



H-WPL READERS BOOK DISCUSSION TITLES



Adiga, Aravind

THE WHITE TIGER

When he relocates to New Delhi to take a new job, Balram Halwai is disillusioned by the city's materialism and technology-spawned violence, a circumstance that forces him to question his loyalties, ambitions, and past.

Atkinson, Kate

CASE HISTORIES

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.

Atwood, Margaret

THE BLIND ASSASSIN

Iris describes the 1945 death of her sister, who drives her car off a bridge, followed, two years later, by the death of her husband, in a story that features a novel-within-a-novel about two unnamed lovers who meet in a dark backstreet room.

Atwood, Margaret

MORAL DISORDER AND OTHER STORIES

A collection of short fiction presents eleven stories that capture important moments in the course of a life and in the lives intertwined with it, in a volume that ranges from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Auster, Paul

BROOKLYN FOLLIES

Retired life insurance salesman Nathan Glass moves to Brooklyn to find anonymity and solitude through his declining years, but a chance meeting with Tom Wood, his long-lost nephew, forces him to come to terms with his past.

Barrett, Andrea

THE VOYAGE OF THE NARWHAL

The author combines fact and fiction to follow Erasmus Darwin Wells, the nineteenth-century naturalist, on his reckless pursuit of an open polar sea.

Benaron, Naomi

RUNNING THE RIFT

Rwandan runner Jean Patrick Nkuba dreams of winning an Olympic gold medal and uniting his ethnically divided country, only to be driven from everyone he loves when the violence starts.

Berne, Suzanne

A CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A confused and lonely ten-year-old, Marsha, a witness to her siblings' deviant behavior, her father's affair, and her mother's flirtation with the new neighbor, produces the only lead in a case of sexual assault and murder.

- Bezmozgis, David **THE BETRAYERS**
Escaping his political opponents in a Crimean resort town, disgraced Israeli politician Baruch Kotler runs into a former friend who had him sent to the gulag forty years prior and must reconcile with his betrayer and his own poor choices.
- Boyle, T. C. **TALK TALK**
Deaf Dana Halter is falsely arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, auto theft, and passing bad checks, while William Wilson has been living a blameless life of criminal excess at her expense. Dana and her boyfriend Bridger set out to track him down.
- Boyle, T. C. **THE TORTILLA CURTAIN**
A freak accident causes two couples—a pair of Los Angeles liberals and Mexican illegal's—and their opposing worlds to collide in a tragicomedy of error and misunderstanding.
- Brooks, Geraldine **MARCH**
In a story inspired by the father character in "Little Women" and drawn from the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father, a man leaves behind his family to serve in the Civil War and finds his beliefs challenged by his experiences.
- Brooks, Geraldine **CALEB'S CROSSING**
In 1600's Martha's Vineyard and Cambridge, Massachusetts, the daughter of a Puritan minister bonds with the son of a Wampanoag chief.
- Chabon, Michael **THE YIDDISH POLICEMEN'S UNION**
In a world in which Alaska, rather than Israel, has become the homeland for the Jews following World War II, Detective Meyer Landsman and his half-Tlingit partner Berko investigate the death of a heroin-addled chess prodigy.
- Chernow, Ron **ALEXANDER HAMILTON**
Traces the life of Alexander Hamilton, an illegitimate, largely self-taught orphan from the Caribbean who rose to become George Washington's aide-de-camp and the first Treasury Secretary of the United States.
- Chaon, Dan **AWAIT YOUR REPLY**
While Miles pursues elusive letters and clues in a perpetual search for his missing twin, Ryan struggles with the discovery that he is adopted, and Lucy finds her daring escape from her hometown posing unexpectedly dangerous consequences. By a National Book Award-nominated author.
- Cooley, Martha **THE ARCHIVIST**
A battle of wills between Matt, a careful, orderly archivist for a private university, and Roberta, a determined young poet, over a collection of T.S. Eliot's letters, sealed by bequest until 2019, sparks an unusual friendship and reawakens painful memories of the past.
- Cunningham, Michael **THE HOURS**
In a novel of love, family inheritance, and desperation, the author offers a fictional account of Virginia Woolf's last days and her friendship with a poet living in his mother's shadow.

- Dai, Sijie **BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS**
During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn when they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature.
- Danticat, Edwidge **CLAIRE OF THE SEA LIGHT**
In a small seaside town in Haiti, a young, enchanting girl disappears, and the intertwined lives of the townspeople who search for her are revealed.
- Dean, Debra **THE MADONNAS OF LENINGRAD**
In a novel that moves back and forth between the Soviet Union during World War II and modern-day America, Marina, an elderly Russian woman, recalls vivid images of her youth during the height of the siege of Leningrad.
- Desai, Anita **BAUMGARTNER'S BOMBAY**
The novel follows Hugo Baumgartner as he flees Nazi Germany -- and his Jewish heritage -- for India, only to be imprisoned as a hostile alien and then released to Bombay at war's end.
- Desai, Kiran **THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS**
In a crumbling house in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai.
- Dexter, Pete **THE PAPERBOY**
Two brothers whose father runs a small newspaper in northern Florida become involved with a sexy young woman who asks them to investigate the case of the man she loves, a man whom she has never met but who has been convicted of killing the local sheriff.
- Didion, Joan **THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING**
An autobiographical portrait of marriage and motherhood by the acclaimed author details her struggle to come to terms with life and death, illness, sanity, personal upheaval, and grief.
- Doerr, Anthony **ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE**
The lives of a blind French girl and a gadget-obsessed German boy before and during World War II.
- Donohue, Emma **ROOM**
A 5-year-old narrates a riveting story about his life growing up in a single room where his mother aims to protect him from the man who has held her prisoner for seven years since she was a teenager.
- Dubus, Andre **HOUSE OF SAND AND FOG**
When a former colonel of the Iranian Air Force and his family purchase a small California home at auction, they are faced with a great conflict as the former owner and her police officer boyfriend fight to get it back at any cost.

- Edwards, Kim **THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER**
In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.
- Eggers, Dave **ZEITOUN**
The true story of one family, caught between America's two biggest policy disasters: the war on terror and the response to Hurricane Katrina (*Amazon.com*).
- Eggers, Dave **THE CIRCLE: A NOVEL**
A dystopian novel about life on the campus of a powerful Internet company, whose credo is "All that happens must be known."
- Eire, Carlos **WAITING FOR SNOW IN HAVANA: CONFESSIONS OF A CUBAN BOY**
A survivor of the Cuban Revolution recounts his pre-war childhood as the religiously devout son of a judge, and describes the conflict's violent and irrevocable impact on his friends, family, and native home.
- Englander, Nathan **WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ANNE FRANK**
A collection of short stories includes the title story about two marriages in which the Holocaust is played out as a devastating parlor game, and a dark story of vigilante justice undertaken by a troop of geriatric campers.
- Ephron, Nora **I FEEL BAD ABOUT MY NECK**
A collection of essays offers a humorous look at the ups and downs of being a woman of a certain age, discussing the tribulations of maintenance and trying to stop the clock, menopause, and empty nests.
- Erdrich, Louise **THE MASTER BUTCHERS SINGING CLUB**
Returning to his quiet German village home after World War I, trained killer Fidelis Waldvogel, accompanied by his wife, leaves to start a new life in America and finds his life irrevocably changed by a new relationship.
- Erdrich, Louise **THE ROUND HOUSE**
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 Coutts sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.
- Eugenides, Jeffrey **MIDDLESEX**
Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparents' desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.
- Faulkner, William **THE SOUND AND THE FURY**
Depicts the troubled childhood of Jason, Quentin, Caddy, and Benjy Compson, members of a southern family.

- Ferrante, Elena **MY BRILLIANT FRIEND: NEAPOLITAN NOVELS, BOOK ONE**
The story begins in the 1950's, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. Two girls, Elena and Lila, grow up in this rough neighborhood and develop a friendship that continues throughout their lives.
- Fergus, Jim **ONE THOUSAND WHITE WOMEN**
A portrait of the American West follows May Dodd as she leaves the East Coast asylum to which she had been committed by her high-society family, heads west, and with the help of a government program, ends up marrying a chief of the Cheyenne nation.
- Fletcher, Martin **THE LIST**
Having fled the Nazis, a young Austrian couple in 1945 London discovers that for Jews like them, the war did not end with VE Day.
- Foer, Jonathan Safran **EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE**
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.
- Ford, Richard **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Real-estate agent Frank Bascombe moves into his newly married ex-wife's old home and is looking forward to the upcoming Fourth of July weekend, but somehow nothing turns out the way he expects.
- Franzen, Jonathan **THE CORRECTIONS**
What appears as a typical Midwestern family is anything but, as preparations are made for an ideal family holiday.
- Gilbert, Elizabeth **EAT, PRAY, LOVE: ONE WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING ACROSS ITALY, INDIA, AND INDONESIA**
A bitter divorce and a turbulent love affair later, Elizabeth Gilbert emerges battered and bewildered and realizes it is time to pursue her own journey in search of three things she has been missing - pleasure, devotion and balance. So, she travels to Rome, India, and Bali.
- Godwin, Peter **WHEN A CROCODILE EATS THE SUN: A MEMOIR OF AFRICA**
Traces how the author routinely traveled between his Manhattan home to Zimbabwe to check on his aging parents, visits during which he witnessed the African region's dramatic descent into a social and political turmoil that eventually revealed to the author his parents' secret about their loyalty to the area.
- Godwin, Gail **FLORA: A NOVEL**
Isolated in a decaying family home while her father performs secret work at the end of World War II, 10-year-old Helen, grieving the losses of her mother and grandmother, bonds with her sensitive young aunt while desperately clinging to the ghosts and stories of her childhood.
- Gornick, Vivian **FIERCE ATTACHMENTS**
The author recounts her childhood experiences living in a tenement, looks at her

relationship with her mother, and describes the lives of women bound to husbands they didn't love.

Groff, Lauren

ARCADIA

In a haunting story of the American dream, Bit, born in a back-to-nature commune in 1970's New York State, must come to grips with the outside world when the commune eventually fails.

Gruen, Sara

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlena, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

Grunwald, Lisa

THE IRRESISTIBLE HENRY HOUSE

Cared for in a series of temporary homes where young women are taught mothering skills, winsome orphan toddler Henry captures the hearts of program director Martha and each of his temporary mothers while hoping for a permanent home.

Haddon, Mark

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Haigh, Jennifer

FAITH

When her brother, a popular and dynamic pastor, is caught up in public scandal, Sheila McCann returns to Boston, ready to fight for him and his reputation.

Henkin, Joshua

THE WORLD WITHOUT YOU

A family gathers at their Berkshires summer home to mourn the loss of their youngest sibling, a journalist who was killed while on assignment in Iraq.

Henríquez, Cristina

THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS

A family of Mexican immigrants with a brain injured daughter confronts cultural barriers in the U.S.

Hijuelos, Oscar

EMPRESS OF THE SPLENDID SEASON

A Cuban émigré, Lydia Espana works as a cleaning lady on the Upper West Side of Manhattan to help support her husband and two children, in a novel that captures one woman's struggle, triumph, and frustrations with the American dream.

Hoffman, Alice

BLACKBIRD HOUSE

Presents a series of interlinking stories that capture the lives and fortunes of the occupants of an old Massachusetts house over the course of two centuries.

Hoffman, Alice

THE MUSEUM OF EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Romance blooms between a photographer and the daughter of a Coney Island freak show impresario in early 20th-century New York.

Horan, Nancy

LOVING FRANK

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.

Hosseini, Khaled

THE KITE RUNNER

Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

Hosseini, Khaled

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in wartorn Kabul, incurring losses over the course of thirty years that test the limits of their strength and courage.

Ishiguro, Kazuo

NEVER LET ME GO

A reunion with two childhood friends draws Kathy and her companions on a nostalgic odyssey into their lives at Hailsham, an isolated private school in the English countryside, and a confrontation with the truth about their childhoods.

Jackson, Shirley

WE HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THE CASTLE

An eccentric pair of sisters and their frail uncle, the only survivors of a family poisoning, live isolated in their mansion, hidden from the villagers.

Jin, Ha

WAITING

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

Jordan, Hillary

MUDBOUND

In 1946, Laura McAllan tries to adjust after moving with her husband and two children to an isolated cotton farm in the Mississippi Delta.

Joyce, Rachel

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

Retired salesman sets out from his little English village on a long journey by foot to save his old friend Queenie who is dying in a hospice.

Kallos, Stephanie

BROKEN FOR YOU

Margaret Hughes, a septuagenarian living in Seattle, takes in a series of boarders who help her cope with her illness, and whose lives become unexpectedly connected to each other.

Keane, Mary Beth

FEVER: A NOVEL

The story of Mary Mallon, known as "Typhoid Mary," who came to New York in 1883 and cooked for the wealthy families of Manhattan.

King, Dave

THE HA-HA

Rendered unable to speak, read, or write after a Vietnam War injury thirty years earlier, Howard Kapostash feels trapped by his disability until his high school sweetheart, recently forced into rehab, asks him to care for her nine-year-old son.

- King, Lily **EUPHORIA**
Three anthropologists, in the wilds of 1930s New Guinea, find themselves caught in a passionate love triangle.
- Koch, Herman **THE DINNER: A NOVEL**
Meeting at an Amsterdam restaurant for dinner, two couples move from small talk to the wrenching shared challenge of their teenage sons' act of violence that has triggered a police investigation and revealed the extent to which each family will go to protect those they love.
- Krauss, Nicole **GREAT HOUSE**
The lives of four strangers are thrown into chaos over an enormous, stolen desk, including an antique dealer in Jerusalem, a man in London and an American novelist who inherited it from a poet and victim of Pinochet's secret police.
- Krauss, Nicole **THE HISTORY OF LOVE**
Sixty years after a book's publication, its author remembers his lost love and missing son, while a teenage girl named for one of the book's characters seeks her namesake, as well as a cure for her widowed mother's loneliness.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa **INTERPRETER OF MALADIES**
A debut collection of short fiction 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.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa **THE LOWLAND**
The lives of two brothers, inseparable during their youth in Calcutta, find different paths, in this story that takes place on two continents.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa **THE NAMESAKE**
A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa **UNACCUSTOMED EARTH**
Exploring the secrets and complexities lying at the heart of family life and relationships, a collection of eight stories includes the title work, about a young mother in a new city whose father tends her garden while hiding a secret love affair.
- Larsen, Erik **THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY: MURDER, MAGIC, AND MADNESS AT THE FAIR THAT CHANGED AMERICA**
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.
- Larsson, Stieg **THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO**

Forty years after the disappearance of Harriet Vanger from the secluded island owned and inhabited by the powerful Vanger family, her octogenarian uncle hires journalist Mikael Blomqvist and Lisbeth Salander, an unconventional young hacker, to investigate.

Lee, Change-Rae

ALOFT

A visit from his daughter and her fiancé from Oregon prompts Jerry Battle to reassess his life, his family relationships, his professional success, and his disengagement from those around him, as he reflects on his professional success and his love of flying solo, in a novel set in an upper-middle-class suburban Long Island community.

Lee, Change-Rae

A GESTURE LIFE

Franklin Hata, a Japanese man of Korean birth living in suburban New York, seems on the surface to be living a quiet and harmonious life, but he remains tormented by his wartime love for a Korean comfort woman.

Lee, Change-Rae

NATIVE SPEAKER

Henry Park, a Korean-American private spy, is challenged by a new assignment to investigate a rising politician, but the secrets he uncovers threaten his cultural identity and his relationship with his wife.

Lessing, Doris

THE GRANDMOTHERS

Explores the complexities of the human condition in four short novels that include the title novella, "Victoria and the Staveney's," "The Reason for It," and "A Love Child," in which a soldier becomes convinced that a child resulted from his brief wartime love affair.

Levy, Andrea

SMALL ISLAND

At the end of World War II the Joseph family arrives in London from Jamaica and Queenie, their white landlady, befriends them, until her racist husband, Bernard, arrives home from the front.

Lively, Penelope

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The mugging of a retired schoolteacher on a London Street subsequently alters the lives of a diverse cast of characters.

Lively, Penelope

THE PHOTOGRAPH

Finding a mysterious photograph of his late wife, Kath, holding hands with another man, Glyn begins a search that proves shocking to Kath's family and friends.

Livesey, Margot

EVA MOVES THE FURNITURE

Raised by her aunt and her grieving father, motherless Eva McEwen grows up accompanied by two otherworldly companions whom only she can see and finds herself torn between real life and the meddling of her enigmatic companions.

Lovett, Charlie

THE BOOKMAN'S TALE: A NOVEL OF OBSESSION

An antiquarian book enthusiast discovers an eighteenth-century study of Shakespeare forgeries that contains a Victorian portrait strongly resembling his late wife, a finding that sparks an obsessive search through the bard's historical

period.

McCall Smith, R. A.

THE NO. 1 LADIES' DETECTIVE AGENCY

Sleuth Precious Ramotswe, who works in Gaborone, Botswana, investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week.

McCann, Colum

LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN

In 1974 Manhattan, a radical young Irish monk struggles with personal demons while making his home among Bronx prostitutes, a group of mothers shares grief over their lost Vietnam soldier sons, and a young grandmother attempts to prove her worth.

MacDonald, Ann-Marie

FALL ON YOUR KNEES

Spanning five generations and moving from Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, to the bleak landscape of World War I, and to the emerging jazz scene in New York City, this epic tale tells the story of four sisters.

McEwan, Ian

ATONEMENT

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.

McEwan, Ian

ON CHESIL BEACH

A young couple--Florence, daughter of an Oxford academic and a successful businessman, and Edward, an earnest history student with little experience of women--looks forward to the future while worrying about their upcoming wedding night.

McEwan, Ian

SWEET TOOTH

During the Cold War, a clever, beautiful, young Cambridge graduate is recruited by British Intelligence. Trouble follows.

McEwan, Ian

THE CHILDREN ACT

A highly respected Family Court judge is called on to decide in the case of a young man who is refusing medical treatment.

McGahern, John

BY THE LAKE

A year in the lives of the unforgettable inhabitants of a modern-day Irish village--the Ruttledges, Londoners seeking a new way of life.

McLain, Paula

THE PARIS WIFE

Follows the life of Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley, as she navigates 1920s Paris.

Marra, Anthony

A CONSTELLATION OF VITAL PHENOMENA

An eight-year-old girl named Havaa, and a memorable cast of characters, struggle for survival in war torn Chechnya.

Mason, Daniel Philippe

THE PIANO TUNER

In 1886, piano tuner Edgar Drake leaves London for the jungles of Burma,

where he has been asked to repair a grand piano belonging to a British army officer who uses the piano and music to help keep the peace among warring local Burmese princes.

Mda, Zakes

MADONNA OF EXCELSIOR

A novel takes readers deep into the heart of apartheid in the early 1970s, focusing on a mixed race family that is trying to survive on the closely regulated line between black and white.

Messud, Claire

THE EMPEROR'S CHILDREN

Three friends on the verge of their thirties--beautiful, sophisticated Marina Thwaite; Danielle, a quiet TV producer; and Julius, a freelance writer--make their way through New York City, until Marina's idealistic cousin, Bootie, arrives to complicate their lives.

Miller, Arthur

DEATH OF A SALESMAN

An unsuccessful traveling salesman finally confronts, in his early sixties, his shattered dreams.

Miller, Derek B.

NORWEGIAN BY NIGHT

After witnessing a murder in Oslo, elderly former Marine sniper and watch repairman Sheldon Horowitz flees to safety with the newly orphaned son of the victim and becomes haunted by memories of his own son who died in Vietnam.

Miller, Sue

THE ARSONIST

A series of fires reveals social tensions in a small town in New Hampshire.

Millhauser, Steven

MARTIN DRESSLER: THE TALE OF AN AMERICAN DREAMER

A young entrepreneur in late-nineteenth-century New York City, Martin Dressler rises from assistant in his father's cigar store as an elusive dream and his love for two sisters comes to fruition in the Grand Cosmo, an extravagant luxury hotel.

Mistry, Rohinton

A FINE BALANCE

A young entrepreneur in late-nineteenth-century New York City, Martin Dressler rises from assistant in his father's cigar store as an elusive dream and his love for two sisters comes to fruition in the Grand Cosmo, an extravagant luxury hotel.

Moehringer, JR

SUTTON

A fictionalized account of Willie Sutton, one of the most notorious criminals in American history, traces his life, his doomed romance with his first love, and his surprise pardon on Christmas Eve in 1969.

Moehringer, J. R.

THE TENDER BAR

In a memoir of growing up with a single mother, the author describes how he received valuable life lessons and friendship from an assortment of characters at the neighborhood bar, who provided him with a kind of fatherhood by committee.

Moran, Johanna

THE WIVES OF HENRY OADES: A NOVEL

A family epic based on a true story follows the experiences of Henry Oades,

who in the late 19th century loses his family to Maori kidnappers and remarries in California only to learn of his original family's escape, a situation that compels him to live in bigamy.

Morrison, Toni

GOD HELP THE CHILD

At the center of this story is a young woman whose blue-black skin is only one element of her beauty, boldness, confidence, and success, but which caused her light-skinned mother to deny her even the simplest forms of love.

Morrison, Toni

HOME

A Korean War veteran struggles with poverty and racism as he makes his way home.

Morrison, Toni

LOVE

Long after Bill Cooney's death and the demise of the high-flying society lifestyle at his hotel on the beach, people who knew him are still haunted by his life, death, and what he represented in their lives.

Morton, Brian

FLORENCE GORDON

A cranky but brilliant feminist celebrity wants to be left alone to write her memoirs, but then her family interferes.

Moyes, JoJo

ME BEFORE YOU

A young woman who has barely been farther afield than her English village finds herself while caring for a wealthy, embittered quadriplegic.

Munro, Alice

DEAR LIFE: STORIES

The characters in these stories experience moments when their lives are forever changed by chance encounters, actions not taken, or simple twists of fate. Also included are four semi-autobiographical stories that give a glimpse into Munro's own childhood.

Niffenegger, Audrey

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE

This extraordinary, magical novel is the story of Clare and Henry who have known each other since Clare was six and Henry was thirty-six, and were married when Clare was twenty-two and Henry thirty.

Nwaubani, Adaobi

I DO NOT COME TO YOU BY CHANCE

Unable to find work to support his family, Kingsley, the oldest son of a Nigerian family, enters the perilous world of email scams.

Oates, Joyce Carol

THE FALLS

Follows the interconnected and secretive lives of parents and their children when they are challenged by circumstances outside their family, in a tale set against a backdrop of Niagara Falls in the mid-twentieth century. By the award-winning author.

Oates, Joyce Carol

WE WERE THE MULVANEYS

The Mulvaneys, at first a close and very lucky family, drift apart over the years, until the youngest son, Judd, discovers the secret of their downfall and sets out to help reunite the family.

- O'Brien, Edna **THE LIGHT OF EVENING**
From her Dublin hospital bed, an ailing elderly woman recalls the important events, relationships, and people of her life, from her emigration to America in the 1920s, to her Irish marriage, to motherhood and her alienation from her daughter, as she awaits a visit from her estranged daughter, Eleanora.
- O'Brien, Tim **IN THE LAKE OF WOODS**
Pursued by rumors of the atrocities he committed in Vietnam, a politician and his wife seek refuge in a lakeside cabin in northern Minnesota, where a mystery unfolds when the wife mysteriously vanishes into the nearby wilderness.
- O'Neill, Joseph **NETHERLAND**
Abandoned amid the offbeat inhabitants of the Chelsea Hotel when his English wife and son return to London following September 11th, Hans, a banker originally from the Netherlands, struggles to find himself in his adopted country.
- Otsuka, Julie **WHEN THE EMPEROR WAS DIVINE**
A story told from five different points of view, chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.
- Oz, Amos **A PERFECT PEACE**
A story told from five different points of view, chronicles the experiences of Japanese Americans caught up in the nightmare of the World War II internment camps.
- Oz, Amos **A TALE OF LOVE AND DARKNESS**
The award-winning author recounts his boyhood in war-torn Jerusalem of the 1940s and 1950s, his mother's tragic suicide when he was twelve, his decision to join a kibbutz and change his name, and his participation in Israel's political upheavals.
- Packer, Ann **SWIM BACK TO ME**
A volume of interlinked stories includes the tales of a wife who struggles to make sense of her husband's abrupt departure, a mother who mourns her teenage son through the music collection he left behind, and a woman who reflects on her own broken family while attending a brother's wedding.
- Patchett, Ann **BEL CANTO**
When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxanne Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.
- Patchett, Ann **STATE OF WONDER**
A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh must step out of her comfort zone when she is sent 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.
- Picoult, Jodi **LEAVING TIME**

Jenna is searching for answers to the disappearance of her mother, who disappeared after a tragic accident at an elephant sanctuary.

Picoult, Jodi

MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Kate begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.

Proulx, E. Annie

THE SHIPPING NEWS

Surprising transformations take place when a newspaperman's elderly aunt and two daughters decide to move back to their family home on the coast of Newfoundland.

Quindlen, Anna

LOTS OF CANDLES, PLENTY OF CAKE

Reflections on feminism, child raising, marriage and menopause by the Pulitzer winner and acclaimed novelist.

Rachman, Tom

THE IMPERFECTIONISTS

Preoccupied by personal challenges while running a struggling newspaper in Rome, an obituary writer confronts mortality, an eccentric publisher obsesses over his dog, and other staff members uncover the paper's founding by an impulsive millionaire.

Rash, Ron

SERENA

A tale of greed, murder, and revenge set in the Smokey Mountains of the 1930's.

Rhodes, Richard

HEDY'S FOLLY: THE LIFE AND BREAKTHROUGH INVENTIONS OF HEDY LAMARR

Describes the lesser-known technological talents of actress Hedy Lamarr and the collaborative work with avant-garde composer George Antheil that eventually led to the development of spread-spectrum radio, cell phones, and GPS systems.

Rhys, Jean

WIDE SARAGASSO SEA

In a prequel to Jane Eyre, Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway lives in Dominica and Jamaica in the 1830s before she travels to England, becomes Mrs. Rochester, and goes mad.

Rosenbaum, Thane

SECOND HAND SMOKE

Having driven her grown children far from home, cynical widow Jerusha scoffs at their choices in life and finds herself becoming unexpectedly attached to her ten-year-old next-door neighbor, the son of an equally dysfunctional mother.

Roth, Philip

THE HUMAN STAIN

A college professor with a sexual indiscretion in his past is hounded from his job by academic enemies who label him a racist.

Roth, Philip

I MARRIED A COMMUNIST

Ira Ringold, a ditch digger from Newark, rises to prominence in the 1940s as a radio star and is betrayed by his new wife, silent film star Eve Frame, who

reveals his Communist connections during the McCarthy witch hunts of the early 1950s.

Roth, Philip

INDIGNATION

In 1951, Marcus Messner escapes his father's fears about the potential dangers facing his son by attending college at the conservative Winesburg College, where he confronts the customs and constrictions of a different world.

Roth, Philip

NEMESIS

Bucky Cantor, a young Newark playground director, finds himself at the center of a polio epidemic in the summer of 1944.

Roth, Philip

PATRIMONY

The best-selling author offers his observations on the physical decline and death of his own father, in a memoir that captures the loving relationship between father and son.

Roth, Philip

THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

In a novel of alternative history, aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh defeats Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election, negotiating an accord with Adolf Hitler and accepting his conquest of Europe and anti-Semitic policies.

Russell, Mary Doria

DREAMERS OF THE DAY

In the wake of the Great War and the influenza pandemic of 1919, forty-year-old schoolteacher Agnes Shanklin uses her inheritance to take a trip to Egypt and the Holy Land, where she meets T.E. Lawrence and Karl Weilbacher, a German spy.

Russo, Richard

EMPIRE FALLS

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.

Russo, Richard

THE RISK POOL

An adolescent growing up in a small, declining, working-class town is pulled back and forth between his gloomy, romantic mother and his delinquent father, who separated soon after his birth

Russo, Richard

THAT OLD CAPE MAGIC

The lives of Jack and Joy Griffin always seem to come back to Cape Cod, where they honeymooned, as they experience the ups and downs of life, including the deaths of Jack's parents, the marriage of their daughter, and Jack and Joy's divorce.

Schine, Cathleen

THE THREE WEISSMANNS OF WESTPORT

A modern tale inspired by "Sense and Sensibility" finds financially strapped literary sisters Miranda and Annie moving in with divorcée Betty in a run-down Connecticut beach cottage, where they find love among the suburban aristocracy.

See, Lisa

SNOW FLOWER AND THE SECRET FAN

A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies

through a unique secret language.

Semple, Maria

WHERE'D YOU GO, BERNADETTE

A renowned, reclusive and very cranky architect vanishes, leaving her 15-year-old daughter to piece together the clues.

Setterfield, Diane

THE THIRTEENTH TALE

When her health begins failing, the mysterious author Vida Winter decides to let Margaret Lea, a biographer, write the truth about her life, but Margaret needs to verify the facts since Vida has a history of telling outlandish tales.

Shapiro, B.A.

THE ART FORGER: A NOVEL

A talented, struggling young artist is asked to forge a painting stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston.

Shields, Carol

THE STONE DIARIES

From her birth in rural Manitoba, to her journey with her father to southern Indiana, to her years as a wife, mother, and widow, to her old age, Daisy Stone Goodwill struggles to find a place for herself in her own life.

Shields, Carol

UNLESS

Novelist Reta Winter's idyllic life is shattered when her eldest daughter abandons her life to sit on a gritty street corner with a sign reading "GOODNESS" around her neck, a situation that prompts Reta to uncover what drove her daughter to her new existence.

Silver, Marisa

MARY COIN

The interweaving stories of the young mother portrayed in an iconic Depression-era photograph, and the daring woman behind the camera.

Simonson, Helen

MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND

Forced to confront the realities of life in the twenty-first century when he falls in love with Pakistani widow Mrs. Ali, Major Pettigrew finds the relationship challenged by local prejudices that view Mrs. Ali, a Cambridge native, as a perpetual foreigner.

Skloot, Rebecca

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

Smith, Ali

THE ACCIDENTAL

Talking her way into the Norfolk cottage that the Smart family is renting for the summer, Amber, an enigmatic con artist, insinuates herself into the lives of the family, forcing them to reexamine the events of their lives through her perceptions.

Smith, Patti

JUST KIDS

An artist and musician recounts her romance, lifetime friendship, and shared

love of art with Robert Mapplethorpe, in a memoir that includes such influential artists as Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsberg, Andy Warhol, and William Burroughs.

Soueif, Ahdaf

THE MAP OF LOVE

At the end of the twentieth century, Isabel Parkman, a divorced American journalist, journeys to Egypt to unravel the truth behind her ancestor, an English widow who, in 1901, fell in love with an Egyptian man.

Stockett, Kathryn

THE HELP

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.

Strayed, Cheryl

WILD: FROM LOST TO FOUND ON THE PACIFIC COAST TRAIL

The memoir of a young woman who, reeling from personal catastrophe, set out alone to hike over a thousand miles from the Mohave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington.

Strout, Elizabeth

AMY AND ISABELLE

When Amy Goodrow, a shy high school student, falls in love with her math teacher, the love affair threatens the intimate relationship between Amy and her mother, Isabelle, whose feelings are influenced by the shame of her own past.

Strout, Elizabeth

THE BURGESS BOYS

Two brothers, both lawyers, come together in a small Maine town to defend their troubled nephew.

Strout, Elizabeth

OLIVE KITTERIDGE

The world of Olive Kitteridge, a retired school teacher in a small coastal town in Maine, is revealed in stories that explore her diverse roles in many lives, including a lounge singer haunted by a past love, her stoic husband, and her own resentful son.

Suri, Manil

THE DEATH OF VISHNU

In a novel that incorporates elements of Hindu mythology, an apartment building becomes a metaphor for the divisions and cultural clashes of modern India.

Taylor, Peter Hillsman

A SUMMONS TO MEMPHIS

Philip has a new life in New York but is returned to the petty meddling of his family when his two spinster sisters call upon him to help them ruin their eighty-one-year-old father's wedding plans.

Trevor, William

THE STORY OF LUCY GAULT

A novel set in Ireland in the 1920s charts the progress of a young girl whose entire life seems to be falling apart when the threat of arson drives the family from their country home.

Tsukiyama, Gail

THE SAMURAI'S GARDEN

Shortly before World War II, a Chinese man, sent to Japan to recover from tuberculosis, meets a lovely Japanese girl and four older residents, in a story of

passion and sacrifice.

Tyler, Anne

THE AMATEUR MARRIAGE

Marrying quickly during World War II after falling in love at first sight, a mismatched couple discovers that their different personalities and approaches to life are taking a toll on their relationship and their family.

Tyler, Anne

BACK WHEN WE WERE GROWNUPS

Beck Davitch looks back on her thirty-year marriage to Joe and her role as a mother and manager of the Open Arms, wondering if she is living the life she was meant to live and reconsidering her dedication to the family business.

Tyler, Anne

DIGGING TO AMERICA

A chance encounter between two families--the Donaldsons, and the Iranian-born Yasdans--at the Baltimore airport, as both couples await the arrival of an adopted daughter from Korea, prompts an examination about what it means to be an American while the lives of the two families intertwine over the years.

Verghese, Abraham

CUTTING FOR STONE

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

Waldman, Amy

THE SUBMISSION

A jury in Manhattan convenes to select a memorial for the victims of 9/11, and the designer of the winning entry is an American Muslim. Controversy follows.

Walls, Jeannette

THE GLASS CASTLE

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.

Watson, Larry

MONTANA 1948

A series of events in a small western town changes the lives of David Hayden, his sheriff father, his mother, and their Sioux housekeeper, as they discover the truth about family loyalty.

Wharton, Edith

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

As Newland Archer prepares to marry docile May Welland, the return of the mysterious Countess Olenska turns his life upside down.

Revised 02/03/2016

through May 2016