NORTHVILLE DISTRICT LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB ON THE GO

Fiction and Non-Fiction Titles

FICTION

Arranged by Author's Last Name

Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams

Working at the local library, Aleisha reads every book on a secret list she found, which transports her from the painful realities she's facing at home and decides to pass the list on to a lonely widower desperate to connect with his "bookworm" granddaughter.

Hester by Laurie Lico Albanese

This vivid, meticulously researched reimagining of the woman who inspired Hester Prynne from Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter follows a young immigrant woman, Isobel, grappling with America's promises of freedom. The novel explores 19th-century American identity, the early Underground Railroad in New England, and the history of witchcraft accusations, offering a timeless story about art, ambition, and female creative power.

Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage that neither of them desires.

Violeta by Isabel Allende

Violeta comes into the world on a stormy day in 1920, the first girl in a family with five boisterous sons. From the start, her life is marked by extraordinary events. She tells her story in the form of a letter to someone she loves above all others, recounting times of devastating heartbreak and passionate affairs, poverty and wealth, terrible loss and immense joy. Her life is shaped by some of the most important events of history: the fight for women's rights, the rise and fall of tyrants, and ultimately not one, but two pandemics.

Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Offred is a Handmaid. She can only leave the home of the Commander and his wife once a day to walk to food markets whose signs are now pictures instead of words because women are no longer allowed to read. She must lie on her back once a month and pray that the Commander makes her pregnant, because in an age of declining births, Offred and the other Handmaids are valued only if their ovaries are viable. Set in the near future, life in what was once the United States and is now called the Republic of Gilead, a monotheocracy that has reacted to social unrest and a sharply declining birthrate by reverting to, and going beyond, the repressive intolerance of the original Puritans.

Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes the worst group of hostages in the world.

Beartown by Fredrik Backman

One night at a drunken celebration following a key hockey win, something happens between Kevin, a star player just on the cusp of securing his golden future in the NHL; and the general manager's daughter--and the next day everything seems to have changed. Accusations are made and, like ripples on a pond, they travel through all of Beartown, leaving no resident unaffected. With so much riding on the success of the team, the line between loyalty and betrayal becomes difficult to discern. At last, it falls to one young man to find the courage to speak the truth that it seems no one else wants to hear."

Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Ove is a curmudgeon--the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a residents' association to their very foundations.

We Hope For Better Things by Erin Bartels

When Elizabeth Balsam is asked to deliver a box of old photos to a relative she didn't know she had, she begins a journey of discovery about her family, including two remarkable women who embodied courage and love in the face of war, racism, and persecution.

Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

What secrets may have lurked in the shadows of Albert Einstein's fame? His first wife, Mileva "Mitza" Mari, was more than the devoted mother of their three children - she was also a brilliant physicist in her own right, and her contributions to the special theory of relativity have been hotly debated for more than a century. As Albert's fame grows, Mileva worries that her light will be lost in her husband's shadow forever.

Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray

In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion is not dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.

Immortalists by Chloe Benjamin

It's 1969 in New York City's Lower East Side, and word has spread of the arrival of a mystical woman, a traveling psychic who claims to be able to tell anyone the day they will die. The Gold children--four adolescents on the cusp of self-awareness--sneak out to hear their fortunes. Their prophecies inform their next five decades. *The Immortalists* probes the line between destiny and choice, reality and illusion, this world and the next. It is a deeply moving testament to the power of story, the nature of belief, and the unrelenting pull of familial bonds.

Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

Melanie Benjamin pulls back the curtain on the marriage of one of America's most extraordinary couples: Charles Lindbergh and Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Drawing on the rich history of the twentieth century--from the late twenties to the mid-sixties--and featuring cameos from such notable characters as Joseph Kennedy and Amelia Earhart, The Aviator's Wife is a vividly imagined novel of a complicated marriage--revealing both its dizzying highs and its devastating lows. With stunning power and grace, Benjamin provides new insight into what made this remarkable relationship endure.

Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined.

All the Broken Places by John Boyne

An elderly London resident befriends the little boy who moves in downstairs, but his parents' fighting brings her back to her harrowing escape from Nazi Germany at age twelve and grim post-war years in France with her mother.

Drawing Home by Jamie Brenner

Summer has started in idyllic Sag Harbor, and for Emma Mapson that means greeting guests at the front desk of The American Hotel. But when one of the town's most famous residents, artist Henry Wyatt, dies suddenly, Emma learns he has mysteriously left his waterfront home - a self-designed masterpiece filled with his work - to her teenage daughter, Penny.

Back in Manhattan, legendary art patron Bea Winstead's grief at her lifelong friend and former business partner Henry's passing turns to outrage at the news of his shocking bequest.

Moloka'i by Alan Brennert

Young Rachel Kalama, growing up in idyllic Honolulu in the 1890s, is part of a big, loving Hawaiian family, and dreams of seeing the far-off lands that her father, a merchant seaman, often visits. But at the age of seven, Rachel and her dreams are shattered by the discovery that she has leprosy. Forcibly removed from her family, she is sent to Kalaupapa, the isolated leper colony on the island of Moloka'i. In her exile she finds a family of friends to replace the family she's lost. Rachel's life, though shadowed by disease, isolation, and tragedy, is also one of joy, courage, and dignity.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, far from the glamor of any racetrack.

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Dana, a modern Black woman, is celebrating her 26th birthday with her new husband when she is snatched abruptly from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning, and Dana has been summoned to save him. Dana is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has a chance to begin.

Glassmaker by Tracy Chevalier

In 1486 Venice, Orsola Rosso, the eldest daughter of a Murano glassblowing family, secretly teaches herself to make glass beads after her father's death to support her family, despite women being barred from the craft. The narrative moves through the centuries in a Venice where time moves slowly, following the Rosso family through triumphs and losses, including the plague, military occupation, and the city's transformation from a trade hub into a tourist destination. Throughout every era, the Rosso women ensure their work and family bonds endure.

Innocents by Michael Crummey

Richly imagined and compulsively readable, prizewinning author Michael Crummey's the *Innocents* is a riveting story of hardship and survival, and an unflinching exploration of the bond between brother and sister. By turns electrifying and heartbreaking, it is a testament to the bounty and barbarity of the world, to the wonders and strangeness of our individual selves.

American Sky by Carolyn Dasher

Three generations of strong-willed women forge their own paths through war, love, and societal expectations. In 1943, Georgeanne "George" Ector joins the WASP program to pursue her dream of flying, inspired by her mother, a fearless Oklahoma farm girl with a gift for mechanics. George finds a kindred spirit in Vivian Shaw, and together they achieve their goals as pilots. When the war ends, they face pressure to embrace traditional roles of marriage and motherhood. George's daughters, Ruth and Ivy, later confront their own choices, shaped by the strength and struggles of the women before them. As a long-held family secret comes to light, each woman must summon the courage to follow her heart and find her freedom.

Trust by Herman Diaz

In glamorous 1920s New York City, two characters of sophisticated taste come together. One is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; the other, the brilliant daughter of penniless aristocrats. Steeped in affluence and grandeur, their marriage excites gossip and allows a continued ascent -- all at a moment when the country is undergoing a great transformation.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Marie-Laure is a sightless girl who lived with her father in Paris before the occupation; he was a master locksmith for the Museum of Natural History. When German forces necessitate abandonment of the city, Marie-Laure's father, taking with him the museum's greatest treasure, removes himself and his daughter and eventually arrives at his uncle's house in the coastal city of Saint-Malo. Meanwhile, young German soldier Werner is sent to Saint-Malo to track Resistance activity there, and eventually, and inevitably, Marie-Laure's and Werner's paths cross. It is through their individual and intertwined tales that Doerr masterfully and knowledgeably re-creates the deprived civilian conditions of war-torn France and the strictly controlled lives of the military occupiers.

Sentence by Louise Erdrich

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading "with murderous attention," must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

Telephone by Percival Everett

Zach Wells is a perpetually dissatisfied geologist/paleobiologist. He is a laconic man who plays chess with his daughter, trades puns with his wife while she does yoga, and dodges committee work at the college where he teaches. After a field trip to the desert yields nothing more than a colleague with a tenure problem and a student with an unwelcome crush on him, he returns home to find his world crumbling. This is a deeply affecting story about the lengths to which loss and grief will drive us.

Turner House by Angela Flournoy

The Turners have lived on Yarrow Street for over fifty years. Their house has seen thirteen children grown and gone--and some returned; it has seen the arrival of grandchildren, the fall of Detroit's East Side, and the loss of a father. The house still stands despite abandoned lots, an embattled city, and the inevitable shift outward to the suburbs. But now, as ailing matriarch Viola finds herself forced to leave her home and move in with her eldest son, the family discovers that the house is worth just a tenth of its mortgage. The Turner children are called home to decide its fate and to reckon with how each of their pasts haunts--and shapes--their family's future.

All Good People Here by Ashley Flowers

Everyone from Wakarusa, Indiana, remembers the infamous case of January Jacobs, who was discovered in a ditch hours after her family awoke to find her gone. Margot Davies was six at the time, the same age as January-and they were next-door neighbors. In the twenty years since, Margot has grown up, moved away, become a big-city journalist. But she's always been haunted by the fear that it could've been her. And the worst part is, January's killer has never been brought to justice. But the police, the family, the townspeople-all seem to be hiding something. Twisty, chilling, and intense, *All Good People Here* is a searing tale that asks: What are your neighbors capable of when they think no one is watching?

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with--of all things--her mind. True chemistry results.

Anita De Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez

The story moves between two timelines and perspectives. In 1985, Anita de Monte, a rising star in the art world, is found dead in New York City. Though her tragic death is initially the talk of the town, her name is largely forgotten by 1998.

This is when we meet Raquel, a third-year art history student preparing her final thesis. Raquel discovers Anita's story, which raises unsettling questions about the dynamics of her own relationship that eerily mirrors the forgotten artist's.

Olga Dies Dreaming by Xochitl Gonzalez

Set against the backdrop of New York City in the months surrounding the most devastating hurricane in Puerto Rico's history, Xochitl Gonzalez's Olga Dies Dreaming is a story that examines political corruption, familial strife, and the very notion of the American dream—all while asking what it really means to weather a storm.

Less by Andrew Sean Greer

Who says you can't run away from your problems? You are a failed novelist about to turn fifty. A wedding invitation arrives in the mail: your boyfriend of the past nine years is engaged to someone else. You can't say yes--it would be too awkward--and you can't say no--it would look like defeat. On your desk are a series of invitations to half-baked literary events around the world. **QUESTION**: How do you arrange to skip town? **ANSWER**: You accept them all.

Great Alone by Kristin Hannah

Ernt Allbright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam War a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family north, to Alaska, where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier. At first Alaska seems to be the answer to their prayers ... But as winter approaches and darkness descends on Alaska, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates, and the family begins to fracture"

Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Younger, bolder sister Isabelle lives in Paris while Viann lives a quiet and content life in the French countryside with her husband Antoine and their daughter. When World War II strikes and Antoine is sent off to fight, Viann and Isabelle's father sends Isabelle to help her older sister cope. As the war progresses, it's not only the sisters' relationship that is tested, but also their strength and their individual senses of right and wrong. With life as they know it changing in unbelievably horrific ways, Viann and Isabelle will find themselves facing frightening situations and responding in ways they never thought possible as bravery and resistance take different forms in each of their actions.

Mercies by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Inspired by historical events, *The Mercies* is a breathtaking story of love, fear and obsession, and the strength and courage of women. After a storm has killed off all the island's men, two women in a 1600s Norwegian coastal village struggle to survive against both natural forces and the men who have been sent to rid the community of alleged witchcraft.

Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel

Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books one morning when her eyes lock on a photograph in a magazine lying open nearby. She freezes; it's an image of a book she hasn't seen in sixty-five years--a book she recognizes as The Book of Lost Names. The accompanying article discusses the looting of libraries by the Nazis across Europe during World War II--an experience Eva remembers well--and the search to reunite people with the texts taken from them so long ago.

Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris

A profound debut about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever. Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The story unfolds with candor and sympathy, and an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction.

River by Peter Heller

Wynn and Jack have been best friends since college orientation, bonded by their shared love of mountains, books, and fishing. When they decide to canoe the Maskwa River in northern Canada, they anticipate long days of leisurely paddling and berry picking, and nights of stargazing and reading. But a wildfire making its way across the forest adds unexpected urgency to the journey. One night they hear people arguing on the fog-shrouded riverbank. The next day, a man appears on the river, paddling alone. Is this the same man they heard? And if he is, where is the woman? From this charged beginning, unspools a headlong, heart-pounding story of desperate wilderness survival.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Eleanor Oliphant struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she is thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy. But everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling and deeply unhygienic IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond save Sammy, an elderly gentleman who has fallen on the sidewalk, the three become the kinds of friends who rescue one another from the lives of isolation they have each been living.

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Here is the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, carefully watches the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her. Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

As a child, Kathy-now thirty-one years old-lived at Hailsham, a private school in the scenic English countryside where the children were sheltered from the outside world, brought up to believe that they were special and that their well-being was crucial not only for themselves but for the society they would eventually enter. Kathy had long ago put this idyllic past behind her, but when two of her Hailsham friends come back into her life, she stops resisting the pull of memory. A tale of deceptive simplicity, *Never Let Me Go* slowly reveals an extraordinary emotional depth and resonance-and takes its place among Kazuo Ishiguro's finest work.

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan

Prejudice takes many forms, both subtle and brutal. It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farm--a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura's brother-in-law, is everything her husband is not--charming, handsome, and haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the Black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, has come home with the shine of a war hero. But no matter his bravery in defense of his country, he is still considered less than a man in the Jim Crow South. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion. The men and women of each family relate their versions of events, and we are drawn into their lives as they become players in a tragedy on the grandest scale.

Music Shop by Rachel Joyce

It is 1988. The CD has arrived. Sales of the shiny new disks are soaring on high streets in cities across the country. Meanwhile, down a dead-end street, Frank's music shop stands small and brightly lit, jam-packed with records of every kind. It attracts the lonely, the sleepless, and the adrift. There is room for everyone. Frank has a gift for finding his customers the music they need. Into this shop arrives Ilse Brauchmann - practical, brave, well-heeled. Frank falls for this curious woman who always dresses in green. But Ilse's reasons for visiting the shop are not what they seem.

Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali

In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie transitions from a life of comfort to a modest downtown home following her father's untimely death. Isolated and burdened by her mother's grievances, Ellie finds solace on her first day of school when she meets Homa, a kind and spirited girl. The two become inseparable, sharing dreams of becoming independent "lion women."

Their bond is tested when Ellie and her mother regain their affluent lifestyle, leading Ellie to distance herself from Homa during high school. Years later, Homa unexpectedly re-enters Ellie's privileged world, altering both of their trajectories as they pursue meaningful futures. However, as political turmoil escalates in Iran, a major betrayal threatens to bring devastating consequences to both women.

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

It is 1985 in a small Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal merchant and family man faces into his busiest season. Early one morning, while delivering an order to the local convent, Bill makes a discovery which forces him to confront both his past and the complicit silences of a town controlled by the church.

Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly

Inspired by the life of a real-World War II heroine, this powerful debut novel reveals an incredible story of love, redemption, and terrible secrets that were hidden for decades. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939--and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences.

Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten-year-old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their journey over the next thirty-five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement, and the uneasy ways of love.

City of Birds by Juhea Kim

On a White Night in 2019, prima ballerina Natalia Leonova returns to St. Petersburg two years after a devastating accident that stalled her career. Once the most celebrated dancer of her generation, she now turns to pills and alcohol to numb the pain of her past. This story paints a vivid portrait of the Russian ballet world, where cutthroat ambition, ever-shifting politics, and sublime artistry collide.

Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist with a respectably published first book. Today, he is teaching in a third-rate MFA program and struggling to maintain what's left of his self-respect; he hasn't written--let alone published--anything decent in years. When Evan Parker, his most arrogant student, announces he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book in progress is a sure thing, Jake is prepared to dismiss the boast as typical amateur narcissism. But then . . . he hears the plot.

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

In the summer of 1932, on the banks of Minnesota's Gilead River, the Lincoln Indian Training School is a pitiless place where Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to Odie, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school. After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. They also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search of a place to call home.

Yellowface by R. F. Kuang

Bestselling sensation Juniper Song is not who she says she is, she didn't write the book she claims she wrote, and she is most certainly not Asian American. Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars: same year at Yale, same debut year in publishing. But Athena's a cross-genre literary darling, and June didn't even get a paperback release. So when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers to the British and French war efforts during World War.

Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan

When New Yorker Rachel Chu agrees to spend the summer in Singapore with her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, she envisions a humble family home and quality time with the man she hopes to marry. But Nick has failed to give his girlfriend a few key details. One, that his childhood home looks like a palace; two, that he grew up riding in more private planes than cars; and three, that he just happens to be the country's most eligible bachelor. On Nick's arm, Rachel may as well have a target on her back the second she steps off the plane, and soon, her relaxed vacation turns into an obstacle course of old money, new money, nosy relatives, and scheming social climbers.

Pew by Catherine Lacey

A figure with no discernible identity appears in a small, religious town, throwing its inhabitants into a frenzy. As the town spends the week preparing for a mysterious Forgiveness Festival, Pew is shuttled from one household to the next. The earnest and well-meaning townspeople see conflicting identities in Pew, and many confess their fears and secrets to them in one-sided conversations. Pew listens and observes while experiencing brief flashes of past lives or clues about their origin. As days pass, the void around Pew's presence begins to unnerve the community, whose generosity erodes into menace and suspicion.

Defending Jacob by William Landay

Andy Barber has been an assistant district attorney in his suburban Massachusetts County for more than twenty years. But when a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided when his fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student. As damning facts and shocking revelations surface, as a marriage threatens to crumble and the trial intensifies, as the crisis reveals how little a father knows about his son, Andy will face a trial of his own--between loyalty and justice, between truth and allegation, between a past he's tried to bury and a future he cannot conceive.

Good Neighbors by Sarah Langan

Welcome to Maple Street, a picture-perfect slice of suburban Long Island, its residents bound by their children, their work, and their illusion of safety in a rapidly changing world. But menace skulks among this exclusive enclave. When the Wilde family arrives, they trigger their neighbors' worst fears. And they don't fit with the way Maple Street sees itself. As tensions mount, a sinkhole opens in a nearby park, Shelly falls inside. The search for Shelly brings a shocking accusation against the Wildes. Suddenly, it is one mom's word against the others in a court of public opinion that can end only in blood.

Friday Night Club by Sofia Lundberg

This novel explores the life of Swedish artist Hilma af Klint, a pioneer of abstract painting, by detailing her early 1900s life in Stockholm. The story follows Hilma as she forms ""The Five,"" a mysterious circle of female painters and writers who challenge the male-dominated art world by using séances and the occult to channel spirits into their work. framed by a present-day storyline where a Guggenheim Museum curator in New York uncovers the truth about their work—which remained in obscurity for over a century—while preparing an exhibition, risking his career to reveal how history can be manipulated. *The Friday Night Club* illuminates' themes of destiny, passion, and the connections among women who challenge societal traditions.

Guardian and a Thief by Megha Majumdar

In a near-future Kolkata beset by flooding and blight, Ma, her two-year-old daughter Mishti, and her elderly father Dadu are just days from leaving the collapsing city to join Ma's husband in Ann Arbor, Michigan. After procuring long-awaited passports and visas from the consulate, they pack their bags but awaken the next morning to discover that Ma's purse containing all their treasured documents has been stolen. This novel tells two stories: the struggle of Ma and her family to emigrate and their devastation in the wake of a theft that changes their fate to one of implacable tragedy; and Boomba, the thief, whose hunger and desperation to care for his family drive him to commit a crime whose consequences he cannot fathom.

Great Believers by Rebecca Makkai

A novel of friendship and redemption in the face of tragedy and loss set in 1980s Chicago and contemporary Paris. In 1985, Yale Tishman, the development director for an art gallery in Chicago, is about to pull off an amazing coup, bringing in an extraordinary collection of 1920s paintings as a gift to the gallery. Yet as his career begins to flourish, the carnage of the AIDS epidemic grows around him. One by one, his friends are dying and after his friend Nico's funeral, the virus circles closer and closer to Yale himself. Soon the only person he has left is Fiona, Nico's little sister. With the heartbreak of the eighties and the chaos of the modern world, Yale and Fiona struggle to find goodness amid disaster.

Lightning in a Mason Jar by Catherine Mann

Following her adoptive aunt Winnie's passing, Bailey Rae Rigby travels to Bent Oak, South Carolina, to settle the estate and launch a food truck inspired by her aunt's personal cookbook. However, her plans change when a young mother arrives carrying a copy of the same cookbook, which contains a hidden code for a secret local shelter. This discovery leads Bailey Rae to uncover Winnie Ballard's fifty-year hidden history—a story of a harrowing marriage, daring escape, and a life-changing friendship among three resilient women. To define her own future, Bailey Rae must draw on her aunt's courage as she uncovers these long-held secrets.

North Woods by Daniel Mason

When two young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike told through the lives of those who inhabit it across the centuries.

Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, it becomes apparent that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.

Phone Booth at the Edge of the World by Laura Imai Messina

When Yui loses both her mother and her daughter in the tsunami, she begins to mark the passage of time from that date onward: Everything is relative to March 11, 2011, the day the tsunami tore Japan apart, and when grief took hold of her life.

Ashtrays are Full and the Glasses are Empty by Kristen Mickelwait

Set against the 1920s Jazz Age and 1930s depression, The Ashtrays Are Full and the Glasses Are Empty follows Gilded Age heiress Sara Wiborg and her husband Gerald Murphy as they navigate the bohemian elite of Paris, including Hemingway and Picasso. Despite losing her fortune and facing double tragedy, Sara's resilience, faith, and creativity allow her to heal and find a new equilibrium..

A Place for Us by Fatima Farheen Mirza

A Place for Us unfolds the lives of an Indian American Muslim family, gathered in their Californian hometown to celebrate the eldest daughter, Hadia's, wedding - a match of love rather than tradition. It is here, on this momentous day, that Amar, the youngest of the siblings, reunites with his family for the first time in three years. Rafiq and Layla must now contend with the choices and betrayals that lead to their son's estrangement - the reckoning of parents who strove to pass on their cultures and traditions to their children; and of children who in turn struggle to balance authenticity in themselves with loyalty to the home they came from.

Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar

When Hollywood auctioneer Emsley Wilson finds her famous grandmother's diary while cleaning out her New York brownstone, the pages are full of surprises. The first surprise is, the diary isn't her grandmother's, but belongs to Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law.

Johanna inherited Vincent van Gogh's paintings. They were all she had, and they weren't worth anything. She was a 28-year-old widow with a baby in the 1800s, without any means of supporting herself, living in Paris where she barely spoke the language. Yet she managed to introduce Vincent's legacy to the world.

Last Days of Night by Graham Moore

New York, 1888. Gas lamps still flicker in the city streets, but the miracle of electric light is in its infancy. The person who controls the means to turn night into day will make history--and a vast fortune. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country?

Hell of a Book by Jason Mott

A Black author sets out on a cross-country publicity tour to promote his bestselling novel. That storyline drives Hell of a Book and is the scaffolding of something much larger and more urgent: Mott’s novel also tells the story of Soot, a young Black boy living in a rural town in the recent past, and The Kid, a possibly imaginary child who appears to the author on his tour. As these characters’ stories build and converge, they astonish. For while this heartbreaking and magical book entertains and is at once about family, love of parents and children, art and money, it’s also about the nation’s reckoning with a tragic police shooting playing repeatedly on the news. And with what it can mean to be Black in America.

Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano

What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live? One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor. When you have lost everything, how do you find the strength to put one foot in front of the other? How do you learn to feel safe again? How do you find meaning in your life?

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

William Waters grew up in a house silenced by tragedy, where his parents could hardly bear to look at him, much less love him. So, it's a relief when his skill on the basketball court earns him a scholarship to college, far from his childhood home. He soon meets Julia Padavano, a spirited and ambitious young woman who surprises William with her appreciation of his quiet steadiness. With Julia comes her family; and she is inseparable from her three younger sisters: Sylvie, the dreamer, Cecelia, the family's artist; and Emeline, who patiently takes care of all of them. But darkness from William's past surfaces, jeopardizing not only Julia's carefully orchestrated plans for their future, but the sisters' unshakeable loyalty to one another. The result is a catastrophic family rift that changes their lives for generations.

Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

An exquisite novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when Lydia's body is found in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has been keeping the Lee family together is destroyed, tumbling them into chaos.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Mia Warren - an enigmatic artist and single mother - arrives in Shaker Heights, Ohio with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardson's. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community. When family friends of the Richardson's attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town.

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng

Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving but broken father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. Bird knows not to ask too many questions, stand out too much, or stray too far. For a decade, their lives have been governed by laws written to preserve “American culture” in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. To keep the peace and restore prosperity, the authorities are now allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin, and libraries have been forced to remove books seen as unpatriotic—including the work of Bird’s mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet who left the family when he was nine years old.

Mountains Sing by Phan Que Mai Nguyen

The Mountains Sing tells an enveloping, multigenerational tale of the Trần family, set against the backdrop of the Việt Nam War. Trần Diệu Lan, who was born in 1920, was forced to flee her family farm with her six children during the Land Reform as the Communist government rose in the North. Years later in H Nội, her young granddaughter, Hương, comes of age as her parents and uncles head off down the Hồ Ch Minh Trail to fight in a conflict that tore apart not just her beloved country, but also her family. The Mountains Sing brings to life the human costs of this conflict from the point of view of the Vietnamese people themselves, while showing us the true power of kindness and hope.

True Biz by Sara Novic

"True biz? The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history final, and have doctors, politicians, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf. This is a story of sign language and lip-reading, cochlear implants and civil rights, isolation, and injustice, first love and loss, and great persistence, daring, and joy. Absorbing and assured, idiosyncratic and relatable, this is an unforgettable journey into the Deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection".

Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell

A young Latin tutor--penniless and bullied by a violent father--falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family's land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is just taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

There There by Tommy Orange

This novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, communion, sacrifice, and heroism.

Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange

Colorado, 1864. Star, a young survivor of the Sand Creek Massacre, is brought to the Fort Marion prison castle, where he is forced to learn English and practice Christianity by Richard Henry Pratt, an evangelical prison guard who will go on to found the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, an institution dedicated to the eradication of Native history, culture, and identity. A generation later, Star's son, Charles, is sent to the school, where he is brutalized by the man who was once his father's jailer. Under Pratt's harsh treatment, Charles clings to moments he shares with a young fellow student, Opal Viola, as the two envision a future away from the institutional violence that follows their bloodlines.

Swimmers by Julie Otsuka

The Swimmers starts as a catalogue of spoken and unspoken rules for swimmers at an aquatic center but unfolds into a powerful story of a mother's dementia and her daughter's love.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say. Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life--until the unthinkable happens.

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

Franny begins an affair with the legendary author Leon Posen and tells him about her family, the story of her siblings is no longer hers to control. Their childhood becomes the basis for his wildly successful book, forcing them to come to terms with their losses, their guilt, and the deeply loyal connection they feel for one another.

Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Cyril Conroy combines luck and a single canny investment to begin an enormous real estate empire, propelling his family from poverty to enormous wealth. His first order of business is to buy the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips

In 1874, twelve-year-old ConaLee, the adult in her family for as long as she can remember, finds herself on a buckboard journey with her mother, Eliza, who hasn't spoken in more than a year. They arrive at the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum in West Virginia, delivered to the hospital's entrance by a war veteran who has forced himself into their world. There, far from family, a beloved neighbor, and the mountain home they knew, they try to reclaim their lives.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

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

Go As a River by Shelley Read

Seventeen-year-old Victoria Nash manages her family's peach farm in Iola, Colorado, after a chance encounter with Wilson Moon, a young drifter, profoundly alters her life. When tragedy strikes, Victoria flees into the wilderness to survive and rebuild. Set against the true events of Iola's destruction in the 1960s, the story follows Victoria's resilience as the Gunnison River threatens to submerge her family's ancestral orchard.

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid

A striking and surprising debut novel from an exhilarating new voice, Such a Fun Age is a page-turning and big-hearted story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both. With empathy and piercing social commentary, *Such a Fun Age* explores the stickiness of transactional relationships, what it means to make someone "family," and the complicated reality of being a grown-up.

Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Daisy is a girl coming of age in L.A. in the late sixties, sneaking into clubs on the Sunset Strip, sleeping with rock stars, and dreaming of singing at the Whisky Go-go. But it's the rock and roll she loves most. By the time she is twenty, her voice is getting noticed. Another band getting noticed is The Six, led by the brooding Billy Dunne. Daisy and Billy cross paths when a producer realizes the key to supercharged success is to put the two together. What happens next will become the stuff of legend. Written is an oral history of one of the biggest bands of the seventies.

Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Cussy Mary Carter is the last of her kind, her skin the color of a blue damselfly in these dusty hills. But that does not mean she's got nothing to offer. As a member of the Pack Horse Library Project, Cussy delivers books to the hill folk of Troublesome, hoping to spread learning in these desperate times. But not everyone is so keen on Cussy's family or the Library Project, and the hardscrabble Kentuckians are quick to blame a Blue for any trouble in their small town.

Normal People by Sally Rooney

At school Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other. He's popular and well-adjusted, star of the school football team, while she is lonely, proud and intensely private. But when Connell comes to pick his mother up from her job at Marianne's house, a strange and indelible connection grows between the two teenagers--one they are determined to conceal.

A Woman is no Man by Etaf Rum

Palestine, 1990: Seventeen-year-old Isra is quickly betrothed, married, and moved to Brooklyn. There, she struggles with the expectations of her oppressive mother-in-law, Fareeda, and her new husband, Adam, as she bears four daughters instead of the expected sons.

Brooklyn, 2008: Eighteen-year-old Deya is pressured by her grandmother to meet with potential husbands and marry, despite her desire to go to college. Fate intervenes, leading Deya to unexpected paths and shocking revelations that force her to question her family's past and her own future.

Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

In July 1913, twenty-five-year-old Annie Clements has seen enough of the world to know that it’s unfair. She has spent her whole life in the mining town of Calumet, Michigan, where men risk their lives for meager salaries—and have barely enough to put food on the table for their families. The women labor in the houses of the elite and send their husbands and sons deep underground each day, dreading the fateful call of the company man telling them their loved ones aren’t coming home. So, when Annie decides to stand up for the entire town of Calumet, everyone believes she may have taken on more than she is prepared to handle.

Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab

France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world.

Storyteller's Daughter by Victoria Scott

1940: Twenty-one-year-old Nita Bineham seeks independence by working at a local newspaper. As sinister rumors of a village traitor surface, Nita's determination to find the truth leads to life-changing revelations.

2008: Following her great-aunt's death, Beth flees London for the family manor. Hiding from career and marital wreckage, she discovers old newspaper articles inspired by her aunt's dying words, drawing her into a decades-old mystery involving a long-buried secret and a close enemy.

There are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak

This is the story of one lost poem, two great rivers, and three remarkable lives connected by a single drop of water.

In the ancient city of Nineveh, on the bank of the River Tigris, King Ashurbanipal of Mesopotamia, erudite but ruthless, built a great library that would crumble with the end of his reign. From its ruins, however, emerged a poem, the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, that would infuse the existence of two rivers and bind together three lives. A dazzling feat of storytelling, *There Are Rivers in the Sky* entwines these outsiders with a single drop of water, which remanifests across the centuries. A source of life and harbinger of death, rivers—the Tigris and the Thames—transcend history, transcend fate: "Water remembers. It is humans who forge.

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

Tan Yunxian -- born into an elite family, is being raised by her grandparents. Her grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yunxian the pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations -- looking, listening, touching, and asking -- something a man can never do with a female patient. From a young age, Yunxian learns about women's illnesses, many of which relate to childbearing, alongside a young midwife-in-training, Meiling. The two girls find fast friendship and a mutual purpose. Then Yunxian is sent into an arranged marriage, her mother-in-law forbids her from seeing Meiling and from helping the women and girls in the household. Yunxian is to act like a proper wife and stay forever within the walls of the family compound.

In Five Years by Rebecca Serle

Her meticulous planning seems to have paid off after she nails the most important job interview of her career and accepts her boyfriend's marriage proposal in one fell swoop, falling asleep completely content. But when she awakens, she's suddenly in a different apartment, with a different ring on her finger, and beside a very different man. Dannie spends one hour exactly five years in the future before she wakes again in her own home on the brink of midnight—but it is one hour she cannot shake. *In Five Years* is an unforgettable love story, but it is not the one you are expecting.

River Sing Me Home by Eleanor Shearer

The master of the Providence plantation in Barbados gathers his slaves and announces the king has decreed an end to slavery. As of the following day, the Emancipation Act of 1834 will come into effect. The cries of joy fall silent when he announces that they are no longer his slaves; they are now his apprentices. No one can leave. They must work for him for another six years. Freedom is just another name for the life they have always lived. So, Rachel runs. Away from Providence, she begins a desperate search to find her children-the five who survived birth and were sold. Are any of them still alive? Rachel must know. The grueling, dangerous journey takes her from Barbados then, by river, deep into the forest of British Guiana and finally across the sea to Trinidad. She is driven on by the certainty that a mother cannot be truly free without knowing what has become of her children

Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead

After being rescued as infants from a sinking ocean liner in 1914, Marian and Jamie Graves are raised by their dissolute uncle in Missoula, Montana. There--after encountering a pair of barnstorming pilots passing through town in beat-up biplanes--Marian commences her lifelong love affair with flight. At fourteen she drops out of school and finds an unexpected and dangerous patron in a wealthy bootlegger who provides a plane and subsidizes her lessons, an arrangement that will haunt her for the rest of her life, even as it allows her to fulfill her destiny: circumnavigating the globe by flying over the North and South Poles.

This Time Tomorrow by Emma Straub

On the eve of her 40th birthday, Alice's life is not terrible. She likes her job, even if it isn't exactly the one, she expected. She is happy with her apartment, her romantic status, her independence, and she adores her lifelong best friend. But something is missing. What if you could take a vacation to your past? Did she take too much for granted along the way? Is there anything that she should do differently this time around? What would she change, given the chance?

Banyan Moon by Thao Thai

Spanning decades and continents, from 1960s Vietnam to the wild swamplands of the Florida coast, *Banyan Moon* is a stunning and deeply moving story of mothers and daughters, the things we inherit, and the lives we choose to make out of that inheritance."

Stealing by Margaret Verble

Kit and her new neighbor Bella became fast friends. Considered outsiders, they take comfort in each other's company. But malice lurks near their quiet bayou and Kit suddenly finds herself at the center of a tragic, fatal crime. Soon, Kit is snatched from her home and Cherokee family and sent to a religious boarding school. Along with the other Native students, Kit is stripped of her heritage, force-fed Christian indoctrination, and is sexually abused by the director. But Kit, strong-willed and shrewd as ever, secretly keeps a journal recounting what she remembers—and revealing just what she has forgotten. Over the course of *Stealing*, she slowly unravels the truth of how she ended up at the school—and plots a way out.

Forest Lover by Susan Vreeland

Emily has never been satisfied with the pious and rigid Victorian culture she is expected to fit into, and when her creative talent and independent spirit refuses to be suppressed by her father's wishes that she marry and settle down, she defies her family's better judgement and travels to the wild coast of British Columbia.

Rental House by Weike Wang

Keru and Nate are college sweethearts who marry despite their stark family differences. Keru's strict Chinese immigrant parents demand perfection, while Nate's rural, working-class family distrusts his intellectual ambitions and his "foreign" wife.

Years into their marriage, the couple invites both families to join them on vacation. Sharing a Cape Cod beach house and a luxury Catskills bungalow alongside their giant sheepdog, Keru and Nate must navigate difficult visits from in-laws and unexpected guests. Throughout the trip, they find themselves questioning how to cope when a spouse and family clash, how many people (and dogs) truly make a family, and how to bring everyone back together when the pack begins to disintegrate.

This is Happiness by Niall Williams

Set in the Irish village of Faha as the community awaits the arrival of electricity, This Is Happiness is a lyrical coming-of-age story and a tender portrait of a traditional community. The narrative follows seventeen-year-old Noel Crowe as he navigates love and adulthood, intersecting with the arrival of a mysterious outsider named Christy, whose past secrets gradually come to light. Ultimately, the novel explores the power of storytelling and its ability to transform our perception of the everyday world.

How to Read a Book by Monica Wood

Violet Powell, 22, is being released from prison after serving 22 months for a fatal drunk-driving crash. Harriet Larson, a retired English teacher who runs the prison book club, and Frank Daigle, a retired machinist who is married to the victim, encounter Violet in a Portland bookstore. Their lives begin to intersect in transformative ways.

Four Treasures of the Sky by Jenny Tinghui Zhang

Daiyu never wanted to be like the tragic heroine for whom she was named, revered for her beauty and cursed with heartbreak. But when she is kidnapped and smuggled across an ocean from China to America, Daiyu must relinquish the home and future she imagined for herself. Over the years that follow, she is forced to keep reinventing herself to survive. From a calligraphy school to a San Francisco brothel, to a shop tucked into the Idaho mountains, we follow Daiyu on a desperate quest to outrun the tragedy that chases her. As anti-Chinese sentiment sweeps across the country in a wave of unimaginable violence, Daiyu must draw on each of the selves she has been--including the ones she most wants to leave behind-in order to finally claim her own name and story.

NON-FICTION

Arranged by Dewey number classification.

How to Know a Person by David Brooks (302.223B)

David Brooks' book, How to Know a Person, explores the essential skill of deeply seeing others to make them feel valued, heard, and understood. Drawing from psychology, neuroscience, theater, philosophy, history, and education, Brooks offers a welcoming and hopeful approach to human connection as a remedy for societal fragmentation and hostility. This book is ideal for anyone searching for deeper connection and yearning to be understood.

Woman They Could Not Silence by Kate Moore (303.48M)

1860: Elizabeth Packard's husband, feeling threatened by Elizabeth's intellect, independence, and unwillingness to stifle her own thoughts, has committed her to an insane asylum. The conditions in the asylum are horrific. But most disturbing is that many other rational women have also been committed not because they need treatment but were instead conveniently labeled "crazy" so their voices are ignored. No one is willing to fight for their freedom and disenfranchised by gender and the stigma of their supposed madness, they cannot possibly fight for themselves.

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (305.897K)

Drawing on life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten their flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth and learn to give our own gifts in return.

Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism by Amanda Montell (306.44M)

In Cultish, Montell argues that the key to manufacturing intense ideology, community, and us/them attitudes all comes down to language. In both positive ways and shadowy ones, cultish language is something we hear--and are influenced by--every single day. Through juicy storytelling and cutting original research, Montell exposes the verbal elements that make a wide spectrum of communities "cultish," revealing how they affect followers of groups as notorious as Heaven's Gate, but also how they pervade our modern start-ups, Peloton leaderboards, and Instagram feeds. Incisive and darkly funny, this enrapturing take on the curious social science of power and belief will make you hear the fanatical language of "cultish" everywhere."

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance (307.72V)

Vance, a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, provides an account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Vance tells his story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born into it. We learn that Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother struggled profoundly with the demands of their now middle-class life, never fully escaping the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma. With piercing honesty, Vance shows how he still carries around the demons of his chaotic family history.

Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin (307.768G)

In 1927, Henry Ford, the founder of the famous motor company and the richest man in the world, bought a 5,000 square mile-tract of land in the Brazilian Amazon. This work presents the story of the pride and arrogance of the man who thought he alone could tame the Amazon. Fordlandia is not just the story of a plantation; it's a story about Ford's ego. As disaster after disaster struck, Ford continued to pour money into the project. Not one drop of latex from Fordlandia ever made it into a Ford car. But the more it failed, the more Ford justified the project in idealistic terms.

Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to take over America and the Woman Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan (322.42E)

The Roaring Twenties--the Jazz Age--has been characterized as a time of Gatsby frivolity. But it was also the height of the uniquely American hate group, the Ku Klux Klan. Their domain was not the old Confederacy, but the Heartland and the West. They hated Blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants in equal measure, and took radical steps to keep these people from the American promise. And the man who set in motion their takeover of great swaths of America was a charismatic charlatan named D.C. Stephenson. At the peak of his influence, it was a seemingly powerless woman – Madge Oberholtzer – who would reveal his secret cruelties, and whose deathbed testimony finally brought the Klan to their knees.

Evicted by Matthew Desmond (339.46D)

In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. The fates of these families are in the hands of two landlords. They loathe some of their tenants and are fond of others, but as one landlord puts it, "Love don't pay the bills," as she moves to evict a single mother and her boys a few days before Christmas. Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers.

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson (345.077S)

A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice--from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a young man who was sentenced to die for a notorious murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship--and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever. Just Mercy is at once an unforgettable account of an idealistic, gifted young lawyer's coming of age, a moving window into the lives of those he has defended, and an inspiring argument for compassion in the pursuit of true justice.

Undocumented Americans by Karla Villavicencio (364.137C)

Writer Karla Cornejo Villavicencio was on DACA when she decided to write about being undocumented for the first time using her own name. It was right after the election of 2016, the day she realized the story she'd tried to steer clear of was the only one she wanted to tell. So, she wrote her immigration lawyer's phone number on her hand in Sharpie and embarked on a trip across the country to tell the stories of her fellow undocumented immigrants—and to find the hidden key to her own.

I'll Be Gone in the Dark by Michelle McNamara (364.153M)

A masterful true crime account of the Golden State Killer--the elusive serial rapist turned murderer who terrorized California for over a decade. For more than ten years, the mysterious and violent predator committed fifty sexual assaults in Northern California before moving south, where he perpetrated ten sadistic murders. Then he disappeared, eluding capture by multiple police forces and some of the best detectives in the area. Three decades later, Michelle McNamara, a true crime journalist who created the popular website TrueCrimeDiary.com, was determined to find the violent psychopath she called "the Golden State Killer."

Art Thief by Michael Finkel (364.162F)

For centuries, works of art have been stolen worldwide, but none quite as successfully as by master thief Stéphane Breitwieser. Over nearly ten years, Breitwieser and his girlfriend carried out more than two hundred heists in museums and cathedrals across Europe, stealing over three hundred objects before everything collapsed.

In The Art Thief, Michael Finkel brings us into Breitwieser's fascinating world. Unlike most thieves, he never stole for money, keeping his treasures in a single room to admire. Possessed with remarkable athleticism and an innate ability to assess security systems, Breitwieser pulled off numerous audacious thefts. However, these talents bred a growing disregard for risk and an addiction to stealing, leading him to ignore his girlfriend's pleas to stop until one final act of hubris brought everything crashing down.

Life on Our Planet by David Attenborough (508A)

We share Earth with the living world - the most remarkable life-support system imaginable, constructed over billions of years. The planet's stability has wavered just as its biodiversity has declined - the two things are bound together. To restore stability to our planet, therefore, we must restore its biodiversity, the very thing we have removed. It is the only way out of this crisis that we ourselves have created.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly (510.92S)

The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space--a powerful, revelatory contribution that is as essential to our understanding of race, discrimination, and achievement in modern America. Among these problem-solvers were a group of exceptionally talented African American women, some of the brightest minds of their generation.

Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert (576.84K)

Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us.

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (616.027S)

Scientists know her as HeLa. Henrietta Lacks 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. The first "immortal" human cells grown in culture, are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they would weigh more than 50 million metric tons--as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb's effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.

Hidden Valley Road: *Inside the mind of an American family by Robert Kolker* (616.89K)

"Don and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American dream. After World War II, Don's work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their twelve children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. In those years, there was an established script for a family like the Galvins--aspiration, hard work, upward mobility, domestic harmony--and they worked hard to play their parts. But behind the scenes was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, hidden abuse. By the mid-1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys, one after the other, were diagnosed as schizophrenic. How could all this happen to one family?

Book of Delights by Ross Gay (814.6G)

The Book of Delights offers a genre-defying volume of lyric essays written over one tumultuous year. The first nonfiction book from award-winning poet Ross Gay is a record of the small joys we often overlook in our busy lives. Among Gay's funny, poetic, philosophical delights: a friend's unabashed use of air quotes, cradling a tomato seedling aboard an airplane, the silent nod of acknowledgment between the only two black people in a room. But Gay never dismisses the complexities, even the terrors, of living in America as a black man or the ecological and psychic violence of our consumer culture or the loss of those he loves. More than anything else, though, Gay celebrates the beauty of the natural world–his garden, the flowers peeking out of the sidewalk, the hypnotic movements of a praying mantis. These anecdotes serve as a powerful and necessary reminder that we can, and should, stake out a space in our lives for delight.

Wager by David Grann (910.916G)

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They were survivors of His Majesty's Ship the Wager, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 on a secret mission during an imperial war with Spain. While the Wager had been chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon known as "the prize of all the oceans," it had wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas.

In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson (943.086L)

The year is 1933, and mild-mannered professor William E. Dodd becomes America's ambassador to Hitler's Germany, accompanied by his wife, son, and flamboyant daughter, Martha. Initially, Martha is drawn to the pomp and young men of the Third Reich, engaging in affairs, including one with Gestapo chief Rudolf Diels. Meanwhile, as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts and his State Department warnings are ignored, Ambassador Dodd watches with alarm as censorship increases and frightening new laws circulate.

The Dodd family's period of excitement, intrigue, and romance culminates in a spasm of violence that reveals Hitler's true, ruthless ambition.

Day in the Life of Abed Salama by Nathan Thrall (956.05T)

"Five-year-old Milad Salama is excited for the school trip to a theme park on the outskirts of Jerusalem. On the way, his bus collides with a semitrailer in a horrific accident. His father, Abed, gets word of the crash and rushes to the site. The scene is chaos-the children have been taken to different hospitals in Jerusalem and the West Bank; some are missing, others cannot be identified. Abed sets off on an odyssey to learn Milad's fate. It is every parent's worst nightmare, but for Abed it is compounded by the maze of physical, emotional, and bureaucratic obstacles he must navigate because he is Palestinian. He is on the wrong side of the separation wall, holds the wrong ID to pass the military checkpoints, and has the wrong papers to enter the city of Jerusalem.

Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI by David Grann (976.6G)

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma after oil was discovered beneath their land. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery.

BIOGRAPHIES

They Called Us Exceptional by Prachi Gupta (BIOG Gupta)

Family defined the cultural identity of Prachi and her brother, Yush, connecting them to a larger Indian American community amid white suburbia. But their belonging was predicated on a powerful myth: the idea that Asian Americans, and Indian Americans in particular, have perfected the alchemy of middle-class life, raising tight-knit, high-achieving families that are immune to hardship. Molding oneself to fit this image often comes at a steep, but hidden, cost. In They Called Us Exceptional, Gupta articulates the dissonance, shame, and isolation of being upheld as an American success story while privately navigating traumas the world says do not exist.

Between Two Kingdoms:
A memoir of life interrupted by Suleika Jaouad (BIOG Jaouad)

In the summer after graduating from college, Suleika Jaouad was preparing, as they say in commencement speeches, to enter “the real world.” She had fallen in love and moved to Paris to pursue her dream of becoming a war correspondent. The real world she found, however, would take her into a vastly different kind of conflict zone.

I’m Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy (BIOG McCurdy)

A heartbreaking and hilarious memoir by iCarly and Sam Cat star Jennette McCurdy about her struggles as a former child actor--including eating disorders, addiction, and a complicated relationship with her overbearing mother--and how she retook control of her life. Told with raw honesty and equal parts gravity and humor, I'm Glad My Mom Died is a shocking, devastating, and ultimately inspiring story of resilience.

We Will Be Jaguars by Nemonte Nenquimo (BIOG Nenquimo)

Nemonte Nenquimo, raised in Ecuador's Waorani tribe, learned traditional plant medicine, foraging, oral storytelling, and shamanism from her elders. At fourteen, she left the rainforest to study with an evangelical missionary group in the city but later returned to embrace her culture . Nemonte has become a prominent climate change activist. She spearheaded the alliance of indigenous nations across the Upper Amazon and led her people to a landmark legal victory against Big Oil, protecting over a half million acres of primary rainforest from loggers, miners, oil companies, and missionaries. This memoir, explores generations of oral history, confronts centuries of conquest, challenges racist notions of indigenous peoples, and reveals her vital life story.

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah (BIOG Noah)

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from the government.

Memorial Drive: a Daughter's Memoir by Natasha D. Trethewey (BIOG Trethewey)

At nineteen Trethewey's world turned upside down when her former stepfather shot and killed her mother. Grieving and still new to adulthood, she confronted the twin pulls of life and death in the aftermath of unimaginable trauma. Here she explores the way this experience lastingly shaped the artist she became. Moving through her mother's history in the deeply segregated South and through her own girlhood as a 'child of miscegenation' in Mississippi.

Taste: My Life through Food by Stanley Tucci (BIOG Tucci)

Taste is a reflection on the intersection of food and life, filled with anecdotes about his growing up in Westchester, New York; preparing for and shooting the foodie films Big Night and Julie & Julia; falling in love over dinner; and teaming up with his wife to create meals for a multitude of children.

Educated by Tara Westover (BIOG Westover)

Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills" bag. In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged metal in her father's junkyard. Her father distrusted the medical establishment, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when an older brother became violent. When another brother got himself into college and came back with news of the world beyond the mountain, Tara decided to try a new kind of life.

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (BIOG Zamperini)

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering an immense talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an aviator, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life by author Laura Hillenbrand.

Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner (BIOG Zauner)

In memoir about family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner describes her experience growing up as a biracial Korean American in Oregon. She struggled with her mother's particularly lofty expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; and of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food.