Book Club Kits

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To find these kits in our online catalogue, click here!
This is the story of the Bright Spot, a little roadside convenience stop on the edge of a highway bordered by the vast open plains of Wyoming. But it is much more than an account of the conception, building and growth of a store, a filling station and a lunch counter. It is the story of a people who followed the early settlers with their own form of pioneering, of the rugged individualism and hard work that kept the west after it was won. It is the story of the folks who traveled along the road that led past the Bright Spot and the community surrounding it. It is the story of a man's dream fulfilled, of his family, and of a young woman's long journey into maturity. It is the story of a way of life.
After a long and eventful life, Allan Karlsson ends up in a nursing home, believing it to be his last stop. The only problem is that he’s still in good health, and one day, he turns 100. A big celebration is in the works, but Allan really isn't interested (and he’d like a bit more control over his alcohol consumption). So he decides to escape, embarking on a hilarious and entirely unexpected journey.

It would be the adventure of a lifetime for anyone else, but Allan has a larger-than-life backstory: Not only has he witnessed some of the most important events of the twentieth century, he has actually played a key role in them. Quirky and utterly unique, The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared has charmed readers across the world.
Edward Stanton is a man hurtling headlong toward middle age. His mental illness has led him to be sequestered in his small house in a small city, where he keeps his distance from the outside world and the parents from whom he is largely estranged.

For the most part, Edward sticks to things he can count on…and things he can count. But over the course of 25 days (or 600 hours, as Edward prefers to look at it) several events puncture the walls Edward has built around himself.

In the end, he faces a choice: Open his life to experience and deal with the joys and heartaches that come with it, or remain behind his closed door, a solitary soul.
Vishnu Maya, called Aama (Mother) by everyone in her tiny Nepalese village, was living high in the Himalayas when she befriended American Peace Corps worker Broughton Coburn in 1974. In 1998, Aama came to visit him --- on a trip prescribed by village priests as a way for the eighty-four-year-old, four-foot-eight woman to earn merit by making a difficult journey late in life.

_Aama in America_ is a vivid chronicle of what became a twenty-five-state, coast-to-coast adventure. Guided by the perpetual curiosity and deeply spiritual orientation of their ingenious, unpredictable travel companion, Coburn and his fiancée gradually began to view their country from an entirely new perspective. “Beneath the uniform, commercial, man-made epidermis of our country,” Coburn writes, “Aama found a culture and landscape that was alive and sacred, and she steered us toward it.”

_Aama in America_ is on one level an offbeat American travelogue. But on another it is a profound exploration of beliefs, values, and lost spirituality, a rediscovery of the spiritual that lies beneath the surface of America, and a singular account of the meeting of two widely divergent cultures.
Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Born with a variety of medical problems, he is picked on by everyone but his best friend. Determined to receive a good education, Junior leaves the rez to attend an all-white school in the neighboring farm town where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Despite being condemned as a traitor to his people and enduring great tragedies, Junior attacks life with wit and humor and discovers a strength inside of himself that he never knew existed.

Inspired by his own experiences growing up, award-winning author Sherman Alexie chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one unlucky boy trying to rise above the life everyone expects him to live.
Recently married to James Lacey, the witty and fractious Agatha Raisin quickly finds that marriage, and love, are not all they're cracked up to be. The newlyweds are living in separate cottages and accusing each other of infidelity. After a particularly raucous fight in the local pub, James suddenly vanishes and Agatha is the prime suspect. Determined to clear her name and find her husband, Agatha begins her investigation. But her sleuthing is thwarted when James’s suspected mistress, Melissa, is found murdered. Joined by her old friend Sir Charles, Agatha digs into Melissa’s past and uncovers two ex-husbands, an angry sister, and dubious relations with bikers. Are Melissa’s death and James’s disappearance connected?
Alchemist, The
by Paulo Coelho
12 Copies (Fiction, 1993 [English Edition])

Paulo Coelho’s enchanting novel has inspired a devoted following around the world. This story, dazzling in its powerful simplicity and inspiring wisdom, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from his homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Along the way he meets a Gypsy woman, a man who calls himself king, and an alchemist, all of whom point Santiago in the direction of his quest. No one knows what the treasure is, or if Santiago will be able to surmount the obstacles along the way. But what starts out as a journey to find worldly goods turns into a discovery of the treasure found within. Lush, evocative, and deeply humane, the story of Santiago is an eternal testament to the transforming power of our dreams and the importance of listening to our hearts.

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On a cold March night in 1896, *New York Times* reporter John Schuyler Moore is summoned to the East River by his friend and former Harvard classmate Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, a psychologist, or “alienist.” On the unfinished Williamsburg Bridge, they view the horribly mutilated body of an adolescent boy, a prostitute from one of Manhattan’s infamous brothels. The newly appointed police commissioner, Theodore Roosevelt, in a highly unorthodox move, enlists the two men in the murder investigation, counting on Kreizler’s intellect and Moore’s knowledge of New York’s vast criminal underworld. They are joined by Sara Howard, a brave and determined woman who works as a secretary in the police department. The unlikely team embarks on what is a revolutionary effort in criminology – amassing a psychological profile of the man they’re looking for based on the details of his crimes. Their dangerous quest takes them into the tortured past and twisted mind of a murderer who has killed before, and will kill again before the hunt is over.
All Over But the Shoutin’
by Rick Bragg
11 copies (Nonfiction, 1998)

On Palm Sunday, 1994, a tornado ripped through a church in Piedmont, Alabama, killing 20 people. This is Bragg’s hometown, and he began his story on the tragedy for the New York Times as follows: “This is a place where grandmothers hold babies on their laps under the stars and whisper in their ears that the lights in the sky are holes in the floor of heaven. This is a place where the song ‘Jesus Loves Me’ has rocked generations to sleep, and heaven is not a concept, but a destination.” Bragg grew up in poverty, the second of three sons of an alcoholic, abusive father and a loving mother. The early chapters give a beautiful description of warm and happy moments he enjoyed with her and his family even as she struggled to provide for them after they’d been abandoned.

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All the Light We Cannot See
by Anthony Doerr
12 copies (Fiction, 2014)

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure’s reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what may be the museum’s most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure’s converge.
Some people say Billy Allman has a heart of gold. Others say he’s a bit odd. The truth is, they’re all right. He’s a hillbilly genius – a collector, a radio whiz – and he can make the mandolin sing. Though he dreams of making an impact on the world beyond the hills and hollers of Dogwood, West Virginia, things just always seem to go wrong.

But however insignificant Billy’s life seems, it has not gone unnoticed. Malachi is an angel sent to observe and protect Billy. Though it’s not his dream assignment, Malachi always follows orders. And as Billy’s story unfolds, Malachi slowly begins to see the bigger picture – that each step Billy takes is a note added to a beautiful song that will forever change the lives of those who hear it.
Almost Pioneers
by Laura Gibson Smith
11 Copies (Nonfiction, 2013)

In the fall of 1913, Laura and Earle Smith, a young Iowa couple, made the gutsy – some might say foolhardy – decision to homestead in Wyoming. There, they built their first house, a claim shanty half dug out of the ground, hauled every drop of their water from a spring over a half-mile away, and fought off rattlesnakes and boredom on a daily basis.

By 1917, however, the Smiths had moved back to Iowa, there they lived for most of their lives, and sometime after the mid-1930s Laura wrote this vivid, witty, and self-deprecating memoir of their time in Wyoming, a book that captures the spirit of the era and of the building of community against daunting odds.

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Always: A Novel
by Sarah Jio
8 Copies (Fiction, 2017)

Enjoying a romantic candlelit dinner with her fiancé, Ryan, at one of Seattle’s chicest restaurants, Kailey Crain can’t believe her good fortune: She has a great job as a journalist and is now engaged to a guy who is perfect in nearly every way. As she and Ryan leave the restaurant, Kailey spies a thin, bearded homeless man on the sidewalk. She approaches him to offer up her bag of leftovers, and is stunned when their eyes meet, then stricken to her very core: The man is the love of her life, Cade McAllister.

When Kailey met Cade ten years ago, their attraction was immediate and intense – everything connected and felt right. But it all ended suddenly, leaving Kailey devastated. Now the poor soul on the street is a faded version of her former beloved: His weathered and weary face is as handsome as Kailey remembers, but his mind has suffered in the intervening years. Over the next few weeks, Kailey helps Cade begin to piece his life together, something she initially keeps from Ryan. As she revisits her long-ago relationship, Kailey realizes that she must decide exactly what – and whom – she wants.

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Ambush On Elk Mountain is the true story of the murder of two deputies in Wyoming Territory during the late eighteen hundreds and the ensuing manhunt for their killers who included notorious outlaw, Big Nose George Parott. The book is crammed with facts and details, putting the murders into historical perspective; and the mostly fictional dialogue helps the reader experience the determination and courage of the lawmen of the Old West.
American Eclipse: A Nation’s Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World
by David Baron
8 Copies (Nonfiction, 2017)

On a scorching July afternoon in 1878, at the dawn of the Gilded Age, the moon’s shadow descended on the American West, darkening skies from Montana Territory to Texas. This rare celestial event – a total solar eclipse – offered a priceless opportunity to solve some of the solar system’s most enduring riddles, and it prompted a clutch of enterprising scientists to brave the wild frontier in a grueling race to the Rocky Mountains. Acclaimed science journalist David Baron, long fascinated by eclipses, re-creates the epic tale of ambition, failure, and glory in a narrative that reveals as much about the historical trajectory of a striving young nation as it does about those scant three minutes when the blue sky blackened and stars appeared in mid-afternoon.

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American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West

by Nate Blakesless

10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2017)

Before men ruled the earth, there were wolves. Once abundant in North America, these majestic creatures were hunted to near extinction in the lower forty-eight states by the 1920s. But in recent decades, conservationists have brought wolves back to the Rockies, igniting a battle over the very soul of the West. With aching, intimate detail, Nate Blakeslee tells the gripping story of one of these wolves, O-Six, a charismatic alpha female. Powerful yet merciful, she is beloved by wolf-watchers. But as she raises her pups and protects her pack, O-Six is challenged on all fronts: by hunters competing with wolves for the elk they both prize; by cattle ranchers and politicians fighting for a dying way of life; and by other Yellowstone wolves vying for control of the stunningly beautiful Lamar Valley. These forces collide in American Wolf, a riveting, multigenerational saga of hardship and triumph that tells a larger story about the ongoing cultural clash in the West.
Rendered paraplegic after a traumatic event four years ago, Cameron Harris has been living his new existence alongside his sister, Tanya, in their battered Biloxi, Mississippi, neighborhood where only half the houses made it through Hurricane Katrina. One stiflingly hot August afternoon, as Cameron sits waiting for Tanya during their daily run to the Biz-E-Bee convenience store, he suddenly and inexplicably rises up and out of his wheelchair.

In the aftermath of this “miracle,” Cameron finds himself a celebrity at the center of a contentious debate about what’s taken place. And when scientists, journalists, and a Vatican investigator start digging, Cameron’s deepest secrets – the key to his injury, to his identity, and, in some eyes, to the nature of his recovery – become increasingly endangered. Was Cameron’s recovery a genuine miracle or a medical breakthrough? And finding himself transformed into a symbol, how can he hope to retain his humanity?
“Animals dream about the things they do in the day time just like people do. If you want sweet dreams, you've got to live a sweet life.” So says Loyd Peregrina, a handsome Apache trainman and latter-day philosopher. But when Codi Noline returns to her hometown, Loyd’s advice is painfully out of her reach. Dreamless and at the end of her rope, Codi comes back to Grace, Arizona, to confront her past and face her ailing, distant father. What she finds is a town threatened by a silent environmental catastrophe, some startling clues to her own identity, and a man whose view of the world could change the course of her life. Blending flashbacks, dreams, and Native American legends, Animal Dreams is a suspenseful love story and a moving exploration of life’s largest commitments. With this work, the acclaimed author of The Bean Trees and Homeland and Other Stories sustains her familiar voice while giving readers her most remarkable book yet.
Bestselling author Barbara Kingsolver returns with a nonfiction narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat.

"As the U.S. population made an unprecedented mad dash for the Sun Belt, one carload of us paddled against the tide, heading for the Promised Land where water falls from the sky and green stuff grows all around. We were about to begin the adventure of realigning our lives with our food chain.

"Naturally, our first stop was to buy junk food and fossil fuel. . . ."

Hang on for the ride: With characteristic poetry and pluck, Kingsolver and her family sweep readers along on their journey away from the industrial-food pipeline to a rural life in which they vow to buy only food raised in their own neighborhood, grow it themselves, or learn to live without it. Their good-humored search yields surprising discoveries about turkey sex life and overly zealous zucchini plants, en route to a food culture that's better for the neighborhood and also better on the table. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, Animal, Vegetable, Miracle makes a passionate case for putting the kitchen back at the center of family life and diversified farms at the center of the American diet.

"This is the story of a year in which we made every attempt to feed ourselves animals and vegetables whose provenance we really knew . . . and of how our family was changed. By our first year of deliberately eating food produced from the same place where we worked, went to school, loved our neighbors, drank the water, and breathed the air."

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Another Man’s Moccasins
by Craig Johnson
10 copies (Fiction, 2008)

At the start of Johnson’s stellar fourth mystery to feature Wyoming sheriff Walt Longmire (after 2007’s Kindness Goes Unpunished), Walt responds to a call that leads to the discovery of the body of a young Vietnamese woman, Ho Thi Paquet, along an Absaroka County highway. Squatting nearby with Paquet’s purse is a massive Crow Indian later identified as Virgil White Buffalo. When Walt finds a photograph of himself and a Vietnamese barmaid taken in 1968 among the victim’s belongings, Walt realizes that the murder isn’t as clear-cut as it appears. With the help of his longtime friend, Cheyenne Indian Henry Standing Bear, Walt retraces Paquet’s steps and uncovers disturbing links to a California human trafficking ring as well as to his own past as a military inspector in Vietnam. Vivid war flashbacks give a glimpse of a younger but no less determined Walt. Full of crackling dialogue, this absorbing tale demonstrates that Longmire is still the sheriff in town.

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Art of Racing in the Rain, The
by Garth Stein
11 Copies (Fiction, 2008)

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. Through Denny, Enzo has gained tremendous insight into the human condition, and he sees that life, like racing, isn't simply about going fast. Using the techniques needed on the race track, one can successfully navigate all of life's ordeals.

On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through: the sacrifices Denny has made to succeed professionally; the unexpected loss of Eve, Denny's wife; the three-year battle over their daughter, Zoë, whose maternal grandparents pulled every string to gain custody. In the end, despite what he sees as his own limitations, Enzo comes through heroically to preserve the Swift family, holding in his heart the dream that Denny will become a racing champion with Zoë at his side.

A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope, The Art of Racing in the Rain is a beautifully crafted and captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life...as only a dog could tell it.

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When Anne Morrow, a shy college senior with hidden literary aspirations, travels to Mexico City to spend Christmas with her family, she meets Colonel Charles Lindbergh, fresh off his celebrated 1927 solo flight across the Atlantic. Enthralled by Charles’s assurance and fame, Anne is certain the aviator has scarcely noticed her. But she is wrong. Charles sees in Anne a kindred spirit, a fellow adventurer, and her world will be changed forever. The two marry in a headline-making wedding. In the years that follow, Anne becomes the first licensed female glider pilot in the United States. But despite this and other major achievements, she is viewed merely as the aviator’s wife. The fairy-tale life she once longed for will bring heartbreak and hardships, ultimately pushing her to reconcile her need for love and her desire for independence, and to embrace, at last, life’s infinite possibilities for change and happiness.
Award-winning screenwriter Malla Nunn delivers a stunning and darkly romantic crime novel set in 1950s apartheid South Africa, featuring Detective Emmanuel Cooper -- a man caught up in a time and place where racial tensions and the raw hunger for power make life very dangerous indeed. In a morally complex tale rich with authenticity, Nunn takes readers to Jacob's Rest, a tiny town on the border between South Africa and Mozambique. It is 1952, and new apartheid laws have recently gone into effect, dividing a nation into black and white while supposedly healing the political rifts between the Afrikaners and the English. Tensions simmer as the fault line between the oppressed and the oppressors cuts deeper, but it's not until an Afrikaner police officer is found dead that emotions more dangerous than anyone thought possible boil to the surface.

When Detective Emmanuel Cooper, an Englishman, begins investigating the murder, his mission is preempted by the powerful police Security Branch, who are dedicated to their campaign to flush out black communist radicals. But Detective Cooper isn't interested in political expediency and has never been one for making friends. He may be modest, but he radiates intelligence and certainly won't be getting on his knees before those in power. Instead, he strikes out on his own, following a trail of clues that lead him to uncover a shocking forbidden love and the imperfect life of Captain Pretorius, a man whose relationships with the black and coloured residents of the town he ruled were more complicated and more human than anyone could have imagined.

The first in her Detective Emmanuel Cooper series, A Beautiful Place to Die marks the debut of a talented writer who reads like a brilliant combination of Raymond Chandler and Graham Greene. It is a tale of murder, passion, corruption, and the corrosive double standard that defined an apartheid nation.
Beekeeper’s Apprentice, The
by Laurie R. King
12 Copies (Fiction, 1994)

In 1915, Sherlock Holmes is retired and quietly engaged in the study of honeybees when a young woman literally stumbles into him on the Sussex Downs. Fifteen years old, gawky, egotistical, and recently orphaned, the young Mary Russell displays an intellect to impress even Sherlock Holmes – and match him wit for wit. Under his reluctant tutelage, this very modern twentieth-century woman proves a deft protégée and a fitting partner for the Victorian detective. In their first case together, they must track down a kidnapped American senator’s daughter and confront a truly cunning adversary – a bomber who has set tripwires for the sleuths and who will stop at nothing to end their partnership. Full of brilliant deductions, disguises, and dangers, this first book of the Mary Russell – Sherlock Holmes mysteries is “wonderfully original and entertaining…absorbing from beginning to end” (Booklist)

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Memories define us.

So what if you lost yours every time you went to sleep? Your name, your identity, your past, even the people you love—all forgotten overnight. And the one person you trust may be telling you only half the story.

Welcome to Christine’s life.

Forty-seven-year-old Christine Lucas awakens each morning believing she is still in her twenties and single. She suffered a terrible accident that has severely impaired her memory. She doesn’t recognize Ben, the man who tells her he is her husband; she doesn’t remember that she had a son; and, worst of all, she does not feel comfortable in her own skin, appalled by her wrinkled face and old-lady clothes. But it turns out she has been getting some help with her memory problem. Dr. Nash calls her every day after Ben leaves for work to tell her where to retrieve her journal, which contains key details about her previous life and work. The most upsetting thing she learns from her journal, however, is that certain facts don’t match the story Ben has been telling her. But how can she be sure he is deceiving her when she can barely hold on to the threads of her own life? This mesmerizing, skillfully written debut novel from a British author works on multiple levels. It is both an affecting portrait of the profound impact of a debilitating illness and a pulse-pounding thriller whose outcome no one could predict.

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Somewhere in South America, at the home of the country’s vice president, a lavish birthday party is being held in honor of the powerful businessman Mr. Hosokawa. Roxane Coss, opera’s most revered soprano, has mesmerized the international guests with her singing. It is the perfect evening – until a band of gun-wielding terrorists takes the entire party hostage. But what begins as a panicked, life-threatening scenario slowly evolves into something quite different, a moment of great beauty, as terrorists and hostages forge unexpected bonds and people from different continents become compatriots, intimate friends, and lovers.
The Best We Could Do, the debut graphic novel memoir by Thi Bui, is an intimate look at one family’s journey from their war-torn home in Vietnam to their new lives in America. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family’s daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui’s story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent – the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love. Despite how impossible it seems to take on the simultaneous roles of both parent and child, Bui pushes through.

With haunting, poetic writing and breathtaking art, she examines the strength of family, the importance of identity, and the meaning of home. The Best We Could Do brings to life her journey of understanding and provides inspiration to all who search for a better future while longing for a simpler past.
Most of us have a habit we’d like to change, and there’s no shortage of advice about what to try. But as we all know from tough experience, no magic, one-size-fits-all solution exists. How can we change our habits, really?

In Better than Before, acclaimed writer Gretchen Rubin identifies every approach that actually works. Whether you want to get more sleep, achieve a weight-loss or health goal, stop checking devices, or finish a project, the invaluable ideas in Better than Before will start you working on your own habits – even before you’ve finished the book.

With her signature mix of rigorous research and engaging storytelling, Rubin uses herself as a guinea pig, tests her theories on family and friends, and answers the most perplexing questions about habits.
In the 1960s one of the strongest voices was that of the black athlete. Not at the University of Wyoming. The only colors that mattered here in '69 were brown and gold, and the only issue worth paying attention to was Cowboy football. Wyoming's 14 black players wanted to wear black armbands during the upcoming game against Brigham Young University to protest the policies of the Mormon Church, which did not allow blacks to enter into the priesthood. The head coach Lloyd Eaton gave them the boot. And everything about Cowboys football changed forever.¹

Caught in the blizzards of 1948-49, Roy Alleman began collecting notes on the impact of that extraordinary winter before it ended. Hundreds of thousands of livestock perished in the killer storms, and seventy-six people died. Alleman describes the human dramas enacted during the blizzards – the daily heroism, endurance, and generosity of people on the High Plains.
The Blue Tattoo pieces together the true story of Olive Oatman, a 14-year-old girl taken captive by the Yavapai Indians in 1851 after the massacre of almost all her family as they traveled west. Olive and her sister Mary Ann lived as servants to the Yavapai for a year until they were traded to the Mohave Indians and adopted into their tribe. Though Mary Ann’s frail nature eventually claimed her life, the girls were considered Mohave during the four years of their captivity; each was given a distinctive facial tattoo to identify them as tribe members. It was this tattoo that brought Olive Oatman fame after her eventual release and helped define her life afterwards. Mifflin sifts through the known facts of Olive’s story, giving us a glimpse of a young woman conflicted by two separate lives.

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Blue Sweater, The
by Jacqueline Novogratz
9 Copies (Memoir, 2009)

Jacqueline Novogratz left a career in international banking to spend her life on a quest to understand global poverty and find powerful new ways of tackling it. From her first stumbling efforts as a young idealist venturing forth in Africa to the creation of the trailblazing organization she runs today, Novogratz tells gripping stories with unforgettable characters. She shows, in ways both hilarious and heartbreaking, how traditional charity often fails, but how a new form of philanthropic investing called “patient capital” can help make people self-sufficient and can change millions of lives. More than just an autobiography or a how-to guide to addressing poverty, The Blue Sweater is a call to action that challenges us to grant dignity to the poor and to rethink our engagement with the world.

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Less than one hundred years ago, *Diplodocus carnegii*—named after industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie—was the most famous dinosaur on the planet. The most complete fossil skeleton unearthed to date, and one of the largest dinosaurs ever discovered, *Diplodocus* was displayed in a dozen museums around the world and viewed by millions of people.

Bone Wars explains how a fossil unearthed in the badlands of Wyoming in 1899 helped give birth to the public’s fascination with prehistoric beasts. Rea also traces the evolution of scientific thought regarding dinosaurs, and reveals the double-crosses and behind-the-scenes deals that marked the early years of bone hunting.

With the help of letters found in scattered archives, Tom Rea recreates a remarkable story of hubris, hope, and turn-of-the-century science. He focuses on the roles of five men: Wyoming fossil hunter Bill Reed; paleontologists Jacob Wortman—in charge of the expedition that discovered Mr. Carnegie’s dinosaur—and John Bell Hatcher; William Holland, imperious director of the recently founded Carnegie Museum; and Carnegie himself, smitten with the colossal animals after reading a newspaper story in the New York Journal and Advertiser.

What emerges is the picture of an era reminiscent of today: technology advancing by leaps and bounds; the press happy to sensationalize anything that turned up; huge amounts of capital ending up in the hands of a small number of people; and some devoted individuals placing honest research above personal gain.
It is 1939 Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

By her brother's graveside, Liesel Meminger's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, left there By accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found.

But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened up and closed down.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.
Booked to Die (Cliff Janeway Series)
by John Dunning
8 copies (Fiction, 1992)

Denver cop and rare book collector Cliff Janeway is introduced in this engrossing whodunit. A sensitive and introspective sort, Janeway chafes in the hard-edged role of law enforcer. When a down-on-his-luck book scout named Bobby Westfall is murdered, Cliff at first suspects local thug and personal nemesis Jackie Newton. Newton's girlfriend, a victim of physical abuse, makes Cliff more determined than ever to nail Newton. He goes after his quarry with both fists cocked and both barrels aimed, neglecting any semblance of correct police procedure. This ironic twist shapes the plot as Janeway delves further into his city's antiquarian book trade, whose practitioners display an expertise exceeded only by their greed.
Trevor Noah’s unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents’ indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa’s tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle.

Born a Crime is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man’s relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

The stories collected here are by turns hilarious, dramatic, and deeply affecting. Whether subsisting on caterpillars for dinner during hard times, being thrown from a moving car during an attempted kidnapping, or just trying to survive the life-and-death pitfalls of dating in high school, Trevor illuminates his curious world with an incisive wit and unflinching honesty. His stories weave together to form a moving and searingly funny portrait of a boy making his way through a damaged world in a dangerous time, armed only with a keen sense of humor and a mother’s unconventional, unconditional love.
Out of the depths of the Depression comes the improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys from the American West showed the world at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin what true grit really meant. With rowers who were sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler. The emotional heart of the tale lies with Joe Rantz, a teenager without a family or prospects, who rows not only to regain his shattered self-regard but also to find a real place for himself in the world. Drawing on the boys’ own journals and vivid memories of a once-in-a-lifetime shared dream, Brown has created an unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man’s personal quest.
Boys of Company K, The  
by Lee M. Cullimore  
12 copies (Nonfiction, 2012)

They volunteered to fight in the Civil War. Instead they were sent to Fort Laramie. This is the story of the “boys” – privates, corporals, and sergeants – who built and manned remote outposts and guarded the trails and telegraph lines on the isolated Western Frontier. Often related in the ordinary soldiers’ own words, through letters and diaries, this accurate account of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Company K, takes us with the boys as they experience boredom, violence, extremes in weather, lack of training and supplies, and loneliness.

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Brat Farrar
by Josephine Tey
12 Copies (Fiction, 1997)

What happens when orphaned Brat Farrar impersonates long dead Patrick Ashby and gains his inheritance makes an effortlessly suave tale of the unmasking of murder. Faultlessly coached, Brat wins his new family – all save Patrick’s twin, Simon. He meets the threats of accidental death safely, learns the truth of young Patrick’s death and faces the choice of disgracing the Ashbys or himself. There is melodrama for the climax of an expert English production which combines humor, charm and pleasant people. (Kirkus Reviews, February 1, 1949)
Brave New World
by Aldous Huxley
10 copies (Fiction, 1932)

The astonishing novel *Brave New World* presents Aldous Huxley’s legendary vision of a world of tomorrow utterly transformed. In Huxley’s darkly satiric yet chillingly prescient imagining of a “utopian” future, humans are genetically designed and pharmaceutically anesthetized to passively serve a ruling order. A powerful work of speculative fiction that has enthralled and terrified readers for generations, it remains remarkably relevant to this day as both a warning to be heeded and as a thought-provoking yet satisfying entertainment.
Freelance journalist Jones tells the story of Arapaho medicine man Stanford Addison, a quadriplegic and gifted horse trainer and his effect on animals: The horses would gather around, their liquid brown eyes fixed on him. He’d roll away across the dirt. They’d put their noses down and follow him until he stopped rolling. Jones chronicles the Addison family’s triumphs and losses on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, a place plagued by poverty and defined by struggle. Along the way, Jones takes in lost souls, like the half-melted cowboy Moses. At a crossroads in her life, Jones – much like those she cares for – is spiritually lost, but while in Wyoming, she stumbles upon her own journey of self-discovery.
This is the story of two brothers – and of a daughter’s great love for them both.

From the age of four, award-winning writer Edwidge Danticat came to think of her uncle Joseph as her “second father,” when she was placed in his care after her parents left Haiti for America. And so she was both elated and saddened when, at twelve, she joined her parents and younger brothers in New York City. As Edwidge adjusted to life in a new country, she and her family continued to fear for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorated.

In 2004, they entered into a terrifying tale of good people caught up in events beyond their control. Their story made headlines around the world. *Brother, I’m Dying* is an astonishing true-life epic, told on an intimate scale by one of our finest writers.
Brutal Telling, The (A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel)
by Louise Penny
13 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

Chaos is coming, old son. With those words the peace of Three Pines is shattered. As families prepare to head back to the city and children say goodbye to summer, a stranger is found murdered in the village bistro and antiques store. Once again, Chief Inspector Gamache and his team are called in to strip back layers of lies---exposing both treasures and rancid secrets buried in the wilderness. A trail of clues and treasures leads Gamache deep into the woods and across the continent in search of the truth.
Burned Bridges
by Marguerite Ashton
11 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

Newly sober and dating the man of her dreams, Traci Collins is ready to enjoy the good life, until her new best friend, Olivia Durning, confides a dreadful secret far worse than Traci could imagine.

Sealed by a shared bond, and unaware there is more to the secret than what she was told, Collins feels honor bound to protect her friend when a confrontation between Olivia and her childhood tormentor turns deadly.

A mysterious text forces Traci to question Olivia's actions and re-examine her loyalties. When the answers to Traci's questions endanger a life she treasures more than her own, she must decide if friendship has a limit. For a bridge once burnt severs ties forever...

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Butch Cassidy, My Uncle: A Family Portrait
by Bill Betenson
11 Copies (Nonfiction, 2012)

Bill Betenson is the great-grandson of Butch Cassidy’s younger sister Lula Parker Betenson who wrote *Butch Cassidy, My Brother*, published in 1975. Bill inherited not only Lula’s family archives but also her interest in setting the records straight. His quest for answers has been a lifelong pursuit which has led him from dusty jail basements in the American West to Butch’s ranch in Argentina and beyond. He’s often said, “If I had to pick an outlaw to be related to, I would pick Butch.”

He says, “I’ve delayed writing this book for too long; the story is no longer a huge family embarrassment like it was for great-grandma Lula’s generation. It’s time I put what I know on paper.”
Unburdened by the material necessities of the more fortunate, the denizens of Cannery Row discover rewards unknown in more traditional society. Henry the painter sorts through junk lots for pieces of wood to incorporate into the boat he is building, while the girls from Dora Flood’s bordello venture out now and then to enjoy a bit of sunshine. Lee Chong stocks his grocery with almost anything a man could want, and Doc, a young marine biologist who ministers to sick puppies and unhappy souls, unexpectedly finds true love. Cannery Row is just a few blocks long, but the story it harbors is suffused with warmth, understanding, and a great fund of human values.

First published in 1945, Cannery Row focuses on the acceptance of life as it is—both the exuberance of community and the loneliness of the individual. John Steinbeck draws on his memories of the real inhabitants of Monterey, California, and interweaves their stories in this world where only the fittest survive – creating what is at once one of his most humorous and poignant works. In Cannery Row John Steinbeck returns to the setting of Tortilla Flat to create another evocative portrait of life as it is lived By those who unabashedly put the highest value on the intangibles—human warmth, camaraderie, and love.

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Wodehouse’s *Carry On, Jeeves* is the story about Bertram “Bertie” Wooster and his gentleman’s gentleman, Jeeves. Jeeves has a head suited to fix the oddest of problems and seems almost magic at times with his ability to understand people. Although Bertie is unsure at first of Jeeves, Bertie soon realizes that Jeeves is a necessity that no gentleman should be without.
For people who both love and hate cats comes the tale of Alec Charlesworth, a librarian who finds himself suddenly alone; he's lost his job, his beloved wife has just died, and to top it all off, his sister has disappeared. Overcome by grief, he stands in his sister's kitchen staring at the only witness to what's happened to her – her cat, Roger. Who then speaks to him.

It takes a while for Alec to realize he's not gone mad from grief, that the cat is actually speaking…and that much of what we fear about cats is true. They do think they're smarter than humans, for one thing. And, well, it seems they are! What's more, they do have nine lives. Or at least this one does – Roger's older than Methuselah, and his unblinking stare comes from the fact that he's seen it all.

And he's got a story to tell, a tale of shocking local history and dark forces that may link not only the death of Alec's wife, but also several other local deaths. But will the cat help Alec, or is he one of the dark forces?
The hero-narrator of The Catcher in the Rye is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days. The boy himself is at once too simple and too complex for us to make any final comment about him or his story. Perhaps the safest thing we can say about Holden is that he was born in the world not just strongly attracted to beauty but, almost, hopelessly impaled on it. There are many voices in this novel: children's voices, adult voices, underground voices—but Holden's voice is the most eloquent of all. Transcending his own vernacular, yet remaining marvelously faithful to it, he issues a perfectly articulated cry of mixed pain and pleasure. However, like most lovers and clowns and poets of the higher orders, he keeps most of the pain to, and for, himself. The pleasure he gives away, or sets aside, with all his heart. It is there for the reader who can handle it to keep.
Cater Street Hangman, The
by Anne Perry
13 copies (Fiction, 1979)

The thrilling first novel in Anne Perry’s engaging series, in which Inspector Thomas Pitt meets his future wife and sleuthing partner.

While the Ellison girls are out paying calls and drinking tea like proper Victorian ladies, a maid in their own household is strangled to death. Quiet, young Inspector Thomas Pitt finds no one above suspicion – and his investigation at the staid Ellison home causes many a composed façade to crumble into far-from-elegant panic.

But it is not panic that beats in the heart of pretty Charlotte Ellison, and something more than brutal murder is on Inspector Pitt’s mind. Yet such a romance – between a society girl and so unsuitable a suitor – is impossible in the midst of an investigation.

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Cattle Kingdom: The Hidden History of the Cowboy West
by Christopher Knowlton
11 copies (Nonfiction, 2017)

The open range cattle era lasted barely a quarter-century, but it left America irrevocably changed. These few decades following the Civil War brought America its greatest boom-and-bust cycle until the Depression, the invention of the assembly line, and the dawn of the conservation movement. It inspired legends, such as that icon of rugged individualism, the cowboy. Yet this extraordinary time and its import have remained unexamined for decades.

Cattle Kingdom reveals the truth of how the West rose and fell, and how its legacy defines us today. The tale takes us from dust-choked cattle drives to the unlikely splendors of boomtowns like Abilene, Kansas, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. We venture from the Texas Panhandle to the Dakota Badlands to the Chicago stockyards. We meet a diverse array of players—from the expert cowboy Teddy Blue to the failed rancher and future president Teddy Roosevelt. Knowlton shows us how they and others like them could achieve so many outsized feats: killing millions of bison in a decade, building the first opera house on the open range, driving cattle by the thousand, and much more. Cattle Kingdom is a revelatory new view of the Old West.
A Child Called “It”
by Dave Pelzer
9 copies (Nonfiction, 1995)

This book chronicles the unforgettable account of one of the most severe child abuse cases in California history. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother: a mother who played tortuous, unpredictable games – games that left him nearly dead. The outside world knew nothing of his living nightmare. He had nothing or no one to turn to, but his dreams kept him alive – dreams of someone taking care of him, loving him and calling him their son.

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The lessons of love come in many different forms. For Richards, adopting a maltreated horse impacted her life in ways she could not have foreseen. Richards adopts an emaciated mare and her foal, overriding the small voice telling her that she already has three horses to care for and a herniated disk. Her experience with her new charges proves profoundly instructive in terms of how love can foster growth of the human spirit and help in overcoming pain and loss. The abused mare, Lay Me Down, proves to be one of those rare creatures that remain gentle despite years of mistreatment, responding profoundly to the kind treatment that is part of everyday life for Richards’ animals.
Christmas Carol, A
by Charles Dickens
10 copies (Fiction, 1843)

With its characters exhibiting many qualities – as well as failures – often ascribed to Dickens himself, the imaginative and entertaining tale relates Ebenezer Scrooge’s eerie encounters with a series of spectral visitors. Journeying with them through Christmases past, present and future, he is ultimately transformed from an arrogant, obstinate and insensitive miser to a generous, warm-hearted and caring human being. Written By one of England’s greatest and most popular novelists, A Christmas Carol has come to epitomize the true meaning of Christmas.

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In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child—not powerful, like her father, nor viciously alluring like her mother. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power—the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves. Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, tames wild beasts and crosses paths with many of the most famous figures in all of mythology, including the Minotaur, Daedalus and his doomed son Icarus, the murderous Medea, and, of course, wily Odysseus.

But there is danger, too, for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love.
Nominated for an Edgar Award for best mystery, *City of Glass* inaugurates the intriguing *New York Trilogy* of novels that *The Washington Post Book World* has classified as “post-existentialist private eye… It’s as if Kafka has gotten hooked on the gumshoe game and penned his own ever-spiraling version.” As a result of a strange phone call in the middle of the night, Quinn, a writer of detective stories, becomes enmeshed in a case more puzzling than any he might have written. Composed with hallucinatory clarity, *City of Glass* combines dark humor with Hitchcock-like suspense.
Close Range: Wyoming Stories
by Annie Proulx
15 copies (Fiction, 1999)

These stories share as their theme and setting Proulx's home state of Wyoming, a wild and scouring place of endless wind that delivers storms, droughts, and floods of biblical intensity. Most of the confrontations Proulx enacts are timeless in their elementariness, but others portray the soul-shriveling difficulties inherent in trying to make a living in this land of stone and cold as beef profits fall, a family-owned gas station goes under when an old highway is abandoned for an expressway, and an influx of Hollywood types and other prosperous outsiders wanting to play cowboy and cowgirl turns ranches into theme parks. But Proulx always returns to the basics: earth and family, lust and survival. An old man sums it up in “The Bunchgrass Edge of the World” when he muses, “The main thing in life is staying power,” a resiliency Proulx's stoic characters test repeatedly.

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Columbine
by Dave Cullen
6 Copies (Nonfiction, 2009)

On April 20, 1999, two boys went to their high school with bombs and guns. Their goal was to leave “a lasting impression on the world.” The horror they inflicted left an indelible stamp on the American psyche.

Now in this definitive account, Dave Cullen presents a compelling and utterly human profile of teenage killers. With a keen investigative eye and psychological acumen, he draws on hundreds of interviews, thousands of pages of police files, FBI psychologists, and the boys’ tapes and diaries. This close-up is an unforgettable cautionary tale for our time. In the tradition of Helter Skelter and In Cold Blood, Columbine is a revelatory work destined to be a classic.

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Comedians, The  
by Graham Greene  
15 copies (Fiction, 1966)

One of Graham Greene’s most chilling and prophetic novels, *The Comedians* is set in Haiti ruled by Papa Doc and the Tontons Macoute, his sinister secret police. Just as *The Quiet American* offered a preview of the coming horrors of American involvement in Vietnam, this novel presages the chaos in Haiti. Greene is at his sardonic best, laying scalpel to the repressive, casually violent regime of “Papa Doc” Duvalier as seen through the eyes of Brown, an hotelier with nearly nothing left to believe in.

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The Complete Persepolis
by Marjane Satrapi
12 copies (Nonfiction, 2003)

Here, in one volume: Marjane Satrapi’s best-selling, internationally acclaimed memoir-in-comic-strips. *Persepolis* is the story of Satrapi’s unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming – both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

Edgy, searingly observant, and candid, often heartbreaking but threaded throughout with raw humor and hard-earned wisdom – *Persepolis* is a stunning work from one of the most highly regarded, singularly talented graphic artists at work today.

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In 1901 Philadelphia's celebrity female stepped off a train in Blackfoot, Montana, and into a world of living legends. The miners and frontiersmen, Indians and trappers that Caroline Lockhart met there inspired this beautiful, single, strong-willed woman to live a life she had only dreamed about in what remained of the Wild West.

This is the true story of a woman whose work and life teetered between realism and romanticism and who wrote novels “like a man” yet ran her business and love affairs like a liberated feminist. Prep-school educated (she attended the Moravian Seminary for girls) and well-traveled (her assignments took her throughout Europe), she chose to live out her passions in a time when to bare one’s ankle could ruin a woman for life.

As a newspaper publisher in Cody, Wyoming, she founded the town's still-thriving Stampede Rodeo, received critical praise from the demanding H. L. Mencken, and saw three of her seven novels turned into films. Yet she also infuriated neighbors and admirers with her cantankerous crusades (she referred to novelist Zane Grey, for instance, as “that tooth-pulling ass!”) and indomitable will. In this all-encompassing portrait the Cowboy Girl, Caroline Lockhart, emerges as a woman who remade the fantasy of the West in life and in words, and who keeps us spellbound to this day.
Cowgirl Up!: A History of Rodeo Women
by Heidi M. Thomas
11 copies (Nonfiction, 2014)

When someone says "Cowgirl Up!" It means rise to the occasion, don't give up, and do it all without whining or complaining. And the cowgirls of the early twentieth century did it all, just like the men, only wearing skirts and sometimes with a baby waiting behind the chutes. Women learned to rope and ride out of necessity, helping their fathers, brothers, and husbands with the ranch work. But for some women, it went further than that. They caught the fever of freedom, the thirst for adrenaline, and the thrill of competition, and many started their rodeo careers as early as age fourteen. From Alice and Margie Greenough of Red Lodge, whose father told them "If you can't ride 'em, walk," to Jane Burnett Smith of Gilt Edge who sneaked off to ride in rodeos at age eleven, women made wide inroads into the masculine world of rodeo. Montana boasts its share of women who “busted broncs” and broke ranks in the macho world of rodeo during the early to mid-1900s. Cowgirl Up! is the history of these cowgirls, their courage, and their accomplishments.
Cowboys and East Indians: Stories
by Nina McConigley
12 copies (Fiction, 2013)

Set in Wyoming and India, the story-collection *Cowboys and East Indians* explores the immigrant experience and the collisions of cultures in the American West as seen through the eyes of outsiders. From Indian motel owners to a kleptomaniac foreign exchange student, from a cross-dressing, sari-wearing cowboy to oil-rig workers, from an adopted cowgirl to a medical tourist in India—the characters in these stories are lonely and are looking for connection, and yet they can also be problematic and aggressive in order to survive in an isolated landscape.

These stories focus on the not-often-mentioned rural immigrant experience. For these characters, their identity is shaped not just by their own personal history, but by place, from the very land on which they live.
Cranford
by Elizabeth Gaskell
12 Copies (Fiction, 1853)

A portrait of the residents of an English country town in the mid nineteenth century, Cranford relates the adventures of Miss Matty and Miss Deborah, two middle-aged spinster sisters striving to live with dignity in reduced circumstances. Through a series of vignettes, Elizabeth Gaskell portrays a community governed By old-fashioned habits and dominated By friendships between women. Her wry account of rural life is undercut, however, By tragedy in its depiction of a variety of troubling events. Written with acute observation, Cranford is by turns affectionate, moving and darkly satirical. (From the Penguin Classics edition)

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In the 1970’s, Larry Ott and Silas “32” Jones were boyhood pals in a small town in rural Mississippi. Their worlds were as different as night and day: Larry was the child of lower-middle-class white parents, and Silas, the son of a poor, black single mother. But then Larry took a girl to a drive-in movie and she was never seen or heard from again. He never confessed…and was never charged.

More than twenty years have passed. Larry lives a solitary, shunned existence, never able to rise above the whispers of suspicion. Silas has become the town constable. And now another girl has disappeared, forcing two men who once called each other “friend” to confront a past they've buried for decades.
Cuckoo’s Calling, The
by Robert Galbraith
10 copies (Fiction, 2013)

A brilliant debut mystery in a classic vein: Detective Cormoran Strike investigates a supermodel's suicide. After losing his leg to a land mine in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike is barely scraping By as a private investigator. Strike is down to one client, and creditors are calling. He has also just broken up with his longtime girlfriend and is living in his office. Then John Bristow walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe that. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends, and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction, and delusion known to man. You may think you know detectives, but you’ve never met one quite like Strike. You may think you know about the wealthy and famous, but you’ve never seen them under an investigation like this.

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Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, The
by Mark Haddon
12 copies (Fiction, 2003)

Sometimes profound characters come in unassuming packages. In this instance, it is Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old autistic savant with a passion for primary numbers and a paralyzing fear of anything that happens outside of his daily routine. When a neighbor's dog is mysteriously killed, Christopher decides to solve the crime in the calculating spirit of his hero, Sherlock Holmes. Little does he know the real mysteries he is about to uncover.

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Lauded for his sensitive memoir (*My Own Country*) about his time as a doctor in eastern Tennessee at the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the '80s, Verghese turns his formidable talents to fiction, mining his own life and experiences in a magnificent, sweeping novel that moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city hospital in New York City over decades and generations. Sister Mary Joseph Praise, a devout young nun, leaves the south Indian state of Kerala in 1947 for a missionary post in Yemen. During the arduous sea voyage, she saves the life of an English doctor bound for Ethiopia, Thomas Stone, who becomes a key player in her destiny when they meet up again at Mission Hospital in Addis Ababa. Seven years later, Sister Praise dies birthing twin boys: Shiva and Marion, the latter narrating his own and his brother's long, dramatic, biblical story set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Ethiopia, the life of the hospital compound in which they grow up, and the love story of their adopted parents, both doctors at Missing. The boys become doctors as well, and Verghese's weaving of the practice of medicine into the narrative is fascinating even as the story bobs and weaves with the power and coincidences of the best 19th-century novel.
Daughter of Fortune
by Isabel Allende
11 copies (Fiction, 1999)

An orphan raised in Valparaiso, Chile, By a Victorian spinster and her rigid brother, young, vivacious Eliza Sommers follows her lover to California during the Gold Rush of 1849 – a danger-filled quest that will become a momentous journey of transformation. In this rough-and-tumble world of panhandlers and prostitutes, immigrants and aristocrats, Eliza will discover a new life of freedom, independence, and a love greater than any ever dreamed.

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One car ride. Two young sisters. A Brutal Fate

Casper, Wyoming: 1973. Eleven-year-old Amy Burridge rode with her eighteen-year-old sister, Becky, to the grocery store. When they finished their shopping, Becky’s car got a flat tire. Two men politely offered them a ride home. But they were anything but Good Samaritans. The girls would suffer unspeakable crimes at the hands of these men before being thrown from a bridge into the North Platte River. One miraculously survived. The other did not.

A crime that tore a small town apart.

Years later, author and journalist Ron Franscell – who lived in Casper at the time of the crime, and was a friend to Amy and Becky – can’t forget Wyoming’s most shocking story of abduction, rape, and murder. Neither could Becky, the surviving sister. The two men who violated her and Amy were sentenced to life in prison, but the demons of her past kept haunting Becky…until she met her fate years later at the same bridge where she’d lost a sister.
The Daughter of Time opens with a bored Detective Alan Grant, stuck in his hospital bed with a wounded hip and broken leg. His actress-friend, Marta Hallard, notices he is not reading and brings him some portraits to occupy his mind. Alan Grant becomes transfixed with the face of Richard III. Thus begins Grant’s travel through time to solve a 500-year-old mystery: Did Richard III kill his two nephews and have them buried in the Tower of London in order to eliminate all possible contenders for the throne?
A Deadly Wandering
by Matt Richtel
8 Copies (Nonfiction, 2014)

On the last day of summer, an ordinary Utah college student named Reggie Shaw fatally struck two rocket scientists while texting and driving along a majestic stretch of highway bordering the Rocky Mountains. *A Deadly Wandering* follows Reggie from the moment of the tragedy, through the police investigation, the state's groundbreaking prosecution, and ultimately, Reggie's wrenching admission of responsibility. Richtel parallel's Reggie's journey with leading-edge scientific findings on the impact technology has on our brains, showing how these devices play to our deepest social instincts. A propulsive read filled with surprising scientific detail, riveting narrative tension, and rare emotional depth, *A Deadly Wandering* is a book that can change – and save – lives.

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Acclaimed mystery master P.D. James taps into her love for Jane Austen in this historical novel that imagines the characters from Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* caught up in a chilling murder mystery. Six years have passed since Elizabeth and Darcy rode off into the sunset of their "happily ever after." But things don't look so merry when Elizabeth's dishonored sister Lydia shows up at the happy couple's door. Lydia claims her husband Wickham, who had previously been banned from Darcy's home, has been murdered. Suddenly, an unsolved mystery grips the entire household, and anyone, it seems, could be a suspect.
Edward Abbey spends a six-month season in the Arches National Monument near Moab, Utah, working as a temporary park ranger. He is the only ranger at the park, which he prefers. Solitude agrees with Abbey, as does the oftentimes very silent desert.

An intense lover of nature, Abbey writes about the flora and fauna in a lyrical way. He knows all the names of the plants and animals, and much of the behavior of the native beasts. The behavior of visiting tourists does not appeal to him though, and he expresses strong contempt about their ways. Another thing that angers him is the ongoing development of the national parks. He thinks this destroys the wilderness, which should be preserved as everyone needs wilderness, whether they visit or not.
Before the turn of the 20th century, a city emerged seemingly out of the ashes of then-dangerous Chicago, a dirty, grimy, teeming place ravaged by urban problems. The White City of the 1892 World’s Fair was certain to become the antithesis of its parent city, born to glow and gleam with all that the new century would soon offer. While the great city of the future was hastily being planned and built, the apartment building of one Herman Webster Mudgett was also being constructed. Mudgett, a doctor by profession more commonly known as H.H. Holmes, was really an early serial killer who preyed on the young female fairgoers pouring into Chicago. Using the fair as a means of attracting guests to a sparsely furnished “castle” where they ultimately met their end, Holmes committed murder, fraud, and numerous other crimes seemingly without detection until his arrest in 1894.
Two couples meet for dinner at a fashionable restaurant in Amsterdam. Behind their polite conversation, terrible things need to be said, and with every forced smile and every new course, the knives are being sharpened. Each couple has a fifteen-year-old son. The two boys are united by their accountability for a single horrific act; an act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the comfortable, insulated worlds of their families. As the dinner reaches its culinary climax, the conversation finally touches on their children. As civility and friendship disintegrate, each couple show just how far they are prepared to go to protect those they love.
In this edgy debut (definitely not for the fainthearted), first in a trilogy, promising author Roth tells the riveting and complex story of a teenage girl forced to choose, at age 16, between her routinized, selfless family and the adventurous, unrestrained future she longs for. Beatrice "Tris" Prior lives in crumbling dystopian Chicago, where citizens are divided into five factions Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless, Amity, and Erudite, depending on their beliefs, passions, and loyalties. When Tris forsakes her Abnegation family to become one of the wild, fearless Dauntless, she must confront her deepest fears, learn to trust her fellow initiates, and guard the ominous secret that she is actually a Divergent, with the strengths of multiple factions, and is therefore a target of dangerously controlling leaders. Roth's descriptions of Tris's initiation process are as spellbinding as they are violent, while the tremulous romance between Tris and her protective and demanding instructor, Four, unfurls with heart-stopping tenderness. For those who loved The Hunger Games and are willing to brave the sometimes sadistic tests of strength and courage Tris must endure, the reward is a memorable, unpredictable journey from which it is nearly impossible to turn away. Ages 14 and up.
Doctor Susan Anderson was a rare woman, indeed: a female frontier doctor who searched for health, success and romance in the wild western lands of the Colorado Rockies. The story begins in 1907, when Anderson, already a practicing physician, is dying of tuberculosis at the age of 37. She takes a death-defying train ride to the tiny, isolated high-altitude town of Fraser, Colorado, where she cures herself, then stays on for the next 51 years to treat the resident population of loggers, farmers, railroad personnel, and tunnel diggers. An opinionated woman, she is eager to lecture rural patients on the importance of vitamins, swing an axe at an illegal still, or tell off a farmer for treating his cows with more care than his pregnant wife.
A Dog’s Purpose: A Novel for Humans
by W. Bruce Cameron
12 copies (Fiction, 2010)

This is the remarkable story of one endearing dog’s search for his purpose over the course of several lives. More than just another charming dog story, A Dog’s Purpose touches on the universal quest for an answer to life's most basic question: Why are we here?

Surprised to find himself reborn as a rambunctious golden-haired puppy after a tragically short life as a stray mutt, Bailey’s search for his new life’s meaning leads him into the loving arms of 8-year-old Ethan. During their countless adventures Bailey joyously discovers how to be a good dog.

But this life as a beloved family pet is not the end of Bailey's journey. Reborn as a puppy yet again, Bailey wonders—will he ever find his purpose?

Heartwarming, insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny, A Dog's Purpose is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. This moving and beautifully crafted story teaches us that love never dies, that our true friends are always with us, and that every creature on earth is born with a purpose.

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Dog Stars, The
by Peter Heller
11 copies (Fiction, 2012)

In the near future, a flu pandemic has decimated civilization, leaving only scattered pockets of survivors to fend for themselves. Hig is one of the healthy ones. For the past nine years, he has coexisted with a loner named Bangley at an abandoned airport in eastern Colorado. Trying not to think of his former life, Hig finds sanity in fishing, staring at the constellations, and flying his plane. With his dog, Jasper, Hig flies the perimeter of their safety zone in his 1956 Cessna. Bangley has a well-stocked arsenal, and between them, they keep a watchful eye for unfriendly invaders. On one of his forays, through broken static, Hig hears another pilot over the radio, an incident that haunts him until he goes in search of this other human being. Packing enough supplies to get him there and back, he takes off for western Colorado in search of the voice. During his six-week journey, he discovers more than he bargained for.

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Here is the Sedaris family in all its odd glory. Here is his father dragging his mortified son over to the home of one of the most popular boys in school, demanding that the boy’s parents pay for the root canal that Sedaris underwent after the boy hit him in the mouth with a rock. Here is his oldest sister, Lisa, imploring him to keep her beloved Amazon parrot out of a proposed movie based on his writing. (“‘Will I have to be fat in the movie?’ she asked.”) Here is his mother, his muse, locking the kids out of the house after one snow day too many, playing the wry, brilliant commentator on his life until her untimely death from cancer. His mother emerges as one of the most poignant and original female characters in contemporary literature. She balances bitter and sweet, tart and rich – and so does Sedaris, because this is what life is like.
Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her “head for the hills” bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged metal in her father’s junkyard.

Her father distrusted the medical establishment, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when an older brother became violent.

When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world beyond the mountain, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. She taught herself enough mathematics, grammar, and science to take the ACT and was admitted to Brigham Young University. There, she studied psychology, politics, philosophy, and history, learning for the first time about pivotal world events like the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.
The Education of Little Tree
by Forrest Carter
9 Copies (Fiction, 1976 & 2004)

The Education of Little Tree tells of a boy orphaned very young, who is adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half-Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression.

“Little Tree,” as his grandparents call him, is shown how to hunt and survive in the mountains and to respect nature in the Cherokee Way—taking only what is needed, leaving the rest for nature to run its course.

Little Tree also learns the often callous ways of the white businessmen and tax collectors, and how Granpa, in hilarious vignettes, scares them away from his illegal attempts to enter the cash economy. Granma teaches Little Tree the joys of reading and education. But when Little Tree is sent to an Indian boarding school run by whites, we learn of the cruelty meted out to Indian children in an attempt to assimilate them, and of Little Tree’s perception of the Anglo world and how it differs from the Cherokee Way.

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Half-Korean sophomore Park Sheridan is getting through high school by lying low, listening to the Smiths (it's 1986), reading Alan Moore’s Watchmen comics, never raising his hand in class, and avoiding the kids he grew up with. Then new girl Eleanor gets on the bus. Tall, with bright red hair and a dress code all her own, she's an instant target. Too nice not to let her sit next to him, Park is alternately resentful and guilty for not being kinder to her. When he realizes she’s reading his comics over his shoulder, a silent friendship is born. And slowly, tantalizingly, something more. Adult author Rowell (Attachments), making her YA debut, has a gift for showing what Eleanor and Park, who tell the story in alternating segments, like and admire about each other. Their love is believable and thrilling, but it isn't simple: Eleanor's family is broke, and her stepfather abuses her mother. When the situation turns dangerous, Rowell keeps things surprising, and the solution-imperfect but believable-maintains the novel's delicate balance of light and dark.
Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal pangram\(^2\), “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.” Now Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island’s Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop. As the letters progressively drop from the statue they also disappear from the novel. The result is both a hilarious and moving story of one girl’s fight for freedom of expression, as well as a linguistic tour de force sure to delight word lovers everywhere.

\(^2\) Pangram: A sentence or phrase that includes all the letters of the alphabet.
"What are you reading?"

That’s the question Will Schwalbe asks his mother, Mary Anne, as they sit in the waiting room of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. In 2007, Mary Anne returned from a humanitarian trip to Pakistan and Afghanistan suffering from what her doctors believed was a rare type of hepatitis. Months later she was diagnosed with a form of advanced pancreatic cancer, which is almost always fatal, often in six months or less.

This is the inspiring true story of a son and his mother, who start a “book club” that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over the next two years, Will and Mary Anne carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by an eclectic array of books and a shared passion for reading. Their list jumps from classic to popular, from poetry to mysteries, from fantastic to spiritual. The issues they discuss include questions of faith and courage as well as everyday topics such as expressing gratitude and learning to listen. Throughout, they are constantly reminded of the power of books to comfort us, astonish us, teach us, and tell us what we need to do with our lives and in the world. Reading isn’t the opposite of doing; it’s the opposite of dying.

Will and Mary Anne share their hopes and concerns with each other – and rediscover their lives – through their favorite books. When they read, they aren’t a sick person and a well person, but a mother and a son taking a journey together. The result is a profoundly moving tale of loss that is also a joyful, and often humorous, celebration of life: Will’s love letter to his mother, and theirs to the printed page.
Every Day
by David Leviathan
8 copies (Fiction, 2012)

In his New York Times bestselling novel, David Levithan introduces readers to what Entertainment Weekly calls a "wise, wildly unique" love story about A, a teen who wakes up every morning in a different body, living a different life.

There's never any warning about where it will be or who it will be. A has made peace with that, even established guidelines by which to live: Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere.

It's all fine until the morning that A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon. From that moment, the rules by which A has been living no longer apply. Because finally A has found someone he wants to be with--day in, day out, day after day.

With his new novel, David Levithan, bestselling co-author of Will Grayson, Will Grayson, and Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, has pushed himself to new creative heights. He has written a captivating story that will fascinate readers as they begin to comprehend the complexities of life and love in A's world, as A and Rhiannon seek to discover if you can truly love someone who is destined to change every day.

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“Lydia is dead. But they don’t know this yet.” So begins this exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia’s body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos. A profoundly moving story of family, secrets, and longing, *Everything I Never Told You* is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.
In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet – sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors – doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through…

*Exit West* follows these remarkable characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.
Knowing that his secret police force includes many spies, Tsar Nicholas Romanov selects Pekkala, a Finnish soldier, to become his personal private investigator, the Emerald Eye. When Nicholas and his family are captured by the Bolsheviks, Pekkala becomes prisoner 4745-P and is sent to the Siberian gulag. A decade later, in the midst of the Great Terror, Pekkala is released because Stalin needs to know exactly what happened to the Romanov family. There is much to like about *Eye of the Red Tsar*, the first in a planned series. The stoic Pekkala is a bit enigmatic but is shown to be intelligent, courageous, and dogged; Eastland will no doubt reveal more about him in future books. The sense of place and period is well rendered. Stalin’s Russia assuredly offers a surfeit of future plotlines, and Eastland appears to have done considerable research into the period.
The Fetterman Fight ranks among the most crushing defeats suffered by the U.S. Army in the nineteenth-century West. On December 21, 1866—during Red Cloud’s War (1866–1868)—a well-organized force of 1,500 to 2,000 Oglala Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho warriors annihilated a detachment of seventy-nine infantry and cavalry soldiers—among them Captain William Judd Fetterman—and two civilian contractors. With no survivors on the U.S. side, the only eyewitness accounts of the battle came from Lakota and Cheyenne participants. In Eyewitness to the Fetterman Fight, award-winning historian John H. Monnett presents these Native views, drawn from previously published sources as well as newly discovered interviews with Oglala and Cheyenne warriors and leaders.

Supplemented with archaeological evidence, these narratives flesh out historical understanding of Red Cloud’s War. Climate change in the mid-nineteenth century made the resource-rich Powder River Country in today’s Wyoming increasingly important to Plains Indians. At the same time, the discovery of gold in Montana encouraged prospectors to pass through the Powder River region on their way north, and so the U.S. Army began to construct new forts along the Bozeman Trail. In the resulting conflict, the Lakotas and Cheyennes defended their hunting ranges and trade routes.

Traditional histories have laid the blame for Fetterman’s 1866 defeat and death on his incompetent leadership—and thus implied that the Indian alliance succeeded only because of Fetterman’s personal failings. Monnett’s sources paint another picture. Narratives like those of Miniconjou Lakota warrior White Bull suggest that Fetterman’s actions were not seen as rash or reprehensible until after the fact. Nor did his men flee the field in panic. Rather, they fought bravely to the end. The Indians, for their part, used their knowledge of the terrain to carefully plan and execute an ambush, ensuring their victory.
Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal commodities, the printed books, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and rion his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.
Fault In Our Stars, The
by John Green
12 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Insightful, Bold, Irreverent, and Raw, The Fault in Our Stars is award-winning author John Green’s most ambitious and heartbreaking work yet, brilliantly exploring the funny, thrilling, and tragic business of being alive and in love.

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Circumstances spiral out of control when an accidental murder springs from the best intentions. With one man dead and another on the run, this is a story about violence and how it destroys the lives of those involved. This lyrical first novel – long awaited by the many admirers of James Galvin’s *The Meadow* – is nothing less than the story of the disappearance of the American West.

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Finding Nouf
by Zoe Ferraris
10 Copies (Fiction, 2008)

When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing, her prominent family calls on Nayir ash-Sharqi, a pious desert guide, to lead the search party. Ten days later, just as Nayir is about to give up in frustration, her body is discovered by anonymous desert travelers. But when the coroner's office determines that Nouf died not of dehydration but from drowning, and her family seems suspiciously uninterested in getting at the truth, Nayir takes it upon himself to find out what really happened.

He quickly realizes that if he wants to gain access to the hidden world of women, he will have to join forces with Katya Hijazi, a lab worker at the coroner's office who is bold enough to bare her face and to work in public. Their partnership challenges Nayir, as he confronts his desire for female companionship and the limitations imposed by his beliefs. Fast-paced and utterly transporting, Finding Nouf is a riveting literary mystery that offers an unprecedented window into Saudi Arabia and the lives of men and women there.

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Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people. These people may have been loved ones or distant strangers. Yet each of them changed your path forever. One by one, Eddie's five people illuminate the unseen connections of his earthly life. As the story builds to its stunning conclusion, Eddie desperately seeks redemption in the still-unknown last act of his life: Was it a heroic success or a devastating failure?
Just when do humpback whales sing? That’s the question that has marine behavioral biologist Nate Quinn and his crew poking, charting, recording, and photographing very big, wet, gray marine mammals. Until the extraordinary day when a whale lifts its tail into the air to display a cryptic message spelled out in foot-high letter: Bite me.

Trouble is, Nate’s beginning to wonder if he hasn’t spent just a little too much time in the sun. ‘Cause no one else on his team saw a thing – not his longtime partner, Clay Demodocus; not their saucy young research assistant; not even the spliff-puffing white-boy Rastaman Kona (né Preston Applebaum). But later, when a roll of film returns from the lab missing the crucial tail shot – and his research facility is trashed – Nate realizes something very fishy indeed is going on.

By turns witty, irreverent, fascinating, puzzling, and surprising, Fluke is Christopher Moore at his outrageous best.

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Flying Troutmans, The
by Miriam Toews
10 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

When Hattie’s moody boyfriend dumps her in Paris, she returns home to find that her sister Min is in the psych ward again. Min’s kids, Logan and Thebes, are fending for themselves by focusing on other things—Logan is infatuated with acerbic New York Times Magazine interviewer Deborah Solomon, for example, while Thebes has dyed her hair purple and is refining her hip-hop vernacular. Freaked out by the prospect of becoming a surrogate mother to these two kids, Hattie decides to take them in the family van to find their father, last heard to be running an idiosyncratic art gallery in South Dakota. What ensues is a remarkable journey across America, as aunt and kids—through chaos as diverse as their personalities—discover one another to be both far crazier and far more normal than any of them thought.

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Franchise Affair, The
by Josephine Tey
8 copies (Fiction, 1949)

Robert Blair was about to knock off from a slow day at his law firm when the phone rang. It was Marion Sharpe on the line, a local woman of quiet disposition who lived with her mother at their decrepit country house, The Franchise. It appeared that she was in some serious trouble: Miss Sharpe and her mother were accused of brutally kidnapping a demure young woman named Betty Kane. Miss Kane’s claims seemed highly unlikely, even to Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard, until she described her prison-the attic room with its cracked window, the kitchen, and the old trunks-which sounded remarkably like The Franchise. Yet Marion Sharpe claimed the Kane girl had never been there, let alone been held captive for an entire month! Not believing Betty Kane’s story, Solicitor Blair takes up the case and, in a dazzling feat of amateur detective work, solves the unbelievable mystery that stumped even Inspector Grant.

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Frankenstein
by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
15 copies (Fiction, 1818)

Shelley’s enduringly popular and rich gothic tale confronts some of the most feared innovations of evolutionism and science – topics such as degeneracy, hereditary disease, and humankind’s ability to act as creator of the modern world. *Frankenstein* is one of the masterpieces of nineteenth-century Gothicism. While staying in the Swiss Alps in 1816 with her lover Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, and others, Mary, then 18, began to concoct the story of Dr. Victor Frankenstein and the monster he brings to life by electricity. Written in a time of great personal tragedy, it is a subversive and morbid story warning against the dehumanization of art and the corrupting influence of science. Packed with allusions and literary references, it is also one of the best thrillers ever written. The prototype of the science fiction novel, it has spawned countless imitations and adaptations but retains its original power.

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Fascinated by our pervasive fear of dead bodies, mortician Caitlin Doughty embarks on a global expedition to discover how other cultures care for the dead. From Zoroastrian sky burials to wish-granting Bolivian skulls, she investigates the world’s funerary customs and expands our sense of what it means to treat the dead with dignity. Her account questions the rituals of the American funeral industry—especially chemical embalming—and suggests that the most effective traditions are those that allow mourners to personally attend to the body of the deceased. Exquisitely illustrated by artist Landis Blair, From Here to Eternity is an adventure into the morbid unknown, a fascinating tour through the unique ways people everywhere confront mortality.³

Fruit of Stone, The
by Mark Spragg
8 copies (Fiction, 2002)

Spragg’s debut novel is a stylish western, set in present-day Wyoming and revolving around a longstanding romantic triangle. Barnum McEban is a 41-year-old bachelor living on his father’s ranch with Ansel, the family ranch hand. His best friend, Bennett Reilly, is married to McEban’s old girlfriend, Gretchen. When Gretchen leaves Bennett, she also leaves behind a note recommending that he track her to Bozeman and bring McEban with him. Bennett follows this advice, making the second half of the book a road trip through Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. The two men are a fine pair: Bennett half-manic and defeated, and McEban sunk in guilt and memories. In Yellowstone Park, Bennett beats up a mute ranger and picks up two drifting Indians, 29-year-old Rita and her 9-year-old brother, Paul. Their company and the company of Rita’s dead sister, Alma, with whom Rita is in constant communication, distracts Bennett and McEban, but cannot keep Bennett from following his self-destructive course to a tragic end.
Full Body Burden is a haunting work of narrative nonfiction about a young woman, Kristen Iversen, growing up in a small Colorado town close to Rocky Flats, a secret nuclear weapons plant once designated "the most contaminated site in America." It's the story of a childhood and adolescence in the shadow of the Cold War, in a landscape at once startlingly beautiful and--unknown to those who lived there--tainted with invisible yet deadly particles of plutonium. It's also a book about the destructive power of secrets--both family and government. Her father's hidden liquor bottles, the strange cancers in children in the neighborhood, the truth about what was made at Rocky Flats (cleaning supplies, her mother guessed)--best not to inquire too deeply into any of it. But as Iversen grew older, she began to ask questions. She learned about the infamous 1969 Mother's Day fire, in which a few scraps of plutonium spontaneously ignited and--despite the desperate efforts of firefighters--came perilously close to a "criticality," the deadly blue flash that signals a nuclear chain reaction. Intense heat and radiation almost melted the roof, which nearly resulted in an explosion that would have had devastating consequences for the entire Denver metro area. Yet the only mention of the fire was on page 28 of the Rocky Mountain News, underneath a photo of the Pet of the Week. In her early thirties, Iversen even worked at Rocky Flats for a time, typing up memos in which accidents were always called "incidents." Here, too, are vivid portraits of former Rocky Flats workers--from the healthy, who regard their work at the plant with pride and patriotism, to the ill or dying, who battle for compensation for cancers they got on the job. Based on extensive interviews, FBI and EPA documents, and class-action testimony, this taut, beautifully written book promises to have a very long half-life.
Here is the fascinating and little-known story of the Galvanized Yankees, who stood watch over a nation that they had once sought to destroy. They were Confederate soldiers who were recruited from Union prison camps in the North to serve in the West. On the condition they would not be sent south to fight their former comrades, they exchanged gray for blue uniforms. From 1864 to 1866 six regiments of Galvanized Yankees fought Indians, escorted supply trains along the Oregon and Santa Fe trails, accompanied expeditions, guarded surveying parties for the Union Pacific Railroad, and manned lonely outposts on the frontier.
Gentlemen and Players
by Joanne Harris
12 copies (Fiction, 2006)

A new year has just begun at St. Oswald’s, a revered boy’s grammar school in northern England. Computer science is being introduced, creating turmoil and insecurity among the well-established classicists of the faculty; suits, skirts, and emails are suddenly replacing venerated gowns and discreet memos. The progress is painful, but more worrisome is something far darker: a mysterious insider nurturing a bitter grudge is about to launch a plan to destroy the school and each of its faculty members in a series of cruel practical jokes and carefully leaked press releases. Told from the alternating viewpoints of the sinister mole and a veteran Latin master, this story’s dark secrets, rampant paranoia, and academic arrogance are played like a chess game to a murderous climax.
Slightly disaffected Chili Palmer, a small-time loan shark with big-time style, is a vintage Leonard hero. Following a bad debt from Miami to Las Vegas and on to Beverly Hills, Chili hooks up with Harry Zimm, once a leading director of grade-B horror flicks, now trying to make a comeback. While succumbing to the siren call of celluloid, Chili also narrows in on the bad debt, in the process running up against a sharp-dressing hood with whose money Harry has played too loose. The complex plot flows through twists of revenge, murder and romance, as Chili, his authentic cool making a mark in the capital of sham, cagily gets it together with Karen Flores, Harry’s former lover and featured star. A perfect resolution puts a punch in the title and will keep readers smiling for days.

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Reverend John Ames of Gilead, Iowa, a grandson and son of preachers, now in his seventies, is afraid he hasn’t much time left to tell his young son about his heritage. And so he takes up his pen, as he has for decades – he estimates that he’s written more than 2,000 sermons – and vividly describes his prophet-like grandfather, who had a vision that inspired him to go to Kansas and “make himself useful to the cause of abolition,” and the epic conflict between his fiery grandfather and his pacifist father. He recounts the death of his first wife and child, marvels over the variegated splendors of earth and sky, and offers moving interpretations of the Gospel. And then, as he struggles with his disapproval and fear of his namesake and shadow son, Jack, the reprobate offspring of his closest friend, his letter evolves into a full-blown apologia punctuated by the disturbing revelation of Jack’s wrenching predicament, one inexorably tied to the toxic legacy of slavery. “For me writing has always felt like praying,” disclosed Robinson’s contemplative hero, and, indeed, John has nearly as much reverence for language and thought as he does for life itself. Millennia of philosophical musings and a century of American history are refracted through the prism of Robinson’s exquisite and uplifting novel as she illuminates the heart of a mystic, poet, and humanist. – Donna Seaman (BookList, 08-01-2004, p1874)
Meet Ginny Moon. She's mostly your average teenager—she plays flute in the high school band, has weekly basketball practice, and reads Robert Frost poems in English class.

But Ginny is autistic. And so what’s important to her might seem a bit…different: starting every day with exactly nine grapes for breakfast, Michael Jackson, her baby doll, and crafting a secret plan of escape.

After being traumatically taken from her abusive birth mother and moved around to different homes, Ginny has finally found her “forever home”—a safe place with parents who will love and nurture her. This is exactly what all foster kids are hoping for, right?

But Ginny has other plans. She’ll steal and lie and exploit the good intentions of those who love her—anything it takes to get back what’s missing in her life. She’ll even try to get herself kidnapped.

Told in an extraordinary and wholly original voice, Ginny Moon is at once quirky, charming, heartbreaking, and poignant. It’s a story about being an outsider trying to find a place to belong and about making sense of a world that just doesn’t seem to add up.
Sonora Carver was an American entertainer, most notable as one of the first female horse divers. Carver answered an ad placed by “Doc” William Frank Carver in 1923 for a diving girl and soon earned a place in circus history.

Her job was to mount a running rose as it reached the top of a forty-foot (sometimes sixty-foot) tower and sail down along the animal’s back as it plunged into a deep pool of water directly below. Sonora was a sensation and soon became the lead diving girl for Doc Carver’s act as they traveled the country.

IN 1931, Sonora was blinded, a retinal detachment, due to hitting the water off-balance with her eyes open while diving her horse, Red Lips, on New Jersey’s Steel Pier, the act’s permanent home since 1929. After her accident Sonora continued to dive horses until 1942.
Girl in Translation
by Jean Kwok
12 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life—like the staggering degree of her poverty, the weight of her family’s future resting on her shoulders, or her secret love for a factory boy who shares none of her talent or ambition—Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

Through Kimberly’s story, author Jean Kwok, who also emigrated from Hong Kong as a young girl, brings to the page the lives of countless immigrants who are caught between the pressure to succeed in America, their duty to their family, and their own personal desires, exposing a world that we rarely hear about.

Written in an indelible voice that dramatizes the tensions of an immigrant girl growing up between two cultures, surrounded by a language and world only half understood, Girl in Translation is an unforgettable and classic novel of an American immigrant—a moving tale of hardship and triumph, heartbreak and love, and all that gets lost in translation.
Mara and Owen are as close as twins can get, so when Mara's friend Hannah accuses Owen of rape, Mara doesn't know what to think. Can her brother really be guilty of such a violent act? Torn between her family and her sense of right and wrong, Mara feels lost, and it doesn't help that things are strained with her ex-girlfriend, Charlie. As Mara, Hannah, and Charlie come together in the aftermath of this terrible crime, Mara must face a trauma from her own past and decide where Charlie fits into her future. With sensitivity and openness, this timely novel confronts the difficult questions surrounding consent, victim blaming, and sexual assault.
There she sits, the girl on the train. What she sees, gazing out the window, will change everything.

Every day the same.

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She looks forward to it. She’s even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their life – as she sees it – is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost.

Until today.

And then she sees something shocking. It’s only a minute until the train moves on, but it’s enough. Now everything has changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say? Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

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Girl, Stolen
by April Henry
10 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne Wilder is sleeping in the back of a car while her mom fills Cheyenne’s prescription for antibiotics. Before Cheyenne realizes what’s happening, their car is being stolen. Griffin hadn’t meant to kidnap Cheyenne, but once his dad finds out that Cheyenne’s father is the president of a powerful corporation, everything changes – now there’s a reason to keep her. How will Cheyenne survive this nightmare? Because she’s not only sick with pneumonia – she’s blind.

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"With eighty men I could ride through the entire Sioux nation."

The story of the Fetterman Fight, near Fort Phil Kearney in present-day Wyoming in 1866, is based entirely on this infamous declaration attributed to Capt. William J. Fetterman. Historical accounts cite this statement in support of the premise that bravado and contempt for the fort’s commander, Col. Henry B. Carrington, compelled Fetterman to disobey direct orders from Carrington and lead his men into an ambush by an alliance of Plains Indians.

In the aftermath of the incident, Carrington’s superiors positioned him as solely accountable for the “massacre” by suppressing exonerating evidence. In the face of this betrayal, Carrington’s first and second wives came to their husband’s defense by publishing books presenting his version of the deadly encounter. Although several of Fetterman’s soldiers and fellow officers disagreed with the women’s accounts, their chivalrous deference to women’s moral authority during this age of Victorian sensibilities enabled Carrington’s wives to present their story without challenge.

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Walls’s parents were a matched pair of eccentrics, and raising four children didn’t conventionalize either of them. Her father was a self-taught man, a would-be inventor who could stay longer at a poker table than at most jobs and had “a little bit of a drinking situation,” as her mother put it. Her artist mom had a great gift for rationalizing: Apartment walls so thin they heard all their neighbors? What a bonus – they’d “pick up a little Spanish without even studying.” Why feed their pets? They’d be helping them “By not allowing them to become dependent.” While Walls’s father’s version of Christmas presents – walking each child into the Arizona desert at night and letting each one claim a star – was delightful, he wasn’t so dear when he stole the kids' hard-earned savings to go on a bender.

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Go Set a Watchman
by Harper Lee
12 copies (Fiction, 2015)

Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch – “Scout” – returns home 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, Jean Louise’s homecoming turns bittersweet when she learns disturbing truths about her close-knit family, the town, and the people dearest to her. Memories from her childhood flood back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Featuring many of the iconic characters from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Go Set a Watchman* perfectly captures a young woman, and a world, in painful yet necessary transition out of the illusions of the past – a journey that can only be guided by one’s own conscience.

Written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* imparts a fuller, richer understanding and appreciation of Harper Lee. Here is an unforgettable novel of wisdom, humanity, passion, humor, and effortless precision – a profoundly affecting work of art that is both wonderfully evocative of another era and relevant to our own times. It not only confirms the enduring brilliance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but also serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context, and new meaning to an American classic.

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The Gods of Gotham: A Novel
by Lyndsay Faye
8 copies (Fiction, 2012)

1845: New York City forms its first police force. The great potato famine hits Ireland. These two events will change New York City forever…

Timothy Wilde tends bar, saving every dollar in hopes of winning the girl of his dreams. But when his dreams are destroyed by a fire that devastates downtown Manhattan, he is left with little choice but to accept a job in the newly minted New York City Police Department.

Returning from his rounds one night, Tim collides with a girl no more than ten years old…covered in blood. She claims that dozens of bodies are buried in the forest north of Twenty-third Street. Timothy isn’t sure whether to believe her, but as the image of a brutal killer is slowly revealed and anti-Irish rage infects the city, the reluctant copper star is engaged in a battle that may cost him everything…
Gone Girl  
by Gillian Flynn  
12 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne’s fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick’s clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi River. Husband-of-the-Year Nick isn’t doing himself any favors with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife’s head, but passages from Amy’s diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media — as well as Amy’s fiercely doting parents — the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behavior. Nick is oddly evasive, and he’s definitely bitter — but is he really a killer?

As the cops close in, every couple in town is soon wondering how well they know the one that they love. With his twin sister, Margo, at his side, Nick stands by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn’t do it, where is that beautiful wife? And what was in that silvery gift box hidden in the back of her bedroom closet?

With her razor-sharp writing and trademark psychological insight, Gillian Flynn delivers a fast-paced, devilishly dark, and ingeniously plotted thriller that confirms her status as one of the hottest writers around.
In *Goodbye, Judge Lynch*, John W. Davis tells the fascinating story of how lawlessness finally came to an end in the Big Horn Basin of northern Wyoming – one of the last frontiers in the continental United States.

Davis examines murders, assaults, and thefts in the region over the course of three decades, when the problems of prosecution were overwhelming. He highlights the infamous 1902 case of *State v. Jim Gorman*, in which Gorman, infatuated with his sister-in-law, killed his brother. Although Gorman was finally convicted of first-degree murder, a shocking breakdown of order ensued when a mob attacked the Big Horn County jail, killing Gorman, another prisoner, and a deputy sheriff. Six years later, in another infamous case, raiders murdered three sheepherders. Impunity was the immediate result, and the defeat of law and order in the region seemed complete. But authorities fought the odds and finally gained guilty verdicts, the first convictions of sheep raiders in Wyoming. This legal victory marked the end of a brief but powerful vigilante tradition.
Great Fire, The
by Shirley Hazzard
10 Copies (Fiction, 2003)

The year is 1947. The Great Fire of the Second World War has convulsed Europe and Asia. In its wake, Aldred Leith, an acclaimed hero of the conflict, has spent two years in China at work on an account of world-transforming change there. Son of a famed and sexually ruthless novelist, Leith begins to resist his own self-sufficiency, nurtured by war. Peter Exley, another veteran and an art historian by training, is prosecuting war crimes committed by the Japanese. Both men have narrowly escaped death in battle, and Leith saved Exley’s life. The men have maintained a long-distance friendship in a postwar loneliness that haunts them both, and which has swallowed Exley whole. Now in their thirties, with their youth behind them and their world in ruins, both must invent the future and retrieve a private humanity.

Arriving in Occupied Japan to record the effects of the bomb at Hiroshima, Leith meets Benedict and Helen Driscoll, the Australian son and daughter of a tyrannical medical administrator. Benedict, at twenty, is doomed by a rare degenerative disease. Helen, still younger, is inseparable from her brother. Precocious, brilliant, sensitive, and at home in the books they read together, these two have been, in Leith’s words, delivered by literature. The young people capture Leith’s sympathy; indeed, he finds himself struggling with his attraction to this girl whose feelings are as intense as his own and from whom he will soon be fatefully parted.
Great Gatsby, The
by F. Scott Fitzgerald
12 copies (Fiction, 1925)

Nick Carraway, a transplanted Midwesterner, buys a house in West Egg, Long Island. Soon he is caught up in a circle of wealthy friends who attend fabulous parties. The friends include his distant cousin Daisy Buchanan, once the object of the attention of Jay Gatsby. Through the circle of friends, Nick meets Gatsby and becomes fascinated by this man of great wealth and prestige. Then tragedy strikes, interrupting the social swirl Nick and the others had been drawn into.

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Greyhound
by Steffan Piper
13 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

Sebastien Ranes’s single mom and her feckless boyfriend can’t be bothered to take care of a stuttering twelve-year-old. Banished to live with his grandmother on the far side of the country, the boy can barely understand a bus schedule when he gets dumped at the Greyhound station in Stockton, California. Given $35 and a one-way ticket to Altoona, Pennsylvania, Sebastien must cross the country—alone, without a clue how to fend for himself.

Filled with youthful anger and naiveté, Sebastien heads out into the “Morning in America” of Ronald Reagan’s 1980’s, encountering temperamental bus drivers, charming, shifty, and downright dangerous strangers, the music of Daryl Hall and John Oates, and an ex-con named Marcus, who takes the boy under his wing. In an unforgettable trek that evokes Oliver Twist and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, the unlikely pair lurch from one misadventure to another, tumbling toward an elusive understanding of where and how, in a troubling world, to look for light.

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January 1946: Writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German Occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.
Liyana Abboud, 14, and her family make a tremendous adjustment when they move to Jerusalem from St. Louis. All she and her younger brother, Rafik, know of their Palestinian father's culture come from his reminiscences of growing up and the fighting they see on television. In Jerusalem, she is the only "outsider" at an Armenian school; her easygoing father, Poppy, finds himself having to remind her—often against his own common sense—of rules for "appropriate" behavior; and snug shops replace supermarket shopping—the malls of her upbringing are unheard of. Worst of all, Poppy is jailed for getting in the middle of a dispute between Israeli soldiers and a teenage refugee. In her first novel, Nye (with Paul Janeczko, I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You, 1996, etc.) shows all of the charms and flaws of the old city through unique, short-story-like chapters and poetic language. The sights, sounds, and smells of Jerusalem drift through the pages and readers glean a sense of current Palestinian-Israeli relations and the region's troubled history. In the process, some of the passages become quite ponderous while the human story—Liyana's emotional adjustments in the later chapters and her American mother's reactions overall—fall away from the plot. However, Liyana's romance with an Israeli boy develops warmly, and readers are left with hope for change and peace as Liyana makes the city her very own.4

Ha-Ha, The
by Dave King
9 copies (Fiction, 2005)

First-person narrator Howard Kapostash is unable to read or to speak coherently, the result of injuries suffered in Vietnam. Now middle-aged and living a low-key life in a large house he inherited from his parents, Howard is still friends with his former high school sweetheart, Sylvia. Before entering a drug rehab program, she entrusts Howard with her 9-year-old son, Ryan, completely upending Howard’s lonely, disorganized existence. Also sharing his house are a Texas-raised Vietnamese woman, who runs a catering business, and two freewheeling young house painters. This unlikely family—heretofore all but strangers to one another—becomes a thriving parental unit centered on young Ryan. Everything begins to deteriorate, however, as the mother signals her return, and Howard fights in the only way he knows how to retain ties with Ryan.
“Those old cows knew trouble was coming before we did.” So begins the story of Lily Casey Smith, Jeannette Walls’s no-nonsense, resourceful, and spectacularly compelling grandmother. By age six, Lily was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach in a frontier town – riding five hundred miles on her pony, alone, to get to her job. She learned to drive a car and fly a plane. And, with her husband, Jim, she ran a vast ranch in Arizona. She raised two children, one of whom is Jeannette’s memorable mother, Rosemary Smith Walls, unforgettably portrayed in The Glass Castle.

Lily survived tornadoes, droughts, floods, the Great Depression, and the most heartbreaking personal tragedy. She bristled at prejudice of all kinds – against women, Native Americans, and anyone else who didn’t fit the mold. Rosemary Smith Walls always told Jeannette that she was like her grandmother, and in this true-life novel, Jeannette Walls channels that kindred spirit. Half Broke Horses is Laura Ingalls Wilder for adults, as riveting and dramatic as Isak Dinesen’s Out of Africa or Beryl Markham’s West with the Night. Destined to become a classic, it will transfix readers everywhere.

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Halfbreed: The Remarkable True Story of George Bent: Caught Between the Worlds of the Indian and the White Man
by David F. Halaas and Andrew E. Masich
12 copies (Nonfiction, 2004)

An extraordinary man of the American West – a man who lived, fought, and made his mark in both the Indian and white worlds

This is the story of the amazing and uncommon life of George Bent – a “halfbreed” born to a prominent white trader and his Indian wife – whose lifetime spanned one of the most exciting epochs in United States history.

Raised as a Cheyenne, educated in white schools, George Bent fought for the Confederacy, was a Cheyenne warrior, survived the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre, rode with the ferocious Cheyenne Dog Soldiers, and later became a prominent interpreter and negotiator for whites and an adviser to tribal leaders. He hobnobbed with frontier legends Kit Carson, Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, and George Custer and fought side-by-side with great Indian leaders. After a lifetime of adventures and misfortunes, accomplishments and failures, George Bent made a lasting contribution to the memory of his people by sharing with historians the story of the fighting Cheyennes.
Hangman’s Daughter, The  
by Oliver Potzsch  
12 Copies (Fiction, 2008)

Germany, 1659: When a dying boy is pulled from the river with a mark crudely tattooed on his shoulder, hangman Jakob Kuisl is called upon to investigate whether witchcraft is at play in his small Bavarian town. Whispers and dark memories of witch trials and women burned at the stake just seventy years earlier still haunt the streets of Schongau. When more children disappear and an orphan boy is found dead – marked by the same tattoo – the mounting hysteria threatens to erupt into chaos.

Before the unrest forces him to torture and execute the very woman who aided in the birth of his children, Jakob must unravel the truth. With the help of his clever daughter, Magdalena, and Simon, the university – educated son of the town’s physician, Jakob discovers that a devil is indeed loose in Schongau. But it may be too late to prevent bloodshed.

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Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race
by Margot Lee Shetterly
12 Copies (Nonfiction, 2016)

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as “human computers” used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts into space.

Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation. Originally relegated to teaching math in the South’s segregated public schools, they were called into service during the labor shortages of World War II, when America’s aeronautics industry was in dire need of anyone who had the right stuff. Suddenly, these overlooked math whizzes had a shot at jobs worthy of their skills, and they answered Uncle Sam’s call, moving to Hampton, Virginia and the fascinating, high-energy world of the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory.

Even as Virginia’s Jim Crow laws required them to be segregated from their white counterparts, the women of Langley’s all-black “West Computing” group helped America achieve one of the things it desired most: a decisive victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and complete domination of the heavens.

Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race, Hidden Figures follows the interwoven accounts of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden, four African American women who participated in some of NASA’s greatest successes. It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades they faced challenges, forged alliances and used their intellect to change their own lives, and their country’s future.

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Rob is a pop music junkie who runs his own semi-failing record store. His girlfriend, Laura, has just left him for the guy upstairs, and Rob is both miserable and relieved. After all, could he have spent his life with someone who has a bad record collection? Rob seeks refuge in the company of the offbeat clerks at his store, who endlessly review their top five films; top five Elvis Costello songs; top five episodes of *Cheers*.

Rob tries dating a singer, but maybe it’s just that he’s always wanted to sleep with someone who has a record contract. Then he sees Laura again. And Rob begins to think that life with kids, marriage, barbecues, and soft rock CDs might not be so bad.
Hold Me Closer, Necromancer
by Lish McBride
10 Copies (Young Adult, 2010)

Necromancy – conjuring the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events.

Yeah, you heard me. *Conjuring the dead* – it sure beats flipping burgers.

Meet Sam, just your average guy rocking that fast-food career.

Enter Douglas, a powerful and violent necromancer. Douglas immediately recognizes Sam as a fellow necromancer – which is great news to Sam! – and Douglas is not too happy to have a competitor. Sam is given one option – join forces with Douglas...or else.

Now with only one week to figure out his mysteriously latent powers, Sam needs all the help he can get. Not only does he have an undead friend on his hands and a hot werewolf girl for company, but luckily he lives in Seattle, which has nearly as many paranormal types as it does coffee places. But even with newfound friends, will Sam be able to save his own skin and find a way out of Douglas’s clutches?

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The Hole in the Wall country of Wyoming’s Bighorn Mountains is well known to history buffs steeped in Butch Cassidy lore, but for millennia, it’s been a crossroads for all kinds of people. The name refers to a break or “hole” in the wall of red sandstone, 40 miles long. Where the Middle Fork of Power River breaches the Red Wall lies the Hole in the Wall Ranch. This is the story of the land, the people, and the ranch itself – a history of Wyoming and the West, centered around one dramatic place.
Honk and Holler Opening Soon, The
by Billie Letts
11 copies (Fiction, 1998)

This novel from the author of *Where the Heart Is* blends together a group of damaged, or at least imperfect, individuals in a café in eastern Oklahoma. Caney, a Vietnam vet confined to a wheelchair is the proprietor of The Honk and Holler, which he has been running with marginal success since its inception 12 years earlier. Suddenly, Vena Takes Horse shows up unexpectedly with a three-legged dog in tow. As business picks up dramatically, Caney and Vena find comfort in each other’s arms. The cast of characters includes Molly O (a surrogate mother to Caney), Molly’s wayward daughter, a Vietnamese refugee, a widower with an abiding crush on Molly O, and many others. Together, they create a sense of warmth and community in which reconciliation and love can flourish.

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How Starbucks Saved My Life
by Michael Gates Gill
10 copies (Nonfiction, 2007)

Gill explains how he was born into privilege, was “downsized” out of his high-powered career, divorced by his wife after the woman with whom he was having an affair became pregnant, and learned that he had a slow-growing brain tumor – all of which ultimately led him to an entry-level job at Starbucks at the age of 64. And that’s just the first chapter. Gill’s memoir is a look back on his first year at Starbucks. In each chapter, he faces a new challenge, from cleaning up to balancing the register to hosting coffee tastings. The resulting book is a tribute to the power of redemption through work, with Gill richly detailing his relationships with his manager, his colleagues, and Starbucks “guests.” While telling his life story, he also riffs on diversity, acceptance, and respect, and even manages to instill in the reader a desire for a cup of coffee.
I Am Malala
by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb
8 copies (Nonfiction, 2013)

The internationally acclaimed memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize…

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. In October 2012, when she was fifteen, Malala almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive. Instead, Malala’s heroic recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she emerged as a global symbol of peaceful protest. A year later she became the youngest recipient ever of the Nobel Peace Prize.

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If I Stay
by Gayle Forman
7 copies (Fiction, 2009)

In a single moment, *everything* changes. Seventeen year-old Mia has no memory of the accident; she can only recall riding along the snow-wet Oregon road with her family. Then, in a blink, she finds herself watching as her own damaged body is taken from the wreck...

A sophisticated, layered, and heart-achingly beautiful story about the power of family and friends, the choices we all make--and the ultimate choice Mia commands.
Liv “Boots” Bergen is shocked when the body of a stunning college intern working in her Colorado limestone quarry is found on the shores of a nearby reservoir. Clues are scarce – except that the crime scene appears to be a macabre, intricately staged tableau.

Soon after, Liv gets a call from a former classmate who’s become an FBI profiler. Lisa Henry explains that the murder is not the first of its kind. Driven by her need to find the man who could commit such a depraved act, the headstrong Liv becomes caught up in the pursuit of a madman with a perverse, unquenchable appetite both for women and for surrealistic art.

As she assists her profiler friend and another FBI agent, Streeter Pierce – legendary for his crime-solving skill and striking good looks – Liv discovers she may have her own knack for outwitting and tracking down the most brutal murderer Colorado has ever seen. But in doing so, she will put her friends, her family, and her own safety at risk. How many bodies will pile up before the so-called Venus de Milo murderer is caught?

The first in the Liv Bergen Mystery series, *In the Belly of Jonah* is an engrossing story with a memorable protagonist that will have readers eagerly awaiting Sandra Brannan’s next book.

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A dark genealogical secret locked in the past. A family historian trying against the odds to unlock it.

When American genealogist, Jefferson Tayte, accepted his latest assignment, he had no idea it might kill him. But while murder was never part of the curriculum, he is kidding himself if he thinks he can walk away from this one.

Driven by the all-consuming irony of being a genealogist who doesn’t know who his own parents are, Tayte soon finds that the assignment shares a stark similarity to his own struggle. Someone has gone to great lengths to erase an entire family bloodline from recorded history and he’s not going home until he’s found out why. After all, if he’s not good enough to find this family, how can he ever expect to be good enough to someday find his own?

Set in Cornwall, England, past and present, Tayte’s research centers around the tragic life of a young Cornish girl, a writing box, and the discovery of a dark family secret that he believes will lead him to the family he is looking for. Trouble is, someone else is looking for the same answers and they will stop at nothing to find them.
In the Lake of the Woods
by Tim O’Brien
11 copies (Fiction, 1994)

John and Kathy Wade are a young, idealistic couple living the American Dream until John’s bid for the U.S. Senate is trashed by media reports of his involvement in the infamous massacre at My Lai during the Vietnam War. Still very much in love but without direction for the first time in their marriage, John and Kathy flee to a remote cabin. When Kathy disappears without a trace, a massive but fruitless search ensues. Did John murder her or did she simply flee? O’Brien develops several maddeningly plausible explanations, allowing readers to draw their own conclusions in this dark but wonderful novel.

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After living on the same street for most of his life, Peter Lovenheim was struck by an odd fact of modern life: No one really knew anyone else.

With wit and generosity, he takes us inside the homes, minds, and hearts of his neighbors. In the process, he explores a thought-provoking question: Do neighborhoods still matter – and is something lost when we isolate ourselves instead of fostering a sense of community?
In the Skin of a Lion
by Michael Ondaatje
8 Copies (Fiction, 1987)

A dazzling predecessor to Michael Ondaatje’s Booker Prize winning *The English Patient*, *In the Skin of a Lion* is a work of fiction that bristles with intelligence and shimmers with romance as it tests the boundary between history and myth.

Patrick Lewis arrives in Toronto in the 1920s as an immigrant from Canada’s backwoods. In this throbbing polyglot city he earns his living searching for a vanished millionaire and tunneling beneath Lake Ontario; in the course of his adventures, he falls in love with two actresses.

Out of these branching, doubling stories, Ondaatje creates a dream-like and surreal world, and first introduces us to the characters of Hana, the orphaned girl, and Caravaggio, the thief. *In the Skin of a Lion* is a work of unalloyed enchantment, beautifully written and prodigiously imagined.
Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells – taken without her knowledge in 1951 – became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This phenomenal New York Times bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.
Invisible Bridge, The  
by Julie Orringer  
7 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, a Hungarian-Jewish architecture student, arrives from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious letter he has promised to deliver. But when he falls into a complicated relationship with the letter’s recipient, he becomes privy to a secret that will alter the course of his – and his family’s – history. From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the despair of the Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in labor camps, The Invisible Bridge tells the story of a family shattered and remade in history’s darkest hour.
Invisible Man
by Ralph Ellison
9 Copies (Fiction, 1952)

First published in 1952, and immediately hailed as a masterpiece, *Invisible Man* is one of those rare novels that have changed the shape of American literature. For not only does Ralph Ellison’s nightmare journey across the racial divide tell unparalleled truths about the nature of bigotry and its effects on the minds of both victims and perpetrators, it gives us an entirely new model of what a novel can be.

As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying “battle royal” where black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison’s nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspenseful and sardonic, narrated in a voice that takes in the symphonic range of the American language, black and white, *Invisible Man* is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our time.

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It Can’t Happen Here
by Sinclair Lewis
12 Copies (Fiction, 1935)

*It Can’t Happen Here* is the only one of Sinclair Lewis’s later novels to match the power of *Main Street, Babbitt,* and *Arrowsmith.* A cautionary tale about the fragility of democracy, it is an alarming, eerily timeless look at how fascism could take hold in America. Written during the Great Depression, when the country was largely oblivious to Hitler’s aggression, it juxtaposes sharp political satire with the chillingly realistic rise of a president who becomes a dictator to save the nation from welfare cheats, rampant promiscuity, crime, and a liberal press.

The *Springfield Republican* (MA) called *It Can’t Happen Here* “A message to thinking Americans” when it was published in 1935. Selling more than 300,000 copies, the novel put Lewis back on the bestseller list. Finally back in print, *It Can’t Happen Here* remains uniquely important, a shockingly prescient novel that’s as fresh and contemporary as today’s news.

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Orphaned Jane Eyre grows up in the home of her heartless aunt, where she endures loneliness and cruelty, and at a charity school with a harsh regime. This troubled childhood strengthens Jane’s natural independence and spirit – which prove necessary when she takes a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him and live with the consequences, or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving the man she loves? A novel of intense power and intrigue, Jane Eyre (1847) dazzled and shocked readers with its passionate depiction of a woman’s search for equality and freedom.

In her introduction, Stevie Davies discusses the novel’s language and politics, its treatment of women’s lives and its literary influences. This edition also includes a chronology, further reading, an appendix and notes.

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A captivating biography of the man who became a legend at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

As the brilliant leader of a desperate cause and one of the most perennially fascinating figures of the American West, Crazy Horse crushed Custer’s 7th Cavalry and brought the United States Army to its knees. Now, with the help of celebrated historian Joseph Marshall, we finally have the opportunity to know Crazy Horse as his fellow Lakota Indians knew him.

Drawing on extensive research and a rich oral tradition that is rarely shared outside Native American circles, Marshall – himself a descendant of the Lakota community that raised Crazy Horse – creates a vibrant portrait of the man, his times, and his legacy. From the powerful vision that spurred him into battle to the woman he loved but lost to duty and circumstance, this is a compelling celebration of a culture, an enduring way of life, and the unforgettable hero who remains a legend among legends.
Keeping Faith
by Jodi Picoult
12 copies (Fiction, 1999)

In *Keeping Faith*, Jodi Picoult brilliantly examines belief, miracles, and the complex core of family. When the marriage of Mariah White and her cheating husband, Colin, turns ugly and disintegrates, their 7-year-old daughter, Faith, is there to witness it all. In the aftermath of a rapid divorce, Mariah falls into a deep depression – and suddenly Faith, a child with no religious background whatsoever, hears divine voices, starts reciting biblical passages, and develops stigmata. And when the miraculous healings begin, mother and daughter are thrust into the volatile center of controversy and into the heat of a custody battle – trapped in a mad media circus that threatens what little stability the family has left.

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Killing in the Hills, A
by Julia Keller
14 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

What’s happening in Acker’s Gap, West Virginia? Three elderly men are gunned down over their coffee at a local diner, and seemingly half the town is there to witness the act. Still, it happened so fast, and no one seems to have gotten a good look at the shooter. Was it random? Or were Dean Streeter, Shorty McClurg, and Lee Rader targeted somehow?

One of the witnesses to the brutal incident was Carla Elkins, teenaged daughter of Bell Elkins, the prosecuting attorney for Raythune County, West Virginia. Carla was shocked and horrified by what she saw, but after a few days, she begins to recover enough to believe that she might be uniquely placed to help her mother do her job.

After all, what better way to repair their fragile, damaged relationship? But could Carla also end up doing more harm than good – in fact, putting her own life in danger?

In this powerful, intricate debut from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Julia Keller, a mother and a daughter try to do right by a town and each other before it’s too late.

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Kindness Goes Unpunished
by Craig Johnson
10 copies (Fiction, 2007)

In Johnson’s appealing third Walt Longmire mystery (after 2006’s Death Without Company), the Wyoming sheriff is drawn into a messy situation in the City of Brotherly Love when his daughter Cady’s ex-boyfriend is killed a few days after Longmire accuses him of being behind the assault that left Cady, a Philadelphia lawyer, comatose. Longmire’s deputy, Victoria Moretti, soon arrives on the scene as her family of Philly cops tries to decide whether to suspect Longmire of murder or ask his help with the investigation. Everyone in the cast appears to be a stereotype of some sort – the Italian police clan, the Salvadoran drug dealer, the Irish publican and Longmire’s eternally wise and mystical Cheyenne friend, Henry Standing Bear – but Johnson plays it for the right kind of laughs. When someone introduces Henry as Longmire’s “Native American sidekick,” Longmire ripostes that it’s the other way around. The quick pace and tangled web of interconnected crimes will keep readers turning pages.

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Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her 26th birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned across the years to save him. After this first summons, Dana is drawn back again and again to the plantation to protect Rufus and ensure that he will grow to manhood and father the daughter who will become Dana's ancestor. Yet each time Dana's sojourns become longer and more dangerous, until it is uncertain whether or not her life will end, long before it has even begun.
Land More Kind Than Home, A
by Wiley Cash
12 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

A mesmerizing literary thriller about the bond between two brothers and the evil they face in a small western North Carolina town.

For a curious boy like Jess Hall, growing up in Marshall means trouble when your mother catches you spying on grown-ups. Adventurous and precocious, Jess is enormously protective of his older brother, Christopher, a mute whom everyone calls Stump. Though their mother has warned them not to snoop, Stump can't help sneaking a look at something he's not supposed to see - an act that will have catastrophic repercussions, shattering both his world and Jess's. It's a wrenching event that thrusts Jess into an adulthood for which he's not prepared. While there is much about the world that still confuses him, he now knows that a new understanding can bring not only a growing danger and evil but also the possibility of freedom and deliverance as well.

Told By three resonant and evocative characters: Jess; Adelaide Lyle, the town midwife and moral conscience; and Clem Barefield, a sheriff with his own painful past. A Land More Kind Than Home is a haunting tale of courage in the face of cruelty and the power of love to overcome the darkness that lives in us all. These are masterful portrayals, written with assurance and truth, and they show us the extraordinary promise of this remarkable first novel.

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Lark and Termite
by Jayne Anne Phillips
12 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

*Lark and Termite* is set during the 1950s in West Virginia and Korea. It is a story of the power of loss and love, the echoing ramifications of war, family secrets, dreams and ghosts, and the unseen, almost magical bonds that unite and sustain us.

At its center, two children: Lark, on the verge of adulthood, and her brother, Termite, a child unable to walk and talk but filled with radiance. Around them, their mother, Lola, a haunting but absent presence; their aunt Nonie, a matronly, vibrant woman in her fifties, who raises them; and Termite’s father, Corporal Robert Leavitt, who finds himself caught up in the chaotic early months of the Korean War.

Told with deep feeling, the novel invites us to enter into the hearts and thoughts of the leading characters, even into Termite’s intricate, shuttered consciousness. We are with Leavitt, trapped by friendly fire alongside the Korean children he tries to rescue. We see Lark’s dreams for Termite and her own future, and how, with the aid of a childhood love and a spectral social worker, she makes them happen. We learn of Lola’s love for her soldier husband and her children, and unravel the mystery of her relationship with Nonie. We discover the lasting connections between past and future on the night the town experiences an overwhelming flood, and we follow Lark and Termite as their lives are changed forever.

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Johnny Merrimon was thirteen when his twin sister disappeared. Now, one year later, she is presumed dead. His mother is devastated, his father, gone, and life will never be the same. But Johnny has a map, a bike, and a plan. He's going to find his sister, even if he has to track down every dangerous character in the county---a do-or-die mission that troubles police detective Clyde Hunt. He's also been searching for Johnny's sister, and he knows what dark places a case like this can lead. But even Hunt can't imagine how far Johnny will go to learn the truth---or what he will find when he gets there.
At ninety-one, Ptolemy Grey is one of the world’s forgotten—by his friends, his family, by even himself. Walled in a cluttered Los Angeles apartment that overflows with mementoes from his past, Ptolemy sinks into lonely dementia and into a past that’s best left buried. Until, at his grandnephew’s funeral, he meets seventeen-year-old Robyn and experiences a seismic shift—in his head, his heart, and his life.

Robyn is unlike anyone Ptolemy has ever known. Refusing to allow Ptolemy to live the way he does, swallowed up by memories, she reinvigorates his life. With her help, Ptolemy moves from isolation into the brightness of friendship and desire. But Robyn’s challenges also push Ptolemy to make a life-changing decision that will affect them both: to recapture the clarity and vigor of his fading mind, to unlock the secrets he has carried for decades, and to ensure a legacy that no one will forget.
Imagine what it might be like to work for the Peace Corps, to adventure, do good works, and meet friends from new cultures. Then read *Last Moon Dancing*, Schmidt's memoir of two years spent teaching English in West Africa. At 22, she found her expectations were shattered by the reality of a latrine overflowing with maggots, machete-wielding students, and extreme cultural differences. From the curiosity of her neighbors about her sex life and strange lack of children, to the day when she finally broke down and spent a weekend in a Western-style hotel, the descriptions are vivid and honest. She intersperses memories of her American past – including a childhood living as a Mennonite on a sheep farm – and includes poetry and letters home that provide another window onto her experience.
Legend of Colton H. Bryant, The
by Alexandra Fuller
10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2008)

Colton knew there were a hundred ways to die in Wyoming. That's why he figured there was only one way to live – with all his heart.

When Alexandra Fuller set out to write about the oil rigs on Wyoming's high plains, she was expecting the fierce weather and the roughnecks, the big skies and the industry men, the greed and recklessness, but she wasn't expecting to encounter a real-life cowboy. Then Colton H. Bryant happened into her story, a soulful boy with a mustang-taming heart and blues eyes that'll look right through you. This is the magical, bittersweet story of that man, and of the land that grew him – rough, wild, open, and searingly beautiful, at once unexpected and iconic.

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In this affecting road novel, an elderly married couple leave their Detroit home and take off in their camper for one last adventure together. Ella Robina has “more health problems than a third world country,” and her husband, John, is suffering from progressive dementia. Despite protests from their adult children and doctors, Ella and John hit the road and head west to Disneyland. By day, they stop off at cheese-ball tourist attractions, and at night they relive old memories by watching slide shows of family vacations. Along the way, they receive unexpected aid from a rueful goth teenager, outmaneuver some roadside predators, get stopped By the police and consider running for it, and have sex. The ultimate decision Ella makes might seem life affirming to some and a callous betrayal to others, but it’s impossible to deny that Ella’s wise, feisty voice turns what could be a sappy melodrama into an authentic and funny love story.
Who says you can't run away from your problems?

You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes – it would be too awkward. And you can't say no – it would look like defeat. On your desk are invitations to half-baked literary events around the world.

Question: How do you arrange to skip town?

Answer: You accept them all.

What could possibly go wrong?

Thus begins an around-the-world-in-eighty-days fantasia that will take the novelist Arthur Less to Mexico, Italy, Germany, Morocco, India, and Japan and put thousands of miles between him and the plight he refuses to face.
Lesson Before Dying, A  
by Ernest Gaines  
14 copies (Fiction, 1993)

A Lesson Before Dying, is set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s. Jefferson, a young black man, is an unwitting party to a liquor store shoot out in which three men are killed; the only survivor, he is convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Grant Wiggins, who left his hometown for the university, has returned to the plantation school to teach. As he struggles with his decision whether to stay or escape to another state, his aunt and Jefferson's godmother persuade him to visit Jefferson in his cell and impart his learning and his pride to Jefferson before his death. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting--and defying--the expected.

Ernest J. Gaines brings to this novel the same rich sense of place, the same deep understanding of the human psyche, and the same compassion for a people and their struggle that have unformed his previous, highly praised works of fiction.
Lesson in Secrets, A (Maisie Dobbs series)
by Jacqueline Winspear
9 copies (Fiction, 2011)

*A Lesson in Secrets* is the eighth book in the best-selling Maisie Dobbs historical mystery series by author Jacqueline Winspear. In the summer of 1932, psychologist and investigator, Maisie Dobbs is given a top-secret assignment by the British Secret Service. She goes undercover as a junior philosophy lecturer at a private Cambridge university to observe activities that might seem contrary to the government's best interest. When Greville Liddicote, the college's notorious founder, is murdered, Maisie is ordered to stay out of the investigation. It doesn't take long for Maisie to connect Greville's murder with other peculiar behavior going on with the faculty and students and to note a shocking connection with the Nazi Party's growing power in England.
Let the Great World Spin
by Colum McCann
9 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

A rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970’s. A radical young Irish monk struggles with his own demons as he lives among the prostitutes in the middle of the burning Bronx. A group of mothers gather in a Park Avenue apartment to mourn their sons who died in Vietnam, only to discover just how much divides them even in grief. A young artist finds herself at the scene of a hit-and-run that sends her own life careening sideways. A 38-year-old grandmother, turns tricks alongside her teenage daughter, determined not only to take care of her family but to prove her own worth. Weaving together these and other seemingly disparate lives, McCann’s allegory comes alive in the voices of the city’s people, unexpectedly drawn together By hope, beauty, and the “artistic crime of the century” a mysterious tightrope walker dancing between the Twin Towers.
When assistant district attorney Alex Cooper is summoned to Tina Barr’s apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, she finds a neighbor convinced that the young woman has been assaulted. But the terrified victim, a conservator of rare books and maps, refuses to cooperate with investigators. Then another woman is found murdered in that same apartment with an extremely valuable book, believed to have been stolen. As Alex pursues the murderer, she is drawn into the strange and privileged world of the Hunt family, major benefactors of the New York Public Library and passionate rare book collectors who may be willing to kill for their treasures.
After deciding that city life as a laundress wasn’t for her, Elinore Pruitt, a young widowed mother, accepted an offer to assist with a ranch in Wyoming, work that she found exceedingly more rewarding. In this delightful collection of letters, she describes these experiences to her former employer, Mrs. Coney. Pruitt’s charming descriptions of work, travels, neighbors, animals, land and sky have an authentic feel. The West comes alive, and everyday life becomes captivating. Her writing is clear, witty, and entertaining.
Life of Pi
by Yann Martel
11 copies (Fiction, 2001)

Pi Patel, a young man from India, tells how he was shipwrecked and stranded in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger for 227 days. This outlandish story is only the core of a deceptively complex three-part novel about, ultimately, memory as a narrative and about how we choose truths. Unlike other authors who use shifting chronologies and unreliable narrators, Martel frequently achieves something deeper than technical gimmickry. Pi, regardless of what actually happened to him, earns our trust as a narrator and a character, and makes good, in his way, on the promise in the last sentence of part one – that is, just before the tiger saga – “This story has a happy ending.” If Martel’s strange, touching novel seems a fable without quite a moral, or a parable without quite a metaphor, it still succeeds on its own terms.

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Life of Tom Horn, Government Scout and Interpreter
by Tom Horn
12 copies (Nonfiction, 1904)

Thomas "Tom" Horn, Jr. (November 21, 1860 – November 20, 1903) was an American Old West scout, who carried out varied roles as hired gunman, Pinkerton, range detective, cowboy, and soldier. Believed to have committed 17 murders as a hired gunman in the West, in 1902 Horn was convicted of the murder of 14-year-old Willie Nickell near Iron Mountain, Wyoming. The boy was the son of sheep rancher Kels Nickell, who had been involved in a range feud with neighbor and cattle rancher Jim Miller. On the day before his 43rd birthday, Horn was executed by hanging in Cheyenne, Wyoming. While in jail he wrote his autobiography, Life of Tom Horn: Government Scout and Interpreter (1904), which was published posthumously. Numerous editions have been published of this book since the late 20th century, and debate continues as to whether he was guilty of Nickell's murder.
After four harrowing years on the Western Front, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock, nearly half a day’s journey from the coast. To this isolated island, where the supply boat comes once a season, Tom brings a young, bold, and loving wife, Isabel. Years later, after two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears a baby’s cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby.

Tom, who keeps meticulous records and whose moral principles have withstood a horrific war, wants to report the man and infant immediately. But Isabel insists the baby is a “gift from God,” and against Tom’s judgment, they claim her as their own and name her Lucy. When she is two, Tom and Isabel return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world. Their choice has devastated one of them.
February 1862. With the Civil War less than one year old, President Lincoln's beloved eleven-year-old son, Willie, lies gravely ill. In a matter of days, Willie dies and is laid to rest in a Georgetown cemetery. Newspapers report that a grief-stricken Lincoln returns, alone, to the crypt several times to hold his boy's body. From that seed of historical truth, George Saunders spins an unforgettable story that breaks few of its realistic framework into a thrilling, supernatural realm, deploying a kaleidoscope, theatrical panorama of voices – living and dead, historical and invented – to ask a timeless question: How do we live and love when we know that everything we love must end?
For Francisco Cantú, the border is in the blood: his mother, a park ranger and daughter of a Mexican immigrant, raised him in the scrublands of the Southwest. Haunted by the landscape of his youth, Cantú joins the Border Patrol. He and his partners are posted to remote regions crisscrossed by drug routes and smuggling corridors, where they learn to track other humans under blistering sun and through frigid nights. They haul in the dead and deliver to detention those they find alive.

Cantú tries not to think where the stories go from there. Plagued by nightmares, he abandons the Patrol for civilian life. But when an immigrant friend travels to Mexico to visit his dying mother and does not return, Cantú discovers that the border has migrated with him, and now he must know the whole story. Searing and unforgettable, *The Line Becomes a River* makes urgent and personal the violence our border wrecks on both sides of the line.
Little Bee
by Chris Cleave
9 copies (Fiction, 2009)

Little Bee, smart and stoic, knows two people in England, Andrew and Sarah, journalists she chanced upon on a Nigerian beach after fleeing a massacre in her village, one grisly outbreak in an off-the-radar oil war. After sneaking into England and escaping a rural immigration removal center, she arrives at Andrew and Sarah’s London suburb home only to find that the violence that haunts her has also poisoned them. In an unnerving blend of dread, wit, and beauty, Cleave slowly and arrestingly excavates the full extent of the horror that binds Little Bee and Sarah together. A columnist for the Guardian, Cleave earned fame and notoriety when his first book, *Incendiary*, a tale about a terrorist attack on London, was published on the very day London was bombed in July 2005. His second ensnaring, eviscerating novel charms the reader with ravishing descriptions, sly humor, and the poignant improvisations of Sarah’s Batman-costumed young son, then launches devastating attacks in the form of Little Bee’s elegantly phrased insights into the massive failure of compassion in the world of refugees.

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In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned – from the layout of the winding roads to the colors of the houses to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter, Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town – and puts Mia and Elena on opposite sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets in Mia’s past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs.
It is around 1885 when Otto Chenoweth, a teenager from a good family with a talent for making friends and creating art, moves from refined Massachusetts to untamed Wyoming in search of beautiful scenery to paint. After Otto secures work on a cattle ranch, he meets two workers with experience on the wrong side of the law. After they convince Otto to move with them to the Sundance country, Otto’s life takes a new direction as he gambles, homesteads, rustles, and occasionally gets in trouble with the law.

Twenty years later, a Wyoming sheriff captures an unruly prisoner. Otto, who has just stolen a herd of over one hundred branded horses, is now known as the Gentleman Horse Thief. As the law threatens drastic control over his behavior, Otto is declared insane. After the sheriff returns him to the east in an effort to shield him from those who still want to jail him, Otto undergoes a remarkable transformation that leads him back to the west where he channels his risk-taking impulses into minerals prospecting and, in an ironic closure to his experiences with law enforcement, is elected as justice of the peace.

*The Lives of Otto Chenoweth* shares the fascinating biography of a Wyoming horse thief who surprisingly turned over a new leaf in mid-life and dispensed justice on the good side of the law.

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Michael is no ordinary young man. Mute since a childhood tragedy, at age eighteen he discovers that he possesses a skill he would never have expected. Whether it’s a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an eight-hundred-pound safe…he can open them all.

It’s a talent that will make Michael a hot commodity with the wrong people, and whether he likes it or not, push him closer to a life of crime. Until one day, when he finally sees his chance to escape, and decides to risk everything to return home to the only person he ever loved, and to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long.
In the summer of 1986, two tragedies rocked Oklahoma City. Six movie-theater employees were brutally killed in an armed robbery. Then a teenage girl vanished from the annual state fair. Neither crime was ever solved.

Twenty-five years later, the reverberations of those unsolved cases continue to echo through the lives of those devastated by the crimes. Wyatt, the one teenage employee who inexplicably survived the movie-theater massacre, is now a private investigator in Las Vegas. A case unexpectedly brings him back to a hometown and a past he’s tried to escape – and drags him deeper into the harrowing mystery of the movie-house robbery that left six of his friends dead.

Like Wyatt, Julianna struggles with the past – specifically the day her beautiful older sister, Genevieve, disappeared at the fair. When Julianna discovers that one of the original suspects has resurfaced, she'll stop at nothing to find answers.

As Wyatt’s case becomes more complicated and dangerous, and Julianna seeks answers from a ghost, their obsessive quests not only stir memories of youth and first love, but also begin to illuminate dark secrets of the past. Even if they find the truth, will it help them understand what happened and why they were left behind that long and faraway gone summer? Will it set them free – or ultimately destroy them?
After months of struggling, Alice Humphrey finally lands her dream job managing a trendy new Manhattan art gallery. According to Drew Campbell, the well-heeled corporate representative who hires her, the gallery is a passion project for its anonymous, wealthy owner. Everything is perfect until the morning Alice arrives at work to find the gallery gone – the space stripped bare as if it had never existed – and Campbell’s body on the floor. Suddenly she’s at the center of a police investigation with the evidence stacked against her, and the dead man whom she swears is Drew Campbell identified as someone else entirely.

When the police discover ties between the gallery and a missing girl, Alice knows she’s been set up. Now she has to prove it – a dangerous search for answers that will entangle her in a dark, high-tech criminal conspiracy and force her to unearth long-hidden secrets involving her own family…secrets that could cost Alice her life.
At the age of twelve, Ishmael Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. At sixteen, he was removed from fighting by UNICEF, and through the help of the staff at his rehabilitation center, he learned how to forgive himself, to regain his humanity, and, finally, to heal.

This is an extraordinary and mesmerizing account, told with real literary force and heartbreaking honesty.
Lost Forts of Casper
by Johanna Wickman
10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2016)

True tales of Fort Caspar, the Post at Platte Bridge and Camp Dodge.

Three army outposts built before and during the Civil War protected critical routes along the western trails at the North Platte River near what later became Casper. All had been abandoned by 1867, and their dramatic stories are mostly forgotten. The Post at Platte Bridge was a vital outpost on Albert Sidney Johnston’s Utah War supply route. Camp Dodge and Platte Bridge Station, also called Fort Caspar, guarded telegraph lines from Native American sabotage. Violent winds, horrendous blizzards and scorching summers made life miserable. Tension reached a fever pitch at the Battle of Platte Bridge when Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho attacked a cavalry detachment led by Caspar Collins. Today, a reconstructed Fort Caspar stands as a vigilant reminder of the struggles at those lonely frontier stations. Local historian Johanna Wickman chronicles military efforts to keep peace, wage war and merely survive.

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Love and Summer  
by William Trevor  
12 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

It's summer in Rathmoye in the 1950s and in the hush of the funeral for Mrs. Connulty, a stranger appears, surreptitiously taking photographs of the burial and the bereaved. Afterward, Florian Kilderry, who has come to town to take pictures of the burned down movie house, quietly slips away unnoticed By all but Ellie Dillahan. That moment is the beginning of a relationship whose effects will ripple outward from the two young lovers into the lives of other citizens of Rathmoye. William Trevor's Love and Summer is the exquisite rendering of one languid summer in that small town, an evocative exploration of love, memory, responsibility, and remorse. It's a stunning display of the emotional subtlety and linguistic grace for which Trevor is revered.
Love in the Time of Cholera
by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
8 copies (Fiction, 1988)

While delivering a message to her father, Florentino Ariza spots the barely pubescent Fermina Daza and immediately falls in love. What follows is the story of a passion that extends over 50 years, as Fermina is courted solely by letter, decisively rejects her suitor when he first speaks, and then joins the urbane Dr. Juvenal Urbino, much above her station, in a marriage initially loveless but ultimately remarkable in its strength. Florentino remains faithful in his fashion; paralleling the tale of the marriage is that of his numerous liaisons, all without the depth of love he again declares at Urbino's death. In substance and style not as fantastical, as mythologizing, as the previous works, this is a compelling exploration of the myths we make of love.
Maisie Dobbs
by Jacqueline Winspear
11 copies (Fiction, 2003)

Humble housemaid Maisie Dobbs climbs convincingly up Britain’s social ladder, becoming in turn a university student, a wartime nurse and ultimately a private investigator. Both naïve and savvy, Maisie remains loyal to her working-class father and many friends who help her along the way. Her first sleuthing case, which begins as a simple marital infidelity investigation, leads to a trail of war-wounded soldiers lured to a remote convalescent home in Kent, from which no one seems to emerge alive. The Retreat, specializing in treating badly deformed battlefield casualties, is run by an apparently innocuous former officer who requires his patients to sign over their assets to his tightly run institution. This first book in the ongoing Maisie Dobbs series introduces readers to this refreshing heroine, appealing secondary characters and an absorbing plot.

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In Brooks’s interpretation of Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women*, Mr. March is a shadowy figure for the girls who wait patiently for his letters. They answer his evasive, flowery letters with cheering accounts of the plays they perform and the charity they provide, hiding their own privations. Readers, however, are treated to the real March, based loosely upon Alcott’s own father. March’s high-minded ideals are continually thwarted not only by the culture of the times, but by his own ineptitude as well. A staunch abolitionist, he is amazingly naive about human nature. He joins the Union army and soon becomes attached to a hospital unit. When it appears that he has committed a sexual indiscretion with a nurse, a former slave and an old acquaintance, March is sent to a plantation where the recently freed slaves earn wages but continue to experience cruelty and indignities. Here his religious and political convictions are tested. Sick and discouraged, he returns to his little women, who have grown strong in his absence. March, however, has experienced the horrors of war, serious illness, guilt, and utter disillusionment.
The Martian
by Andy Weir
12 copies (Fiction, 2011)

A mission to Mars. A freak accident. One man's struggle to survive.

Six days ago astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now he's sure he'll be the first person to die there.

After a dust storm forces his crew to evacuate the planet while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded on Mars's surface, with no way to signal Earth that he's alive. And even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone years before a rescue could arrive. Chances are, though, Mark won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain old “human error” are much more likely to kill him first.

Armed with nothing but his ingenuity, his engineering skills – and a gallows sense of humor that proves to be his greatest source of strength – Mark embarks on a dogged quest to stay alive. But will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

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If you ain't scared, you ain't human.

When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He’s surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone.

Nice to meet ya, shank. Welcome to the Glade.

Outside the towering stone walls that surround the Glade is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It’s the only way out—and no one’s ever made it through alive.

Everything is going to change.

Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying.

They had nothing in common until love gave them everything to lose . . .

Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has never been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex–Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he’s pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.

Will is acerbic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

A Love Story for this generation, Me Before You brings to life two people who couldn’t have less in common—a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?
Mercy
by Jodi Picoult
11 copies (Fiction, 1996)

Police chief of a small Massachusetts town, Cameron McDonald makes the toughest arrest of his life when his own cousin Jamie comes to him and confesses outright that he has killed his terminally ill wife out of mercy. Now, a heated murder trial plunges the town into upheaval, and drives a wedge into a contented marriage: Cameron, aiding the prosecution in their case against Jamie, is suddenly at odds with his devoted wife, Allie–seduced by the idea of a man so in love with his wife that he’d grant all her wishes, even her wish to end her life. And when an inexplicable attraction leads to a shocking betrayal, Allie faces the hardest questions of the heart: When does love cross the line of moral obligation? And what does it mean to truly love?
A mysterious island.

An abandoned orphanage.

A strange collection of very curious photographs.

It all waits to be discovered in Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow--impossible though it seems--they may still be alive.

A spine-tingling fantasy illustrated with haunting vintage photography, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children will delight adults, teens, and anyone who relishes an adventure in the shadows.
Sybilla may have been born to wealthy parents, but her home life was never easy, and she ran away at 17. Ever since, Sybilla has been homeless and living off the grid. Her peaceful existence comes to a sudden end when she is accused of murder and goes on the run, too scared to go to the police and clear herself but frantic to regain her carefully built life. Both a mystery (Who is really doing the murders?) and a psychological study (Why did Sybilla run from her family?), Missing heralds the arrival in the U.S. of another outstanding Scandinavian crime writer. Winner of the Glass Key Award in Sweden, this is a taut, riveting, and impossible-to-put-down story of a young woman caught up in a bad situation.
On a copper-rich island shattered by war, where the teachers have fled with almost everyone else, only one white man chooses to stay behind: the eccentric Mr. Watts, object of much curiosity and scorn, who sweeps out the ruined schoolhouse and begins to read to the children each day from Charles Dickens’s classic *Great Expectations*.

So begins this rare, original story about the abiding strength that imagination, once ignited, can provide. As artillery echoes in the mountains, thirteen-year-old Matilda and her peers are riveted by the adventures of a young orphan named Pip in a city called London, a city whose contours soon become more real than their own blighted landscape. But in a ravaged place where even children are forced to live by their wits and daily survival is the only objective, imagination can be a dangerous thing.
In the twelfth century, the Salerno School of Medicine (in the Norman Kingdom of Sicily) boasted female students among its ranks. When Adelia, one of the university’s prodigies, is summoned to considerably less-progressive Cambridge, England, to provide forensic support in the investigation of the murder of four children, she must conceal her identity lest she be labeled a witch. Still, her predicament is far less perilous than that of the Jewish residents of Cambridge, whom the Catholic townspeople have blamed for the quartet of deaths. King Henry II, while ruthless, is no fool; mindful of the tax revenues derived from Jewish merchants, he’s vowed his protection until they can be exonerated. Adelia, whose entourage includes a Jewish investigator and a Muslim bodyguard, carefully analyzes the corpses. Her conclusions, alas, are far from definitive: the crimes could be the work of a serial killer, or perhaps one among the latest group of pilgrims who’ve recently returned from Canterbury. Though her narrative is somewhat uneven, Franklin delivers rich period detail and a bloody good ending reflecting the savagery of the times.
Moon Tiger  
by Penelope Lively  
10 copies (Fiction, 1987)

The elderly Claudia Hampton, a best-selling author of popular history, lies alone in a London hospital bed. Memories of her life still glow in her fading consciousness, but she imagines writing a history of the world. Instead, Moon Tiger is her own history, the life of a strong, independent woman, with its often contentious relations with family and friends. At its center forever frozen in time, the still point of her turning world is the cruelly truncated affair with Tom, a British tank commander whom Claudia knew as a reporter in Egypt during World War II.

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Some secrets can't be kept. . . . Years ago, they were all the best of friends. But as time passed and circumstances changed, they grew apart, became adults with families of their own, and began to forget about the past--and the terrible lie they all shared. But now Gordon, the youngest and wildest of the five, has died and the others are thrown together for the first time in years. And then the revelations start. Could their long-ago lie be the reason for their troubles today? Is it more dangerous to admit to what they've done or is it the strain of keeping the secret that is beginning to wear on them and everyone close to them? Each one of these old friends has to wonder if their secret has been discovered--and if someone within the circle is out to destroy them.
My Abandonment
by Peter Rock
9 copies (Fiction, 2008)

A thirteen-year-old girl and her father live in Forest Park, an enormous nature preserve in Portland, Oregon. They inhabit an elaborate cave shelter, wash in a nearby creek, store perishables at the water’s edge, use a makeshift septic system, tend a garden, even keep a library of sorts. Once a week they go to the city to buy groceries and otherwise merge with the civilized world. But one small mistake allows a backcountry jogger to discover them, which derails their entire existence, ultimately provoking a deeper flight.

Inspired by a true story and told through the startlingly sincere voice of its young narrator, Caroline, My Abandonment is a spellbinding journey into life at the margins and a stirring tale of survival and hope.
Set in Nebraska in the late 19th century, this tale of the spirited daughter of a Bohemian immigrant family planning to farm on the untamed land comes to us through the romantic eyes of Jim Burden. He is, at the time of their meeting, newly orphaned and arriving at his grandparents’ neighboring farm on the same night her family strikes out to make good in their new country. Jim chooses the opening words of his recollections deliberately: “I first heard of Antonia on what seemed to be an interminable journey across the great midland plain of North America,” and it seems almost certain that readers of Cather’s masterpiece will just as easily pinpoint the first time they heard of Antonia and her world. It seems equally certain that they, too, will remember that moment as one of great light in an otherwise unremarkable trip through the world. Cather paints her descriptions of the vastness of nature – the high, red grass, the road that “ran about like a wild thing,” the endless wind on the plains – with strokes so vivid as to make us feel in our bones that we’ve just come in from a walk on that very terrain ourselves.
My Life in France
by Julia Child
10 copies (Memoir, 2006)

Julia Child single-handedly awakened America to the pleasures of good cooking with her cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and her television show *The French Chef*, but as she reveals in her bestselling memoir, she didn’t know the first thing about cooking when she landed in France.

Indeed, when she first arrived in 1948 with her husband, Paul, she spoke no French and knew nothing about the country itself. But as she dove into French culture, buying food at local markets and taking classes at the Cordon Bleu, her life changed forever. Julia’s unforgettable story unfolds with the spirit so key to her success as a cook and teacher and writer, brilliantly capturing one of the most endearing American personalities of the last fifty years.

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On June 5, 2002, fourteen-year-old Elizabeth Smart, the daughter of a close-knit Mormon family, was taken from her home in the middle of the night by religious fanatic Brian David Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee. She was kept chained, dressed in disguise, repeatedly raped, and told she and her family would be killed if she tried to escape. After her rescue on March 12, 2003, she rejoined her family and worked to pick up the pieces of her life.

Now for the first time, in her memoir, My Story, she tells of the constant fear she endured every hour, her courageous determination to maintain hope, and how she devised a plan to manipulate her captors and convinced them to return to Utah, where she was rescued minutes after arriving. Smart explains how her faith helped her stay sane in the midst of a nightmare and how she found the strength to confront her captors at their trial and see that justice was served.

In the ten years after her rescue, Smart transformed herself from victim to advocate, traveling the country and working to educate, inspire, and foster change. She has created a foundation to help prevent crimes against children and is a frequent public speaker. In 2012 she married Matthew Gilmour, whom she met doing mission work in Paris for her church, in a fairy-tale wedding that made the cover of People magazine.
The New Wild West: Black Gold, Fracking, and Life in a North Dakota Boomtown

by Blaire Briody
12 copies (Nonfiction, 2017)

Williston, North Dakota was a sleepy farm town for generations—until the frackers arrived. The oil companies moved into Williston, overtaking the town and setting off a boom that America hadn’t seen since the Gold Rush. Workers from all over the country descended, chasing jobs that promised them six-figure salaries and demanded no prior experience.

But for every person chasing the American dream, there is a darker side—reports of violence and sexual assault skyrocketed, schools overflowed, and housing prices soared. Real estate is such a hot commodity that tent cities popped up, and many workers’ only option was to live out of their cars. Farmers whose families had tended the land for generations watched, powerless, as their fields were bulldozed to make way for one oil rig after another.

Written in the vein Ted Conover and Jon Krakauer, using a mix of first-person adventure and cultural analysis, The New Wild West is the definitive account of what’s happening on the ground and what really happens to a community when the energy industry is allowed to set up in a town with little regulation or oversight—and at what cost.

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The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not. Within the black-and-white striped canvas tents is an utterly unique experience full of breathtaking amazements. It is called Le Cirque des Rêves, and it is only open at night.

But behind the scenes, a fierce competition is underway: a duel between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood expressly for this purpose by their mercurial instructors. Unbeknownst to them both, this is a game in which only one can be left standing. Amidst high stakes, Celia and Marco soon tumble headfirst into love, setting off a domino effect of dangerous consequences, and leaving the lives of everyone from the performers to the patrons hanging in the balance.
No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency, The
by Alexander McCall Smith
9 copies (Fiction, 2002)

This first novel in Alexander McCall Smith’s widely acclaimed The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series tells the story of the delightfully cunning and enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to “help people with problems in their lives.” Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing 11-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors. The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency received two Booker Judges’ Special Recommendations and was voted one of the International Books of the Year and the Millennium by the Times Literary Supplement.

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No Man’s Guilt
by Betty Evenson
12 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

A tender love story that is interwoven among aspects of bigotry and adultery, No Man’s Guilt explores relationships against the backdrop of the blizzard of 1949 in rural Wyoming.

Antelope Crossing is a small community in Wyoming that boasts a school, post office, grocery store, bar and cafe. One of the community events is the New Year’s Eve dance at the schoolhouse. December 31, 1948 brings together rancher Ham Wilson; Jewel, the school teacher; Bob Yellowhair, a Native American working on the railroad crew; Ginny and Luther Johnson, owners of the café; the Risslers, grocery store proprietors; and the party chief of a seismograph crew. As the brutal winter of 1949 unfolds, Antelope Crossing experiences a series of events that will affect the community’s lives forever.

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JJ Ferguson has returned home to Pinewood, North Carolina, to build his dream house and to pursue his high school sweetheart, Ava. But as he re-enters his former world, where factories are in decline and the legacy of Jim Crow is still felt, he’s startled to find that the people he once knew and loved have changed just as much as he has. Ava is now married and desperate for a baby, though she can’t seem to carry one to term. Her husband, Henry, has grown distant, frustrated by the demise of the furniture industry, which has outsourced to China and stripped the area of jobs. Ava’s mother, Sylvia, caters to and meddles with the lives of those around her, trying to fill the void left by her absent son. And Don, Sylvia’s unworthy but charming husband, just won’t stop hanging around.

JJ’s return—and his plans to build a huge mansion overlooking Pinewood and woo Ava—not only unsettles their family, but stirs up the entire town. The ostentatious wealth that JJ has attained forces everyone to consider the cards they’ve been dealt, what more they want and deserve, and how they might go about getting it. Can they reorient their lives to align with their wishes rather than their current realities? Or are they all already resigned to the rhythms of the particular lives they lead?
It is 1934, and New York is in the icy grip of the Great Depression. Dr. James Delaney tends to his hurt, sick, and poor neighbors – gangsters and Tammany chieftains, veterans and prostitutes – with enormous compassion. But privately, Delaney’s heart is frozen; he is haunted by the slaughters of the Great War and the departure of his wife and grown daughter.

Then, on a snowy New Year’s Day, the doctor finds his three-year-old grandson on his doorstep. To cope with this unexpected arrival, Delaney enlists the help of Rose, a tough, decent Sicilian woman with a secret in her past. As Rose and the boy begin to infuse the good doctor’s home with new life, the numbness in Delaney slowly begins to melt.

Re-creating 1930’s New York with vibrancy and rich detail, Pete Hamill weaves a story of honor, family, and one man’s simple courage that readers will not soon forget.
Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck
10 copies (Fiction, 1937)

An intimate portrait of two men who cherish the slim bond between them and the dream they share in a world marred by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. Clinging to each other in their loneliness and alienation, George and his simple-minded friend Lenny dream, as drifters will, of a place to call their own—a couple of acres and a few pigs, chickens, and rabbits back in Hill Country where land is cheap. But after they come to work on a ranch in the fertile Salinas Valley of California, their hopes, like “the best laid schemes o’mice an’ men,” begin to go awry.

Of Mice and Men also represents an experiment in form, as Steinbeck described his work, “a kind of playable novel, written in novel form but so scened and set that it can be played as it stands.” A rarity in American letters, it achieved remarkable success as a novel, a Broadway play, and three acclaimed films. Steinbeck’s tale of commitment, loneliness, hope, and loss remains one of America’s most widely read and beloved novels.

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The Red Desert of Wyoming is a beautiful and punishing place for anybody, but never more dangerous than it is now for game warden Joe Pickett, his friend Nate, and the one who should never have been there: Joe's daughter Sheridan.

Nate Romanowski is off the grid, recuperating from wounds and trying to deal with the past crimes, when he is suddenly confronted by a small team of elite professional special operators. They're not here to threaten him, but to make a deal. They need help destroying a domestic terror cell in the Red Desert, and in return, they'll make Nate's criminal record disappear.

But those operators are not what they seem, as Joe Pickett soon discovers – they have a very different plan in mind, and it just may be something that takes them all down, including Nate and Joe. And if there is other collateral damage? That's just the fortunes of war.
In a voice more powerful and compassionate than ever before, *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Strout binds together thirteen rich, luminous narratives into a book with the heft of a novel, through the presence of one larger-than-life, unforgettable character: Olive Kitteridge.

At the edge of the continent, Crosby, Maine, may seem like nowhere, but seen through this brilliant writer’s eyes, it’s in essence the whole world, and the lives that are lived there are filled with all of the grand human drama—desire, despair, jealousy, hope, and love.

At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplores the changes in her little town and in the world at large, but she doesn’t always recognize the changes in those around her: a lounge musician haunted by a past romance; a former student who has lost the will to live; Olive’s own adult child, who feels tyrannized by her irrational sensitivities; and Henry, who finds his loyalty to his marriage both a blessing and a curse.
One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd
by Jim Fergus
11 copies (Fiction, 1998)

One Thousand White Women is the story of May Dodd and a colorful assembly of pioneer women who, under the auspices of the U.S. government, travel to the western prairies in 1875 to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. The covert and controversial “Brides for Indians” program, launched by the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, is intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man’s world. Toward that end May and her friends embark upon the adventure of their lifetime. Jim Fergus has so vividly depicted the American West that it is as if these diaries are a capsule in time.
At the turn of the twentieth century, in a rural stretch of the Pacific Northwest, a reclusive orchardist, William Talmadge, tends to apples and apricots as if they were loved ones. A gentle man, he's found solace in the sweetness of the fruit he grows and the quiet, beating heart of the land he cultivates. One day, two teenage girls appear and steal his fruit from the market; they later return to the outskirts of his orchard to see the man who gave them no chase. Feral, scared, and very pregnant, the girls take up on Talmadge's land and indulge in his deep reservoir of compassion. Just as the girls begin to trust him, men arrive in the orchard with guns, and the shattering tragedy that follows will set Talmadge on an irrevocable course not only to save and protect but also to reconcile the ghosts of his own troubled past. Transcribing America as it once was before railways and roads connected its corners, Amanda Coplin weaves a tapestry of solitary souls who come together in the wake of unspeakable cruelty and misfortune. She writes with breathtaking precision and empathy, and in The Orchardist she crafts an astonishing debut novel about a man who disrupts the lonely harmony of an ordered life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.
The Oregon Trail, The
by Francis Parkman Jr.
10 copies (Nonfiction, 2008 – this edition)

The Oregon Trail is the gripping account of Francis Parkman’s journey west across North America in 1846. After crossing the Allegheny Mountains by coach and continuing by boat and wagon to Westport, Missouri, he set out with three companions on a horseback journey that would ultimately take him over two thousand miles. In the course of his travels, Parkman, who lived among a Sioux tribe for a time, encountered numerous Indians, traders, trappers, as well as emigrants searching for a new life.

His detailed description of the journey, set against the vast majesty of the Great Plains, has emerged through the generations as a classic narrative of one man’s exploration of the American Wilderness. It is a journey that has shaped our picture of mid-nineteenth-century America and which has influenced our perception of American civilization.

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Oregon Trail: A New American Journey, The
by Rinker Buck
7 copies (Nonfiction, 2015)

A major bestseller that has been hailed as a “quintessential American story” (Christian Science Monitor), Rinker Buck’s The Oregon Trail is an epic account of traveling the 2,000-mile length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way—in a covered wagon with a team of mules—that has captivated readers, critics, and booksellers from coast to coast. Simultaneously a majestic journey across the West, a significant work of history, and a moving personal saga, Buck’s chronicle is a “laugh-out-loud masterpiece” (Willamette Week) that “so ensnares the emotions it becomes a tear-jerker at its close” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis) and “will leave you daydreaming and hungry to see this land” (The Boston Globe).
The Great War of 1914-1918 confronted the United States with one of the most wrenching crises in the nation’s history. It also left a residue of disruption and disillusion than spawned an even more ruinous conflict scarcely a generation later. *Over Here* is the single most comprehensive discussion of the impact of World War I on American society. This 25th anniversary edition includes a new afterword from Pulitzer Prize-winning author David M. Kennedy that explains his reasons for writing the original edition as well as his opinions on the legacy of Wilsonian idealism, most recently reflected in President George W. Bush’s national security strategy. More than a chronicle of the war years, *Over Here* uses the record of America’s experience in the Great War as a prism through which to view early-twentieth-century American society. The ways in which America mobilized for the war, chose to fight it, and then went about the business of enshrining it in memory all indicate important aspects of an enduring American character. An American history classic, *Over Here* reflects on a society’s struggle with the pains of war and offers trenchant insights into the birth of modern America.

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Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year? have sex? smell flowers? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout at 17,000 miles per hour? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronauts), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

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Painted House, A
by John Grisham
12 copies (Fiction, 2001)

Lucas Chandler is a 7-year-old boy who lives in an unpainted house on an Arkansas farm with his parents and grandparents in the early 1950s. He loves Coca-Cola, baseball, and the St. Louis Cardinals, and he plans on using the money he earns picking cotton to buy a shiny baseball jacket from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Soon after the hired crews of Mexicans and “hill people” arrive to help pick the Chandler family’s 80 acres of cotton, Lucas sees things that cause him to lose his innocence much earlier than he should and long for the days when he did not have to keep secrets or worry about his and his family’s safety. Legal thriller master Grisham changes direction with this lawyer-free coming-of-age novel, and the results are stunning.

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Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificent Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs back into his life – summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge – he follows. When their all-nighter ends and a new day breaks, Margo has disappeared. But Q soon learns that there are clues – and they’re for him. Embarking on an exhilarating adventure to find her, the closer Q gets, the less he sees the girl he thought he knew.
Twelve-year-old Trevor McKinney takes on an extra credit assignment for his social studies class: think of an idea for world change and put it into action. Trevor's plan is simple – do something "big" for three people, and instead of having them pay him back, have each of them choose three people and pay it forward, and so on. The three people Trevor chooses to help seem unlikely to be able to pay it forward – a homeless junkie who lands back in jail; an elderly lady who suddenly dies; and his social studies teacher, Reuben St. Clair, who was disfigured in the Vietnam War and has a difficult time opening up to people. Hyde takes her time, slowly and delightfully revealing clues as to the impact of Trevor's plan, which, unknown to Trevor, takes on a life of its own. Although the ending is slightly contrived, Hyde makes the unbelievable seem possible in a beautifully written, heartwarming story of one boy's belief in the goodness of humanity.
Peace Like a River
by Leif Enger
8 copies (Fiction, 2001)

What readers will appreciate first in Enger’s marvelous novel is the language. His limpid sentences are composed with the clarity and richness for which poets strive. It takes longer to get caught up in the story, but gradually, as the complex narrative unwinds, readers will find themselves immersed in an exceptionally heartfelt and moving tale about the resilience of family relationships, told in retrospect through the prism of memory. “We all hold history differently inside us,” says narrator Reuben, who was an adolescent in Minnesota in the 1960s, when his brother, Davy, shot and killed two young men who were harassing the family. Rueben’s father – in Rueben’s estimation fully capable of performing miracles even though the outside world believed him to be lost in the clouds – packs Reuben and his sister up and follows the trail Davy has left in his flight from the law. Their journey comprises the action in the novel, but this is not really a book about adventures on the road. Rather, it is a story of relationships in which the exploration of character takes precedence over incident. Enger’s profound understanding of human nature stands behind his compelling prose.
Pelagia's family likeness to Father Brown and Miss Marple is marked, and reading about her supplies a similarly decorous pleasure." - The Literary Review

In a remote Russian province in the late nineteenth century, Bishop Mitrofanii must deal with a family crisis. After learning that one of his great aunt's beloved and rare white bulldogs has been poisoned, the Orthodox bishop knows there is only one detective clever enough to investigate the murder: Sister Pelagia. The bespectacled, freckled Pelagia is lively, curious, extraordinarily clumsy, and persistent. At the estate in question, she finds a whole host of suspects, any one of whom might have benefited if the old lady (who changes her will at whim) had expired of grief at the pooch's demise. There's Pyotr, the matron's grandson, a nihilist with a grudge who has fallen for the maid; Stepan, the penniless caretaker, who has sacrificed his youth to the care of the estate; Miss Wrigley, a mysterious Englishwoman who has recently been named sole heiress to the fortune; Poggio, an opportunistic and freelanding "artistic" photographer; and, most intriguingly, Naina, the old lady's granddaughter, a girl so beautiful she could drive any man to do almost anything. As Pelagia bumbles and intuits her way to the heart of a mystery among people with faith only in greed and desire, she must bear in mind the words of Saint Paul: "Beware of dogs-and beware of evil-doers.”
Standing on the fringes of life…offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a story about what it’s like to travel that strange course through the uncharted territory of high school. The world of first dates, family dramas, and new friends. Of sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Of those wild and poignant roller-coaster days known as growing up.
A Pinch of Salt addresses the human condition -- our foibles and our triumphs, personally and as members of a community. Sometimes humorous, always serious, readers may recognize their own lives and their own truths.
Philadelphia defense lawyer Ellie Hathaway retreats to her great-aunt Leda’s home in Paradise, Pennsylvania, to get a break from her high-pressure job. As she arrives, a dead baby is discovered in the barn of an Amish farmer. A police investigation reveals that the mother is an 18-year-old unmarried Amish girl, Katie Fisher, and that the infant did not die of natural causes. Even in the face of medical proof that she recently gave birth, Katie denies the murder charge. Ellie reluctantly agrees to defend her, even though Katie does not want to be defended. As Ellie searches for evidence, she calls upon a psychiatrist friend from her past, Dr. John Cooper. As Coop and Ellie work together to unravel fact and fiction, they also work to resolve issues in their relationship. The contrast between the Amish culture and the “English” provides an interesting tension. This study of opposites details a way of life based on faith, humility, duty, and honesty.
Please Look After Mom
by Kyung-Sook Shin
12 Copies (Fiction, 2011)

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

Told through the piercing voices and urgent perspectives of a daughter, son, husband, and mother, Please Look After Mom is at once an authentic picture of contemporary life in Korea and a universal story of family and love.

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In early-twentieth-century New York, poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Science had no place in the Tammany Hall-controlled coroner’s office and corruption ran rampant. However, with the appointment of chief medical examiner Charles Norris in 1918, the poison game changed forever. Together with toxicologist Alexander Gettler, Norris set the justice system on fore with his trailblazing scientific detective work and established the discipline of forensics.

Following the trail of evidence that leads them to downtown tenements, swanky smoke-filled jazz clubs, and moonshine distilleries, Norris and Gettler work with a creativity that rivals the most imaginative murder. Yet each case presents a new lethal challenge, and the scenarios astound: Norris and Gettler investigate a family mysteriously stricken bald, Barnum and Bailey’s Famous Blue Man, factory workers with crumbling bones, a diner serving poisoned pies, and many others.

From the vantage of their laboratory in the infamous Bellevue Hospital it quickly becomes clear that killers aren’t the only toxic threat. Modern life has created a treacherous landscape, and danger lurks around every corner. Automobiles choke the city streets with carbon monoxide; potent compounds, such as morphine, can be found on store shelves in products ranging from pesticides to cosmetics. Prohibition incites a chemist’s war between bootleggers and government scientists while in Gotham’s crowded speakeasies each round of cocktails becomes a game of Russian roulette. Norris and Gettler triumph over seemingly unbeatable odds to become the pioneers of forensic chemistry and is equal parts true crime, twentieth-century history, and science thriller.

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Poisonwood Bible, The
by Barbara Kingsolver
11 copies (Fiction, 1998)

This novel follows an evangelical Baptist minister’s family to the Congo in the late 1950s, entwining their fate with that of the country during three turbulent decades. Nathan Price’s determination to convert the natives of the Congo to Christianity is, we gradually discover, foolhardy and dangerous, unsanctioned by the church administration and doomed from the start by Nathan’s self-righteousness. Fanatic and sanctimonious, Nathan is a domestic monster, too, a physically and emotionally abusive, misogynistic husband and father. Cleverly, Kingsolver never brings us inside Nathan’s head but instead unfolds the tragic story of the Price family through the alternating points of view of Orleanna Price and her four daughters. It is through their eyes that we come to experience the life of the villagers in an isolated community and the particular ways in which American and African cultures collide. In the end, Kingsolver delivers a compelling family saga, a sobering picture of the horrors of fanatic fundamentalism and an insightful view of an exploited country crushed by the heel of colonialism and then ruthlessly manipulated by a bastion of democracy.
In this charming novel, Dallas offers up the unconventional friendship between Hennie Comfort, a natural storyteller entering the twilight of her life, and Nit Spindle, a naïve young newlywed, forged in the isolated mining town of Middle Swan, Colo., in 1936. When the two meet, Hennie recognizes her younger self in Nit, and she’s immediately struck with a desire to nurture and guide Nit, who is lonely and adrift in her new hometown and her brand-new marriage. As Hennie regales Nit with stories and advice, the two become inseparable and pass several seasons huddled around their quilting with the other women of Middle Swan. Even though Hennie maintains an air of c’est la vie as she unravels her life story, Nit and the reader soon realize there are tragedies and secrets hidden behind Hennie’s tranquil demeanor. This satisfying novel will immediately draw readers into Hennie and Nit’s lives, and the unexpected twists will keep them hooked through to the bittersweet denouement.
Some friendships fizzle out. Rachel and Clara promised theirs would last forever.

They met in high school when Rachel was the shy, awkward new girl and Clara was the friend everyone wanted. Instantly, they fell under each other’s spell, and nothing would be the same again. Now in their late twenties, Rachel has the television career, the apartment, and the boyfriend, while Clara’s life is spiraling out of control. Yet despite everything, they remain inextricably bound. Then Rachel’s news editor assigns her to cover a police press conference, and she is shocked when she arrives to learn that the subject is Clara, reported missing. Is it an abduction, suicide, or something else altogether?

Imagine discovering something about your oldest friend that forces you to question everything you’ve shared together. The truth is always there. But only if you choose to see it.
Professor and the Madman, The
by Simon Winchester
10 copies (Nonfiction, 1998)

The Oxford English Dictionary used 1,827,306 quotations to help define its 414,825 words. Tens of thousands of those used in the first edition came from the erudite, moneyed American Civil War veteran Dr. W.C. Minor, all from a cell at the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. Vanity Fair contributor Winchester has told his story in an imaginative if somewhat superficial work of historical journalism. Pronounced insane and confined at Broadmoor with his collection of rare books, Minor happened upon a call for OED volunteers in the early 1880s. Here on more solid ground, Winchester enthusiastically chronicles Minor’s subsequent correspondence with editor Dr. J.A.H. Murray, who, as Winchester shows, understood that Minor’s endless scavenging for the first or best uses of words became his saving raison d’etre.

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The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley Powell's Perilous Journey and his Vision for the American West

by John F. Ross
12 Copies (Non Fiction, 2018)

A timely, thrilling account of a man who, as an explorer, dared to lead the first successful expedition down the Colorado through the Grand Canyon — and, as an American visionary, waged a bitterly-contested campaign for environmental sustainability in the American West.

When John Wesley Powell became the first person to navigate the entire Colorado River, through the Grand Canyon, he completed what Lewis and Clark had begun nearly 70 years earlier — the final exploration of continental America. The son of an abolitionist preacher, a Civil War hero (who lost an arm at Shiloh), and a passionate naturalist and geologist, in 1869 Powell tackled the vast and dangerous gorge carved by the Colorado River and known today (thanks to Powell) as the Grand Canyon.

With The Promise of the Grand Canyon, John Ross recreates Powell's expedition in all its glory and terror, but his second (unheralded) career as a scientist, bureaucrat, and land-management pioneer concerns us today. Powell was the first to ask: how should the development of the west be shaped? How much could the land support? What was the role of the government and private industry in all of this? He began a national conversation about sustainable development when most everyone else still looked upon land as an inexhaustible resource. Though he supported irrigation and dams, his prescient warnings forecast the 1930s dust bowl and the growing water scarcities of today. Practical, yet visionary, Powell didn't have all the answers, but was first to ask the right questions.

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The Pursuit of Happyness
by Chris Gardner with Quincy Troupe
8 copies (Nonfiction, 2006)

At the age of twenty, Milwaukee native Chris Gardner, just out of the Navy, arrived in San Francisco to pursue a promising career in medicine. Considered a prodigy in scientific research, he surprised everyone and himself by setting his sights on the competitive world of high finance. Yet no sooner had he landed an entry-level position at a prestigious firm than Gardner found himself caught in a web of incredibly challenging circumstances that left him as part of the city’s working homeless and with a toddler son. Motivated by the promise he made to himself as a fatherless child to never abandon his own children, the two spent almost a year moving among shelters, "HO-tels," soup lines, and even sleeping in the public restroom of a subway station.

Never giving in to despair, Gardner made an astonishing transformation from being part of the city's invisible poor to being a powerful player in its financial district.

More than a memoir of Gardner's financial success, this is the story of a man who breaks his own family’s cycle of men abandoning their children. Mythic, triumphant, and unstintingly honest, The Pursuit of Happyness conjures heroes like Horatio Alger and Antwone Fisher, and appeals to the very essence of the American Dream.

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Rebecca
by Daphne Du Maurier
12 copies (Fiction, 1938)

Rebecca is a novel of mystery and passion, a dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves and an estate called Manderley that is as much a presence as the humans who inhabit it. Manderley is filled with memories of the elegant and flamboyant Rebecca, the first Mrs. DeWinter; with the obsessive love of her housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers, who observes the young, timid second Mrs. DeWinter with sullen hostility; and with the oppressive silences of a secretive husband, Maxim. Rebecca may be physically dead, but she is a force to contend with, and the housekeeper’s evil matches that of her former mistress. The tension builds as the new Mrs. DeWinter slowly grows and asserts herself, surviving the wicked deceptions of Mrs. Danvers and the silent deceits of her husband, to emerge triumphant in the midst of a surprise ending that leaves the reader with a sense of haunting justice.

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Set during the American Civil War, the novel centers on a young farm boy named Henry Fleming whose dreams of glorious battle led him to sign up in the Union Army, against his mother's wishes. *The Red Badge of Courage* is Crane's most famous work and one of the most significant novels in American literature. Crane combined vivid imagery, realistic detail, and an objective narrative perspective with the impressionistically rendered, subjective viewpoint of the main character to create a work of unique power. Simultaneously proclaimed as representing the literary schools of realism, naturalism, and symbolism, the novel treats such themes as the conflict between illusion and reality, the interplay of courage and fear, and the absence of God and meaning in the universe. This is also the first novel to depict modern warfare and the psychological effects of battle on the individual participant.

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Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he spends his days working below the ground, believing that the blood and sweat of his people are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations.

But Darrow and his kind have been betrayed. Discovering that humanity colonized the surface generations ago — establishing vast cities and lush wilds — Darrow realizes that he and his fellow Reds are nothing more than slaves to a decadent ruling class.

Driven by a longing for justice and the memory of lost love, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity’s overlords struggle for power. There he will be forced to compete for his life and the very future of civilization against the best and most brutal of Society’s elite. But he will stop at nothing to bring down his enemies…even if he must become one of them to do so.
Reliable Wife, A
by Robert Goolrick
11 copies (Fiction, 2009)

Wisconsin, 1907. When Catherine Land, who’s survived a traumatic early life by using her wits and sexuality as weapons, happens on a newspaper ad from a well-to-do businessman in need of a “reliable wife,” she invents a plan to benefit from his riches and his need. Her new husband, Ralph Truitt, discovers she’s deceived him the moment she arrives in his remote hometown. Driven by a complex mix of emotions and simple animal attraction, he marries her anyway. After the wedding, Catherine helps Ralph search for his estranged son and, despite growing misgivings, begins to poison him with small doses of arsenic. Ralph sickens but doesn’t die, and their story unfolds in ways neither they nor the reader expect. This darkly nuanced psychological tale builds to a strong and satisfying close.

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John Baptiste Richard, known by the French pronunciation of his last name, Reshaw, was an opportunist. The early American West was changing fast, and Richard jumped on opportunities before most men even realized they existed.

He was a fearless adrenaline junkie, always on the edge of danger in his many personifications: frontiersman, trapper, Indian trader, whiskey smuggler, bridge builder and operator, rancher, Colorado gold rush merchant, military interpreter and scout, reliable scout, ruthless barterer. Though considered a scoundrel by some, he lived by his own code of ethics and helped shape the early West.
Several years ago, Benjamin Benjamin, 39, had it all: a happy marriage and two young children. Then the unthinkable happened: he lost his wife, his young children, and his job. Today his life couldn't differ more. Still reeling from the loss, he signs up for a night class called "The Fundamentals of Caregiving." His first assignment is the wheelchair-bound Trevor Conklin, a smart-mouthed 19-year-old succumbing to the paralyzing effects of muscular dystrophy. After endless hours of watching the Weather Channel, they decide to take a road trip to see Trev's dad and to visit America's oddest attractions. As they travel from Washington to Utah, picking up an assortment of interesting characters along the way, Ben reflects on the terrible event that destroyed his family.
Riding the Bus with My Sister
By Rachel Simon
10 copies (Nonfiction, 2003)

When she received an invitation to her mentally retarded sister's annual Plan of Care review, Simon realized that this was Beth's way of attempting to bring her back into her life. Beth challenged the author to give a year of her life to riding "her" buses with her. Even though Simon didn't know where it would take her, she accepted. During that time, she came to see her sister as a person in her own right with strong feelings about how she wanted to live her life, despite what others thought. Not everyone on the buses, drivers or passengers, liked or even tolerated Beth, and it shamed the author to realize that she sometimes felt the same way about her sibling. As the year passed, Simon came to the realization that "No one can be a good sister all the time. I can only try my best. Just because I am not a saint does not mean that I am a demon." The time together became a year of personal discovery, of acceptance, and of renewed sibling love and closeness.
Riding the Edge of an Era: Growing Up Cowboy on the Outlaw Trail

by Diana Allen Kouris
8 copies (Nonfiction, 2009)

In this elegant and illuminating true story, Diana Allen Kouris tells of growing up on the historic Browns Park Livestock Ranch, where in the 1800s Butch Cassidy found sanctuary, and nearly a century later her family hosted Robert Redford as he retraced the Outlaw Trail. In her description of the joys and tragedies of ranch and family life, she captures the human spirit as beautiful, dynamic, and vital as the land. Ironically, it is the uniqueness and beauty of the land that eventually brings change and hastens the end of the lifestyle generations of her family knew. But because she rode on the edge of a vanishing era and brings it vigorously to life, it will remain in her heart.

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A River Runs Through It concerns the Macleans, a Presbyterian family during early 20th century Montana whose opinions of life are filtered through their passion for fly fishing. The novella is presented from the point of view of older brother Norman who goes on one last fishing trip with his rowdy and troubled younger brother Paul in an attempt to help him get his life on track. After a brief introduction of his early life, most of the action takes place during the summer of 1937 and both Norman and Paul were in their early 30s.

The novella is noted for using detailed descriptions of fly fishing and nature to engage with a number of profound metaphysical questions. In a review for the Chicago Tribune, critic Alfred Kazin stated: “There are passages here of physical rapture in the presence of unsullied primitive America that are as beautiful as anything in Thoreau and Hemingway.”
River Why, The
By David James Duncan
13 copies (Fiction, 1983)

The classic novel of fly-fishing and spirituality republished with a new afterword by the author.

Since its publication in 1983, The River Why has become a classic. David James Duncan’s sweeping novel is a coming-of-age comedy about love, nature, and the quest for self-discovery, written in a voice as distinct and powerful as any in American letters.

Gus Orviston is a young fly fisherman who leaves behind his amusingly schizoid family to find his own path. Taking refuge in a remote cabin, he sets out in the pursuit of the Pacific Northwest’s elusive steelhead. But what begins as a physical quarry becomes a spiritual one as his quest for self-knowledge batters him with unforeseeable experiences.

Profoundly reflective about our connection to nature and to one another, The River Why is also a comedic roller coaster. Like Gus, the reader emerges transformed by the journey Duncan so expertly navigates.

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This searing, post-apocalyptic novel is destined to become Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece. A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have only a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food, and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey and an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.
Road from Coorain, The
by Jill Ker Conway
10 copies (Nonfiction, 1989)

She was seven before she ever saw another girl child. At eight, still too small to mount her horse unaided, she was galloping miles, alone, across Coorain, her parents’ thirty thousand windswept, drought-haunted acres in the Australian outback, doing a “man’s job” of helping herd the sheep because World War II had taken away the able-bodied men. She loved (and makes us see and feel) the vast unpeopled landscape, beautiful and hostile, whose uncertain weathers tormented the sheep ranchers with conflicting promises of riches and inescapable disaster. She adored (and makes us know) her large-visioned father and her strong, radiant mother, who had gone willingly with him into a pioneering life of loneliness and bone-breaking toil, who seemed miraculously to succeed in creating a warmly sheltering home in the harsh outback, and who, upon her husband's sudden death when Jill was ten, began to slide -- bereft of the partnership of work and love that had so utterly fulfilled her -- into depression and dependency.

We see Jill, staggered by the loss of her father, catapulted to what seemed another planet -- the suburban Sydney of the 1950s and its crowded, noisy, cliquish school life. Then the heady excitement of the University, but with it a yet more demanding course of lessons -- Jill embracing new ideas, new possibilities, while at the same time trying to be a mother to her mother and resenting it, escaping into drink, pulling herself back, striking a balance. We see her slowly gaining strength, coming into her own emotionally and intellectually -and beginning the joyous love affair that gave wings to her newfound self.

Worlds away from Coorain, in America, Jill Conway became a historian and the first woman president of Smith College. Her story of Coorain and the road from Coorain startles by its passion and evocative power, by its understanding of the ways in which a total, deep-rooted commitment to place -- or to a dream -- can at once liberate and imprison. It is a story of childhood as both Eden and anguish, and of growing up as a journey toward the difficult life of the free.

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In 1969, when she was six years old, Natalie Kusz, with her parents and three siblings, left Los Angeles and headed north to Alaska on a classic quest for freedom, a house on the land, and a more wholesome way of living. As with so many pioneers in our history, a heroic struggle and hardships of epic proportions lay ahead of them. What makes their adventure so remarkable is that it happened barely twenty years ago.
Don Tillman, genetics professor, is getting married. Or he will be, when his sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey yields a candidate (see: the Wife Project). Designed to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the vegans, the late arrivers, Don’s questionnaire is, for this socially challenged academic, the most logical method to find the perfect partner.

Enter Rosie Jarman.

Don quickly disqualifies her as a potential wife but is drawn into Rosie’s quest to find her biological father (see: the Father Project). When something like a friendship develops, Don must confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie and the decidedly unscientific conclusion that sometimes you don't find love, it finds you.
The Samurai’s Garden
by Gail Tsukiyama
8 copies (Fiction, 1994)

In this beautifully crafted novel by Tsukiyama, the world outside the small Japanese village of Tarumi is a world of polarities: East vs. West, Japanese vs. Chinese, etc. Within Tarumi, however, a person can exist as simply as a polished stone in a garden. When Chinese university student Stephen Chan’s tuberculosis pushes him to the thin border of death, his father sends him from their home in Hong Kong to the family’s beach house in Tarumi. The year is 1937, and the Japanese Imperial Army is on a steamrolling conquest through China. In idyllic Tarumi, however, Stephen swims, paints and grows healthier, meanwhile befriendng Matsu, the caretaker of the house. Strong, silent Matsu is the epitome of the samurai, displaying his aristocratic heritage in the tender way that he cares for his exquisite garden. The storm that demolishes years of work is a counterpart to the grief that washes over Matsu when he thinks of his beloved, Sachi, who is a leper. Becoming engrossed in the lovers’ tragic story, Stephen stays on in Tarumi, aware that By doing so he is avoiding a confrontation with his own father, who has confessed to an affair that will break up the family. Tsukiyama’s writing is crystalline and delicate, notably in her evocation of time and place. This quiet tale of affection between people whose countries are at war speaks of a humanity that transcends geopolitics.

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A history of the Sand Bar is about a colorful and wild area of Casper, Wyoming, still known as the Sand bar. This area of town was at one time a boomtown in itself; a district where men and women outside the law congregated to create a haven for criminals. In the late 1960s, however, the City of Casper chose to redirect the use of the Sand Bar so that it then became a respective adjunct to the city’s legitimate business district. This book reflects the Sand Bar’s history from Casper’s beginnings to the end of urban renewal, as well as the more recent suggestion that the area become a site for a new public library facility.
In Sarah’s Key, Tatiana de Rosnay offers up a mesmerizing story in which a tragic past unfolds, the present is torn apart, and the future is irrevocably altered.

Pairs, July 1942: Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door-to-door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard – their secret hiding place – and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released.

Sixty Years Later: Sarah’s story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the roundup. In her research, Julia stumbles onto a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her own romantic future.
“It was about four years ago, the last trip we ever took together – my mother, sister, grandparents and me. Course, we didn’t know it at the time. You never know something like that, like it’s the last one you’ll ever get, till it’s just a memory, hanging like mist.

This is what happened that summer, true as I can tell it.

Not a one of us was ever the same.”

When single mother Priscilla Lynn Macy learns she’s having another child unexpectedly, she packs the family into the car to escape. Eight-year-old Janie and Rainey Dae, her seventeen-year-old sister with special needs, embark on the last family vacation they’ll ever take with Poppy and Grandma Mona in the back seat.
Scent of Rain and Lightning, The
by Nancy Pickard
12 Copies (Fiction, 2010)

One beautiful summer afternoon, Jody Linder receives shocking news: The man convicted of murdering her father is being released from prison and returning to the small town of Rose, Kansas. It has been twenty-three years since that stormy night when her father was shot and killed and her mother disappeared, presumed dead. Neither the protective embrace of Jody’s three uncles nor the safe haven of her grandparents’ ranch could erase the pain caused by Billy Crosby on that catastrophic night.

Now Billy Crosby is free, thanks to the efforts of his son, Collin, a lawyer who has spent most of his life trying to prove his father’s innocence. Despite their long history of carefully avoiding each other in such an insular community, Jody and Collin find that they share an exclusive sense of loss.

As Jody revisits old wounds, startling truths emerge about her family’s tragic past. But even through struggle and hardship, she still dares to hope for a better future—and maybe even love.
Fragments of a Great Secret have been found in the oral traditions, in literature, in religions and philosophies throughout the centuries. For the first time, all the pieces of The Secret come together in an incredible revelation that will be life-transforming for all who experience it. In this book, you'll learn how to use The Secret in every aspect of your life – money, health, relationships, happiness, and in every interaction you have in the world. You'll begin to understand the hidden, untapped power that's within you, and this revelation can bring joy to every aspect of your life. The Secret contains wisdom from modern-day teachers – men and women who have used it to achieve health, wealth, and happiness. By applying the knowledge of The Secret, they bring to light compelling stories of eradicating disease, acquiring massive wealth, overcoming obstacles, and achieving what many would regard as impossible.
Secret Life of Bees, The
by Sue Monk Kidd
8 copies (Fiction, 2002)

This sweeping debut novel, excerpts of which have appeared in Best American Short Stories, tells the tale of a 14-year-old white girl named Lily Owen who is raised by the elderly African American Rosaleen after the accidental death of Lily’s mother. Following a racial brawl in 1960s Tiburon, South Carolina, Lily and Rosaleen find shelter in a distant town with three black bee-keeping sisters. The sisters and their close-knit community of women live within the confines of racial and gender bondage and yet have an unmistakable strength and serenity associated with the worship of a black Madonna and the healing power of honey. In a series of unforgettable events, Lily discovers the truth about her mother’s past and the certainty that “the hardest thing on earth is choosing what matters.”

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Sergeant Stubby: How a Stray Dog and His Best Friend Helped Win World War 1 and Stole the Heart of a Nation

By Ann Bausum
10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2014)

In this inspiring, all-American story, author Ann Bausum brings back to life one of the most celebrated dogs of the 20th century – Stubby. Bausum sifts facts from legend to revive the true adventures of a seemingly average stump-tailed terrier turned national icon and World War I hero. After Stubby befriends Pvt. James Robert Conroy, the pair become inseparable as they embark on a journey carrying them across an ocean, into the trenches of France with the Yankee Division, and onto the path of history. Stubby’s transformation from stray to stowaway to star reminds readers of the magic that can happen when a bond forms between a human and a dog.

The definitive biography of Stubby benefits from exhaustive research that restores fractured story threads; unearths unpublished photographs; and reconnects Stubby, now on display at the Smithsonian, with Conroy’s descendants. Stirring, humorous, heartwarming, and unbelievably true – Stubby’s story in an inspiring read for everyone.
Shepherds of Coyote Rocks
by Cat Urbigkit
11 Copies (Nonfiction, 2012)

Shepherd, writer, and photographer Cat Urbigkit journeys to spend a season alone on Wyoming’s open range, tending to a flock of domestic sheep as they give birth amid the challenges of nature – everything from severe weather to a wealth of predators. Her only companions are her herding dog, Abe, and her guardian animals, a trio of large, powerful dogs and a pair of burros. All of them prove their worth again and again in their devotion to the flock. This is an account of her first season on the range, a season that will determine whether Urbigkit and her family will be able to continue in the ranching business.

Shepherds of Coyote Rocks is an action-packed true story that reveals the broad spectrum of the human relationship with nature, encompassing harmony, rugged adventure, and everything in between.

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Shot Down!: Capital Crimes of Casper
by Charlotte Babcock
11 Copies (Nonfiction, 2000)

Who shot the sheriff? Murders, crimes of passion, barroom brawls, a lynching--they exploded with the birth of the new town of Casper, Wyoming. Shot Down! chronicles the capital crimes of Casper from 1890 until 1913. Author Babcock tells of the first murder when the bartender in Louella Polk's dance hall shot Red Jack Tidwell, this only months after Polk's nose had been cut off by her suitor and business partner. Read about the most famous murder when Harvey "Kid Curry" Logan of Wild Bunch fame killed popular sheriff Joe Hazen. Learn of Casper's first lynching, when justice did not move fast enough for leading citizens who wore masks as they strung up condemned man Charles Woodard.
Simple Murder, A  
by Eleanor Kuhns  
10 Copies (Fiction, 2012)

Five years ago, while William Rees was still recovering from his stint as a Revolutionary War soldier, his beloved wife died. Devastated, Will Rees left his son, David, in his sister’s care, fled his Maine farm, and struck out for a tough but emotionally empty life as a traveling weaver. Now, upon returning unexpectedly to his farm, Rees discovers that David has been treated like a serf for years and finally ran away to join a secluded religious sect—the Shakers.

Overwhelmed by guilt and hoping to reconcile with his son, Rees immediately follows David to the Shaker community. But when a young Shaker woman is brutally murdered shortly after Rees’s arrival, Rees finds himself launched into a complicated investigation where the bodies keep multiplying, a tangled web of family connections casts suspicion on everyone, and the beautiful woman on the edge of the Shaker community might be hiding troubling ties to the victims. It quickly becomes clear that in solving Sister Chastity’s murder, Rees may well expose some of the Shaker community’s darkest secrets, not to mention endanger his own life.

An atmospheric portrait of a compelling time in American history, A Simple Murder is an outstanding debut from Eleanor Kuhns, Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America’s 2011 First Crime Novel Competition Winner.
When her mom calls to tell her that Tess, her younger sister, is missing, Bee returns home to London on the first flight. She expects to find Tess and give her the usual lecture, the bossy big sister scolding her flighty baby sister for taking off without letting anyone know her plans. Tess has always been a free spirit, an artist who takes risks, while conservative Bee couldn't be more different. Bee is used to watching out for her wayward sibling and is fiercely protective of Tess (and has always been a little stern about her antics). But then Tess is found dead, apparently by her own hand. Bee is certain that Tess didn't commit suicide. Their family and the police accept the sad reality, but Bee feels sure that Tess has been murdered. Single-minded in her search for a killer, Bee moves into Tess's apartment and throws herself headlong into her sister's life—and all its secrets. Though her family and the police see a grieving sister in denial, unwilling to accept the facts, Bee uncovers the affair Tess was having with a married man and the pregnancy that resulted, and her difficulty with a stalker who may have crossed the line when Tess refused his advances. Tess was also participating in an experimental medical trial that might have gone very wrong. As a determined Bee gives her statement to the lead investigator, her story reveals a predator who got away with murder—and an obsession that may cost Bee her own life. A thrilling story of fierce love between siblings, *Sister* is a suspenseful and accomplished debut with a stunning twist.

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Sky Burial: an epic love story of Tibet
by Xinran
10 Copies (Fiction, 2004)

It was 1994 when Xinran, a journalist and the internationally acclaimed author of *The Good Women of China*, received a telephone call asking her to travel four hours to meet a woman who had just crossed the border from Tibet into China.

Xinran made the trip and met the woman, called Shu Wen, who recounted the story of her thirty-year odyssey in the vast landscape of Tibet. In *Sky Burial*, Xinran has re-created Shu Wen's journey, painting an extraordinary portrait of a woman and a land, each at the mercy of fate and politics. It is an unforgettable, ultimately uplifting tale of love, loss, loyalty, and survival.

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Slaughterhouse Five
by Kurt Vonnegut
12 copies (Fiction, 1969)

The book blends science fiction with historical facts, notably Vonnegut's own experience as a prisoner of war in Dresden, Ger., during the Allied firebombing of that city in early 1945.

While serving in the army during World War II, Billy Pilgrim becomes "unstuck in time," and from that point on he lives concurrently on Earth and on the distant planet Tralfamadore. On Earth Billy preaches the fatalistic philosophy of the Tralfamadorians, who know the future of all things, including the inevitable demise of the universe. They are resigned to fate, unfailingly responding to events with their catchphrase, "So it goes."
In his first novel published in English, Danish author Hoeg offers readers a wonderfully original, elegantly crafted, ominously savage story. The plot is cryptically clever, beginning with the death of a six-year-old boy and ending with the discovery of an international smuggling ring. The pervasive violence—both to the body and to the soul—is recounted so matter-of-factly as to be doubly chilling, and the characters are as mesmerizing, as enigmatic, and as engrossing as any populating the pages of recent crime fiction. But perhaps Hoeg's most wonderful invention is heroine Smilla Jaspersen, a rebellious, stubborn, tough, fearless Eskimo woman who's spent most of her life in Copenhagen. She has an uncanny sense of direction, a love of Isaac Newton's theories, and a gift for mathematics. She treasures her aloneness, successfully hiding her vulnerability under a near-impenetrable facade of aggressiveness—an aggressiveness that has caused her to be an outcast most of her life but that serves her well when she decides her six-year-old neighbor, Isaiah, did not die accidentally. Be forewarned that this is not an easy book to read. Its leaps and starts, from present to past to future, are confusing. Cryptic references and ambiguous, unexplained plot twists are often frustrating. But readers who persevere will be well rewarded. While the book may not appeal to mystery buffs looking only for pure entertainment, it is a must-read for serious fans of the genre.
San Piedro Island, north of Puget Sound, is a place so isolated that no one who lives there can afford to make enemies. But in 1954 a local fisherman is found suspiciously drowned, and a Japanese American named Kabuo Miyamoto is charged with his murder. In the ensuing trial, it becomes clear that what is at stake is more than a man’s guilt. For on San Piedro, memories grow as thickly as cedar trees and the fields of ripe strawberries – memories of a charmed love affair between a white boy and the Japanese girl who grew up to become Kabuo's wife; memories of land desired, paid for, and lost. Above all, San Piedro is haunted By the memory of what happened to its Japanese residents during World War II, when an entire community was sent into exile while its neighbors watched.
Lily at 80 reflects on her life, beginning with her days in 19th-century rural China. Foot-binding was practiced by all but the poorest families, and the graphic descriptions of it are not for the fainthearted. Yet women had nu shu, their own secret language. At the instigation of a matchmaker, Lily and Snow Flower, a girl from a larger town and supposedly from a well-connected, wealthy family, become laotong, bound together for life. Even when Lily learns that Snow Flower is not from a better family, even when Lily marries above Snow Flower, they remain close, exchanging nu shu written on a fan. When war comes and Lily is separated from her family, she survives the winter helped By Snow Flower's husband, a lowly butcher. As the years pass, the women's relationship changes: Lily grows more powerful in her community, bitter, and hard, until at last she breaks her bond with Snow Flower. They are not reunited until Lily tries to make Snow Flower comfortable in her dying days. Their friendship illustrates the profoundest human emotions: love and hate, self-absorption and devotion, pride and humility.
Off the coast of Rhode Island, wartime disrupts the lives of the inhabitants of a New England islet. The men of Snow Island engage in the dangerous business of quahogging, and their families eke out a living running small businesses that depend on the wealthier summer residents for survival. Alice Daggett is 16 years old in 1941. She attends school in a one-room schoolhouse with twins Lydia and Pete Giberson, the only companions her age on the island, and has shouldered the responsibility of keeping the family store running since the death of her father five years earlier. While the rebellious Lydia spends her time with the summer in-crowd, Alice secretly becomes close to Ethan Cunningham, the 26-year-old lighthouse keeper with artistic ambitions. The quiet off-season life of the island changes dramatically after Pearl Harbor: After Ethan enlists, soon followed by Pete and Lydia, Alice is left alone to grapple with the consequences of her relationships and her growing sense of self.
So Brave, Young, and Handsome
by Leif Enger
10 Copies (Fiction, 2008)

In 1915 Minnesota, Monte Becket—“a man fading, a disappointer of persons”—has lost his sense of purpose. His only success long behind him, Monte lives a simple life with his loving wife and whip smart son. But when he befriends outlaw Glendon Hale, a new world of opportunity and experience presents itself.

Glendon has spent years in obscurity, but the guilt he harbors for abandoning his wife, Blue, over two decades ago, has finally lured him from hiding. As the modern age marches swiftly forward, Glendon aims to travel back into his past—heading to California to seek Blue’s forgiveness. Beguiled and inspired, Monte soon finds himself leaving behind his own family to embark for the unruly West with his fugitive guide—a journey that will test the depth of his loyalties, the inviolability of his morals, and the strength of his resolve. As they flee from the relentless Charles Siringo, an ex-Pinkerton who’s been hunting Glendon for years, Monte falls ever further from his family and the law, to be tempered by a fiery adventure from which he may never get home.

With its smooth mix of romanticism and gritty reality, So Brave, Young, and Handsome often recalls the Old West’s greatest cowboy stories. But it is also about an ordinary man’s determination as he risks everything in order to understand what it’s all worth, and follows an unlikely dream in the hope it will lead him back home.

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Women have always followed the troops, but military laundresses were the first to be carried on the rolls of the U.S. Army. They traveled and lived alongside the soldiers during two of the most important conflicts in United States history: the Civil War and the war on the western frontier.

A few laundresses made names for themselves. Laundresses who “got written up” in records, diaries, and newspapers were often involved in colorful or unfortunate circumstances. No, they were not all “loose women.” Some were; however, most were simply brave, adventurous, and unorthodox women.

They marched with the army for hundreds of miles, carrying their babies and tugging small children behind them. Among the first non-native women on lonely frontier outposts, they waited in frightened huddles in camps and forts for their soldier-husbands to return from dangerous campaigns.

Susie King Taylor, born a slave, taught both black children and soldiers to read and write between washing piles of laundry. A Mexican-American War laundress was eulogized as able to “whip any man, fair fight or foul; shoot a pistol better than anyone; and outplay or out-cheat any gambler.” A well-known laundress from the Indian War period, Mrs. Nash, kept a secret that remained undiscovered until her death. Little note was made of laundresses who worked hard day after day, like Maggie Flood, who faced special family challenges on the frontier.
This powerful novel portrays an emotionally charged marriage that changes course in one explosive moment. For years, Jane Jones has lived in the shadow of her husband, renowned San Diego oceanographer Oliver Jones. But during an escalating argument, Jane turns on him with an alarming volatility. In anger and fear, Jane leaves with their teenage daughter, Rebecca, for a cross-country odyssey charted by letters from her brother Joley, guiding them to his Massachusetts apple farm, where surprising self-discoveries await. Now Oliver, an expert at tracking humpback whales across vast oceans, will search for his wife across a continent – and find a new way to see the world, his family, and himself: through her eyes.
The Spirit of Steamboat: A Walt Longmire Story
by Craig Johnson
12 Copies (Fiction, 2013)

Bestseller Johnson (A Serpent's Tooth) delivers a nail-biter with this seasonal Walt Longmire novella. On a snowy Christmas Eve, while reading A Christmas Carol, the Wyoming sheriff receives an unexpected visitor: a part-Japanese young woman who says she needs to see Walt's predecessor as sheriff, Lucian Connally, a WWII vet who flew in the Doolittle raid on Tokyo in 1942 and is now in a rest home. Flashback to December 24, 1988. A girl seriously injured in a traffic accident has to get to Denver fast for treatment, but a blizzard makes flying her there hazardous. Furthermore, the only plane available is an antique B-25, named Steamboat after the bucking bronco on Wyoming's license plate, and the only pilot who can fly Steamboat is Lucian. Soon, the two lawmen, their team, and the patient are aloft, fighting the weather and a host of mechanical problems. While the outcome is never in doubt, the woman's meeting with Lucian in the present day holds more than one surprise.

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The Spy Who Came in from the Cold
by John Le Carré
10 Copies (Fiction, Mystery, 1963)

In the shadow of the newly erected Berlin Wall, Alec Leamas watches as his last agent is shot dead by East German sentries. For Leamas, the head of Berlin Station, the Cold War is over. As he faces the prospect of retirement or worse—a desk job—Control offers him a unique opportunity for revenge. Assuming the guise of an embittered and dissolute ex-agent, Leamas is set up to trap Mundt, the deputy director of the East German Intelligence Service—with himself as the bait.

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Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of King Lear. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end.

Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band’s existence. And as the story takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed.
Steamboat, Legendary Bucking Horse: His Life & Times and the Cowboys Who Tried to Tame Him
by Candy Vyvey Moulton and Flossie Moulton
8 Copies (Nonfiction, 1992)

Candy and Flossie Moulton present the story behind this horse whose likeness has become the symbol of Wyoming seen on the state’s license plates and as the University of Wyoming logo. The book traces the history of the bucking horse from his youth on the Two Bar outfit of the Swan Land and Cattle Company through his rise to the undisputed World Champion Bucking Horse.

Was Steamboat the horse who “wouldn’t be rode?” Which men climbed aboard the big black horse? Who is the cowboy atop the horse on the famous logo? How is Steamboat connected to Cheyenne Frontier Days, the notorious range detective Tom Horn, and the Irwin Brothers Wild West Show?

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Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers
by Mary Roach
5 copies (Nonfiction, 2003)

For two thousand years, cadavers – some willingly, some unwittingly – have been involved in science’s boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. They’ve tested France’s first guillotines, ridden the NASA Space Shuttle, been crucified in a Parisian laboratory to test the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin, and helped solve the mystery of TWA Flight 800. For every new surgical procedure, from heart transplants to gender reassignment surgery, cadavers have been there alongside surgeons, making history in their quiet way. In this fascinating, ennobling account, Mary Roach visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries from the anatomy labs and human-sourced pharmacies of medieval and 19th-century Europe to a human decay research facility in Tennessee, to a plastic surgery practice lab, to a Scandinavian funeral directors’ conference on human composting. In her droll, inimitable voice, Roach tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them.

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Stitches
by David Small
9 Copies (Nonfiction, 2009)

One day David Small awoke from a supposedly harmless operation to discover that he had been transformed into a virtual mute. A vocal cord removed, his throat slashed and stitched together like a bloody boot, the fourteen-year-old boy had not been told that he had cancer and was expected to die.

In Stitches, Small, the award-winning children's illustrator and author, recreates this terrifying event in a life story that might have been imagined By Kafka. As the images painfully tumble out, one By one, we gain a ringside seat at a gothic family drama, where David — a highly anxious yet supremely talented child—all too often became the unwitting object of his parents' buried frustration and rage.

Depicting this coming-of-age story with dazzling, kaleidoscopic images that render nightmare in a form that becomes a fairytale in itself, Small tells us of his journey from sickly child, to cancer patient, to troubled teen, whose risky decision to run away from home at 16 — with nothing more than the dream of becoming an artist — would become the ultimate survival statement.

A silent movie masquerading as a book, Stitches is as much a memoir as a tale of redemption that informs us that things can get better, that good can emerge from evil, and that art has the power to transform. It is a both a profound gift and a remarkable achievement, a book that renders a broken world suddenly seamless and beautiful again.

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Stuffed: Adventures of a Restaurant Family
by Patricia Volk
Large Print, 10 copies (Nonfiction, 2001)

Patricia Volk’s enchanting memoir nails 20th-century American life and the glorious eccentricities of her relatives with the vivid detail of a fiction writer. Volk begins with her adored immediate family: charismatic father, hypercritical but loving mother, and older sister Jo Ann, best friend and occasional mortal enemy. But they are only the beginning, just as the garment-district restaurant that rules her father’s life is only one of the family achievements. Great-grandfather Sussman brought pastrami to the New World. Grandfather Jake, a demolition expert, was profiled in The New Yorker. “Everybody did one thing better than anybody else. Aunt Gertie sang the works of Victor Herbert. Aunt Ruthie mamboed. Granny Ethel braked with such finesse it was impossible to tell the moment the car went from moving to a stop.” All these great stories are arranged along a casual chronological arc, but nothing is ever really finished. Her father closes Morgen’s in Manhattan; her sister’s husband opens a trendy food shop in Florida. “We’re still feeding people,” Volk asserts. Readers will find her prose as delicious as family housekeeper Mattie’s chocolate cake.

Recipes included.
A United States diplomat disappears in front of hundreds of onlookers while attending a religious ceremony in the bushveld of Zimbabwe.

Dominic Grey, Diplomatic Security special agent, product of a violent childhood and a worn passport, is assigned to investigate. Aiding the investigation is Professor Viktor Radek, religious phenomenologist and expert on cults, and Nya Mashumba, the local government liaison.

What Grey uncovers is a terrifying cult older than Western civilization, the harsh underbelly of a country in despair, a priest seemingly able to perform impossibilities, and the identity of the newest target.

Himself…
One of the most celebrated novels of its time, The Pulitzer Prize winner *A Summons to Memphis* introduces the Carver family, natives of Nashville, residents, with the exception of Phillip, of Memphis, Tennessee.

During the twilight of a Sunday afternoon in March, New York book editor Phillip Carver receives an urgent phone call from each of his older, unmarried sisters. They plead with Phillip to help avert their widower father’s impending remarriage to a younger woman. Hesitant to get embroiled in a family drama, he reluctantly agrees to go back south, only to discover the true motivation behind his sisters’ concern. While there, Phillip is forced to confront his domineering siblings, a controlling patriarch, and a flood of memories from his troubled past.

Peter Taylor is one of the masters of Southern literature, whose work stands in the company of Eudora Welty, James Agee, and Walker Percy. In *A Summons to Memphis*, he composed a richly evocative story of revenge, resolution, and redemption, and gave us a classic work of American literature.

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He gained renown as the sidekick of Butch Cassidy, but the Sundance Kid – whose real name was Harry Alonzo Longabaugh – led a fuller life than history or Hollywood has allowed.

A relative of Longabaugh through marriage, Donna B. Ernst has spent more than a quarter century researching his life. She now brings to print the most thorough account ever of one of the West’s most infamous outlaws, tracing his life from his childhood in Pennsylvania to his involvement in the Wild Bunch and, in 1908, to his reputed death by gunshot in Bolivia.

Combining genealogical research, access to family records, and explorations in historical archives, Ernst details the Sundance Kid’s movements to paint a complete picture of the man. While taking readers on the wild chase that became Longabaugh’s life, outracing posses and Pinkertons, Ernst corrects inaccuracies in the historical record. She demonstrates that he could not have participated in the Belle Fourche bank heist or the Tipton train robbery and refutes speculations that Butch and Sundance managed to escape their fate in Bolivia.

*The Sundance Kid* is enlivened by more than three dozen photographs, including family photos never before seen.
It is the summer of 1950 – and at the once-grand mansion of Buckshaw, young Flavia de Luce, an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison, is intrigued by a series of inexplicable events: A dead bird is found on the doorstep, a postage stamp bizarrely pinned to its beak. Then, hours later, Flavia finds a man lying in the cucumber patch and watches him as he takes his dying breath. For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. “I wish I could say I was afraid, but I wasn’t. Quite the contrary. This was far the most interesting thing that had ever happened to me in my entire life.”

*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* is an enthralling mystery, a wonderfully told tale of deception – and a rich literary delight.
In the sleepy rural town of Painters Mill, Ohio, the Amish and "English" residents have lived side by side for two centuries. But sixteen years ago, a series of brutal murders shattered the peaceful farming community. In the aftermath of the violence, the town was left with a sense of fragility, a loss of innocence. Kate Burkholder, a young Amish girl, survived the terror of the Slaughterhouse Killer but came away from its brutality with the realization that she no longer belonged with the Amish.

Now, a wealth of experience later, Kate has been asked to return to Painters Mill as chief of police. Her Amish roots and big-city law enforcement background make her the perfect candidate. She’s certain she’s come to terms with her past – until the first body is discovered in a snowy field. Kate vows to stop the killer before he strikes again, but to do so, she must betray both her family and her Amish past – and expose a dark secret that could destroy her.
Tale for the Time Being, A
by Ruth Ozeki
10 Copies (Fiction, 2013)

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying. But before she ends it all, Nao first plans to document the life of her great grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace; and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine.

Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox; possibly debris from the devastating 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.

Full of Ozeki's signature humor and deeply engaged with the relationship between writer and reader, past and present, fact and fiction, quantum physics, history, and myth, A Tale for the Time Being is a brilliantly inventive, beguiling story of our shared humanity and the search for home.

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“Long before it legally served me, the bar saved me,” asserts J.R. Moehringer, and his compelling memoir *The Tender Bar* is the story of how and why. Moehringer grew up fatherless in pub-heavy Manhasset, New York, in a ramshackle house crammed with cousins and ruled by an eccentric, unkind grandfather. Desperate for a paternal figure, he turns first to his father, a DJ whom he can only access via the radio (Moehringer calls him The Voice and pictures him as “talking smoke”). When The Voice suddenly disappears from the airwaves, Moehringer turns to his hairless Uncle Charlie, and subsequently, Uncle Charlie’s place of employment – a bar called Dickens that soon takes center stage.
There There: A Novel
by Tommy Orange
12 copies (Fiction, 2018)

Fierce, angry, funny, heartbreaking – Tommy Orange’s first novel is a wondrous and shattering portrait of an America few of us have ever seen, and it introduces a brilliant new author at the start of a major career.

*There There* is a relentlessly paced multigenerational story about violence and recovery, memory and identity, and the beauty and despair woven into the history of a nation and its people. It tells the story of twelve characters, each of whom has private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. Jacquie Red Feather is newly sober and trying to make it back to the family she left behind in shame. Dene Exendene is pulling his life back together after his uncle’s death and has come to work at the powwow to honor his uncle’s memory. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield has come to watch her nephew Orvil, who has taught himself traditional Indian dance through YouTube videos and has come to the powwow to dance in public for the first time. There will be glorious communion, and a spectacle of sacred tradition and pageantry. And there will be sacrifice, and heroism, and unspeakable loss.

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A Thief of Time
by Tony Hillerman
12 copies (Fiction, 1988)

Tribal police officers Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee head a big and skillfully realized cast involved in the disappearance of anthropologist Eleanor Friedman-Bernal. Near Dr. Friedman-Bernal’s secret dig, Chee finds the bodies of men who have been stealing the Anasazi cultural relics the anthropologist is dedicated to protecting. Leaphorn makes his way to this dangerous, almost inaccessible site after consulting with Chee and questioning the missing woman’s friends, Maxie Davis and her colleague, Randall Elliott. They are also, the detective feels, prickly scientific rivals – a factor that deepens the mystery, as does each step on the trail that ends when Leaphorn’s mission seems accomplished in an eerie meeting with a mad hermit.
You can't stop the future.
You can't rewind the past.
The only way to learn the secret...is to press play.

Clay Jensen doesn't want anything to do with the tapes Hannah Baker made. Hannah is dead. Her secrets should be buried with her.

Then Hannah's voice tells Clay that his name is on her tapes—and that he is, in some way, responsible for her death.

All through the night, Clay keeps listening. He follows Hannah's recorded words throughout his small town...and what he discovers changes his life forever.
This is how you lose her
by Junot Diaz
15 copies (Fiction, 2012)

Pulitzer Prize-winner Junot Diaz's first book, Drown, established him as a major new writer with "the dispassionate eye of a journalist and the tongue of a poet" (Newsweek). His first novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, was named #1 Fiction Book of the Year" By Time magazine and spent more than 100 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, establishing itself - with more than a million copies in print - as a modern classic. In addition to the Pulitizer, Diaz has won a host of major awards and prizes, including the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Malamud Award, the PEN/O. Henry Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the Anisfield-Wolf Award.

Now Diaz turns his remarkable talent to the haunting, impossible power of love - obsessive love, illicit love, fading love, maternal love. On a beach in the Dominican Republic, a doomed relationship flounders. In the heat of a hospital laundry room in New Jersey, a woman does her lover's washing and thinks about his wife. In Boston, a man buys his love child, his only son, a first baseball bat and glove. At the heart of these stories is the irrepressible, irresistible Yunior, a young hardhead whose longing for love is equaled only By his recklessness--and By the extraordinary women he loves and loses: artistic Alma; the aging Miss Lora; Magdalena, who thinks all Dominican men are cheaters; and the love of his life, whose heartbreak ultimately becomes his own. In prose that is endlessly energetic, inventive, tender, and funny, the stories in This Is How You Lose Her lay bare the infinite longing and inevitable weakness of the human heart. They remind us that passion always triumphs over experience, and that "the half-life of love is forever."

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A Thousand Splendid Suns
by Khaled Hosseini
10 copies (Fiction, 2007)

Born a generation apart and with very different ideas about love and family, Mariam and Laila are two women brought jarringly together by war, by loss and by fate. As they endure the ever escalating dangers around them - in their home as well as in the streets of Kabul - they come to form a bond that makes them both sisters and mother-daughter to each other, and that will ultimately alter the course not just of their own lives but of the next generation. With heart-wrenching power and suspense, Hosseini shows how a woman's love for her family can move her to shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice, and that in the end it is love, or even the memory of love, that is often the key to survival.

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years - from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding - that puts the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by a tragic sweep of war, where personal lives - the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness - are inextricable from the history playing out around them.

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On a 1993 expedition to climb K2 in honor of his sister Christa, who died of epilepsy at age 23, Mortenson stumbled upon a remote mountain village in Pakistan. Out of gratitude for the villagers' assistance when he was lost and near death, he vowed to build a school for the children who were scratching lessons in the dirt. Raised by his missionary parents in Tanzania, Mortenson was used to dealing with exotic cultures and developing nations. Still, he faced daunting challenges of raising funds, death threats from enraged mullahs, separation from his family, and a kidnapping before eventually building 55 schools in Taliban territory. Mortenson’s slow and arduous task set became a one-man mission aimed particularly at bringing education to young girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
In *Thunderstruck*, Erik Larson tells the interwoven stories of two men—Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of a seemingly supernatural means of communication—whose lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time.

Set in Edwardian London and on the stormy coasts of Cornwall, Cape Cod, and Nova Scotia, *Thunderstruck* evokes the dynamism of those years when great shipping companies competed to build the biggest, fastest ocean liners, scientific advances dazzled the public with visions of a world transformed, and the rich outdid one another with ostentatious displays of wealth. Against this background, Marconi races against incredible odds and relentless skepticism to perfect his invention: the wireless, a prime catalyst for the emergence of the world we know today. Meanwhile, Crippen, “the kindest of men,” nearly commits the perfect crime.

Gripping from the first page, and rich with fascinating detail about the time, the people, and the new inventions that connect and divide us, *Thunderstruck* is a splendid narrative history from a master of the form.
When Karl Kessel, a turn-of-the century German emigrant, receives an unexpected gift, (another man's ticket to travel to America) he leaves behind his young wife and two small sons. Karl boards the KronPrinz Wilhelm, sailing for a country he knows nothing about - except that it promises the opportunity he covets. Arriving in America, Karl becomes obsessed with becoming the owner of a farm-to be his own man. When Karl's wife Katja steps off a train with their sons in the inhospitable wilds of sparsely settled Wyoming, she questions, "Is this where I am to spend the rest of my life?" Katja soon discovers that it is not only the geography of her situation which will make her life difficult, as she gives everything her husband demands of her, including eight children, but it is never enough. In her debut historical novel, Karen Schutte spins a compelling family story woven with rich historical detail, based on the true story of her own great grandparents' stark life in rural Wyoming. Her nuanced and unvarnished narrative exposes Karl's harsh nature alongside his determination to succeed at any cost. We see America change throughout the span of their life together. The family endures the Great Depression, world wars, and the unthinkable loss of a son. Karl's demanding and sometimes abusive treatment of his sons eventually drives them from home; yet it instills a fortitude that helps his fourth son survive the Bataan Death March. At the same time, we see the role of women change, as Katja finally becomes empowered to make demands of her own - to receive what was promised. The Ticket is an unforgettable and touching account of a true American family, filled with ambition, promises, love and loss, and ultimately, a legacy of survival.

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To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
6 copies (Fiction, 1960)

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

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In the last decade, public discussions of transgender issues have increased exponentially. However, with this increased visibility has come not just power, but regulation, both in favor of and against trans people. What was once regarded as an unusual or even unfortunate disorder has become an accepted articulation of gendered embodiment as well as a new site for political activism and political recognition. What happened in the last few decades to prompt such an extensive rethinking of our understanding of gendered embodiment? How did a stigmatized identity become so central to U.S. and European articulations of self? And how have people responded to the new definitions and understanding of sex and the gendered body? In Trans*, Jack Halberstam explores these recent shifts in the meaning of the gendered body and representation, and explores the possibilities of a nongendered, gender-optional, or gender-queer future.
In September 1960, John Steinbeck and his poodle, Charley, embarked on a journey across America. A picaresque tale, this chronicle of their trip meanders through scenic backroads and speeds along anonymous superhighways, moving from small towns to growing cities to glorious wilderness oases. *Travels with Charley in Search of America* is animated by Steinbeck’s attention to the specific details of the natural world and his sense of how the lives of people are intimately connected to the rhythms of nature – to weather, geography, the cycles of the season. His keen ear for the transactions among people is evident, too, as he records the interests and obsessions that preoccupy the Americans he encounters along the way.

*Travels with Charley in Search of America*, originally published in 1962, provides an intimate and personal look at one of America’s most beloved writers in the later years of his life – a self-portrait of a man who never wrote an explicit autobiography. It was written during a time of upheaval and racial tension in the South – which Steinbeck witnessed first-hand – and is a stunning evocation of America on the eve of a tumultuous decade.

This Centennial Edition includes for the first time Steinbeck’s "L’ Envoi," his original ending for *Travels with Charley*. 

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Trophy Hunt
by C.J. Box
11 copies (Fiction, 2004)

Box, whose superb Joe Pickett series has nailed some great western issues (ecoterrorism, endangered species, survivalists), here draws a bead on one out in left field: cattle mutilations. When the Wyoming game warden finds a mysteriously mangled moose, he is unnerved. When cows and even humans turn up the same, he finds himself a reluctant member of a special task force. County residents think aliens are responsible and start wearing aluminum-foil hats and finding crop circles in their backyards; Pickett calls the theory “woo-woo crap.”

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A harrowing memoir about one of the darkest periods in American history. Born a free man in New York, Solomon Northup was abducted in Washington, D.C., in 1841 and spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity as a slave on a Louisiana cotton plantation. After his rescue, he published this exceptionally vivid and detailed account of slave life—perhaps the best written of all the slave narratives. It became an immediate bestseller and today is recognized for its unusual insight and eloquence as one of the very few portraits of American slavery produced by someone as educated as Solomon Northup, or by someone with the dual perspective of having been both a free man and a slave.
A man wakes naked and cold, half-drowned on an abandoned beach.

The only sign of life for miles is an empty BMW. Inside the expensive car he finds clothes that fit perfectly, shoes for his tattered feet, a Rolex, and an auto registration in the name of Daniel Hayes, resident of Malibu, California.

None of it is familiar.

How did he get here? Who is he? Who was he? While he searches for answers, the world searches for him – beginning with the cops that kick in the door of his dingy motel with guns drawn. Lost and alone, the man who might be Daniel Hayes flees into the night.

All he remembers is a woman’s face, so he sets off for the only place he might find her. The fantasy of her becomes his home, his world, his hope. And maybe, just maybe, the way back to himself.

But that raises the most chilling question of all: WHAT WILL HE FIND WHEN HE GETS THERE?
Two Old Women: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival
by Velma Wallis
10 copies (Nonfiction, 1993)

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine.

Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community, and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness, and wisdom."

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Ultimate Gift, The
by Jim Stovall
9 copies (Fiction, 2001)

What would you do to inherit a million dollars? Would you be willing to change your life? In The Ultimate Gift, Jason Stevens is about to find out. Red Stevens has died, and the older members of his family receive their millions with greedy anticipation. But a different fate awaits young Jason, whom Stevens, his great-uncle, believes may be the last vestige of hope in the family. “Although to date your life seems to be a sorry excuse for anything I would call promising, there does seem to be a spark of something in you that I hope we can fan into a flame. For that reason, I am not making you an instant millionaire.” What Stevens does give Jason leads to The Ultimate Gift.

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Unbroken
by Laura Hillenbrand
10 copies (Nonfiction, 2010)

A second book by the author of *Seabiscuit* (2001) would get noticed, even if it weren't the enthralling and often grim story of Louie Zamperini. An Olympic runner during the 1930s, he flew B-24s during WWII. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he endured a captivity harsh even by Japanese standards and was a physical and mental wreck at the end of the war. He was saved by the influence of Billy Graham, who inspired him to turn his life around, and afterward devoted himself to evangelical speeches and founding boys' camps. Still alive at 93, Zamperini now works with those Japanese individuals and groups who accept responsibility for Japanese mistreatment of POWs and wish to see Japan and the U.S. reconciled. He submitted to 75 interviews with the author as well as contributing a large mass of personal records. Fortunately, the author's skills are as polished as ever, and this book has an impossible-to-put-down quality that one commonly associates with good thrillers.

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Unfinished Life, An
by Mark Spragg
9 copies (Fiction, 2004)

Returning again to his home turf, the high-country horse ranches of Wyoming, Spragg tells a riveting tale of hard-won friendship, old wounds and fresh pain, and love lost and found. Attempting to escape the latest in a long string of abusive boyfriends, Jean Gilkerson, traveling with her 9-year-old daughter, Grif, is on the run with no place to go. No place, that is, except Wyoming, home of her former father-in-law, Einar, who holds her responsible for the accidental death of his son. Alternating from the points of view of Einar, Jean, Grif, and Einar’s war buddy and best friend, Mitch, Spragg charts the bone-against-bone meeting of a rugged-individualist rancher and his equally headstrong daughter-in-law, but he shows how Grif and Mitch, each with burdens of their own, manage to temper the conflict with humanity, forcing the combatants to reveal their own vulnerability and face their demons.
Handsone Cambridge dropout Mark Callender died hanging by the neck with a faint trace of lipstick on his mouth. When the official verdict is suicide, his wealthy father hires fledgling private investigator Cordelia Gray to find out what led him to self-destruction. What she discovers instead is a twisting trail of secrets and sins, and the strong scent of murder.
"An Unsuitable Job for a Woman" introduces P. D. James's courageous but vulnerable young detective, Cordelia Gray, in a "top-rated puzzle of peril that holds you all the way."
The Second Civil War was fought over reproductive rights. The chilling resolution: Life is inviolable from the moment of conception until age thirteen. Between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, however, parents can have their child “unwound,” whereby all of the child’s organs are transplanted into different donors, so life doesn’t technically end. Connor is too difficult for his parents to control. Risa, a ward of the state, is not talented enough to be kept alive. And Lev is a tithe, a child conceived and raised to be unwound. Together, they may have a chance to escape—and survive.
Owen Wister’s powerful story of the tall, silent stranger who rides into an uncivilized West and defeats the forces of evil has become an enduring part of American mythology, continuing to be echoed in novels, movies, and on television.

Set in the vast Wyoming territory, *The Virginian* depicts the loneliness and challenge of an unknown land where the whistle of a freight train sounds across great miles of silence, where easy comradery – and sudden violence – are found around the campfire, and where the rough honesty of “frontier justice” is just beginning to impose a sense of society on an unruly populace. “For Wister, the West represented a territory of adventure that tested the worth of a man. His hero, as John Seelye writes in his Introduction, has his roots in the historical romances of Sir Walter Scott and James Fenimore Cooper; he is a man who lives by the classic code of chivalry, ruled by quiet courage and deeply felt honor.
Summer in Red Hook, Brooklyn, an isolated blue-collar neighborhood where hipster gourmet supermarkets push against tired housing projects. Bored and listless, fifteen-year-old June and Val take a pink plastic raft out onto the bay.

But on the water, in the humid night, the girls disappear. Only Val will survive, washed ashore, bruised and unconscious, in the weeds. The shocking event will echo through a group of unforgettable characters, including Fadi, an ambitious Lebanese bodega owner; Cree, a lost teenager who unwittingly makes himself the cops’ chief suspect; Jonathan, Juilliard drop-out, barfly, and struggling high school teacher; and Val, the grieving girl who must contend with the shadow of her missing friend and a truth she holds deep inside.
Life is good for Jacob Jankowski. He's about to graduate from veterinary school and about to bed the girl of his dreams. Then his parents are killed in a car crash, leaving him in the middle of the Great Depression with no home, no family, and no career. Almost by accident, Jacob joins the circus. There he falls in love with the beautiful performer Marlena, who is married to the circus’s psychotic animal trainer. He also meets the other love of his life, Rosie the elephant. This lushly romantic novel travels back and forth in time between Jacob’s present day in a nursing home and his adventures in the surprisingly harsh world of 1930s circuses. The ending of both stories is a little too cheerful to be believed, but just like a circus, the magic of the story and the writing convince you to suspend your disbelief. The book is partially based on real circus stories and illustrated with historical circus photographs.
We Need to Talk About Kevin
by Lionel Shriver
12 copies (Fiction, 2003)

The timely topic of Shriver’s \textit{(Double Fault)} eighth novel is sure to guarantee lots of attention, but the compelling writing is what will keep readers engaged. This is the story, narrated in the form of letters to her estranged husband, of Eva Katchadourian, whose son has committed the most talked-about crime of the decade – a school shooting reminiscent of Columbine. From the very beginning, the reader knows that Kevin has been found guilty and is in a juvenile detention center, yet the plot is never stale. Shriver delivers new twists and turns as her narrator tells her story. Through Eva's voice, Shriver offers a complex look at the factors that go into a parent-child relationship and at what point, if any, a parent can decide if a child is a hopeless case.
When Breath Becomes Air
by Paul Kalanithi
10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2016)

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

What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder towards your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

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A man with a painful past. A child with a doubtful future. And a shared journey toward healing for both their hearts.

It begins on the shaded town square in a sleepy Southern town. A spirited seven-year-old has a brisk business at her lemonade stand. Her latest customer, a bearded stranger, drains his cup and heads to his car, his mind on a boat he’s restoring at a nearby lake. But the little girl’s pretty yellow dress can’t quite hide the ugly scar on her chest. The stranger understands more about it than he wants to admit. And the beat-up bread truck careening around the corner with its radio blaring is about to change the trajectory of both their lives.

Before it’s over, they’ll both know there are painful reasons why crickets cry…and that miracles lurk around unexpected corners.
Where Rivers Change Direction
by Mark Spragg
8 copies (Nonfiction, 1999)

Enormously well written, Spragg's first book wraps the reader in the landscape, the life, and the essence of Wyoming, excelling as nonfiction literature. In 14 essays, Spragg, a screenwriter, essayist, and fiction writer, describes growing up on a dude ranch in the high Yellowstone Plateau, which straddles the Continental Divide in the northwest corner of Wyoming. Spragg straightforwardly documents his life among horses, wildlife, cowboys, wilderness, and his brother, father, and mother in a way that absorbs the reader right into the emotional center of each story. He draws us in with frank lines such as these: “This place is violent, and it is raw. Wyoming is not a land that lends itself to nakedness, or leniency. There is an edge here; living is accomplished on that edge.”

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Where’d You Go, Bernadette
by Maria Semple
7 copies (Fiction, 2012)

When fifteen-year-old Bee claims a family trip to Antarctica as a reward for perfect grades, her fiercely intelligent but agoraphobic mother, Bernadette, throws herself into the preparations. Worn down by years of trying to live the Seattle life she never wanted, Bernadette is on the brink of a meltdown. As disaster follows disaster, she disappears, leaving her family to pick up the pieces. Which is exactly what Bee does, weaving together emails, invoices, and school memos to reveal the secret past that Bernadette has been hiding for decades.

*Where’d You Go, Bernadette* is an ingeniously entertaining novel about a family coming to terms with who they are, and the power of a daughter’s love for her imperfect mother.

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“Whistling past the graveyard. That’s what Daddy called it when you did something to keep your mind off your most worstest fear....”

In the summer of 1963, nine-year-old Starla Caludelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home. Starla's destination is Nashville, where her mother went to become a famous singer, abandoning Starla when she was three. Walking a lonely country road, Starla accepts a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby. Now, on the road trip that will change her life forever, Starla sees for the first time life as it really is – as she reaches for a dream of how it could one day be.
“Can’t cook but doesn’t bite.” So begins the newspaper ad offering the services of an “A-I housekeeper, sound morals, exceptional disposition” that draws the hungry attention of widower Oliver Milliron in the fall of 1909. And so begins the unforgettable season that deposits the non-cooking, non-biting, ever-whistling Rose Llewellyn and her font-of-knowledge brother, Morris Morgan, in Marias Coulee along with a stampede of homesteaders drawn by the promise of the Big Ditch – a gargantuan irrigation project intended to make the Montana prairie bloom. When the schoolmarm runs off with an itinerant preacher, Morris is pressed into service, setting the stage for the “several kinds of education” – none of them of the textbook variety – Morris and Rose will bring to Oliver, his three sons, and the rambunctious students in the region’s one-room schoolhouse.
First published in 1920, *The White Indian Boy* quickly became a western classic. Readers fascinated by real-life “cowboys and Indians” thrilled to Uncle Nick Wilson’s frontier exploits, as he encountered running away to live with the Shoshone in his early teens, riding for the Pony Express, and helping to settle Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The volume was so popular that Wilson’s son Charles was compelled to write a sequel, *The Return of the White Indian*, which picks up the story in 1895 where the first memoir end, telling the adventures of Nick Wilson’s later life.

These two books, published here as a single volume, are testaments to a unique time and place in American history. Because he had a heart for adventure, Wilson’s life became a historical canvas on which was painted scenes from both the exploration and the frontier. This volume includes a family tree and a new introduction by John W. Stewart. Packed with amazing details about life in the Old West, *The White Indian Boy* and its sequel *The Return of the White Indian* make Wilson’s colorful escapades once again available to a new generation of readers.

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Zadie Smith’s dazzling debut caught critics grasping for comparisons and deciding on everyone from Charles Dickens to Salman Rushdie to John Irving and Martin Amis. But the truth is that Zadie Smith’s voice is remarkably, fluently, and all together wonderfully her own.

At the center of this invigorating novel are two unlikely friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal. Hapless veterans of World War II, Archie and Samad and their families become agents of England’s irrevocable transformation. A second marriage to Clara Bowden, a beautiful, albeit tooth-challenged, Jamaican half his age, quite literally gives Archie a second lease on life, and produces Irie, a knowing child whose personality doesn’t quite match her name (Jamaican for “no problem”). Samad’s late-in-life arranged marriage (he had to wait for his bride to be born), produces twin sons whose separate paths confound Iqbal’s every effort to direct them, and a renewed, if selective, submission to his Islamic faith. Set against London’s racial and cultural tapestry, venturing across the former empire and into the past as it barrels toward the future, White Teeth revels in the ecstatic hodgepodge of modern life, flirting with disaster, confounding expectations, and embracing the comedy of daily existence.
When Dorothy triumphed over the Wicked Witch of the West in L. Frank Baum's classic tale, we heard only her side of the story. But what about her arch-nemesis, the mysterious Witch? Where did she come from? How did she become so wicked? And what is the true nature of evil? Gregory Maguire creates a fantasy world so rich and vivid that we will never look at Oz the same way again. Wicked is about a land where animals talk and strive to be treated like first-class citizens, Munchkinlanders seek the comfort of middle-class stability, and the Tin Man becomes a victim of domestic violence. And then there is the little green-skinned girl named Elphaba, who will grow up to become the infamous Wicked Witch of the West, a smart, prickly, and misunderstood creature who challenges all our preconceived notions about the nature of good and evil.
Five months after her husband died of lung cancer, Crain bought a Chihuahua to break the stranglehold of devastating grief, despair, and depression that gripped her. Her vivacious new puppy gave unconditional love, kept her occupied, and helped her heal. She named her dog Truman, after the president she admired for his down-to-earth character, his integrity, his indefatigable energy, his lifelong love for wife Bess, and his fortitude in the face of adversity. Some of these same traits imbue her feisty, loyal Chihuahua and his winsome ways. The little dog soon helps reconnect his companion to the joy of life and to her own resilient spirit.
Wild
by Cheryl Strayed
10 Copies (Nonfiction, 2012)

A powerful, blazingly honest memoir: the story of an eleven-hundred-mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe – and built her back up again.

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother’s death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life: to hike the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State – and to do it alone. She had no experience as a long-distance hiker, and the trail was little more than “an idea, vague and outlandish and full of promise.” But it was a promise of piecing back together a life that had come undone.

Strayed faces down rattlesnakes and black bears, intense heat and record snowfalls, and both the beauty and loneliness of the trail. Told with great suspense and style, sparkling with warmth and humor, Wild vividly captures the terrors and pleasures of one young woman forging ahead against all odds on a journey that maddened, strengthened, and ultimately healed her.
Winter in the Bunkhouse
by Helena Linn
7 Copies (Fiction, 2009)

When registered nurse Kate Webster loses her husband and four-month-old baby in a car accident, she begins to search for a way to heal and go on with her life. Fond memories of summers spent with her grandparents on their remote ranch in western Wyoming spring to mind as she drives from the Midwest to Jackson to look for a job at the local hospital. Along the way, Kate takes a detour to visit the old ranch, gets caught in a snowstorm, and ends up in a ditch.

Nearly frozen to death, she prays for a miracle and is rescued by two ranch hands. Her past rushes back when she realizes that one of the men is Jake McClary, the one person in the world who left her with bad memories of her sixteenth on the ranch. That evening, the storm worsens, making the road out impassable, and Kate is stuck living the rest of the winter in the Bunkhouse with the ornery Jake and his obliging sidekick Charlie.

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Winter Wheat
by Mildred Walker
9 copies (Fiction, 1944)

With an arid “dry-land” wheat farm as both its geographic and metaphoric center, Winter Wheat tells the story of 18-year-old Ellen Webb. Her Vermont-born father and Russian-born mother, married during the first World War, have come as homesteaders to Barton, Montana – a grain elevator and general store. It is 1940, the year Ellen will start college if the wheat harvest is good. It is September, “like a quiet day after a whole week of wind. I mean that wind that blows dirt into your eyes and hair and between your teeth and roars in your ears after you’ve gone inside.” The harvest pays and Ellen goes off to college, where she immediately falls in love: “I hadn’t meant to fall in love so soon, but there’s nothing you can do about it. It’s like planning to seed in April and then having it come off so warm in March that the earth is ready.” Ellen and Gil plan their marriage for after the summer harvest. But Gil arrives and doesn’t find Montana or the life of dry-land wheat farmers beautiful. Ellen begins to see everything, including her parents, with new and critical eyes in this unsparing and poignant examination of love and life.

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The dust storms that terrorized America’s High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression were like nothing ever seen before or since, and the stories of the people that held on have never been fully told. Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist and author Timothy Egan follows a half-dozen families and their communities through the rise and fall of the region, going from sod homes to new framed houses to huddling in basements with the windows sealed by damp sheets in a futile effort to keep the dust out. He follows their desperate attempts to carry on through blinding black blizzards, crop failure, and the deaths of loved ones. Drawing on the voices of those who stayed and survived – those who, now in their 80s and 90s, will soon carry their memories to the grave – Egan tells a story of endurance and heroism against the backdrop of the Great Depression.
The Wyoming Lynching of Cattle Kate, 1889
by George W. Hufsmith
12 Copies (Nonfiction, 1993)

The most blatant crime in the history of the West. They lynched Cattle Kate and Jim Averell. This story is so controversial that for over 100 years it was a mistake to even ask what happened that hot July afternoon in 1889 when a gracious woman and an articulate homesteader were hanged from a pine tree on the Sweetwater Valley.

Did Cattle Kate (Ellen Watson) barter sex for calves or was she an independent woman ahead of her time who homesteaded in the wrong place? Did Averell run a bawdyhouse or was this dispute really about land and water rights? Why were the six politically powerful cattlemen who committed the lynching never punished? What really happened to the eyewitness who disappeared or mysteriously died?

Author George Hufsmith challenges the old assumptions with recently unearthed evidence, never-before-published photographs and documents, and on-site investigations. Hufsmith, a classical composer, was commissioned to write a tragic opera about the lynching for the nation’s bicentennial. As he researched the opera, his interest in Cattle Kate intensified. He spent much of his life digging out additional facts about this Old West mystery.

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Wyoming Range War: The Infamous Invasion of Johnson County

by John W. Davis
8 Copies (Nonfiction, 2010)

Wyoming attorney John W. Davis retells the story of the West’s most notorious range war. The broad outlines of the conflict are familiar: some of Wyoming’s biggest cattlemen, under the guise of eliminating livestock rustling on the open range, hire two-dozen Texas cowboys and, with range detectives and prominent members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, “invade” north-central Wyoming to clean out rustlers and other undesirables. While the invaders kill two suspected rustlers, citizens mobilize and eventually turn the cables, surrounding the intruders at a ranch where they capture them by force. An appeal for help convinces President Benjamin Harrison to call out the army from nearby Fort McKinley, and after an all-night ride the soldiers arrive in time to stave off the invaders’ annihilation. Taken prisoner, they later avoid prosecution.

In this all-new interpretation, Davis looks at the conflict from the perspective of Johnson County residents – those whose home territory was invaded and many of whom the invaders targeted for murder – and finds that, contrary to the received explanation, these people were not thieves and rustlers but legitimate citizens.
When an infected bolt of cloth carries plague from London to an isolated mountain village, a housemaid named Anna Frith emerges as an unlikely heroine and healer. Through Anna’s eyes we follow the story of the plague year, 1666, as her fellow villagers make an extraordinary choice: convinced by a visionary young minister they elect to quarantine themselves within the village boundaries to arrest the spread of the disease. But as death reaches into every household, faith frays. When villagers turn from prayers to murderous witch-hunting, Anna must confront the deaths of family, the disintegration of her community, and the lure of illicit love. As she struggles to survive, a year of plague becomes instead *annus mirabilis*, a “year of wonders.”