



BOOK CLUB IN A BAG

- 1 A service for members of the Neptune Library
- 2 Reading groups can borrow 8 copies for a title for 8 weeks, including discussion questions, reviews , and author information.
- 3 No items will be checked-in until the entire set is returned to the library (8 books, folder and bag). Fines will be charged for overdue materials.

CURRENT 177 TITLES (updated on 10/29/21)

[A Lesson Before Dying](#) (257 pages)

Fiction

By Ernest J. Gaines

An "enormously moving" novel of one man condemned to die for a crime he did not commit and a young man who visits him in his cell...

[The Accidental Empress](#) (512 page)

Fiction

Allison Pataki

The little-known and tumultuous love story of "Sisi" the Austro-Hungarian Empress and captivating wife of Emperor Franz Joseph.

[Accidental Tourist \(The\)](#) (329 pages)

Fiction

By Anne Tyler

A beautiful, incandescent, heartbreaking, exhilarating book... There's magic in it... comic scenes that explode with joy.

[Alexander Hamilton](#) (818 pages)

Biography

Ron Chernow

Chernow's biography is not just a portrait of Hamilton, but the story of America's birth seen through its most central figure.

[Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker](#) (608 pages)

By Stacy A. Cordery

Biography

A portrait of America's one true political princess and one of the most important and fascinating women ever in the country's public life...

[Americanah](#) (588 pages)

Fiction

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A story of love and race centered around a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices and challenges in the countries they come to call home.

[And Still We Rise](#) (412 pages)

Non-Fiction

By Miles Corwin

An unforgettable story of how twelve students manage to transcend obstacles that would dash the hopes of any but the most exceptional spirits.

[And the Mountains Echoed](#) (421 pages)

Fiction

By Khaled Hosseini

Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most.

[Angela's Ashes](#) (362 pages)

Non-Fiction

By Frank McCourt

A powerful, exquisitely written debut, a recollection of the author's miserable childhood in the slums of Limerick, Ireland, during the Depression and WW II.

[An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England](#) (305 pages)

Fiction

By Brock Clarke

A delightfully dark story of Sam Pulsifer, the 'accidental arsonist and murderer' narrator who leads readers through a multilayered, flame-filled adventure about literature, lies, love and life....

- Anna Karenina** (864 pages) Fiction
 By: Leo Tolstoy Richard Pevear
 Tragedy unfolds as Anna rejects her passionless marriage and must endure the hypocrisies of society. Set against a vast and richly textured canvas of nineteenth-century Russia.
- The art of hearing heartbeats** (325 pages) Fiction
 By Jan-phillip Sendker
 A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma which spans the decades between the 1950s and the present.
- The Art of Racing in the Rain** (336 pages) Fiction
 By: Garth Stein
 A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty and hope, captivating look at the wonders and absurdities of human life . . . as only a dog could tell it.
- The Aviator's Wife** (402 pages) Fiction
 By *Melanie Benjamin*
 A vividly imagined novel of a complicated marriage-revealing both its dizzying highs and its devastating lows. With stunning power and grace, Melanie Benjamin provides new insight into what made this remarkable relationship endure.
- Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress** (184 pages) Fiction
 By *Dai Sijie* (Author), *Ina Rilke* (Translator)
 Part historical novel, part fable, part love story, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* is a moving testament to the transformative power of literature.
-  **Becoming** (441 pages) Non-Fiction
 Michelle Obama
 Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.
- Before You Know Kindness** (448 pages) Fiction
 by Chris Bohjalian
 A family saga that is timely in its examination of some of the most important issues of our era, and timeless in its exploration of the strange and unexpected places where we find love.
- Belcanto** (352 pages) Fiction
 By: Ann Patchett
 Joined by no common language except music, the 58 international hostages and their captors forge unexpected bonds.
- Beneath a Scarlet Sky** (513 pages) Fiction
 by Mark Sullivan
 A triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours.
- Blood, Bones, and Butter: The Inadvertent Education of a Reluctant Chef** (291 pages) Biography
 By Gabrielle Hamilton
 "I stopped making the memoir about my goddamn self. I brought everything I knew about being a chef, cooking, and the service industry to the project of writing a book."
-  **The Book of Longings** (406 pages) Fiction
 by Sue Monk Kidd
 An inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her.
- The Book Thief** (551 pages) Fiction
 by Markus Zusak
 It's just a small story really, about among other things: a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery.
-  **The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** (308 pages) Fiction
 Kim Michele Richardson
 A story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere—even back home.
- Bossypant** (272 pages) Nonfiction
 By Tina Fey
 Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update," before "Sarah Palin," Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher.

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Daniel James Brown (375 pages)

Nonfiction

An unforgettable portrait of an era, a celebration of a remarkable achievement, and a chronicle of one extraordinary young man's personal quest.

Brat Farrar (288 pages)

By Josephine Tey

Mystery

Brat Farrar has been carefully coached to assume the identity of Patrick Ashby, heir to the Ashby fortune who disappeared when he was 13.

Bride Flight (441 pages)

By Marieke van der Pol

Fiction

It is a story about emigration, and the hope and promise of a better life that the southern lands held after the war in Europe.

Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy, and Hard Times (352 pages)

By Jennifer Worth

Biography

The author became a midwife at age 22, learning her trade in the 1950s from the nun midwives at the convent of St. Raymund Nonnatus and working among impoverished women in the slums of the London Docklands.

Can't Wait to Get to Heaven (375 pages)

By Fannie Flagg

Comedy/mystery

Heaven is actually right here, right now, with people you love, neighbors you help, friendships you keep.

The Circle (491 pages)

by Dave Eggers

Fiction

The captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.

Circling the Sun (352 pages)

Paula McLain

Fiction

Set against the majestic landscape of early-twentieth-century Africa, McLain's powerful tale reveals the extraordinary adventures of a woman before her time...

City of Dreams: a Novel of Early Manhattan (592 pages)

By Beverly Swerling

Fiction

The novel begins in 1661 when Lucas Turner, a barber-surgeon, and his sister, Sally Turner, an apothecary, arrive in the Dutch settlement of Nieuw Amsterdam to start a new life.

Clara and Mr. Tiffany (397 pages)

by Susan Vreeland

Fiction

The story of one extraordinary woman's passion and determination... Vreeland's ability to make this complex historical novel as luminous as a Tiffany lamp is nothing less than remarkable.

Commonwealth (322 pages)

Ann Patchett,

Fiction

The enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives.

Crocodile Bird (374 pages)

By Ruth Rendell

Mystery

Liza's sheltered, strange world begins to fall apart. Piece by piece she will reveal her mother's tale of betrayal, desire, and obsession. Step-by-step we discover how much like mother, like daughter she is.

Crooked Heart (282 pages)

Lissa Evans

Fiction

Paper Moon meets the Blitz in this original black comedy, set in World War II England, chronicling an unlikely alliance between a small time con artist and a young orphan evacuee

Cutting for Stone (688 pages)

by Abraham Verghese

Fiction

An unforgettable story of love and betrayal, compassion and redemption, exile and home that unfolds across five decades in India, Ethiopia, and America.

The Devil in the White City (432 pages)

Erik Larson

Non-fiction

Larson does a superb job outlining this "ineluctable conflict between good and evil, daylight and darkness" Gripping drama, captured with a reporter's nose for a good story and a novelist's flair for telling it.

- The Doctor's Wife*** (352 pages) Fiction
 By Elizabeth Brundage
 Set against the backdrop of the battle for abortion rights, the Knowles' storybook marriage takes a number of dark, twisted turns, but the lack of character nuance and depth blunt Brundage's stab at psychological suspense
- Dreaming in Cuban*** (272 pages) Fiction
 By Cristina Garcia
 The novel's central themes include family relationships, exile, the divisiveness of politics, and memory. Cuban history and culture are important in the novel.
- Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*** (325 pages) Fiction
 Gail Honeyman
 Smart, warm, uplifting, *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* is the story of an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes.
- The Elegance of the Hedgehog*** (321 pages) Fiction
 Muriel Barbery
 A beautiful story with a large cast of fascinating, complicated characters whose behavior is delightfully unpredictable.
- The European Dream*** (434 pages) Non-fiction
 By Jeremy Rifkin
 The European Dream may come to define the new century as the American Dream defined the century now past.
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven*** (196 pages) Fiction
 By Mitch Albom
 Heaven is not a destination - it's a place where your life is explained to you by five people, some of whom you knew, others who may have been strangers.
- Flight Behavior*** (433 pages) Fiction
 By Barbara Kingsolver
 One of the more thoughtful novels about the scientific, financial and psychological intricacies of climate change.
- Forgiving Ararat*** (404 pages) Fiction
 By Gita Nazareth
 With mythical prose at times approaching verse, *Forgiving Ararat* works a miracle, bridging the chasm between life and death.
- Forgotten Garden*** (552 pages) Fiction
 By Kate Morten
 This is a novel of outer and inner journeys and an homage to the power of storytelling. *The Forgotten Garden* is filled with unforgettable characters who weave their way through its spellbinding plot to astounding effect
- The Friday Night Knitting Club*** (348 pages) Fiction
 By Kate Jacobs
 A charming and moving novel about female friendship and the experiences that knit us together-even when we least expect it.
- A Gentleman in Moscow*** (462 pages) Fiction
 By Amor Towles
 This singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.
- Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire*** (456 pages) Biography
 By Amanda Foreman
 Sex, intrigue and adultery in the world of high politics and huge wealth in late eighteenth-century England. Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire was one of the most flamboyant and influential women ...
- The Girl on the Train*** (323 pages) Fiction
 By Paula Hawkins
 A debut psychological thriller that will forever change the way you look at other people's lives
- The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*** (590 pages) Fiction
 By: Stieg Larsson
 Combine the chilly Swedish backdrop and moody psychodrama of a Bergman movie with the grisly pyrotechnics of a serial-killer thriller...
- The Girl Who Played With Fire*** (630 pages) Fiction
 By: Stieg Larsson
 Salander herself is drawn into a murderous hunt in which she is the prey, and which compels her to revisit her dark past in an effort to settle with it once and for all.

- The Given Day** (702 pages) Fiction
By Dennis Lehane
Unflinchingly captures the political and social unrest of a nation caught at the cross-roads between past and future.
- The Glass Castle** (288 pages) Non-Fiction
By: Jeannette Walls
A story of triumph against all odds, but also a tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that despite its profound flaws gave her the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.
- Gone Girl** (418 pages) Fiction
By Gillian Flynn
Marriage can be a real killer. One of the most critically acclaimed suspense writers of our time, New York Times bestseller Gillian Flynn takes that statement to its darkest place in this masterpiece about a marriage gone terribly, terribly wrong.
- The Gown : A Novel of the Royal Wedding** (371 pages) Fiction
by Jennifer Robson
Told through the eyes of three compelling women, *The Gown* is a heartwarming story of friendship, resilience, and the power of heirlooms to connect people through generations
- The Grapes of Wrath** (464 pages) Fiction
By John Steinbeck
Set during the Great Depression, the novel focuses on a poor family, the Joads, driven from their home by drought, economic hardship, and changes in the agriculture industry.
- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** (290 pages) Fiction
By Mary A. Shaffer
The tragic stories of life under Nazi occupation that animate the novel and gives it its urgency; furthermore, the novel explores the darker side of human nature without becoming maudlin.
- Hannah's Dream** (319 pages) Fiction
By Diane Hammond
The heart of the story is the life of Max L. Biedelman Zoo and the employees, notably Samson Brown that cares for a lone Asian elephant, Hannah
- The Help** (530 pages) Fiction
By Kathryn Stockett
A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.
- Homer & Langley** (208 pages) Fiction
E.L. Doctorow
A small but sweeping masterpiece about the infamous New York hermits, the Collyer brothers.
- Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** (290 pages) Fiction
By: Jamie Ford, 2009
An extraordinary story of commitment and enduring hope. In Henry and Keiko, Jamie Ford has created an unforgettable duo whose story teaches us of the power of forgiveness and the human heart.
- How to Be a Woman** (301 pages) Non-fiction
By Caitlin Moran
The reasons why female rights and empowerment are essential issues not only for women today but also for society itself.
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** (378) Non-fiction
by *Rebecca Skloot*
Intimate in feeling, astonishing in scope, and impossible to put down, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences
- In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin** (448 pages) Non-fiction
By: *Erik Larson*
The time is 1933, the place, Berlin, when William E. Dodd becomes America's first ambassador to Hitler's Germany in a year that proved to be a turning point in history.
- In the Lake of the Woods** (320 pages) Fiction
By Tim O'Brien
A politician's career is ruined overnight by revelations of his wartime participation in a village massacre in Vietnam while his personal life is undone by the sudden disappearance of his wife.

- In the Time of the Butterflies*** (352 pages) Fiction
by Julia Alvarez
Through the art and magic of Julia Alvarez's imagination, the martyred Butterflies live again in this novel of courage and love, and the human cost of political oppression.
- Infidel*** (353 pages) Biography
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.
- The Indian Bride*** (310 pages) Mystery
By Karin Fossum
An irresistible page-turner that's like a Nordic Sherlock Holmes story, with characters by Bergman and blood by Tarantino.
- The Invention of Wings*** (359 pages) Fiction
By Sue Monk Kidd
A moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery..... While their pain and struggle cannot be equated, both women strive to be set free
-  ***Jane Eyre*** (589 pages) Fiction
Charlotte Brontë
A simple romance: a young girl, brought low by circumstance and wins the love of a wealthy, accomplished man. This is a story of passionate love, travail and final triumph.
- The Japanese Lover*** (322 pages) Fiction
Isabel Allende
An exquisitely crafted love story and multigenerational epic that sweeps from San Francisco in the present-day to Poland and the United States during the Second World
- The King of Lies*** (432 pages) Mystery
by John Hart
Murder and the dark ripples it sends through a man, his family and community, Work fights to save his sister, clear his name, and regain the love of the woman to whom he gave his heart so many years before.
- The King's Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy*** (242 pages) Non-fiction
By Mark Logue and Peter Conradi
When God couldn't save the King, The Queen turned to someone who could
- The Kitchen Boy - A Novel of the Last Tsar*** (240 pages) Fiction
by Robert Alexander
Seen through the youthful, astonished eyes of Leonka but told by the cynical, misanthropic voice of Misha, the novel allows the reader to know a family that discovered greater nobility in its squalid exile than it had ever known.
- The Kitchen House*** (384 pages) Fiction
By Kathleen Grissom
When a white servant girl violates the order of plantation society, she unleashes a tragedy that exposes the worst and best in the people she has come to call her family.
- The Lacuna*** (507 pages) Fiction
by Barbara Kingsolver
A poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.
- The Ladies Auxiliary*** (311 pages) Fiction
by Tova Mirvis
Warm and wise, enchanting and funny, *The Ladies Auxiliary* brilliantly illuminates the timeless struggle between mothers and daughters, family and self, religious freedom and personal revelation, honoring the past and facing the future.
- The Language of Flower*** (320 pages) Fiction
By Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Creating a vivid portrait of an unforgettable woman whose gift for flowers helps her change the lives of others even as she struggles to overcome her own troubled past.
- The Last Runaway*** (305 pages) Fiction
By Tracy Chevalier
A powerful journey brimming with color and drama, and vivid engagement with an iconic part of American history.

- [*Let the Great World Spin*](#) (360 pages) Fiction
By Colum McCann
The critically acclaimed author's most ambitious novel yet: a dazzlingly rich vision of the pain, loveliness, mystery, and promise of New York City in the 1970s.
- [*The Liars' Club*](#) (336 pages) Non-fiction
By: Mary Karr
With a raw authenticity stripped of self-pity and a poet's eye for the lyrical detail, Karr shows us a "terrific family of liars and drunks ... redeemed by a slow unearthing of truth."
- [*The Life She Was Given*](#) (341 page) Fiction
Ellen Marie Wiseman
A vivid, daring novel about the devastating power of family secrets—beginning in the poignant, lurid world of a Depression-era traveling circus and coming full circle in the transformative 1950s.
- [*The Light Between Oceans*](#) (343 pages) Fiction
By: M.L.Stedman
This is the story of its terrible consequences. But it is also a description of the extraordinary, sustaining power of a marriage to bind two people together in love, through the most emotionally harrowing circumstances.
- [*Lilac Girls*](#) (502 pages) Fiction
Martha Hall Kelly
A remarkable novel of unsung women and their quest for love, freedom, and second chances.
- [*Little Bee*](#) (288 pages) Fiction
By: Chris Cleave
The lives of Sarah and Little Bee violently collided on a beach in Nigeria, and when sheer determination and courage bring them back together again every secret of their hearts is unfolded before our eyes.
- [*The Little Paris Book Store*](#) (416 pages) Fiction
By Nina George
A love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives.
- [*Lolita*](#) (317 pages) Fiction
By: Vladimir Nabokov
Nabokov's *Lolita* was originally published in 1955 and immediately became embroiled in its own censorship battles. The story is admittedly, purposefully, a shocking one
- [*Lot of Candles, Plenty of Cake*](#) (182 pages) Biography
By Anna Quindlen
Anna Quindlen writes about looking back and ahead—and celebrating it all—as she considers marriage, girlfriends, our mothers, faith, loss, all the stuff in our closets, and more.
- [*Lottery*](#) (318 pages) Fiction
By: Patricia Wood
Patricia Wood's *Lottery* offers a glimpse of the world as seen through the eyes of a man with limited cognitive abilities but boundless generosity of spirit.
- [*Loving Frank*](#) (400 pages) Fiction
by Nancy Horan
In 1903, Mamah Borthwick Cheney and her husband, Edwin, had commissioned the renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright to design a new home for them. During the construction, a powerful attraction developed ...
- [*Luncheon of the Boating Party*](#) (434 pages) Fiction
Susan Vreeland
Parisians were bursting with a desire for pleasure and a yearning to create something extraordinary out of life. Renoir shared these urges and took on this most challenging project at a time of personal crises in art and love
- [*The Magician*](#) (315 pages) Mystery
By D.A.Pupa
Frank Sorello retires from the Bureau only to be drawn back into the game after a bestselling novel by a new author raises suspicions about details inside the book
- [*A Man Called Ove*](#) (337 pages) Fiction
Fredrik Backman,
About the angry old man next door is a thoughtful and charming exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

- The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit*** (368 pages) Biography
By Lucette Lagnado
An inversion of the American dream set against the stunning portraits of three world cities, Lucette Lagnado's memoir offers a grand and sweeping story of faith, tradition, tragedy, and triumph.
- Maisie Dobbs*** (294 pages) Mystery
Jacqueline Winspear
A refreshing heroine, appealing secondary characters and an absorbing plot, marred only by a somewhat bizarre conclusion.
- Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*** (365pp) Fiction
By *Helen Simonson*
This thoroughly charming novel wraps Old World sensibility around a story of multicultural conflict involving two widowed people who assume they're done with love.
- Me Before You*** (400 pages) Fiction
by Jojo Moyes
A heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?
- The Mighty Queens of Freeville*** (225 pages) Non-Fiction
By Amy Dickinson
Through hilarious anecdotes and poignant insight, Dickinson describes the many detours she's made on the road that took her back to her hometown of Freeville, New York
- Mister Pip*** (272 pages) Fiction
By Lloyd Jones
Lloyd Jones's breathtaking novel shows what magic a child's imagination makes possible even in the face of terrible violence and what power stories have to fuel the imagination.
- The Moonflower Vine*** (318 pages) Fiction
By Jetta Carleton
Jetta Carleton's autobiographical novel captures the mood and times of Midwestern rural life and brings it to life.
- The Moonstone*** (415pages) Fiction
By Wilkie Collins
Is a 19th-century British epistolary novel, generally considered the first detective novel in the English Language.
- Mrs. Bridge*** (240 pages) Fiction
By Evan S. Connell
Evan Connell paints a sympathetic but fairly condescending portrait of Mrs. Bridge as she fights to hold back the tide of these changes...The novels remain in the memory as triumphs of faultless realism.
- Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*** (356 pages) Fiction
Jennifer Chiaverine
the friendship that blossomed between Mary Todd Lincoln and her seamstress, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Keckley, a former slave who gained her professional reputation in Washington, D.C. by outfitting the city's elite.
- The Mudbound*** (328 pages) Fiction
By Hillary Jordan
A gripping and exquisitely rendered story of forbidden love, betrayal, and murder, set against the brutality of the Jim Crow South.
- My Beloved World*** (432 pages) Nonfiction
By Sonia Sotomayor
The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court and has become an instant American icon.
- News of the World*** (209 pages) Fiction
Paulette Jiles
A brilliant work of historical fiction that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust.
- Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting by in America*** (240 pages) Nonfiction
By Barb Ehrenreich
Critic Barbara Ehrenreich did what millions of Americans do, she looked for a job and a place to live, worked that job, and tried to make ends meet.
- The Nightingale*** (567 pages) Fiction
Kristin Hannah
A heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

Nineteen Minutes (451)

Fiction

Jodi Picoult

A riveting, poignant, and thought-provoking novel that has at its center a haunting question. Do we ever really know someone?



Olive, Again (301 pages)

Fiction

By: Elizabeth Strout

Strout again demonstrates her gift for zeroing in on ordinary moments in the lives of ordinary people to highlight their extraordinary resilience.

Olive Kitteridge (285 pages)

Fiction

By: Elizabeth Strout

Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplors the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her...

On Beauty (464 pages)

Fiction

By: Zadie Smith

A hilarious, scathing, and emotionally profound novel of human aspiration and failure, an unfailingly perceptive portrait of a struggling marriage, and an empathetic depiction of adolescent struggle.



The Only Woman in the Room (315 pages)

Fiction

By Marie Benedict

A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication.

The Orchardist (426 pages)

Fiction

Amanda Coplin

William Talmadge, a man who disrupts the lonely harmony of an ordered life when he opens his heart and lets the world in.

The Orchid House (464 pages)

Fiction

By: Lucinda Riley

Spanning from the 1930s to the present day, this sweeping novel tells the tale of a concert pianist and the aristocratic Crawford family, whose shocking secrets are revealed, leading to devastating consequences.

Orphan Train (304 pages)

Fiction

by Christina Baker Kline

A powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of unexpected friendship, and the secrets we carry that keep us from finding out who we are.

The Outcast (345 pages)

Fiction

By: Sadie Jones

Set very firmly in the 1950s the book opens with the atmospheric homecoming of a nineteen-year-old Lewis after a spell in jail.

Outliers – The Story of Success (299pages)

Non-Fiction

by Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell leaves us pondering the gifts of our own history, and how the world could benefit if more of our kids were granted the opportunities to fulfill their remarkable potential

Out Stealing Horses (256 pages)

Fiction

by Per Petterson

Trond Sander, a widower nearing seventy, moves to a bare house in remote eastern Norway, seeking the life of quiet contemplation that he has always longed for.



Paris in the Present Tense (394 pages)

Fiction

by Mark Helprin

Seventy-four-year-old Jules Lacour — a maître at Paris-Sorbonne, cellist, widower, veteran of the war in Algeria, and child of the Holocaust — must find a balance between his strong obligations to the past and the attractions and beauties of life and love in the present.

Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint

Non-Fiction

By Nadia Bolz-Weber (206 pages)

Wildly entertaining and deeply resonant, this book is for every thinking misfit suspicious of institutionalized religion, but who is still seeking transcendence and mystery

People of the Book (371 pages)

Fiction

By Geraldine Brooks

When Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book conservator, finds a butterfly wing, a salt crystal, a white hair, and bloodstains in the recently rediscovered Sarajevo Haggadah, she sets out to solve the mystery of the book's origins.

The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane (384pp)

Fiction

by Katherine Howe

The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane travels seamlessly between the trials in the 1690s, and a modern woman's story of mystery, intrigue, and revelation.

Purple Hibiscus (307 pages)

Fiction

by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

This impressive first novel is redolent in its depiction of the Nigerian countryside and generates a palpable narrative tension over what's to become of Kambili and Jaja's newfound sense of freedom

The Queen's Fool (512 pages)

Fiction

By Philippa Gregory

The novel chronicles the changing fortunes of Mary I of England and her half-sister Elizabeth through the eyes of the fictional Hannah Green, a Marrano girl escaping to England from Spain...



The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women (475 pages)

Non-fiction

By Kate Moore

Fully illuminates the inspiring young women exposed to the "wonder" substance of radium, and their awe-inspiring strength in the face of almost impossible circumstances.

Rise of the Rocket Girls: (352 pages)

Non-fiction

The Women Who Propelled Us, from Missiles to the Moon to Mars

by: Nathalia Holt

The riveting true story of the women who launched America into space.

A Reliable Wife (304 pages)

Fiction

By Robert Goolrick

Set in 1907, about icy duplicity and heated vengeance.... A sublime murder ballad that doesn't turn out at all the way one might expect...

Riding Lesson (416 pages)

Fiction

By Sara Gruen

A devastating accident that ends both the career of an Olympic-contender equestrienne and the life of her beloved horse sets off a chain of events that comes to a crisis point nearly twenty years later...

Room (321 pages)

Fiction

By: Emma Donoghue

Told entirely in the language of the energetic, pragmatic five-year-old Jack, *Room* is a celebration of resilience and the limitless bond between parent and child,

Rules of Civility (324 pages)

Fiction

By Amor Towels

Set in New York City in 1938, *Rules of Civility* tells the story of a watershed year in the life of an uncompromising twenty-five-year-old named Katey Kontent.

Run (320 pages)

Fiction

By Ann Patchett

While mainly a domestic drama, *Run* also touches on larger themes—such as social exclusion, privilege, and obligation; politics; and religion and the afterlife.

Sarah's Key (320 pages)

Fiction

By Tatiana de Rosnay

Journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah...

Saving CeeCee Honeycutt (306 pages)

Fiction

By: Beth Hoffman

It is a novel that explores the indomitable strengths of female friendship and gives us the story of a young girl who loses one mother and finds many others.

The Secret Keeper (481 pages)

Fiction

by Kate Morton

It is the secret history of three strangers from vastly different worlds—Dorothy, Vivien, and Jimmy—who meet by chance in wartime London and whose lives are forever entwined.

[Secret Life of CeeCee Wilkes](#) (496 pages)

Fiction

By: Diane Chamberlai

In 1977, pregnant Genevieve Russell disappeared. Twenty years later, her remains are discovered and Timothy Gleason is charged with murder. But there is no sign of the unborn child.



[The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo](#) (389 pages)

Fiction

Taylor Jenkins Reid

A mesmerizing journey through the splendor of old Hollywood into the harsh realities of the present day as two women struggle with what it means—and what it costs—to face the truth.

[The Shack](#) (256 pages)

Fiction

By William P. Young

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant "The Shack" wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?"

[The Shadow of the Wind](#) (496 pages.)

Mystery

By Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Lucia Graves (trans.), 2001

A boy mourning the loss of his mother finds solace in his love for an extraordinary book called *The Shadow of the Wind*, by an author named Julian Carax.

[Shanghai Girls](#) (314 pages)

Fiction

By Lisa See

Is a story of sisters: Pearl and May are inseparable best friends who share hopes, dreams, and a deep connection, but like sisters everywhere they also harbor petty jealousies and rivalries.

[The Shipping News](#) (337 pages)

Fiction

Annie Proulx

The novel is much more than Quoyle's story: it is a moving evocation of a place and people buffeted by nature and change

[Shoemaker's Wife](#) (476 pages)

Fiction

By Adriana Trigiani

A portrait of the times, the places and the people who defined the immigrant experience, claiming their portion of the American dream with ambition and resolve, cutting it to fit their needs like the finest Italian silk.

[Six Years](#)

By Harlan Coben (464 pages)

Mystery

Jake's search for the woman who broke his heart puts his very life at risk, as he uncovers the secrets and lies that love can hide...

[The Snow Child](#) (391 pages)

Fiction

By Eowyn Ivey

A modern retelling of the Russian fairy tale about a girl, made from snow by a childless couple, who comes to life.

[Snow in August](#) (372 pages)

Fiction

by Pete Hamill

This poignant tale revolves around two of the most endearing characters in recent fiction: an 11-year-old Irish Catholic boy named Michael Devlin and Rabbi Judah Hirsch, a refugee from Prague.

[The Sparrow](#) (516 pages)

Sci-fi

by Mary Doria Russell

A science-fiction novel that follows the life of Father Emilio Sandoz, a Jesuit priest, and his friends, as they prepare for and then embark on a journey to the planet Rakhat.

[State of Wonder](#) (353 pages)

Fiction

by Ann Patchett

Is a world unto itself, where unlikely beauty stands beside unimaginable loss. It is a tale that leads the reader into the very heart of darkness, and then shows us what lies on the other side.

[Still Alice](#)

by Lisa Genova (320 pages)

Fiction

A compelling debut novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease. Still Alice captures in remarkable detail what's it's like to literally lose your mind...

[Suite Française](#) (448 pages)

Fiction

By Irene Nemirovsky

Suite Française, written as Nazi tanks rolled across France, captures the chaos, fear, humiliation, and the courage of the French, as well as portraying the complex emotions that developed between occupier and occupied.

- Swamplandia!** (400 pages) Fiction
 By *Karen Russell*
 An utterly singular novel about a family's struggle to stay afloat in a world that is inexorably sinking.
- Sweeping Up Glass** (317 pages) Fiction
 By Carolyn Wall
 A tough and tender novel of love, race, and justice, and a ferocious, unflinching look at the power of family.
- Sycamore Row** (642 pages) Fiction
 John Grisham
 Now we return to that famous courthouse in Clanton as Jake Brigance once again finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial-a trial that will expose old racial tensions and force Ford County to confront its tortured history.
- Taking The Leap** (128 pages) Non-Fiction
 By Pema Chödrön
 Teacher Chödrön applies Buddhist wisdom to the problems of deeply ingrained reactions. It seems to speak directly to the angst we are currently facing.
- Tallgrass** (336 pages) Fiction
 By Sandra Dallas
 Rennie Stroud has just turned thirteen and the winds of change are coming and, with them, a shift in her perspective. And Rennie will discover secrets that can destroy even the most sacred things
- The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane** (371 pages) Fiction
 By Lisa See
 An unforgettable portrait of a little known region and its people and celebrates the bond that connects mothers and daughters.
- Testimony** (352 pages) Fiction
 By: Anita Shreve
 At a New England boarding school, a sex scandal is about to break. Even more shocking than the sexual acts themselves is the fact that they were caught on videotape.
- Those Who Save Us** (496 pages) Fiction
 By Jenna Blum
 Combining a passionate, doomed love story, a vivid evocation of life during the war, and a poignant mother-daughter drama,
-  **Tis: Frank McCourt Memoir** (368 pages) Non-fiction
 'Tis, the story of Frank's American journey from impoverished immigrant to brilliant teacher and raconteur
- To Kill A Mockingbird** (336 pages) Fiction
 By Harper Lee
 Funny, happy and written with unspectacular precision, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is about conscience, and how conscience crows in their small Alabama town.
- Unbroken** (406 pages) Non-Fiction
 By *Laura Hillenbrand*
 Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.
- The Uncommon Reader** (128 pages) Fiction
 By Alan Bennett
 Aided by Norman, a young man from the palace kitchen who frequents the library, Bennett describes the Queen's transformation as she discovers the liberating pleasures of the written word.
- Under The Banner Of Heaven** (390 pages) Non-Fiction
 By Jon Krakauer
 Author Jon Krakauer attempts to help readers understand why religious people perform heinous acts of violence.
- The Underground Railroad** (315 pages) Fiction
 Colson Whitehead
 A kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history.
-  **The Vengeance of Mothers** (337 pages) Fiction
Jim Fergus
 Explores what happens to the bonds between wives and husbands, children and mothers, when society sees them as "unspeakable."

The Warmth of Other Suns:

The Epic Story of America's Great Migration (543pages)

Non-Fiction

By Isabel Wilkerson

One of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

Watchers (611 pages)

Fiction

By Dean Kootz

A “superior thriller” about a man, a dog, and a terrifying threat that could only have come from the imagination

What is the What (538 pages)

Fiction

By Dave Eggers

Tells a devastating story but never plays for sympathy. Instead, the hope, complexity, and tragedy of the situation take center stage.

The Way the Crow Flies (848 pages)

Fiction

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

The optimism of the early sixties, infused with the excitement of the space race and the menace of the Cold War, is filtered through the rich imagination of high-spirited, eight-year-old Madeleine

When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present (471 pages)

Non- Fiction

By: Gail Collins

About five crucial decades of progress, told with the down-to-earth, amusing, and agenda-free tone this beloved *New York Times* columnist is known for.

Where'd You Go Bernadette (330 page)

Fiction

By Maria Semple

A modern-day comic caper full of heart and ingenuity....a compelling composite of a woman's life-and the way she's viewed by the many people who share it



Where the Crawdads Sing (391 pages)

Fiction

by Delia Owens

This fierce and hauntingly beautiful novel centers on Kya’s heartbreaking story of learning to trust human connections, intertwine[d] with a gripping murder mystery, revealing savage truths

The Whistler (424 pages)

Fiction

John Grisham

We expect our judges to be honest and wise. Their integrity is the bedrock of the entire judicial system. But what happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe?

The Whistling Season (345 pages)

Fiction

By Ivan Doig

A paean to a vanished way of life and the eccentric individuals and idiosyncratic institutions that made it fertile

The White Tiger (304 pages)

Fiction

By: Aravind Adiga

In this darkly comic debut novel set in India, Balram, a chauffeur, murders his employer, justifying his crime as the act of a "social entrepreneur.”

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail (315 pages)

Biography

By Cheryl Strayed

A powerful, blazingly honest memoir: the story of an eleven-hundred-mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe—and built her back up again.

Wolf Hall (604 pages)

Fiction

By Hilary Mantel

The novel re-creates an era when the personal and political are separated by a hairbreadth, where success brings unlimited power but a single failure means death.

Zookeeper's Wife (368 pages)

Non-fiction

By: Diana Ackerman

Here is a true story—of human empathy and its opposite—that is simultaneously grave and exuberant, wise and playful. Ackerman has a wonderful tale to tell, and she tells it wonderfully.