

Book Discussion Kits – Contemporary Fiction

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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 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.

[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.

[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.

[*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.

[*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 to reinvigorate support for the war, including the halftime show at a Dallas Cowboys game.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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 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,

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 - 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.

[*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.

[*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..

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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

[*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.

[*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.

[*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..

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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."

[*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 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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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?

[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.

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

[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.

[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.

[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 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 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?

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

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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."

[*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.

[*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.

[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

[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.

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

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

[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 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.

[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.

[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 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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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' descendants connect to the land and each other.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*Runaway*](#) by Alice Munro - (Large Print) These short stories all concern Canadian woman 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 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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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 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

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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?

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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.

[*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 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.

[*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 when his village 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.

[*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 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.

[*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 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 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.

[*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.