

2020 BOOK CLUB IN A BOX TITLES

NEW TITLES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

All American Boys (YA Fiction), Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely – This award-winning, edgy novel was chosen for the 2016 Maryland One Book, One Community program. Follow Rashad (who is African American) and Quinn (who is white), through a racially tense, high profile event that changes the course of their lives. Told from the unique perspective of two teenagers, this novel unfolds the drama of why “Rashad is absent again today,” as the town grapples with the effects of systemic racism, police brutality and the influence of social media. Inspired by true stories. (2015) * [Preview the Book](#)

All the King’s Men (fiction), Robert Penn Warren – The rise and fall of demagogue Willie Talos, a fictional Southern politician who resembles the real-life Huey "Kingfish" Long of Louisiana. A classic revisited. (1946) [Preview the Book](#)

All the Light We Cannot See (fiction), Anthony Doerr – The bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. (2014) * [Preview the Book](#)

American Dervish (fiction), Ayad Akhtar – Twelve-year-old Hayat Shah is a Muslim American who plays baseball, studies the Quran with his Aunt Mina and listens to his mother complain about his father. When Mina falls in love with a non-Muslim, Hayat does what he thinks is best for everyone, not realizing the disastrous consequences of his actions. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Americanah (fiction), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – After Ifemelu came to the United States as a college student and learned she was considered a Non-American Black, she decided she suffered from Racial Disorder Syndrome. Meanwhile, her abandoned true love, Obinze, is suffering his own cold miseries as an unwanted African in London. An unusual look into cultures of different countries and where we feel most at home. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

An American Marriage (fiction), Tayari Jones – Roy, an African American executive, is sentenced to 12 years in jail for a crime he claims he didn’t commit. His wife takes solace in the company of her childhood best friend, and is surprised by Roy’s sudden release. Can their rocky, new marriage stand the test of time? (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

And the Mountains Echoed, (fiction), Khaled Hosseini – This new novel from the author of *The Kite Runner* takes the reader back to Afghanistan where a father tells a folktale of love and sacrifice to his two children. The next day the folktale begins to come true as the father gives away his young daughter because he cannot care for her. Hosseini beautifully details the fifty-year interval that ultimately brings the family full circle. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Andersonville (fiction), MacKinlay Kantor - The Pulitzer Prize–winning story of the Andersonville Fortress and its use as a concentration camp–like prison by the South during the Civil War. The book has a reputation as a "tough read," but the effort is worth it. (1955) * [Preview the Book](#)

Art Forger (fiction), B.A. Shapiro – Almost twenty-five years after the infamous art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, one of the stolen Degas paintings is delivered to the studio of a young artist. This is but the beginning of seeing, and not seeing, the secrets that lie beneath the canvas. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Art of Racing in the Rain (fiction), Garth Stein – “Enzo is a lab terrier mix plucked from a farm to ride shotgun with race car driver Denny Swift. Frustrated by his inability to speak, he watches Denny's old racing videos, coins aphorisms that apply to both driving and life, and hopes for the day when he can be reborn a man.” (2008) [Preview the Book](#)

Atonement (fiction), Ian McEwan – “An upper–middle–class girl in England, who aspires to be a writer, makes a serious mistake that has life–changing effects for many. Consequently, through her remaining years, she seeks atonement for her transgression.” (2001) [Preview the Book](#)

Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo” (nonfiction), Zora Neale Huston – Oluale Kossola, who became known as Cudjo Lewis (1840-1935) divulges the remarkable story of his life in a 1927 interview with Hurston. She captures the rare account of his life during and after the trans-Atlantic slave trade that was supposed to have been abolished in 1807. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Becoming (nonfiction), Michelle Obama –An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States. Photos (2018)* [Preview the Book](#)

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family (biography), Amy Ellis Nutt – The story of identical twin boys and their family as they confront their own views on gender identity and prejudice in society. Personal photos, diary entries, and medical reports help chronicle this inspirational transgender journey. (2016)* [Preview the Book](#)

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity (nonfiction), Katherine Boo – The author embedded herself in this slum of Mumbai, India, so readers could see, hear, and understand the lives of the residents who all have dreams of a better life. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End (nonfiction), Atul Gawande - The author, a practicing surgeon, addresses medicine’s ultimate limitation, arguing that quality of life is the desired goal for patients and families. (2014) * [Preview the Book](#)

Being There (fiction), Jerzy Kosinski – “Chauncey Gardiner, an enigma, emerges from nowhere to become an heir to the throne of a Wall Street tycoon, a presidential policy adviser, and a media icon. He lives in the present, with no past and no future. It is up to others to fill in the details of his existence, and this is exactly what they do, projecting their own needs and wants onto Chauncey.” (1970) [Preview the Book](#)

Bellehaven (fiction), Margaret Hawke – In 1965 Kate Bannion becomes the family breadwinner when her husband is unable to work. He resents her doing so, making it a struggle to balance her work at Bellehaven Nursing Home with caring for her husband and children. An exploration of the continuously changing roles of men and women. (2013) *

Between the World and Me (nonfiction), Ta-Nehisi Coates - In a series of essays, written as a letter to his son, Coates confronts the notion of race in America and how it has shaped American history, many times at the cost of black bodies and lives. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Big Little Lies (fiction), Liane Moriarty - Marriage, motherhood, and modern upper-middle-class family life, including one surprising death. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Blackbird House (fiction), Alice Hoffman – “In this collection of tales, the author takes readers into the lives of the people who lived in Blackbird House from the time of the American Revolution to the present. The house has a haunting presence throughout the book; the characters themselves, their stories and their relationships with others are most compelling.” (2004) [Preview the Book](#)

Black Man in a White Coat (nonfiction), Damon Tweedy - As the author grows from medical student to practicing physician he discovers how often race influences his encounters with patients. His book is a thoughtful reflection about himself and about the health implications of being black. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Book of American Martyrs (fiction), Joyce Carol Oates - The story of two very different American families: that of Luther Dunphy, the ardent Evangelical who assassinates an abortion provider, and that of Augustus Voorhees, the idealistic doctor who is killed. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Book of Unknown Americans (fiction), Cristina Henríquez – These unknown Americans came from Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico. The Riveras came for special education for their teenage daughter Maribel. Other families struggle to maintain visa status, find jobs, feed their families and educate their children. A look at what life is like for some current immigrants. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Book Thief (fiction), Markus Zusak – “It’s a story about a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery . . . Set during World War II in Germany, Zusak’s novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich.” (2005) [Preview the Book](#)

Boys in the Boat (nonfiction), Daniel James Brown – In 1936, the University of Washington’s eight-oar crew team began its unlikely route to the 1938 Berlin Olympics. How this team, composed of rowers who were sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers defeated Hitler’s racers is a story of determination, teamwork, and what it takes to achieve glory. *The Boys in the Boat* is a character-driven story with a race to the finish. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Brave New World (fiction), Aldous Huxley – “Community, Identity, Stability” is the motto of Aldous Huxley's utopian World State. There is no violence and everyone is provided for, but Bernard Marx feels something is missing and senses his relationship with a young woman has the potential to be much more than the confines

of their existence allow. Huxley foreshadowed many of the practices and gadgets we take for granted today.” (1932) [Preview the Book](#)

Brooklyn (fiction), Colm Toibin – A young, Irish woman starts fresh in post-World War II Brooklyn until tragedy makes her question the course of her life. Caught between two worlds, she must choose between obligation and affection. (2009) [Preview the Book](#)

Brother, I’m Dying (nonfiction), Edwidge Danticat – Danticat's father struggled to make a new life for himself in America while his uncle remained in Haiti. This memoir explores how the private and the political, the past and the present, intersected for them, but Danticat also tells a wider story about family and exile, the Haitian diaspora, the Duvalier regime, and post-9/11 immigration policy. [Preview the Book](#)

Can’t Wait to Get to Heaven (fiction), Fannie Flagg – “Feisty, inquisitive octogenarian Elnor Shimfissle falls out of her fig tree and is presumed dead. While her family and friends mourn, she makes a ‘temporary’ visit to heaven, where she runs into her deceased sister, Ida, as well as Ginger Rogers and Tom Edison. When she ‘returns,’ she shares details of her experience.” (2006) [Preview the Book](#)

Charming Billy (fiction), Alice McDermott – When Billy dies as a result of lifelong alcohol abuse, mourners gather around to tell tales of his struggle for happiness after he lost his first love, Eva. McDermott, who won the National Book Award for this work, explores the devastation of alcoholism, the loss of innocence, the daily practice of love, and the unity of family and friendship. (1997) * [Preview the Book](#)

Children Act (fiction), Ian McEwan – Judge Fiona Maye presides over cases in Family Court. She is called on to hear an urgent case: Adam, a seventeen-year-old boy, is refusing for religious reasons the medical treatment that could save his life. His devout parents agree. Should a secular court overrule them? (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Circling the Sun (fiction), Paula McLain – This historical novel from the author of *The Paris Wife* is a story of love and adventure in colonial Africa in the 1920s and 1930s: with gorgeous landscapes, dissolute British expatriots, and lots of derring-do with horses, motorcars and airplanes. Beryl Markham, the first woman to fly across the Atlantic from east to west is in the center of things. (2015) * [Preview the Book](#)

Claire of the Sealight (fiction), Edwidge Danticat – Just as her father makes the wrenching decision to send her away for a chance at a better life, Claire Limyè Lanmè, Claire of the Sea Light, suddenly disappears. As the people of the Haitian seaside community of Ville Rose search for her, secrets, memories and truths emerge. (2013) *. [Preview the Book](#)

Color of Water (nonfiction), James McBride – “The author, a man whose mother was white and his father black, tells two stories: his own and that of his mother ... a wonderful story of a bi-racial family who succeeded and achieved the American dream, despite the societal obstacles placed in its way.” (1995) [Preview the Book](#)

Cove (fiction), Ron Rash – A brother and sister struggle to make a life in a backwoods cove that locals avoid as haunted. The appearance of a mute stranger changes their lives. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter (fiction), Tom Franklin – 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. And now another girl has disappeared. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Cross Creek (nonfiction), Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings – A classic in modern American literature, this is the story of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' experiences in the remote Florida hamlet of Cross Creek, where she lived for thirteen years. From the daily labors of managing a seventy-two-acre orange grove to bouts with runaway pigs and a succession of unruly farmhands, Rawlings describes her life at the Creek with humor and spirit. (1942) * [Preview the Book](#)

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night–Time (fiction), Mark Haddon – “A murder mystery of sorts told by an autistic fifteen–year–old. Christopher John Francis Boone is mathematically gifted and socially hopeless, raised in a working–class home by parents who can barely cope with their child's quirks. He takes everything that he sees (or is told) at face value, and is unable to sort out the strange behavior of his elders and peers. (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Defending Jacob (fiction), William Landay – This legal thriller is wrapped around a family in crisis. The plot hinges on the murder of a high school boy. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Devil in White City (nonfiction), Erik Larson – The incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair are fact that reads like fiction. “Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor.” (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Don't Stop the Carnival (fiction), Herman Wouk – A comedy about Norman Paperman, a New York City press agent who, facing the onset of middle age, runs away to a Caribbean island to reinvent himself as a hotel keeper. A heaven that quickly turns into a hell. (1965) *

Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America (nonfiction) Beth Macy – According to Macy, “Americans, representing 5 percent of the world's population, consume 80 percent of its opioids”. Disturbing stories of opioid abuse in the US that examine the medical, social, historical and legal effects through current research. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Driving the King (fiction), Ravi Howard – An exploration of race and class in 1950s America, this is the story of Nathaniel Weary, a classmate of Nat King Cole, who returns home from the war and becomes Cole's driver and bodyguard. A blend of fact and fiction, the story moves back and forth between Los Angeles and Montgomery. Weary discovers that, while Los Angeles is far different from the Deep South, it a place of discrimination, mistrust, and intolerance where a black man — even one as talented and popular as Nat King Cole—is not wholly welcome. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Educated (nonfiction), Tara Westover – Raised in an alternative Mormon home in rural Idaho, Westover eventually overcomes her parent’s oppressive views. Westover's vivid prose details this powerful coming-of-age story of deprivation and survival. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Ellis Angels (fiction), Donated by local author Carol Lee Limata – Newly arrived immigrants to New York City in the 1920s faced numerous challenges after their long sea journey. If unable to pass medical inspection, they were admitted to Ellis Island Hospital for treatment or further evaluation. The author, a registered nurse, has created a work of historical fiction which tells of those who were hospitalized and the nurses who cared for them. An addendum explains what is historical and what was fictionally enhanced in her novel. (2013) *

Ellis Angels On the Move (fiction), Donated by local author Carolee Lee Limata – Set in 1925, a nurse who had worked with immigrants at Ellis Island moves to Brooklyn to work in a Settlement House and Clinic. Settling into Williamsburg, she immerses herself into the culture and the customs of the community so that she can help the immigrants; along the way she achieves one of her own dreams. (2015) *

Emma (fiction), Jane Austen – “A scheming heiress, who is determined not to marry, ends up embracing love and growing in maturity, without dying or becoming impossibly insipid.” (1815) [Preview the Book](#)

Emperor’s Children (fiction), Claire Messud – “The novel focuses on the stories of three friends in their early thirties, living in Manhattan in the months leading up to September 11, 2001. All three are well-educated and privileged, but struggle with realizing the lofty expectations held for their personal and professional lives.” (2006) [Preview the Book](#)

Everything I Never Told You (fiction), Celeste Ng – A teenage girl goes missing and is later found to have drowned in a nearby lake. Set in the 1970s, her father, an American born of first-generation Chinese immigrants, is conspicuous in any setting. Her mother is white, and their interracial marriage raises eyebrows. What follows is a novel that explores achievement, race, gender, family, and identity — as the Lee family discovers the sister and daughter that they hardly knew. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Faith Club (nonfiction), Ranya Idliby and Suzanne Oliver – In the wake of 9/11, Idliby, an American Muslim of Palestinian descent, sought out fellow mothers of Jewish and Christian faiths to write a children's book on the commonalities among their respective traditions. More Fight Club than book club, the co-authors pull no punches; their candor makes for a page-turning read. (2006) * [Preview the Book](#)

Faithful Place (fiction), Tana French – French takes readers into the mind of Frank Mackey as he wrestles with his own past and the family, the lover and the neighborhood he thought he had left behind for good. A “Whodunit” with multiple twists. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Fortunate Pilgrim (fiction), Mario Puzo – Written before *The Godfather*, this classic story of love, crime and immigrant struggle has been hailed as Puzo’s masterpiece. (1965) [Preview the Book](#)

German Girl (fiction), Armando Lucas Correa – Twelve-year-old Hannah Rosenthal’s harrowing experience fleeing Nazi-occupied Germany with her family and best friend, only to discover that the overseas asylum they had been promised was an illusion. Based on a true story. (2016) * [Preview the Book](#)

Girls at 17 Swann Street (fiction), Yara Zgheib – An emotional chronicle of one woman’s battle with anorexia. Fighting for her life, Anna Roux meets women with similar disorders and works towards recovery. (2019)* [Preview the Book](#)

Glass Castle (biography), Jeanette Walls – “In her memoir, freelance writer Jeannette Walls tells of being raised by a father who drifted from town to town, picking up work or gambling their meager savings away, and an artist mother who went along for the ride.” (2005) [Preview the Book](#)

Gorky Park (MYS), Martin Cruz Smith – First in the Arkady Renko novel series, this espionage classic opens with three corpses found frozen in the snow. Chief Investigator Renko must battle the KGB, FBI and the police to uncover the truth and identity the victims. (1981) [Preview the Book](#)

Go Set a Watchman (fiction), Harper Lee – Set twenty years after **To Kill a Mockingbird**, this novel begins with Scout, the daughter of Atticus Finch, returning home from New York City for a visit. She arrives at a time that civil rights tensions and political turmoil are transforming the South to find her father, family and friends unaccepting of the changing times. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Gone Girl (fiction), Gilliam Flynn – On the day of their fifth wedding anniversary, Nick's wife Amy disappears. As revelation after revelation unfolds, it becomes clear that the truth is far darker, more twisted and creepier than you can imagine. An extraordinarily clever mystery. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (fiction), Mary Ann Shaffer – “This novel, based on Mary Ann Shaffer’s research, is an homage to booklovers and a nostalgic portrayal of an era. However, it is the tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation that animate the novel, and give it its urgency.” (2008) [Preview the Book](#)

H is for Hawk (nonfiction), Helen Macdonald - Macdonald has a life-long fascination with birds of prey, especially the goshawk, a large wild bird which is the hardest to train. The book tells of her efforts to train her goshawk while working through her grief over the loss of her father. A complex, but ultimately satisfying piece of work. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Handmaid’s Tale (fiction), Margaret Atwood - A fable of the near future. In the Republic of Gilead, formerly the United States, far-right ideals have been carried to extremes in the government. The resulting society is a feminist's nightmare. (1985) [Preview the Book](#)

Heart of Darkness (fiction), Joseph Conrad – The story reflects the physical and psychological shock Conrad himself experienced in 1890, when he worked briefly in the Belgian Congo. The narrator, Marlow, describes a journey he took on an African river. Assigned by an ivory company to take command of a cargo boat stranded in the interior, Marlow makes his way through the treacherous forest, witnessing the brutalization of the natives by white traders and hearing tantalizing stories of a Mr. Kurtz, the company's most successful representative. (1902) [Preview the Book](#)

Help (fiction), Kathryn Stockett – “Set in 1962, in the early Civil Rights Movement, a budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women who raise the children, cook the meals and clean the homes of the white women.” (2009) [Preview the Book](#)

Hidden Figures (nonfiction), Margot Lee Shetterly - The true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space. (2016) [Preview the Book](#)

Hillbilly Elegy (nonfiction), J.D. Vance - From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a probing look at the struggles of America's white working class through the author's own story of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town. (2016) [Preview the Book](#)

Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet (fiction), Jamie Ford - "Ford's debut novel concerns Henry Lee, a Chinese-American in Seattle who, in 1986, has just lost his wife to cancer. The narrative shuttles between 1986 and the 1940s in a somewhat predictable story that chronicles the losses of old age and the bewilderment of youth." (2009) [Preview the Book](#)

House of Sand and Fog (fiction), Andre Dubus - "Ethics, logic, and love collide in a surprising and tragic tale. Dubus tells his tale from the viewpoints of the two main adversaries, Colonel Behrani and Kathy. To both of them, the house represents something more than just a place to live. For the colonel, it is a foot in the door of the American dream; for Kathy, a reminder of a kinder, gentler past. In prose that is simple yet evocative, *House of Sand and Fog* builds to its inevitable denouement, one that is painfully dark but unfailingly honest." (1999) [Preview the Book](#)

How to Stop Time (fiction), Matt Haig - Born in 1581 France, Tom Hazard has a condition where he only ages one year every 15 years. Having lived through history, Tom struggles to cope with the pain of his memories and his inability to form lasting relationships. While trying to blend in, he searches modern day London for his daughter, who shares his unique genes. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Hunting and Gathering (fiction), Anna Gavalda - The French title, "Ensemble, c'est tout" translates roughly to "Together, That's Everything." An international best-seller and blockbuster in France, Gavalda offers a glimpse into the modern day life of an unusual Parisian family. (2007)* [Preview the Book](#)

I Am the Clay (fiction), Chaim Potok - The author turns to Korea in the 1950s for a tale about the trek of a Korean peasant couple and an orphaned boy across a war-blighted landscape. A powerful narrative of survival of the human spirit. (1992) * [Preview the Book](#)

I Still Dream About You (fiction), Fannie Flagg - "Flag's whimsical heartstring tugger follows the interrupted suicide attempts of a former Miss Alabama, Maggie Fortenberry, now age 60, as she plans her final exit." (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Identical Strangers (nonfiction), Paula Bernstein - "A poignant memoir of twin sisters who were split up as infants, became part of a secret scientific study, then found each other as adults." (2007) [Preview the Book](#)

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (biography), Rebecca Skloot - This is a story of faith, science and journalism. It is also a tale of medical wonders and medical arrogance as well as racism and poverty. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Immortalists (fiction), Chloe Benjamin-The four Gold siblings visit a fortune teller who claims to predict the day of their death. Are their life choices their own, or based on a pre-determined destiny? (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

In the Lake of the Woods, (fiction), Tim O'Brien – “A politician's career is ruined overnight by revelations of his wartime participation in a village massacre in Vietnam, while his personal life is undone by the sudden disappearance of his wife.” (1995) [Preview the Book](#)

Infidel (biography) Ayaan Hirsi Ali – “*Infidel* describes a unique intellectual journey, from the tribal customs of Hirsi Ali's Somali childhood, through the harsh fundamentalism of Saudi Arabia and into the contemporary West.” (2007) [Preview the Book](#)

Inside the O'Briens (fiction), Lisa Genova - Bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova writes a novel that does for Huntington's disease what her debut novel *Still Alice* did for early onset Alzheimer's disease. (2015) * [Preview the Book](#)

Invention of Wings (fiction), Sue Monk Kidd – Based on the life of Sarah Grimke, an early Abolitionist, Kidd follows the lives of Grimke and Handful, the ten-year-old slave given to her for her eleventh birthday, as they each strive for a life of their own in a time when this was unheard of. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Japanese Lover (fiction), Isabel Allende - A multigenerational epic of friendship and love; a bit of *Same Time Next Year*, a taste of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. (2016) [Preview the Book](#)

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (nonfiction), Bryan Stevenson - Stevenson, then a 23-year-old Harvard law student, started an internship in Georgia; his first assignment was to deliver a message to a man living on death row. This led to his calling: representing the innocent, those inadequately defended, children, domestic abuse survivors, the mentally ill and prisoners. This fast-paced book reads like a John Grisham novel. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Kitchen House (fiction), Kathleen Grissom - Young, white Lavinia, orphaned during her passage from Ireland, arrives on the steps of a plantation's kitchen house and is placed as an indentured servant under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate slave daughter. The novel unfolds in a story of class, race, dignity, deep-buried secrets, and familial bonds. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Kommandant's Girl (fiction), Pam Jenoff – “Nineteen-year-old Emma Bau has been married only three weeks when Nazi tanks thunder into her native Poland. Within days Emma's husband, Jacob, is forced to disappear underground, leaving her imprisoned in a Jewish ghetto. But then, the Resistance smuggles her out and she takes on a new identity as Anna Lipowski, a gentile.” (2007) [Preview the Book](#)

Land Remembered (fiction), Patrick Smith – The story of three generations of the MacIveys, a Florida family who battle the hardships of the frontier to rise from a dirt-poor Cracker life to the wealth and standing of real estate tycoons. (1984) *

Language of Flowers (fiction), Vanessa Diffenbaugh – The language of flowers conveyed romantic expression in the England of Queen Victoria. In the United States of today, after a childhood of foster care, Victoria Jones communicates with other people using this same language. (2011) * [Preview the Book](#)

Leavers (fiction), Lisa Ko - When Deming Guo was 11, his Chinese immigrant mother, Polly, left for work at a nail salon and never returned. In alternating perspectives, this novel tells both of their stories. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Liar’s Club (nonfiction), Mary Karr – “A funny, razor–edged memoir. The author looks back at her upbringing in a swampy East Texas refinery town amidst her volatile and defiantly loving family.” (1995) [Preview the Book](#)

Life After Life (fiction), Jill McCorkle – This award–winning author takes the reader on a splendid journey through time and memory in these tales and adventures of the residents, staff and neighbors of the Pine Haven Retirement Center (from twelve–year–old Abby to eighty–five–year–old Sadie). (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Light Between Oceans (fiction), M.L. Stedman – When Tom Sherbourne, a lighthouse keeper, finds a baby who washed up in a rowboat, he and his young wife Isabel decide to raise the child as their own. The baby seems like a gift from God, yet years later, justice for one character will mean another’s tragic loss. (2012) * [Preview the Book](#)

Light in the Ruins (fiction), Chris Bohjalian – In 1955 Serafina Bettini, an investigator with the Florence Police Department, is assigned to a gruesome new case: a serial killer who is targeting the remaining members of the nearby Rosati family one by one. Soon she finds herself digging into secrets of days past. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Line Becomes a River (nonfiction), Francisco Cantú –After years of grueling experience as a US Border Patrol agent, Cantú leaves the stress behind for civilian life. When a friend is caught in the middle of crisis trying to cross from Mexico back into the US, Cantú is compelled to help him. This novel examines the violence along the Mexican border from a personal perspective and gives a face to the immigration crisis on both sides. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Little Fires Everywhere (fiction), Celeste Ng – A suburban family becomes entwined with their artist tenant and teenage daughter. An examination of the complexities of identity, how relationships are formed and tested, and the fluidity of motherhood. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Live by Night (fiction), Dennis Lehane – This Prohibition–era tale of Joe Coughlin’s rise to criminal power is packed with guns, booze and babes as it roars from Boston to Tampa to Cuba. How Coughlin changes his personality, yet retains his humanity, is beautifully described by Lehane. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932 (fiction), Francine Prose - Historical fiction built around a famous photograph by Brassai of two women at a table in a Paris nightclub. The women are regulars at the Chameleon Club, a haven for lesbians, gays, cross-dressers, and others. A portrait of Paris from the mid-twenties to the Second World War. (2015) * [Preview the Book](#)

Loving Frank (fiction), Nancy Horan – “Horan's *Loving Frank* describes Frank Lloyd Wright's passionate affair with a woman named Mamah Cheney. Both of them left their families to be together, creating a Chicago scandal that eventually ended in inexplicable violence.” (2007) [Preview the Book](#)

Lucy (fiction), Ellen Feldman – “This novel details the love affair between Franklin Roosevelt and his wife's secretary, Lucy Mercer Rutherford. Told from Rutherford's viewpoint, the story follows their affair from when she is initially hired as Eleanor's personal secretary in the days before World War I to Rutherford's deathbed in 1948.” (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Luna Babies (fiction), Carole Lee Limata - The exhibit of premature babies in Luna Park at Coney Island was a popular attraction for 40 years. Its story is told here by the doctor who cared for the infants as well as his wife, his daughter and his nurse. (2016) *

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand (fiction), Helen Simonson – A charming contemporary English comedy of manners which touches on the clash between two cultures, the greed of materialism, family behavior, and the tension between fathers and sons. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Making Rounds with Oscar (nonfiction), David Dosa – The story of a doctor who at first doesn't always listen, of the patients he serves, of their caregivers, and, most importantly, of a cat who teaches by example, embracing moments of life from which so many of us shy away. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Man Called Ove (fiction), Fredrik Backman - Ove, the grumpiest man in the world, trundles from his well-ordered solitary world into one of unkempt cats, unlikely friendships and a community's unexpected reassessment of the one person they thought they had all figured out. A thoughtful and charming read. (2015) *[Preview the Book](#)

Me, Before You (fiction), Jojo Moyes - Louisa Clark is an ordinary girl who takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe, Will Traynor, who is wheelchair bound after an accident. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living. (2012) * [Preview the Book](#)

Memory Keeper's Daughter (fiction), Kim Edwards – This is the story of a man who gives away his newborn baby daughter, who has Down's syndrome, to one of the nurses. The nurse raises the child, the mother believes she has died, the father is consumed with guilt. His deception becomes the defining moment of the main characters' lives, and the baby's absence corrodes her birth family's core over the course of the next 25 years. (2005) [Preview the Book](#)

Middlesteins (fiction), Jami Attenberg – As an epic story of marriage, family and obsession that's written with compassion and humor, this novel explores the hopes and heartbreaks of new and old love, and our devastating, fascinating preoccupation with food. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society (fiction), Amy Hill Hearth – Set in Naples, Florida, in the early 1960s, the cast of characters includes a postmistress, a librarian, a convicted

murderer, a northern transplant, a lone African–American girl, and a lonely gay man. Serious topics innocently addressed. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Missing Person (fiction), Patrick Modiano – Follow amnesiac Guy Roland throughout postwar Paris as he searches for himself and begins to suspect that he may have lead a mysteriously compartmentalized existence and employed multiple identities. He may even have been fleeing the German occupation when his memory was wiped away. Modiano is the 2014 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. (1978) [Preview the Book](#)

Molokai, (fiction), Alan Brennert – “Kalama, a spirited seven–year–old Hawaiian girl, dreams of visiting far–off lands like her father, a merchant seaman. When a rose–colored mark of leprosy appears on her skin, she is taken from her home and family, and sent to live her life on Kalaupapa, the quarantined leprosy settlement on the island of Molokai.” (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Mom & Me & Mom (biography), Maya Angelou – In an open and honest look at a difficult relationship, Angelou’s autobiography tells of her childhood without her mother, her reunion with her, and their love for one another. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Moonglow (fiction), Michael Chabon – From the Jewish slums of prewar South Philadelphia to the invasion of Germany, from a Florida retirement village to New York’s Wallkill prison, the novel revisits an entire era through a single life and collapses a lifetime into a single week. (2016) [Preview the Book](#)

Mudbound (fiction), Hillary Jordan – Focusing on a time when returning World War II veterans knew the world was changing, but their home communities were not, the racism of the South produces an almost inevitable catastrophe for two returning men. (2008) [Preview the Book](#)

Muralist (fiction), B.A. Shapiro – This fine-art detective story blends the early years of the abstract expressionist movement, the Roosevelts, institutionalized anti-Semitism that denied American visas to Jewish refugees, the relentless run-up to World War II, and the generational losses of the Holocaust. Mystery and historical fiction lovers will find this an inviting read. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

My Sister’s Keeper (fiction), Jodi Picoult – Anna was genetically engineered to be a perfect match for her cancer–ridden older sister. This novel explores the moral and emotional complexities of this situation. (2004) [Preview the Book](#)

Mystic River (fiction), Dennis Lehane – An “emotionally wrenching crime drama about the effects of a savage killing on a tightly knit, blue–collar Boston neighborhood. Written with sensitivity toward character, the story tracks the friendship of three boys from a single defining moment in their childhood.” (2001) [Preview the Book](#)

Namesake (fiction), Jhumpa Lahiri – “A multi–generational story of a Hindu Bengali family’s journey to self–acceptance in Boston. The author masterfully explores the themes of the immigrant experience.” (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Next Year in Havana (fiction), Chanel Cleeton – A Cuban-American woman travels to Havana to scatter her grandmother’s ashes and experiences the contrast of Cuba’s tropical, timeless beauty and its perilous political

climate. Here she discovers the roots of her identity and unearths a family secret hidden since the revolution. (2019) [Preview the Book](#)

Nickel Boys (fiction), Colson Whitehead – Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for one hundred and eleven years and warped the lives of thousands of children. The Nickel Boys is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist confronting racial prejudices and true-life atrocities. (2019) [Preview the Book](#)

Night Road (fiction), Kristin Hannah – For eighteen years, Jude Farraday has put her children’s needs above her own. After she and her family befriend a youthful stranger, decisions they make change the course of all of their lives. (2011) * [Preview the Book](#)

Norwegian By Night (fiction), Derek Miller – Sheldon Horowitz is a grumpy, guilt-driven 82-year old war vet who lives in New York and is recently widowed. His grand-daughter insists that he come to live with her and her Norwegian husband in Oslo. How will he adjust? And should he interfere when he hears a violent argument erupting from the upstairs flat where a woman and her son are clearly in terrible trouble? To his mind, Europe turned a deaf ear and a blind eye to the Jews' plight in the Second World War; he is not going to make the same mistake. Instead, he makes another. (2012) * [Preview the Book](#)

Object of Beauty (fiction), Steve Martin - Lacey Yeager is an ambitious young art dealer who uses everything at her disposal to advance in the world of the high-end art trade in New York City. This book is about the absence of a moral compass, not just in the life of an adventuress but for an entire era. (2010) * [Preview the Book](#)

Old Man and the Sea (fiction), Ernest Hemingway - An apparently simple fable, this is the story of an old Cuban fisherman down on his luck, and his battle with a giant marlin far out in the Gulf Stream. Symbolism abounds. (1952) * [Preview the Book](#)

One Corpse Too Many (mystery), Ellis Peters – When Shrewsbury Castle falls in the summer of 1138, Brother Cadfael discovers a murder mystery amid the wreckage. He vows to find the truth behind disparate clues: a girl in boy's clothing, a missing treasure, and a single broken flower. Second book in the *Chronicles of Brother Cadfael* series. (1979) [Preview the Book](#)

One Thousand White Women (fiction), Jim Fergus – “This 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.” (1998) [Preview the Book](#)

Only Child (fiction), Rhiannon Navin –A school shooting leaves six year old little brother, Zach, an only child. He sets out on a harrowing journey towards healing and forgiveness, determined to help the adults in his life rediscover their place in the world after tragedy strikes home. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Ordinary Grace (fiction), William Kent Krueger – The narrator, Frank Drum, writes as a middle-age man looking back on a summer in 1961 when he was 13 and death, in five different instances, shook his family and

their community. The first death is that of Frank's sometime friend Bobby Cole. The proximate cause was a train, but the mystery is whether Bobby stood in front of that train, or was pushed or placed there. More deaths follow, one of which rips apart Frank's family. This novel is one of redemptive grace and mercy, as well as unidentified corpses and unexplainable tragedy. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Origin (fiction), Dan Brown – Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon attends a lecture that promises to forever change the course of religious history and science. Navigating secret history and extreme religion, he searches for the truth to the shocking discovery that answers fundamental questions of human existence. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Orphan Train (fiction), Christina Baker Kline – Teenage Molly Ayers expected her Community Service project would have her clearing out an elderly woman's attic. Instead, the recollections of the woman put Molly on an Orphan Train, one of many which for nearly a century took children from cities to the Midwest where they were adopted by farm families and made to work for them. (2013) * [Preview the Book](#)

Orphan's Tale (Fiction), Pam Jenoff - *A powerful novel of friendship and sacrifice, set in a German traveling circus during World War II.* (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Overstory (fiction), Richard Powers – Publisher Annotation: The Overstory is a book for all readers who despair of humanity's self-imposed separation from the rest of creation and who hope for the transformative, regenerating possibility of a homecoming. If the trees of this earth could speak, what would they tell us? "Listen. There's something you need to hear." (2019) [Preview the Book](#)

Pachinko (fiction), Min Jin Lee – Sunja, a Korean woman living in Japan during World War II, lives with the impact of racism as a "Zainichi," or non-Japanese. She has persevered through random misfortunes determined to shape her destiny. A family saga of epic proportions detailing strong, passionate characters through four generations. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Palm Trees in the Snow (fiction), Gabás, Luz – "At once an epic family drama and a sweeping love story that spans both an ocean and a generation, Palm Trees in the Snow is an emotionally gripping and historically vivid tale of the secrets that can destroy a family and the bonds that endure." (2017) *

Peace Like a River (fiction), Lief Enger – To the list of great American child narrators that includes Huck Finn and Scout Finch, let us now add Reuben "Rube" Land, an asthmatic 11-year-old boy. Rube recalls the events of his childhood in small-town Minnesota, circa 1962, in a voice that perfectly captures the poetic, verbal stoicism of the northern Great Plains. "Here's what I saw," Rube warns his readers. "Here's how it went. Make of it what you will." And Rube sees plenty. (2001) [Preview the Book](#)

The Pecan Man (Fiction), Cassie Dandridge Selleck - The Pecan Man is a work of Southern fiction whose first chapter was the First Place winner of the 2006 CNW/FFWA Florida State Writing Competition in the Unpublished Novel category. In the summer of 1976, recently widowed and childless, Ora Lee Beckworth hires a homeless old black man to mow her lawn. The neighborhood children call him the Pee-can Man; their mothers call them inside whenever he appears. When the police chief's son is found stabbed to death near his camp, the man Ora knows as Eddie is arrested and charged with murder. Twenty-five years later, Ora sets out

to tell the truth about the Pecan Man. In narrating her story, Ora discovers more truth about herself than she could ever have imagined. This novel has been described as *To Kill a Mockingbird* meets *The Help*. (2012) *

Piece of the World (fiction), Christina Baker Kline - A story of friendship, passion and art, inspired by Andrew Wyeth's iconic painting *Christina's World*. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Pilot's Wife, (fiction), Anita Shreve - "The novel is about Kathryn Lyons, whose husband, Jack Lyons, dies in a plane crash over the Atlantic Ocean. As she and her daughter Mattie try to cope with this sudden loss, she finds herself bombarded by the press. While she and the airlines try to find the reason for the crash, she slowly unravels a series of secrets her husband has kept from her until she realizes that he lived a double life she never knew about." (1998) [Preview the Book](#)

Postmortem (mystery), Patricia Cornwell - A gruesome killer moves through Richmond, Virginia, leaving few clues behind. Newly-appointed Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Kay Scarpetta faces a maze of politics and sabotage in the biggest challenge of her life. First in a mystery series. (1990) [Preview the Book](#)

Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend (fiction), Katarina Bivald - Sara, a young Swedish woman, comes to visit her pen pal Amy in Broken Wheel, but Amy has just died. Sara uncovers Amy's stash of books and decides to open a bookstore, sparking a renaissance in Broken Wheel as the residents come together to help the store become a success. This fish-out-of-water story will remind you why you're a booklover. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Reading Lolita in Tehran (nonfiction), Azar Nafisi - "A moving testament to the power of art and its ability to change and improve people's lives. In 1995, after resigning from her job as a professor at a university in Tehran due to repressive policies, Azar Nafisi invited seven of her best female students to attend a weekly study of great Western literature in her home." (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Rebecca (fiction), Daphne DuMaurier - This is the classic dark psychological tale of secrets and betrayal, dead loves and an estate called Manderly that is as much a presence as the people who inhabit it. (1938) [Preview the Book](#)

Red Sparrow (fiction), Jason Matthews - A spy-versus-spy tale written by an ex-CIA officer, *Red Sparrow* depicts both sides of present day politics in United States and Russia. Dominika has an unusual gift known as synesthesia. She perceives sounds as colors and can sense emotions by the color of one's aura. This first novel in the trilogy has inspired a major motion picture. (2013) * [Preview the Book](#)

Remington and the Mysterious Fedora (fiction), donated by local author Chuck Waldron - An old Remington typewriter and a strange fedora take over Josh's life as he rushes to complete his novel in one month's time. (2011) *

Returned (fiction), Jason Mott - All over the world people's loved ones are returning from the dead. No one knows how or why, whether it's a miracle or a sign of the end. But as chaos erupts around the globe, one newly-reunited family finds itself at the center of a community on the brink of collapse, forced to navigate a mysterious new reality. (2013) * [Preview the Book](#)

Room (fiction), Emma Donoghue – In many ways, Jack is a typical five-year-old. He likes to read books, watch TV, and play games with his Ma. But Jack is different in a big way: he has lived his entire life in a single room, sharing the tiny space with only his mother and an unnerving nighttime visitor known as Old Nick. When their world suddenly expands beyond the confines of their four walls, the consequences are extraordinary. (2010) * [Preview the Book](#)

Rosie Effect (fiction), Graeme Simsion – Don Tillman employs his unique research methods when he finds out his wife is pregnant, but soon finds himself in trouble. A hilarious and charming sequel picking up where *The Rosie Project* left off. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Rosie Project (fiction), Graeme Simsion – Don Tillman, a brilliant, socially inept professor of genetics, decides it's time he found a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers. Then he meets Rosie. Book One in a trilogy. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Salvage the Bones (fiction), Jesmyn Ward – “A pitch–perfect account of struggle and community in the rural South . . . Though the characters in *Salvage the Bones* face down Hurricane Katrina, the story isn't really about the storm. It's about people facing challenges, and how they band together to overcome adversity.” (2011) [Preview the Book](#)

Sarah's Key (fiction), Tatiana DeRosnay – “DeRosnay has captured the insane world of the Holocaust and the efforts of the few good people who stood up against it in this work of fiction more effectively than has been done in many scholarly studies.” (2006) [Preview the Book](#)

Second Mrs. Hockaday (fiction), Susan Rivers – Initially slow paced, this work that takes on the legacy of slavery in the United States, the struggles specific to women, and the possibilities for empathy and forgiveness. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Secret Daughter (fiction), Shilpi Somaya Gowda – A child born in India is adopted by an American couple. In alternating chapters, the author traces both the girl's life and her birth parents' hardships, including several years spent in Bombay's (now Mumbai's) infamous slum. (2010) * [Preview the Book](#)

Secret Kept (fiction), Tatiana de Rosnay – This new novel from the author of *Sarah's Key* deals with complex family relationships and the power of a past secret to change everything in the present. It begins with a simple seaside vacation which is followed by a car crash, a hospital stay and the disclosure of the family secret. (2009) [Preview the Book](#)

Secret Wisdom of the Earth (fiction), Christopher Scotton – When a teenager witnesses a brutal hate crime in a small Appalachian town, it forever alters his perception of humanity. A dramatic and deeply moving novel that portrays the lingering effects of violence. (2015)* [Preview the Book](#)

Sense of an Ending (fiction), Julian Barnes – A divorced, middle-aged man receives an unexpected inheritance from a former girlfriend's mother. In addition to money, she leaves him the diary of his best friend

from university who suddenly committed suicide. Winner of the Man Booker Prize for 2011, this novel examines the imperfections of memory. (2011) [Preview the Book](#)

Shutter Island, (fiction), Dennis LeHane – “In 1954, U.S. Marshall Teddy Daniels and his partner, Chuck Aule, are sent to Shutter Island to find a mass murderer who has escaped from Ashcliffe Hospital. As an intense hurricane bears down on the island, the marshals are forced to piece together clues to a shocking puzzle hidden within Shutter Island.” (2003) [Preview the Book](#)

Since We Fell (fiction), Dennis LeHane - *LeHane’s novel* follows Rachel Childs, a former journalist who, after an on-air mental breakdown, now lives as a virtual shut-in. A novel of psychological insight and tension. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Sleeping Beauties (fiction), Stephen King/Owen King – Eve Black is the only woman who has escaped the ‘sleeping disease’ that leaves women cocooned in a matrix like state. Her life is in danger as chaos erupts and the suddenly all-male world divides between killing Eve, and saving her. Allegorical fantasy described by the New York Times as “wildly provocative and gloriously dramatic”. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Sparrow (fiction), Mary Doria Russell - If you have to send a group of people to a newly discovered planet to contact a totally unknown species, whom would you choose? How about four Jesuit priests, a young astronomer, a physician, her engineer husband, and a child prostitute-turned-computer-expert? This motley combination of agnostics, true believers, and misfits becomes the first to explore the Alpha Centuri world of Rakhat with both enlightening and disastrous results. Challenging and thought-provoking. (1996) * [Preview the Book](#)

State of Wonder (fiction), Ann Patchett – Dr. Marina Singh, a research scientist with a pharmaceutical company, is sent to Brazil to track down her former mentor, Dr. Annick Swenson, who seems to have all but disappeared in the Amazon. In a narrative replete with poison arrows, devouring snakes, and a neighboring tribe of cannibals, *State of Wonder* is a world unto itself, where unlikely beauty stands beside unimaginable loss. (2011) [Preview the Book](#)

Station Eleven (fiction), Emily St. John Mandel - When the world collapses, a wandering group of survivors perform Shakespeare for wasteland communities. The story shifts between the post-apocalyptic world and twenty years earlier when the death of a famous actor had a rippling effect across the decades. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Stay with Me (fiction), Ayobami Adebayo – When Yejide and Akin marry, they agree the Nigerian custom of polygamy is not for them. After four years of struggling with personal loss and political turmoil, earth-shattering secrets threaten their marriage. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Still Alice (fiction), Lisa Genova – Follow the life of Alice Howland and her family after she becomes aware of her early-onset Alzheimer’s disease. A Harvard professor, wife and mother, she works at maintaining her personal and professional life, while adjusting to her new one. As she does, her family learns to live with the ever changing Alice. (2007) [Preview the Book](#)

Storied Life of A.J. Fikry (fiction), Gabrielle Zevin – A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over – and see everything anew. (2014) * [Preview the Book](#)

Story of Beautiful Girl (fiction), Rachel Simon – This is a story of love, loss, faith, and growth. The novel explores our compassion and intolerance toward people different from ourselves. In this case a pair of lovers: a deaf man and a developmentally disabled woman. (2011) [Preview the Book](#)

Summer of '69 (fiction), Elin Hilderbrand – In the author's first historical novel, a family in Nantucket experiences their own dramatic upheavals along with the rest of the country during a tumultuous summer. (2019) [Preview the Book](#)

Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat (fiction), Edward Kelsey Moore - Odette, Barbara Jean, and Clarice, the "Supremes", are lifelong friends, now age 55. Odette has been seeing a lot of her mother, who happens to be dead. Clarice has decided her philandering husband no longer gets a pass. And the greatest love of Barbara Jean's past has returned, dredging up a loss she numbs with vodka. This is a charming tribute to the bonds of female friendship. (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Tattooist of Auschwitz (fiction), Heather Morris – based on interviews with Holocaust survivor Lale Sokolov, a Slovakian Jew imprisoned for almost three years at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he served as the tattooist marking prisoners. Fictional account of romance between two concentration camp survivors. (2019) [Preview the Book](#)

Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane (fiction), Lisa See - The author's newest *novel explores the lives of a Chinese mother and her daughter who has been adopted by an American couple.* (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Tell the Wolves I'm Home (fiction), Carol Rifka Brunt – A teen loses her beloved uncle to AIDS and finds herself by befriending his grieving boyfriend. A novel of love, loss and unlikely friendship in the midst of the 1980s' epidemic. (2012) [Preview the Books](#)

Thank You for Your Service (nonfiction), David Finkel – Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Finkel involves himself in the lives of infantrymen who have returned home from Iraq. He creates an indelible portrait of what life after war is like for these soldiers and for all others who are truly trying to undo the damage that has been done. When we ask young men and women to go to war, what are we asking of them? And when they return, what are we thanking them for? (2013) [Preview the Book](#)

Their Eyes Were Watching God (fiction), Zora Neale Hurston – The story of Janie Crawford, her strength, gentleness, and survival as a Black woman in early 20th century rural America. (1937) [Preview the Book](#)

Tiger's Wife (fiction), Tea Obreht – Part mystery, part folktale, part fable, this novel is a complex read. Set in the Balkans, the plot follows a young doctor who works in an orphanage and has just lost her grandfather. (2011) [Preview the Book](#)

Time to Kill (fiction), John Grisham – The life of a ten-year-old girl is shattered by two drunken and remorseless young men. The mostly white town of Clanton in Ford County, Mississippi, reacts with shock and horror at the inhuman crime, until her African American father acquires an assault rifle and takes justice into his own outraged hands. Grisham’s first and perhaps his best. (1989) [Preview the Book](#)

To Kill a Mockingbird (fiction,) Harper Lee – "Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." This is a lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel—a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores the irrationality of adult attitudes toward race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. (1960) [Preview the Book](#)

Too Many Cooks & Champagne For One (mystery), Rex Stout – In this pair of classic Detective Nero Wolfe mysteries, Stout serves up deception, blackmail, and a killer who may have pulled off the perfect crime. (1938/1958) [Preview the Book](#)

Tree Grows in Brooklyn (fiction), Betty Smith – An American classic. “Francie Nolan, avid reader, penny-candy connoisseur, and adroit observer of human nature, has much to ponder in colorful, turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. She grows up with a sweet, tragic father, a severely realistic mother, and an aunt who gives her love too freely – to men, and to a brother who will always be the favored child.” (1943) [Preview the Book](#)

Truth According to Us (fiction), Annie Barrows – Fans of Barrows’ novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* will enjoy this sly charmer of a story about a small town in Depression-era West Virginia whose history is rewritten by a debutante on the run. Family histories are unraveled, but mended by the fierce, strong women who dominate this delightful page-turner. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Turner House (fiction), Angela Flournoy – The Turners are a big, complicated, loving, feuding, vibrant American family living in contemporary Detroit. With flashbacks to the 1940s, this is a tale of aging, parenthood and the lifelong union of siblings. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

Twelve Tribes of Hattie (fiction), Ayana Mathis – In 1923 Hattie Shepard, a young African American woman, moved from racist Georgia to Philadelphia looking for a better life. Although she married the wrong man and lost her first born twins to illness, she carried on, mothering nine more children. All of these children, plus a grandchild, are the twelve tribes whose lives are chronicled here. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption (biography), Laura Hillenbrand – On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Force bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of the plane’s bombardier, Louis Zamperini, who struggled to a life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Underside of Joy (fiction), Sere Prince Halverson – The story of two women bound together by loss and hope for the future. Each claim to be the mother of the same two children. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Undress Me in the Temple of Heaven (nonfiction), Susan Jane Gilman – “What happens when two recent female college graduates decide to circumnavigate the world on a shoestring in 1986, starting in the tourism-challenged People's Republic of China? ‘Innocents Abroad’ doesn't begin to describe it.” (2009) [Preview the Book](#)

Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness (nonfiction), Kay Redfield Jamison - Jamison's memoir springs from her dual perspective as both a clinical psychologist whose work centers on bipolar disorder and one who has the illness herself. (1997) * [Preview the Book](#)

Warlight (fiction), Michael Ondaatje – 14 year old Nathaniel and his sister Rachel are left in the care of unusual characters when their parents suddenly leave the country for work. Only one parent returns and the siblings are offered no explanation. A dozen years later, Nathaniel begins to piece together the mysterious story that has shaped his life. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

Water for Elephants (fiction), Sara Gruen - “For pure story, this colorful, headlong tale of a Depression-era circus simply can't be beat. Heroes, villains, romance and a wild-animal stampede!” (2006) [Preview the Book](#)

We Were the Lucky Ones (fiction), Georgia Hunter - A vast novel that follows three generations of a Polish-Jewish family's efforts to survive during World War II. The strength of family, love and determination to live is explored. Inspired by the author's family experience, a first novel. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

When Breath Becomes Air (nonfiction), Paul Kalanithi - About to complete 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. The author chronicles his growth from medical student to neurosurgeon at Stanford treating the brain, the site of human identity, and finally to a patient and new father confronting his own mortality. (2016) [Preview the Book](#)

Where The Crawdads Sing (fiction), Delia Owens – A young girl abandoned by her family struggles to survive along the coast of North Carolina. Kya, who is known as The Marsh Girl in town, keeps to herself but becomes tangled in a murder investigation. (2018) [Preview the Book](#)

White Houses (fiction), Amy Bloom – Fictional account of the affair between reporter Lorena “Hick” Hickok and former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. An unforgettable story infused with world-changing history that ultimately breaks up their hidden love. (2017) [Preview the Book](#)

Wicked Girls (fiction), Alex Marwood – On a fateful summer morning in 1986, two eleven-year-old girls meet for the first time. By the end of the day, they will both be charged with murder. Twenty-five years later, journalist Kirsty Lindsay is reporting on a series of attacks on young female tourists in a seaside vacation town when her investigation leads her to interview carnival cleaner Amber Gordon. For Kirsty and Amber, it's the first time they've seen each other since childhood. A gritty psychological thriller. (2012) [Preview the Book](#)

Wide Sargasso Sea (fiction), Jean Rhys – *Wide Sargasso Sea* is the story of Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress who grew up in the West Indies on a decaying plantation. When she comes of age, she is married off to an Englishman, and he takes her away from the only place she has known—a house with a garden where "the

paths were overgrown and a smell of dead flowers mixed with the fresh living smell. Underneath the tree ferns, tall as forest tree ferns, the light was green. Orchids flourished out of reach or for some reason not to be touched." (1966) [Preview the Book](#)

Widower's Tale (fiction), Julia Glass – "Seventy-year-old Percy Darling is settling happily into retirement. But his routines are disrupted when he is persuaded to let a locally beloved preschool take over his barn. As Percy sees his rural refuge overrun by children, parents, and teachers, he must reexamine the solitary life he has made in the three decades since the sudden death of his wife." (2010) [Preview the Book](#)

Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress (fiction), Ariel Lawhon – On an August night in 1930 Manhattan, Judge Joseph Force Crater steps into a cab and is never seen again. This entertaining historical mystery transports readers to a bygone era with spins through jazz clubs and backstage dressing rooms. But beneath the Art Deco skyline and amid the intoxicating smell of smoke and whiskey, the mystery of his disappearance lingers seductively until a twist in the very last pages. (2014) [Preview the Book](#)

Wright Brothers (nonfiction), David McCullough – In this thrilling book, master historian David McCullough draws on the immense riches of the Wright Papers, including private diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, and more than a thousand letters from private family correspondence, to tell the human side of the Wright Brothers' story, including the little-known contributions of their sister, Katharine, without whom things might well have gone differently for them. (2015) [Preview the Book](#)

*** This Book Kit was a gift from a St. Lucie County Book Club or an individual.**

Annotations in quotation marks have been summarized from reviews found on Amazon.com.

For more information on book kits please call Jennifer Johnson at (772) 462-2199 johnsonjen@stlucieco.org

To book your kit, please call Tonia Crumbley at (772) 462-2190 crumbleyt@stlucieco.org

Rev. 10/14/19 JJ