

## Full List of Book Discussion Kits – September 2016

[1776](#) by David McCullough -(Large Print) Esteemed historian David McCullough details the 12 months of 1776 and shows how outnumbered and supposedly inferior men managed to fight off the world's greatest army.

[Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths](#) by Bruce Feiler - In this timely and uplifting journey, the bestselling author of *Walking the Bible* searches for the man at the heart of the world's three monotheistic religions -- and today's deadliest conflicts.

[Abundance: a novel of Marie Antoinette](#) by Sena Jeter Naslund - Marie Antoinette lived a brief--but astounding--life. She rebelled against the formality and rigid protocol of the court; an outsider who became the target of a revolution that ultimately decided her fate.

[After This](#) by Alice McDermott - This novel of a middle-class American family, in the middle decades of the twentieth century, captures the social, political, and spiritual upheavals of their changing world.

[Ahab's Wife, or the Star-Gazer](#) by Sena Jeter Naslund - Inspired by a brief passage in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, this tale of 19th century America explores the strong-willed woman who loved Captain Ahab.

[Aindreas the Messenger: Louisville, Ky, 1855](#) by Gerald McDaniel - Aindreas is a young Irish-Catholic boy living in gaudy, grubby Louisville in 1855, a city where being Irish, Catholic, German or black usually means trouble.

[The Alchemist](#) by Paulo Coelho - A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being.

[Alias Grace](#) by Margaret Atwood - The fictionalized account of one of the most notorious women of the nineteenth century who was convicted of murdering her employer and his mistress.

[All Over But the Shoutin'](#) by Rick Bragg - A dirt-poor Southern boy grows up to be a Pulitzer Prize-winning author, mainly due to the strength and determination of his remarkable mother.

[All the King's Men](#) by Robert Penn Warren - Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this classic is generally regarded as the finest novel ever written on American politics. It is the story of Willie Stark, a back-country lawyer whose idealism is overcome by his lust for power.

[All the Living](#) by C. E. Morgan - Moving to a remote tobacco farm that her lover inherited when the rest of his family was killed in a terrible accident, a young woman in 1984 Kentucky struggles with their isolated life, her lover's grief, and a budding friendship with a dynamic young preacher.

[All the Pretty Horses](#) by Cormac McCarthy - The National Book Award-winning story of three friends who set out in 1949 to cross the Rio Grande in search of the cowboy life.

[The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay](#) by Michael Chabon - In 1939 New York City, Joe Kavalier, a refugee from Hitler's Prague, joins forces with his Brooklyn-born cousin, Sammy Clay, to create comic-book superheroes inspired by their own fantasies, fears, and dreams.

[American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves](#) by Susan Cheever - A portrait of five Concord, Massachusetts writers at the center of mid-nineteenth-century American thought and literature.

[American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic](#) by Joseph J. Ellis - An account of the early years of the Republic, the most politically creative era in American history, when a dedicated group of men undertook a bold experiment in political ideals.

[American Gospel; God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation](#) by Jon Meacham - (Large Print) A history of a nation grappling with religion and politics, telling the human story of how the Founding Fathers viewed faith, and how they ultimately created a nation in which belief in God is a matter of choice.

[\*Americanah\*](#) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, where despite her academic success she is forced to grapple with what it means to be black for the first time.

[\*Angela's Ashes: A Memoir\*](#) by Frank McCourt - The Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir of childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, told with humor, compassion and forgiveness.

[\*Angle of Repose\*](#) by Wallace Stegner - A Pulitzer Prize-winning story recounting the lives of four generations living in the American West.

[\*Animal Dreams\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - A vivid tale of a young woman rediscovering that which makes her life whole when she returns home to take care of her aging father.

[\*Animals in Translation\*](#) by Temple Grandin - (Large Print) Why would a cow lick a tractor? Why do dolphins sometimes kill for fun? How can a parrot learn to spell? *Animals in Translation* will forever change the way we think about animals.

[\*Arcadia\*](#) by Lauren Groff - Bit, born in a back-to-nature commune in 1970s New York State, must come to grips with the outside world when the commune eventually fails.

[\*The Art of Racing in the Rain\*](#) by Garth Stein - Nearing the end of his life, Enzo, a dog with a philosopher's soul, tries to bring together the family, pulled apart by a three year custody battle between daughter Zoe's maternal grandparents and her father Denny, a race car driver.

[\*Assassination Vacation\*](#) by Sarah Vowell - (Large Print) A road trip like no other -- a journey to the pit stops of American political murder and the myriad ways they have been used for fun and profit and for political and cultural advantage.

[\*Astonish Me\*](#) by Maggie Shipstead – After helping a world-famous dancer defect from the Soviet Union to the United States, ballerina Joan watches her friend's career soar while her own declines in the wake of her pregnancy and marriage, a situation that eventually exposes difficult secrets.

[\*At Home\*](#) by Bill Bryson - With his signature charm, and seemingly limitless knowledge, Bill Bryson takes us on a room-by-room tour through his own house, using each room as a jumping off point into the vast history of the domestic artifacts we take for granted.

[\*At Home in Mitford\*](#) by Jan Karon - (Regular and Large Print) A warm and humorous look at everyday life of a rector and parishioners in a charming southern village.

[\*Atlas of Unknowns\*](#) by Tania James - Winning a scholarship to a prestigious school in New York, Anju leaves her sister behind in Kerala, India, and enters the elite world of her Hindu American host family.

[\*Atonement\*](#) by Ian McEwan - On a hot summer day in 1935, a young girl witnesses a moment's flirtation between her older sister and the son of a servant, bringing about a crime that will change all their lives.

[\*The Audacity of Hope\*](#) by Barak Obama - The junior senator from Illinois and future U.S. President calls for a return to America's original ideals and revealing how they can address such issues as globalization and the function of religion in public life.

[\*The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas\*](#) by Gertrude Stein – Called one of the richest, wittiest, and most irreverent biographies ever written, filled with anecdotes of Stein's friendship with famous artists and writers of early 20th century Paris.

[\*The Autobiography of Malcolm X\*](#) by Malcolm X - The classic collaboration of Alex Haley and Malcolm X that tells the truth about race and racism.

[\*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman\*](#) by Earnest Gaines - A novel in the guise of the tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, and has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960's.

[\*The Autobiography of My Mother\*](#) by Jamaica Kincaid - A fictional chronicle of a woman obsessed with piecing together the story of the mother she never knew.

[\*The Aviator's Wife\*](#) by Melanie Benjamin – This vividly imagined novel, inspired by the complicated marriage between Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, traces the romance between a handsome young aviator and a shy ambassador's daughter.

[\*The Awakening\*](#) by Kate Chopin - The story of a woman, unhappy with her indifferent husband and family, who gives in to her adulterous desires regardless of Victorian religious and social pressures.

[\*Away\*](#) by Amy Bloom - Arriving in America alone after her family is destroyed in a Russian pogrom, Lillian Leyb receives word that her daughter might still be alive and embarks on a risky odyssey that takes her from New York's Lower East Side to Siberia.

[\*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress\*](#) by Dai Sijie - Two hapless city boys are exiled to a remote village for re-education during China's infamous Cultural Revolution where they discover a hidden stash of Western classics.

[\*The Barbarian Nurseries\*](#) by Héctor Tobar - When the recession hits, Araceli, a live-in maid in the Pacific Coast Torres-Thompson household, finds herself responsible for everything - including the family's two children. Then she wakes up to discover that the parents have vanished.

[\*Bastard out of Carolina\*](#) by Dorothy Allison - A young illegitimate girl grows up in the south of the 1950's forming poignant relationships with the indomitable women in her family

[\*The Bean Trees\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - Taylor Greer leaves poor rural Kentucky in a '55 Volkswagen and ends up in Tucson Arizona, —inheriting a 3-year-old American Indian girl along the way.

[\*The Beautiful and Damned\*](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald - Set in the heady Jazz Age of New York, "The beautiful and damned" chronicles the relationship between Anthony Patch, a Harvard-educated aspiring aesthete, and his beautiful trophy wife, Gloria, as they wait to inherit his grandfather's fortune.

[\*Beautiful Ruins\*](#) by Jess Walter - In April 1962 a young Italian innkeeper in a remote village, Pasquale Tursi, puts up the "ethereal" American actress Dee Moray, who has arrived from the extravagant Rome location of "Cleopatra" supposedly sick with stomach cancer.

[\*Bee Season\*](#) by Myla Goldberg - An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling embarks on the "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.

[\*The Beet Queen\*](#) by Louise Erdrich - A family saga of two orphans who find refuge with their aunt in a North Dakota town.

[\*Before I Go to Sleep\*](#) by S. J. Watson - Without her husband's knowledge, Christine, whose memory is damaged by a long-ago accident, is treated by a neurologist who helps her to remember her former self through journal entries until inconsistencies begin to emerge, raising disturbing questions.

[\*Behind the Beautiful Forevers\*](#) by Katherine Boo - A bewildering age of global change and inequality is made human through the dramatic story of families striving toward a better life in Annawadi, a makeshift settlement in the shadow of luxury hotels near the Mumbai airport.

[\*Bel Canto\*](#) by Ann Patchett - A celebrated American soprano has just finished a recital in the home of the vice-president of a poor South American country when terrorists burst in, taking the international guests hostage.

[\*Beloved\*](#) by Toni Morrison - After the Civil War ends, Sethe longingly recalls the two-year-old daughter whom she killed when threatened with recapture after escaping from slavery 18 years before.

[\*Bettyville\*](#) by George Hodgeman – A laugh-out-loud memoir of a cultured gay man who leaves New York City to care for his aging, irascible mother in Paris, Missouri; examining the warm yet fraught relationship between mother and son, as well as growing up gay and small-town life in America.

[\*Between the World and Me\*](#) by Ta-nehisi Coates - In a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, asking the question of what is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

[\*The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America\*](#) by Timothy Egan - A tale of the 1910 blaze that burned across Montana, Idaho and Washington and put the fledgling U.S. Forest Service through a veritable trial by fire and laying the foundation of the National Park system.

[\*Big Stone Gap\*](#) by Adriana Trigiani - A 35-year-old pharmacist and self-proclaimed spinster of a small Virginia village discovers a skeleton in her family's formerly tidy closet that completely unravels her quiet, conventional life.

[\*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk\*](#) by Ben Fountain – Three minutes and forty-three seconds of intense warfare with Iraqi insurgents has transformed the eight surviving men of Bravo Squad into America's most sought-after heroes. Now they're on a media-intensive nationwide tour, including the halftime show at a Dallas Cowboys game.

[\*The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution\*](#) by Jonathan Eig - The fascinating story of one of the most important scientific discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century made possible by the unlikely bonds between a millionaire activist, a free-loving crusader, a Roman Catholic gynecologist, and a maverick scientist.

[\*The Birth of Venus\*](#) by Sarah Dunant - (Regular and Large Print) A novel of turbulent 15th-century Florence, a lavish city besieged by plague, threat of invasion and religious turmoil, where a young noblewoman must navigate her way into womanhood.

[\*The Blind Assassin\*](#) by Margaret Atwood - Winner of the Booker Prize, this brilliant novel within a novel tells the story of two sisters as a romance, a mystery and a fantasy all combined.

[\*Blood, Bones & Butter\*](#) by Gabrielle Hamilton - The owner of the prestigious Manhattan restaurant Prune describes her inadvertent education as a very reluctant chef.

[\*Blood Done Sign My Name\*](#) by Timothy B. Tyson - In this outstanding personal history, Tyson, a professor of African-American studies who's white, unflinchingly examines the civil rights struggle in the South.

[\*The Blue Notebook\*](#) by James Levine - Sold into sexual slavery as a young girl, fifteen-year-old Batuk spends her days in a cage on Mumbai's child-prostitute district while recording thoughts and stories in a diary.

[\*The Bluest Eye\*](#) by Toni Morrison - Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in an America whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue, so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different.

[\*The Body Project: an Intimate History of American Girls\*](#) by Joan Jacobs Brumberg - An examination of how teenage girls have come to view their bodies as a projection of their worth.

[\*Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin\*](#) by Jill Lepore – -a revelatory portrait of Benjamin Franklin's youngest sister, whose obscurity and poverty were matched only by her brother's fame and wealth but who, like him, was a passionate reader, a gifted writer, and an astonishingly shrewd political commentator.

[\*The Book of Unknown Americans\*](#) by Cristina Henríquez - Moving from Mexico to the United States when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery, and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.

[\*The Book Thief\*](#) by Mark Zusak - Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.

[\*The Bookseller of Kabul\*](#) by Asne Seierstad - Norwegian journalist Seierstad dons the burkha to live with a bookseller's family in post-Taliban Afghanistan, revealing intimate details of women's lives.

[\*The Boston Girl\*](#) by Anita Diamant - Addie is the spirited daughter of an immigrant Jewish family, born in 1900, whose intelligence and curiosity take her to the twentieth century world her conservative parents can't imagine—a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities for women.

[\*Boy, Snow, Bird\*](#) by Helen Oyeyemi - This reimagining of the Snow White story, set in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s, is recast as a story about secrets and lies, mothers and daughters, lost sisters and the impossibility of seeing oneself or being seen in a brutally racist world.

[\*The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics\*](#) by Daniel James Brown - 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.

[\*Brave New World\*](#) by Aldous Huxley - In the year 632 A.F. (After Ford, the deity) dawns a world of tomorrow in which capitalist civilization has been reconstituted through scientific and psychological engineering, where the people are genetically designed to be passive, and useful to the ruling class.

[\*Breath, Eyes, Memory\*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - A novel of both the poverty and richness of Haitian family life told by a poor Haitian woman, reunited with the mother she never knew, and the family bonds that extend beyond generations.

[\*The Bridge of San Luis Rey\*](#) by Thornton Wilder - In this Pulitzer Prize winning classic, a bridge collapses in eighteenth-century Peru and five die. Who were they? And what cosmic ironies led them to their fate?

[\*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao\*](#) by Junot Díaz - Living with an old-world mother and rebellious sister, an urban New Jersey misfit dreams of becoming the next J. R. R. Tolkien and believes that a long-standing family curse is thwarting his efforts to find love and happiness.

[\*Brooklyn\*](#) by Colm Tóibín - Leaving her home in post-World War II Ireland to work as a bookkeeper in Brooklyn, Eilis Lacey discovers a new romance in America with a charming blond Italian man before devastating news from home threatens her happiness.

[\*Brother, I'm Dying\*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - From the award-winning author of "The Dew Breaker" comes her first work of nonfiction: a deeply affecting story of home and family set in America and Haiti, of two men's lives and deaths, and of a daughter's great love for them both.

[\*The Buddha in the Attic\*](#) by Julie Otsuka – The story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as “picture brides” from their arduous journeys by boat, and their tremulous first nights as new wives; from their experiences raising children who would later reject their culture and language, to the deracinating arrival of war.

[\*Burial Rites\*](#) by Hannah Kent – Based on the true story of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, a servant in northern Iceland who was condemned to death after the murder of two men, one of whom was her employer, and became the last woman put to death in Iceland.

[\*Cakes and Ale\*](#) by W. Somerset Maugham - The bitter, witty novel about the business of writing and London literary society between the two World Wars focuses on the lives of a famous writer and his two very different wives.

[Caleb's Crossing](#) by Geraldine Brooks - Forging a deep friendship with a Wampanoag chieftain's son on the Great Harbor settlement where her minister father is working to convert the tribe, Bethia follows his subsequent ivy league education and efforts to bridge cultures among the colonial elite.

[Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy, and Hard Times](#) by Jennifer Worth - Worth was just twenty-two when she volunteered for midwifery training in London's East End in the 1950s. Coming from a sheltered background, she found that conditions for many women giving birth just half a century ago were horrifying.

[Canada](#) by Richard Ford - The story unfolds around 15-year-old Dell Parsons, whose world collapses when his parents are jailed for a bank robbery, his twin sister flees, and he is transported across the border by a family friend to an obscure town in Canada.

[Cannery Row](#) by John Steinbeck - A timeless American classic. Cannery Row is only a few blocks long, but the story it harbors is suffused with warmth, understanding and a great fund of human values.

[Carol or The Price of Salt](#) by Patricia Highsmith - Trapped in a boring, dead-end day job in a department store, stage designer Therese Belivet finds her life forever changed when she encounters--and falls in love with Carol Aird, an alluring suburban housewife in the midst of a divorce.

[Carrie](#) by Stephen King - The Master of Horror's debut novel, Carrie is the story of a misunderstood high school girl, her extraordinary telekinetic powers, and her violent rampage of revenge.

[Case Histories](#) by Kate Atkinson - As private detective Jackson Brodie investigates three cold cases, startling connections and discoveries emerge and Jackson finds himself inextricably caught up in his clients' lives.

[Casebook](#) by Mona Simpson - Spying and eavesdropping on his separating parents at the side of his best friend, young Miles discovers what he least wants to know: the inner workings of his parents' lives. And even then he can't stop searching.

[The Casual Vacancy](#) by J. K. Rowling - The early death of a small town councilman reveals deep-rooted conflicts in the seemingly idyllic community of Pagford, which rapidly deteriorates in the face of cultural disputes, generation clashes, and a volatile election.

[The Cats Table](#) by Michael Ondaatje - The story by the author *The English Patient*, begins at "the cat's table" of ocean liner where 11-year narrator Michael shares meals and the company of an eccentric group of passengers as they journey from Sri Lanka to England.

[Changing Planes](#) by Ursula Le Guin - From the Grand Mistress of speculative fiction comes *A Gulliver's Travels* for the 21st century that is deeply thought provoking and heartbreakingly poignant.

[The Chaperone](#) by Laura Moriarty - A novel about the friendship between an adolescent, pre-movie-star Louise Brooks, and the 36-year-old woman who chaperones her to New York City for a summer, in 1922, and how it changes both their lives

[The Children Act](#) by Ian McEwan - Fiona Maye, a leading High Court judge who presides over cases in the family division, must decide whether a teenage boy, a devout Jehovah's Witness, can be forced by the court to undergo the blood transfusion that is necessary to save his life.

[The Children's Crusade](#) by Ann Packer - When their younger sibling returns, the three oldest Blair children find their lives disrupted in ways they could have never imagined as they each tell their story that is interwoven with portraits of their family at crucial points in their history.

[A Christmas Carol](#) by Charles Dickens - Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of past, present and future in the Victorian story of the meaning of redemption and benevolence.

[Circling the Sun](#) by Paula McLain - A fictionalized biography of the adventures and romances of beautiful, high-flying aviator and author Beryl Markham in British Kenya in the early 20th century. Her 1936 solo flight across the Atlantic in a two-seater prop plane transfixed the world.

[\*Citizens of London: The Americans Who stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour\*](#) by Lynne Olson - The behind-the-scenes story of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain, told from the perspective of three key American players in London: Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant

[\*City of Thieves\*](#) by David Benioff - Documenting his grandparents' experiences during the siege of Leningrad, a young writer learns his grandfather's story about how a military deserter and he tried to secure pardons by gathering hard-to-find ingredients for a powerful colonel's daughter's wedding cake.

[\*City of Women\*](#) by David Gillham - Hiding her clandestine activities behind the persona of a model Nazi soldier's wife at the height of World War II, Sigrid Schroeder dreams of her former Jewish lover and risks everything to hide a mother and two young children who she believes might be her lover's family.

[\*Claire of the Sea Light\*](#) by Edwidge Danticat - The interconnected secrets of a coastal Haitian town are revealed when one little girl, the daughter of a poor fisherman, goes missing on her seventh birthday.

[\*Clay's Quilt\*](#) by Silas House - Orphaned at age four, Clay Sizemore is taken in by the residents of a small Appalachian mining town. As he grows, his substitute family helps him find his true family roots.

[\*Cleopatra\*](#) by Stacy Schiff – A Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer brings to life the most intriguing woman in the history of the world: Cleopatra, the last queen of Egypt.

[\*Cloud Chamber\*](#) by Michael Dorris - The saga of an American immigrant family from their roots in 19th century Ireland to life in present-day Montana.

[\*Cloudsplitter\*](#) by Russell Banks - Narrated by the son of the abolitionist John Brown, this work of fiction recreates the fractured political and social landscape of pre-Civil War America.

[\*Club Dumas\*](#) by Arturo Perez-Reverte - In this intellectual thriller a rare-book specialist, called in to authenticate a Dumas manuscript, is drawn into a web of mystery.

[\*The Coal Tattoo\*](#) by Silas House - (Large Print) When a miner survives the collapse of a mine, he'll often surface with a permanent mark stamped onto his skin-- a coal tattoo. Everyone who is raised in Black Banks is indelibly marked by and forever connected to the place.

[\*Coldest Winter Ever\*](#) by Sister Souljah - Winter Santiago, the daughter of one of Brooklyn's most powerful drug czars, uses her own weapons--including sex and an aggressive attitude--to stay on top, after her father's empire is threatened by a drug war.

[\*The Collected Writings of Zelda Fitzgerald\*](#) by Zelda Fitzgerald – Her only published novel, *Save Me the Waltz*, an autobiographical account of the Fitzgeralds' adventures in Paris and on the Riviera; eleven short stories; and the letters she wrote to her husband over the span of their courtship and marriage.

[\*The Color of Water: a Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother\*](#) by James McBride - An inspirational memoir of growing up in an interracial family headed by a white Jewish mother.

[\*Colored People: a Memoir\*](#) by Henry Louis Gates - A rich and touching memoir of growing up in West Virginia in the 1950's by a celebrated scholar, writer and Harvard professor.

[\*The Commoner\*](#) by John Burnham Schwartz - In 1959, Haruko marries the Crown Prince of Japan, becoming the first commoner to enter the mysterious and reclusive world of Japanese royalty, confronting the cruelty and suspicions of the court, until, three decades later, she helps arrange the marriage of her son.

[\*Complete Stories\*](#) by Dorothy Parker -. Dorothy Parker's talents extended far beyond brash one-liners and clever rhymes. Her skilled social satire brings to life the urban milieu from the Jazz Age to the 1950s. This is the complete collection of stories including thirteen previously unpublished works.

[\*A Confederacy of Dunces\*](#) by John Kennedy Toole - A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of a mother and son voicing insights and injunctions regarding their lives in back alley New Orleans.

[\*Confessions of a Pagan Nun\*](#) by Kate Horsley - A fictional memoir of a 5<sup>th</sup> century nun of St Brigid's convent who had been a practicing druid for many years during Ireland's Dark Ages.

[\*A Constellation of Vital Phenomena\*](#) by Anthony Marra - In war-torn Chechnya, a doctor watches as Russian soldiers abduct his neighbor, who has been accused of aiding Chechen rebels. He later rescues the neighbor's 8-year-old daughter, then colludes with another doctor to form an unlikely family amid the daily violence.

[\*The Covenant with Black America\*](#) by Tavis Smiley - A collection of essays that plot a course for African Americans to improve their circumstances in areas ranging from health and education to crime reduction and financial well-being.

[\*The Cross-Country Quilters: an Elm Creek Novel\*](#) by Jennifer Chiaverini - (Large Print) A group of five far-flung friends come together to complete a "challenge quilt," meanwhile learning that the powers of friendship can transcend any obstacle.

[\*Crow Lake\*](#) by Mary Lawson - Orphaned young, Kate Morrison was her older brother Matt's protégée, her fascination for pond life fed by his passionate interest in the natural world. Now a zoologist, she can identify organisms under a microscope but seems blind to the state of her own emotional life.

[\*The Crying of Lot 49\*](#) by Thomas Pynchon - When Oedipa Maas is named as the executor of her late lover's will, she discovers that his estate is mysteriously connected with an underground organization.

[\*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time\*](#) by Mark Haddon - Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, a mathematically-gifted, autistic teenager investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog, meanwhile uncovering family secrets.

[\*Cutting for Stone\*](#) by Abraham Verghese - Twin brothers born in Ethiopia of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon are bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine,

[\*Daisy Turner's Kin\*](#) by Jane C. Beck - A daughter of freed African American slaves, Daisy Turner became a living repository of history. The family narrative entrusted to her began among the Yoruba in West Africa and continued with her own century and more of life.

[\*Dancing at the Rascal Fair\*](#) by Ivan Doig - The tale of the settlement of the frontier between 1890 and 1919 told through the lives of a young Scotsman and his friend who homestead in the Two Medicine Country.

[\*The Daughter of Time\*](#) by Josephine Tey - A 20th-century policeman sees a picture of Richard III and reinvestigates Richard's role in the murder of the princes in the Tower using all available information about Richard's time. Voted the number one mystery novel of all time by the Crime Writers Association.

[\*The Daughters of Mars\*](#) by Thomas Keneally - Joining the war effort as nurses in 1915, two spirited Australian sisters, carrying a guilty secret, become the friends they never were at home and find themselves courageous in the face of danger as they serve during the first World War.

[\*Day After Night\*](#) by Anita Diamant - A tale inspired by the post-Holocaust experience is set in an immigrant holding camp in 1945 Palestine, where four women, refugees from Nazi Europe, find healing in the bonds of friendship that are forged while recounting their losses.

[\*Dead Souls\*](#) by Nikolai Gogol – In 19th century Russia an opportunist takes advantage of political corruption to buy landowners' rights to dead but registered and counted peasants in order to raise money on the certificates.

[\*Defending Jacob\*](#) by William Landay - Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts county for more than twenty years when he is blindsided by his fourteen-year-old son being charged with the murder of a fellow student.

[\*Delta Wedding\*](#) by Eudora Welty - Set in 1923 on a Mississippi delta plantation, this vivid and charming portrait of a large southern family is shown through the Fairchilds as they prepare for their daughter's wedding.

[\*The Devil in the White City\*](#) by Erik Larson - The true tale of two men: the brilliant architect behind the legendary Chicago 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death.

[\*Digging to America\*](#) by Anne Tyler - Two families, who would otherwise never have come together, meet by chance at the Baltimore airport, each awaiting the arrival of an adopted infant daughter from Korea. A penetrating light on the American way as seen from two perspectives.

[\*The Dinner\*](#) by Herman Koch - Meeting at an Amsterdam restaurant for dinner, two couples move from small talk to the wrenching shared challenge of their teenage sons' act of violence that has triggered a police investigation and revealed the extent to which each family will go to protect those they love.

[\*Disgrace\*](#) by J. M. Coetzee - In post-apartheid South Africa, a fifty-two-year-old college professor who has lost his job for sleeping with a student tries to relate to his daughter, Lucy, who works with an ambitious African farmer.

[\*Dispatches from Pluto: Lost and Found in the Mississippi Delta\*](#) by Richard Grant – Adventure writer Grant takes on “the most American place on Earth”—the enigmatic, beautiful, often derided Mississippi Delta where he and his girlfriend decide on a whim to buy an old plantation house in Pluto, Miss and get to know all their neighbors - black, white, rich and poor.

[\*The Ditchdigger's Daughters: a Black Family's Astonishing Success Story\*](#) by Yvonne S. Thornton - The memoir of a prominent physician who recalls growing up as one of five daughters in a black family headed by a determined father.

[\*The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood\*](#) by Rebecca Wells - A tale of four southern women and their daughters who find identity and acceptance through their lifelong friendships.

[\*The Dogs of Babel\*](#) by Carolyn Parkhurst – After discovering clues that indicate his beloved wife may not have died accidentally Paul Iverson begins a perilous search for the truth while attempting to teach his dog, who witnessed the crime, to communicate.

[\*The Dollmaker\*](#) by Harriette Arnow - A story of a strong Southern woman determined to hold onto her dreams of a rural family life while uprooted to Detroit during World War II.

[\*Dr. King's Last Day\*](#) by Georgia Davis Powers – The author, the first person of color and the first woman elected to the Kentucky State Senate, gives an eyewitness account of the hours leading up to Dr. King's 1968 death and the lives of the five friends who spent those last hours with him.

[\*The Dream Lover\*](#) by Elizabeth Berg – In 1831 Aurore Dupin, a free-spirited young woman, leaves her loveless marriage in the French countryside for a creative, bohemian life in Paris, a life that will lead her to become literary icon George Sand whose cross-dressing persona and many love affairs scandalized society.

[\*Dreamers of the Day\*](#) by Mary Doria Russell - Agnes Shanklin at 40 decides to take a trip to Egypt and the Middle East. Her social status puts her in contact with members of the post-World War I Cairo Peace Conference who designated the boundaries of many of the Middle Eastern countries of today.

[\*Dreams from My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance\*](#) by Barack Obama - The son of an African father and white American mother discusses his childhood in Hawaii, his struggle to find his identity as an African American, and his life's accomplishments.

[\*Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim\*](#) by David Sedaris - (Large Print) A collection of whimsical essays that inhabits Sedaris'“ deliriously twisted domain of hilarious childhood dramas infused with melancholy and the gulf of misunderstanding that exists between family members.

[\*Drinking Coffee Elsewhere\*](#) by Z.Z. Packer - This debut collection of short stories dealing with black men and women, mostly young and urban, treats listeners to the richness of highly developed characters and leads them to some intriguing scenarios.

[\*Eat Pray Love: One Woman's Search for Everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia\*](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert - Traces the author's decision to quit her job and travel the world for a year after suffering a midlife crisis and divorce, a journey that took her to three places in her quest to learn the art of spiritual balance

[\*Ed King\*](#) by David Guterson - Left on a doorstep after his illegal au pair mother exacts a brutal revenge on his father, Edward is raised by an adoring family and grows up to become a famous billionaire Internet tycoon who hurtles toward a fate that he is powerless to control..

[\*Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life\*](#) by Alison Weir - A vibrant portrait of this truly exceptional woman, one of the great heroines of the Middle Ages. Eleanor managed to defy convention as she exercised power in the political sphere and crucial influence over her husbands and sons.

[\*The Elegance of the Hedgehog\*](#) by Muriel Barbery - The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu.

[\*Elizabeth and her German Garden\*](#) by Elizabeth Von Arnim – Originally published in 1898, this is a year's diary of a noblewoman. It includes commentary on the beauty of nature and on society, but is primarily humorous due to Elizabeth's frequent mistakes and her idiosyncratic outlook on life.

[\*Ella Minnow Pea\*](#) by Mark Dunn - Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the Nollop Island's Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop.

[\*Ellen Foster\*](#) by Kaye Gibbons - A story of the life of a young foster child and the victory of hope over victimization in her young life.

[\*The Emperor of Ocean Park\*](#) by Stephen Carter - Set in two privileged worlds: the upper crust African American society of the Eastern seaboard—families who summer at Martha's Vineyard—and the inner circle of an Ivy League law school. A riveting novel of suspense with the saga of a unique family.

[\*Ender's Game\*](#) by Orson Scott Card - In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Winner of the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

[\*The Enduring Hills\*](#) by Janice Holt Giles - A story of a boy who yearns for wider horizons than his Eastern Kentucky home.

[\*Euphoria\*](#) by Lily King - Frustrated by his research efforts and depressed over the death of his brothers, Andre Banson runs into two fellow anthropologists, a married couple, in 1930s New Guinea and begins a tumultuous relationship with them. The story is loosely based on events in the life of Margaret Mead.

[\*Every Last One\*](#) by Anna Quindlen - Mary Beth Latham has built her life around her family, around caring for her three teenage children and preserving the rituals of their daily life, only to be blindsided by a shocking act of violence.

[\*Everything I Never Told You\*](#) by Celeste Ng - When a teenager's body is dragged from the lake in the 1970s Ohio college town where she and her biracial family don't quite fit in, her parents, blonde home maker Marilyn and Chinese-American professor James, get swept into churning emotional conflicts.

[\*Expensive People\*](#) by Joyce Carol Oates - A psychotic yet brilliant eighteen-year-old boy narrates his nightmarish tale of matricide against a backdrop of affluent, but barren suburbia.

[\*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close\*](#) by Jonathan Foer - Oskar searches New York with a mysterious key left by his father, killed in the September 11 attacks, a quest that intertwines with the story of his grandparents, whose lives were blighted by the firebombing of Dresden.

[\*The Eyre Affair\*](#) by Jasper Fforde - In Great Britain, circa 1985, time travel is routine, cloning is a reality, and literature is taken very, very seriously. An ingenious fantasy that unites intrigue with English literature in a delightfully witty mix.

[\*Fahrenheit 451\*](#) by Ray Bradbury - Fireman Guy Montag loves to rush to a fire and watch books burn up. Then he meets a seventeen-year old girl who tells him of a past when people were not afraid, and a professor who tells him of a future where people could think.

[\*Fair and Tender Ladies\*](#) by Lee Smith - Ivy Rowe, turn of the century Virginia mountain girl, then mother, wife, and finally, "Mamaw," writes eloquent letters to friends and family.

[\*A Family Affair\*](#) by Reshonda Tate Billingsley - After she gives up a chance to attend Julliard to care for her sick mother, Olivia Dawson learns that her father is alive and well--and very wealthy--and decides to confront the man who left her and her mother in his wake.

[\*The Family Fang\*](#) by Kevin Wilson - Annie and Buster grew up as Child A and Child B, the daughter and son of acclaimed performance artists Camille and Caleb Fang, reluctant participants in their parents' odd brand of unscripted public art. Now grown, Annie and Buster Fang find themselves back home

[\*Far From the Madding Crowd\*](#) by Thomas Hardy - Although Gabriel Oak loves the proud Bathsheba Everdene, she willfully becomes involved with two other unsuitable men, with tragic consequences.

[\*Fast Food Nation: the Dark Side of the All-American Meal\*](#) by Eric Schlosser - Schlosser explains how the development of fast-food restaurants has led to the standardization of American culture, widespread obesity, urban sprawl and more.

[\*Fathers and Sons\*](#) by Ivan Turgenev – In 19th century Russia, Evgeny Bazarov, a young student and nihilist, professes to believe in nothing but science and thus disappoints his adoring parents.

[\*Fifth Born\*](#) by Zelda Lockhart - Triggered by an accidental meeting with a relative she had not seen in a long time, long-buried memories resurface to reveal a shocking truth to Odessa about the sexual abuse that marked her early family life.

[\*First Mothers: the Women Who Shaped the Presidents\*](#) by Bonnie Angelo - First Mothers captures the daily lives, thoughts and feelings of the remarkable women who played such a large role in developing the characters of the modern American Presidents.

[\*The Five People You Meet in Heaven\*](#) by Mitch Albom - Killed in a tragic accident, an elderly man who believes that he had an uninspired life awakens in the afterlife, where he discovers that heaven consists of having five people explain the meaning of one's life.

[\*Five Quarters of the Orange\*](#) by Joanne Harris - A sensual novel follows a woman as she returns to the French village where she lived as a girl during the German occupation.

[\*Flappers: Six Women of a Dangerous Generation\*](#) by Judith Mackrell – Six women who defined the Jazz Age—Josephine Baker, Tallulah Bankhead, Diana Cooper, Nancy Cunard, Zelda Fitzgerald, and Tamara de Lempicka—would presage the sexual revolution by nearly half a century and would shape the role of women for generations to come.

[\*Flatland\*](#) by Edwin Abbott - Flatland, a place of two dimensions peopled by a hierarchy of geometrical forms, is the home of narrator A. Square, who takes readers along on a tour of his bizarre homeland that provides a hilarious satire on Victorian society.

[\*Flight Behavior\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - Dellarobia Turnbow is a discontent farmwife when she discovers an unusual group of butterflies in a forested valley behind her house. This curiosity causes a stir in the scientific and local communities, garnering a great deal of media attention and leads to Dellarobia confronting and questioning everything she thought she believed in..

[\*For the Benefit of Those Who See\*](#) by Rosemary Mahoney – Not only the story of Braille Without Borders, the first school for the blind in Tibet, and of Sabriye Tenberken, the remarkable blind woman who founded the school, but also a cultural history of blindness.

[\*The Forgotten Waltz\*](#) by Anne Enright - During a peaceful snowfall in a suburb in Dublin, a woman remembers her younger days spent with her lover in various hotel rooms.

[\*Founding Brothers: the Revolutionary Generation\*](#) by Joseph Ellis - An illuminating study of the intertwined lives of the founders of the American republic--Adams, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, and Washington.

[\*The Fountain of St. James Court\*](#) by Sena Jeter Naslund (Large Print) - Kathryn Callaghan has just finished her novel about renowned painter Élisabeth Vigée-Le Brun, a survivor of the French Revolution who was hated for her sympathetic portraits of Marie Antoinette. Although the manuscript is complete, its author remains haunted by Élisabeth's experiences,

[\*The Fountainhead\*](#) by Ayn Rand - Rand's hero is Howard Roark, a brilliant young architect who is engaged in ideological warfare with a society that despises him, an architectural community that doesn't understand him, and a woman who loves him but wants to destroy him.

[\*Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus\*](#) by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley - This 19th Century classic is a timeless terrifying tale of one man's obsession to create life – and the monster that became his legacy.

[\*Franny and Zooey\*](#) by J. D. Salinger - Two interrelated stories, originally published in The New Yorker magazine, concern Franny and Zooey Glass, two members of the family that was the subject of most of Salinger's short fiction.

[\*Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café\*](#) by Fannie Flagg - (Large Print) After Idgie saves Ruth from an abusive marriage, these two friends become partners in running the Whistle Stop Cafe, where no one, "not even hobos and colored," is turned away for inability to pay.

[\*A Game of Thrones\*](#) by George R. R. Martin - The aristocratic Stark family faces its ultimate challenge in the onset of a generation-long winter, the poisonous plots of the rival Lannisters, the emergence of the Neverborn demons, and the arrival of barbarian hordes.

[\*Gaudy Night\*](#) by Dorothy L. Sayres - This famous Harriet Vane mystery takes place at the all female Shrewsbury College at Oxford, where a powerful argument for women's status as men's intellectual equals is unfolding.

[\*The German Woman\*](#) by Paul Griner - Years after being mistaken for a spy and forced to flee a World War I field hospital, Kate, the English widow of a German surgeon, attracts the attention of Claus, a propaganda filmmaker and World War II British spy. New book by Kentucky author.

[\*Ghosting\*](#) by Kirby Gann - In Eastern Kentucky a young man has disappeared, along with his drug dealer's reefer harvest. Deciding that the best way to discover what happened to his older brother is to take his place as a drug runner, James Cole plunges into a dark underworld of drugs, violence, and long hidden family secrets.

[\*Giants in the Earth: a Saga of the Prairie\*](#) by Ole Edvart Rolvaag - Nobel Prize winning classic story of a Norwegian pioneer family's struggles with the land and the elements of the Dakota Territory as they try to make a new life in America.

[\*Gift from the Sea\*](#) by Anne Morrow Lindbergh - The author reveals her compelling meditations on youth and age, love and marriage, solitude, peace and contentment, as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea.

[\*Gilded Lives, Fatal Voyage: the Titanic's First-Class Passengers and Their World\*](#) by Hugh Brewster - A haunting account of the fateful maiden crossing interweaving personal narratives of the lost liner's most fascinating people, featuring 100 rarely seen photographs

[\*Gilead\*](#) by Marilynne Robinson - (Regular and Large Print) Nearing death, the Reverend John Ames writes a letter to his son chronicling three generations of his family, a story that stretches back to the Civil War and reveals uncomfortable family secrets.

[\*Girl in Hyacinth Blue\*](#) by Susan Vreeland - A compelling tale that traces the ownership of a Vermeer painting through time, marking the ways that beauty transforms us.

[\*The Girl in the Blue Beret\*](#) by Bobbie Ann Mason - When an American World War II pilot shot down in Occupied Europe returns to his crash site decades later, he finds himself drawn back in time to the brave people who helped him escape from the Nazis.

[\*Girl, Interrupted\*](#) by Susanna Kaysen - A sharp-edged memoir of a teenage girl and the two years she spent in a psychiatric ward.

[\*Girl with a Pearl Earring\*](#) by Tracy Chevalier - A fictional history of 17th century Dutch culture featuring the young woman portrayed in Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring".

[\*The Girls from Ames: A Story of Women and a Forty-year Friendship\*](#) by Jeffrey Zaslow - A moving tribute to female friendships, with the inspiring story of eleven girls and the ten women they became.

[\*The Giver\*](#) by Lois Lowry - A Newbery Award winner depicting a future society and the young boy who realizes the truth about his world and struggles with its duplicity.

[\*Glaciers\*](#) by Alexis M. Smith - A day in the life of Isabel, a twentysomething thrift-store shopper. Isabel's childhood snows from her youth in Alaska are juxtaposed against her adult trip to a vintage thrift store; her hopes for an evening party push against the echoes of war that haunt a young soldier whom she loves.

[\*The Glass Castle\*](#) by Jeanette Walls - The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

[\*Go Set a Watchman\*](#) by Harper Lee - Twenty years after the trial of Tom Robinson, Scout returns home to Maycomb to visit her father and struggles with personal and political issues as her small Alabama town adjusts to the turbulent events beginning to transform the United States in the mid-1950s.

[\*Go Tell It on the Mountain\*](#) by James Baldwin – An autobiographical novel that tells the story of the deep spiritual struggle of a fourteen year old black boy growing up in a Harlem community in the 1930s and of his attempts to find his own identity as the son of a Pentecostal minister.

[\*God Help the Child\*](#) by Toni Morrison – The story of a woman who calls herself Bride, whose stunning blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, her boldness and confidence, her success in life; but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love.

[\*The God of Small Things\*](#) by Arundhati Roy - In 1969 in Kerala, India, Rahel and her twin brother, Estha, struggle to forge a childhood for themselves amid the destruction of their family life. Winner of the Booker Prize for best fiction.

[\*Gods and Generals\*](#) by Jeff Shaara - (Large Print) An epic fictional account of the lives and military careers of Stonewall Jackson, Winfield Scott Hancock, Joshua Chamberlain, and Robert E. Lee.

[\*Gone Girl\*](#) by Gillian Flynn - When a woman goes missing on her fifth wedding anniversary, her diary reveals hidden turmoil in her marriage, while her husband, desperate to clear himself of suspicion, realizes that something more disturbing than murder may have occurred.

[\*The Good Earth\*](#) by Pearl S. Buck - This great modern classic depicts life in China through one Chinese peasant and his family at a time before the vast political and social upheavals transformed an essentially agrarian country into a world power.

[\*Good Kings Bad Kings\*](#) by Susan Nussbaum - The residents at a facility for disabled young people in Chicago build trust and make friends in an effort to fight against their living conditions and mistreatment in this debut novel from the playwright behind "Mishuganismo."

[\*The Good Lord Bird\*](#) by James McBride - Mistaken for a girl on account of his delicate features and sackcloth smock, 12-year-old slave Henry Shackleford is liberated by abolitionist John Brown and accompanies the increasingly fanatical Brown on his crusade to end slavery.

[\*A Good Man is Hard to Find, and Other Stories\*](#) by Flannery O'Connor - O'Connor keenly uses irony and dialogue to focus on the dark side of life in the rural south in this collection of short stories.

[\*The Grapes of Wrath\*](#) by John Steinbeck - A Pulitzer Prize-winning novel spotlighting the struggle of a dust bowl family who migrate to California to become migrant workers.

[\*The Great Gatsby\*](#) by F. Scott Fitzgerald - The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan has been acclaimed by generations of readers.

[\*Great House\*](#) by Nicole Krauss - This novel consists of four stories divided among eight chapters, all touching on themes of loss and recovery, and anchored to a massive writing desk that resurfaces among numerous households, much to the bewilderment and existential tension of those in its orbit,

[\*The Great Santini\*](#) by Pat Conroy - Stern and unyielding Marine pilot Bull Meecham rules his family like his squadron, with an iron fist, challenging his southern-bred gentle wife and his top athlete son to stand up and fight back for the independence to make their own decisions.

[\*The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris\*](#) by David G. McCullough - The story of the adventurous American artists, writers, doctors, politicians, and others who set off for Paris in the years between 1830 and 1900, hungry to learn and to excel in their work. What they achieved would profoundly alter American history.

[\*The Greatest Generation\*](#) by Tom Brokaw - (Large Print) The real-life stories of ordinary people responding in extraordinary ways to the defining events of the Depression and World War II.

[\*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society\*](#) by Mary Ann Shaffer - An account of a writer's relationship with the members of a unique book club formed on the isle of Guernsey as an alibi to protect its members from arrest at the hands of the Nazis during WWII.

[\*Guests on Earth\*](#) by Lee Smith - A young orphaned piano prodigy in 1936 is admitted to a North Carolina mental hospital under the care of a celebrated doctor and receives innovative treatment based on exercise, diet, and art therapies alongside Zelda Fitzgerald.

[\*Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies\*](#) by Jared Diamond - Diamond offers a convincing explanation of the way the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially based theories of human history.

[\*H is for Hawk\*](#) by Helen Macdonald - When naturalist Helen Macdonald's beloved father died suddenly, she was devastated. An experienced falconer, she resolved to purchase and raise one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk, as a means to cope with her loss. Thus Mabel came into her life.

[\*Half Broke Horses\*](#) by Jeanette Walls - Originally conceived as a biography of her pioneer grandmother based on family interviews and historical research, Walls ultimately assumed Smith's indomitable voice and set out to write a novelistic recreation of an unconventional life.

[\*The Hand I Fan With: a Novel\*](#) by Tina M. Ansa - A rich story of the search for love and companionship in a small Georgia town.

[\*The Handmaid's Tale\*](#) by Margaret Atwood - A speculative allegory focusing on a world dominated by militaristic fundamentalists, with selective women designated for breeding purposes.

[\*Hannah Coulter\*](#) by Wendell Berry - Now, in her late seventies, twice-widowed and alone, Hannah sorts through her memories: of her childhood, of young love and loss, of raising children and the changing seasons. An installment in Wendell Berry's story of the citizens of Port William, Kentucky.

[\*The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun\*](#) by Gretchen Rubin - Rubin chronicles her adventures during the twelve months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier.

[\*The Harlot by the Side of the Road: Forbidden Tales of the Bible\*](#) by Jonathan Kirsch - Sex. Violence. Scandal. These are words we rarely associate with the Bible. Kirsch places each story within the political and social context of its time with eye-opening analysis.

[\*The Haunting of Hill House\*](#) by Shirley Jackson - A tale of subtle, psychological terror has earned its place as one of the significant haunted house stories of the ages.

[\*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter\*](#) by Carson McCullers - The story of the passions of an adolescent girl and her friendships with social outcasts of her small southern town.

[\*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius\*](#) by Dave Eggers - A wrenching, hilarious, and stylistically groundbreaking story of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother.

[\*Hell's Angels: A Strange and Terrible Saga\*](#) by Hunter S. Thompson - In the mid-1960s, Thompson spent almost two years living with the controversial Angels. His book successfully captures a singular moment in American history, when such countercultural movements were electrifying and horrifying America.

[\*The Help\*](#) by Kathryn Stockett - (Regular and Large Print) Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.

[\*Herland\*](#) by Charlotte Perkins Gilman - Utopian novel about a fictitious society of women who reproduce by asexual means resulting in an ideal society that is free of conflict and war.

[\*The History of Love\*](#) by Nicole Kraus - A long-lost book reappears, mysteriously connecting an old man searching for his son and a girl seeking a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness.

[\*Home\*](#) by Marilyn Robinson - Returning to Gilead to care for her dying father, Glory Boughton is joined by her long-absent brother, with whom she bonds throughout his struggles with alcoholism, unemployment, and their father's traditionalist values.

[\*Homer and Langley\*](#) by E. L. Doctorow - A tale inspired by a true story finds the blind Homer Collyer closeted within a once-grand Fifth Avenue mansion with his damaged brother and remembering a life marked by colorful characters, political events, and technological achievements.

[\*Hotel du Lac\*](#) by Anita Brookner - After jilting her fiancé, Edith Hope retreats to a Swiss Hotel where she ponders her relationship with a married lover and reflects on life-at-large.

[\*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet\*](#) by Jamie Ford - When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

[\*An Hour before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood\*](#) by Jimmy Carter - Jimmy Carter re-creates his Depression-era boyhood on a Georgia farm before the civil rights movement forever changed the country.

[\*The Hours\*](#) by Michael Cunningham - Virginia Woolf is brought back to life in an intertwining of her story with those of two more contemporary women who are struggling with the conflicting claims of love, hope and despair.

[\*The House at Riverton\*](#) by Kate Morton - Living out her final days in a nursing home, ninety-eight-year-old Grace remembers the secrets surrounding the 1924 suicide of a young poet during a glittering society party hosted by Grace's English aristocrat employers, a family that is shattered by war.

[\*House of Sand and Fog\*](#) by Andre Dubus - A gripping tale of a tragic triangle involving a woman evicted from her home due to a bureaucrat's error, the sheriff who evicted her, and the immigrant who purchases the home.

[\*The House of the Spirits\*](#) by Isabel Allende - An epic tale of the influence of great families on history as well as the influence of history on great families set amidst the oppression and communism of Chile.

[\*The House on Mango Street\*](#) by Sandra Cisneros - For Esperanza, a young girl growing up in the Hispanic quarter of Chicago, life is an endless landscape of concrete and run-down tenements, and she tries to rise above the hopelessness..

[\*Housekeeping\*](#) by Marilynne Robinson - After a series of family tragedies Ruth and her younger sister Lucille grow up haphazardly first under the care of their competent grandmother, then of two comically bumbling great-aunts, and finally of Sylvie, their eccentric and remote aunt.

[\*How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents\*](#) by Julia Alvarez -A vibrant tale of four sisters who flee the Dominican Republic during the 1960's and their stories of adjustment to the United States.

[\*Howards End\*](#) by E. M. Forster - A story of class conflict within British society as a wealthy family, two independent but cultured sisters, and a young man living on the edge of poverty struggle with their destinies and desires.

[\*The Husband's Secret\*](#) by Liane Moriarty - Discovering a tattered letter that says she is to open it only in the event of her husband's death, Cecelia is unable to resist reading the letter and discovers a secret that shatters her life and the lives of two other women.

[\*I Am Forbidden\*](#) by Anouk Markovits - Of a Hasidic family's two daughters, one breaks with tradition to pursue a life of intellectual and emotional freedom, the other cleaves to convention only to find her childless marriage leads her to consider a course of action outside her religious beliefs.

[\*I Am Malala\*](#) by Malala Yousafzai - When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one Malala refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On October 9, 2012 she was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

[\*I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman\*](#) by Nora Ephron - From the screenwriter who brought us *When Harry Met Sally* comes a hilarious, candid look at issues that concern women.

[\*I Heard the Owl Call My Name\*](#) by Margaret Craven - A young vicar is sent to a village in the Pacific Northwest, learning tolerance and love as he faces his own poignant destiny.

[\*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings\*](#) by Maya Angelou – In this first of five volumes of autobiography, poet Maya Angelou recounts a youth filled with disappointment, frustration, tragedy, and finally hard-won independence.

[\*Icy Sparks\*](#) by Gwyn Hyman Rubio - A coming-of-age story set in 1950s rural Kentucky, featuring a poor, orphaned child prone to "fits".

[\*If Beale Street Could Talk\*](#) by James Baldwin - A starkly realistic tale of a talented young artist unjustly arrested and locked away in New York's infamous Tombs, and the sustaining love of his family.

[\*If This World Were Mine\*](#) by E. Lynn Harris - An engrossing and fast-paced novel about four African-African friends whose deep bonds of intimacy are threatened by conflicts of career and romance.

[\*The Illuminator\*](#) by Brenda Rickman Vantrease - (Large Print) A medieval illuminator with radical views finds himself sharing quarters with a widow struggling to preserve her independence in this novel set in the 14th century.

[\*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks\*](#) by Rebecca Skloot - (Regular and Large Print) Scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.

[\*In Cold Blood\*](#) by Truman Capote - On November 15, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered. Capote yields poignant insights into the nature of American violence, as he reconstructs the murder and the investigation.

[\*In Country\*](#) by Bobbie Ann Mason - Sam resents the effects of the Vietnam War, especially the death of her father and her uncle's suffering from Agent Orange ingestion. An American classic by a Kentucky author.

[\*In the Name of Salome\*](#) by Julia Alvarez - An epic story of a strong woman, based upon the real-life Salome Urena, a poet who was a national icon in the Dominican Republic.

[\*In the Time of the Butterflies\*](#) by Julia Alvarez - A novelization of the true story the Mirabal sisters, three young wives and mothers who are assassinated after visiting their jailed husbands in the Dominican Republic.

[\*In the Woods\*](#) by Tana French - Twenty years after witnessing the violent disappearances of two companions from their small Dublin suburb, detective Rob Ryan investigates a chillingly similar murder that takes place in the same woods, a case that forces him to piece together his traumatic memories.

[\*Independence Day\*](#) by Richard Ford - A tale of an "everyman" sorting out his life in the midst of a 4th of July celebration.

[\*The Innocents Abroad\*](#) by Mark Twain - This book offers a glimpse of a major writer when he was and just beginning to flex his muscles, and also serves as an enduring no-nonsense guide for the first-time traveler of Europe and the Holy Land.

[\*The Interestings\*](#) by Meg Wolitzer - Forging a powerful bond in the mid-1970s that lasts throughout subsequent decades, six individuals pursue respective challenges into their midlife years, including an aspiring actress who harbors jealousy toward friends who achieve successful creative careers.

[\*Into the Wild\*](#) by Jon Krakauer - Krakauer recounts the haunting and tragic mystery of young, idealistic Chris McCandless who disappeared in April 1992 into the Alaskan wilderness.

[\*The Invention of Wings\*](#) by Sue Monk Kidd - Traces three decades in the lives of a wealthy Charleston debutante who longs to break free from the strictures of her household and pursue a meaningful life; and the urban slave, Handful, who is placed in her charge as a child before finding courage and freedom.

[\*Invisible Man\*](#) by Ralph Ellison - The classic novel of the experiences of a young black man during the Depression as he travels from the Deep South to Harlem portray the invisibility of his life.

[\*Irrepressible: the Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham\*](#) by Emily Bingham – Raised like a princess in one of the most powerful families in the American South, Henrietta Bingham ripped through the Jazz Age like an F. Scott Fitzgerald character: intoxicating and intoxicated, selfish and often terribly troubled.

[Isaac's Storm](#) by Erik Larson - This absorbing narrative of the 1900 hurricane that inundated Galveston, Texas, conveys the sudden, cruel power of the deadliest natural disaster in American history.

[Italian Love Stories: A Kentuckian's Journal of Tuscany](#) by Donna Valtri Crane - Crane, a second generation Italian-American and first generation Kentuckian, gives a witty and observant account of life in the tiny Tuscan hill town of Volterra.

[The Jane Austen Book Club](#) by Karen Joy Fowler - Fowler exuberantly pays homage to and matches wits with Jane Austen by portraying six irresistible Californians who meet once a month to discuss Austen's six novels.

[Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Bronte - The romantic classic set in Victorian England of an orphaned young woman who accepts employment as a governess with the mysterious Mr. Rochester.

[The Japanese Lover](#) by Isabel Allende – In pre-war San Francisco a young Jewish refugee and the son of the Japanese gardener of her wealthy relations form a loving attachment that spans decades despite misfortunes, cultural differences and the realities of ageing.

[Jayber Crow](#) by Wendell Berry - Set in the fictional small town of Port William, this is the story of a young man who abandons his plan to become a minister to instead become the town barber.

[Jerusalem Maiden](#) by Leslie Carner - In the waning days of the Ottoman Empire, a young Orthodox Jewish woman in the holy city of Jerusalem is expected to marry and produce many sons. But Esther's artistic talent inspires her to secretly explore worlds outside her religion and to believe that God has a special destiny for her.

[The Johnstown Flood](#) by David McCullough - The story of one of the most devastating national disasters America has ever known told by a National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author.

[The Joy Luck Club](#) by Amy Tan - Four older Chinese women living in San Francisco recall their memories of pre-war China and pass their culture and visions on to their American-born daughters.

[Jude the Obscure](#) by Thomas Hardy - The story of the tragic relationship between Jude Fawley, a village stonemason who is thwarted in his aspirations to the ministry, and Sue Bridehead, a free-thinking cousin who is shunned by society for her social and sexual rebellion.

[A Judgement in Stone](#) by Ruth Rendell – When a housekeeper carries out a modern "Valentine's Day Massacre" on the family that employs her, the investigation uncovers evidence of a personal tragedy that precipitated the crime. Often deemed the greatest work of one of the world's great crime novelists.

[Juliet, Naked](#) by Nick Hornsby - Ending her relationship with a man who is obsessed with a reclusive singer, Annie initiates an e-mail friendship with the musician that reveals their mutual loneliness and future hopes.

[Just Kids](#) by Patti Smith - National Book award winner details Smith's earlier years in New York City, where she meets Robert Mapplethorpe and they begin their journey together trying to make it as artists.

[Kafka on the Shore](#) by Haruki Murakami - An unlikely alliance forms between Kafka Tamura, a fifteen-year-old runaway, and the aging Nakata, a man who has never recovered from a wartime affliction, as they embark on a surreal odyssey through a strange, fantastical world.

[Kentucky Straight](#) by Chris Offutt - Stories, sometimes poignant, about life in Kentucky Appalachia, told with no patina of nostalgia, but with a strong sense of place.

[Kentucky Women: Their Lives and Times](#) by Melissa McEuen – Collection of essays from 17 scholars profiling twenty-three notable women from three centuries across the state —from the story of Shawnee chief Nonhelema Hokolesqua to the lasting impact of former Gov. Martha Layne Collins.

[\*A Killing in the Hills\*](#) by Julia Keller - Three elderly men are gunned down over their coffee at a local diner, and seemingly half the town is there to witness the act. Was it random? Or was it connected to the spate of drug violence plaguing poor areas of the country just like Acker's Gap?

[\*Kindred\*](#) by Octavia Butler - A modern black woman is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South where she must save the life of her white, slave-owning ancestor.

[\*Kingdom of Shadows\*](#) by Alan Furst - In 1938 Paris, Nicholas Morath, a Hungarian aristocrat and former cavalry officer, is recruited by his uncle, Count Janos Polanyi, to try to bring down the Hungarian fascists, as Europe moves ever closer to all-out war.

[\*The Kitchen Boy: a Novel of the Last Tsar\*](#) by Robert Alexander - A novel based on the 1918 Bolshevik revolutionary murder of Czar Nicholas II and the rest of the Russian royal family as told from the perspective of the event's only surviving witness, a young kitchen boy.

[\*The Kitchen God's Wife\*](#) by Amy Tan - Pressured to reveal to her adult American-born daughter her secret past in war-torn China in the 1940s, Winnie weaves an account of loneliness, love, courage and endurance.

[\*The Kitchen House\*](#) by Kathleen Grissom – Orphaned aboard a ship from Ireland to America, a young girl is sent to a plantation where she works with the slaves of the kitchen house. Under the care of the master's illegitimate slave daughter, she becomes deeply bonded to her adopted family, though set apart from them by her white skin.

[\*The Kite Runner\*](#) by Khaled Hosseini - (Regular and Large Print) Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

[\*The Known World\*](#) by Edward P. Jones - When a black slave owner dies, his widow Caldonia mismanages their Virginia plantation with disastrous results.

[\*Krakatoa: the Day the World Exploded\*](#) by Simon Winchester - (Regular and Large Print) An erudite, fascinating account of the underlying causes, utter devastation and lasting effects of the cataclysmic 1883 eruption of the volcano island Krakatoa.

[\*The Lacuna\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - The story of Harrison William Shepherd, a man caught between two worlds -- Mexico and the United States in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s -- and whose search for identity takes readers to the heart of the twentieth century's most tumultuous events.

[\*Ladder of Years\*](#) by Anne Tyler - A maturing but weary wife leaves her husband and children in order to pursue a life of independence.

[\*The Lady and the Unicorn\*](#) by Tracy Chavalier - (Large Print) A story of the tapestries of the Lady and the Unicorn, interweaving narratives of the painter who conceived the famous images, the tapissier who weaved them onto cloth, and the women in both artists' lives.

[\*Lamb\*](#) by Christopher Moore - A humorous, speculative novel fills in the lost years of Jesus' life, told from the perspective of Biff, his childhood best friend.

[\*A Land More Kind than Home\*](#) by Wiley Cash – Jess Hall, growing in a mountain town that believes in protecting its own, is plunged into an adulthood for which he is not prepared when his autistic older brother sneaks a look in a bedroom window with catastrophic repercussions..

[\*Landline\*](#) by Rainbow Rowell - TV writer Georgie McCool is trying to have it all, but it becomes clear that she's failing when her husband, Neal, heads to Nebraska for a family Christmas with their kids without her. Her world begins to crumble until she calls from the old rotary phone in her mother's house—and connects with the Neal of the past.

[\*The Language of Flowers\*](#) by Vanessa Diffenbaugh - "Abandoned at birth, a woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her upbringing and gradually and fitfully make her way back into the world.

[\*The Last Lecture\*](#) by Randy Pausch - Based on the extraordinary final lecture by Carnegie Mellon University professor Pausch, given after he discovered he had pancreatic cancer, this moving book goes beyond the now-famous lecture to inspire readers to live each day with purpose and joy.

[\*Last Night in Twisted River\*](#) by John Irving - In a story spanning five decades, a twelve-year-old boy in New Hampshire mistakes the constable's girlfriend for a bear, leading to an unfortunate accident that forces the boy and his father to become fugitives pursued by the constable.

[\*Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life\*](#) by Queen Noor - (Regular and Large Print) The young American woman who became wife and partner to Lebanon's King Hussein gives an intimate account of a woman who lost her heart to a king and to his people.

[\*Leaving Before the Rains Come\*](#) by Alexandra Fuller - A child of the Rhodesian wars and of two deeply complicated parents, noted memoirist Alexandra Fuller turns to her African past for clues to rebuild her life after a painful divorce.

[\*A Lesson before Dying\*](#) by Ernest Gaines - The story of a black man unjustly accused of a killing and a teacher who must struggle with the universal question of how to live and die with dignity in segregated Louisiana.

[\*Let the Great World Spin\*](#) by Colum McCann - A rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s 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.

[\*Life After Life\*](#) by Kate Atkinson - As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century in Britain Ursula Todd dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives it appears as though she has the ability to alter the history of the world, should she so choose.

[\*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid\*](#) by Bill Bryson - (Large Print) Bill Bryson's laugh-out-loud pilgrimage through his Fifties childhood in heartland America is full of insights, wit, and wicked adolescent fantasies.

[\*Life of Pi\*](#) by Yann Martel - Pi Patel, a zookeeper's son, sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

[\*The Lifeboat\*](#) by Charlotte Rogan – Forced into an overcrowded lifeboat after a mysterious explosion on their trans-Atlantic ocean liner in the summer of 1914, newly widowed Grace Winter battles the elements and her fellow survivors. For any to live, some must die.

[\*The Light Between Oceans\*](#) by M. L. Stedman - A novel set on a remote Australian island in the years following WWI, where a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a dead man and a living baby washes ashore

[\*Light in August\*](#) by William Faulkner - Joe Christmas does not know whether he is black or white and can fit in neither world. Faulkner makes of Joe's tragedy a powerful indictment of racism.

[\*The Light in the Ruins\*](#) by Chris Bohjalian– In Florence in 1955 a serial killer is at work, preying on the noble and once- wealthy Rosati family. Is it connected to 1943 when the family lived in the Villa Chimera and reluctantly played host to a number of Nazis who come to visit a recently discovered Etruscan tomb on their land?

[\*Like Water for Chocolate\*](#) by Laura Esquivel - A bittersweet romance set in Mexico, where romance and sensuality are combined with magical realism in the celebration of food.

[Lincoln](#) by Gore Vidal - Isolated in a ramshackle White House in the center of a proslavery city, Lincoln presides over a fragmenting government as Lee's armies beat at the gates. An intimate depiction of the power struggles that accompanied Lincoln's efforts to preserve the Union at all costs.

[Lit: A Memoir](#) by Mary Karr - A memoir that traces the author's descent into alcoholism and her conflicted, piecemeal return from that numb hell—it chronicles with searching intelligence, humor and grace the author's slow, sometimes exhilarating, sometimes painful recovery.

[Little Bee](#) by Chris Cleave - Presents a tale of a precarious friendship between an illegal Nigerian refugee and a recent widow from suburban London, a story told from the alternating and disparate perspectives of both women.

[The Little Prince](#) by Antoine de Saint-Exupery - (available in English, French and Spanish) - An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life.

[Little Women](#) by Louisa May Alcott - Set against the backdrop of the American Civil War, four sisters (Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March) evolve and mature from children into adulthood.

[Lives of Girls and Women](#) by Alice Munro - This classic female coming-of-age novel is both the story of strong-willed Del Jordan, from schoolchild to passionate young woman, and an evocative portrait of small-town rural Ontario in the 1940s.

[The Locket](#) by Richard Paul Evans - (Large Print) A story of faith, forgiveness, missed opportunities, and second chances

[Lolita](#) by Vladimir Nabokov - When it was published in 1955, *Lolita* immediately became a cause célèbre because of the freedom and sophistication with which it handled the unusual erotic predilections of its protagonist

[Long Way Gone](#) by Ishmael Beah - At the age of twelve, Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and became a child soldier in the government army. Soon, he was being fed amphetamines and trained to shoot an AK-47.

[Longbourn](#) by Jo Baker - The servants in the Bennet household of *Pride and Prejudice* fame live their lives in Regency England during the Napoleonic Wars. And there is just as much romance, heartbreak, and intrigue downstairs at Longbourn as there is upstairs.

[Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time](#) by Dava Sobel - A social history of the invention of the chronometer, which greatly aided longitude calculations, is detailed as an historical marvel that facilitated European exploration.

[Lost Mountain: a Year in the Vanishing Wilderness: Radical Strip Mining, and the Devastation of Appalachia](#) by Erik Reece - A groundbreaking work of literary nonfiction that exposes how radical strip mining is destroying one of America's most precious natural resources and the communities that depend on it.

[Love and Treasure](#) by Ayelet Waldman - A tale inspired by the World War II Hungarian Gold Train follows the 1945 American capture of a locomotive filled with riches and the efforts of a Jewish-American lieutenant's granddaughter to track down a mysterious woman 70 years later.

[The Lover](#) by Marguerite Duras - An adolescent French girl living with her family in pre-World War II Indochina in the waning days of France's colonial empire has a scandalous and tumultuous affair with the son of a wealthy Chinese businessman.

[Loving Frank](#) by Nancy Horan - This narrative, vividly portraying the conflicts and struggles of a woman forced to choose between the roles of mother, wife, lover, and intellectual, is based on the clandestine love affair between Mamah Borthwick Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright.

[\*The Lowland\*](#) by Juhmpa Lahiri - Brothers Subhash and Udayan Mitra pursue vastly different lives--Udayan in rebellion-torn Calcutta, Subhash in a quiet corner of America--until a shattering tragedy compels Subhash to return to India, where he endeavors to heal family wounds.

[\*Maisie Dobbs\*](#) by Jacqueline Winspear - Maisie Dobbs entered domestic service in 1910 at thirteen. When her remarkable intelligence is discovered by her employer, Maisie is educated and in 1929 she hangs out her shingle: M. Dobbs, Trade and Personal Investigations.

[\*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand\*](#) by Helen Simonson – (Large Print) Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in an English village until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the local Pakistani shopkeeper.

[\*Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America\*](#) by Nathan McCall – An honest and searching look at the perils of growing up a black male in urban America, Washington Post reporter Nathan McCall tells the story of his passage from the street and the prison yard to the newsroom of one of America's most prestigious papers.

[\*The Maltese Falcon\*](#) by Dashiell Hammett - Considered the author's finest work, this mystery novel introduces Sam Spade, the prototype of the hard-boiled detective.

[\*Mama Day\*](#) by Gloria Naylor - A captivating story of the conjuring powers of Mama Day, tested when the stubbornness of her New York City-bred niece, Cocoa endangers her to the Georgia island's darker forces.

[\*A Man Called Ove\*](#) by Fredrik Backman - A curmudgeon hides a terrible personal loss beneath a cranky and short-tempered exterior while clashing with his new neighbors, a boisterous family whose chattiness and habits lead to unexpected friendship.

[\*The Man in My Basement\*](#) by Walter Mosley - To save the home that has belonged to his family for generations, Charles Blakey, a young black man whose life is slowly crumbling around him, agrees to rent out his basement for the summer to a mysterious stranger.

[\*Man in the Blue Moon\*](#) by Michael Morris - Single mother Ella Wallace fights to keep a banker from buying the Florida land that has been in her family for generations when a mysterious stranger shows up and convinces Ella he can help her, until his past comes to light.

[\*March\*](#) by Geraldine Brooks - From Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic *Little Women*, Geraldine Brooks has taken the character of the absent father, March, who has gone off to war. Spanning the vibrant intellectual world of Concord and the sensuous antebellum South, March adds adult resonance to Alcott's optimistic children's tale.

[\*The Marriage Plot\*](#) by Jeffrey Eugenides - Madeleine Hanna breaks out of her straight-and-narrow mold when she enrolls in a semiotics course and falls in love with charismatic loner which is complicated by the resurfacing of man who is obsessed with the idea that Madeleine is his destiny.

[\*The Martian\*](#) by Andy Weir - After a bad storm cuts his team's Mars mission short, injured astronaut Mark Watley is stranded. Now he's got to figure out how to survive without air, shelter, food, or water on the harsh Martian landscape until the next manned mission in four years.

[\*Mary Coin\*](#) by Marisa Silver - Imagines the lives of the subject of the famous depression-era photograph and the photographer, as well as a college professor who finds a connection to a family legacy in the image of the iconic "Migrant Mother."

[\*The Master\*](#) by Colm Toibin - Nineteenth-century writer Henry James is heartbroken when his first play performs poorly in contrast to Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" and struggles with subsequent doubts about his sexual identity.

[\*Matterhorn\*](#) by Karl Marlantes - Lieutenant Waino Mellas and his fellow Marines venture into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and fight their way into manhood, confronting external obstacles as well as racial tension, competing ambitions, and underhanded officers.

[\*Maus: a Survivor's Tale\*](#) by Art Spiegelman - A story of a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father's story and history itself.

[\*Me Before You\*](#) by Jojo Moyes - Taking a job as an assistant to Will, who is wheelchair bound after a motorcycle accident, Louisa struggles with her employer's acerbic moods. But when she discovers that he intends to end his own life, Lou makes it her mission to persuade him that life is still worth living

[\*Memoirs of a Geisha\*](#) by Arthur Golden – (Regular and Large Print) Historical fiction about the experience and art of being a Geisha during 1900s.

[\*The Memory Keeper's Daughter\*](#) by Kim Edwards - A doctor is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. When his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down's syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split second decision that will alter all of their lives forever.

[\*The Memory of Old Jack\*](#) by Wendell Berry - Kentucky author Wendell Berry proves his mastery as a storyteller by sharing the life story of a 92-year-old small town Kentucky farmer, "Old Jack" Beechum.

[\*Mending: New and Selected Stories\*](#) by Sallie Bingham - Spanning 50 years, this omnibus of Bingham's tight, sparkling short fiction includes stories from her earliest collections to her latest.

[\*The Meursault Investigation\*](#) by Kamel Daoud - This work revisits Albert Camus's *The Stranger* from the Arab perspective. The narrator, Harun, recalls the murder of his older brother, Musa, who is all but anonymous in Camus's work, and the heavy consequences of this act.

[\*Middle Passage\*](#) by Charles Richard Johnson - This is a picaresque tale, historical romance, sea yarn, slave narrative, and philosophical novel about Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave and irrepressible rogue.

[\*Middlesex\*](#) by Jeffrey Eugenides - Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.

[\*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil: A Savannah Story\*](#) by John Berendt – (Regular and Large Print) A murder mystery set in that very southern city of Savannah, where the characters are exotic, funny and intriguing.

[\*Midnight's Children\*](#) by Salman Rushdie - A family saga set against the vast, colorful background of the India of this century.

[\*Miss Fuller\*](#) by April Bernard - When feminist, journalist, and orator Margaret Fuller's family is drowned off the coast of New York upon their return from Europe, Henry David Thoreau visits the site of their shipwreck and discovers a revealing personal document of hers.

[\*The Mistress of Spices\*](#) by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - A hypnotizing tale of joy and sorrow and one special woman's magical powers.

[\*Monique and the Mango Rains: Two years with a midwife in Mali\*](#) by Kris Holloway - Holloway blends a vivid description of her Peace Corps experiences in the West African nation of Mali from 1989 to 1991, with a warm tribute to her colleague, dear friend, and host.

[\*Monkey Hunting\*](#) by Christina Garcia - The story of a Chinese immigrant's enslavement on a Cuban sugar plantation, his escape and eventual prosperity, interwoven with the stories of his Chinese and American descendants.

[\*The Monsters of Templeton\*](#) by Lauren Groff - Returning in disgrace to her mother's home after an affair with her professor, temperamental Willie arrives at the same time the remains of a prehistoric creature are discovered in the town's lake, a finding that leads to painful revelations about Willie's family.

[The Moor's Account](#) by Laila Lalami - Moorish slave Estebanico accompanies Spanish conquistadors on a voyage to the New World. Struggling to survive in the uncharted territory of La Florida Estebanico witnesses the Europeans' brutal treatment of the Indians and dreams of his own idea.

[The Moor's Last Sigh](#) by Salman Rushdie - Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie combines a ferociously witty family saga with a surreally imagined and sometimes blasphemous chronicle of modern India and flavors the mixture with peppery soliloquies on art, ethnicity, religious fanaticism, and the terrifying power of love.

[Moral Disorder and Other Stories](#) by Margaret Atwood - (Large Print) An intriguing patchwork of poignant episodes, Atwood's latest set of stories chronicles 60 years of a Canadian family, from postwar Toronto to a farm in the present.

[Motherless Brooklyn](#) by Jonathan Lethem - A P.I. who suffers from Tourette's Syndrome tries to find out who killed the man who rescued him and three other misfits from a Brooklyn orphanage. Winner of the National Book Critics Award.

[Mountains Beyond Mountains](#) by Tracy Kidder - A thought-provoking portrait of Harvard professor and world-renowned infectious disease expert Dr. Paul Farmer and his struggle to bring modern healthcare to Haiti and the world.

[Mrs. Dalloway](#) by Virginia Woolf - Direct and vivid in her account of the details of Clarissa Dalloway's preparations for a party she is to give that evening, Woolf ultimately manages to reveal much more.

[Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker](#) by Jennifer Chiaverini - Presents a fictionalized account of the friendship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave who bought her freedom from slavery and went on to become a well-known modiste in Washington.

[Mrs. Poe](#) by Lynn Cullen - Struggling to support her family in mid-19th-century New York, writer Frances Osgood makes an unexpected connection with literary master Edgar Allan Poe and finds her survival complicated by her intense attraction to the writer and the scheming manipulations of his wife.

[Ms. Hempel Chronicles](#) by Sarah Shun-lien Bynum - Ms. Beatrice Hempel, new to teaching, new to the school, newly engaged, and newly bereft of her idiosyncratic father, struggles to figure out what is expected of her in life and at work.

[The Museum of Extraordinary Things](#) by Alice Hoffman - The daughter of a Coney Island boardwalk curiosities museum's front man pursues an impassioned love affair with a Russian immigrant photographer who after fleeing his Lower East Side Orthodox community has captured poignant images of the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

[My Antonia](#) by Willa Cather - Despite betrayal and crushing opposition, Antonia steadfastly pursues her quest for happiness—a moving struggle that mirrors the quiet drama of the American landscape. Considered by many to be Cather's greatest novel.

[My Beloved World](#) by Sonia Sotomayor - Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

[My Brilliant Friend](#) by Elena Ferrante - The world of Elena and Lila, Neapolitan girls growing up after the Second World War, is small, casually violent, and confined to their poor neighborhood. Lila: smarter and bolder than the others, does what she wants, drawing shyer Elena, who narrates the story, in her wake.

[My Life in France](#) by Julia Child - Exuberant, affectionate, and boundlessly charming, this is the delightful and highly acclaimed memoir from the woman who revolutionized American cooking in the 20th century.

[My Love Affair with England](#) by Susan Toth - A travel memoir of England recounting numerous trips over a lifetime.

[\*My Name is Red\*](#) by Orhan Pamuk - In sixteenth-century Istanbul, a furor erupts when the Sultan hires a group of artists to illuminate a great book in the European style at a time in which all figurative art is considered Islamic heresy, but the situation becomes worse when one of the miniaturists vanishes.

[\*My Sister's Keeper\*](#) by Jodi Picoult - Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures.

[\*My Stroke of Insight\*](#) by Jill Bolte Taylor - A brain scientist's journey from a debilitating stroke to full recovery becomes an inspiring exploration of human consciousness and its possibilities.

[\*Naked\*](#) by David Sedaris - Whether he's taking to the road with a thieving quadriplegic, sorting out the fancy from the extra-fancy in a bleak fruit-packing factory, or celebrating Christmas in the company of a recently paroled prostitute, this collection of memoirs creates a wickedly incisive portrait of his world.

[\*The Namesake\*](#) by Jhumpa Lahiri - A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s.

[\*Native Son\*](#) by Richard Wright - In 1930s Chicago Bigger Thomas, a young, poor black man, is caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic.

[\*Never Let Me Go\*](#) by Kazuo Ishiguro - A reunion with two childhood friends draws Kath on a nostalgic odyssey into the supposedly idyllic years of their lives at an isolated private school and a dramatic confrontation with the truth about their childhoods and about their lives in the present.

[\*Nickel and Dimed: On \(Not\) Getting by in America\*](#) by Barbara Ehrenreich - Determined to find out how anyone could make ends meet on \$7 an hour, the author left behind her middle class life as a journalist to try to sustain herself as a low-skilled worker.

[\*Night\*](#) by Elie Wiesel - An autobiographical account about Wiesel's terrifying and tragic experience as a child in Nazi death camps.

[\*The Night Circus\*](#) by Erin Morgenstern - When Prospero the Enchanter discovers that he has a young daughter, Celia with extraordinary magical talents, he wastes no time in setting up a competition between her and Marco, the protégé of his longtime adversary.

[\*Nineteen Minutes\*](#) by Jodi Picoult - In the aftermath of a small-town school shooting, lawyer Jordan McAfee finds himself defending a youth who desperately needs someone on his side, while detective Patrick Ducharme works with a primary witness, the daughter of the judge assigned to the case.

[\*The 19th Wife\*](#) by David Ebershoff - The story of Ann Eliza Young, former wife of Brigham Young, and her crusade against polygamy is intertwined with a tale of murder involving a polygamist family in present-day Utah.

[\*No Ordinary Time: Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt The Home Front in World War II\*](#) by Doris Kearns Goodwin - A Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

[\*Nora Webster\*](#) by Colm Toibin - Struggling with grief and financial hardships after the death of her beloved husband, Nora struggles to support her four children and clings to secrecy in the intrusive Irish community of her childhood before finding her voice and creating a new life for herself.

[\*Not Quite Paradise: An American Sojourn in Sri Lanka\*](#) by Adele Barker – The saga of an American professor's sojourn in Sri Lanka -- or rather, her two sojourns, one teaching as a Fulbright fellow to college students in the mountains near Kandy; another, two years later, as she returns to investigate what has happened to the 'pearl' of Southeast Asia in the wake of the tsunami.

[\*Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West\*](#) by Dorothy Wickenden - In the summer of 1916, two young women, bored by society luncheons, charity work, and the effete men who courted them, left their families in Auburn, New York, to teach school in the wilds of northwestern Colorado.

[\*O Pioneers!\*](#) by Willa Cather - The story of a 19th century Nebraska family coming to grips with farm life and personal relationships.

[\*Obedience\*](#) by Will Lavender - The students of Winchester University's class on Logic and Reasoning are given a strange assignment by the creepy Professor Williams, to follow a series of clues to find a missing girl who will be murdered if she has not been found by the end of the term.

[\*Office Girl\*](#) by Joe Meno - In the last months of the twentieth century, art school dropout Odile and her companion Jack, who spends his time capturing the sounds of the city on his out-of-date tape recorder, decide to start their own art movement.

[\*Old School\*](#) by Tobias Wolff - The school literary contest at an elite prep school, whose winner will be awarded an audience with the most legendary writer of the time, is the means of fraying alliances, deceptions, betrayals and growth.

[\*Olive Kitteridge\*](#) by Elizabeth Strout - At the edge of the continent, in the small town of Crosby, Maine, lives Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher who deplors the changes in her town and in the world at large but doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her.

[\*The Omnivore's Dilemma: a Natural History of Four Meals\*](#) by Michael Pollen - Pollan follows each of the food chains--industrial food, organic or alternative food, and food we forage ourselves--from the source to the final meal, always emphasizing our co evolutionary relationship with the handful of plant and animal species we depend on.

[\*On Agate Hill\*](#) by Lee Smith - (Large Print) Diaries, letters, court documents, poems and ballads gradually divulge the tale of Molly Petree, a girl orphaned in North Carolina in the late 1860s whose life unfolds through Reconstruction

[\*One Hundred Years of Solitude\*](#) by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez - A weaving of spiritual, personal and political worlds into a history of the mysterious and magical Buendia family.

[\*One of Ours\*](#) by Willa Cather - The Pulitzer Prize-winning narrative of the making of a young American soldier in World War I.

[\*One Thousand White Women\*](#) by Jim Fergus - A colorful assembly of women, under the auspices of the U.S. government, travel to the western prairies in 1875 to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians, a covert and controversial "Brides for Indians" program intended to help assimilate the Indians.

[\*One True Thing\*](#) by Anna Quindlen - A daughter is arrested for the murder of her critically ill mother in a mercy killing.

[\*Ordinary Grace\*](#) by William Kent Kruger - Looking back at a tragic event that occurred during his thirteenth year, Frank Drum explores how a complicated web of secrets, adultery, and betrayal shattered his Methodist family and their small 1961 Minnesota community.

[\*Orphan Train\*](#) by Christine Baker Kline --As a child Vivian was packed off on one of the many orphan trains intended to bring children to Midwestern families who would care for them. Now elderly, she hires foster child Molly to help clean out her attic. As Molly sorts through old boxes, Vivian begins to share stories from her past.

[\*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates\*](#) by Wes Moore - Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless and had difficult childhoods. But one grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar and White House Fellow, while the other ended up a convicted murderer.

[\*Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis\*](#) by Robert Putnam -- The author examines the family, the community, the school and the support networks in key communities across America, presenting proof that in every case the upper classes are moving forward with ease, while the lower classes and the poor are trapped in a world of violence, debt, and lack of resources.

[Our Souls at Night](#) by Kent Haruf - In Holt, Colorado, widower Louis Waters is initially thrown when the widowed Addie Moore suggests that they spend time together, in bed, to stave off loneliness, but soon they are exchanging the confidences and memories.

[Out of Africa](#) by Isak Dinesen – With classic simplicity and a painter's feeling for atmosphere and detail, Isak Dinesen tells of the years she spent from 1914 to 1931 managing a coffee plantation in Kenya

[The Palace of Illusions](#) by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni - Panchaali, wife of the five legendary Pandavas brothers, offers her own version of the ancient Indian epic, The Mahabharat, as she chronicles the story of her magical birth, the problems of dealing with five husbands who have been cheated out of their birthright, the trials she endures, and her attraction to her husband's enemy.

[Palace Walk](#) by Naguib Mahfouz - Volume I of the masterful Cairo Trilogy this novel introduces the engrossing saga of a Muslim family in Cairo during Egypt's occupation by British forces in the early 1900s.

[A Parchment of Leaves](#) by Silas House - In 1917, a Cherokee woman who leaves her community to marry a white man finds herself isolated and discriminated against as she tries to settle into her new life.

[The Paris Wife](#) by Paula McLain - Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway, and after a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where Hadley makes a convincing transformation from an overprotected child to a game and brave young woman.

[Paris Without End: The True Story of Hemingway's First Wife](#) by Gioia Diliberto - Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway were the golden couple of Paris in the twenties. Diliberto explores their passionate courtship, their family life in Paris with baby Bumby, and their thrilling, adventurous relationship.

[Parrot and Olivier in America](#) by Peter Carey - A tale loosely inspired by the life of Alexis de Tocqueville is set in the early nineteenth century and follows an unlikely friendship between a survivor of the French Revolution and an itinerant English engraver's son.

[Passing](#) by Nella Larsen - First published in 1929, Passing is a remarkable exploration of the shifting racial and sexual boundaries in America. Larsen, a premier writer of the Harlem Renaissance, captures the rewards and dangers faced by two negro women who pass for white in a deeply segregated world.

[Pay It Forward](#) by Catherine Ryan Hyde - Eighth-grader Trevor is challenged by his social-studies teacher to do something that will change the world. His rule is to do one very good deed for three different people, telling them that rather than paying him back, they are to "pay it forward" to three others

[The Paying Guests](#) by Sarah Waters – An impoverished upper-class widow and her daughter take a young couple into their home in 1920s London. Little do they know just how profoundly and unexpectedly their new tenants will alter the course of their lives.

[Peace Like a River](#) by Leif Enger - The quiet 1960s midwestern life of the Land family is upended when son Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family.

[A Pearl in the Storm](#) by Tori Murden McClure – Kentuckian Tori McClure rowed across the Atlantic Ocean solo in a twenty-three-foot plywood boat with no motor or sail. A true story of high adventure -- and of her personal quest to discover that embracing her own humanity was more important than superhuman feats.

[The Pearl That Broke Its Shell](#) by Nadia Hashimi - In Kabul, 2007, with a drug-addicted father and no brothers, Rahima and her sisters can only sporadically attend school and rarely leave the house, and their only hope lies in the ancient custom of bacha posh, which allows young Rahima to dress and be treated as a boy until she is of marriageable age.

[People of the Book](#) by Geraldine Brooks - Offered a coveted job to analyze and conserve a priceless Sarajevo Haggadah, Australian rare-book expert Hanna Heath discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the volume's ancient binding that reveal its historically significant origins.

[\*The Peppered Moth\*](#) by Margaret Drabble - A fictional exploration into the author's family genealogy and her attempts to come to terms with her mother's unhappy history.

[\*Persepolis\*](#) by Marjane Satrapi - The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

[\*Peyton Place\*](#) by Grace Metalious – This 1950s cultural icon topped the bestseller lists for more than a year, unbuttoned the straitlaced New England of the popular imagination, transformed the publishing industry, and made its young author one of the most talked-about people in America.

[\*The Piano Teacher\*](#) by Janice Y. K. Lee - Hired by the wealthy Chen family as a piano instructor, Claire Pendleton is seduced by the social life of Hong Kong's expatriate community and begins an affair with Will Truesdale, an enigmatic Englishman with a devastating past.

[\*The Picture of Dorian Gray\*](#) by Oscar Wilde - A classic tale of a well-to-do Englishman who buys his youth from the Devil, remaining young and handsome as his portrait reflects the evil that consumes his life.

[\*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek\*](#) by Annie Dillard - A series of essays that combines scientific observation, philosophy and personal meditation with beautifully written prose.

[\*The Plague of Doves\*](#) by Louise Erdrich - (Large Print) The unsolved murder of a farm family haunts the small town of Pluto, North Dakota. The vengeance exacted for this crime and the subsequent distortions of truth transform the lives of Ojibwe living on the nearby reservation and shape the passions of both communities for the next generation.

[\*Plainsong\*](#) by Kent Haruf - An unlikely extended family is formed when a high school teacher helps a pregnant student make a home with two elderly bachelor ranchers.

[\*The Poisonwood Bible\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - A story of a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family on a mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. A suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction.

[\*Pope Joan\*](#) by Donna Woolfolk Cross - For a thousand years her existence has been denied. She is a legend that will not die—Pope Joan, the ninth-century woman who disguised herself as a man and rose to become the only female ever to sit on the throne of St. Peter.

[\*The Portrait of a Lady\*](#) by Henry James - When Isabel Archer, a beautiful, spirited American, is brought to Europe by her wealthy aunt, she is resolved to determine her own fate. But then she finds herself irresistibly drawn to Gilbert Osmond, who, beneath his veneer of charm and cultivation, is cruelty itself.

[\*Possessing the Secret of Joy\*](#) by Alice Walker - Confronting the modern controversial issue of genital mutilation, Walker's main character, Tashi struggles with understanding and madness.

[\*The Postmistress\*](#) by Sarah Blake - (Large Print) The stories of a small Cape Cod postmistress and an American radio reporter stationed in London collide on the eve of the United States's entrance into World War II, a meeting that is shaped by a broken promise to deliver a letter.

[\*The Power and the Glory\*](#) by Graham Greene - A Christian parable pitting God and religion against 20th century materialism in the story of a priest in Mexico who is painfully remorseful about his own human inadequacies.

[\*A Prayer for Owen Meany\*](#) by John Irving - Owen Meany, a dwarfish boy with a strange voice, accidentally kills his best friend's mom with a baseball and believes--accurately--that he is an instrument of God to be redeemed by martyrdom.

[\*Pride and Prejudice\*](#) by Jane Austen - An 18th century comedy of manners about a family's attempts to marry off five daughters.

[\*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie\*](#) by Muriel Spark - Miss Jean Brodie teaches school and influences the lives of young girls in Edinburgh during the 1930s, until one of them betrays her.

[\*The Prince of Tides\*](#) by Pat Conroy - A story of a family striving to overcome its bizarre history of horror and grief with the help of a New York psychiatrist.

[\*Prodigal Summer\*](#) by Barbara Kingsolver - Kentucky born author weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives in southern Appalachia.

[\*The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity & the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary\*](#) by Simon Winchester - Although confined to a British insane asylum, an American civil war veteran contributes to the Oxford English Dictionary.

[\*Push\*](#) by Sapphire - Told from the point of view of an illiterate, brutalized Harlem teenager, this intense, explicit novel charts the psychic damage of the most ghettoized of inner-city inhabitants.

[\*Pygmy\*](#) by Chuck Palahniuk - Pygmy--a young adult from a totalitarian state, disguised as an exchange student--plans a terrorist attack and depicts U.S. Midwestern life through the eyes of a hateful, indoctrinated killer, in this satire of American xenophobia.

[\*Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking\*](#) by Susan Cain - Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture.

[\*The Quiet American\*](#) by Graham Greene - In 1952, while the French Army in Indo-China is grappling with the Vietnamese, back at Saigon a young and high-minded American begins to channel economic aid to a 'Third Force'.

[\*The Razor's Edge\*](#) by W. Somerset Maugham – In 1918, leaving wealth and loved ones behind, Larry Darrell journeys to the mountains of India in search of spiritual wisdom. But, Larry learns that the path to enlightenment is as painful and narrow as treading the sharp edge of a razor.

[\*Reading Lolita in Tehran\*](#) by Azar Nafisi - A glimpse into women's lives in revolutionary Iran; the story of the author and the women invited into her home to read and discuss forbidden works of Western Literature.

[\*Rebecca\*](#) by Daphne Du Maurier - A young bride arriving at Manderley, is drawn into the life of the first Mrs. De Winter, the beautiful Rebecca, dead, but not forgotten.

[\*The Red Garden\*](#) by Alice Hoffman - Fourteen freestanding but consecutive stories trace the life of the town of Blackwell, Mass., from its founding in 1750 up to the present as the founders' descendents connect to the land and each other.

[\*The Red Pony\*](#) by John Steinbeck - The classic story of a boy's journey to manhood under the joys and hardships of ranch life, focused around the life and death of his red pony..

[\*The Red Tent\*](#) by Anita Diamant - (Regular and Large Print) A fictional retelling of Genesis stories of the daily life of women, as told by Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah.

[\*Redeployment\*](#) by Phil Klay - A collection of short stories by a former Marine captain and Iraq veteran focuses on the complexities of life for soldiers on the front lines and after, exploring themes ranging from brutality and faith to guilt and survival.

[\*A Reliable Wife\*](#) by Robert Goolrick - Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman with a troubled past who lives in a remote nineteenth-century Wisconsin town, has advertised for a reliable wife; and his ad is answered by Catherine Land, a woman who makes every effort to hide her own dark secrets.

[\*The Remains of the Day\*](#) by Kazuo Ishiguro - The fictional account of an aging butler recalling his life at Darlington Hall which includes intrigue of world politics and upper-class English society.

[\*Remarkable Creatures\*](#) by Tracy Chevalier (Large Print) - When Mary Anning uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton in the cliffs near her home on the English coast, she sets the townspeople to vicious gossip and the scientific world alight.

[\*Remembering Babylon\*](#) by David Malouf - A compelling tale of a young Australian left for dead who is brought up by the Aborigines, and the bigotry he faces when he returns to Australian society.

[\*Rise and Shine\*](#) by Anna Quindlen - (Large Print) Muttering a string of bitter profanities sotto voce at the conclusion of a particularly contentious interview, Meghan Fitzmaurice, the queen of morning television, realizes too late that her microphone is still on.

[\*The River King\*](#) by Alice Hoffman - The two separate worlds of a small Massachusetts town--the residents and the students at the local prep school--are thrust together after an inexplicable death occurs.

[\*River of Doubt\*](#) by Candice Millard - After his humiliating election defeat in 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt set his sights on the most punishing physical challenge he could find, the first descent of an unmapped, rapids-choked tributary of the Amazon.

[\*River of Earth\*](#) by James Still - A vivid account of difficult Appalachian life, told with humor and love through the eyes of a boy.

[\*The Road\*](#) by Cormac McCarthy - America is a barren landscape of smoldering ashes, devoid of life except for those people still struggling to scratch out some type of existence. Amidst the destruction, a father and his young son walk, always toward the coast, but with no real understanding that circumstances will improve once they arrive.

[\*The Road from Coorain: An Autobiography\*](#) by Jill Kerr Conway - Conway's captivating autobiography covers her childhood in Australia to her adulthood in America, where she later became the first woman president of Smith College.

[\*Rocket Boys: a Memoir\*](#) by Homer Hickam - An inspiring account of the author's coming of age in a West Virginia mining town, and the remarkable events that lead him to a career with NASA.

[\*Room\*](#) by Emma Donoghue - A five-year-old narrates a story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who kidnapped her when she was a teenager and has held her prisoner for seven years.

[\*A Room of One's Own\*](#) by Virginia Woolf - A brilliant essay on the importance of freedom for women, especially as it relates to creative writing.

[\*The Rosie Project\*](#) by Graeme Simsion - A professor of genetics sets up a project designed to find him the perfect wife, starting with a very specific questionnaire. Then he meets Rosie, who is everything he's not looking for in a wife, but she ends up his friend as he helps her try and find her biological father.

[\*Rules of Civility\*](#) by Amor Towles - A chance encounter in a jazz bar on New Year's Eve 1938 catapults Wall Street secretary Katey Kontent into the upper echelons of New York society, where she befriends a shy multi-millionaire, an Upper East Side ne'er-do-well, and a single-minded widow.

[\*Runaway\*](#) by Alice Munro - (Large Print) These short stories all concern Canadian women facing pivotal moments in their lives, even if they're not aware of it at the moment.

[\*Saint Monkey\*](#) by Jacinda Townsend - Two friends from a 1950s small Black community in hardscrabble eastern Kentucky try to retain their friendship when one of them is invited to New York to play the Apollo Theater with a jazz group while the other sinks lower into the poverty and care of a scraping-by rural life.

[\*Salvage the Bones\*](#) by Jesmyn Ward - Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize pups.

[\*The Sandcastle Girls\*](#) by Chris Bohjalian - Parallel stories of a woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier during the Armenian Genocide and a modern-day New Yorker prompted to rediscover her Armenian past

[\*Sarah's Key\*](#) by Tatiana de Rosnay - On the sixtieth anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by the French police in Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond embarks on an investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah, a young girl caught up in the raid.

[\*Saturday\*](#) by Ian McEwan - Henry Perowne—a neurosurgeon, urbane, privileged, plans a quiet day. But after a minor traffic accident leads to an unsettling confrontation, Perowne must set aside his plans and summon strength greater than he knew he had in order to preserve the life that is dear to him.

[\*The School of Essential Ingredients\*](#) by Erica Bauermeister - Eight students gather in Lillian's Restaurant every Monday night for cooking class. It soon becomes clear, however, that each one seeks a recipe for something beyond the kitchen as Chef Lillian helps them to create dishes whose flavor and techniques expand beyond the kitchen.

[\*The Screwtape letters; with Screwtape Proposes a Toast\*](#) by C. S. Lewis - In this humorous and perceptive exchange between two devils, C. S. Lewis delves into moral questions about good vs. evil, temptation, repentance, and grace. Through this wonderful tale, the reader emerges with a better understanding of what it means to live a faithful life.

[\*Seabiscuit: an American Legend\*](#) by Laura Hillenbrand - The spellbinding true story of this marvelous animal, the world he lived in, and the men who staked their lives and fortunes on his dazzling career.

[\*The Secret History\*](#) by Donna Tartt - A transfer student from a small town in California, Richard Pape is determined to affect the ways of his Hampden College peers, and he begins his intense studies under the tutelage of eccentric Julian Morrow.

[\*The Secret Life of Bees\*](#) by Sue Monk Kidd - A young girl returns to her dead mother's Southern hometown where she meets an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters.

[\*The Secret Wisdom of the Earth\*](#) by Christopher Scotton - Witnessing his younger brother's accidental death, teenaged Kevin spends the summer traumatized in his grandfather's Appalachia coal-mining community, which is fighting plans for a massive mountaintop-removal operation.

[\*The Secrets of Mary Bowser\*](#) by Lois Leveen - Based on the true story of Mary Bowser, an educated freedwoman who worked with the Underground Railroad and ultimately posed as an illiterate slave in the Confederate White House in order to spy on President Jefferson Davis.

[\*The Sense of an Ending\*](#) by Julian Barnes – Tony Webster, a middle-aged man, contends with a past he never thought much about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present.

[\*Serena\*](#) by Ron Rash - Traveling to the mountains of 1929 North Carolina to forge a timber business with her new husband, Serena Pemberton champions her mastery of harsh natural and working conditions but turns murderous when she learns she cannot bear children.

[\*The Seven Storey Mountain\*](#) by Thomas Merton - In 1941, a young man decided to give up a promising literary career to enter a monastery in Kentucky, from where he proceeded to become one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.

[\*Seventh Heaven\*](#) by Alice Hoffman - An unconventional single mother moves to a Long Island suburb in 1959, and the place will never be the same.

[\*Sex Wars\*](#) by Marge Piercy - Coming of age in a post-Civil War New York City tenement flat, Jewish-Russian Freydeh juggles multiple jobs to earn passage for her family, until she learns that her younger sister is adrift somewhere in the city.

[\*The Shadow of the Wind\*](#) by Carlos Ruiz Zafón - A boy named Daniel selects a novel from a library of rare books, enjoying it so much that he searches for the rest of the author's works, only to discover that someone is destroying every book the author has ever written.

[\*Shadow Tag\*](#) by Louise Erdrich - After she discovers that her husband has been reading her diary, Irene America turns it into a manipulative farce, while secretly keeping a second diary that includes her true thoughts about her shaky marriage, its affect on her children, and her struggles with alcohol.

[\*Shakespeare: The World as Stage\*](#) by Bill Bryson – Shakespeare's biographical information has long been a thicket of wild supposition arranged around scant facts. With a steady hand and his trademark wit, Bill Bryson sorts through this colorful muddle to reveal the man himself rather than the myths.

[\*Shanghai Girls\*](#) by Lisa See - Forced to leave Shanghai when their father sells them to California suitors, sisters May and Pearl struggle to adapt to life in 1930s Los Angeles while still bound to old customs, as they face discrimination and confront a life-altering secret.

[\*Shirley\*](#) by Susan Scarf Merrell - Novelist Shirley Jackson and her professor husband take a graduate student and his pregnant wife into their family home. Soon the young wife Rose is obsessed with Jackson, her life and work, and fascinated with the case of a female student who vanished 20 years ago.

[\*A Short History of Women\*](#) by Kate Walbert - Inspired by a suffragist ancestor who starved herself to promote the integration of Cambridge University, Evie refuses to marry and Dorothy defies a ban on photographing the bodies of her dead Iraq War soldier sons, a choice that embarrasses Dorothy's daughters.

[\*The Signature of All Things\*](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert - A multi-generational saga of the Whittaker family, whose progenitor makes a fortune in the quinine trade before his daughter, a gifted botanist, researches the mysteries of evolution while falling in love with an utopian artist against a backdrop of the Age of Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution.

[\*Silver Sparrow\*](#) by Tayari Jones - In 1980s Atlanta, James Witherspoon is living a double life. He has two families, a public one and a secret one. When the daughters from each family become friends, James' secrets are revealed and lives are changed forever.

[\*Singing in the Comeback Choir\*](#) by Bebe Moore Campbell - A story of a woman and the grandmother who raised her rediscovering faith, hope and love.

[\*Slaughterhouse-Five\*](#) by Kurt Vonnegut - A fictional account of Vonnegut's experience as a prisoner of war during World War II and, in his words, —is about the inhumanity of many of man's inventions to man.

[\*Slaves in the Family\*](#) by Edward Ball - A National Book Award-winning family biography traces the Ball family history back to their arrival in America as well as the slave families owned by and related to the Ball's.

[\*Slow Dancing on Dinosaur Bones\*](#) by Lana Witt - When a Californian rolls his broken-down car into a remote Kentucky town, he finds friends, enemies and lovers who are playing out tales as old as the prehistoric soil beneath their feet.

[\*The Snow Child\*](#) by Eowyn Ivey - A childless couple working a farm in the brutal landscape of 1920 Alaska discover a little girl living in the wilderness, with a red fox as a companion, and begin to love the strange, almost-supernatural child as their own.

[\*Snow Falling on Cedars\*](#) by David Guterson - A murder trial of a Japanese American for the murder of a fellow fisherman reveals the racism of a small community.

[\*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan\*](#) by Lisa See - A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

[\*Snow in August: A Novel\*](#) by Peter Hamill - A story of friendship between a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic boy, who battle anti-Semitic toughs in 1947 Boston with ancient magic and the power of words.

[\*So Big\*](#) by Edna Ferber – The unforgettable story of Selina Peake DeJong, a gambler's daughter, and her struggles to stay afloat and maintain her dignity and her sanity in the face of marriage, widowhood, and single parenthood.

[\*So Brave, Young and Handsome\*](#) by Leif Enger - The story of an aging train robber on a quest to reconcile the claims of love and judgment on his life, and the failed writer who goes with him.

[\*Some Luck\*](#) by Jane Smiley – A love song to American farms and the people who keep them, *Some Luck* spans thirty years in the lives of a Iowa farm family, telling a parallel story of the changes taking place in America from 1920 through 1950.

[\*Someone\*](#) by Alice McDermott - An ordinary life—its sharp pains and unexpected joys, its bursts of clarity and moments of confusion—lived by an ordinary, but unforgettable woman, we follow Marie through the changing world of the twentieth century and her Irish-American enclave

[\*Song yet Sung\*](#) by James McBride - Liz Spocott, a beautiful young runaway slave, suffers a nasty head wound. When she awakes, she can see the future—from the near-future to Martin Luther King to hip-hop—in her dreams. Liz's visions help her and her fellow slaves escape, but soon there are new dangers on her trail.

[\*The Sorrows of Young Werther\*](#) by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe - Chronicles a young man's unrequited love and fatal passion for a married woman.

[\*Souls Raised from the Dead\*](#) by Doris Betts - The story of an adolescent who lives with her divorced father, abandoned by a mother who refuses to donate a kidney to save her dying daughter.

[\*The Sparrow\*](#) by Mary Doria Russell - Brilliant first novel about the discovery of extraterrestrial life and the voyage of a party of Jesuit missionaries to Alpha Centauri.

[\*Special Topics in Calamity Physics\*](#) by Marisha Pessl - In her final year of high school at the elite (and unusual) St. Gallway School, Blue falls in with a charismatic group of friends and their captivating teacher. But when a shocking death leads to a confluence of mysteries, Blue is left to make sense of it all.

[\*Spinster: Making a Life of One's Own\*](#) by Kate Bolick - Journalist and cultural critic Bolick uses her own life experiences as well as those of five pioneering women from the last century in a revelatory look at the pleasures and possibilities of remaining single.

[\*A Spool of Blue Thread\*](#) by Anne Tyler - Three generations of Whitshanks have lived in the family home in Baltimore since the 1920s, in which they have loved, squabbled and protected secrets. Now there are mounting tensions among the grown Whitshank siblings as their aging parents need looking after.

[\*The State Boys Rebellion\*](#) by Michael D'Antonia - A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist tells the amazing story of how a group of imprisoned boys won their freedom, found justice, and survived one of the darkest and least-known episodes of American history.

[\*State of Wonder\*](#) by Ann Patchett - In a narrative replete with poison arrows, devouring snakes, scientific miracles, and spiritual transformations, Dr. Marina Singh embarks upon an uncertain odyssey to find her former mentor in the insect-infested Amazon.

[\*Station Eleven\*](#) by Emily St. John Mandel – Twenty years after a devastating flu pandemic a small troupe of actors and musicians moves between the settlements of the altered world performing Shakespeare, dedicating themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive.

[\*Still Alice\*](#) by Lisa Genova - A compelling novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease, written by a first-time author who holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience.

[\*The Stone Diaries\*](#) by Carol Shields - A fictional account of one woman's life presented through diary entries revealing her childhood, marriage, motherhood, and widowed years.

[\*Stones from the River\*](#) by Ursula Hegi - The story of a dwarf librarian living in Germany during the two World Wars whose craving for normalcy results in her attention to gossip and narrative.

[\*The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry\*](#) by Gabrielle Zevin - Grumpy bookstore owner A.J. Fikry is recently widowed, his sales are falling precipitously, and his prize rare book is missing. A.J. finds little comfort even in the company of books. But then a large package arrives that begins to change everything....

[\*The Strain\*](#) by Guillermo del Toro - A vampiric virus infects New York and spreads outward, threatening the city and then the world, as a CDC doctor and a Holocaust survivor fight to save humanity.

[\*The Stranger\*](#) by Albert Camus - Through the story of an ordinary man unwittingly drawn into a senseless murder on an Algerian beach, Camus explores what he termed "the nakedness of man faced with the absurd."

[\*The Submission\*](#) by Amy Waldman - Selected for a jury that must choose an appropriate memorial for September 11 victims, Claire Burwell struggles to navigate a media firestorm when the winning designer is revealed as an enigmatic Muslim-American.

[\*Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South\*](#) by Catherine Fosl - One of the few white people--particularly from the South--to join the southern black freedom movement in its nascent years in the 1950s, Braden became a role model and inspiration for the thousands of young white people that joined the mass movement a decade later.

[\*Suite Francaise\*](#) by Irène Némirovsky - When Irène Némirovsky began this work, she was already a highly successful writer living in Paris. But she was also a Jew, and in 1942 she was arrested and deported to Auschwitz, where she died. For sixty-four years, this novel remained hidden and unknown.

[\*Sula\*](#) by Toni Morrison - The story of a young African-American girl who leaves her oppressive neighborhood to expand her dreams but finds many of her previous relationships tested when she returns ten years later.

[\*Sum It Up: 1,098 Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective\*](#) by Pat Head Summitt / Sally Jenkins - Pat Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history tells for the first time her remarkable story of victory and resilience as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

[\*Summer\*](#) by Edith Wharton - A New Englander of humble origins, Charity Royall is swept into a torrid love affair with an artistically inclined young man, but her dreams of a future with him are thwarted. Summer was an immediate sensation when first published in 1917 and still stands as one of Wharton's greatest achievements.

[\*The Sun Also Rises\*](#) by Ernest Hemingway - This classic captures life among the expatriates on Paris's Left Bank during the 1920s, the brutality of bullfighting in Spain, and the moral and spiritual dissolution of a generation.

[\*Swamplandia!\*](#) By Karen Russell - Thirteen-year-old Ava Bigtree has lived her entire life at Swamplandia!, her family's island home and gator-wrestling theme park in the Florida Everglades. But then her mother falls ill, her sister falls in love and her brother, Kiwi, defects to a rival park.

[\*Sweeping Up Glass\*](#) by Carolyn D. Wall - Living behind her store with her son in 1938 Kentucky, Olivia is stunned when members of the exclusive Hunt Club suddenly turn their sights on the two of them, a dangerous situation complicated by the exposure of the community's horrifying secrets.

[\*The Sweet Potato Queens' Book of Love\*](#) by Jill Conner Browne - A group of "belles gone bad" look at love, life, men, marriage and always being prepared.

[The Sympathizer](#) by Viet Thanh Nguyen - A communist double agent, a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain, comes to America after the Fall of Saigon, and while building a new life with other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles is secretly reporting back to his communist superiors in Vietnam.

[Tara Road](#) by Maeve Binchy - (Large Print) A story of two women in the midst of life-changing events who exchange houses for the summer, and the resulting transformation.

[A Taste for Death](#) by P. D. James - Inspector Adam Dalgliesh, investigates the murder of a member of the peerage who is found with his throat slit in the vestry of a church.

[Team of Rivals](#) by Doris Kearns Goodwin - Team of Rivals doesn't just tell the story of Abraham Lincoln. It is a multiple biography of the entire team of personal and political competitors that he put together to lead the country through its greatest crisis.

[Tell the Wolves I'm Home](#) by Carol Rifka Brunt - Fourteen-year-old June can only be herself in her Uncle Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies in 1987, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down.

[Tender at the Bone: Growing up at the Table](#) by Ruth Reichl - This book by the former restaurant critic of the New York Times is the story of a life enhanced and defined by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told.

[Tenth of December](#) by George Saunders - A collection of stories includes "Home," a wryly whimsical account of a soldier's return from war; "Victory Lap," a tale about an inventive abduction attempt; and the title story, in which a suicidal cancer patient saves the life of a young misfit.

[Terrorist](#) by John Updike - Ahmad Ashmawy Mulloy, is an alienated American-born teenager who spurns the hedonistic life he witnesses in his New Jersey hometown. Turning to the words of the pedantic imam of a local mosque, the threads of an insidious plot gather around him.

[The Testament of Mary](#) by Colm Toibin - Years after her son's crucifixion, Mary lives alone and in fear, badgered by her son's friends and hunted by his enemies, trying to piece together the events that led to her son's brutal death.

[That Old Cape Magic](#) by Richard Russo - The lives of Jack and Joy Griffin always seem to come back to Cape Cod, where they honeymooned, as they experience the ups and downs of life, including the deaths of Jack's parents, the marriage of their daughter, and their separation.

[Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) by Zora Neale Hurston - The story of tragedy and triumph of an early 20th century African-American woman.

[Then We Came to the End](#) by Joshua Ferris - The remaining employees at an office affected by a business downturn spend their time enjoying secret romances and elaborate pranks while trying to make sense of their only remaining "work," a mysterious pro-bono ad campaign.

[There But For The](#) by Ali Smith - When Miles Garth locks himself in an upstairs room during a dinner party and communicates only through notes slipped under the door, his involuntary hosts beg help from childhood friend Anna, who is unwittingly thrust into the family's surreal world.

[A Thief of Time](#) by Tony Hillerman - An investigation of the despoiling of an ancient Anasazi ruin where two corpses appear amid stolen goods and bones.

[Things Fall Apart](#) by Chinua Achebe - A novel warning of the problems of colonialism in Africa and its impact on national culture.

[The Things They Carried](#) by Tim O'Brien - An unparalleled Vietnam testament and a profound study of men at war that illuminates the capacity and the limits of the human heart.

[\*The Thirteenth Tale\*](#) by Diane Setterfield - A shy biographer is summoned to a famous, reclusive author's remote estate. Vida Winter is finally ready to tell the story of her remarkable life. But is she telling the truth?

[\*This Boy's Life\*](#) by Tobias Wolff - This unforgettable, bestselling memoir by a gifted writer introduces the young Toby Wolff, by turns tough and vulnerable, crafty and bumbling, and ultimately winning.

[\*A Thousand Acres\*](#) by Jane Smiley - A saga of a farmer and his two daughters as their secrets erupt and unravel the family's carefully constructed world.

[\*A Thread of Grace\*](#) by Mary Doria Russell - In September 1943, Claudette Blum and her father flee across the Alps into Italy with other Jews seeking refuge, only to find an open battle ground among the Nazis, Allied forces, resistance fighters, and ordinary Italians struggling to survive.

[\*Three Cups of Tea\*](#) by Greg Mortenson - Dangerously ill after a climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by a small Pakistani village; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan.

[\*Three Junes\*](#) by Julia Glass - A family portrait during three separate Junes spanning ten years. Paul McLeod is a recent widower hoping to find a new life in the Greek islands; Fenno McLeod is a New York bookstore owner dealing with the death of a close friend, and Fern is a pregnant dreamer unsure of her future.

[\*Thunderstruck\*](#) by Erik Larson - (Large Print) Larson tells the interwoven stories of two men—Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of the wireless - whose lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time.

[\*The Tiger's Wife\*](#) by Tea Obreht - A young doctor living in an unnamed country, crosses the border in search of answers about the death of her beloved grandfather, who raised her on tales from the village he grew up in, and where in 1941, a tiger escaped from the zoo in a nearby city and befriended a mysterious deaf-mute woman.

[\*Time and Again\*](#) by Jack Finney - In this cult fiction classic, a man is recruited for a secret government project and transported to 1880s New York City.

[\*A Time to Kill\*](#) by John Grisham - Criminal lawyer Jake Brigance faces the fight of his life when he is asked to defend Carl Hailey, who, in a rage of anger, shot and killed the men on trial for the rape of his daughter.

[\*The Time Traveler's Wife\*](#) by Audrey Niffenegger - (Regular and Large Print) The timelessness of love takes on new meaning in this fantastical romance about, a reluctant time traveler Henry, and Clare, whose lives intersect in many non-chronological ways.

[\*Tinkers\*](#) by Paul Harding -The history and final thoughts of a dying grandfather surrounded by his family. George Washington Crosby repairs clocks for a living and on his deathbed revisits his turbulent childhood as the oldest son of an epileptic smalltime traveling salesman.

[\*To the Lighthouse\*](#) by Virginia Woolf - At their holiday home in Cornwall, a distant lighthouse holds a haunting attraction for the members of an Edwardian family as disillusionment, turmoil, and a world on the brink of war plague the family's relationships.

[\*Tortilla Flat\*](#) by John Steinbeck - Danny is a paisano descended from the original Spanish settlers of Monterey, California. He and his cohorts value friendship above money and possessions. Their love of freedom and scorn for material things draw them into daring and often hilarious adventures.

[\*Train Dreams\*](#) by Denis Johnson - The story of early twentieth-century day laborer Robert Grainer, who endures the harrowing loss of his family while struggling for survival in the American West against a backdrop of radical historical changes.

[\*Trapeze\*](#) by Simon Mawer - During World War II Briton Marian Sutro is recruited for service in the Special Operations Executive, only to find that another secret organization wants her to infiltrate Paris to persuade a research physicist to join the Allied war effort.

[\*Traveling Mercies\*](#) by Annie Lamott - A journey through Anne Lamott's often troubled past to illuminate her devout but quirky walk of faith.

[\*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn\*](#) by Betty Smith - This American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century captures a unique time and place. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan and her bittersweet formative years.

[\*The Trial\*](#) by Franz Kafka - The terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information.

[\*Tuesdays with Morrie: an Old Man, a Young Man & Life's Greatest Lesson\*](#) by Mitch Albom - (Large Print) The remarkable true story of Morrie's affirmation of life as he faced death and the transformation of his friend and student with whom he shared it.

[\*Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption\*](#) by Laura Hillenbrand - A biography of World War II hero Louis Zamperini, a former Olympic track star who survived a plane crash in the Pacific theater, spent 47 days drifting on a raft, and then survived more than two and a half years as a prisoner of war in several brutal Japanese internment camps.

[\*Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson & the Opening of the American West\*](#) by Stephen E. Ambrose - Historian Stephen Ambrose traces the Lewis and Clark expedition and the opening of the American West.

[\*Under the Banner of Heaven\*](#) by Jon Krakauer - This chilling story of murder explores the nature of radical Mormon sects and poses some striking questions about the closed-minded, closed-door policies of many religions in general.

[\*An Unfinished Life\*](#) by Mark Spragg - Hoping to introduce her daughter to the grandfather she has never met, a widow seeks refuge in her late husband's Wyoming hometown with her estranged father-in-law.

[\*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry\*](#) by Rachel Joyce - Harold Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old friend in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance.

[\*Vile Bodies\*](#) by Evelyn Waugh - This darkly comic novel does a scathing take on the 1920s London's culture of hedonistic living and the hectic partying of the 'Bright, Young People', mostly men and women from the aristocracy and the upper classes as well as artists and bohemians.

[\*The Virgin Suicides\*](#) by Jeffrey Eugenides - The narrator and his friends piece together the events that led up to suicides of the Lisbon girls - brainy Therese, fastidious Mary, ascetic Bonnie, libertine Lux, and saintly Cecilia.

[\*A Visit from the Goon Squad\*](#) by Jennifer Egan - Working side-by-side for a record label, former punk rocker Bennie Salazar and the passionate Sasha hide illicit secrets from one another while interacting with a motley assortment of equally troubled people from 1970s San Francisco to the post-war future.

[\*Waiting\*](#) by Ha Jin - An ambitious and dedicated Chinese doctor, Lin Kong finds himself torn between two very different women--the educated and dynamic nurse with whom he has fallen in love and the traditional, meek, and humble woman to whom his family married him when they were both very young.

[\*A Walk in the Woods\*](#) by Bill Bryson - Bill Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail. The AT offers an astonishing landscape --and to a writer with the comic genius of Bill Bryson, endless opportunities to witness the majestic silliness of his fellow human beings.

[\*Walking Across Egypt\*](#) by Clyde Edgerton - Mattie Rigsby is an independent, strong-minded 78-year-old when she takes in a stray dog and teenage delinquent, offering an incredibly funny, balanced perspective on age and youth.

[\*The Wall Between\*](#) by Anne Braden - In 1954, Anne and Carl Braden bought a house in an all-white neighborhood in Louisville, Kentucky, on behalf of a black couple, Andrew and Charlotte Wade. The result was mob violence against the Wades, the bombing of the house, and imprisonment for Carl on charges of sedition.

[\*Water for Elephants\*](#) by Sara Gruen - Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

[\*The Water is Wide\*](#) by Pat Conroy - The true story of Pat Conroy's teaching experience on an impoverished South Carolina island in 1969.

[\*We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves\*](#) by Karen Joy Fowler - Coming of age in middle America, 18-year-old Rosemary evaluates how her entire youth was defined by the presence and forced removal of an endearing chimpanzee who was regarded as a family member and who Rosemary loved as a sister.

[\*We Need New Names\*](#) by NoViolet Bulawayo - Follows ten-year-old Zimbabwe native, Darling, as she escapes the closed schools and paramilitary police control of her homeland in search of opportunity and freedom with an aunt in America.

[\*We Need to Talk About Kevin\*](#) by Lionel Shriver - The mother of a teenage boy who killed seven fellow students in a high-school shooting writes a series of letters to her estranged husband on their son's upbringing and questions what she fears may be her own part in the tragedy.

[\*The Wedding\*](#) by Dorothy West - A family saga of race and class focusing on the relationship of an African American woman and her white jazz musician husband.

[\*The Weight of Water\*](#) by Anita Shreve - A photographer who has come to a small island off the coast of New Hampshire to shoot a photo-essay about a double murder that took place there over a century ago, notices parallels between her own life and the lives of the murder victims.

[\*The Weird Sisters\*](#) by Eleanor Brown - Three sisters have returned to their childhood home, reuniting the eccentric Andreas family, with their father - a professor of Shakespeare who speaks almost exclusively in verse - who named them after the Bard's heroines. It's a lot to live up to.

[\*Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!\*](#) by Fannie Flagg - (Large Print) A captivating story of a successful television star whose down-home roots call her home, whether she wants them to or not.

[\*Wellspring\*](#) by Janice Holt Giles - The last book Giles published before her death in 1979, *Wellspring* brings together Giles's fiction, nonfiction, autobiography, and fictionalized autobiography to reveal a behind-the-scenes look at her life, her family, and her love for her adopted state of Kentucky

[\*Wench\*](#) by Dolen Perkins-Valdez - Situated in Ohio, a free territory before the Civil War, Tawawa House is an idyllic retreat for Southern white men who vacation there every summer with their enslaved black mistresses.

[\*West with the Night\*](#) by Beryl Markham - Beryl Markham, the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west, describes her childhood on a farm in Kenya, her apprenticeship as a horse trainer, and her later career as a pioneer aviator in the remote corners of Africa.

[\*What Happened to Anna K\*](#) by Irina Reyn - Exploring struggles of identity, fidelity, and community, "What Happened to Anna K." is a remarkable retelling of the Anna Karenina story set among early 21st-century Russian Jewish immigrants in New York City.

[\*What is the What?\*](#) by Dave Eggers - A biographical novel traces the story of Valentino Achak Deng, who as a boy of seven was separated from his family in southern Sudan and became one of the estimated 17,000 "lost boys of Sudan" before relocating from a Kenyan refugee camp to Atlanta in 2001.

[\*When Books Went to War\*](#) by Molly Guptill Manning (Large Print) –The uplifting story of the Armed Forces Editions, small, lightweight paperbacks carried by American GIs in WWII. While the Nazis were burning millions of books across Europe, America printed and shipped 140 million books to its troops.

[\*When the Emperor Was Divine\*](#) by Julie Otsuka – (Regular and Large Print) A story told from five different points of view chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.

[\*When You Are Engulfed in Flames\*](#) by David Sedaris - A collection of essays celebrates the foibles of the author's everyday life in France and America, from an attempt to make coffee with water from a flower vase to a drug purchase in a North Carolina mobile home.

[\*Where God Was Born\*](#) by Bruce Feiler - (Large Print) Weaving together strands of theology, biblical exegesis, physical exploration, history and personal reflection, Feiler continues his journey of discovery, looking at the common roots of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

[\*Where'd You Go, Bernadette\*](#) By Maria Semple - When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled, and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

[\*While I Was Gone\*](#) by Sue Miller - The compelling story of a woman who places her marriage and family life at risk to follow a flirtation from her past.

[\*Whistling Past the Graveyard\*](#) by Susan Crandall - Fleeing her strict grandmother's home in 1963 Mississippi, 9-year-old Starla Claudelle becomes an unlikely companion to an African-American woman at whose side she learns harsh lessons about period segregation and family.

[\*White Like Me: Reflections on Race From a Privileged Son\*](#) by Tim J. Wise – Wise examines white privilege as a social institution in America and how that it can ultimately harm its recipients in the long run and make progressive social change less likely.

[\*White Oleander\*](#) by Janet Fitch - When her mother is jailed for killing a lover, 12-year old Astrid must navigate her way through a series of foster homes in her search to claim her own identity and adulthood.

[\*White Teeth\*](#) by Zadie Smith - Set in post-war London, this novel of the racial, political, and social upheaval of the last half-century follows two families--the Joneses and the Iqbals, both outsiders from within the former British empire--as they make their way in modern England.

[\*The White Tiger\*](#) by Aravind Adiga - The white tiger of this novel is Balram Halwai, a poor Indian villager whose great ambition leads him from a driver and servant to a wealthy Indian family to the zenith of Indian business culture, the world of the Bangalore entrepreneur.

[\*Whitethorn Woods\*](#) by Maeve Binchey - When a new highway is planned that will bypass the town of Rossmore and cut through Whitethorn Woods with its mythic well, the town's inhabitants are divided on whether or not the town will benefit or suffer from the construction.

[\*Who Asked You?\*](#) by Terry McMillan - Already burdened with the dramas of her other adult children, her senile husband and her interfering sisters, BJ finds herself caring for her grandchildren when one of her daughters disappears.

[\*Wicked\*](#) by Gregory Maguire - There are two sides to every story. We've heard Dorothy's in L. Frank Baum's classic —The Wizard of Oz. Now we hear from the Wicked Witch of the West.

[\*Wide Sargasso Sea\*](#) by Jean Rhys - In a prequel to Jane Eyre, Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway lives in Dominica and Jamaica in the 1830s before she travels to England, becomes Mrs. Rochester, and goes mad.

[\*A Widow's Story\*](#) by Joyce Carol Oates - Raymond Smith and Oates were, in every sense, true life companions: Married for nearly half a century, the couple shared a deep passion of literature. His February 2008 demise left her helpless. Her story is a soul-searing memoir of widowhood

[\*Wild: from Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail\*](#) by Cheryl Strayed - At twenty-six, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. With nothing more to lose, with no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she hiked more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail.

[\*Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China\*](#) by Jung Chang - A memoir reflecting upon the astonishing changes seen by three generations of women in 20th century China.

[\*Winesburg, Ohio\*](#) by Sherwood Anderson - A timeless book of connected short stories about the brave, cowardly, and altogether realistic inhabitants of an imaginary American town.

[\*Wise Blood\*](#) by Flannery O'Connor - The story of Hazel Motes, a twenty-two-year-old caught in an unending struggle against his innate, desperate fate, this tale of redemption, retribution, and false prophets gives us one of the most riveting characters in twentieth-century American fiction.

[\*The Woman Upstairs\*](#) by Claire Messud - Relegated to the status of schoolteacher and friendly neighbor after abandoning her dreams of becoming an artist, Nora advocates on behalf of a charismatic Lebanese student and is drawn into the child's family until his artist mother's careless ambition leads to a shattering betrayal.

[\*The Women\*](#) by T. C. Boyle - Recounts the life of Frank Lloyd Wright as told through the experiences of the four women who loved him: the Montenegrin beauty Olgivanna Milanoff; the passionate Southern belle Maud Miriam Noel; the spirited Mamah Cheney, tragically killed; and his first wife, Kitty Tobin.

[\*The World Before Her\*](#) by Deborah Weisgall - Two parallel stories, set in Venice a century apart, follow two women and their marriages--Marian Evans, better known as famed English author George Eliot, and sculptor Caroline Spingold, coming unwillingly to the city with her older, wealthy husband.

[\*The World is Flat\*](#) by Thomas L. Friedman - (Large Print) China and India are taking advantage of systems of communications, production, and distribution that can connect the entire globe instantaneously. With this "flattening" of the globe, can human beings and their political systems adjust in a stable manner?

[\*The World We Found\*](#) by Thrity N. Umrigar - As university students in late 1970s Bombay, four friends were inseparable. Spirited and unconventional, they challenged authority and fought for a better world.. Now: 30 years later, Armaiti, who moved to America, is gravely ill and wants to see the old friends she left behind.

[\*World's Fair\*](#) by E. L. Doctorow - A story of New York of the 1930's as the country deals with a looming depression and war on the horizon, as told through the eyes of a young boy.

[\*The Worst Hard Time\*](#) by Timothy Egan - Timothy Egan's critically acclaimed account of the dust storms that terrorized the High Plains in the darkest years of the Depression, following a dozen families and their communities through blinding black dust blizzards, crop failure, and the death of loved ones.

[\*The Year of Magical Thinking\*](#) by Joan Didion - Didion explores with electric honesty and passion a private yet universal experience. Her portrait of a marriage-- and a life, in good times and bad-- will speak directly to anyone who has ever loved a husband, a wife, or a child.

[\*Year of Wonders\*](#) by Geraldine Brooks - The story of the plague in the year 1666 from the eyes of Anna Frith, a housemaid and an unlikely heroine and healer. A tale of hope and faith in a time of despair.

[\*The Yellow Birds\*](#) by Kevin Powers - In the midst of a bloody battle in the Iraq War, two soldiers, bound together since basic training, do everything to protect each other from both outside enemies and the internal struggles that come from constant danger.

[\*You Have Given Me a Country\*](#) by Neela Vaswani - Combining memoir, history, and fiction, the book follows the paths of the author's Irish-Catholic mother and Sindhi-Indian father on their journey toward each other and the biracial child they create.

[\*Zeitoun\*](#) by David Eggers - The tribulations of Syrian-born painting contractor Abdulrahman Zeitoun, who, while aiding in rescue efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, was inexplicably arrested by military personnel and swept into a bureaucratic maelstrom of civil injustices.

[\*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: an Inquiry into Values\*](#) by Robert Pirsig - A narration of a summer motorcycle trip undertaken by a father and son becomes a personal and philosophical odyssey into fundamental questions of how to live.

[\*The Zookeeper's Wife\*](#) by Diane Ackerman - A true story--as powerful as "Schindler's List"--in which the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from Nazi hands.