

THE GREAT BOOKS 2008-2022



Here they are: the 214 books designated by women readers as “Great Books—Because Women Say So!” in the years from 2008 through 2022.

The 64 titles that are marked with a ★ are books that have been chosen by two or more groups. We call them the “Greatest of the Great,” and we’ve included images of their covers where possible.

We hope you find here information, ideas and inspiration to stimulate both your personal reading and your book group activities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

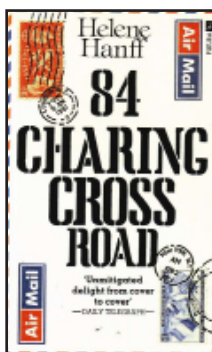
By title, annotated	2
By author	35
By genre	45

THE GREAT BOOKS 2008-2022



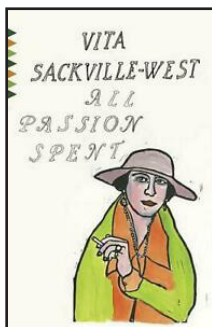
This list of Great Books—“Because Women Say So!” contains 214 titles, chosen by readers in BookWomen book groups, reading retreats and book trips during the years from 2008 to the present.

The 64 titles that are marked with a ★ are books that have been chosen by two or more groups. We call them the “Greatest of the Great,” and we’ve included images of their covers when possible.



★ **84 Charing Cross Road**, Helene Hanff, (1970). A 20-year correspondence between a freelance writer in New York City and the chief buyer of an antiquarian bookseller in London England. Although they never met, they share a deep friendship based on their love of books.

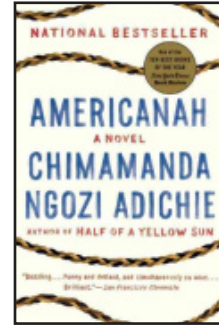
After the Parade, Lori Ostlund, (2015). Aaron Englund leaves his longtime partner in New Mexico for a new life in San Francisco and embarks on a tragicomic road trip into the mysteries of his Midwestern childhood. Ostlund offers an openhearted contemplation of how we can turn our deepest wounds into our greatest strengths



★ **All Passion Spent**, Vita Sackville-West, (1931). When Lord Slane dies, all assume his dutiful wife will live quietly with her children. Lady Slane, however, has other ideas as she revels in her new freedom. Irreverent and entertaining, this is a tale of the unexpected joys of growing older.

Alliance, S. K. Dunstall, (2016). Captain Wang lost everything—her ship, her crew, her legs. But teamed with another captain, she discovers some world-changing secrets. Not everyone wants the secrets known and will do whatever it takes to stop them.

★ **Americanah**, Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie, (2013). the story of two Nigerians making their way in the U.S. and the UK, raising universal questions of race, belonging, the overseas experience for the African diaspora, and the search for identity and a home. A story of race, identity and love.



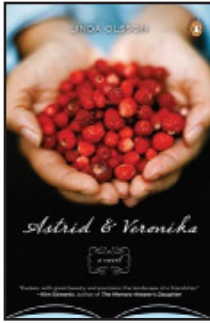
Angelology, Danielle Trussoni, (2010). A well-crafted adventure into untold realms of imagination, religion, and history. Meticulously researched, this novel weaves Western theology with ancient myth in a way that will make readers question what they think they know about angels.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life, Barbara Kingsolver, (2007). Kingsolver and her family decide to abandon the industrial-food pipeline for one year. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, this book will open your eyes to an old truth: You are what you eat.

Anything Is Possible, Elizabeth Strout (2017). This short story collection explores the whole range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of small-town characters struggling to cope with love and loss.

Archangel, Sharon Shinn, (1996). Angels and mortals exist in harmony on the world of Samaria—except when they are at odds with each other and question the existence of their god.

Assassin's Apprentice, Robin Hobb, (1995). In a faraway land where members of the royal family are named for the virtues they embody, the young boy Fitz will become a walking enigma. Adopted by the royal household, Fitz must embrace a new life of weaponry, scribing, and courtly manners as he trains to become a royal assassin. First book of the Farseer Trilogy.



★ **Astrid & Veronika**, Linda Olsson, (2005). Veronika, a 32-year-old writer whose boyfriend just drowned in New Zealand, rents a house in a small Swedish village next door to recluse Astrid, 81. They share walks, meals, wine, and dangerous memories. A lyrical and meditative story of love and loss.

★ **Becoming**, Michelle Obama, (2018). In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her.



Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family, Amy Ellis Nutt, (2015). The true story of a transgender girl, her identical twin brother, and an ordinary American family's journey to understand, nurture, and celebrate the uniqueness in us all.

Behold the Dreamers, Imolo Mbue, (2016). A novel about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream—the unforgettable story of a young Cameroonian couple making a new life in New York just as the Great Recession upends the economy.

Binti: Home, Nnedi Okorafor, (2017). A complex futuristic story of identity, family, and friendship in which Binti, a young woman, returns home after one year at the best university in the galaxy.

Birth House, Ami McKay, (2006). McKay uses a rich tableau of characters to tell the story of childbirth from its most secretive early practices to modern maternity in a primitive and superstitious 20th century Nova Scotia rural community.

Blackwater, Kerstin Ekman, (1993). A thriller in which the landscape and the people in a remote part of Sweden are woven around the story of a double murder that goes unsolved for 30 years.

Bohemian Flats, Mary Relindes Ellis, (2014). Based on a real place, this story tells of a diverse immigrant community created in Minneapolis on the banks of the Mississippi, and in the telling, takes a reader to the far reaches of human experience and the depths of the human heart

Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America, Linda Lawrence Hunt (2003). In 1896 Helga Estby dared to walk unescorted with her daughter across America to win a \$10,000 wager and stave off the foreclosure of her family farm. The trip had such devastating consequences that their achievement was forgotten for nearly a century until Hunt encountered their inspirational story.

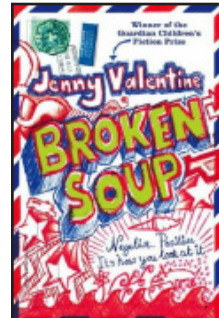
The Bookshop, Penelope Fitzgerald, (1978). A kindhearted widow with a small inheritance risks everything to open a bookshop in an English seaside town. Only too late does she begin to suspect the truth: a town that lacks a bookshop is not always a town that wants one.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants, Robin Wall Kimmerer, (2013). Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices.

Broken Colors, Michele Zackheim, (2007). A visual artist herself, Zackheim lyrically creates a haunting portrait of an indelibly scarred, yet deeply passionate woman whose art and survival become ever more tightly bound with passing years.

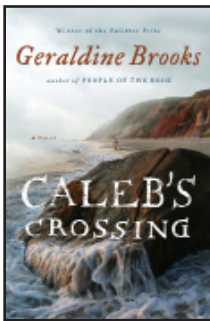
Broken for You, Stephanie Kallos, (2004). When two women in self-imposed exile cross paths, their lives are transformed forever. This witty and charming novel is a testament to the saving grace of surrogate families and how far the tiniest repair jobs can go in the righting of the world's wrongs.

★ **Broken Soup,** Jenny Valentine, (2008). Rowan has much on her plate: the death of her older brother, her father's abandonment, the escalating depression of her mother, and the care of her little sister. When a boy slips her a photographic negative, she begins a journey of discovery. A powerful and life-affirming story about grief, friendship, and healing.



Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson, (2014). In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African-American girl in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow, and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

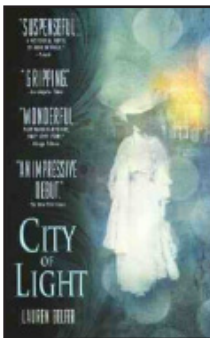
Butterflies in November, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, (2004). Blackly comic and uniquely moving, this novel is an extraordinary, and hilarious tale of motherhood, relationships, and the legacy of life's mistakes—all revealed on a road trip across Iceland.



★ **Caleb's Crossing**, Geraldine Brooks, (2011). In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Upon this slender factual scaffold, Brooks has created a luminous tale of love and faith, magic, and adventure.

The Camel Bookmobile, Masha Hamilton, (2007). This novel follows an American librarian who travels to the arid bush of northeastern Kenya to give meaning to her life, but ultimately loses a piece of her heart. Hamilton's story shows how one life can change many other lives despite dangerous and seemingly immutable obstacles.

Charms for the Easy Life, Kaye Gibbons, (1993). In an era when women usually depended on men, three women find strength in each other and their bonds deepen as each experiences love and loss during World War II. A story about embracing what life has to offer, even if it means finding it in unconventional ways.

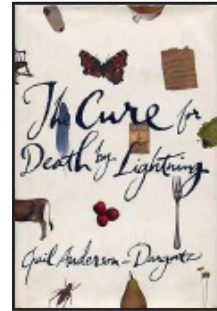


★ **City of Light**, Lauren Belfer, (1999). As headmistress of Buffalo, N.Y.'s most prestigious girls' school in 1901, Louisa is at ease in a world of men, but nothing prepares her for a startling discovery: evidence of a murder tied to the city's power plant at nearby Niagara Falls, a crime that ignites an explosive chain of events.

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail, Kathryn Ferguson, Norma Price and Ted Parks, (2010). Many undocumented persons attempt to cross the treacherous Arizona desert to find work,

join families, or start a new life. Some dies on the journey. This book collects their stories. The writers are volunteers for The Samaritans, a humanitarian group committed to assisting the travelers with medical aid, water and food.

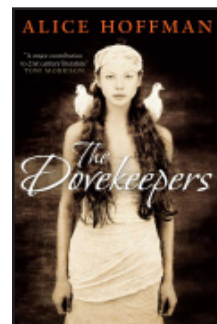
- ★ **Cure for Death by Lightning**, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, (1996). A coming-of-age story about a young woman, living with her dysfunctional family on an isolated farm in British Columbia during WWII, who struggles to find love in an emotionally barren landscape. Includes elements of native magic and myth.



- Cutting for Stone**, Abraham Verghese, (2009). The novel focuses on twin boys, born and raised in an African missionary hospital. Their story combines elements of Indian and Ethiopian language and culture, third world medicine, sexual awakening, political revolution, and foreign travel, all within a complex family drama.

- Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands**, Margaret Regan, (2010). Using Arizona as a microcosm, Regan explores a host of urgent issues: border militarization, the environmental damage wrought by the border wall, the desperation compelling migrants to come north, and the human tragedy of the unidentified dead in Arizona's morgues.

- ★ **The Dovekeepers**, Alice Hoffman, (2011). In 70 C.E., 900 Jews held out for months against the Roman army on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. Based on this iconic event, Hoffman's novel is the tale of four extraordinarily women, each of whom came to Masada by a different path.

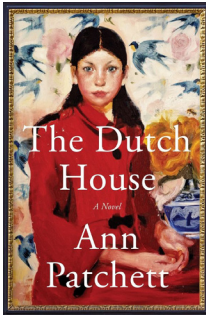


- Drápa: A Reykjavik Murder Mystery**, Gerður Kristný, (2014). In this Icelandic poem-novella, narrated by the Devil, readers are taken through the events before, during, and after the murder of a young woman, offering the victim a narrative she was denied in real life. Chilling.

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Olga Tokarczuk, (2009). A mystery set in Poland, this novel by Nobel-winning writer Tokarczuk is also a provocative exploration of the murky borderland between sanity and madness, justice and tradition, autonomy and fate. Whom do we deem sane? Who is worthy of a voice?

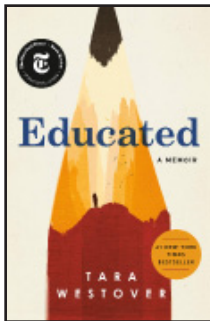
Dreamer, Pam Muñoz Ryan, (2010). Against all odds, Neftali prevails against his father's cruelty and his own crippling shyness to become one of the most widely read poets in the world, Pablo Neruda. It is a celebration of childhood, imagination, and the strength of the creative spirit.

Dreamers of the Day, Mary Doria Russell, (2008). This novel follows the adventures of 40-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio as she takes a trip of a lifetime to Egypt as the Cairo Peace Conference of 1921 convenes. She encounters various movers and shakers, such as Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell as they negotiate and redraw of the boundaries of the Middle East.



Dreaming Water, Gail Tsukiyama, (2002). *Dreaming Water* is about a mother's courage, a daughter's strength, and a friend's love. It is about the importance of human dignity and the importance of all the small moments that create a life worth living.

Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power, Rachel Maddow, (2012). Maddow argues that we have drifted away from America's original ideals and become a nation weirdly at peace with perpetual war, with all the financial and human costs that entails.

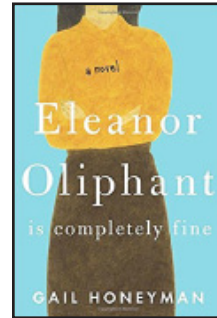


★ **The Dutch House**, Ann Patchett, (2019). A tale that explores the bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go, posing questions about inheritance, love and forgiveness, how we want to see ourselves and who we really are.

★ **Educated**, Tara Westover, (2018). A memoir about a young woman who grew up in a religiously fundamentalist home where she was

not permitted to attend school. Mental illness, survivalist paranoia, physical and emotional abuse were all part of her childhood. She first sets foot in a classroom as a college freshman and eventually earns a PhD from Cambridge University.

- ★ **Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine**, Gail Honeyman, (2017). Honeyman tells the story of Eleanor, an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan weirdness and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey as she realizes the only way to survive is to open your heart.



The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery, (2006). A novel about the connection between the concierge in an upscale Parisian apartment building, and the intellectually precocious daughter of an upper-class family residing in the building, celebrating the quiet victories of the inconspicuous among us.

Enrique's Journey, Sonia Nazario, (2005). In this true story, journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States.

An Episode of Sparrows, Rumer Godden, (1955). Two children plant a garden in the rubble of post-war London. As the story unfolds, the lives of the neighborhood residents become entangled in ways none of them could have anticipated.

- ★ **Etta and Otto and Russell and James**, Emma Hopper, (2015). A book about a journey, memory, reality, longing, love, friendship, and unfulfilled desire. With a wonderful use of magical realism, the book's ending ending is open to interpretation.



Euphoria, Lily King, (2014). Set between the two World Wars and inspired by a year in the life of anthropologist Margaret Mead in New Guinea, this is the story of three young scientists caught in a love triangle that threatens their research, integrity, careers and, ultimately, their lives.

Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women, Wilma Mankiller, (2004). A compilation of conversations from 19 Indigenous woman on various topics such as meaning of spirituality, the importance of sovereignty, what it means to be an indigenous woman today, and finding one's way through difficult times.

Everywhere Blue, Joanne Rossmassler Fritz, (2021). A brother's disappearance turns one family upside down, revealing painful secrets that threaten the life they've always known. Young adult book.

Everything Will Be All Right, Tessa Hadley, (2005). Hadley explores the tangled history of one family and the disasters, hopes, compromises, and ambitions from post-war England of the 1950s to the early 2000s—50 years of changing politics, culture, climate, fashion, and gender roles.

Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, Jacqueline Kelly, (2009). As 11-year-old Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against what it means to be a girl in 1899 Texas.

Finding Beauty in a Broken World, Terry Tempest Williams, (2008). Williams weaves the chapters of her book together to give us a snapshot of the best and worst of life on Earth. The book begins and ends with an analogy comparing the study of mosaic to an understanding of our fragile human and natural world.



★ **Finna**, Nino Cipri, (2020). This fantasy novella explores queer relationships and queer feelings, capitalism and accountability, labor and love, all with a bouncing sense of humor and a commitment to the strange.

The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice, Patricia Bell-Scott, (2016). Drawing on letters, journals, diaries, manuscripts, and interviews, Patricia Bell-Scott offers a close-up view

of the evolving friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and poet and intellectual rebel Pauli Murray, and how their friendship changed the cause of American social justice.

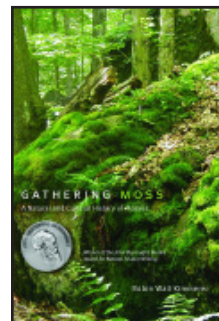
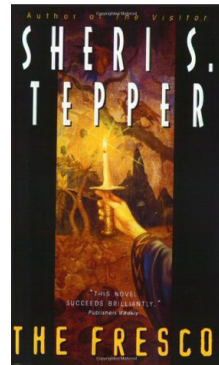
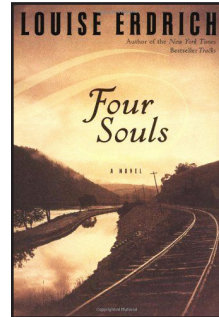
Flight Behavior, Barbara Kingsolver, (2012). Setting her novel in Appalachia, Kingsolver traces the unforeseen impact of global concerns on the ordinary citizens of a rural community. As environmental, economic, and political issues converge, the local residents are forced to come to terms with their changing place in the larger world.

★ **Four Souls**, Louise Erdrich, (2004). Erdrich continues the Ojibwe saga begun in her novel *Tracks*. After taking her mother's name, Four Souls, Fleur Pillager walks from her Ojibwe reservation to Minneapolis. She seeks restitution and revenge from the man who stripped her tribe's land of its trees. Revenge is never simple, and compassion complicate her intentions.

★ **Fresco**, Sherri Tepper, (2000). Tepper uses several alien species to weave a tale peppered with feminist humor and lessons of morality, family, religious truth, self-control, and neighborliness on Earth.

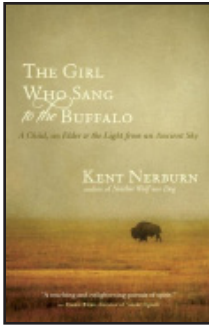
From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place, Deborah Tall, (1996). What attaches us to a particular place? In a mosaic of personal anecdotes, historical sketches, and lyrical meditations, Tall weaves her own story with the story of the Finger Lakes of New York and the area's people: Native Americans, European settlers, and the many utopians searching for inspiration.

★ **Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses**, Robin Wall Kimmerer, (2003). Drawing on her experiences as a scientist, mother, teacher, and writer of Native American heritage, Kimmerer explains the stories of mosses in scientific terms as well as in the framework of indigenous ways of knowing. The natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.



Gemsigns (Book 1), Stephanie Saulter, (2013). For years, humans were under attack from a deadly plague. When a cure was found, it radically altered the line between survival and ethics. This novel asks the question: what makes us human?

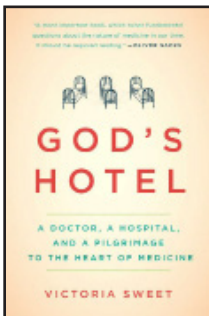
Gift from the Sea, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, (1955). Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth, ageing, love, marriage, peace, solitude, and contentment. Her musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to women at any stage of life.



★ **The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder and the Light from an Ancient Sky**, Kent Nerburn, (2013). Part history, part mystery, part spiritual journey, the story travels through the lands of the Lakota to encounter a strange girl with a connection to the past, a forgotten asylum that history has tried to hide, and many unforgettable characters.

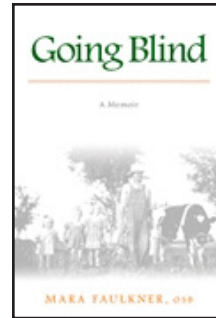
Girl with the Louding Voice, Abi Daré, (2020). the story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her “lounding voice” and speak up for herself.

Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II, Denise Kiernan, (2013). The young women who worked at the Oak Ridge nuclear plant and played a crucial role in the Manhattan Project. Their jobs were shrouded in secrecy, but they were buoyed by a shared purpose and close friendships.



★ **God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine**, Victoria Sweet, (2012). Sweet tells the story of the patients and staff of San Francisco's Laguna Honda Hospital, one of the last almshouses in the United States. As efficiency experts, politicians, and architects are determined to turn the hospital into a modern “health-care facility,” the hospital reveals its own surprising truths about the essence, cost, and value of caring for both the body and the soul.

★ **Going Blind: A Memoir**, Mara Faulkner, (2009). This lyrically insightful book explores blindness in its many permutations—within the context of the author’s family, as a disability marked by misconceptions, and as a widely used cultural metaphor. Neither sentimental nor dispassionate, the author asks whether it is possible to find gifts when sight is lost.



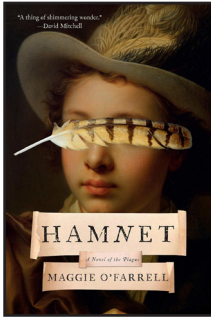
★ **Golden Age**, Joan London, (2014). During the early 1950s polio pandemic in Australia, a young WWII refugee contracts polio and discovers within himself the heart of a poet. A story about love, hardship, resilience, and goodness.

Gratia Countryman: Her Life, Her Loves and Her Library, Jane Pejsa, (1995). Gratia Countryman was the third director of the Minneapolis Public Library from 1904 to 1936, becoming one of the most influential women in the city. The life of an independent, unmarried, professional woman in an era when that was an unconventional combination.

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows, (2008). This epistolary novel of Nazi occupation of the Channel Island of Guernsey during WW II offers a wide range of characters. A celebration of the written word in all its guises and of finding connection in the most surprising ways.

Half of a Yellow Sun, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, (2006). Adichie illuminates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra’s impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in south-eastern Nigeria during the late 1960s. The novel revolves around twin sisters, Olanna and Kainene, members of the Igbo elite, as they struggle to survive civil war.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl Wudunn. (2008). Stories of struggling extraordinary women in Africa and Asia, among them a Cambodian teenager sold into sex slavery and an Ethiopian woman who suffered devastating injuries in childbirth. Kristof and WuDunn depict our world with anger, sadness, clarity, and hope.



★ **Hamnet**, Maggie O'Farrell, (2020). This novel In 1580's England, during the Black Plague offers a portrait of a marriage, an evocation of a family ravaged by grief and loss, and a tender re-imagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten.

Hand Me Down My Walking Cane, Carla Hagan, (2011). Roosevelt's New Deal government declares Faunce Ridge, a village on the Minnesota-Canadian border, a rural slum. Hometown boy Emil Rousseau is sent to photograph the poverty to sell Congress on re-settlement. This story speaks to the mystical pull of this harsh and beautiful place while bringing to life the history of the borderland.

The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas, (2017). Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice. Sixteen-year-old Starr witnesses the killing of her unarmed childhood friend Khalil by a police officer. We follow Starr in the aftermath of the killing as she and her community struggle to confront truth and attitudes about race and class.

The Help, Kathryn Stockett, (2009). "The Help" is set in the early 1960s in Jackson, Miss., and told primarily from the first-person perspectives of three women. Together, these seemingly different women join to write a tell-all book about what it means to be a black domestic worker in the South.

Henna Artist, Alka Joshi. (2020). Set in 1950s Jaipur, this novel paints a portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern.

Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement, Lori Sturdevant, (2014). More than a biography, Sturdevant chronicles the tireless work of women in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's who blazed the way for those who came after. A well-researched treasure trove of facts, photos, and achievements – relevant to anyone with a passion for justice and a love of history.

Here's to You, Jesusa!, Elena Poniatowska, (1969). A rich and sensitive blend of documentary and fiction providing a unique perspective on history and the place of women in twentieth-century Mexico. The book is told in Jesusa's voice as she goes from one ordeal to the other, always managing to come out on top, no matter how challenging.

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race, Margot Lee Shetterly, (2016). The story of three African American women who overcame discrimination and racial segregation at NASA to become super-achievers mathematic and engineering history.

History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Karen Armstrong, (1993). This book details how the history of the three dominant major monotheistic traditions of the world—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—has shaped and altered the concept of God from the time of Abraham to the present.

History of Wolves, Emily Fridlund, (201) Teenaged Linda lives with her parents in an abandoned, isolated commune in northern Minnesota. When Linda is taken under the wing of a seemingly ideal family across the lake, she is drawn into secrets she does not understand and makes some choices that reverberate throughout her life.

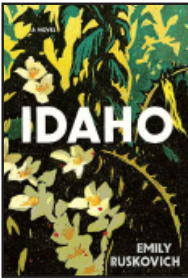
Home Bird: Four Seasons on Martha's Vineyard, Laura Wainwright, (2012). The essays and accompanying recipes celebrate the simple but profound pleasures of life on Martha's Vineyard. With nuanced observations of everyday details, Wainwright shows how connecting to the complexity and beauty of the natural world can ground us and help us uncover deeper meaning in our lives.

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi, (2016). Yaa Gyasi's novel follows the descendants of two half-sisters in Ghana as they are shipped to America as slaves or remain in Ghana. The book reads like a collection of short stories, each following a different character's perspective depending on their family line and generation.

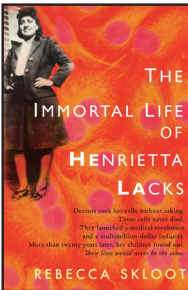
Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild In the Middle of Nowhere, Debra Marquart, (2006). Marquart’s memoir of growing up on a family farm in rural North Dakota reflects on her desire to escape the difficult life, her relationship with and admiration for her father, and the influence of place on personal identity.

How Beautiful We Were, Imbolo Mbue (2021). A fearless young woman from a small African village starts a revolution against an American oil company.

Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins, (2008). A dystopian novel set in Panem, a country consisting of a wealthy Capitol and 13 poverty-stricken districts. Each year children participate in a televised death match. The story is narrated by 16-year-old Katniss, who volunteers for the 74th Hunger Games in place of her 12-year-old sister.



★ **Idaho**, Emily Ruskovich, (2017). With an act of unspeakable violence at its heart, Ruskovich describes how one family dealt with choice, loss, grief, regret, love, redemption, shame, acceptance, and the brutal disruption of memory. A powerful and thought provoking read.



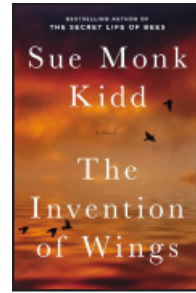
Illuminations, Mary Sharratt, (2012). One of the most extraordinary women of the Middle Ages, Hildegard von Bingen—Benedictine abbess, healer, composer, saint—experienced mystic visions from a young age. In this insightful novel, Sharratt offers a deeply moving portrait of a woman willing to risk everything for what she believed.

★ **Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**, Rebecca Skloot (2010). Henrietta Lacks’ cancerous cells were collected without her permission, becoming the first immortal human cell line, called HeLa. A compelling look at her life and death, her impact on medical science, and important bioethical issues.



★ **In Reach**, Pamela Joern, (2014). A collection of short stories focusing folks who live in the fictional small town of Reach, Nebraska. You will find fourteen short stories of varied length, all of which contain wonderfully imagined characters who feel like your next-door neighbors.

★ **The Invention of Wings**, Sue Monk Kidd, (2014). In 1803, 10-year-old Handful becomes 11-year-old Sarah's personal maid. We follow their remarkable journeys of the next 35 years as they each strive for a life of their own and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement, and the uneasy ways of love.

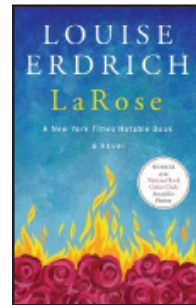


Invisible Bridge, Julie Orringer, (2010). From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the despair of Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in labor camps, Orringer tells the story of a family shattered and remade in history's darkest hour.



★ **Island of Sea Women**, Lisa See, (2010). Set in the WWII era and 2008, See's story is a coming-of-age tale of female friendship, the depths of human cruelty and resilience, and an ode to a singular group of women.

Kindness of Strangers, Katrina Kittle, (2006). A young widow raising two boys, Sarah Laden struggles to keep her family together. When a shocking revelation rips apart the family of her closest friend, Sarah finds herself welcoming yet another troubled young boy into her already tumultuous life. Difficult-to-discuss topic, child sexual abuse.



★ **LaRose**, Louise Erdrich, (2016). An emotionally haunting contemporary tale of a tragic accident, a demand for justice, and a profound act of atonement with ancient roots in Native American culture.

★ **Lab Girl**, Hope Jahren, (2016). Geobiologist Jahren combines her personal history of academia, mental illness, and family life with her first love -- the secret life of plants. After reading this book, you will never look at a seed quite the same way again.



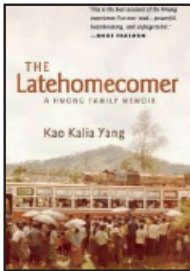
Lace Reader, Brunonia Barry (2006). A thriller about a family of women with "the sight," who can read a person's future through lace.



★ **Lacuna**, Barbara Kingsolver, (2009). Kingsolver takes us on an epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover. A poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.

Language of Flowers, Vanessa Diffenbaugh, (2011). Victoria is the product of the foster child system and her insecurities nearly ruin her life. Some kind folks teach her the Victorian practice of communicating emotions through flowers. This book begs the question: can you learn to love when you have never been loved?

Last Standing Woman, Winona LaDuke, (1981). This novel traces the lives of seven generations of Anishinaabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa). Beginning in the 1860s, the story chronicles a Native-American reservation and its people's struggle to maintain their culture. Battling alcoholism, sexual abuse, and violence to regain their land, the characters are living heroes full of hope and vision.



★ **Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir**, Kao Kalia Yang, (2008). In telling the story of her Hmong family's flight from the genocide of Laos to the poverty of Thai refugee camps to achieve a safe life in America, Yang has fashioned a bittersweet and engrossing story that is mythic in its beauty, tenderness, and power.

Leaving Tabasco, Carmen Boullosa, (2001). This coming-of-age novel introduces us to Delmira Ulloa, an expatriate living in Germany, who casts her mind back some 30 years to her younger self -- a spirited girl growing up in Agustini, a quirky small town in the Mexican territory of Tabasco.



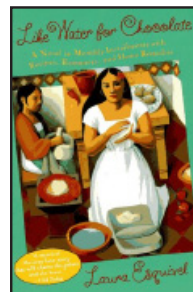
★ **Library Book**, Susan Orlean, (2018). On April 29, 1986, the Los Angeles Public Library caught fire. The building and its contents were damaged or completely lost from water, heat, or flame. Combining her love of books and reading with the investigation of the fire, Orlean tells a larger story of libraries and librarians and the critical role they play in our communities.

★ **Light Between Oceans**, M. L. Stedman, (2012). This novel tells the story of a lighthouse keeper and his wife who rescue and adopt an infant girl adrift at sea. Years later, the couple discover the child's true parentage and are faced with the moral dilemma of their actions.



★ **Like Water for Chocolate**, Laura Esquivel, (1989). A romantic, poignant tale of family life in turn-of-the-century Mexico, this novel is filled with moments of magic, graphic earthiness, bittersweet wit, and unconsummated love – and a few recipes.

Lilus Kikus, Elena Poniatowska, (1954). A collection of vignettes from the life of a young girl, Lilus, who is going through the process of understanding the world around her, and who gradually must become aware of how the world sees her.

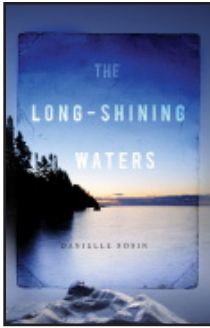


Little Fires Everywhere, Celeste Ng, (2017). This novel traces the intertwined fates of a Shaker Heights picture-perfect family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives. Ng explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood, and the danger of believing that following the rules will avert disaster.

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott, (1868). This coming-of-age story follows the lives of the four March sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—and details their passage from childhood to womanhood. It is loosely based on the lives of the author and her three sisters.

Long Life: Essays and Other Writings, Mary Oliver, (2004). A collection of seventeen essays and ten poems. With the grace and precision as the hallmarks of her work, Oliver shows us how writing “is a way of offering praise to the world” and suggests we see her poems as “little alleluias.”

Long Way Home, Louise Penny, (2014). The 11th in Penny's Inspector Gamache series, this story examines the making of art and the struggles of artists, combining suspense with psychological drama and a sense of landscape as a conduit to meaning.



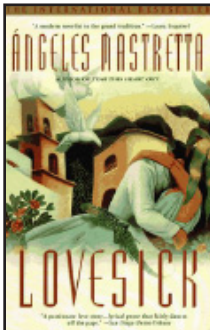
★ **Long-Shining Waters**, Danielle Sodin, (2011). This novel is a celebration of Lake Superior. Sodin tells the story of three women (as well as a mysterious fourth character) living along the shores of the Lake during three different centuries.

Lost Garden, Helen Humphreys, (2002). Set in 1941 Britain, a young female gardener flees London to volunteer with the Land Army in the Devon countryside. Love, loss, and a secret garden.

Lost Wife, Alyson Richman, (2011). This is the love story of Lenka and Josef whose fate is determined by forces beyond their control. From the comfort of life in pre-WWII Prague to the atrocities of the Nazi camps, Richman explores the endurance of first love, the resilience of the human spirit, and our capacity to remember.

Lottery, Patricia Wood, (2007). Perry, a young man with an IQ of 76, tells the story about what happens to him when he wins a large payout from the Washington State Lottery. This novel is filled with heroic and wicked characters and focuses on trust, loyalty, and what distinguishes us as capable.

Lotus Eaters, Tatjana Soli, (2010). Soli paints a portrait of an American female combat photographer's struggle and triumph in Vietnam. The novel contrasts the wrenching horror of war and the treachery of obsession with the redemptive power of love.



★ **Lovesick**, Angeles Mastretta, (1995). Emilia loves two men---childhood sweetheart Daniel, who joins the Mexican Revolution, and devoted physician Antonio, who helps Emilia realize her own gift for healing. Set in the Mexican city of Puebla, this novel spans fifty years in the history of a country, a family, and a love affair.

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper, Harriet Scott Chessman, (2001). Lydia Cassatt narrates this novella as she poses for five of sister American painter Mary Cassatt's most unusual paintings. Sick with Bright's disease and conscious of her approaching death,

Lydia contemplates her world with courageous openness, and asks important questions about love and art's capacity to remember.

Madonnas of Leningrad, Debra Dean, (2006). Dean tells the story of Marina, a Hermitage Museum docent during the 900-day Siege of Leningrad. Her clear memories of war and the Hermitage collection are interspersed with her current dementia-impaired life in Seattle. The novel contrasts vivid memories with the struggles of an Alzheimer's victim everyday life.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, Helen Simonson, (2010). Meet Major Pettigrew: widower, retired army officer, and pillar of the community in his small English town. The Major's quiet life turns a little chaotic when he falls in love with a most unsuitable candidate - Mrs. Ali, a charming Pakistani widow with a shared passion for Kipling.

The Margarets, Sheri S. Tepper, (2007). As the only human child on Phobos, Margaret Bain invents six imaginary companions to keep her company -- each an extension of her personality. She loses them when forced to return to Earth, but they are not gone. As an adult, she calls upon her Margarets to help save the human race.

Marriage of Opposites, Alice Hoffman, (2015). A family saga is about the life of Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro's mother, Rachel. Hoffman evokes a sense of time and place for the West Indies island of St. Thomas where race, culture, class, and religion interconnect in the early 19th century.

Memory Keeper's Daughter, Kim Edwards, (2005). This novel explores every mother's silent fear: What would happen if you lost your child and she grew up without you? It is also a tale of love and how the ties holding a family together help us survive the heartache when long-buried secrets are finally revealed.

Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community, Mary Pipher, (2002). This book moves beyond the headlines into the homes of refugees from around the world. Working as a cultural broker, teacher, and therapist, Mary Pipher will open your eyes--and your heart--to those with whom we share the future.

Million Nightingales, Susan Straight, (2006). Inspired by a true story, this is the life of Moinette, a 19th century mixed race slave from Louisiana. She narrates her life story from age 14 when she is taken from her mother to the end of her life as a free woman and business owner.

Mudbound, Hillary Jordan, (2008). Set in the Mississippi Delta following World War II, the fates of two intertwined families are changed by tragedy provoked by virulent racism. The novel explores themes of love, family, loyalty, duty, and the uneasy relationship African Americans have had with the South in the years following emancipation.



★ **My Antonia**, Willa Cather, (1918). The novel tells the stories of the elder daughter in a family of Bohemian immigrants and an orphaned boy from Virginia who are each brought as children to be pioneers in Nebraska at the end of the 19th century.

My Beloved World, Sonia Sotomayor, (2013). Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age, Susan Jacoby, (2011). Combining historical, social, and economic analysis with personal experiences of love and loss, Jacoby delivers a wake-up call to Americans who have been deluded by the dangerous myth that a radically new old age awaits the huge baby boom generation. .

Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern, (2011). A mesmerizing circus, two illusionists, secrets, magic, and a deadly challenge.

Night Watchman, Louise Erdrich, (2021). “A majestic, polyphonic novel about a community’s efforts to halt the proposed displacement and elimination of several Native American tribes in the 1950s, rendered with dexterity and imagination.”—Pulitzer Prize

Ninth Hour, Alice McDermott (2017). A vivid portrait of an Irish Catholic clan in early twentieth-century America.

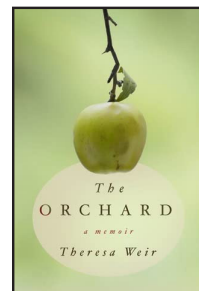
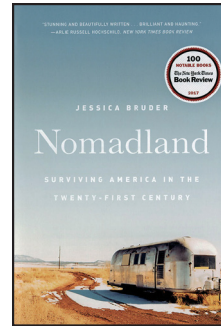
★ **Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century**, Jessica Bruder, (2017). Bruder explores the phenomenon of older Americans who, following the Great Recession of 2007-2009, adopted transient lifestyles traveling around the U.S. in search of seasonal work.

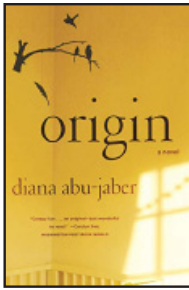
★ **Olive Kitteridge**, Elizabeth Strout, (2008). A collection of vignettes about a group of ordinary people living in a small town in Maine -- their joys, sorrows, tragedies and grief -- all with some connection to the main character, the prickly, ornery, honest, and sometimes clueless, Olive Kitteridge.

Once in a Promised Land, Laila Halaby, (2007). Halaby explores the story of Jassim and Salwa who leave the desert of their native Jordan for Arizona as each chase mirages of opportunity and freedom. Although the couple live far from Ground Zero, they cannot escape the dust cloud of 9/11 paranoia settling over the United States.

★ **One Amazing Thing**, Chitra Divakaruni, (2010). A story of a group of strangers trapped inside a visa office after a massive earthquake. As they wait to be saved (or die), each share “one amazing thing” in their lives. Their tragic and life-affirming tales reveal what it means to be human and the power of storytelling.

★ **The Orchard**, Theresa Weir, (2011). A young girl who falls in love, marries an apple farmer, moves to his family farm, and never sees the world in the same way again. Weir’s book is about family, farming, big business, and the legacy we leave for future generations.





★ **Origin**, Diana Abu-Jaber, (2007). A fingerprint expert's investigation of a series of crib deaths leads her back to the mystery of her own childhood.

★ **Orphan Train**, Christina Baker Kline, (2013). A captivating story of two vastly different women who build an unexpected friendship: a 91-year-old woman with a hidden past as an orphan-train rider and the teenage girl whose own troubled adolescence leads her to seek answers to questions no one has ever thought to ask.

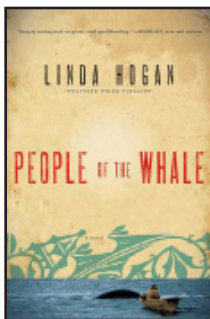


★ **Pachinko**, Min Jin Lee, (2017). An epic tale of four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family as they fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan.

★ **Packinghouse Daughter**, Cheri Register, (2000). The daughter of a millwright, Register recalls the 1959 meatpackers' strike that divided her hometown of Albert Lea, Minnesota. She interweaves her own memories, historical research, and oral interviews into a narrative about the value of blue-collar work and the dignity of those who do it.

★ **A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster**, Rebecca Solnit, (2009). Why do we suddenly become altruistic, resourceful, and brave after a manmade or natural disaster? Solnit examines how disaster throws people into a temporary utopia of changed states of mind and social possibilities and looks at the cost of the widespread myths and real cases of social deterioration during crisis.

★ **People of the Book**, Geraldine Brooks, (2008). An Australian rare-book expert is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famous Jewish religious text *Sarajevo Haggadah*, rescued during the Bosnian war. When she discovers a series of tiny artifacts in the book's ancient binding, she begins to unlock its mysteries.



★ **People of the Whale**, Linda Hogan, (2008). Raised in a small Native American village, newly married Thomas makes an ill-fated decision to fight in the Vietnam war and his life changes forever. With a sense of sacredness of nature and the trauma of war, Hogan

describes painful moral choices and how the lost soul of a man and a people is restored.

Perestroika in Paris, Jane Smiley, (2020). an imaginative story of three extraordinary animals—and a young boy—whose lives intersect in Paris.

Persuasion, Jane Austen, (1818). Austen's last novel and considered by some, her most romantic. Missed opportunities, lost love, regret, class, second chances, commitment, love.

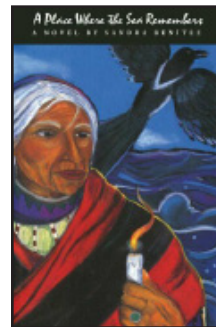
A Piece of the World, Christina Baker Kline, (2017). A story of friendship, families, disability, passion, and art, inspired by the muse for Andrew Wyeth's mysterious and iconic painting *Christina's World*.

A Place in the Woods, Helen Hoover, (1969). Helen Hoover and her husband were trailblazers in the American back-to-the-land movement. With warmth and honesty, she describes adapting to the rigors of wilderness survival and discovering the beauty of the natural world around them.

★ **A Place Where the Sea Remembers**, Sandra Benitez, (1993). A bitter-sweet portrait of the people of Santiago, a Mexican village by the sea. Chayo and Candelario are finally blessed with the child they thought they would never have. Their cause for happiness, however, triggers a chain of events that impact the lives of everyone in their world.

Plague of Doves, Louise Erdrich, (2008). A long-unsolved crime in a small North Dakota town and the consequences felt by the community and a nearby Native American reservation for years. Through the voices of three unforgettable narrators, the collective stories of two interwoven communities ultimately come together to reveal a final wrenching truth.

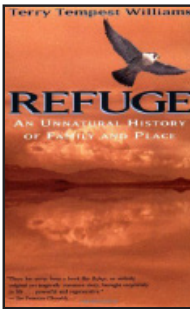
Prayers for Sale, Sandra Dallas, (2009). A novel about an unlikely friendship between two women and the secrets they've kept in order to survive life in a rugged Colorado mining town.



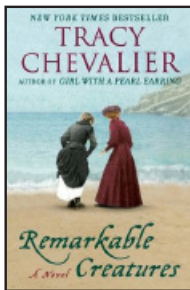
Pull of the Stars, Emma Donoghue, (2020). In Dublin, 1918, a maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu is a small world of work, risk, death, and unlooked-for love.

Real Minerva, Mary Sharratt, (2004). In 1923 Minerva, Minnesota is small town of limited opportunity, a place where the status quo is firmly entrenched and rigidly enforced. Against this tableau of midwestern placidity and calm, three Minerva women assert their dignity and independence against all odds.

Reed Flute, Tessa West, (2004). An Iraqi grandfather and granddaughter reunite in England but find their new circumstances confusing and uncertain. In Norwich, a widower tries to build a new life where bird watching unexpectedly offers opportunities. Their paths cross and all are nourished by nature, memory, hope, and faith.



★ **Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place**, Terry Tempest Williams, (1991). Williams weaves together two tragedies: a catastrophic flood of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in Utah and the death of Williams' mother from cancer. A difficult, but heartwarming book.



★ **Remarkable Creatures**, Tracy Chevalier, (2009). Mary Anning discovers marine fossils which lead to new theories about Earth's creation. She befriends Elizabeth Philpot, a London spinster with her own passion for fossils. Mary and Elizabeth's bond helps them through struggles of poverty, rivalry, and ostracism, and reminds us how friendship can withstand the storms of life.

Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books, Azar Nafisi, (2014). Blending memoir and critique of her favorite American novels, Nafisi writes an impassioned and original tribute to the importance of fiction in a democratic society. She invites us to join her "republic of imagination" where the only passport to entry is a free mind and a willingness to dream.

Rift, Liza Cody, (1988). A young, inexperienced woman travels up the Rift Valley from Nairobi, heading to Addis Ababa. Caught in a web of death, chaos and deceit, she begins to realize that there are some things you should never see, because once you see them you can never forget them.

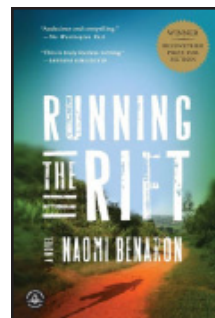
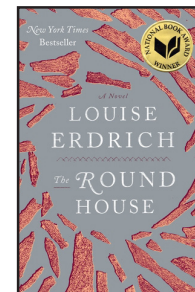
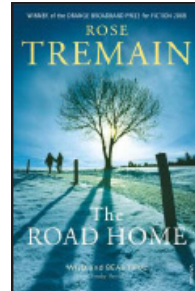
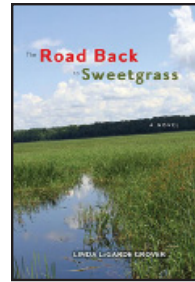
★ **The Road Back to Sweetgrass**, Linda LeGarde Grover, (2014). Set in northern Minnesota, this novel follows Dale Ann, Theresa, and Margie, a trio of Native American women, from the 1970s to the present, observing their coming of age and the intersection of their lives as they navigate love, economic hardship, loss, and changing family dynamics on the fictional Mozhay Point reservation.

★ **Road Home**, Rose Tremain, (2007) Economic immigrant Lev leaves his Eastern European home to earn money to support his mother and daughter. He struggles with the rituals of 'Englishness' and living in London. We see Lev's journey from his perspective and witness his dilemmas and joys.

★ **The Round House**, Louise Erdrich, (2012). When a Native American woman is violently attacked on the reservation, her husband and son seek justice in their own way. More than a crime novel, this is a collection of stories about life on the reservation as well as the story of a teenaged son trying to decide what kind of man he will become.

Run, Ann Patchett, (2007). Set over a period of twenty-four hours, this novel shows how worlds of privilege and poverty can coexist only blocks apart from each other, and how family may include people you have never met.

★ **Running the Rift**, Naomi Benaron, (2010). Benaron tells the story of a young, gifted runner, Jean Patrick, against the backdrop of Rwanda's ethnic conflict between the Hutus and Tutsis. As Jean Patrick dreams of being Rwanda's first Olympic medalist, he must face hatred and violence against him and his fellow Hutus.



Sarah's Key, Tatiana de Rosnay, (2006). Sarah's Key is the story of two people, a young Jewish girl Sarah in 1942 and a current day female journalist researching her Sarah's life. A subtle, compelling portrait of France under Nazi occupation that reveals the taboos and denial surrounding this painful episode in French history.

Secret River, Kate Grenville, (2005). An early 19th-century Englishman transported to Australia for theft builds a new life with his family in New South Wales. Exploration of what might have happened when Europeans colonized land already inhabited by Aboriginal people.

Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back Again, Norah Vincent, (2006). Having lived undercover as a man for eighteen months, Vincent's surprising account is a revelatory piece of anecdotally based gender analysis that is sure to spark fierce and fascinating conversation.

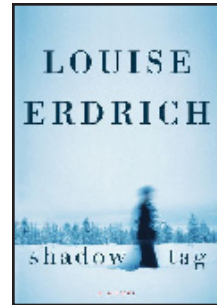
Seneca Falls Inheritance, Miriam Grace Monfredo, (1992). This mystery takes place at the beginning of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's push for women's rights. Glynis, a librarian in the small upstate New York town of Seneca Falls, is drawn into the movement as well as helping solve a suspicious murder.

The Secret Keeper, Kate Morton, (2012). This novel tells a story of love, family, friendships, human nature, and perseverance. Set during the Blitz of WWII and present day, the alternating timelines told from different character's perspectives weave together a good story and mystery to ponder.

Seed Keeper, Diane Wilson, (2021). A haunting novel spanning several generations, the novel follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most

The Sentence, Louise Erdrich, (2021). Erdrich creates a ghost story, a tale of passion, of a complex marriage, and of a woman's relentless errors, which asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book.

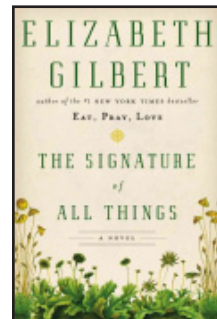
★ **Shadow Tag**, Louise Erdrich, (2010). Erdrich turns a diary into a deadly, manipulative device for bringing about the final collapse of Irene and Gil's destructive marriage.



Shanghai Girls, Lisa See, (2009). This novel centers on the complex relationship between sisters, Pearl and May, from 1937 to 1957. After their father sells them to a California family looking for Chinese brides for their sons, they emigrate from war-torn Shanghai to the United States and struggle to adjust in a large extended Los Angeles family.

Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet, Catherine Friend, (2011). Friend interweaves personal anecdotes about middle age, knitting, love, unauthorized sheep breeding, and shearing day with insights into the environmental impact of sheep and everything they produce.

★ **Signature of All Things**, Elizabeth Gilbert, (2013). This novel is story of a 19th century female botanist, Alma Whittaker, who struggles to come into her own, and how botanical research leads her deeper and deeper into the mysteries of evolution and life in general.



Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists, Jean H. Baker, (2005). Historian Baker interweaves the private lives of five suffragists who changed America—Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frances Willard, and Alice Paul—with their public achievements.

Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History, Elizabeth Kolbert, (2015). In this book about the future of the world, Kolbert blends intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes.



Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan, (2021). When an Irish coal merchant, father of five girls, discovers a disheveled, barefoot girl locked in the coal shed of a Catholic convent, he faces a moral decision.

Snare, Katherine Kerr, (2003). **Three different groups of human settlers** travel to the planet Snare: a band of Islamic fundamentalists, a group of horse tribes, and the pragmatic Cantons people. All descend on Snare's indigenous reptilian species the ChaMeech, and eight centuries of territorial and social turmoil follow.

So Much for That, Lionel Shriver, (2010). Enriched with three medical subplots that explore the human costs of American healthcare, this novel details the transformation of a marriage where a grave illness provides an unexpected opportunity for tenderness, renewed intimacy, and dry humor. Shriver writes a page-turner that presses the question: How much is one life worth?



★ **The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father**, Kao Kalia Yang, (2012). Yang tells the story of her father Bee Yang, the song poet and Hmong refugee in Minnesota driven from the mountains of Laos by America's Secret War. This is a love story – of a daughter for her father, a father for his children, a people for their land and traditions.

Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness, Sy Montgomery, (2015). Explores the emotional and physical world of the octopus—a surprisingly complex, intelligent, and spirited creature—and the remarkable connections it makes with humans.



Spill Simmer Falter Wither, Sara Baume, (2015). 57-year-old Ray adopts One Eye, a traumatized dog from an animal shelter. Both are isolated and unloved outcasts. As spring turns to summer, their relationship grows, until a savage act forces them to abandon their precarious life and take to the road. Haunting, sad, wonderful, thought provoking.

★ **Starless Sea**, Erin Morgenstern, (2019). A mysterious book hidden in the stacks leads to a secret underground world—a place of pirates, painters, lovers, liars, and ships that sail upon a starless sea.

Still Alice, Lisa Genova, (2007). The story of an accomplished Harvard professor, Alice, diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Her diagnosis changes her life and her relationships with her family and the world forever.

A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki, (2013). Alternating between a teenaged girl in Tokyo who keeps a diary and a writer in British Columbia who finds the diary after the 2011 tsunami, this novel meditates on our shared humanity, search for home, and appreciation of history and myth. All with a little magical realism.

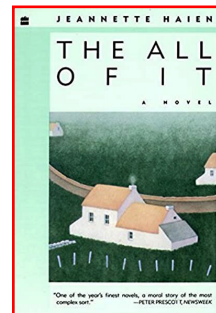
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, Betty Smith (1943). This story focuses on an impoverished but aspirational adolescent girl and her family living in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City, during the first two decades of the 20th century.

Tenderness of Wolves, Stef Penney, (2006). Set in the small village of Caulfield, Ontario during the winter of 1867, this mystery tells the story of a woman's journey into the Canadian wilderness to find her missing 17-year-old son Francis, who has disappeared after his friend was found brutally murdered.

★ **The All of It**, Jeannette Haien, (1986). Set in a small town in Ireland, Haien's intimate novel of conversations and dilemmas relates the seemingly simple tale of a parishioner confiding in her priest, but the tangled confession brings secrets to light that provoke a moral quandary.

Thirteenth Tale, Diane Setterfield, (2006). When Margaret is called upon by Vida Winter, a famous author, to come and write her biography she has no idea what she is in for with this woman. Vida tells the story of her life as a child, but she is not who she seems.

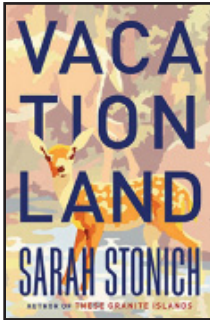
This Is Happiness, Niall Williams, (2019). Rich in sentiment and humor, this evocation of an Irish village in the 1970s examines grief, faith and first love.





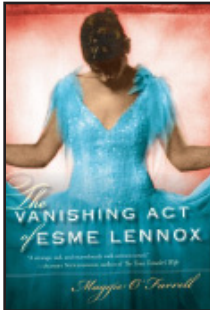
★ **To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee, (1960). The classic novel of a childhood in a Southern town during the Great Depression and Jim Crow and the crisis of conscience that rocked it.

★ **Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works**, Atina Diffley, (2012). In telling her story of working the land and coaxing good food from the fertile soil, Atina Diffley reminds us of an ultimate truth: we live in relationships—with the earth, plants and animals, families, and communities.



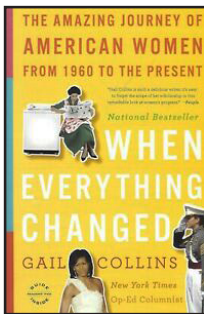
Twelve-Mile Straight, Eleanor Henderson, (2017). Lyrical and disturbing, this novel set in rural Georgia, 1930, is unflinching in showing the everyday savagery of Jim Crow, of poverty, and of family abuse.

★ **Vacationland**, Susan Stonich, (2012). *Vacationland* is a moving portrait of a place, Naledi Lodge in northern Minnesota. This collection of well-crafted short stories weaves together tales of love, loss, heartbreak, and redemption and reveals a different perspective of Naledi the place and the people connected by it.



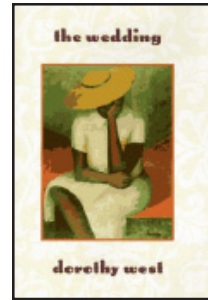
★ **Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox**, Maggie O'Farrell, (2006). Iris Lockhart receives a stunning phone call: her great-aunt Esme, whom she never knew existed, is being released from a mental institution where she lived for over sixty years. This haunting story explores the seedy past of Victorian asylums, the oppression of family secrets, and the how truth can change everything.

Vanishing Half, Britt Bennett, (2020). A novel about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one Black and one White.



We Must Be Brave, Frances Liardet, (2019). Spanning World War II and the sweep of the 20th century this novel explores the fierce love that we feel for our children and the power of that love to endure.

★ **The Wedding**, Dorothy West, (1995). Set in 1953, we follow the wedding preparations of Shelby, the daughter of a wealthy African American family, to Meade, a white jazz musician. In every chapter, West explores the issues of race, class, and the many faces of love.

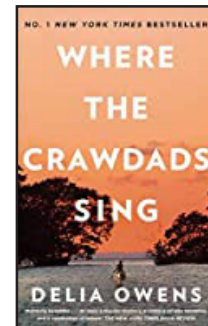


★ **When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present**, Gail Collins, (2009). Using a comprehensive mix of oral history and keen research, Collins describes the changes in women’s lives – politics, fashion, popular culture, economics, sex, family, work –in just five decades.



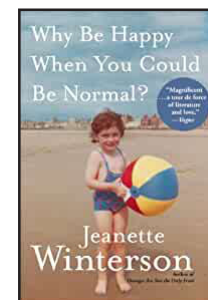
★ **When Women Were Birds: Fifty Four Variations on Voice**, Terry Tempest Williams, (2012). *When Women Were Birds* is a kaleidoscope that keeps turning around the question: what does it mean to have a voice? A graceful and wise meditation on womanhood, family, faith, grief, the natural world, and wonder.

★ **Where the Crawdads Sing**, Delia Owens, (2018). An ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.



White Heart of Mojave, Edna Brush Perkins (1922). This memoir recounts a 1920s adventure “in the wind and sun and big spaces” of Death Valley by two independent minded women. Perkins’ evocative writing describes the landscape and the people she encounters. As editor Peter Wild writes, this is ultimately the story of two wealthy women who enter Death Valley “as a sort of middle-aged lark” and “emerge from the trip profoundly changed.”

★ **Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?**, Jeanette Winterson, (2011). Jeanette Winterson was born in Manchester, England, and grew up in Accrington, Lancashire after being adopted by Constance and John William Winterson in the early 1960’s. Witty, acute, fierce, and celebratory, Winterson details her tough-minded search for belonging, love, identity, home, acceptance, and her birth mother.



Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City, Anne Matthews, (2001), As deer, coyotes, and wild turkeys live alongside us in this first truly urban period in human history, confrontation and competition with the natural world is an everyday occurrence. Matthews explores these encounters and examines the implications of resurgence of nature for the fate of a world of supercities and suburban sprawl.

Witness, Karen Hesse, (2000). Hesse writes a poetic tale about friendship, fanaticism, and the deadly undercurrents of racial prejudice. The story takes place in a small Vermont town in the year 1924, revealing the devastating impact of the Ku Klux Klan on this pastoral, insular community.



★ **Wonder**, R. J. Palacio, (2012). Auggie, a facially different boy, transitions from home school to a real middle school. This story is told from multiple perspectives, including Auggie's. As the school year unfolds, each character describes their challenges, worries, and small victories as well as the importance of kindness, friendship, and honesty.

World to Come, Dara Horn, (2006). A million-dollar Chagall is stolen from a museum during a singles' cocktail hour. The unlikely thief, Benjamin, believes the painting once belonged to his parents. This work of art opens the door to his family's history—from a Soviet orphanage where Chagall taught to suburban New Jersey and the jungles of Vietnam.

Writers & Lovers, Lily King, (2021). The story of a young woman whose fight to fulfill her creative ambitions and balance the conflicting demands of art and life is challenged in ways that push her to the brink.

Year of Wonders, Geraldine Brooks, (2001) A young woman's struggle to save her family and her soul during the extraordinary year of 1666, when plague suddenly struck a small English village.

THE GREAT BOOKS BY AUTHOR



The list of authors contains 188 different writers whose books have been designated “Great.” Fifteen writers are represented by more than one title: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Geraldine Brooks, Louise Erdrich, Alice Hoffman, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Lily King, Barbara Kingsolver, Erin Morgenstern, Maggie O’Farrell, Ann Patchett, Lisa See, Mary Sharratt, Elizabeth Strout, Sherri Tepper, Terry Tempest Williams, and Kao Kalia Yang.

Abu-Jaber, Diana. Origin

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Americanah

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Half of a Yellow Sun

Alcott, Louisa May. Little Women

Anderson-Dargatz, Gail. The Cure for Death by Lightning

Armstrong, Karen. History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

Austen, Jane. Persuasion

Baker, Jean H., Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists

Barberry, Muriel. The Elegance of the Hedgehog

Barry, Brunonia. Lace Reader

Baume, Sara. Spill Simmer Falter Wither

Belfer, Lauren. City of Light

Bell-Scott, Patricia. The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice

Benaron, Naomi. Running the Rift

Benitez, Sandra. A Place Where the Sea Remembers

Bennett, Britt. Vanishing Half

Boullosa, Carmen. Leaving Tabasco

Brooks, Geraldine. Caleb's Crossing.

Brooks, Geraldine. People of the Book

Brooks, Geraldine. Year of Wonders

Bruder, Jessica. Nomadland

Cather, Willa. My Antonia

Chessman, Harriet Scott. Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper

Chevalier, Tracy. Remarkable Creatures

Cipri, Nino. Finna

Cody, Liza. Rift

Collins, Gail. When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present

Collins, Suzanne. Hunger Games

Dallas, Sandra. Prayers for Sale

Daré, Abi. Girl with the Louding Voice

Dean, Debra. Madonnas of Leningrad

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa. Language of Flowers

Diffley, Atina. Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works

Divakaruni, Chitra. One Amazing Thing

Donoghue, Emma. Pull of the Stars

Dunstall, S. K.. Alliance

Edwards, Kim. The Memory Keeper's Daughter

Ekman, Kerstin. Blackwater

Ellis, Mary Relindes. Bohemian Flats

Erdrich, Louise. Four Souls

Erdrich, Louise. LaRose

Erdrich, Louise. The Night Watchman

Erdrich, Louise. Plague of Doves

Erdrich, Louise. Round House

Erdrich, Louise. The Sentence

Erdrich, Louise. Shadow Tag

Esquivel, Laura. Like Water for Chocolate

Faulkner, Mara. Going Blind: A Memoir

Ferguson, Kathryn, Norma Price & Ted Parks. Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail

Fitzgerald, Penelope. The Bookshop

Fridlund, Emily. History of Wolves

Friend, Catherine. Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet

Fritz, Joanne Rossmassler. Everywhere Blue

Genova, Lisa. Still Alice

Gibbons, Kaye. Charms for the Easy Life

Gilbert, Elizabeth. Signature of All Things

Godden, Rumer. An Episode of Sparrows

Grenville, Kate. Secret River

Grover, Linda LeGarde. The Road Back to Sweetgrass

Gysasi, Yaa. Homegoing

Hadley, Tessa. Everything Will Be All Right

Hagan, Carla. Hand Me Down My Walking Cane

Haien, Jeannette. The All of It

Halaby, Laila. Once in a Promised Land

Hamilton, Masha. The Camel Bookmobile

Hanff, Helene. 84 Charing Cross Road

Henderson, Eleanor. Twelve-Mile Straight

Hesse, Karen. Witness

- Hobb, Robin.** Assassin's Apprentice
- Hoffman, Alice.** The Dovekeepers
- Hoffman, Alice.** Marriage of Opposites
- Hogan, Linda.** People of the Whale
- Honeyman, Gail.** Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine
- Hoover, Helen.** A Place in the Woods
- Hopper, Emma.** Etta and Otto and Russell and James
- Horn, Dara.** World to Come
- Humphries, Helen.** The Lost Garden
- Hunt, Linda Lawrence.** Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America
- Jacoby, Susan.** Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age
- Jahren, Hope.** Lab Girl
- Joern, Pamela.** In Reach
- Jordan, Hillary.** Mudbound
- Joshi, Alka.** Henna Artist
- Kallos, Stephanie.** Broken for You
- Keegan, Claire.** Small Things Like These
- Kelly, Jacqueline.** Evolution of Calpurnia Tate
- Kerr, Katherine.** Snare
- Kidd, Sue Monk.** Invention of Wings
- Kiernan, Denise.** Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses

King, Lily. Euphoria

King, Lily. Writers & Lovers

Kingsolver, Barbara. Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life

Kingsolver, Barbara. Flight Behavior

Kingsolver, Barbara. Lacuna

Kittle, Katrina. Kindness of Strangers

Kline, Christina Baker. Orphan Train

Kline, Christina Baker. Piece of the World

Kolbert, Elizabeth. **Sixth Extinction.**

Kristný, Gerður. Drápa: A Reykjavik Murder Mystery

Kristof, Nicholas & Sheryl Wudunn. Half the Sky; Turning Oppression into Opportunity Worldwide

LaDuke, Winona. Last Standing Woman

Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird

Lee, Min Jin. Pachinko

Liardet, Frances. We Must Be Brave

Lindbergh, Anne Morrow. Gift from the Sea

London, Joan. The Golden Age

Maddow, Rachel. Drift

Mankiller, Wilma. Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women

Marquart, Debra. Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild In the Middle of Nowhere

Mastreta, Angeles. Lovesick

Matthews, Anne. Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City

Mbue, Imolo. Behold the Dreamers

Mbue, Imolo. How Beautiful We Were

McDermott, Alice. Ninth Hour

McKay, Ami. Birth House

Monfredo, Miriam Grace. Seneca Falls Inheritance

Montgomery, Sy. Soul of an Octopus

Morgenstern, Erin. Night Circus

Morgenstern, Erin. Starless Sea

Morton, Kate. The Secret Keeper

Nafisi, Azar. Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books

Nazarro, Sonia. Enrique's Journey

Nerburn, Kent. Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder, and the Light of an Ancient Sky

Ng, Celeste. Little Fires Everywhere

Nnedi, Okorafor. Binti: Home

Nutt, Amy Ellis. Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family

Obama, Michelle. *Becoming*

O’Farrell, Maggie. *Hamnet*

O’Farrell, Maggie. *Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*

Ólafsdóttir, Auður Ava. *Butterflies in November*

Oliver, Mary. *Long Life*

Olsson, Linda. *Astrid & Veronika*

Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*

Orringer, Julie. *Invisible Bridge*

Ostland, Lori. *After the Parade*

Owens, Delia. *Where the Crawdads Sing*

Ozeki, Ruth. *Tale for the Time Being*

Palacio, R. J. *Wonder*

Patchett, Ann. *Dutch House*

Patchett, Ann. *Run*

Pejsa, Jane. *Gratia Countryman: Her Life, Her Loves and Her Library*

Penney, Louise. *Long Way Home*

Penney, Stef. *Tenderness of Wolves*

Perkins, Edna Brush. *White Heart of Mojave*

Pipher, Mary. *Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community*

Poniatowska Elena. *Here’s to You, Jesusa!*

Poniatowska, Elena. *Lilus Kikus*

Regan, Margaret. Death of Jossaline
Register, Cheri. Packinghouse Daughter
Richman, Alyson. Lost Wife
Rosnay, Tatiana de. Sarah's Key
Ruskovich, Emily. Idaho
Russell, Mary Doria. Dreamers of the Day
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. Dreamer

Sackville-West, Vita, All Passion Spent
Saulter, Stephanie. Gemsigns (book 1)
See, Lisa. Island of Sea Women
See, Lisa. Shanghai Girls
Setterfield, Diane, Thirteenth Tale
Shaffer, Mary Ann & Annie Barrows. Guernsey Literary and
Potato Peel Pie Society
Sharratt, Mary. Illuminations
Sharratt, Mary. Real Minerva
Shetterly, Margot Lee. Hidden Figures: The American Dream and
Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped
Win the Space Race
Shinn, Sharon. Archangel
Shriver, Lionel. So Much for That
Simonson, Helen. Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

Skloot, Rebecca. *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Rebecca Skloot

Smiley, Jane. *Perestroika in Paris*

Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Soli, Tatjana. *Lotus Eaters*

Solnit, Rebecca. *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster*

Sosin, Danielle, *Long-Shining Water*

Sotomayor, Sonia. *My Beloved World*

Stedman, M. L. *Light Between Oceans*

Stockett, Kathryn. *The Help*

Stonich, Susan. *Vacationland*

Straight, Susan. *A Million Nightingales*

Strout, Elizabeth. *Anything Is Possible*

Strout, Elizabeth. *Olive Kitteridge*

Sturdevant, Lori. *Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement*

Sweet, Victoria. *God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine*

Tall, Deborah. *From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place*

Tepper, Sherri. *Fresco*

Tepper, Sherri. *The Margarets*

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*

Tokarczuk, Olga. *Drive Your Bones Over the Bones of the Dead*

Tremain, Rose. *Road Home*

Trussoni, Danielle. Angelology

Tsyukiyama, Gail. Dreaming Water

Valentine, Jenny. Broken Soup

Verghese, Abraham. Cutting for Stone

Vincent, Norah. Self-Made Man

Wainwright, Laura. Home Bird: Four Seasons on Martha's Vineyard

Weir, Theresa. The Orchard

West, Dorothy. The Wedding

West, Tessa. Reed Flute

Westover, Tara. Educated

Williams, Niall. This Is Happiness

Williams, Terry Tempest. Finding Beauty in a Broken World

Williams, Terry Tempest. Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place

Williams, Terry Tempest. When Women Were Birds: Fifty Four Variations on Voice

Wilson, Diane. Seed Keeper

Winterson, Jeanette. Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?

Wood, Patricia. Lottery

Woodson, Jacqueline. Brown Girl Dreaming

Yang, Kao Kalia. Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir

Yang, Kao Kalia. The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father

Zackheim, Michele. Broken Colors

THE GREAT BOOKS BY GENRE



You'll see that—in the spirit with which we have redefined the term “Great Books”—we've created different genres for classifying the books, ones that better reflect the experiences and reactions of the many readers who chose them. Many titles are included in more than one genre.

ADVENTURE

Adding a thrill to life.

After the Parade. Lori Ostland

All Passion Spent. Vita Sackville-West

Alliance. S. K. Dunstall

Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America. Linda Lawrence Hunt

Butterflies in November. Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir

Camel Bookmobile. Masha Hamilton

Etta and Otto and Russell and James. Emma Hopper

Euphoria. Lily King

Rift. Liza Cody

ANTHOLOGY AND ESSAY

Pick up these books for short bites and varied voices.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants. Robin Wall Kimmerer

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail, Kathryn Ferguson, Norma Price, and Ted Parks

Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women. Wilma Mankiller

Finding Beauty in a Broken World. Terry Tempest Williams

From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place. Deborah Tall

Gathering Moss. Robin Wall Kimmerer

Home Bird: Four Seasons of Martha's Vineyard. Laura Wainwright

Long Life: Essays and Other Writings. Mary Oliver

Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community. Mary Pipher

Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place. Terry Tempest Williams

Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet. Catherine Friend

When Women Were Birds: Fifty Four Variations on Voice. Terry Tempest Williams

THE ARTS

For beauty in our lives

84 Charing Cross Road. Helene Hanff

Broken Colors, Michele Zachman

Library Book. Susan Orlean

Long Life: Essays and Other Writings. Mary Oliver

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper. Harriet Scott Chessman

Madonnas of Leningrad. Debra Dean

Marriage of Opposites. Alice Hoffman

People of the Book. Geraldine Brooks

Piece of the World. Christina Baker Kline

Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books. Azar Nafisi

Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father. Kao Kalia Yang

World to Come. Dara Horn

BIOGRAPHY, AUTOBIOGRAPHY, MEMOIR, DIARIES AND LETTERS

*History takes on a different appearance when learned through
the reading of women's lives.*

84 Charing Cross Road. Helene Hanff

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life. Barbara Kingsolver

Becoming. Michelle Obama

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family.
Amy Ellis Nutt

**Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian
America.** Linda Lawrence Hunt

Brown Girl Dreaming. Jacqueline Woodson

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail, Kathryn Ferguson, Norma Price, and Ted Parks

Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands, Margaret Regen

Educated, Tara Westover

Enrique's Journey, Sonia Nazario

Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice. Patricia Bell-Scott

From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place. Deborah Tall

Gift from the Sea. Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II. Denise Kierman

God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine. Victoria Sweet

Going Blind: A Memoir. Mara Faulkner

Gratia Countryman: Her Life, Her Loves and Her Library. Jane Pejsa

Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement. Lori Sturdevant

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race. Margot Lee Shetterly

Home Bird: Four Seasons of Martha's Vineyard. Laura Wainwright

Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere. Debra Marquart

Illuminations. Mary Sharrant

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Rebecca Skloot

Lab Girl. Hope Jahren

Latehomecomer. Kao Kalia Yang

My Beloved World, Sonia Sotomayor

Orchard. Theresa Weir

Packinghouse Daughter. Cheri Register

Place in the Woods. Helen Hoover

Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place. Terry Tempest Williams

Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books. Azar Nafisi

Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back Again. Norah Vincent

Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet. Catherine Friend

The Song Poet: A Memoir of My Father. Kao Kalia Yang

Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works. Atina Diffley:

Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? Jeannette Winter-son

White Heart of Mojave. Edna Brush Perkins

CULTURE CRITIQUE

These books challenge the status quo

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life. Barbara Kingsolver

Americanah. Chimimanda Ngozie Adichie

Becoming. Michelle Obama

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family. Amy Ellis Nutt

Birth House. Ami McKay

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail, Kathryn Ferguson, Norma Price, and Ted Parks

Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands. Margaret Regen

Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power, Rachel Maddow

Educated. Tara Westover

Enrique's Journey. Sonia Nazario

Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder, and the Light from an Ancient Sky. Kent Nerburn

God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine. Victoria Sweet

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide. Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

Hate U Give. Angie Thomas

Lottery. Patricia Wood

Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community. Mary Pipher

Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age. Susan Jacoby

Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century. Jessica Bruder

Once in a Promised Land. Laila Halaby

Orchard. Theresa Weir

Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster. Rebecca Solnit

Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books. Azar Nafisi

Road Home. Rose Tremain

Round House. Louise Erdrich

Running the Rift. Naomi Benaron

Secret River. Kate Grenville

Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey Into Manhood and Back Again. Norah Vincent

The Sentence, Louise Erdrich

So Much for That. Lionel Shriver

Spill Simmer Falter With., Sara Baume

Song Poet:A Memoir of My Father. Kao Kalia Yang

Vanishing Half. Britt Bennett

Wedding. Dorothy West

When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present. Gail Collins

Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal? Jeannette Winter-son

Witness. Karen Hesse

Wonder. R. J. Palacio

FICTION

Women read novels more than any other genre. How about you?

Anything Is Possible. Elizabeth Strout

After the Parade. Lori Ostland

All Passion Spent. Vita Sackville-West

Americanah. Chimimanda Ngozie Adichie

Assassin's Apprentice. Robin Hobb

Astrid & Veronika. Linda Olsson

Behold the Dreamers. Imolo Mbue

Birth House. Ami McKay

Bohemian Flats. Mary Relindes Ellis
Bookshop. Penelope Fitzgerald
Blackwater. Kerstin Ekman
Broken Colors. Michele Zachheim
Broken For You. Stephanie Kallos
Broken Soup. Jenny Valentine
Butterflies in November. Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir
Caleb's Crossing. Geraldine Brooks
Camel Bookmobile. Masha Hamilton
Charms for the Easy Life. Kaye Gibbons
City of Light. Lauren Belfer
Cure for Death by Lightning. Gail Anderson-Dargatz
Cutting for Stone. Abraham Verghese
Dovekeepers. Alice Hoffman
Dreamer. Pam Muñoz Ryan
Dreamers of the Day. Mary Doria Russell
Dreaming Water. Gail Tsukiyama
Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Olga Tokarczuk
Dutch House. Ann Patchett
Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine. Gail Honeyman
Elegance of the Hedgehog. Muriel Barbery
Episode of Sparrows. Rumer Godden
Etta and Otto and Russell and James. Emma Hopper
Euphoria. Lily King
Everything Will Be All Right. Tessa Hadley

- Everywhere Blue**, Joanne Rossmassler Fritz
- Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**. Jacqueline Kelly
- Flight Behavior**. Barbara Kingsolver.
- Four Souls**. Louise Erdrich
- Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, an Elder, and the Light from an Ancient Sky**. Kent Nerburn
- Girl with the Louding Voice**, Abi Daré
- Golden Age**. Joan London
- Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society**. Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows
- Half of a Yellow Sun**. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Hamnet**. Maggie O'Farrell
- Hand Me Down My Walking Stick**. Carla Hagen
- Hate U Give**. Angie Thomas
- The Help**. Kathryn Stockett
- Henna Artist**. Alki Joshi
- Here's to You, Jesusa!**. Elena Poniatowska
- History of Wolves**. Emily Fridlund
- Homegoing**. Yaa Gysasi
- How Beautiful We Were**, Imbolo Mbue
- Idaho**. Emily Ruskovich
- In Reach**. Pam Joern
- Invention of Wings**. Sue Monk Kidd
- Invisible Bridge**. Julie Orringer
- Island of Sea Women**. Lisa See.

Kindness of Strangers. Katrina Kittle
LaRose. Louise Erdrich
Lacuna. Barbara Kingsolver
Language of Flowers. Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Last Standing Woman. Winona LaDuke
Leaving Tabasco. Carmen Boullosa
Light Between Oceans. M. L. Stedman
Like Water for Chocolate. Laura Esquivel
Little Fires Everywhere. Celestine Ng
Little Women. Louisa May Alcott
Long Way Home. Louise Penny
Long-Shining Waters. Danielle Sosin
Lost Garden. Helen Humphreys
Lost Wife. Alyson Richman
Lottery. Patricia Wood
Lotus Eater. Tatjana Soli
Lovesick. Angeles Mastretta
Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper. Harriet Scott Chessman
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, Helen Simonson
Madonnas of Leningrad. Debra Dean
The Margarets. Sheri S. Tepper
Marriage of Opposites. Alice Hoffman
Memory Keeper's Daughter. Kim Edwards
Mudbound. Hillary Jordan

My Antonia. Willa Cather
Night Circus. Erin Morgenstern
Night Watchman. Louise Erdrich
Ninth Hour, Alice McDermott
Olive Kittridge. Elizabeth Strout
Once in a Promised Land. Laila Halaby
One Amazing Thing. Chitra Divakaruni
Origin. Diana Abu-Jaber
Orphan Train. Christina Baker Kline
Pachinko, Min Jin Lee
Perestroika in Paris, Jane Smiley
People of the Book. Geraldine Brooks
People of the Whale. Linda Hogan
Persuasion. Jane Austen
Piece of the World. Christina Baker Kline
Plague of Doves. Louise Erdrich
Place Where the Sea Remembers. Sandra Benitez
Prayers for Sale. Sandra Dallas
Pull of the Stars. Emma Donoghue
Real Minerva. Mary Sharratt
Reed Flute. Tessa West
Remarkable Creatures. Tracy Chevalier
Rift. Liza Cody
Road Back to Sweetgrass. Linda LeGarde Grover
Road Home. Rose Tremain

Round House. Louise Erdrich
Run. Ann Patchett
Running the Rift. Naomi Benaron
Sarah's Key. Tatiana de Rosnay
Secret Keeper. Kate Morton
Secret River. Kate Grenville
Seed Keeper. Diane Wilson
Seneca Falls Inheritance. Miriam Grace Monfredo
The Sentence, Louise Erdrich
Shadow Tag. Louise Erdrich
Shanghai Girls. Lisa See
Signature of All Things. Elizabeth Gilbert
Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan
Snare. Katherine Kerr
So Much for That. Lionel Shriver
Spill Simmer Falter Wither. Sara Baum
Starless Sea. Erin Morgenstern
Still Alice. Lisa Genova
Tenderness of Wolves. Stef Penney
The All of It. Jeannette Haien.
Thirteenth Tale. Diane Setterfield
This Is Happiness. Niall Williams
To Kill a Mockingbird. Harper Lee
Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Betty Smith
Twelve-Mile Straight. Eleanor Henderson

- Vacationland.** Susan Stonich
- Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox.** Maggie O'Farrell
- Vanishing Half.** Britt Bennett
- We Must Be Brave,** Frances Liardet
- Wedding.** Dorothy West
- Where the Crawdads Sing.** Delia Owens
- Witness.** Karen Hesse
- Wonder.** R. J. Palacio
- World to Come.** Dara Horn
- Writers & Lovers.** Lily King
- Year of Wonders.** Geraldine Brooks.

HISTORY & NONFICTION

Stories from the past can help us understand the present

- Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America.** Linda Lawrence Hunt
- Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power,** Rachel Maddow
- Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II.** Denise Kierman
- Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement.** Lori Sturdevant
- Hidden Figures: The American Dream and Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race.** Margot Lee Shetterly
- History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.** Karen Armstrong

Library Book. Susan Orlean

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Rebecca Skloot

Sisters: The Lives of America's Suffragists. Jean H. Baker

Sixth Extinction. Elizabeth Kolbert

When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present. Gail Collins

MYSTERIES

For a quick escape

Blackwater. Kerstin Ekman

Broken Soup, Jenny Valentine

City of Light, Lauren Belfer

Drápa: A Reykjavik Murder Mystery, Gerður Kristný

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Olga Tokarczuk

Lace Reader. Brunonia Barry

Long Way Home. Louise Penny

Night Circus. Erin Morgenstern

Rift. Liza Cody

Round House. Louise Erdrich

Secret Keeper. Kate Morton

Seneca Falls Inheritance. Miriam Grace Monfredo

Tenderness of Wolves. Stef Penney

Thirteenth Tale. Diane Setterfield

Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox. Maggie O'Farrell

World to Come. Dara Horn

NATURE

Honoring this earth on which we live

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants. Robin Wall Kimmerer

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life. Barbara Kingsolver

Euphoria. Lily King

Finding Beauty in a Broken World. Terry Tempest Williams

From Where We Stand: Recovering a Sense of Place. Deborah Tall

Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Moss. Robin Wall Kimmerer

Home Bird: Four Seasons of Martha's Vineyard. Laura Wainwright

Island of Sea Women. Lisa See

Lab Girl. Hope Jahren

Long-Shining Waters. Danielle Sosin

Orchard. Theresa Weir

Place in the Woods. Helen Hoover

Place Where the Sea Remembers. Sandra Benitez

Reed Flute. Tessa West

Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place. Terry Tempest Williams

Seed Keeper. Diane Wilson

Sheepish: Two Women, Fifty Sheep, and Enough Wool to Save the Planet. Catherine Friend

Signature of All Things. Elizabeth Gilbert

Soul of an Octopus, Sy Montgomery

Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works. Atina Diffley

When Women Were Birds: Fifty Four Variations on Voice. Terry
Tempest Williams

Where the Crawdads Sing. Delia Owen

White Heart of Mojave. Edna Brush Perkins

Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City. Anne Matthews

POETRY, NOVELLA & SHORT STORY

Capturing the essence, providing provocative moments

The All of It, Jeannette Haien

Anything Is Possible. Elizabeth Strout

Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson

Drápa: A Reykjavik Murder Mystery, Gerður Kristný

In Reach. Pamela Joern

Lilus Kikus. Elena Poniatowska

Long Life: Essays and Other Writings. Mary Oliver

Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper. Harriet Scott Chess-
man,

Olive Kittridge. Elizabeth Strout

Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan

Vacationland. Susan Stonich

Witness. Karen Hesse

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY

This is not about spaceships but about possibilities.

Alliance. S. K. Dunstall

Angelology. Danielle Trussoni

Archangel. Sharon Shinn

Assassin's Apprentice. Robin Hobb

Binti: Home. Nnedi Okorafor

Finna. Cipri, Nino

Fresco. Sherri Tepper

Gemsigns. Stephanie Saulter

Hunger Games. Suzanne Collins

Leaving Tabasco. Carmen Boullosa

Like Water for Chocolate. Laura Esquivel

The Margarets. Sheri S. Tepper

Snare. Katherine Kerr

Starless Sea. Erin Morgenstern

Tale for the Time Being. Ruth Ozeki

Thirteenth Tale. Diane Setterfield

SPIRITUALITY

The journey to one's center follows many paths as one honors being woman.

Angelology. Danielle Trussoni

Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women. Wilma Mankiller

Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, and Elder and the Light

from an Ancient Sky. Kent Nerburn

History of God: The 4,000 -Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Karen Armstrong

Illuminations. Mary Sharratt

IN TRANSLATION

To immerse ourselves in other cultures

Blackwater. Kerstin Ekman (from Swedish by Joan Tate)

Butterflies in November, Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir (from Icelandic by Brian FitzGibbon)

Drápa: A Reykjavik Murder Mystery, Gerður Kristný (from Icelandic by Rory McTurk)

Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Olga Tokarczuk

The Elegance of the Hedgehog, Muriel Barbery (from French by Alison Anderson)

Here's to You, Jesusa!. Elena Poniatowska (from Spanish by Deanna Heikkinen)

Leaving Tabasco. Carmen Boullosa (from Spanish by Geoff Hargreaves)

Like Water for Chocolate. Laura Esquivel (from Spanish by Carol and Thomas Christensen)

Lilus Kikus. Elena Poniatowska (from Spanish by Elizabeth Coonrod Martinez)

Lovesick. Angeles Mastretta (from Spanish by Margaret Sayers Peden)

YOUNG ADULT

Great books for young readers are great reads for adults, too

Binti: Home. Nnedi Okorafor

Broken Soup. Jenny Valentine

Brown Girl Dreaming. Jacqueline Woodson

Cure for Death by Lightning. Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Episode of Sparrows. Rumer Godden

Everywhere Blue, Joanne Rossmassler Fritz

Evolution of Calpurnia Tate. Jacqueline Kelly

Hate U Give. Angie Thomas

Lilus Kikus. Elena Poniatowska

Little Women. Louisa May Alcott

To Kill A Mockingbird. Harper Lee

Tree Grows in Brooklyn. Betty Smith