful, remote Celeste, who is grappling with an unbearable situation at home; and Jane, a young single mom new to town who harbors secret doubts about her son. When Madeline and Celeste take Jane under their wing, none of them realize how the arrival of Jane and her inscrutable little boy will affect them all.

WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; SUSPENSEFUL

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

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

MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

***Vinegar Girl* by Anne Tyler**

Kate Battista is stuck. How did she end up running house and home for her eccentric scientist father and pretty, bratty younger sister Bunny, working at a daycare? Her father is on the verge of a breakthrough that could help millions. There's just one problem: his brilliant young lab assistant is about to be deported, and without him, all would be lost. When Dr. Battista cooks up a plan, he's relying on Kate to help him. Kate is furious—but will she be able to resist the two men's absurd campaign?

LIGHTHEARTED; LOVE STORY; QUIRKY

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

Working side-by-side for a record label, former punk rocker Bennie Salazar and passionate, troubled young Sasha, who works for Bennie, hide illicit secrets from one another. Although Bennie and Sasha never discover each other's pasts, the reader does, in intimate detail, along with the secret lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs, over many years, in locales as varied as New York, San Francisco, Naples, and Africa.

LINKED SHORT STORIES; EXPERIMENTAL

***The Wangs vs. the World* by Jade Chang**

Charles Wang is mad at America. A brash, lovable immigrant businessman who built a cosmetics empire and made a fortune, he's just been ruined by the 2008 financial crisis. After pulling his youngest children, Grace and Andrew, out of schools he can no longer afford, Charles, along with his second wife Barbra, takes them on a cross-country road trip to the upstate New York hideout of his eldest daughter, Saina.

FUNNY; FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

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

Harold Fry lives in a small English village with his wife, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next. Then one morning the mail arrives, and Harold finds a letter addressed to him from a woman he hasn't heard from in 20 years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. After a chance encounter on his way to mail his reply, Harold decides he must hand-deliver it and sets out to cover the 600 miles on foot.

HEARTWARMING; QUIRKY

***Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Willa Knox has always prided herself on being the embodiment of responsibility. But now, all she has to show for all that work is a house that is quite literally falling down around her. As she begins to research the history of her home, hoping that the local historic preservation society might take an interest and provide funding for its repairs, she discovers a kindred spirit from the 1880s: a science teacher with a passion for honest investigation named Thatcher Greenwood.

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***Untamed* by Glennon Doyle**

Glennon Doyle was speaking at a conference when a woman entered the room. Glennon looked at her and fell instantly in love. Three words flooded her mind: *There She Is*. At first, Glennon assumed the words came from God; soon she realized that they came from within. She was finally hearing her own voice—the voice that had been silenced by decades of cultural conditioning, numbing addictions, and institutional allegiances. She decided to build a life of her own and to reclaim her true, untamed self.

MEMOIR; EMPOWERING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett**

The Vignes twins will always be identical. But after growing up in a small black community and running away at 16, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that's different, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. 10 years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the town she tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white; even her husband knows nothing of her past. But even separated by so much, the fates of the twins remain intertwined.

LITERARY FICTION; RACE; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Big Summer* by Jennifer Weiner**

Years after the fight that ended their friendship, Daphne Berg is shocked when Drue Cavanaugh walks back into her life. Daphne hasn't spoken to Drue in all this time, so when Drue asks if she will be her maid of honor at her society wedding, Daphne is speechless. She is no longer the same self-effacing sidekick she was in high school—she has built a life that she loves, including a career as a plus-size influencer. But Drue still holds that old sway, and Daphne is powerless to say no. But no one could foresee what will happen when they reunite...

WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; LIGHTHEARTED

***The Blessings* by Elise Juska**

When John Blessing dies and leaves behind two small children, the loss reverberates across his extended family for years to come. His young widow finds solace in her large clan of in-laws, while his brother's wife pursues motherhood at the expense of her marriage. Through departures and arrivals, this novel reveals the world of a close-knit Irish-Catholic family and the rituals that unite them.

DOMESTIC FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING

***Blue Asylum* by Kathy Hepinstall**

Arrested and convicted of madness for seeking justice for her plantation-owning husband's slaves at the height of the Civil War, Iris Dunleavy is sent away to Sanibel Asylum on a remote Florida island to be restored as a good, compliant woman. There, Iris meets the residents—some seemingly sane, some wrongly convinced they're crazy, some charmingly odd, some dangerously unstable. But which of these is Ambrose Weller, the war-haunted Confederate soldier?

RK

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd**

"I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus." So begins this story of a young woman raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee. Defying the expectations placed on women, she engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes secret narratives about neglected and silenced women. When she meets the 18-year-old Jesus, each is drawn to and enriched by the other, and he becomes a floodgate for her intellect, but also the awakener of her heart.

HISTORICAL FICTION; SURPRISING; WOMEN'S LIVES

***The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate**

In the aftermath of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a quest toward Texas. There is Lavinia, the heiress to a now-destitute plantation; Juneau Jane, her illegitimate free-born Creole half-sister; and Hannie, Lavinia's form slave. For Lavinia and Juneau Jane, the journey is one of financial desperation, but for Hannie, it reignites an agonizing question: could her long-lost family still be out there? Decades later, in 1987, first-year teacher Benedetta Silva lands a job that she hopes will cancel out her student debt. But what she finds is the century-old history of three young women, a journey, and a hidden book that could change everything.

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; MOVING

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMING OF AGE; MOVING

***Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah**

Trevor Noah's path from South Africa to *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. He was born to a white father and a black mother at a time when such a union was punishable by 5 years in prison. Finally liberated at the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, he and his mother could live freely. This is the story of a young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.

MEMOIR; FUNNY; COMING OF AGE

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMING OF AGE

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

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

FAMILY SAGA; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, appeared. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of World War II. The man's name was Louis Zamperini. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer with ingenuity, hope, and humor

NON-FICTION; SURVIVAL STORY

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

At age 35, Fanny van de Grift Osbourne leaves her philandering husband in San Francisco and sets sail for Belgium to study art, with her three children and nanny in tow. Not long after her arrival, though, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her brood head to a quiet artists' colony where she can recuperate. There she meets Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who is instantly smitten with the earthy, independent, and opinionated American belle.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LOVE STORY

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

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish 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, tells her about the Underground Railroad—which Whitehead reimagines here as a literal railroad system, a secret network of tunnels and trains operated by conductors beneath Southern soil—they decide to risk an escape.

HISTORICAL FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM; DARK

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, this classic novel follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus—three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though the story explores big themes, it is told through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.

CLASSIC FICTION; BITTERSWEET

***Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi**

Gifty is a fifth-year PhD candidate in neuroscience at Stanford, studying reward-seeking heavier in mice and the neural circuits of depression and addiction. Her brother Nana was a gifted high school athlete who died of a heroin overdose after a knee injury left him hooked on OxyContin. Her suicidal mother is living in her bed. Gifty is determined to discover the scientific basis for the suffering she sees all around her. But even as she turns to the hard sciences to unlock the mystery of her family's loss, she finds herself hungering for her childhood faith, and grappling with the church in which she was raised, whose promise of salvation remains tantalizing and elusive.

LITERARY FICTION; FAITH; SCIENCE

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

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

CLASSIC FICTION; COMING OF AGE

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

Sam and Clementine have a wonderful, if busy life, with two little girls, a new dream job for Sam, and a promising audition for Clementine, a cellist. But Clementine's relationship with her oldest friend, Erika, is a complicated one. So when Erika mentions a barbecue with her neighbors, Sam and Clementine don't hesitate; having their huge personalities there will be a welcome respite. But two months later, Sam and Clementine can't stop asking: what if we hadn't gone?

SUSPENSEFUL; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

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

This is the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew, a team with wild goals of Olympic gold that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals on the East Coast and at British universities, and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The emotional heart of the story, though, lies with one rower in particular, a teenager without family or prospects, who rows to find a place he can call home.

NON-FICTION; RESILIENCE

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

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In this book, she brings these lenses together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

NON-FICTION; SCIENCE

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

Things have never been easy for Oscar, a sweet but disastrously overweight, lovesick, Dominican ghetto nerd. From his home in New Jersey where he lives with his old-world mother and rebellious sister, he dreams of becoming the Dominican J.R.R. Tolkien, and most of all, of finding love, dreams that may never come true thanks to the curse that has haunted his family for generations, dooming them to prison, torture, tragic accidents, and, above all, ill-fated love.

LITERARY FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM

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

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

LITERARY FICTION; POETIC; EXPERIMENTAL

***A Burning* by Megha Majumdar**

Jivan is a Muslim girl from the slums, determined to move up in life, who is accused of executing a terrorist attack on a train because of a careless comment on Facebook. PT Sir is an opportunistic gym teacher who hitches his aspirations to a right-wing political party, and finds that his own ascent becomes linked to Jivan's fall. Lovely, an irresistible outcast whose exuberant voice and dreams of glory fill this novel with warmth and hope and humor, has the alibi that can set Jivan free, but it will cost Lovely everything she holds dear.

LITERARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

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

Growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans, Bethia Mayfield yearns for an education that is closed to her due to her gender. At age twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a secret friendship that draws each into the alien world of the other. Bethia's minister father tries to convert the Wampanoag, awakening the wrath of the tribe's shaman, against whose magic he must test his own beliefs.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LYRICAL; LUSH

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

In the 1950s, 22-year-old Jenny Lee leaves her comfortable home to move into a convent and become a midwife in London's East End slums. The colorful characters she meets while delivering babies all over London—from the plucky, warm-hearted nuns with whom she lived to the woman with 24 children who couldn't speak English—illuminate a fascinating time in history.

MEMOIR; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Cane River* by Lalita Tademy**

Beginning with her great-great-great-great grandmother, Lalita Tademy chronicles four generations of strong, determined black women as they battle injustice to unite their family and forge success on their terms. These are women whose lives began in slavery, who weather the Civil War, and who grapple with the contradictions of emancipation, Jim Crow, and the pre-Civil Rights South. As she peels back layers of racial and cultural attitudes, Tademy paints a picture of rural Louisiana and the resilient spirit of one unforgettable family.

FAMILY SAGA; HISTORICAL FICTION; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

***Three Women* by Lisa Taddeo**

Desire: it thrills and torments us. It controls our thoughts and destroys our lives. It's all we live for, yet we almost never speak of it. And as a buried force in our lives, desire remains largely unexplored—until now. Over the course of eight years, journalist Lisa Taddeo embedded herself with ordinary women from different regions and backgrounds. The result, which focuses on suburban mother Lina, 17-year-old student Maggie, and successful, refined Sloane—is the deepest non-fiction portrait of desire ever written.

NON-FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

PARALLEL NARRATIVES; MYSTICAL

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

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

INSPIRATIONAL; MOVING; SPARE

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

The story of Henry, an adventurous librarian, and Clare, a beautiful art student. They meet when Clare is six and Henry thirty-six; they marry when Clare is 23 and Henry 31. Impossible...but true, because Henry is the first known sufferer of Chrono-Displacement Disorder. In other words...he's a time traveler. A funny, poignant tale of boy meets girl with a twist: what if one of them couldn't stop slipping in and out of time?

SCIENCE FICTION; LOVE STORY; MOVING

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

Set a year after the end of the civil war, during the summer of 1866, this novel follows Jacob Ballard, a Union soldier and spy who has been sent south by the War Department to infiltrate the isolated North Carolina mountain community where he was born and find the serial killer responsible for the deaths of Union veterans. Based on true events, this is the story of a nation on the brink of conflict, and of a man who must exorcise his own savage demons while tracking another.

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING

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

When 16-year-old Janie Crawford—fair-skinned, long-legged, and fiercely independent—is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with 60 acres of land. Over the years, Janie endures two stifling marriages before meeting the man of her dreams, who offers her not diamonds but a packet of flowering seeds.

CLASSIC FICTION; MELANCHOLY

***There There* by Tommy Orange**

The multigenerational story of 12 characters, each of whom have private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. Dene Oxendene is pulling his life back together after his uncle's death and has come to honor his memory. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield has come to watch her nephew, who has taught himself traditional Indian dance through YouTube. There will be glorious communion, a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry; there will also be sacrifice, heroism, and unspeakable loss.

VIVID; LINKED SHORT STORIES; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

***This is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel**

Meet Claude. He's five years old, the youngest of five brothers, and loves peanut butter sandwiches. He also loves wearing a dress, and dreams of being a princess. When he grows up, Claude says, he wants to be a girl. His parents, Rosie and Penn, want Claude to be whoever Claude wants to be. They're just not sure they're ready to share that. Soon the entire family is keeping Claude's secret...until one day it explodes.

FAMILY SAGA; EMOTIONAL

***The Care & Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls* by Anissa Gray**

The Butler sisters have had their share of trials, but nothing has prepared them for the literal one that upends their lives. Althea, the eldest and substitute matriarch, is a force to be reckoned with and her younger sisters have alternately appreciated and chafed at her strong will. They are as stunned as anyone when Althea and her husband are arrested, and in a heartbeat, the family goes from the most respected in town to disgrace. As Althea awaits her fate, Lillian and Viola must come together to care for their sister's teenage daughters.

FAMILY DYSFUNCTION; MOVING; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***Carnegie's Maid* by Marie Benedict**

In the industrial 1860s at the dawn of the Carnegie empire, Irish immigrant Clara Kelly finds herself in desperate circumstances. Looking for a way out, she seeks employment as a lady's maid in the home of prominent businessman Andrew Carnegie. Soon, the bond between employer and employee deepens into love. But when Clara goes missing, Carnegie's search for her unearths secrets and revelations that lay the foundation for his lasting legacy.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LOVE STORY

***Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson**

Beyond race or class, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behaviors. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Isabel Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations. Using riveting stories about people, including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler, and Wilkerson herself, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experience every day.

NON-FICTION; CULTURAL HISTORY

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

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

REFLECTIVE; LEISURELY PACED

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

One moment June Nealon was happily looking forward to years full of laughter and adventure with her family; the next, she was staring into a future that was as empty as her heart. For Shay Bourne, life holds no more surprises. The world has given him nothing, and he has nothing to offer the world. In a heartbeat, though, something happens that changes everything for him. Now, he has one last chance for salvation, and it lies with June's 11-year-old daughter, Claire.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty**

In the summer of 1922, a few years before she would become a silent film star, 15-year-old Louise Brooks leaves Wichita, for a prestigious New York dance school. Much to her annoyance, she is accompanied by complicated but traditional Cora Carlisle, a 36-year-old chaperone who is neither her mother nor her friend. Over the course of their relationship, Cora, a complicated but traditional woman with her own reasons for making the trip, finds that she is liberated in ways she never imagined.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; ENGAGING; HISTORICAL FICTION

***Child 44* by Tom Rob Smith**

MGB officer Leo is a man who never questions the Party Line. He arrests who he is told to arrest. He dismisses the horrific death of a young boy, because he believes the party stance that there can be no murder in Communist Russia. Leo is the perfect soldier of the regime. But suddenly his confidence that everything he does serves a greater good is shaken when he is forced to watch a man he knows to be innocent be brutally tortured, then told to arrest his own wife.

HISTORICAL FICTION; THRILLER; SHOCKING

***China Dolls* by Lisa See**

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; FRIENDSHIPS; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton**

In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with capital murder in Alabama. Stunned and confused, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and set him free. But with a different system of justice for a poor black man in the South, he was sentenced to death. He spent his first years on Death Row in silence, full of despair and anger. But as he accepted his fate, he resolved not only to survive, but to find a way to truly live on Death Row.

MEMOIR; INSPIRING; SHOCKING

***The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris**

In 1942, Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is put to work as a tattooist, tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners. One day, he comforts a trembling woman waiting in line to be marked. Her name is Gita, and in that first encounter, Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

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

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

FAMILY SAGA; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

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

In Botswana, Precious Ramotswe's ever-ready tiny white van has recently developed a rather disturbing noise, and she fears her husband, a mechanic, will simply condemn it and replace it with something more modern. Meanwhile the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, led by Mma Makutsi, tries to discover if a local football team's games are fixed, and if her old rival Violet Sepotho is in on the scheme.

COZY MYSTERY; HEARTWARMING

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

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel**

In 1985, a shy and intelligent 20-year-old named Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the forest. He would not have a conversation with another human being until nearly three decades later, when he was arrested for stealing food. Living in a tent even through brutal winters, he had survived by his wits and courage. Based on extensive interviews with Knight himself, this is a vividly detailed account of his secluded life as well as the challenges he has faced since returning to the world.

NON-FICTION; SHOCKING

***Stuffed* by Patricia Volk**

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

MEMOIR; FAMILY LIFE

***Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid**

Alix Chamberlain is a woman who gets what she wants and she's made a living showing other women how to do the same. So she is shocked when her babysitter, Emira Tucker, is confronter while watching the Chamberlains' toddler one night. Seeing a young black woman out late with a white child, a security guard accuses Emira of kidnapping two-year-old Briar. A bystander films everything, leaving Emira furious and humiliated. Alix resolves to make everything right, but Emira herself is wary of her desire to help. When the video unearths someone from Alix's past, both women find themselves on a course that will upend everything they thought they knew.

WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Circe* by Madeline Miller**

In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child—not powerful like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power—the power of witchcraft. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to an island where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts, and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology.

MYTHOLOGY; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

WOMEN IN HISTORY; CULTURE CLASH

***City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

In 1940, 19-year-old Vivian Morris has just been kicked out of Vassar College for her lackluster grades. Her affluent parents send her to Manhattan to live with her Aunt Peg, who owns a flamboyant, crumbling midtown theater called the Lily Playhouse. There, Vivian is introduced to an entire cosmos of unconventional and charismatic characters. But when she makes a personal mistake that turns into a professional scandal, it turns her new world upside down in ways that it will take her years to fully understand.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ENTERTAINING

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

When Lev is caught looting the body of a German paratrooper, he is dragged to jail, fearing for his life. There, he shares a cell with the grandiose and charismatic Kolya. Instead of being executed for their crimes, Lev and Kolya are given the chance to save their lives by agreeing to an outrageous task: secure a dozen eggs for the wedding cake of a powerful commander. The two must brave the dire lawlessness of a Leningrad that has been cut off from all else.

DE

FUNNY; SUSPENSEFUL; HISTORICAL FICTION

***Clock Dance* by Anne Tyler**

Willa Drake can count on one hand the defining moments in her life. At each of them, she ended up on a path laid out for her by others. So when she receives a call telling her that her son's ex-girlfriend has been shot and needs help, she drops everything and flies across the country to Baltimore. The split-second decision to help this woman—plus her dog and her nine-year-old daughter—will lead Willa into uncharted territory. Surrounded by new and surprising neighbors, she is plunged into the rituals that make a community and takes pleasure in the most unexpected things.

LIGHTHEARTED; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Clockmaker's Daughter* by Kate Morton**

Summer, 1862: a group of young artists descends on Birchwood Manor, looking forward to a haze of creativity and inspiration. But by the end of summer, one woman has been shot dead while another has disappeared and a priceless heirloom is missing. In the present day, Elodie Winslow uncovers a satchel containing a photo of a Victorian woman and an artist's sketchbook. But why does Birchwood Manor feel so familiar to her? And who is the woman in the photograph?

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; MYSTERY

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

Ghetto-born Winter is the young, wealthy daughter of a prominent Brooklyn drug-dealing family. Quick-witted, sexy, and business-minded, she knows and loves the streets like the curves of her own body. But when a cold Winter wind blows her life in a direction she doesn't want to go, her street smarts and seductive skills are put to the test of a lifetime. Unwilling to lose, this ghetto girl will do anything to stay on top.

URBAN FICTION; GRITTY

***Come Home* by Lisa Scottoline**

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

INTRICATELY PLOTTED; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson**

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Adolf Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons. It was up to Churchill to hold his country together and persuade President Franklin Delano Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally—and that they were willing to fight to the end.

NON-FICTION; HISTORY; WORLD WAR II

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

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; MOVING; FAST-PACED

***Stay with Me* by Ayobami Adebayo**

Yejide and Akin have been married since they fell in love at university. Though many expected Akin to take several wives, he and Yejide have always agreed: polygamy is not for them. But four years into their marriage, Yejide is still not pregnant. She assumes she still has time—until her family arrives on her doorstep with a young woman they introduce as Akin's second wife. Shocked and livid with jealousy, Yejide knows the only way to save her marriage is to get pregnant, which she finally does...at a far greater cost than she ever imagined.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES; LITERARY FICTION

***Stella Bain* by Anita Shreve**

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; ENGAGING

***Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward**

13-year-old Jojo and his little sister Kayla live with their grandparents and the occasional presence of their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. When the white father of Leonie's mixed-race children is released from prison, she packs the kids and a friend into her car and sets out for the State Penitentiary on a journey rife with danger and promise. Waiting for them there is another boy, the ghost of a dead inmate who carries all of the ugly history of the South with him in his wandering. He too has something to teach Jojo about fathers and sons, about legacies, violence, and love.
FAMILY SAGA; MAGICAL REALISM; MOVING

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

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse with more than 20 years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African-American, to touch their child. The hospital complies, but the next day, the baby goes into distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?
CONTROVERSIAL; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

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

As World War II draws closer and closer to Guernsey, Vivienne knows that sacrifices will have to be made. Not just for herself, but for her two young daughters and her mother-in-law, who she is caring for. The last thing she expects is to fall in love with one of the German soldiers taking up residence next to her home. As their relationship intensifies, so do the pressures facing Vivienne.
HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

***A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult**

It's an average day at the Clinic, a women's reproductive health center in Mississippi. Then, a desperate, dangerous gunman bursts in and opens fire. After rushing to the scene, Hugh McElroy, a police hostage negotiator, begins to make a plan to communicate with the gunman when his phone begins buzzing with messages that, to his horror, tell him that his 15-year-old daughter, Wren, is inside the clinic, along with his beloved older sister, Bex.
ISSUE-ORIENTED; UNUSUAL; SUSPENSEFUL

***Committed* by Elizabeth Gilbert**

While traveling the world following her divorce, as chronicled in *Eat Pray Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert fell in love with Felipe, a Brazilian living in Indonesia. The couple swore eternal love but also vowed never to marry, since both were survivors of previous bad divorces. Then the US government gave them an ultimatum: get married, or Felipe could never enter America again. Having been effectively sentenced to wed, Gilbert tackled her fear of marriage by delving into the topic completely.

MEMOIR; WITTY; WELL-RESEARCHED

***Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett**

Spanning five decades, this novel explores how one kiss between two people, Beverly Keating and Bert Cousins, each of them married to someone else, can reverberate through the lives of the families—four parents and six children—involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them.

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; COMING OF AGE

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

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

FANTASY; MAGICAL REALISM; LOVE STORY

***Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan**

When Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer with her boyfriend, Nick Young, she envisions a humble family home, long drives to explore the island, and quality time with the man she might one day marry. What she doesn't know is that Nick's family home happens to look like a palace, and that with one of Asia's most eligible bachelors on her arm, Rachel might as well have a target on her back.

HA

HUMOROUS; OUTRAGEOUS; FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

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

Marion and Shiva are twin brothers born of a secret union between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Ethiopia. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. When their love for the same woman drives them apart, Marion flees to America, where his past soon catches up with him.

FAMILY SAGA; LITERARY FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***Daisy Jones & The Six* by Taylor Jenkins Reid**

Everyone knows Daisy Jones & The Six, but nobody knows the reason behind the band's split at the absolute height of their popularity...until now. Daisy is a girl coming of age in LA in the 60s. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock & roll she loves most. By the time she's 20, her voice is getting noticed—as are her looks. Also getting noticed is The Six, a band led by the brooding Billy Dunne. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes that the key to success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend.

HISTORICAL FICTION; COMPELLING; LOVE STORY

***Deacon King Kong* by James McBride**

In September 1969, a fumbling, cranky old church deacon known as Sportcoat shuffles into the courtyard of the Cause Houses housing project in south Brooklyn, pulls a .38 from his pocket, and, in front of everybody, shoots the project's scariest drug dealer at point-blank range. As the story unfolds and deepens, it becomes clear that the lives of the characters who witnessed this shocking act—caught in the tumultuous swirl of 1960s New York—overlap in unexpected ways.

HISTORICAL FICTION; RACE; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano**

One summer morning, 12-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a routine flight from Newark to Los Angeles. And then, tragically, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. Edward's story captures the attention of the nation, but he struggles to find a place for himself in a world without his family. But then, as he finds a path through his grief, he makes an unexpected discovery—one that will lead him to the answers to some of life's most profound questions.

BITTERSWEET; INSPIRING

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

Tony Webster finds himself contending with a past he never thought much about—until his closest childhood friends returned with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. Tony thought he had left all this behind as he built a life for himself. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and his place in the world.

LITERARY FICTION; HAUNTING; INTENSE

***The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid**

Legendary Hollywood actress Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous, scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one is more astounded than Monique herself. Summoned to Evelyn's apartment, Monique listens as she tells her story: from making her way to LA by herself in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business, to her great forbidden love, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY; WOMEN'S LIVES

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

On the beach in Florida, two extraordinary things happen to Maeve Donnelly. First, she is kissed by Daniel, the boy of her dreams. Then, she is bitten by a shark. 18 years later, Maeve has thrown herself into her work as a marine biologist discovering more about the minds of misunderstood sharks. But when she returns home to the charming and eccentric hotel where she was raised by her grandmother, she finds more than just sunsets and key lime pies waiting for her.

LIGHTHEARTED; WOMEN'S LIVES; SCIENCE

***The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides**

Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. But one evening, her husband Gabriel returns late from work. Alicia shoots him five times and then never speaks another word. Her refusal to talk or give any kind of explanation turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, casting Alicia into notoriety. And criminal psychotherapist Theo Faber has waited a long time to work with her. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of her actions takes him on a search for the truth that will threaten to consume him.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

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

In 2002, a journalist is working on a story about Vel’ d’Hiv, a velodrome in which French Jews were held before being sent to concentration camps. She soon uncovers disturbing family secrets that lead her to the story of Sarah, a 10-year-old who was brutally arrested with her family in 1942 Paris—but not before locking her little brother in a cupboard in the family’s apartment, thinking she would be back in a few hours.

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING

***Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe**

Jean McConville, a 38-year-old mother of ten, was dragged from her Belfast home by masked intruders, her children clinging to her legs. They never saw her again. Her abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the IRA was responsible, but in a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. This mesmerizing book uses the case as a starting point for the tale of a society wracked by a guerilla war whose consequences are still felt.

NON-FICTION; TRUE CRIME; SHOCKING

***Searching for Sylvie Lee* by Jean Kwok**

Sylvie, the beautiful, brilliant, successful older daughter of the Lee family, flies to the Netherlands for one final visit with her dying grandmother—and then vanishes. Her sheltered younger sister, Amy, timid and shy, has always looked up to her fierce sister, her fearless protector. Now, terrified but determined, Amy must retrace Sylvie’s steps and try to find the truth, however painful it may be.

SUSPENSEFUL; FAMILY SAGA

***The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott**

At the height of the Cold War, two secretaries are pulled out of the typing pool at the CIA and given the assignment of a lifetime. Their mission: to smuggle *Doctor Zhivago* out of the USSR, where no one dares publish it, and help Pasternak’s magnum opus make its way into print around the world. Glamorous and sophisticated Sally Forrester is a seasoned spy who has honed her gift for deceit across the world. Irina is a complete novice, but under Sally’s tutelage quickly learns how to blend in, make drops, and invisibly ferry classified documents.

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING

***Dear Mrs. Bird* by AJ Pearce**

Emmy Lake is doing her bit for the WWII war effort, volunteering as a phone operator. When she sees an ad for a job at the local paper, her dreams of becoming a war correspondent suddenly seem achievable. But the job turns out to be typist to the renowned advice columnist, Mrs. Bird, who is very clear that any letters containing unpleasantness should go right in the bin. But when Emmy reads poignant letters from women spilling out their troubles, she can’t resist responding.

HISTORICAL FICTION; HEARTWARMING; CHARMING

***The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall**

Charles is destined to succeed his father as a professor at Harvard, until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. How then can he fall in love with Lily when she tells him she will never believe in God? James, the youngest son of a hardscrabble family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father. Nan grew up the devout daughter of a minister. James’ escape from his circumstances lead him to Nan and, despite his skepticism, her faith changes the course of his life. When the two men are hired as joint pastors for an historic church, personal differences threaten to tear them apart.

FAMILY DYSFUNCTION; MOVING; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***Defending Jacob* by William Landay**

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

LEGAL THRILLER; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; HAUNTING

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

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

NON-FICTION; TRUE CRIME; INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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

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

PP

FUNNY; ENGAGING; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***The Dinner* by Herman Koch**

It’s summer in Amsterdam, and two couples meet for dinner. Between courses, the conversation remains a hum of polite discourse. But behind the empty words, terrible things need to be said, and with every forced smile and every new course, the knives are sharpened. Each couple has a teenage son, and they are united by their accountability for a horrific act, one that has triggered a police investigation.

MA

INTRICATELY PLOTTED; DARKLY HUMOROUS

***The Dinner List* by Rebecca Serle**

At one point, everyone has been asked to name five people, living or dead, with whom they’d like to have dinner. Why do we choose the people we choose? And what if that dinner was to actually happen? When Sabrina arrives at her 30th birthday dinner, she finds at the table not just her best friend, but also three significant people from her past...and Audrey Hepburn. As the night wears on, it becomes clear that there’s a reason that these six have been gathered together.

HA

ROMANTIC FICTION; MAGICAL REALISM; LIGHTEARTED

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

When cousins Liv and Nora decide to take their families on a holiday cruise, everyone is thrilled. The ship’s comforts and possibilities seem infinite. But when they all go ashore in beautiful Central America, a series of minor misfortunes leads the families farther and farther from the ship’s safety. One minute the six young children are there. The next, they’re gone, and the parents have now turned to blaming each other and themselves to try to recover their children and their lives

HA

SUSPENSEFUL; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; FAMILY DRAMA

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

When her troubled past and dark secrets resurface with tragic consequences, Maryam Mazar leaves her comfortable English village for the remote Iranian village where she was raised and then disowned by her father, followed by her pregnant daughter Sara, who finally learns the price her mother paid to secure her own freedom, and of the love she left behind.

COMING OF AGE; LYRICAL; HAUNTING

***Saint X* by Alexis Schaitkin**

Claire is only seven when her college-age sister Alison disappears on the last night of their family vacation at a resort on the Caribbean island of Saint X. Several days later, Alison’s body is found in a remote spot and two local resort employees are arrested. But the evidence is slim, the timeline is against it, and the men are soon released. The story turns into national tabloid news, a lurid mystery that will go unsolved. Years later, Claire is living in New York City when a brief but fateful encounter brings her together with one of the men suspected of murdering her sister.

LITERARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***Saints for All Occasions* by J. Courtney Sullivan**

Nora and Theresa Flynn are 21 and 17 when they leave their small village in Ireland and journey to America. Nora is the responsible one—shy, serious, and engaged to a man she’s not sure she loves. Gregarious Theresa is thrilled by her new life in Boston amid the fashionable dresses and dance halls on Dudley Street. But when Theresa ends up pregnant, Nora comes up with a plan that will have repercussions both are far too young to understand.

FAMILY SAGA; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; DARK

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

For Ki Lim and Sang Ly, survival at the largest municipal waste dump in all of Cambodia is a daily struggle. Life would be hard enough without the worry for their chronically ill child and the added expense of medicines that are not working. Just when things seem at their worst, Sang Ly learns a secret about the bad-tempered rent collector who comes demanding money—a secret that sets in motion a tide that will change the life of everyone it sweeps past.

MOVING; LYRICAL

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

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

FANTASY; HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

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

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

FUNNY; HEARTWARMING; LOVE STORY

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

American Rebecca Porter is seeking adventure, not true love, when she goes to study at Oxford University. But once there, she finds herself living down the hall from Prince Nicholas, the future king of England. When she can't resist falling for Nick, the man behind the prince, it propels her into a world she did not expect to inhabit, under a spotlight she is not prepared to face. Dating Nick immerses Bex in ritzy society, but it also comes with unimaginable baggage, and soon the pressures are almost too much to bear.

FUNNY; LIGHTHEARTED; ROMANTIC

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

One morning, Alice Brill awakes with a sudden awareness that something is wrong. There's a hollowness in her chest, and a sensation of dread that she can't shake or identify. As she scours her mind for the source of her unease, she confronts an array of disturbing possibilities: her once-vibrant marriage, now languishing; her misdirected younger son; the loss of her career as an editor at a large publishing house.

CHARACTER-DRIVEN; REFLECTIVE

***Dominicana* by Angie Hart**

Ana Cancion never dreamed of moving to America, the way girls she grew up with in the Dominican did. But when Juan Ruiz proposes and promises to take her to New York, she has to say yes. It doesn't matter that there's no love between them—it's an opportunity for her entire family to eventually immigrate. Lonely and miserable, Ana hatches a plan to escape. But she's stopped by Cesar, Juan's free-spirited brother, who convinces her to stay. As the Dominican Republic slides into turmoil, Juan leaves to protect his assets, leaving Cesar to take care of Ana. When he returns, Ana must decide between love and duty.

HISTORICAL FICTION; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

***Down River* by John Hart**

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

MYSTERY; MOODY; SUSPENSEFUL

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

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

BIOGRAPHY; SCIENCE; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Dressmaker* by Kate Alcott**

Tess, a spirited young woman and aspiring seamstress, is over the moon. She has just been hired by the famous designer Lady Lucille Duff Gordon to be her personal maid on board the *Titanic*. But soon, disaster strikes and Tess barely escapes with her life. Once back on land, rumors begin to circulate about Lady Duff Gordon's questionable on-board actions as she becomes the subject of media scorn and, later, the hearings on the *Titanic*.

HISTORICAL FICTION; SURVIVAL STORY

***The Dry* by Jane Harper**

Federal Agent Aaron Falk arrives in his hometown for the first time in decades to attend the funeral of his best friend, Luke. 20 years ago, when Falk was accused of murder, Luke was his alibi. But now, more than one person knows they didn't tell the truth back then, and Luke is dead. In the midst of the worst drought in a century, Falk investigates whether there's more to Luke's death than meets the eye.

MYSTERY; SUSPENSEFUL; ATMOSPHERIC

***The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett**

At the end of World War II, Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves. The story is told by Cyril's son Danny, as he and his sister, the acerbic and self-assured Maeve, are exiled from the house where they grew up by their stepmother, and thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

***Educated* by Tara Westover**

Tara Westover was born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she spent her days preparing for the end of the world with a ready-made "head-for-the-hills" bag. The family was so isolated from society that there was no one to ensure the children got an education, and no one to intervene when Tara's older brother became violent. Then, Tara began to educate herself. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her across the world—and away from her family.

MEMOIR; COMING OF AGE; SHOCKING; COMPELLING

***Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight**

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

SUSPENSEFUL; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***The Red Lotus* by Chris Bohjalian**

The first time Alexis saw Austin was in an emergency room where she sutured a bullet wound on his arm. Six months later, on the brink of falling in love, the two have traveled to Vietnam on a bike tour. But as Alexis waits at the hotel for Austin to return from a solo ride, two men emerge from the tall grass and Austin vanishes into thin air. The only clue he leaves behind is a bright yellow energy gel dropped on the road. As Alexis grapples with this bewildering loss, she is forced to wonder: Where did Austin go? Why did he really bring her to Vietnam? And how much danger has he left her in?

THRILLER; EERIE

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

Ralph Truitt, a wealthy business man, has advertised for a reliable wife; his ad is answered by Catherine Land, who is not what Ralph was expecting. She is both complex and devious, haunted by a terrible past and motivated by greed. Her plan is simple: she will win his devotion and then slowly poison him and leave a wealthy widow, able to take care of the one she truly loved.

HISTORICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; ATMOSPHERIC

***Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier**

Mary Anning is a woman with a talent for finding fossils, and whose discovery of ancient marine reptiles shakes the scientific community and leads to new ways of thinking about the creation of the world. In danger of becoming an outcast in her community, dominated by middle-class men, she takes solace in an unexpected friendship with Elizabeth Philpot, a prickly London spinster with her own passion for fossils. Their strong bond sees them through struggles with poverty, rivalry, and ostracism.

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC

***Please Look After Mom* by Kyong-Suk Sin**

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; COMPELLING

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

Brilliant and talented, young Joan rebels against medieval social strictures forbidding women to learn. When her brother is brutally killed during a Viking attack, Joan takes up his cloak and his identity and enters a monastery. As Brother John Anglicus, Joan distinguishes herself as a scholar and healer. Eventually, she is drawn to Rome, where she becomes enmeshed in a dangerous web of love, passion, and politics. Triumphant over appalling odds, she finally attains the highest office in Christendom. But such power always comes at a cost.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; WOMEN IN HISTORY

***The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake**

On the eve of the US entrance into World War II, Iris James, the postmistress in a small Cape Cod town, does the unthinkable: slips a letter into her pocket, reads it, and doesn't deliver it. Meanwhile, in London, Frankie Bard is working with Edward R. Murrow, reporting on the radio. Her dispatches beg listeners to pay heed as the Nazis bomb London. One night in shelter, she meets a doctor from Cape Cod with a letter in his pocket, a letter Frankie vows to deliver when she returns home. Soon, the two stories collide in a way no one could foresee.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ROMANTIC; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore**

The discovery of radium made headlines across America as the fresh face of beauty and the wonder drug of the medical community, shining bright during the otherwise dark years of World War I. Hundreds of girls toiled among the glowing dust of the radium dial factories, lit up like fireflies by the chemical. With such a coveted job, these "shining girls" were the luckiest alive—until they began to fall mysteriously ill, while the factories denied all claims of the gruesome effects.

NON-FICTION; WOMEN IN HISTORY; SHOCKING

***Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman**

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: she struggles with social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully planned life of avoiding social interactions. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the IT guy from her office. Together with Sammy, an elderly gentleman they save on the sidewalk, the three become the kind of friends who rescue each other from isolation.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; QUIRKY; UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS

***Everything Here is Beautiful* by Mira T. Lee**

Two sisters: Miranda, the older, responsible one, always her younger sister's protector; Lucia, the vibrant, headstrong, unconventional one, whose impulses are huge and often life-changing. When their mother dies and Lucia starts to hear voices, it's Miranda who must fight for the help her sister needs—even as Lucia refuses to be defined by any doctor's diagnosis.

FAMILY DRAMA; BITTERSWEET; MENTAL ILLNESS

***Evvie Drake Starts Over* by Linda Holmes**

Recently widowed Evvie Drake rarely leaves her house. Everyone in town, including her best friend Andy, thinks grief keeps her locked inside, and she doesn't correct them. In New York, Dean Tenney—a former major-league pitcher and Andy's childhood friend—is struggling with a cause of the yips: he can't throw straight anymore and he can't figure out why. An invitation to stay in Maine for a few months seems like the perfect chance to hit the reset button. When Dean moves into an apartment off Evvie's house, the two make a deal: Dean won't ask about Evvie's late husband, and Evvie won't ask about Dean's baseball career. But rules have a way of being broken...

QUIRKY; LIGHTHEARTED; ROMANTIC

***Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid**

In a country the brink of civil war, Nadia and Saeed meet and embark on a furtive love affair. They're soon forced into premature intimacy by the unrest. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors that can whisk people far away. As the violence escalates, the two decide that they have no choice: leaving their old lives, they find a door and step through.

LITERARY FICTION; LOVE STORY; MAGICAL REALISM

***Family Trust* by Kathy Wang**

For years, Stanley Huang has claimed he's worth a small fortune. But now, newly diagnosed with cancer, the time is coming when the details of his estate will finally be revealed and the family is nervous. His son Fred hopes the inheritance will soothe the pain caused by years of professional disappointment, while his daughter Kate begins to sense that just because you say you have it all doesn't mean you actually do, and Mary, his young second wife, finds that caring for a dying man is harder than expected.

LITERARY FICTION; FAMILY DRAMA; WITTY

***A Fatal Grace* by Louise Penny**

No one in Three Pines liked CC de Poitiers. Not her quiet husband, not her spineless lover, not her pathetic daughter, and certainly none of the residents. CC managed to alienate everyone, right up to the moment of her death. When Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to investigate, he quickly realizes the situation is quite extraordinary: CC was electrocuted in the middle of a frozen lake, in front of the entire village, and yet no one saw anything.

MYSTERY; SUSPENSEFUL; EERIE

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

Sixteen-year-old Hazel Grace Lancaster, a Stage IV cancer patient, has never been anything but terminal, despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that bought her a few years—her final chapter was inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

BITTERSWEET; EMOTIONALLY INTENSE; COMING OF AGE

***The Favorite Sister* by Jessica Knoll**

Goal Diggers is a New York City-based reality show centering around five hyper-successful women: Brett, the tattooed fan favorite; Kelly, her older sister dismissed as a hanger-on; Stephanie, the first black cast member and the oldest; Lauren, the start-up world's darling; and Jen, the head of a cultishly popular vegan food line. When the women agree to appear, the producers expect plenty of drama...but not that, when appalling truths come out in the explosive final weekend of filming, the season will end in murder.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; WOMEN'S LIVES

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

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare books expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famous Sarajevo Haggadah, rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the priceless and beautiful book's ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock its mysteries, ushering readers into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past.

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

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

At the heart of this play stands the Charles family's prized possession, an ornately carved upright piano, which now sits in Berniece Charles's Pittsburgh home. Suddenly, her exuberant brother Boy Willie bursts back into her life with his dream of buying the Mississippi land their family once worked as slaves by selling the piano for the cash he needs to stake his future. But Berniece refuses to sell, clinging to the piano as a reminder of the history that is their family legacy.

DRAMA; FAMILY LIFE; ALLEGORICAL; HAUNTING

***A Piece of the World* by Christina Baker Kline**

To Christina Olson, the entire world was her family's farm in the small coastal town of Cushing, Maine. Born in the home her family had lived in for generations, and incapacitated by illness, Christina seemed destined for a small life. Instead, for more than 20 years, she was host and inspiration for the artist Andrew Wyeth, and became the subject of one of the best-known paintings of the 20th century.

HISTORICAL FICTION; ARTISTS; COMING OF AGE

***A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza**

An Indian-American Muslim family is gathered together in their California hometown to celebrate their daughter's wedding. It is here that Amar, the youngest of the siblings, reunites with his family for the first time in three years. Rafiq and Layla must now contend with the choices and betrayals that led to their son's estrangement—the reckoning of parents who strove to pass their cultures and traditions to their children; and of children who in turn struggle to balance authenticity in themselves with loyalty to their home.

LITERARY FICTION; CULTURE CLASH; FAMILY DRAMA

***The Other's Gold* by Elizabeth Ames**

Assigned to the same suite during their freshman year at Quincy-Hawthorne College, Lainey, Ji Sun, Alice, and Margaret quickly become inseparable. The idyllic campus and the passion and ferocity that school and independence awakens in them ignites an all-encompassing love with one another. But soon they find their bonds—forged in joy and fused by fear—must weather threats that originate from beyond their childhoods and come at them from institutions, from one another, and ultimately from within themselves. Through the years, each makes a terrible mistake, moving from their wild college days to their more feral days as new parents.

WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; SWEEPING

***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee**

In 1911 Korea, a club-footed, cleft-lipped man marries a 15-year-old girl. The couple have one child, their beloved daughter Sunja. When Sunja falls pregnant by a married yakuza, the family faces ruin. But then Isak, a Christian minister, offers a chance of salvation: a new life in Japan as his wife. Following a man she barely knows to a hostile country in which she has no friends, no home, and whose language she cannot speak, Sunja's salvation is just the beginning of this story.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; SWEEPING

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

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

ROMANTIC; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

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

Darlene is a pillar of her community, where she has spent her life tending Sycamores, an estate located five miles south of a town called Peculiar. It is the kingdom where she reigns as queen—until her limelight-stealing twin, Carlene, returns. Their younger sister Magnolia, haunted by a tragic romance, has never wanted to live anywhere but Sycamores, but must make a choice when she meets a man haunted by his own tragedy.

LIGHTHEARTED; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

In 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island's highest peak. And there, they raised a flag. Now the son of one of the flag raisers has written a powerful account of six very different young men who came together in a moment that will live forever.

NON-FICTION; BIOGRAPHY

***Florence Adler Swims Forever* by Rachel Beanland**

Atlantic City, 1934: Florence Adler has returned from college to her parents' apartment, determined to spend the summer training to swim the English Channel. Her older sister Fannie is pregnant again after recently losing a baby and is confined to bedrest. After their father Joseph insists they take in a young woman he helped emigrate from Nazi Germany, the apartment is bursting at the seams. Esther Adler only wants to keep her daughters close and safe, but some things are beyond her control. So when tragedy strikes, Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth until Fannie's baby is born and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY DRAMA; BITTERSWEET

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

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

MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Followers* by Megan Angelo**

Orla dreams of literary success, but she's stuck writing about movie-star hookups and yoga moves. She has no idea how to change her life until her new roommate Floss, a wannabe A-Lister, comes up with a plan to launch them into the high-profile lives they crave. But it's only when they abandon all pretense of ethics that social media responds, terrifyingly, with overwhelming success. 35 years later, in a California town where government-appointed celebrities live every moment on camera, a woman named Marlow discovers a secret about her past.

SUSPENSEFUL; THOUGHT-PROVOKING; DARKLY FUNNY

***Freedom* by Jonathan Franzen**

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

LITERARY FICTION; SNARKY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***Friends and Strangers* by J. Courtney Sullivan**

New mother Elisabeth is struggling to adjust to small-town life after 20 years in New York City. Alone in the house with her infant all day, she is uneasy and adrift, neglecting her working, losing hours to social media. Enter Sam, a senior at the local women's college, whom Elisabeth hires to babysit. Soon, the two grow close. But when Sam finds a kindred spirit in Elisabeth's father-in-law, the differences between the women are revealed and a betrayal has devastating consequences.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

The Waverley women are heirs to an unusual legacy that grows behind their home, where an apple tree bears magical fruit. Claire Waverley has been at peace with this inheritance, living alone in the house and building a successful catering business using the family's peculiar gift for making life-altering delicacies. Then her sister and young niece return, turning Claire's routine existence upside down.

LIGHTHEARTED; MAGICAL REALISM

***Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout**

The iconic Olive Kitteridge struggles to understand not only herself and her own life but also the lives of those around her in the town of Crosby, Maine. Whether a teenager coming to terms with the loss of her father, a young woman about to give birth during a hilariously inopportune moment, a nurse who confesses a secret high school crush, or a lawyer who struggles with an inheritance she does not want to accept, the unforgettable Olive will continue to startle us, move us, and inspire moments of transcendent grace.

LINKED SHORT STORIES; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

***Oona Out of Order* by Margarita Montimore**

It's New Year's Eve 1982. At the stroke of midnight, Oona Lockhart will turn nineteen, and the year ahead promises to be once of consequence. Should she go to London to study economics, or remain at home in Brooklyn to pursue her passion for music and be with her boyfriend? As the countdown begins, Oona faints, and awakens 32 years in the future in her own 51-year-old body. Greeted by a friendly stranger in a beautiful house she's told is her own, Oona learns that each year, she will leap to another age at random.

ALTERNATE REALITIES; CHARMING

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

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

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; HISTORICAL FICTION

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

In 2000, the *Baltimore Sun* ran a small piece about Wes Moore, a local student who had just received a Rhodes scholarship. The same paper also ran a series of articles about the hunt for two of the suspects in the murder of a police officer. One of them was also named Wes Moore. After following the story in the paper, the first Wes, unable to shake off the unsettling coincidence, wrote to the other Wes in prison, beginning a correspondence and relationship that has lasted years.

NON-FICTION; SOCIAL HISTORY

***Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty**

Frances Welty, former best-selling romance novelist, arrives at Tranquillum House, a remote health resort, nursing a bad back, a broken heart, and an exquisitely painful paper cut. She's immediately intrigued by her fellow guests, but the person that fascinates her the most is the strange and charismatic owner/director. Should Frances put aside her doubts and immerse herself in everything Tranquillum House has to offer—or should she run while she still can?

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; WITTY; SUSPENSEFUL

***Normal People* by Sally Rooney**

At school, Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other. He's popular, star of the school soccer team, while she is lonely and proud. But a strange and indelible connection grows between the teenagers—one they are determined to conceal. Soon, they're both at college in Dublin. Marianne has found her feet while Connell hangs at the sidelines, shy and uncertain. Throughout their college years Marianne and Connell circle one another, straying toward other people and possibilities, but always magnetically drawn back together.

LITERARY FICTION; LOVE STORY; SWEEPING

***Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson**

Lillian and Madison were unlikely yet inseparable friends at their elite boarding school. But then Lillian had to leave in the wake of a scandal, and they've barely spoken since. Until now, when Lillian gets a letter from Madison. Madison's two stepchildren are moving in with her and she wants Lillian to be their caretaker. But there's a catch: the twins spontaneously combust when they get agitated, flames igniting from their skin. Thinking of her dead-end life at home, the life that has consistently disappointed her, Lillian figures she has nothing to lose.

QUIRKY; HEARTWARMING; FUNNY

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

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

FANTASY; MYSTICAL; EERIE

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; LUSH

***Ghosts of Harvard* by Francesca Serritella**

Cady Archer arrives on Harvard's campus desperate to understand why her brother Eric, a genius who developed paranoid schizophrenia, took his own life there. Losing Eric has left a black hole in Cady's life, and while her decision to follow in his footsteps threatens to break her family apart, she is haunted by questions of what she might have missed. Then, with her suspicions mounting, Cady herself begins to hear voices, seemingly belonging to three ghosts who walked the university's hallowed halls—or huddled in its slave quarters.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***The Gifted School* by Bruce Holsinger**

In Crystal, Colorado, a community of friends and parents finds themselves increasingly at odds when a new charter school opens in town, announcing that only the most exceptional children will be allowed admittance. Seen through the lens of four families who have been a part of each other's lives since their kids were born over a decade earlier, the story reveals the length that some adults are willing to go to get ahead, as well as the effect of the admissions process on the group's children, sibling relationships, marriages, and careers, as resentments come to a boil and long-buried secrets surface.

LITERARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIP

***The Girl Who Smiled Beads* by Clemantine Wamariya**

Clemantine Wamariya was six years old when the Rwandan genocide began in 1994. She and her 15-year-old sister Claire fled the massacre and spent the next six years wandering through seven African countries, searching for safety. When Clemantine was 12, she and Claire were granted asylum in the US where she embarked on another journey: to excavate her past and claim her individuality.

MEMOIR; LYRICAL; SHOCKING

***The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Daré**

Adunni is a 14-year-old Nigerian girl who knows what she wants: an education. This, her mother has told her, is the only way to get a “louding voice”—the ability to speak for herself and decide her future. Instead, her father sells her to be the third wife of a man who is eager for her to bear him a son. When Adunni runs away to the city, hoping to make a better life, she finds that the only option before her is servitude to a wealthy family. As a yielding daughter, a subservient wife, and a powerless slave, Adunni is told that she is nothing. But while misfortunes might muffle her voice, they cannot mute it.

WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS; EMPOWERING

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

The Ames girls are eleven childhood friends who formed a special bond growing up in Ames, Iowa. As young women, they moved to different states, yet managed to maintain a friendship that would carry them through life’s milestones and heartbreaks. Now grown up, they have a lifetime of memories in common, some unique to their generation, some that will resonate with anyone who has had a friend.

BIOGRAPHY; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes**

Alice marries Bennett hoping to escape her life in England. But Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living with her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt’s traveling library, Alice gladly signs on. The leader, Margery, is a smart, self-sufficient woman who’s never asked a man’s permission for anything, and soon becomes Alice’s greatest ally. Along with three other women, they become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

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

26-year-old Scout Finch returns home to Maycomb, Alabama, from New York City to visit her aging father, Atticus. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights tensions and political turmoil that were transforming the South, Scout’s homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her.

LITERARY FICTION; BITTERSWEET; FAMILY SAGA

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

In the wake of the Civil War, Jefferson Kyle Kidd, a 70-year-old retired Army captain, does live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. Then he is offered a \$50 gold piece to deliver a young orphan to her relatives in San Antonio. Four years earlier, a band of Kiowa raiders killed Johanna’s parents and sister; sparing the little girl, they raised her as one of their own. Recently rescued by the army, she has once again been torn away from the only home she knows.

HISTORICAL FICTION; HEARTWARMING; PLOT-DRIVEN

***Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton**

In 1958 Havana, Elisa is part of Cuba’s high society, where she is largely sheltered from the country’s growing political unrest—until she embarks on an affair with a revolutionary. In 2017 Miami, Marisol grew up hearing stories of Cuba from her grandmother Elisa, who was forced to flee during the revolution. Elisa’s last wish was for Marisol to scatter her ashes in her homeland. Now, Marisol will face the contrast of Cuba’s tropical beauty and its perilous political climate.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; LUSH

***The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead**

As the Civil Rights movement begins to reach the black enclave of Frenchtown in segregated Tallahassee, Elwood Curtis takes the words of Dr. Martin Luther King to heart: he is “as good as anyone.” But for a black boy in the Jim Crow South in the early 60s, one innocent mistake is enough to destroy the future. Elwood is sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called The Nickel Academy, whose mission statement says it is to help boys become “honorable and honest men,” but is in reality a chamber of horrors, driven by a sadistic staff.

HISTORICAL FICTION; INTENSE

***The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah**

Sisters Vianne and Isabelle have always been close. Younger, bolder 18-year-old Isabelle lives in Paris while Vianne is content with life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. But when World War II strikes, Antoine is sent off to fight and the sisters reunite to try to survive, soon finding themselves members of the Resistance after Isabelle’s love affair with a partisan named Gaetan goes awry.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY LIFE; WOMEN’S LIVES

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

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

FANTASY; QUIRKY; LIGHTHEARTED

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

Pamela Paul, editor of *The New York Times Book Review*, has kept a single book by her side for twenty-eight years. This book has a name: Bob. Bob is Paul's Book of Books, where she has recorded every book she's ever read, a journey that reflects her own life. Here, she explores the powerful relationship between book and reader and how they provide the perspective, courage, and companionship to forge our own way and make our own stories.

MEMOIR; BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

***Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane**

When they were children, Sean Devine, Jimmy Marcus, and Dave Boyle were friends. But then a strange car pulled up to their street. One boy got into the car; two did not, and something terrible happened that ended their friendship and changed all three boys forever. Now, twenty-five years later, Jimmy's daughter is found murdered and Sean, now a cop is assigned to the case, bringing the men together once again.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL

***Necessary Lies* by Diane Chamberlain**

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

HAUNTING; ISSUE-ORIENTED

***Gold* by Chris Cleave**

World-class athletes Kate and Zoe have been friends and rivals since they met training for track cycling at the age of nineteen. They've loved, fought, betrayed, forgiven, consoled, gloried, and grown up together. Now, at 32, they are facing their last and biggest race: the 2012 London Olympics. Kate is the more naturally gifted, but Zoe has a compulsive need to win at any cost, and her obsession may threaten her relationship with Kate.

MOVING; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***A Good Neighborhood* by Therese Anne Fowler**

In Oak Knoll, a tight-knit North Carolina neighborhood, professor of forestry and ecology Valerie Alston-Holt is raising her bright, talented biracial son. Xavier is off to college in the fall, and after years of single parenting, Valerie is facing an empty nest. All is well until the Whitmans move in next door—an apparently traditional family with new money, ambition, and a secretly troubled teenage daughter. With little in common except a property line, the families find themselves at odds: first, over an historic oak tree in Valerie's yard, and then over the blossoming romance between the two teenagers.

FAMILY DRAMA; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

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

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

COMING OF AGE; HISTORICAL FICTION

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

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

BIOGRAPHY; INSPIRING

***The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah**

Ernt Albright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam War a changed man. When he loses yet another job, he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family to Alaska, where they will live in America's last frontier. 13-year-old Leni dares to hope that a new land will lead to a better future and a place for her to belong, while her mother will do anything for the man she loves. But as winter approaches, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates and the family begins to fracture.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; VIVID

***The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai**

Yale Tishman, the development director for an art gallery in Chicago is about to pull off an amazing coup, bringing in an extraordinary collection of 1920s art as a gift to the gallery. Yet as his career is flourishing, the carnage of the AIDS epidemic grows around him—his friends are dying and the virus is slowly circling Yale himself. Soon the only person he has left is Fiona, a recently-deceased friend's little sister. 30 years later, Fiona is in Paris tracking down her estranged daughter, but finds herself grappling with the ways AIDS has affected the trajectory of her life.

PARALLEL NARRATIVES; BITTERSWEET

***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens**

Humble, orphaned Pip receives a mysterious summons to the house of Miss Havisham and her haughty, beautiful ward, Estella, forming the prelude to his "great expectations." How Pip comes into his fortune, what he does with it, and what he discovers through his secret benefactor are the ingredients of his struggle for moral redemption in this gripping tale of crime and guilt, revenge and reward.

CLASSIC FICTION; COMING OF AGE

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

When narrator Nick Carraway meets him, Jay Gatsby is a mysteriously self-made Long Island millionaire on a quest to reunite with and impress his long-lost love, Daisy Buchanan. But as his past comes to light—with tragic results—it seems that no one is quite who they say they are. This quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers.

CLASSIC FICTION; LYRICAL; ALLEGORICAL

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

Miss Marple is led on her first case to a crime scene at the local vicarage. Colonel Protheroe, the magistrate in town whom everyone hates, has been shot through the head. No one heard the shots. There are no leads. Yet everyone in town seems to have a reason to want the Colonel dead. It's a race against the clock as Miss Marple sets out on the twisted trail of the mysterious killer.

MYSTERY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED; SUSPENSEFUL

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

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

LITERARY FICTION; FRIENDSHIP; SAGA

***My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell**

2000: Bright, ambitious, and yearning for adulthood, 15-year-old Vanessa Wye becomes entangled in an affair with Jacob Strane, her magnetic 42-year-old English teacher. 2017: Amid the rising wave of allegations against powerful men, a reckoning is coming. Strane has been accused of sexual abuse by a former student. Now, Vanessa suddenly finds herself facing an impossible choice: remain silent, firm in the belief that her teenage self willingly engaged in this relationship, or redefine herself and the events of her past.

CONTROVERSIAL; PARALLEL NARRATIVES

***My Dear Hamilton* by Laura Dray & Stephanie Kamoie**

Coming of age on the frontier of revolutionary New York, Elizabeth Schuyler champions the fight for independence. When she meets Alexander Hamilton, she's captivated by the young officer's charisma and brilliance. They fall in love, despite Hamilton's bastard birth and the uncertainties of war. But the union they create is far from perfect. The Hamiltons are at the center of it all—including the political treachery of America's first sex scandal which forces Eliza to struggle through heartbreak and betrayal to find forgiveness.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; DRAMATIC

***The Most Fun We Ever Had* by Claire Lombardo**

Marilyn and David Sorenson's four radically different daughters are each in a state of unrest. Wendy, widowed young, soothes herself with booze and younger men; Violet, a litigator-turned-stay-at-home-mom, battles anxiety and self-doubt when the darkest part of her past resurfaces; Liza, a newly tenured professor, finds herself pregnant with a baby she's not sure she wants by a man she's not she loves; and Grace, the youngest, begins living a lie not even her family suspects. Above it all, the daughters share the lingering fear that they will never find a love quite like their parents'.

SWEEPING; FAMILY DYSFUNCTION; MOVING

***The Mother-in-Law* by Sally Hepworth**

As soon as Lucy met her husband's mother, she knew she wasn't the wife Diana had envisioned for her son. Exquisitely polite, friendly, and always generous, Diana nonetheless kept Lucy at arm's length, despite Lucy's desperate attempts to connect. As a pillar in the community, an advocate for female refugees, and a woman happily married for decades, no one had a bad word to say about Diana...except Lucy. Now, Diana has died under suspicious circumstances. But who could have really wanted her dead?

THRILLER; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; PLOT TWIST

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

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

CHARMING; SUSPENSEFUL

***Mrs. Everything* by Jennifer Weiner**

Growing up in the 50s, Jo and Bethie Kaufman lived in a perfect "Dick and Jane" house, where their roles were clearly defined. Jo is the tomboy, the bookish rebel with a passion for making the world fairer; Bethie is the pretty, feminine good girl, a would-be star who enjoys the power her beauty confers and dreams of a traditional life. But the truth ends up looking different from what the girls imagined, as Jo and Bethie both survive traumas and tragedies.

CHARMING; SUSPENSEFUL

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

15-year-old Mosey Slocumb—spirited, sassy, and on the cusp of womanhood—is shaken when a small grave is unearthed in her backyard and is determined to figure out why it's there. Liza, her stroke-ravaged mother, is haunted by choices she made as a teenager. But it's Jenny, Mosey's strong and big-hearted grandmother, whose maternal love braids together the strands of the women's shared past and who will stop at nothing to defend their future.

BITTERSWEET; COMING OF AGE; WOMEN'S LIVES

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

It's 1946: London is emerging from the shadows of World War II and writer Juliet Ashton is looking for her next book subject. Who could imagine that she'd find it in a letter from a man she's never met, a native of the island of Guernsey, who has come across her name written inside a book? As they exchange letters, she discovers a hidden story of wit, courage, and resistance against the Nazis.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BITTERSWEET; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

***The Guest List* by Lucy Foley**

On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

MYSTERY; SUSPENSEFUL; ATMOSPHERIC

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

A novel based on the life of the author's grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, who learned to break horses in childhood, then journeyed 500 miles as a teen—alone, on a pony—to become a teacher. Lily survived tornadoes, droughts, floods, the Great Depression, and the most heartbreaking personal tragedy. She bristled at prejudice of all kinds, and, with her husband Jim, ran a vast ranch in Arizona.

ENGAGING; FAMILY DRAMA; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

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

Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She may leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words, because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Offred can remember the years before, when she lived with her husband Luke and her daughter, when she had a job of her own. But all of that is gone now...

DYSTOPIAN FICTION; HAUNTING

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

Gretchen Rubin chronicles her adventures during the 12 months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier. Among other things, she found that novelty and challenge are powerful sources of happiness; that money, spent wisely, can help buy it; that outer order contributes to inner calm; and that the very smallest of changes can make the biggest difference.

NON-FICTION; MEMOIR; QUIRKY

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

Four strangers arrive at a notoriously unfriendly home called Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of a haunting; Theodora, his assistant; Eleanor, a 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 own powers—and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.

ATMOSPHERIC; CREEPY; MENACING

***Heft* by Liz Moore**

Former academic Arthur Opp weighs 550 pounds and hasn't left his home in a decade. In Yonkers, Kel navigates life as a poor kid in a rich school and pins his hopes on a promising baseball career. After nearly two decades of silence, it is a phone call from Charlene, Kel's mother and Arthur's former student, that sets in motion the story of two improbable heroes whose connection transforms both their lives.

CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING; REFLECTIVE

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

On a winter night in 1963, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. But when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's Syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect his wife, Norah, he makes a split-second decision: he asks his nurse to take the baby to an institution. But Caroline, the nurse, can't bring herself to leave the infant. Instead, she disappears into another city to raise the child as her own.

MOVING; MELANCHOLY

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

After Rhoda Janzen turned 40, her world turned upside down. Bad enough that her brilliant husband of fifteen years left her for Bob, a guy he met on Gay.com. But that same week, a car accident left her with serious injuries. So she decided to move back home...with her Mennonite parents. It was in this safe place—which welcomed her back with open arms and offbeat advice—that Rhoda was able to come to terms with her life thus far.

MEMOIR; CULTURE CLASH; QUIRKY

***A Mercy* by Toni Morrison**

In exchange for a bad debt, an Anglo-Dutch trader named Jacob Vaark takes on Florens, a young slave girl who can read and right and might be useful on his farm. Rejected by her mother, Florens searches for love, first from Lina, older servant woman at her new master's home, and then from a handsome African blacksmith, never enslaved, who comes riding into their lives.

HISTORICAL FICTION; STYLISTICALLY COMPLEX; HAUNTING

***Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim**

In the small town of Miracle Creek, Virginia, Young and Pak Yoo run a controversial experimental medical treatment device known as the Miracle Submarine—a pressurized oxygen chamber that patients enter for therapeutic "dives" with the hopes of curing issues like autism or infertility. But then Miracle Submarine mysteriously explodes, killing two people. What or who caused the explosion? The ensuing trial uncovers unimaginable secrets from that night as well as tense rivalries and alliances.

THRILLER; CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

***March* by Geraldine Brooks**

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; DRAMATIC; LYRICAL

***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, after a dust storm nearly killed him and forced his crew, who assumed him dead, to evacuate, he’s sure he’ll be the first person to die there. He’s stranded and completely alone with no way to signal Earth that he’s alive—and even if he could, his supplies would be gone long before rescue could arrive. But despite overwhelming odds against him, Mark’s not ready to give up yet.

SCIENCE FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; SNARKY

***Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb**

One day, Lori Gottlieb is a therapist helping patients in her Los Angeles practice. The next, a crisis causes her world to come crashing down. Enter Wendell, the quirky but seasoned therapist in whose office she suddenly lands. With his balding head, cardigan, and khakis, he seems to have come straight from Therapist Central Casting. Yet he turns out to be anything but predictable. As Gottlieb explores the inner chambers of her patients’ lives, she finds that the questions they are struggling with are the very ones she is now bringing to Wendell.

MEMOIR; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

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

Louisa Clark is an ordinary woman living an exceedingly ordinary life. She takes a badly-needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair-bound after an accident. He has always lived a huge life, and now he’s pretty sure he cannot live the way he is. Will is acerbic, moody, and bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon she finds that his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans for himself, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

LOVE STORY; EMOTIONAL; HEARTWRENCHING

***The Help* by Kathryn Stockett**

Three ordinary women are about to take one extraordinary step. 22-year-old Skeeter is a recent Ole Miss graduate who feels trapped by the expectations of women in 1962; Aibileen is a black maid raising her 17th white child; and Minnie, Aibileen’s best friend, who has lost yet another job due to her inability to mind her tongue. Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BITTERSWEET

***The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi**

Escaping from an abusive marriage, Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant city of Jaipur. There, she becomes the most highly requested henna artist and confidante to the women of the upper class. Known for her original designs and sage advice, Lakshmi must tread carefully to avoid jealous gossips who could ruin her reputation and livelihood. As she pursues her dream of independence, she is startled to find that, many years later, her husband has tracked her down and now has a young girl in tow—a sister Lakshmi never knew she had.

HISTORICAL FICTION; WOMEN’S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

***Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker**

Don and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American Dream. After WWII, Don’s work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their 12 children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. In those years, there was an established script for a family like them—aspiration, hard work, upward mobility, domestic harmony—and they worked hard to play their parts. But behind the scenes was a different story: by the mid-70s, six of the ten Galvin boys were diagnosed as schizophrenic.

NON-FICTION; FAMILY SAGAS; ENGROSSING

***Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance**

From JD Vance, a former Marine and Yale Law School graduate, this is a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class, delving into his own personal story and that of his grandparents—“dirt poor and in love”—and drawing on a wide array of sociological studies.

MEMOIR; SOCIAL HISTORY; CULTURE CLASH

***Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, are born in different villages in 18th century Ghana. Effia is married off to an Englishman who lives in the comfort of the Cape Coast Castle, while Esi, unbeknownst to her sister, is imprisoned below her in the castle's dungeons, sold into the booming slave trade. One thread of the novel follows Effia's descendants in Ghana as they Fante and Asante nations wrestle with the slave trade and colonization; the other follows Esi's in America, though plantations to the Civil War to the Great Migration. Both provide a searing look at the long legacy of the slave trade.

HISTORICAL FICTION; FAMILY SAGA; AFFECTING

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

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

BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL; LYRICAL; HISTORICAL FICTION

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

When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment, and of Keiko Okabe, a young Japanese-American girl from his childhood with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

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

Amanda Lindhout worked as a cocktail waitress until she saved enough to fulfill her dreams of traveling the world. She backpacked across the globe and eventually made a career as a TV reporter in Afghanistan and Iraq. But when she traveled to Somalia—"the most dangerous place on earth"—she was abducted by masked men and held captive for 460 days. During that time, she converted to Islam as a survival tactic, received "wife lessons" and risked a daring escape.

MEMOIR; SURVIVAL STORY

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

Sam Spade is hired by a Miss Wonderley to track down her sister, who has eloped with a louse called Floyd Thursby. But Miss Wonderley is actually the beautiful and treacherous Brigid O'Shaughnessy, and when Spade's partner Miles Archer is shot while on Thursby's trail, Spade finds himself both the hunter and the hunted. Can he track down the jewel-encrusted bird, a treasure worth killing for, before the Fat Man finds him?

CLASSIC FICTION; MYSTERY; HARD-BOILED

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

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

MEMOIR; HEARTWARMING; IMMIGRANTS' LIVES

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

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon with 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 on at all times? But beneath his cranky exterior, there is a story and a sadness. When one morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the beginning of a comical and heartwarming tale unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul, and the impact one life can have on countless others.

FUNNY; BITTERSWEET; QUIRKY

***Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan**

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; VIVID; COMPELLING

Love and Ruin by Paula McLain

In 1937, Martha Gellhorn travels alone to Madrid to report on the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War and becomes drawn to the stories of ordinary people caught in devastating conflict. She also finds herself unexpectedly and uncontrollably falling in love with Ernest Hemingway, a man already on his way to becoming a legend. But when Ernest publishes the biggest literary success of his career, they are no longer equals and Martha must make a choice that will break Ernest's heart and her own.

HISTORICAL FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES; LOVE STORY

The Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante

Giovanna's pretty face is turning ugly, at least so her father thinks. Giovanna, he says, looks more like her aunt Vittoria every day. But is she really changing? Is she turning into Vittoria, a woman she hardly knows but whom her parents clearly despise? Surely there is a mirror somewhere in which she can see herself as she truly is. Giovanna is searching for her reflection in two kindred cities that fear and detest one another: Naples of the heights, which assumes a mask of refinement, and Naples of the depths, a place of excess and vulgarity.

LITERARY FICTION; WOMEN'S LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

Maid by Paula McLain

Stephanie Land's plans of breaking free from her hometown to chase her dreams were cut short when a summer fling turned into an unexpected pregnancy. She turned to housekeeping to make ends meet and, with a tenacious grip on her dream of providing her daughter the best life possible, Stephanie worked days as a maid and took classes online to earn a college degree at night.

MEMOIR; CONTROVERSIAL; WOMEN'S LIVES

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson

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

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; QUIRKY; ROMANTIC

How Not to Die Alone by Richard Roper

Andrew's day-to-day life is a little grim, searching for next of kin for those who die alone. Thankfully, he has a loving family waiting for him when he gets home, to help wash the day's cares away. At least, that's what his co-workers believe, Andrew didn't mean for the misunderstanding to happen, yet he's become trapped in his own white lie. The fantasy of a wife and two kids has become a pleasant escape from his lonely reality. But when new employee Peggy breezes into his life, Andrew is shaken out of his routine and must choose: does he tell the truth and start really living, but risk losing his friendship with Peggy? Or will he stay safe and alone behind the façade?

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; FUNNY; BITTERSWEET

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Dr. Ibram X. Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities.

NON-FICTION; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

How to Change Your Mind by Michael Pollan

When LSD was first discovered in the 1940s, it seemed to researchers, scientists, and doctors as if the world might be on the cusp of psychological revolution. It promised to shed light on the deep mysteries of consciousness, as well as offer relief to addicts and the mentally ill. But in the 1960s, with the vicious backlash against counter-culture, all further research was banned. In recent years, though, work has begun again on the drug's amazing potential.

NON-FICTION; PSYCHOLOGY; HEALTH & MEDICINE

A Hundred Flowers by Gail Tsukiyama

Chairman Mao has declared a new openness in society. Many intellectuals fear it is only a trick, and Kai Ying's husband, Sheng, a teacher, has promised not to jeopardize their safety or that of their young son, Tao. But one morning, just before his sixth birthday, Tao watches as Sheng is dragged away for writing a letter criticizing the Communist Party and sent to a labor camp for "reeducation."

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; CHARACTER-DRIVEN

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

Cecilia Fitzpatrick has achieved it all: she's an incredibly successful businesswoman, a pillar of her small community, and a devoted wife and mother. Her life is as orderly and spotless as her home. But when she finds a letter written by her living husband to be read only after his death, everything is about to change, not only for her, but for Rachel and Tess, women in the community who barely know Cecilia but are about to feel the repercussions of her husband's secret.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION; WITTY; MOVING; SUSPENSEFUL

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

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. At 15, she almost paid the ultimate price when she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school. Few expected her to survive. The journey that followed, and which continues to this day, has inspired millions across the world.

MEMOIR; SURVIVAL STORY; INSPIRING

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

Veteran journalist and cancer survivor Lu Ann Cahn was feeling angry and frustrated. The economy was tanking. Her job was changing. In a word, she felt stuck. Something had to change. So her daughter helped convince her to start a "Year of Firsts." For the next 365 days, Cahn made a point of doing something she had never done before, every day—from doing a Polar Bear Plunge to speaking to a stranger on the street to zip-lining across a crocodile-infested lake in Mexico. Before she knew it, her whole perspective on life had changed.

MEMOIR; WITTY; INSPIRING

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

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black woman from the South but her cells—taken without her knowledge or consent—became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though Henrietta has been dead for over sixty years. Yet Henrietta Lacks herself remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

BIOGRAPHY; THOUGHT-PROVOKING; SCIENCE

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

Shaker Heights is a quiet suburb where everything is planned. Nobody embodies its spirit more than Elena Richardson; playing by the rules is her guiding principle. Enter Mia Warren, an enigmatic artist and single mother who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her daughter and rents a house from Elena and her husband. Soon all four of her children are drawn to the pair. But Mia has a mysterious past and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend the community.

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; FAMILY DRAMA; ENGROSSING

***Long Bright River* by Liz Moore**

In Kensington, a Philadelphia neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. Kacey lives on the streets in the vice of addiction, while Mickey walks those same blocks on her police beat. They don't speak anymore, but Mickey never stops worrying about her sister. Then Kacey suddenly disappears, at the same time a mysterious string of murders begins in Mickey's district, and Mickey becomes dangerously obsessed with finding the culprit—and her sister—before it's too late.

SUSPENSEFUL; THRILLER

***Longbourn* by Jo Baker**

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; CHARACTER-DRIVEN; ROMANTIC

***Lost Roses* by Martha Hall Kelly**

It's 1914 and Eliza Ferriday is thrilled to be traveling to St. Petersburg with Sofya Streshnayva. The two met years ago in Paris and became close confidantes. Now Eliza embarks on the trip of a lifetime, home with Sofya to see the splendors of Russia. But when Austria declares war on Serbia and Russia's imperial dynasty begins to fall, Eliza escapes back to America, while Sofya's family flees to their country estate. In need of domestic help, they hire the local fortuneteller's daughter unknowingly bringing intense danger into their household.

HISTORICAL FICTION; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; MOVING

***The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens**

Joe Talbert is a junior at the University of Minnesota who receives a class assignment to write a biography of someone who has lived an interesting life. At a nursing home, he meets Carl Iverson a man dying of cancer who has been medically paroled after spending thirty years in prison for the rape and murder of a fourteen-year-old girl. As Joe writes about Carl's life, especially his valor in Vietnam, he cannot reconcile the heroism of the soldier with the despicable acts of the convict. Along with his skeptical neighbor Lila, Joe throws himself into uncovering the truth.

PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER; MYSTERY

***The Light Between Oceans* by ML Stedman**

After four years at war, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as a lighthouse keeper with his young, bold, loving wife Isabel. After two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up on shore with a dead man and a living baby. Isabel insists the baby is a gift from God and, against Tom's better judgment, the couple takes the child in to raise as their own.

HISTORICAL FICTION; HAUNTING; MELANCHOLY

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

The lives of three women in 1939 Europe—Caroline, a New York socialite working at the French consulate; Kasia a Polish teenager who feels her carefree youth slipping away as she works for the underground resistance movement; and Herta, an ambitious young German doctor looking for a way out of her desolate life—are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbruck, the infamous concentration camp for women.

HISTORICAL FICTION; EMOTIONAL; POWERFUL

***Little Bee* by Chris Cleave**

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

MOVING; DARK

***The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin**

It's 1969 in New York City, and word has spread of the arrival of a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children, Varya, Daniel, Klara, and Simon—four teens on the cusp of self-awareness—sneak out to hear their fortunes. The prophecies they are given inform their lives and ask the question: would you want to know they date of your death? And if you knew it, how would you live your life?

FAMILY SAGA; BITTERSWEET; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

***In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende**

Professor Richard Bowmaster hits the car of Evelyn Ortega, a young, undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, in the middle of a snowstorm in Brooklyn. What seems like a small inconvenience takes an unforeseen turn when Evelyn turns up at the professor's house seeking help. At a loss, he asks his tenant Lucia Maraz, a lecturer from Chile, for advice. The three are brought together in a mesmerizing story, sparking the beginning of a long-overdue love story.

LITERARY FICTION; IMMIGRANTS' LIVES; LOVE STORY

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

In 1987, Miri Ammerman returns to her hometown in New Jersey to attend a commemoration of the worst year of her life. 35 years earlier, when Miri was 15 and in love for the first time, a succession of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving a community reeling. The story unfolds against the backdrop of the real-life 1950s, when air travel was new and exciting, and everyone dreamed of going somewhere, weaving a haunting story of three generations of families, friends, and strangers whose lives are profoundly changed by these events.

COMING OF AGE; ENGAGING

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

Ines Suarez, a seamstress born into a poor family in the 16th century, flees Spain to seek a life in the New World. As she makes her way to Chile, she begins a fiery romance with Pedro de Valdivia, field marshal to Francisco Pizarro. Together, the lovers will build the city of Santiago—and wage war against the native Chileans. The horrific struggle will change them forever, pulling each of them toward their separate destinies.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LYRICAL; BIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL

***Inferno* by Dan Brown**

Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in an Italian hospital, disoriented and with no recollection of the past 36 hours, including the origin of the macabre object hidden in his belongings. With a relentless female assassin trailing them through Florence, he and his resourceful doctor, Sienna Brooks, are forced to embark on a harrowing journey, unraveling a series of codes.

SUSPENSEFUL; FAST-PACED

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

In a crumbling house in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai. The judge's cook watches over her distractedly, for his thoughts are often on his son, Biju, who is hopscotching from one gritty New York restaurant to another.

LITERARY FICTION; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES; FAST-PACED

***The Intelligencer* by Leslie Silbert**

It is 1593, and three weeks before the murder of Christopher Marlowe, playwright and spy in Elizabeth I's secret service. Marlowe is hoping to find his missing muse as he sets off on a new assignment and closes in on the secret that will seal his fate. In present-day New York, Kate Morgan, a Renaissance scholar-turned-private-eye, investigates a heist and murder involving an, antique manuscript recently unearthed in London. What secrets could it hold? And how, centuries later, could it drive someone to kill?

MYSTERY; PARALLEL NARRATIVES; SPY STORIES

***The Interestings* by Meg Wolitzer**

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

CHARACTER-DRIVEN; MOVING; FRIENDSHIP

***Less* by Andrew Sean Greer**

Arthur Less is a failed novelist about to turn 50 when a wedding invitation arrives in the mail...from his boyfriend of the past nine years, now engaged to someone else He can't say yes—it would be too awkward—and he can't say no—it would look like defeat. On his desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world, so he decides that the best way to skip town is to accept them all. What could possibly go wrong?

ROMANTIC FICTION; QUIRKY; HUMOROUS

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

It's 1944 and Liz Stephens has no interest in attending a USO dance with her friends Betty and Julia. She doesn't need to flirt with a serviceman when she's set to marry her childhood sweetheart. Yet something happens the moment Liz sees Morgan McClain. When Betty asks her to ghostwrite a letter to Morgan, now stationed overseas, Liz agrees, and becomes torn by her feelings for a man who doesn't know her true identity.

HISTORICAL FICTION; BITTERSWEET; LOVE STORY

***The Library Book* by Susan Orlean**

In 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had cleared out of the building realized this was not a drill, but a disastrous fire that would burn up to 2,000 degrees for over seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed 400,000 books and damaged 700,000 more. Investigators descended on the scene, but over 30 years later, the mystery remains: did someone set the fire—and if so, who?

NON-FICTION; BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS; TRUE CRIME

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

On a cold, snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be unusual, to say the least. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the century marches on toward its cataclysmic second world war. Does Ursula's apparently infinite number of lives give her the power to save the world from its destiny? And if she can—will she?

HISTORICAL FICTION; STYLISTICALLY COMPLEX

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

Forced to leave England and struggling with an illness in the wake of a tragedy, Honor Bright must rely on strangers in the harsh landscape of 1850 Ohio, where she is drawn into the clandestine activities of the Underground Railroad. It is also where she befriends two women who embody the power of defiance. Eventually, she must decide if she too can act on what she believes, whatever the personal cost.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LYRICAL

***The Last Story of Mina Lee* by Nancy Jooyoun Kim**

Margot Lee's mother, Mina, isn't returning her calls. It's a mystery to Margot, until she visits her childhood apartment in Koreatown, Los Angeles, and finds that her mother has died suspiciously. The discovery sends Margot digging through the past, unraveling the tenuous threads that held together her single mother's life as a Korean War orphan and an undocumented immigrant, only to realize how little she truly knew. Interwoven with Margot's search is Mina's story of her first year in Los Angeles.

PARALLEL NARRATIVES; MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS

***Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam**

Amanda and Clay head out to a corner of Long Island expecting a vacation: a quiet reprieve from life in New York City, and a taste of the good life in the luxurious home they've rented for the week. But one night, an older black couple in a panic knocks at the door. They say it's their house and they bring the news that a sudden blackout has swept the city. But in this rural area—with no TV, internet, or cell service—it's hard to know what to believe. Should Amanda and Clay trust this couple—and vice versa? And what really happened back in New York?

LITERARY FICTION; SUSPENSEFUL; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***The Leavers* by Lisa Ko**

One morning, Deming Guo's mother goes to her job at a nail salon and never comes home. No one can find any trace of her. With his mother gone, 11-year-old Deming is left with no one to care for him. He is eventually adopted by two white professors who move him from Brooklyn to upstate New York and rename him Daniel Wilkinson. But far from all he's ever known, Daniel struggles to reconcile his new life with his memories of his mother and the community he left behind.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

***Intuition* by Allegra Goodman**

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

PSYCHOLOGICAL FICTION; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

***The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See**

Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends who come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. As the girls take up their position as baby divers, they know they are beginning a life of excitement and responsibility, but also danger. Despite their love for each other, Mi-ja and Young-sook's differences are impossible to ignore. Little do the two know that after surviving hundreds of dives and developing the closest of bonds, forces outside their control will push their friendship to the breaking point.

HISTORICAL FICTION; MOVING; STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

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

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

NON-FICTION; TRUE CRIME; SHOCKING

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

When Lavinia, a white servant girl from Ireland working on a tobacco plantation, violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and the best in the slaves she has come to call her family. Under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate daughter, Lavinia is deeply bonded to her adopted family, though she is set apart from them by the color of her skin. When she is forced to make a choice between the two worlds, dangerous truths are laid bare, and lives are put at risk.

HISTORICAL FICTION; THOUGHT-PROVOKING

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

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

CHARACTER-DRIVEN; DRAMATIC; HAUNTING

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

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

HISTORICAL FICTION; DARK; DRAMATIC

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

Emma Bau has been married only three weeks when Nazi tanks thunder into Poland and her husband is forced into hiding underground, leaving Emma in the city's Jewish Ghetto. But soon she is rescued by the resistance and taken to live with her husband's Catholic aunt, where she assumes a new identity as a gentile. Her precarious situation is complicated when Kommandant Richwalder, a high-ranking Nazi official, hires her to be his assistant.

HISTORICAL FICTION; LOVE STORY

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

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

HISTORICAL MYSTERY; INTRICATELY PLOTTED

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

Eighteen and newly emancipated from the foster care system, Victoria Jones has nowhere to go. So she sleeps in a park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market has her questioning what's been missing in her life, and when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.

EMOTIONAL; LUSH

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

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

NON-FICTION; MOVING; INSPIRING

***The Last Romantics* by Tara Conklin**

It begins in a big yellow house with a funeral, an iron poker, and a brief variation known as the Pause: a free and feral summer in middle-class Connecticut. Caught between the predictable life they once lived and an uncertain future, the Skinner siblings—fierce Renee, sensitive Caroline, golden boy Joe, and watchful Fiona—emerge from the Pause staunchly loyal and deeply connected. But two decades later, the four find themselves confronted with a crisis that tests the strength of those bonds and forces them to question the choices they've made and ask what, exactly, they will do for love.

FAMILY DYSFUNCTION; MOVING; MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES