



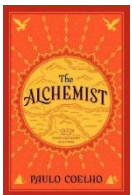
# missoula public library

## MPL Book Chat Bags

Great for book clubs!

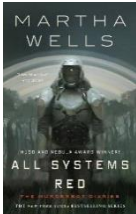
Kits include 10 book copies, discussion questions, author information, book reviews, and more!

### Fiction Titles



**The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho** —A fable about undauntingly following one's dreams, listening to one's heart, and reading life's omens features dialogue between a boy and an unnamed being. **Genre:** Allegories; Literary fiction; Spiritual fiction; Translations

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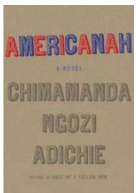
**All Systems Red by Martha Wells** - The first in a series called The Murderbot Diaries. The series is about an artificial construct designed as a Security Unit, which manages to override its governor unit, thus enabling it to develop independence. It calls itself Murderbot, and likes to watch unrealistic soap operas. As it spends more time with some caring humans, it starts developing feelings that it does not care for. **Genre:** Science Fiction

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**The All-American by Joe Milan, Jr.** - When 17-year-old Bucky Yi is sent from the United States to South Korea, leaving the only home he knows, he must summon all the pluck and perseverance he has gained as a high school football player to survive in a place that is both his birth country and foreign to him. **Genre:** Literary fiction; Contemporary

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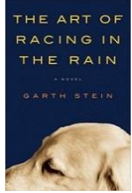
**Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** — A young woman from Nigeria leaves behind her home and her first love to start a new life in America, only to find her dreams are not all she expected. **Genre:** Literary fiction; Love stories; Political fiction

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**Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach**—A baseball star at a small college near Lake Michigan launches a routine throw that goes disastrously off course and inadvertently changes the lives of five people, including the college president, a gay teammate, and the president's daughter. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Psychological fiction

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**Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein**—Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul (and an obsession with opposable thumbs), he has educated himself by watching television and by listening closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver. On the night before his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through, hoping, in his next life, to return as a human.

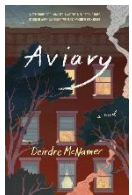
**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Literary

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**Atonement by Ian McEwan**—In 1935 England, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses an event involving her sister Cecilia and her childhood friend Robbie Turner, and she becomes the victim of her own imagination, which leads her on a lifelong search for truth and absolution. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Psychological fiction

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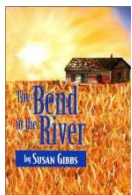
**Aviary by Deirdre McNamer** - From Deirdre McNamer, a masterful exploration of the rich and hidden facets of human character, as illuminated by the mysterious connections among the residents of a senior residence in Montana. **Genre:** Fiction, Contemporary, Mystery/Thriller

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**Beautiful Ruins by Jess Walters**—The award-winning author of *The Financial Lives of the Poets* presents his most romantic and enjoyable novel yet that follows a young Italian innkeeper and his almost-love affair with a beautiful American starlet, which draws him into a glittering world filled with unforgettable characters. **Genre:** Mainstream fiction; Parallel narratives

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**The Bend in the River: A Novel by Susan Gibbs** - "Orphaned by the sudden deaths of her parents in 1877, seventeen year-old Emma Jorden has to abandon her Kansas home. Lost on the featureless prairie and near death she is rescued by Shea Hawkshadow, a half-breed Cheyenne warrior. Following an impulsive love affair, Emma and Shea marry. When the consequences of their unconventional marriage spark ridicule then quickly escalate to attempted murder, they risk a journey across the western frontier. However, many trials await the couple in their search for a life free from persecution. Emma masks her increasingly fragile emotional state until years of repression exact a dreadful toll. She battles to unearth the innermost causes of her instability hindered by the lack of humane treatment for mental illnesses in the 19th Century. Emma's transformation from a guileless girl into a complex woman with an unflinching will to survive is remarkable and moving." **Genre:** Romance; Historical Romance

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**Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordon West**— A winless high school basketball team is on the rebound after two stars move to town and inspire coach Sam Pickett to get down to business. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Pacific Northwest fiction; Sports fiction

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**Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klaus**— Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom. **Genre:** Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Fantasy fiction; Paranormal romances

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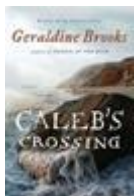
**Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison**— Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in an America whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue, so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different. **Genre:** African American fiction; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction; Modern classics

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**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**— Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. **Genre:** Australian fiction; Books to movies; Historical fiction

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**Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks**—Growing up in the tiny settlement of Great Harbor amid a small band of pioneers and Puritans, Bethia Mayfield yearns for an education that is closed to her due to her gender. As soon as she can, she slips away to explore the island's glistening beaches and observes its native Wampanoag inhabitants. At twelve, she encounters Caleb, the young son of a chieftain, and the two forge a secret friendship that draws each into the alien world of the other. **Genre:** Biographical fiction; Historical fiction; Literary fiction

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**Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros** —During her family's annual car trip from Chicago to Mexico City, Lala Reyes listens to stories about her family, including her grandmother, the descendant of a renowned dynasty of shawl makers, whose magnificent striped shawl has come into Lala's possession. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Family sagas; Literary fiction

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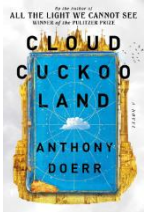
**Case Histories by Kate Atkinson**—As private investigator Jackson Brodie investigates three resurrected old crimes, he finds himself caught up in a story of families divided, love lost and found, and the mysteries of fate. **Genre:** Multiple perspectives; Mysteries

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**The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje**—In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. Looking back from adulthood, the narrator relates a tale about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a sea voyage. **Genre:** Canadian fiction; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction

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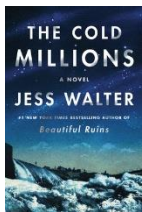
**Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr** - Cloud Cuckoo Land is the story of five characters spanning eight centuries. In the fifteenth-century Byzantine Empire, Anna is a young seamstress living in Constantinople, and Omeir is a village boy conscripted into the Ottoman army, as they are preparing to take the city. In the present day, Zeno, a Korean War veteran, works in a library in Idaho translating Ancient Greek texts, while Seymour, a disturbed autistic youngster, becomes caught up with a group of ecoterrorists. In the twenty-second century, Konstance is a young girl aboard the Argos, a generation starship heading for a planet called Beta Oph2. **Genre:** Historical fiction, Speculative fiction

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**Cloudstreet by Tim Winton**—Tells the story of the Pickles and the Lambs, two families marked by tragedy as they weather the vagaries of life and chance, and of Fish Lamb, endowed with strange powers after his mind is damaged in a drowning accident. **Genre:** Australian fiction; Domestic fiction

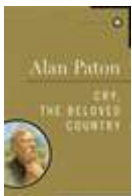
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**The Cold Millions by Jess Walter** - An intimate story of brotherhood, love, sacrifice, and betrayal set against the panoramic backdrop of an early twentieth-century America that eerily echoes our own time, The Cold Millions offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of a nation grappling with the chasm between rich and poor, between harsh realities and simple dreams.

**Genre:** Historical fiction

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**Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton**—A novel depicting the racial ferment in the beautiful country of South Africa in 1948.

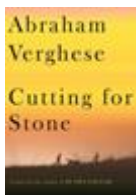
**Genre:** Books to movies; Literary fiction; Modern classics; Political fiction

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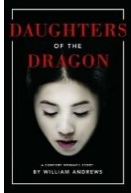
**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon**—Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; First person narratives; Mysteries; Psychological fiction

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**Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**—Marion and Shiva Stone, twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, come of age in an Ethiopia on the brink of revolution, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

**Genre:** Family sagas



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**Daughters of the Dragon by William Andrews** - During World War II, the Japanese forced 200,000 young Korean women to be sex slaves or “comfort women” for their soldiers. This is one woman’s riveting story of strength, courage and promises kept. **Genre:** Historical fiction

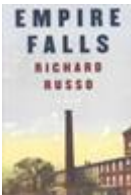
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**The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery**—The lives of fifty-four-year-old concierge Rene Michel and extremely bright, suicidal twelve-year-old Paloma Josse are transformed by the arrival of a new tenant, Kakuro Ozu. **Genre:** First person narratives; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives; Translations

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**Empire Falls by Richard Russo**—Milo Roby tries to hold his family together while working at the Empire Grill in the once-successful logging town of Empire Falls, Maine, with his partner, Mrs. Whiting, who is the heir to a faded logging and textile legacy. **Genre:** Literary fiction

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**Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer**—Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; First person narratives; Illustrated books; Mainstream fiction; Multiple perspectives; Psychological fiction

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**Faithful Place by Tana French**—Detective Frank Mackey finds himself straight back in the dark tangle of relationships he left behind twenty-two years ago when the suitcase belonging to his first love, Rosie Daly, shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place. **Genre:** Police procedurals; Psychological suspense

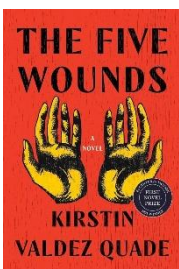
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**Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff**—Fates and Furies is a modern portrait of marriage. Lotto Satterwhite is the center, the hub around which all the characters revolve in the first half of the book. In the second half of the book, the lens turns to Lotto’s wife Mathilde, and her side of the lopsided partnership gives us a totally different view. Groff is a master of language. It’s not a gentle read. But it’s magnificent. -- Kelly Currie for LibraryReads. **Genre:** Domestic fiction; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives

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**The Five Wounds by Kirstin Valdez Quade** - Amadeo Padilla, a struggling alcoholic, lives with his pregnant daughter, Angel, and ailing mother, Yolanda, in Las Penas, New Mexico. He is selected to portray Jesus Christ in the town's annual play which reenacts the Passion of Jesus, and is organized by the Roman Catholic lay group Los Hermanos Penitentes. **Genre:** Latino American Literature

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**The Gap of Time by Jeanette Winterson**—A modern retelling of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" moves from London after the 2008 financial crisis to the storm-ravaged American city of New Bohemia, in a story of the destructive effect of jealousy and the redemptive power of love. **Genre:** Adaptations; Literary fiction; Metafiction

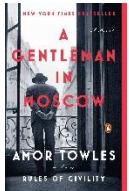
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**The Gathering by Anne Enright**— Veronica--once an attention-deprived middle child among 12 siblings, and now an unfulfilled wife and mother--has come to London to claim the body of her beloved yet estranged brother Liam who drowned himself at sea. As the nine surviving members of the Hegarty clan converge in Dublin for Liam's wake, Veronica wants to protect the past--and the secret of what transpired in her grandmother's house during the winter of 1968.

**Genre:** Literary fiction; Psychological fiction

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**A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles** - A Gentleman in Moscow immerses us in another elegantly drawn era with the story of Count Alexander Rostov. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors.

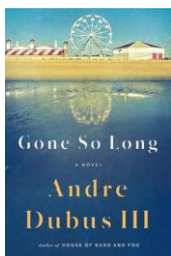
Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him a doorway into a much larger world of emotional discovery. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Literary fiction

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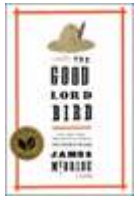


**Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn**—When beautiful Amy Dunne disappears from her Missouri home, it looks as if her husband Nick is to blame. But though he protests his innocence, it's clear that he's not being entirely truthful. Gone Girl is not only the story of a disappearance, but a truly frightening glimpse of a souring marriage. -- Description by Shauna Griffin. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; First person narratives; Multiple perspectives; Psychological suspense

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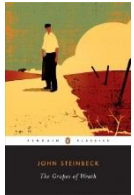
**Gone So Long by Andre Dubus III** - Daniel Ahearn lives a quiet, solitary existence in a seaside New England town. Forty years ago, following a shocking act of impulsive violence on his part, his daughter, Susan, was ripped from his arms by police. Now in her forties, Susan still suffers from the trauma of a night she doesn't remember, as she struggles to feel settled, to love a man and create something that lasts. Lois, her maternal grandmother who raised her, tries to find peace in her antique shop in a quaint Florida town but cannot escape her own anger, bitterness, and fear. **Genre:** Literary Fiction, Family Life Fiction



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**The Good Lord Bird by James McBride**—Mistaken for a girl on account of his curly hair, delicate features, and sackcloth smock, 12-year-old slave Henry Shackleford realizes that his accidental disguise affords him greater safety and decides to remain female. Dubbed "Little Onion" by his liberator, abolitionist John Brown, Henry accompanies the increasingly fanatical Brown on his crusade to end slavery -- a picaresque journey that takes them from Bloody Kansas to Rochester, New York, where they attempt to enlist the support of such notables as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman before embarking on the infamous, ill-fated 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry. - Description by Gillian Speace. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; African American fiction; Historical fiction; Literary fiction

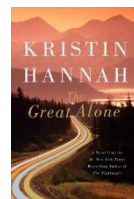
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**The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck** —Depicts the hardships and suffering endured by the Joads as they journey from Oklahoma to California during the Depression. **Genre:** Books to movies; Domestic fiction; Literary fiction; Modern classics

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**The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah**—When her volatile, former POW father impulsively moves the family to mid-1970s Alaska to live off the land, young Leni and her mother are forced to confront the dangers of their lack of preparedness in the wake of a dangerous winter season. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Domestic fiction

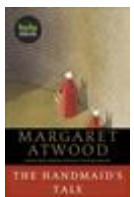
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**The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows**—In 1946, writer Juliet Ashton finds inspiration for her next book in her correspondence with a native of Guernsey, who tells her about the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a book club born as an alibi during German occupation. **Genre:** Epistolary novels; Historical fiction; Multiple perspectives

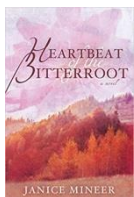
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**The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**—In a future world where the birth rate has declined, fertile women are rounded up, indoctrinated as "handmaids," and forced to bear children to prominent men. **Genre:** Books to movies; Books to TV; Canadian fiction; Dystopian fiction; Literary fiction; Science fiction; Science fiction classics

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**Heartbeat of the Bitterroot by Janice Mineer (5 Books)**—Jenna Clark always tried to bury her bleak beginnings in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, but a newfound secret about her father's identity forces Jenna to dig up her past. While there, mysterious threats and dangers suddenly enter her life that bring about an unexpected man of her dreams--Michael Callahan. After a lifetime of running away from family and love will Jenna find the courage to confront her past and step forward into the future? **Genre:** Romance; Romance Suspense; Mystery; Marriage

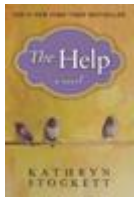
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**The Heartsong of Charging Elk by James Welch**—Charging Elk, an Oglala Sioux, is recruited by Buffalo Bill Cody to join his Wild West show, which creates a sensation in Europe, until he is left behind--because of illness and a bureaucratic mix-up--in the unfamiliar world of Marseilles.

**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Historical fiction

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**The Help by Kathryn Stockett**—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.

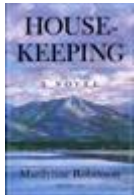
**Genre:** Books to movies; Historical fiction; Southern fiction; Women's lives and relationships

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**Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & 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. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Historical fiction

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**Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson**—Ruth, a young girl struggling to overcome haunting family memories in a town which will not let her forget, gradually grows close to Sylvie, the sister of her dead mother. **Genre:** Books to movies; Domestic fiction; First person narratives; Literary fiction; Modern classics; Psychological fiction

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**If Not For This by Pete Fromm**—After meeting at a boatman's bash on the Snake River, river runners Maddy and Dalt embark on a lifelong love affair. They marry on the banks of the Buffalo Fork, sure they'll live there the rest of their days. Forced by the economics of tourism to leave Wyoming, they start a new adventure, opening their own river business in Ashland, Oregon:

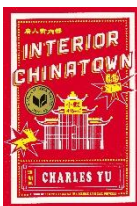
Halfmoon Whitewater. They prosper there, leading rafting trips and guiding fishermen into the wilds of Mongolia and Russia. But when Maddy, laid low by dizzy spells, with a mono that isn't quite mono, both discovers she is pregnant and is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, they realize their adventure is just beginning. **Genre:** Mainstream fiction; Pacific Northwest fiction

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**I'll Be Seeing You by Suzanne Hayes & Loretta Nyhan**—With their husbands away fighting in the war in January 1943, Rita Vincenzo and Glory Whitehall have only their cross-country correspondence to keep them going. **Genre:** Epistolary novels; Historical fiction; Multiple perspectives

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**Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu** - Willis Wu doesn't perceive himself as the protagonist in his own life: he's merely Generic Asian Man. Sometimes he gets to be Background Oriental Making a Weird Face or even Disgraced Son, but always he is relegated to a prop. After stumbling into the spotlight, Willis finds himself launched into a wider world than he's ever known, discovering not only the secret history of Chinatown, but the buried legacy of his own family.

**Genre:** Contemporary; Literary fiction

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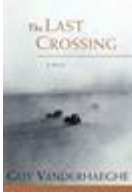
**Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri**—In nine stories imbued with the sensual details of Indian culture, Lahiri charts the emotional journeys of characters seeking love beyond the barriers of nations and generations. This short fiction collection blends elements of Indian traditions with the complexities of American culture in such tales as "A Temporary Matter," in which a young Indian-American couple confronts their grief over the loss of a child, while their Boston neighborhood copes with a nightly blackout. **Genre:** Literary fiction; Short stories

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**Jesus Out to Sea by James Lee Burke**— Features ten short works that follow the devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi during and after Hurricane Katrina. **Genre:** Short stories

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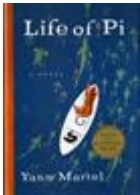
**The Last Crossing by Guy Vanderhaeghe**—Set in the 1870s, Charles and Addington Gaunt travel from England to the Western frontier of the U.S. and Canadian border in search of their brother, encountering a number of colorful characters battling with their own personal problems along the way. **Genre:** Canadian fiction; Literary fiction; Westerns

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**The Last Good Kiss by James Crumley**—C.W. Sughrue, a Montana private eye, is hired to track down a failing author and winds up searching for Betty Sue Flowers, a woman missing for ten years in Haight-Ashbury. **Genre:** Hardboiled fiction; Mysteries

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**Life of Pi by Yann Martel**—Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but 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. **Genre:** Books to movies; Canadian fiction; First person narratives; Literary fiction; Psychological fiction; Survival stories

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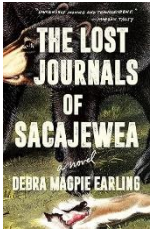
**The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman**—After moving with his wife to an isolated Australian lighthouse where they suffer miscarriages and a stillbirth, Tom allows his wife to claim an infant that has washed up on the shore, a decision with devastating consequences. **Genre:** Australian fiction; Historical fiction

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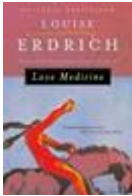
**Looking Backward by Edward Bellamy**—A wealthy Bostonian awakes from a hypnotic trance to find himself in a futuristic cooperative commonwealth. **Genre:** Science fiction; Science fiction classics

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**The Lost Journals of Sacajewea by Debra Magpie Earling** - Among the most memorialized women in American history, Sacajewea served as interpreter and guide for Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery. In this visionary novel, acclaimed Indigenous author Debra Magpie Earling brings this mythologized figure vividly to life, casting unsparing light on the men who brutalized her and recentring Sacajewea as the arbiter of her own history. **Genre:** Biographical Historical Fiction, Native American Literature

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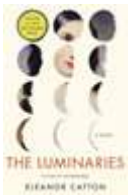
**Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich**—The members of the Chippewa Kaspaw and Lamartine families describe their simple existence as they both deny and discover their native heritages. **Genre:** Literary fiction

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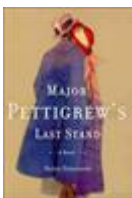
**Loving Frank by Nancy Horan**—Fact and fiction blend in a historical novel that chronicles the relationship between seminal architect Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney, from their meeting, when they were each married to another, to the clandestine affair that shocked Chicago society. **Genre:** Biographical fiction; Historical fiction; Love stories

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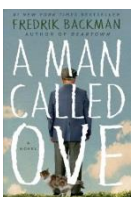
**The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton**— A bold neo-Victorian murder mystery set in a remote gold-mining frontier town in 19th-century New Zealand. In 1866, a weary Englishman lands in a gold-mining frontier town on the coast of New Zealand to make his fortune and forever leave behind his family's shame. On arrival, he stumbles across a tense gathering of twelve local men who have met in secret to investigate what links three crimes that occurred on a single day, events in which each man finds himself implicated in some way. **Genre:** Canadian fiction; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives; New Zealand fiction

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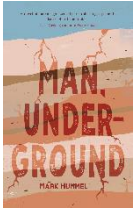


**Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson**—Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired) leads a quiet life in the village of St. Mary, England, until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. But will their relationship survive in a society that considers Ali a foreigner? **Genre:** Mainstream fiction

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**A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman** —There is something about Ove. At first sight, he is almost certainly the grumpiest man you will ever meet. He thinks himself surrounded by idiots - neighbours who can't reverse a trailer properly, joggers, shop assistants who talk in code, and the perpetrators of the vicious coup d'etat that ousted him as Chairman of the Residents' Association. He will persist in making his daily inspection rounds of the local streets. But isn't it rare, these days, to find such old-fashioned clarity of belief and deed? Such unswerving conviction about what the world should be, and a lifelong dedication to making it just so? **Genre:** Books to movies; Mainstream fiction; Translations



**Man, Underground by Mark Hummel** - It's hard to make friends underground.

When the city initiates a property review of a recluse's subterranean home, his life is interrupted by a seventeen-year-old punk-inspired Honor's student intent on defending him.

Like the stranger she targets for her assistance, Monika is accustomed to being ostracized by those who make assumptions about her. A fast-paced dark comedy, *Man, Underground* will leave readers contemplating the disruptions and the potential transformative power found in random acts of kindness.

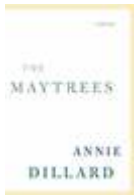
**Genre:** Mainstream fiction; comedy

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**Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan** —Anna and her father Eddie arrive at the home of Dexter Styles on Manhattan Beach searching for a job during the Depression. After Eddie goes missing five years later, Anna supports her mother and sister by working at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. One night, Anna approaches Styles for information about her father. They become involved, but he is still marked by his past relationship with Eddie. Egan's description of New York in the 30s and 40s is so immersive that you feel like you're waking up when you have to put the book down. -- Barbara Birenbaum for LibraryReads. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Literary fiction

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**The Maytrees by Annie Dillard**—Sharing a simple life with his wife and young son in the post-war artist community of his childhood, free-thinking poet Toby Maytree is aided with child-care responsibilities by close friend Deary, who years later comes between Toby and his wife.

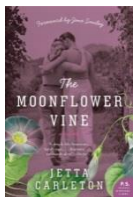
**Genre:** Domestic fiction

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**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 grandparent's desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s. **Genre:** Coming-of-age stories; LGBTQIA fiction; Literary fiction

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**The Moonflower Vine by Jetta Carleton**—Four very different sisters--Jessica, Leonie, Mathy, and Mary Jo--bound by love and family secrets, pursue their individual destinies from turn-of-the-century America over the course of five decades. **Genre:** Family sagas

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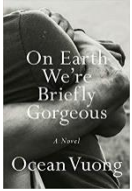
**The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern**—A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Historical fantasy

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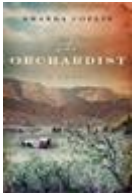
**No! I Don't Want to Join a Book Group by Virginia Ironside**—Approaching what she believes will be the most interesting period of her life, nearly sixty-year-old curmudgeon Marie Sharp eschews the trend-oriented activities of her peers in order to enjoy her relationship with a new grandchild and a new gentleman friend. **Genre:** Diary novels; Humorous stories

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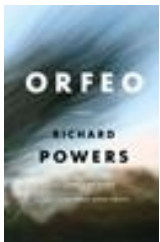
**On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous by Ocean Vuong**—Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, a letter from a son to a mother unearths a family's history that began before he was born — a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam — and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. **Genre:** Literary Fiction

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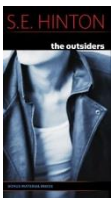
**The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin**—At the turn of the 20th century in a rural stretch of the Pacific Northwest, a gentle solitary orchardist, Talmadge, tends to apples and apricots. Then two feral, pregnant girls and armed gunmen set Talmadge on an irrevocable course not only to save and protect but to reconcile the ghosts of his own troubled past. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Pacific Northwest fiction

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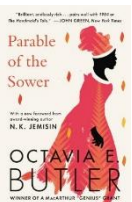
**Orfeo: A Novel by Richard Powers**—Experimental music and genetic engineering? Heady stuff indeed, but what is most remarkable about this thought-provoking journey is how intensely it makes you feel about human creativity, experience, and the enigmatic fugitive Peter Els, whose flight from an uncomprehending world anchors the narrative. A perfect introduction to this brilliant but sometimes forbidding author. -- David Wright for LibraryReads. **Genre:** Musical fiction; Thrillers and suspense

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**The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton**—Three brothers struggle to stay together after their parents' death, as they search for an identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society in which they find themselves "outsiders." **Genre:** Books to movies; Classics; Realistic fiction

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**Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler** - Regarded by many as the definitive cli-fi novel, Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler imagines what our future could look like if we don't take swift and appropriate action to mitigate climate change. Parable of the Sower is a groundbreaking speculative fiction novel that tells the story of young Lauren Olamina as she journeys to Northern California to escape ecological and societal collapse in Southern California. **Genre:** Science fiction; Dystopia

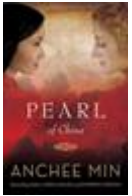
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**The Paris Wife by Paula McLain**—Meeting through mutual friends in Chicago, Hadley is intrigued by brash "beautiful boy" Ernest Hemingway, and after a brief courtship and small wedding, they take off for Paris, where Hadley makes a convincing transformation from an overprotected child to a game and brave young woman who puts up with impoverished living conditions and shattering loneliness to prop up her husband's career. **Genre:** Biographical

fiction; Historical fiction

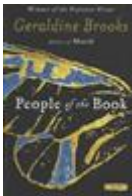
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**Pearl of China by Anchee Min**—In the small southern town of Chin-kiang, in the last days of the nineteenth century, young Willow and young Pearl S. Buck, the headstrong daughter of zealous Christian missionaries, bump heads and embark on a friendship that will sustain both of them through one of the most tumultuous periods in Chinese history. **Genre:** Adult books for young

adults; Biographical fiction

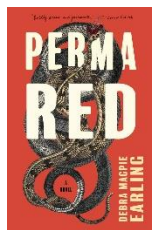
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**People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks**—In 1996, Hanna Heath, a young Australian book conservator is called to analyze the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a priceless six-hundred-year-old Jewish prayer book that has been salvaged from a destroyed Bosnian library. When Hanna discovers a series of artifacts in the centuries' old binding, she unwittingly exposes an international cover up. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Australian fiction; First person

narratives; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives; Parallel narratives

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**Perma Red by Debra Magpie Earling** - Earling weaves a timeless tale of love, heartache, and betrayal through impeccable characters and a driving plot set in 1940 on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Earling follows the literary trail blazed by Louise Erdrich in her poignant if familiar debut novel, which explores life in the tiny town of Perma, Mont., through the adventures of the restless Louise White Elk as she struggles with a problematic passion for irresistible bad boy Baptiste Yellow Knife. **Genre:** Historical Fiction

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**Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen**—Human foibles and early nineteenth-century manners are satirized in this romantic tale of English country family life as Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters are encouraged to marry well in order to keep the Bennet estate in their family. **Genre:** Books to movies; Books to TV; Classics; Love stories

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**The Raven's Gift by Don Rearden**—Shortly after John Morgan and his wife move to an isolated community in Alaska to teach, an epidemic strikes that puts the whole village into chaos. John attempts the trek across treacherous tundra to find help and runs into a blind girl and an elderly woman who need his help as much as he needs them to navigate the terrain. Through this harsh journey John finds hope and the potential to love again. **Genre:** Thrillers and suspense

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**Red Rover by Deirdre McNamer**—Follows the adventures of Aidan and Neil Tierney, whose childhood dreams are shattered by the devastating realities of World War II and their interactions with Aidan's colleague in the FBI. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Pacific Northwest fiction

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**A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick**—Ralph Truitt, a wealthy businessman with a troubled past who lives in a remote nineteenth-century Wisconsin town, has advertised for a reliable wife; and his ad is answered by Catherine Land, a woman who makes every effort to hide her own dark secrets. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Psychological suspense

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**The Revenant by Michael Punke**—A story of survival on the American frontier chronicles the exploits of fur trapper Hugh Glass, who after surviving a grizzly bear attack, undertakes an arduous trek through the wilderness to seek revenge against the trappers who left him for dead. **Genre:** Books to movies; Westerns

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**A River Runs Through it, and Other Stories by Norman Maclean**—Two novellas and one short story, based on the author's own experiences, center on a young man's discovery of life and art in the woods of western Montana. **Genre:** Autobiographical fiction; Books to movies; Domestic fiction; Pacific Northwest fiction; Short stories

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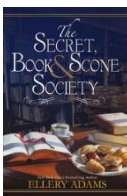
**The Round House: A Novel by Louise Erdrich**—When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction

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**Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay**—On the sixtieth anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by the French police in the Vel d'Hiv section of Paris, American journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article on this dark episode during World War II and embarks on investigation that leads her to long-hidden family secrets and to the ordeal of Sarah, a young girl caught up in the raid. **Genre:** Books to movies; Historical fiction; Parallel narratives; Psychological fiction

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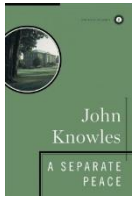
**The secret, book & scone society by Ellery Adams**—When a visiting businessman reaches out to Nora of Miracle Books for advice on the perfect novel to read, she knows exactly which ones will help, but before he can keep their appointment, he's found dead on the train tracks. **Genre:** Cozy mysteries

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**The Secret River by Kate Grenville**—After a childhood of poverty and petty crime in the slums of London, William Thornhill is sentenced in 1806 to be transported to New South Wales for the term of his natural life. With his wife, Sal, and children in tow, he arrives in a harsh land that feels at first like a death sentence. But among the convicts there is a whisper that freedom can be bought, an opportunity to start afresh. Away from the infant township of Sydney, up the Hawkesbury River, are white men who have tried to do just that. But, as uninhabited as the island appears

at first, Australia is full of native people, and they too claim the land as their own. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Australian fiction; Historical fiction; Literary fiction



**A Separate Peace by John Knowles**—A conflict of loyalties between Gene and his fearless friend, Phineas, leads to tragedy. **Genre:** Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction; Modern classics

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**Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon**—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.

**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Magical realism; Translations

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**The Silver Swan by Elena Delbanco**—Prodigiously talented cellist Alexander Feldmann, owner of a rare Stradivarius cello called Silver Swan, raises a daughter whose ability puts her on course to rival her father's accomplishments, until a stunning secret from her father's past surfaces.

**Genre:** Literary fiction

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**Sisters Brothers by Patrick deWitt**—Set against the backdrop of the great California Gold Rush, this darkly comic novel follows the misadventures of the fabled Sisters brothers, two hired guns, who, under the order of the mysterious Commodore, try to kill Hermann Kermit Warm, a man who gives them a run for their money. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Canadian fiction; Literary fiction; Westerns

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**The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey** - Based on a Russian fairy tale, The Snow Child is a tale of the shoring up of defences, psychological and literal, against the cold and dark. Set in the 1920s, the novel follows the move of middle-aged Jack and Mabel from 'back east' America to a remote homestead in Alpine, Alaska. Heavy with the loss of their firstborn and only child many years earlier, they seek to change the pattern of their lives in a context of icy ravines and wild silence. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Fantasy

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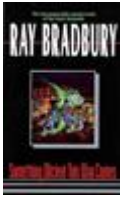
**So Big by Edna Ferber**—Selina DeJong, a teacher in the Dutch settlement of High Prairie after her father's death, marries one of the farmers. **Genre:** Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; Domestic fiction; Modern classics

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**The Solitude of Prime Numbers by Paolo Giordano**—Misfits Alice and Mattia bond as teens over shared experiences of suffering before mathematically gifted Mattia accepts a research position that takes him far away, a situation that restores their isolation before they meet by chance years later. **Genre:** Literary fiction; Love stories; Psychological fiction; Translations

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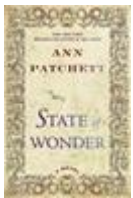
**Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury**—Story of two young boys who begin to encounter evil secrets when a lightning rod salesman gives them one of his contraptions covered with mystical symbols. **Genre:** Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; Fantasy classics; Horror

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**Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli** - In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. **Genre:** Classics; Realistic fiction

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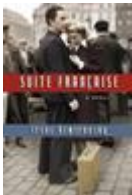
**State of Wonder by Ann Patchett**—A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years--a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past. **Genre:** Psychological fiction

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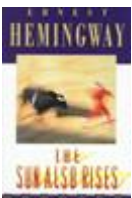
**Still Alice by Lisa Genova**—Feeling at the top of her game when she is suddenly diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease, Harvard psychologist Alice Howland struggles to find meaning and purpose in her life as her concept of self gradually slips away. **Genre:** Books to movies; Mainstream fiction

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**Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky**—A story of life in France under the Nazi occupation includes two parts--"Storm in June," set amid the chaotic 1940 exodus from Paris, and "Dolce," set in a German-occupied village rife with resentment, resistance, and collaboration. **Genre:** Books to movies; Literary fiction; Translations; War stories

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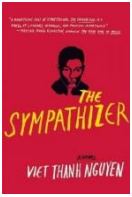
**The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway**—The story of a group of Americans and English on a sojourn from Paris to Paloma, evokes in poignant detail, life among the expatriates on Paris's Left Bank, during the 1920s and conveys in brutally realistic descriptions the power and danger of bullfighting in Spain. **Genre:** Books to movies; Literary fiction; Modern classics

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**The Surrounded by D'Arcy McNickle**—Archilde, son of a Spaniard and a Native American woman in Montana, wants more in his life than is offered by his tribe. **Genre:** Westerns

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**The Sympathizer by Viet Thanh Nguyen** - Follows a Viet Cong agent as he spies on a South Vietnamese army general and his compatriots as they start a new life in 1975 Los Angeles.

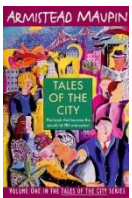
**Genre:** First person narratives; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Psychological fiction

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**Take Me With You by Catherine Ryan Hyde**—Burned-out teacher August Shroeder takes the ashes of his nineteen-year-old son on a road trip to Yellowstone and along the way meets two half-orphans who have nowhere to go. **Genre:** Mainstream fiction; Road novels

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**Tales of the City by Armistead Maupin** —The eccentric, mysterious, naive, jaded, up-and-coming, down-and-out, adventuresome, and withdrawn boarders in Russian Hill share their dissimilar worlds and worries. **Genre:** LGBTQIA fiction

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**The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien**—Heroic young men carry the emotional weight of their lives to war in Vietnam in a patchwork account of a modern journey into the heart of darkness.

**Genre:** Literary fiction; Modern classics; Psychological fiction; Short stories; War stories

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

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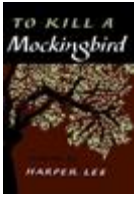
**Thunderstruck & Other Stores by Elizabeth McCracken**—A collection of stories navigates the fragile space between love and loneliness, including the title story in which a family finds their lives irrevocably changed by their teenage daughter's risky behavior. **Genre:** Literary fiction; Short stories

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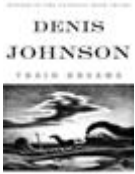
**The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht**— Struggling to understand why her beloved grandfather left his family to die alone in a field hospital far from home, a young doctor in a war-torn Balkan country takes over her grandfather's search for a mythical ageless vagabond while referring to a worn copy of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Literary fiction; Parallel narratives

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**To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee**—Scout Finch, daughter of the town lawyer, likes to spend her summers building treehouses, swimming, and catching lightning bugs with her big brother Jem. But one summer, when a black man is accused of raping a white woman, Scout's carefree days come to an end. In the county courtroom, she will join her father in a desperate battle against ignorance and prejudice. **Genre:** Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; First person narratives; Literary fiction; Modern classics; Southern fiction

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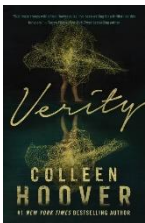
**Train Dreams: A Novella by Denis Johnson**—Presents the story of early twentieth-century day laborer Robert Grainer, who endures the harrowing loss of his family while struggling for survival in the American West against a backdrop of radical historical changes. **Genre:** Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Magical realism; Pacific Northwest fiction

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**The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce**—Recently retired, sweet, emotionally numb Harold Fry is jolted out of his passivity by a letter from Queenie Hennessy, an old friend, who he hasn't heard from in twenty years. She has written to say she is in hospice and wants to say goodbye. Leaving his tense, bitter wife Maureen to her chores, Harold intends a quick walk to the corner mailbox to post his reply but instead, inspired by a chance encounter, he becomes convinced he must deliver his message in person to Queenie—who is 600 miles away. **Genre:** Mainstream fiction

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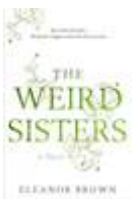
**Verity by Colleen Hoover** - Verity is a riveting psychological thriller and romantic suspense novel by Colleen Hoover that delves into the intricate dynamics of love, obsession, and deceit. The story unfolds through the eyes of Lowen Ashleigh, a struggling writer grappling with her own personal tragedies, who unexpectedly receives an opportunity to ghostwrite the remaining books in a successful series for the renowned, but incapacitated, author Verity Crawford. **Genre:** Thriller; Romance

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**The Wayfaring Stranger by James Lee Burke**—A decade after taking a shot at Bonnie and Clyde during one of their notorious armed robberies, a Depression teen-turned-soldier escapes death during the Battle of the Bulge and marries a beautiful young woman with whom he seeks his fortune along the Texas-Louisiana oil coast. **Genre:** Historical fiction

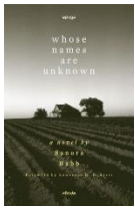
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**The Weird Sisters by Eleanor Brown**—Unwillingly brought together to care for their ailing mother, three sisters who were named after famous Shakespearean characters discover that everything they have been avoiding may prove more worthwhile than expected. **Genre:** Domestic fiction; Mainstream fiction

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**Whose Names are Unknown by Sanora Babb** - Originally written and slated for publication in 1939, this long-forgotten masterpiece was shelved by Random House when *The Grapes of Wrath* met with wide acclaim. In the belief that Steinbeck already adequately explored the subject matter, Babb's lyrical novel about a farm family's relentless struggle to survive in both Depression-era Oklahoma and in the California migrant labor camps gathered dust for decades.

**Genre:** Historical fiction

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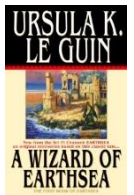
**Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah**—Reunited when their beloved father falls ill, sisters Meredith and Nina find themselves under the shadow of their disapproving mother, whose painful history is hidden behind her rendition of a Russian fairy tale told to the sisters in childhood. **Genre:** Domestic fiction; Women's lives and relationships

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**Winter Wheat by Mildred Walker**—For this Bison Books edition, James Welch, the acclaimed author of *Winter in the Blood* (1986) and other novels, introduces Mildred Walker's vivid heroine, Ellen Webb, who lives in the dryland wheat country of central Montana during the early 1940s. He writes, "It is a story about growing up, becoming a woman, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, within the space of a year and a half. But what a year and a half it is!" Welch offers a brief biography of Walker, who wrote nine of her thirteen novels while living in Montana. **Genre:** Coming-of-age stories; Pacific Northwest fiction

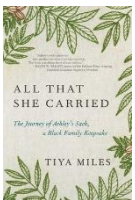
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**The Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin**—During a spell recalling the dead, the boy Sparrowhawk, a sorcerer's apprentice, unwittingly unleashes evil on the land. He grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world. **Genre:** Classics; Fantasy fiction; High fantasy

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## Nonfiction Titles

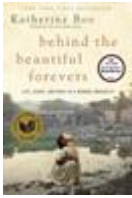


**All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake by Tiya Miles** - In a display case in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture sits a rough cotton bag, called Ashley's Sack, embroidered with just a handful of words that evoke a sweeping family story of loss and of love, passed down through generations. **Genre:** Historical; Biography

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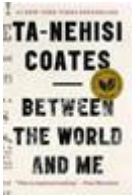


**Becoming by Michelle Obama**—An intimate memoir by the former First Lady chronicles the experiences that have shaped her remarkable life, from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago through her setbacks and achievements in the White House. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; History writing; Life stories



**Behind the beautiful forevers: life, death, and hope in a Mumbai undercity by Katherine Boo—** Profiles everyday life in the settlement of Annawadi as experienced by a Muslim teen, an ambitious rural mother, and a young scrap metal thief, illuminating how their efforts to build better lives are challenged by religious, caste, and economic tensions. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Society and culture; Travel Writing

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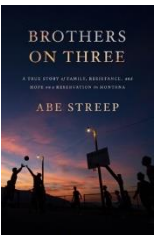
**Between the World & Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates—**Told through the author's own evolving understanding of the subject over the course of his life comes a bold and personal investigation into America's racial history and its contemporary echoes. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Society and culture

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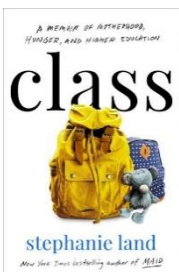
**Blink by Malcolm Gladwell—**Utilizing case studies as diverse as speed dating, pop music, and the shooting of Amadou Diallo, Gladwell reveals that what we think of as decisions made in the blink of an eye are much more complicated than assumed. Drawing on cutting-edge neuroscience and psychology, he shows how the difference between good decision-making and bad has nothing to do with how much information we can process quickly, but on the few particular details on which we focus. **Genre:** Business and economics; Canadian literature

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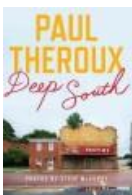
**Brothers on Three: a true story of family, resistance, and hope on a reservation in Montana by Abe Streeb -** From journalist Abe Streeb, the story of coming of age on a reservation in the American West and a team uniting a community. Brothers on Three is not simply a story about high school basketball, about state championships and a winning team. It is a book about community, and it is about boys on the cusp of adulthood, finding their way through the intersecting worlds they inhabit and forging their own paths to personhood.

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**Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education by Stephanie Land -** Class paints an intimate and heartbreaking portrait of motherhood as it converges and often conflicts with personal desire and professional ambition. Who has the right to create art? Who has the right to go to college? And what kind of work is valued in our culture? In clear, candid, and moving prose, Class grapples with these questions, offering a searing indictment of America's educational system and an inspiring testimony of a mother's triumph against all odds. **Genre:** Memoir

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**Deep South: four seasons on back roads by Paul Theroux —**For over 50 years, acclaimed novelist and travel writer Paul Theroux has traveled all over the world. But in his latest journey, he turned his eyes to a region of his home country he wanted to know better. Traveling to various Southern states (including Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and South Carolina) on a variety of road trips, Theroux bypassed the big cities and gleaming towns. Instead,

he focused his keen eye on smaller, rural towns, where he visited with people in churches, restaurants, corner stores, farms, and gun shows, and explored the culture and paradoxes of the region. -- Description by Dawn Towery.

**Genre:** Travel Writing

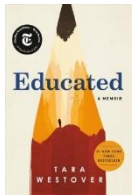
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**The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson**—An account of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 relates the stories of two men who shaped the history of the event--architect Daniel H. Burnham, who coordinated its construction, and serial killer Herman Mudgett. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; History writing; True Crime.

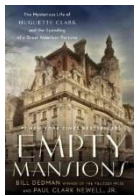
**Down from the Mountain: The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear by Bryce Andrews**—The story of a grizzly bear named Millie: her life, death, and cubs, and what they reveal about the changing character of the American West. **Genre:** Nature Writing

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**Educated by Tara Westover**—Traces the author's experiences as a child born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, describing her participation in her family's paranoid stockpiling activities and her resolve to educate herself well enough to earn an acceptance into a prestigious university and the unfamiliar world beyond. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Nonfiction that reads like fiction

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**Empty Mansions by Bill Dedman**—A cousin of Huguette Clark and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist trace the life of the reclusive American heiress against a backdrop of the now-infamous W. A. Clark family and include coverage of the internet sensation and elder-abuse investigation that occurred at the end of her life. **Genre:** Biographies; Life stories

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**Escape From Camp 14 by Blaine Hirsch**—Presents a dramatic account by one of the few survivors born in North Korea's infamous political prison camps, describing the brutal conditions he was forced to endure as a child, his witnessing of his family's executions, and his harrowing escape.

**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Biographies; History writing; Life stories

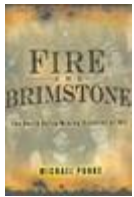
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**Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond** - In Evicted, Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Evicted transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems.

Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible. **Genre:** Sociology; Politics

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**Fire and Brimstone by Michael Punke**—Presents a detailed account of America's worst hard-rock mountain disaster that left more than four hundred men trapped, cost the lives of 164, and sparked a firestorm of labor unrest, political turmoil, and violence. **Genre:** History writing

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**From the Oder to the Bitterroot by Werner Will**—Now living in the Bitterroot Valley with his wife, Mr. Will's book journals his life as it played out during Hitler's Germany and Russia's post-war version, across the ocean and to the United States. Be inspired by his unyielding spirit as he headed west, conquering unthinkable odds, striving from humble beginnings as an uneducated farm hand to become a tenured university professor. **Genre:** Biographies; History Writing; Life Stories

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**Garlic and Sapphires by Ruth Reichl**—The editor-in-chief of "Gourmet" recounts her visits to some of the world's most acclaimed restaurants, both as herself and as an anonymous diner in disguise, to offer insight into the differences in her dining experiences. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Food writing; Life stories

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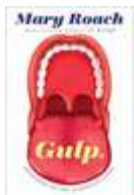
**The Geography of Bliss by Eric Weiner**—Draws on the author's experiences as a foreign correspondent and reporter to evaluate more than three dozen countries for their happiness potential, in a lighthearted survey that includes profiles of such locales as the American shores, glacial Iceland, and the Bhutan jungles. **Genre:** Travel Writing

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**The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls**—The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Family and Relationships; Life stories

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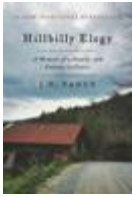
**Gulp! by Mary Roach**—The humor scientist behind Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers and Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife takes a tour of the human digestive system, explaining why the stomach doesn't digest itself and whether constipation can kill you. **Genre:** Food writing; Science Writing

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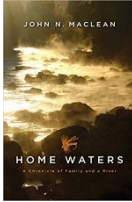
**Her Last Death by Susanna Sonnenberg**—The daughter of a narcissistic and addictive mother shares the story of her life as it was influenced by her glamorous and charismatic mother's ill-fated teen elopement, compulsive lies, and dependence on cocaine, narcotics, and sex. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Family and Relationships; Life stories

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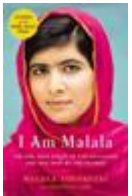
**Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance**—Shares the poignant story of the author's family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle-class life and the collective demons of the past. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Society and culture

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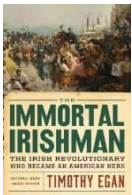
**Home Waters: A Chronicle of Family and A River by John N. Maclean**—A memoir about the power of place to shape generations, *Home Waters* is John N. Maclean's remarkable memoir of his family's century-long love affair with Montana's majestic Blackfoot River, the setting for his father's classic novella, *A River Runs through It*. A universal story about nature, family, and the art of fly fishing. **Genre:** Autobiographies & Memoirs; Life Stories; Nature Writing

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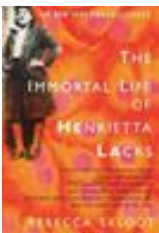
**I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzia**—Describes the life of a young Pakistani student who advocated for women's rights and education in the Taliban-controlled Swat Valley who survived an assassination attempt and became the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Society and culture

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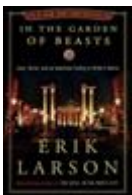
**The immortal Irishman: the Irish revolutionary who became an American hero by Timothy Egan**—Places the improbable life of revolutionary hero Thomas Francis Meagher against a backdrop of Irish-American history, detailing his leadership during Irish uprisings, service with the Irish Brigade in the Civil War, and achievements as the territorial governor of Montana. **Genre:** Biographies; History writing; Life stories

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**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**—Henrietta Lacks was a poor Southerner who died of cancer and was buried in an unmarked grave, yet a sample of her cells would become a cornerstone of scientific research. Skloot's decade-long investigation into the origin of the "HeLa" cells uncovers the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of. **Genre:** Biographies; Books to movies; Life stories; Science Writing

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**In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson**—Documents the efforts of the first American ambassador to Hitler's Germany, William E. Dodd, to acclimate to a residence in an increasingly violent city where he is forced to associate with the Nazis while his daughter pursues a relationship with Gestapo chief Rudolf Diels. **Genre:** Biographies; History writing; Life stories

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**In the Shadow of Man by Jane Goodall** —A personal account of the author's life among wild chimpanzees in Africa offers insight into animal behavior and draws parallels between chimpanzee and human relationships. **Genre:** Nature Writing

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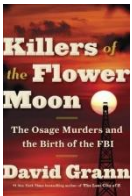
**Infidel by Ayaan Hirsi Ali**—Ultimately a celebration of triumph over adversity, Hirsi Ali's story tells how a bright little girl evolved out of dutiful obedience to become an outspoken, pioneering freedom fighter. As Western governments struggle to balance democratic ideals with religious pressures, no story could be timelier or more significant. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Society and culture

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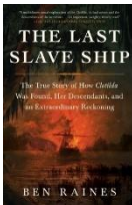
**The Innocents Abroad by Mark Twain**—Twain describes his experiences traveling in Europe and the Middle East, and pokes fun at tourists and tour guides. **Genre:** Satire; Travel Writing

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**Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage murders and the birth of the FBI by David Grann**—Presents a true account of the early twentieth-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; History writing; True Crime

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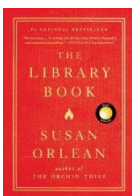
**The Last Slave Ship: The true story of how Clotilda was found, her descendants, and an extraordinary reckoning by Ben Raines**—The incredible true story of the last ship to carry enslaved people to America, the remarkable town its survivors founded after emancipation, and the complicated legacy their descendants carry with them to this day—by the journalist who discovered the ship's remains. **Genre:** History, Race, American History

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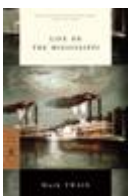
**Lentil underground: renegade farmers and the future of food in America by Liz Carlisle**—From the heart of Big Sky Country comes this inspiring story of a handful of colorful pioneers who have successfully bucked the chemically-based food chain and the entrenched power of agribusiness's one percent, by stubbornly banding together. Journalist and native Montanan Liz Carlisle weaves an eye-opening and richly reported narrative that will be welcomed by everyone concerned with the future of American agriculture and natural food in an increasingly uncertain world. **Genre:** Business and economics; Food writing

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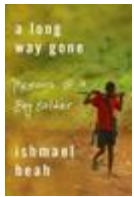
**The Library Book by Susan Orlean**—The author reopens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, and delivers a dazzling love letter to a beloved institution: our libraries. **Genre:** History Writing

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**Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain**—Offers a history of the Mississippi River, describes Twain's experiences as a young riverboat pilot, and shares tall tales, character sketches, local history and lore, and observations about the Mississippi. **Genre:** Satire; Travel Writing

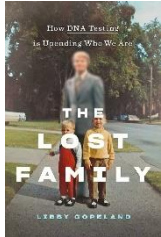
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**A Long Way Gone by Ismael Beah**—In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; History writing; Life stories

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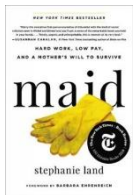


**The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are by Libby Copeland** -

In *The Lost Family*, journalist Libby Copeland investigates what happens when we embark on a vast social experiment with little understanding of the ramifications. She explores the culture of genealogy buffs, the science of DNA, and the business of companies like Ancestry and 23andMe, all while tracing the story of one woman, her unusual results, and a relentless methodical drive for answers that becomes a thoroughly modern genetic detective story.

Gripping and masterfully told, *The Lost Family* is a spectacular book on a big, timely subject. **Genre:** Genealogy; Genetics

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**Maid: hard work, low pay, and a mother's will to survive by Stephanie Land**—An economic hardship journalist describes the years she worked in low-pay domestic work under wealthy employers, contrasting the privileges of the upper-middle class to the realities of the overworked laborers supporting them. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Society and culture

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**Moonwalking With Einstein by Joshua Foer**—*Moonwalking with Einstein* draws on cutting-edge research, a surprising cultural history of memory, and venerable tricks of the mentalist's trade to transform our understanding of human remembering. Under the tutelage of top "mental athletes," Foer learns ancient techniques once employed by Cicero to memorize his speeches and by medieval scholars to memorize entire books. Using methods that have been largely

forgotten, he discovers that we can all dramatically improve our memories. **Genre:** Science Writing

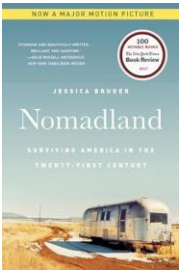
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**My Life in France by Julia Child**—A memoir begun just months before Child's death describes the legendary food expert's years in Paris, Marseille, and Provence and her journey from a young woman from Pasadena who cannot cook or speak any French to the publication of her legendary Mastering cookbooks and her winning the hearts of America as "The French Chef".

**Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Food writing; Life stories

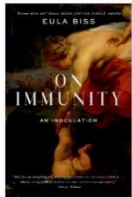
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### **Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century by Jessica Bruder - In**

"Nomadland," Jessica Bruder unveils a hidden subculture of resilient, determined Americans who, driven by economic hardship and the pursuit of freedom, have embraced a nomadic lifestyle, traversing the nation in vans, RVs, and converted buses. These modern-day nomads, mostly composed of older adults marginalized by the Great Recession, form a vibrant tapestry of shared struggles, camaraderie, and resourcefulness. Traveling from one low-wage job to another, these itinerant workers redefine the traditional notion of home and community, providing a poignant commentary on the American Dream and the evolving economic landscape. Bruder's evocative storytelling and in-depth reporting invite readers to journey alongside these individuals, offering a deeply human perspective on resilience and reinvention in the face of adversity. **Genre:** Sociology of Class, Economic conditions

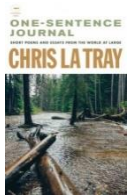
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**On Immunity: An Inoculation by Eula Biss** - Upon becoming a new mother, Eula Biss addresses a chronic condition of fear--fear of the government, the medical establishment, and what is in your child's air, food, mattress, medicine, and vaccines. She finds that you cannot immunize your child, or yourself, from the world. On Immunity is a moving account of how we are all interconnected--our bodies and our fates.

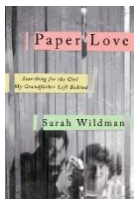
**Genre:** Science; Medicine, History

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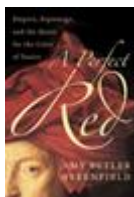
**One Sentence Journal by Chris La Tray**—Short poems and essays from the world at large. "This is a sunrise book, a book of revelations, of creekwalks and roadfood and ordinary sadnesses, ordinary joys—which are, in the end, the only kind. 'I have a stake in this,' La Tray writes. And so do you. So do you." — Joe Wilkins, author of *The Mountain and the Fathers*, *When We Were Birds*, and *Notes from the Journey Westward*. **Genre:** Poetry; Essays; Montana Author

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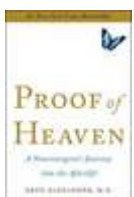
**Paper Love: Searching for the girl my grandfather left behind by Sarah Wildman**—A poignant and humane memoir. A journalist's account of how her attempts to learn about her grandfather's lost "true love" turned into a quest to understand the place of the Holocaust in her life and the lives of other young Jews. **Genre:** History, World War II, Memoir, Jewish

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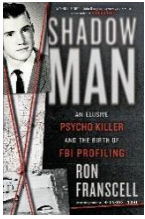
**A Perfect Red by Amy Butler Greenfield**—A history of the red dye cochineal cites its role in building the empires of monopoly holders in ancient Mexico and sixteenth-century Spain, tracing the efforts of European pirates, explorers, alchemists, scientists, and spies to discover the dye's origins. 35,000 first printing. **Genre:** Arts and Entertainment; History Writing

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**Proof of Heaven by Eben Alexander, M.D.**—Shares the author's minute-by-minute account of his religiously transformative near-death experience and revealing week-long coma, describing his scientific study of near-death phenomena while explaining what he learned about the nature of human consciousness. **Genre:** Spirituality and Religion

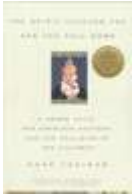
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**ShadowMan : an elusive psycho killer and the birth of FBI profiling by Ron Franscell** - In this exceptional true crime account, Franscell tells the fascinating story of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit's early days and the very first psychological profile used to catch a killer. Franscell's portrait of rural Montana will remind many of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, and the way he weaves together the threads of the different killings is spellbinding. This is a must for *Mindhunter* fans.

**Genre:** True Crime; Psychology

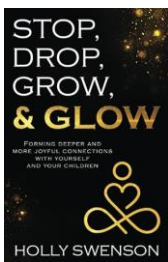
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**The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman**—Discusses a sick child of Laotian immigrants whose beliefs conflict with Western medicine.

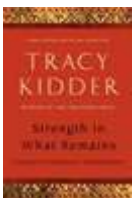
**Genre:** Science Writing

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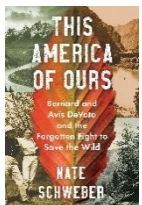
**Stop, Drop, Grow, & Glow: Forming Deeper and More Joyful Connections with Yourself and Your Children by Swenson, Holly** - Holly Swenson, a BSN, RN, and mother to four boys, is on a mission to raise the bar for parents around the world. In *Stop, Drop, Grow, & Glow*, she shares her wisdom, lived experiences, provides a memorable and reflective framework for re-working "you." She will teach you how to balance the demands of parenthood with more grace and gentility, not just for your own benefit, but for the benefit of the lives you are responsible for shaping. The door is open, will you walk through?

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**Strength in What Remains by Tracy Kidder**—Presents the story of Burundi civil war survivor Deo, who endures homelessness before pursuing an education at Columbia and eventually returning to his native land to help people in both countries. **Genre:** Biographies; History writing; Life stories

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**This America of ours : Bernard and Avis DeVoto and the forgotten fight to save the wild by Nate Schweber**- In *This America of Ours*, award-winning journalist Nate Schweber uncovers the forgotten story of a progressive alliance that altered the course of twentieth-century history and saved American wilderness—and our country's most fundamental ideals—from ruin. **Genre:**

History; Nature; Biography

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**This House of Sky by Ivan Doig**—Ivan Doig recalls growing up among the ranches and wilderness of Montana with his father and grandmother, and their friends in the rural community.

**Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories; Nature Writing; Pacific Northwest literature

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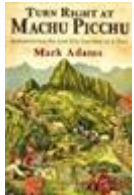
**The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance & Survival by John Vaillant**—Documents the efforts of a tiger conservation leader who was forced to hunt a man-eating tiger through the brutal Siberian winter, an effort that familiarized him with the creature's history, motives, and unique method of attack. **Genre:** Canadian literature; Nature Writing

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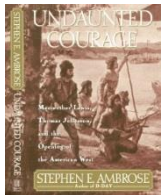
**Truck: A Love Story by Michael Perry**—The author chronicles a year during which he struggled to grow his own food, live peaceably with volatile neighbors, and fix his pickup truck, at a time when he also fell in love and befriended a paraplegic and quadriplegic biker team. **Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories

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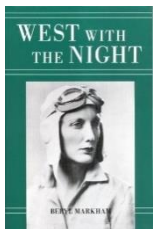
**Turn Right at Machu Picchu by Mark Adams**—Traces the author's recreation of Hiram Bingham III's discovery of the ancient citadel, Machu Picchu, in the Andes Mountains of Peru, describing his struggles with rudimentary survival tools and his experiences at the sides of local guides. **Genre:** Travel Writing

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**Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the opening of the American West by Stephen Ambrose**—In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson selected his personal secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead a voyage up the Missouri River to the Rockies, over the mountains, down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean and back. Lewis and his partner, Captain William Clark, endured incredible hardships and saw incredible sights. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; History writing

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**West with the Night by Beryl Markham** - West with the Night is a captivating memoir by Beryl Markham. Set in Africa, it tells the inspiring story of her adventurous life as a pioneering aviator and horse trainer, showcasing her remarkable courage and passion. Memoir; Biography

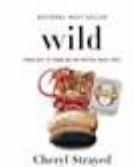
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**Where Rivers Change Directions by Mark Spragg**—Essayist and fiction writer Spragg offers 14 lyrical essays on the trials and beauties of growing up on the oldest dude ranch in Wyoming in the Shoshone National Forest, the largest block of unfenced wilderness in the lower 48. He includes no index or bibliography. Annotation c. Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com).

**Genre:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Family and Relationships; Life stories; Nature Writing

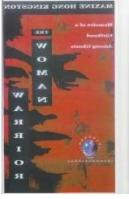
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**Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed**—A powerful, blazingly honest, inspiring memoir: the story of a 1,100 mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe--and built her back up again. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Books to movies; Life stories; Travel Writing

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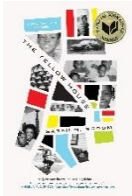
**The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston** - The Woman Warrior is a pungent, bitter, but beautifully written memoir of growing up Chinese American in Stockton, California.. Like the woman warrior of the title, Kingston carries the crimes against her family carved into her back by her parents in testimony to and defiance of the pain. **Genre:** Memoir; Biography

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**The Worst Hard Time by Timothy Egan**—Presents an oral history of the dust storms that devastated the Great Plains during the Depression, following several families and their communities in their struggle to persevere despite the devastation. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; History writing

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**The Yellow House by Sarah M. Broom**— A memoir that recounts a hundred years of a family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of New Orleans. This is the story of a mother's struggle against a house's entropy, and of a daughter who left home only to reckon with the pull that home exerts, even after the Yellow House was wiped off the map after Hurricane Katrina. **Genre:** Autobiographies & Memoirs; Life Stories

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**Young Men and Fire by Norman Maclean**—A witness to the Montana Mann Gulch fire of 1949 explores the mysteries of the tragedy, with eyewitness accounts, new evidence, and research from fire scientists. **Genre:** History Writing

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**The Zookeeper's Wife by Diana Ackerman**—Documents the true story of Warsaw Zoo keepers and resistance activists Jan and Antonina Zabinski, who in the aftermath of Germany's invasion of Poland saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish citizens by smuggling them into empty cages and their home villa. **Genre:** Adult books for young adults; Biographies; Books to movies; History writing; Life stories

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