

**Notable Books 2011**  
**Chosen by the Librarians of the Emmaus Public Library**

**NON-FICTION**

Ackerman, Diane. **One Hundred Names for Love: A Stroke, a Marriage, and the Language of Healing.** What the author learned caring for her afflicted husband.

Al-Khalili, Jim. **The House of Wisdom: How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave us the Renaissance.** Eye-opening, myth-shattering history.

Armstrong, Karen. **Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life.** A practical guide to making the world a better place, whether one is religious or not.

Bahadur, Jay. **The Pirates of Somalia: Inside Their Hidden World.** Rare insights into what drives young men to risk their lives attacking ships off the coast of Africa.

Bakan, Joel. **Childhood Under Siege: How Big Business Targets Children.** From marketing toys to selling psychotropic drugs, corporations have their eyes on kids.

Baker, Stephen. **Final Jeopardy: Man vs. Machine and the Quest to Know Everything.** Watson is the IBM computer that is astonishing the world with its fact-finding capabilities.

Barker, Bruce, **Black and Decker Codes for Homeowners: Your Photo Guide to Electrical Codes, Plumbing Codes, Building Codes, Mechanical Codes.** It's all here, up to date.

Beal, Timothy. **The Rise and Fall of the Bible: the Unexpected History of an Accidental Book.** The Bible as an invaluable cultural icon.

Bergen, Peter. **The Longest War: America and al-Qaeda Since 9/11.** Very knowledgeable, Bergen is one of the few journalists to have interviewed Bin Laden.

Bone, Eugenia. **Mycophilia: Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms.** From deadly poisons to cancer cures, mushrooms are vastly important to human life.

Bowman, Alisa. **Project Happily Ever After: Saving Your Marriage When the Fairytale Falters.** Based on experience, the author gives a 10-step marriage-saving plan.

Brinkley, Douglas. **The Quiet World: Saving Alaska's Wilderness Kingdom, 1879 – 1960.** The incredible story of how often the pristine wilderness was greatly threatened by development schemes. The author says that writing this book has changed his life.

Brokaw, Tom. **The Time of Our Lives: A Conversation About America.** The esteemed broadcaster has ideas on recapturing the American Dream.

Brooks, David. **The Social Animal: The Hidden Sources of Love, Character and Achievement.** Using a fictional couple as an example, Brooks explores human behavior.

Brummer, Melanie. **Contemporary Dyecraft: Over 50 Tie-dye Projects for Scarves, Dresses, T-shirts and More.** Tie-dye lives on in these colorful projects.

Bryson, Bill, editor. **Seeing Further: The Story of Science, Discovery and the Genius of the Royal Society.** A wide-ranging group of contemporary writers describe how the Royal Society has encouraged world-changing science since 1660.

Burleigh, Nina. **The Fatal Gift of Beauty: The Trials of Amanda Knox.** Written before the verdict, this is nevertheless interesting background to the notorious case.

Carroll, Linda. **The Concussion Crisis: Anatomy of a Silent Epidemic.** The authors call the incidence of sports-related concussion a national public health crisis.

Chua, Amy. **Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother.** One woman's experience in "extreme parenting;" this book created a firestorm among parents of a more relaxed approach.

Chwast, Seymour. **The Canterbury Tales and Dante's Divine Comedy.** These two classics—two separate books-- have been re-interpreted in graphic format.

Clinton, Bill. **Back to Work: Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy.** Clinton says we need not less and not more, but smarter government policies.

Cooper, Wendy A. **Paint, Pattern, People: Furniture of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1725-1850.** A sumptuous cataloging of the hand-crafted furniture that was made and decorated in various fashion by the different groups that settled here.

Danson, Ted. **Oceana: Our Endangered Oceans and What We Can Do to Save Them.** The actor is serious—and well informed—about a vast ecological crisis.

Dawson, Richard. **The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True.** This pictorial, easy-to-read book debunks many science myths in a pleasant, colorful way.

Devlin, Keith. **The Man of Numbers: Fibonacci's Arithmetic Revolution.** Fibonacci was the greatest mathematician of the middle ages according to this short, lively book.

Dugard, Jaycee. **A Stolen Life: A Memoir.** Kidnapped and held captive for eighteen years, Dugard emerged from great suffering with her dignity and optimism intact.

Eilperin, Juliet. **Demon Fish: Travels Through the Hidden World of Sharks.** Circling the globe, sometimes swimming with them, Eilperin offers a page-turning account.

Ferreiro, Larrie D. **Measure of the Earth : The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World.** How we knew the shape of the earth before satellites.

Foer, Jonathan. **Moonwalking with Einstein : The Art and Science of Remembering Everything.** An intriguing, encouraging look at how memory works.

Fogle, Bruce. **Dog: The Definitive Guide for Dog Owners.** Booklist magazine called this “the single best dog book of the decade.”

Foner, Eric. **The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery.** An essential look at the moral crisis that divided a nation.

Foreman, Amanda. **A World on Fire: Britain’s Crucial Role in the American Civil War.** The magazine The Economist named this one of the year’s best books.

Friedman, Thomas. **That Used to be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World it Invented and How We Can Come Back.** Friedman continues his exploration of the effects of globalization on the United States and its place in a new world.

Fuller, Alexandra. **Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness.** Fuller continues her series of memoirs of living in Africa.

Garfield, Simon. **Just my Type.** A book of fonts: the Declaration of Independence was published in Garamond, while Garfield claims that Comic Sans is a “typographic felony.”

Gill, Jonathan. **Harlem: The Four Hundred Year History from Dutch Village to Capital of Black America.** A rich history of an ever-changing neighborhood.

Girardet, Edward. **Killing the Cranes: A Reporter’s Journey Through Three Decades of War in Afghanistan.** There since the 1970’s, Girardet knows Afghanistan thoroughly.

Gleick, James. **The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood.** A thorough, even and monumental study of information-transmission from early alphabets to the internet.

Goodheart, Adam. **1861: The Civil War Awakening.** How American history pivoted on the events of one year that decided it all.

Greenblatt, Stephen. **The Swerve: How the World Became Modern.** The nonfiction National Book Award winner explains the Renaissance’s relevance to modern history.

Greene, Brian. **The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and Deep Laws of the Cosmos.** Physicist Greene brings much-needed clarity to the concept of a multi-universe.

Greenlee, John. **The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn.** Maintaining a grass lawn is no longer sustainable—or healthy.

Grillo, Ioan. **El Narco: Inside Mexico's Criminal Insurgency.** The author contends that the drug war was completely predictable based on policies on both sides of the border.

Hanson, Thor. **Feathers; The Evolution of a Natural Miracle.** Feathers are not only the most efficient insulation on earth; they were the most valuable cargo on the Titanic.

Hohn, Donovan. **Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,000 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them.**

We learn about ocean currents, cheap Chinese toy manufacturers, and much else.

Homans, Jennifer. **Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet.** The definitive history of an elegant art form.

Hughes, Evan, editor. **Literary Brooklyn: The Writers of Brooklyn and the Story of American City Life.** An excellent anthology from an impressive list of writers.

Hughes, Robert. **Rome: A Cultural, Visual, and Personal History.** Art critic Hughes has extensive and personal knowledge of Rome and writes about it in a lively manner.

Jasanoff, Maya. **Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World.** One in 40 Americans were loyal to England and left America after the Revolution.

Jennings, Ken. **Maphead: Charting the Wide, Weird World of Geography Wonks.** Jeopardy's greatest champion is passionate about maps and his enthusiasm rubs off.

Johnson, Paul. **Socrates: A Man for Our Times.** Johnson is an expert on cultural history and finds we have much to learn from Socrates.

Jundi, Sami. **The Hour of Sunlight: One Palestinian's Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker.** Jailed as a radical, Jundi read widely in prison and started a peace group.

Kahneman, Daniel. **Thinking, Fast and Slow.** The Nobel Prize winner's research on our two-tiered brain and how we make decisions.

Kaku, Michio. **Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100.** A lively, fascinating exploration of the future.

Kessler, Ron. **The Secrets of the FBI.** Kessler has ways of delving into the hidden corners of government institutions and this book is particularly interesting.

King, David. **Death in the City of Light: The Serial Killer of Nazi-occupied Paris.** Yes, amidst their other difficulties, war-time Parisians had to cope with a murderer.

Kissinger, Henry. **On China.** Lively history by an old hand who's been there forty times.

Konigsberg, Ruth. **The Truth about Grief: the Myth of its Five Stages and the New Science of Loss.** The author questions Kubler-Ross's theory and its proponents.

Larson, Erik. **In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin.** The American ambassador's life during Hitler's early years.

Lehrer, Jim. **Tension City: Inside Presidential Debates from Kennedy-Nixon to Obama-McCain.** Lehrer has the middle seat in many debates; his is the inside story.

Leibovitz, Liel. **Fortunate Sons: The 120 Chinese Boys Who Came to America, Went to School, and Revolutionized an Ancient Civilization.** In 1872, China sponsored an unprecedented educational experiment and the results were profound.

Logue, Mark. **The King's Speech.** A king who can't speak well; the fascinating story dramatized in the Academy Award-winning film.

Lynskey, Dorian. **33 Revolutions Per Minute: A History of Protest Songs from Billie Holiday to Green Day.** The Occupy movement might not have a song, but stay tuned.

MacCulloch, Diarmaid. **Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years.** A massive history from a balanced and insightful writer.

MacGregor, Neil. **A History of the World in 100 Objects.** Director of the British Museum taps its vast collection to illustrate thousands of years of humans making things.

Marche, Stephen. **How Shakespeare Changed Everything.** A lighthearted look at his continuing influence on everything from language to how we think about adolescence.

Maushart, Susan. **The Winter of Our Disconnect: How Three Totally Wired Teenagers (and a Mother Who Slept With Her iPhone) Pulled the Plug on Their Technology and Lived to Tell the Tale.** A modern day survival tale worth considering.

McCullough, David. **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris.** Yes, there were Americans in Paris 100 years before the Lost Generation got there.

Millard, Candice. **Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness and the Murder of a President.** James A. Garfield lingered near death after the assassination attempt while the medical treatment he would receive was debated among his physicians.

Miller, James A. **Those Guys have All the Fun: Inside the World of ESPN.** Behind the scenes at the world's premier sports network. It *does* sound like fun.

Mitnick, Kevin. **Ghost in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker.** Now a consultant, Mitnick served time in prison for his rollicking exploits.

Monaghan, Patricia. **Meditation, the Complete Guide: Techniques from East to West to Calm the Mind, Heal the Body, and Enrich the Spirit.** Included are more than 50 kinds of meditation, surely something for everybody.

Moskowitz, Tobias. **Scorecasting: The Hidden Influences Behind How Sports are Played and Games are Won.** Overturns our assumptions about winning and losing.

Mueller, Tom. **Extra Virginity: The Sublime and Scandalous World of Olive Oil.** Fraud in the olive oil business? Yes, unfortunately. A brilliant exploration.

Mukherjee, Siddhartha. **The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer.** The Pulitzer Prize-winning history of cancer and humans' efforts to defeat it.

Nealon, Mary Jane. **Beautiful Unbroken: One Nurse's Life.** Moving, compassionate and poetic, this book is a standout medical memoir; not to be missed.

Nelson, Kevin. **The Spiritual Doorway in the Brain: A Neurologist's Search for the God Experience.** Nelson finds that there is a neurological basis for spiritual yearnings.

Nicholls, Henry. **The Way of the Panda: The Curious History of China's Political Animal.** The panda has mystified and entranced people around the world, but it has also played a role in China's world status.

Nordhaus, Hannah. **The Beekeeper's Lament: How One Man and Half a Billion Honey Bees Help Feed America.** The vital role of migratory beekeepers in farming.

Offit, Paul. **Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All.** Why anything less than universal vaccination threatens the health of our nation.

Orlean, Susan. **Rin Tin Tin: The Life and Legend.** An engrossing tale of a dog rescued in 1918 war-torn France whose legend lives on today.

Ornstein, Peggy. **Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Dispatches From the Front Lines of the New Girlie-girl Culture.** The dangers of sexualizing girlhood.

Ottaviani, Jim. **Feynman.** The story of the great physicist written in graphic format.

Parks, Tim. **Teach Us to Sit Still: A Skeptic's Search for Health and Healing.** Parks found a way to health when doctors couldn't treat his chronic pain.

Paul, Alan. **Big in China: My Unlikely Adventures Raising a Family, Playing the Blues, and Becoming a Star in Beijing.** Hilarious tales of a musician's life in China.

Powell, Kenneth. **The Great Builders.** Fascinating profiles of forty of the world's greatest architects.

Powell, Kimberly. **The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy: Use the Web to Trace Your Roots, Share Your History, and Create a Family Tree.** A new hobby!

Randall, Lisa. **Knocking on Heaven's Door: How Physics and Scientific Thinking Illuminate the Universe and the Modern World.** A leading physicist who has been compared to Einstein explains the place of physics in our time.

Rasenberger, Jim. **The Brilliant Disaster: JFK, Castro, and American's Doomed Invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs.** De-classified documents help explain what happened.

Rasmussen, Daniel. **American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt.** A vivid history of 1811 New Orleans when 500 slaves rebelled.

Rastello, Luca. **I am the Market: How to Smuggle Cocaine by the Ton, in Five Easy Lessons.** Cocaine smuggling has tainted the global economy to a shocking extent.

Romanowski, Peggy. **Can You Get Hooked on Lip Balm? Top Cosmetic Scientists Answer Your Questions About the Lotions, Potions, and Other Beauty Products You Use Every Day.** A brief, useful guide; you *can* get dependent on some cosmetics.

Rose, Frank. **The Art of Immersion: How the Digital Generation is Remaking Hollywood, Madison Avenue, and the Way We Tell Stories.** Profound changes are afoot in all fields of communication—in case you haven't noticed.

Ruben, Marina. **How to Tutor Your Own Child: Boost Grades and Inspire a Lifelong Love of Learning—Without Paying for a Professional Tutor.** A do-it-yourself approach that can work where the family environment is hospitable to learning.

Safina, Carl. **The View from Lazy Point: A Natural Year in an Unnatural World.** A top environmental scientist shares his awe at nature's patterns, interconnectedness.

Scottoline, Lisa. **Best Friends, Occasional Enemies: The Lighter Side of Life as Mother and Daughter.** Hilarious essays from the popular novelist and her daughter.

Sherman, Ted. **The Jersey Sting: A True Story of Crooked Poles, Money-Laundering Rabbis, Black Market Kidneys and the Informant Who Brought it All Down.** A vivid, slightly bizarre crime story; true crime fans will savor this one.

Shteir, Rachel. **The Steal: A Cultural History of Shoplifting.** The author says that this crime is widely misunderstood and anything but petty.

Siegel, Bernie. **A Book of Miracles: Inspiring True Stories of Healing, Gratitude, and Love.** Medical miracles do exist, but what about the family saved from fire by bats?

Sismondo, Christine. **America Walks Into a Bar: A Spirited History of Taverns and Saloons, Speakeasies and Grog Shops.** Fascinating history from colonial days till now.

Smith, Caroline. **Meteorites.** Personally, we favor the gold one, but all meteorites have stories to tell. This is a very handsome book.

Standiford, Les. **Bringing Adam Home: The Abduction That Changed America.** Adam's father started America's Most Wanted television show after this tragedy.

Steel, Piers. **The Procrastination Equation: How to Stop Putting Things Off and Start Getting Stuff Done.** Don't delay, read this now!

Taylor, Anthony. **The Sacred Sites Bible: The Definitive Guide to Spiritual Places.** This colorful book covers 100 sites from many religions in short, accessible entries.

Tzemach Lemmon, Gayle. **The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe.** An Afghan woman works to keep her family alive under the Taliban by starting a sewing and dressmaking school.

Van Buren, Peter. **We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People.** The surreal, sometimes hilarious, world of the Iraq war.

Waltrip, Michael. **In the Blink of an Eye: Dale, Daytona and the Day that Changed Everything.** NASCAR's triumphs and tragedies told by one who was there.

Wasdin, Howard. **SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper.** An eye-opening, riveting account of a secret military operative; unforgettable.

Weil, Andrew. **Spontaneous Happiness.** A natural approach to treating depression.

Weyerman, Debra. **Answer Them Nothing: Bringing Down the Polygamous Empire of Warren Jeffs.** A serial rapist and fundamentalist "prophet," Jeffs is in jail for life.

Wiedermer, David. **Aftershock: Protect Yourself and Profit in the Next Global Financial Meltdown.** Are safe investments possible in this climate? The author says yes.

Wilderson, Isabel. **The Warmth of Other Suns: the Epic Story of America's Great Migration.** Six million African-Americans moved north and changed America.

Wilkinson, Toby. **The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt.** A definitive modern study.

Williams, Wendy. **Kraken: The Curious, Exciting and Slightly Disturbing Science of the Squid.** Squid solve laboratory puzzles and may have clues to Alzheimer's disease.

Winchester, Simon. **The Alice Behind Wonderland.** Focusing on a portrait from 1858, the esteemed author looks at the girl who inspired Lewis Carroll's tale.

Wolf, Clark. **American Cheeses: The Best Regional, Artisan and Farmhouse Cheeses, Who Makes Them and Where to Find Them.** The recipes are more than half the fun.

Wolfe, Nathan. **The Viral Storm: The Dawn of a New Pandemic Age.** Important, eye-opening and very scary.

Wu, Tim. **The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires.** Wu warns that if internet development follows past patterns, it won't be free for much longer.

Yergin, Daniel. **The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World.** A continuation of this prize-winning study of energy entitled **The Prize.**

Zuk, Marlene. **Sex on Six Legs: Lessons on Life, Love, and Language from the Insect World.** Democracy, tyranny, incest, cannibalism, they're all present in the insect world.

## FICTION

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. **The Keeper of Lost Causes.** A thriller about a missing statesman from Denmark's top crime writer.

Ahern, Cecelia. **The Book of Tomorrow.** Family secrets in the ruins of an Irish castle.

Anam, Tahmima. **The Good Muslim.** Bangladeshis caught in the maze of global politics.

Atkinson, Kate. **Started Early, Took My Dog.** Making a snap decision to rescue a child, the protagonist must live with the consequences.

Banks, Russell. **The Lost Memory of Skin.** A man on probation is approached by someone called The Professor and asked to be the subject of his research.

Barnes, Julian. **The Sense of an Ending.** A man's deeply-held assumptions are undone.

Beattie, Ann. **The New Yorker Stories.** A stunning new collection.

Bell, Madison Smartt. **The Color of Night.** Las Vegas worker is undone by past secrets.

Benjamin, Melanie. **The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb.** Compelling biographical fiction about a very determined 32-inch woman.

Berenson, Alex. **The Secret Soldier.** Scheming terrorists, great spycraft.

Berg, Elizabeth. **Once Upon a Time There Was You.** A couple is reunited by tragedy.

Berry, Steve. **The Jefferson Key.** Were all presidential assassinations somehow linked?

Bohjalian, Chris. **The Night Strangers**. What is behind that bolted door in the basement?

Boyle, T. C. **When the Killing's Done**. A thriller about protecting endangered animals.

Brashares, Ann. **Sisterhood Everlasting**. More in the **Traveling Pants** series.

Brooks, Geraldine. **Caleb's Crossing**. An engrossing tale of Martha's Vineyard in the 1660s and the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College.

Brown, Eleanor. **The Weird Sisters**. Three daughters of a retired professor of Shakespeare find their paths in life, with some guidance from the Bard.

Buchan, Elizabeth. **Separate Beds**. The husband loses his job, and although they're somewhat estranged, this couple tries to keep up appearances.

Cain, Chelsea. **The Night Season**. Floods, a skeleton and a venomous octopus.

Campbell, Bonnie Jo. **Once Upon a River**. A sixteen-year old girl's solo river trip.

Card, Orson Scott. **The Lost Gate**. A child grows up amidst magic, secrets and danger.

Carey, Peter. **Parrot and Olivier in America**. An aristocrat winds up in early America.

Carter, Philip. **The Altar of Bones**. A deathbed confession, the KGB and a sacred icon.

Champion, David. **Bomber Bombs**. A young man accused of assault may be innocent.

Childress, Mark. **Georgia Bottoms**. Oh-oh! Her many simultaneous affairs come to light.

Clark, Marcia. **Guilt by Association**. The OJ prosecutor writes a top-notch thriller.

Cumming, Charles. **The Trinity Six**. A Cold War thriller surrounding a diplomat's death.

Delaney, Frank. **The Matchmaker of Kenmare**. An enigmatic woman may hold secrets.

De los Santos, Marisa. **Falling Together**. Former friends reunite searching for another.

Dew, Robb Forman. **Being Polite to Hitler**. A warm and funny 1950s family saga.

Diffenbaugh, Vanessa. **The Language of Flowers**. A teen finds her destiny in flowers.

Doctorow, E. L. **All the Time in the World**. A new collection of his short stories.

Earle, Steve. **I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive**. Hank Williams' ghost appears in this gripping fiction from a popular folk singer.

Edgerton, Clyde. **The Night Train**. In 1960's North Carolina, the music is everything.

Ellis, David. **Breach of Trust**. Imagine! Corruption in Illinois politics. This realistic novel is written by the prosecutor in the Blagojevich trial.

Ellory, R. J. **The Anniversary Man**. A serial killer returns; a top crime novel of 2011.

Enright, Anne. **The Forgotten Waltz**. A woman recalls an old affair; the author won the Booker Prize for **The Gathering** in 2007.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. **The Marriage Plot**. Recent college grads explore relationships.

Evison, Jonathan. **West of Here**. Early settlers in Washington State build a dam; now their descendants want to demolish it. A rich historical novel.

Falvey, Patricia. **The Yellow House**. Passion and politics in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ireland.

Frazier, Charles. **Nightwoods**. A solitary mountain woman's life changes completely when her sister's children come to live with her. From the author of **Cold Mountain**.

Fuentes, Carlos. **Destiny and Desire**. Mexico's premier novelist writes a compelling story of a dead man's testimony of his own murder.

Gardner, Lisa. **Love You More**. A murder, a missing child and great suspense.

Ghosh, Amitav. **River of Smoke**. A Follow-up to his **Sea of Poppies**, about opium smugglers in India.

Graham, Lorna. **The Ghost of Greenwich Village**. An apartment is haunted by writers of the Beat Generation.

Grant, Helen. **The Glass Demon**. Mystery and horror in a secluded German castle.

Grippando, James. **Afraid of the Dark**. A young man accused of terrorism has little chance of acquittal in this pulse-pounding thriller.

Gross, Andrew. **Eyes Wide Open**. A taut psychological thriller based on a teen's death.

Grossman, Lev. **The Magician King**. A follow-up to his book **The Magicians**. Now that the young magicians have graduated, sinister occurrences begin. A delightful fantasy.

Haddam, Jane. **Flowering Judas**. A man missing for 12 years turns up—dead. Gripping.

Harbach, Chad. **The Art of Fielding**. The best baseball novel of the past few years.

Harkness, Deborah. **A Discovery of Witches**. A scholar finds a book that had been lost for 150 years and he must now acknowledge his own relationship to the paranormal.

Hayder, Mo. **Gone**. Carjacker steals more than a car in this riveting thriller.

Higashino, Keigo. **The Devotion of Suspect X**. Is there nothing this man won't do for the woman he loves? Giving her an alibi for a murder is just the beginning.

Hill, Reginald. **The Woodcutter**. A knock on the door changes a man's life and not in a good way. An engrossing thriller.

Hoffman, Alice. **The Red Garden**. A woman's ties to the natural world are explored in this novel of linked stories that go from historical to magical.

Hoffman, Alice. **The Dovekeepers**. Set in ancient Israel, this historical novel traces the survivors of the battle of Masada.

Holman, Sheri. **Witches on the Road Tonight**. A chance encounter in Depression-era backwoods Virginia shows a boy that there is a wide world beyond.

King, Stephen. **11/22/63**. An alternate history leading up to that infamous day in history related by a teacher who travels back to 1958 intending to befriend Lee Harvey Oswald.

Koryta, Michael. **The Cypress House**. A hardened WWII vet foretells others' deaths.

Lackberg, Camilla. **The Preacher**. Are religious fanatics responsible for area murders?

LaPlante, Alice. **Turn of Mind**. An orthopedic surgeon is losing touch with reality in what may be the beginnings of Alzheimer's. An eloquent exploration of loss.

Lawrenson, Deborah. **The Lantern**. Provence is lovely, but fear and suspicion haunt a newlywed woman in this modern day gothic novel.

Levithan, David. **The Lovers' Dictionary**. A relationship spanning years is described in dictionary format—definitions tell the tale.

Lippman, Laura. **The Most Dangerous Thing**. Old friends reunite at a funeral and the dangerous secret they all vowed to keep hidden comes out.

Lukas, Michael. **The Oracle of Stamboul**. An brave and inquisitive eight-year old girl stows away on her father's ship to discover the exotic world of Istanbul.

Magson, Adrian. **Red Station**. A story with everything: MI5 agents, Russian spies, intense action scenes.

Maguire, Gregory. **Out of Oz**. The final volume of his Wicked series.

Mayhew, Anna Jean. **The Dry Grass of August.** In 1954, a North Carolina family and their black maid travel to Florida for a vacation with tragic consequences.

McGrath, M. J. **White Heat.** Here's something out of the ordinary: a mystery set in a remote Inuit community.

McKeon, Belinda. **Solace.** An Irish family in which the father and son have lately been estranged are reunited by unforeseen events.

McLain, Paula. **The Paris Wife.** Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley are the subjects of this biographical novel.

Meltzer, Brad. **The Inner Circle.** Conspiracies from Revolutionary War times reverberate in modern day Washington.

Millhauser, Seven. **We Others: Stories.** The New Yorker writer's new collection.

Montefiore, Santa. **The Mermaid Garden.** A Devon country inn offers art lessons for guests; this has been described as "a fairy tale for grownups."

Morgenstern, Erin. **The Night Circus.** Enchanting fiction about the denizens of a mysterious circus that appears in town without warning.

Morris, Mary McGarry. **Light From a Distant Star.** Set in a small Southern town, this coming-of-age tale has been compared to **To Kill a Mockingbird.**

Murakami, Haruki. **1Q84.** Inspired by George Orwell's **1984**, this is written by the master of modern Japanese fiction and author of **The Windup Bird Chronicle.**

Nemirovsky, Irene. **All Our Worldly Goods.** Two wars come to a small French town; a lyrical novel of abiding love.

Obreht, Tea. **The Tiger's Wife.** This timeless novel is set in the Balkans where a young woman tries to understand her late grandfather through his stories.

Ondaatje, Michael. **The Cat's Table.** Three boys on a voyage to England—without chaperones—find adventure, mystery and danger. A delightful story.

Orringer, Julie. **The Invisible Bridge.** An architecture student arrives in Budapest with a mysterious letter that will determine much about his future.

Otsuka, Julie. **The Buddha in the Attic.** A small book that has much to say about Japanese mail-order brides. A masterpiece of concise fiction.

Parker, Michael. **The Watery Part of the World.** Set on a North Carolina island, this is the story of Aaron Burr's shipwrecked daughter.

Patchett, Ann. **State of Wonder.** From the cold Midwest to the jungles of Brazil, a research scientist searches for a missing co-worker and discovers the results of an intriguing series of experiments.

Pearson, Allison. **I Think I Love You.** Welsh teenagers obsessed with pop star David Cassidy find that love can be bittersweet.

Penman, Sharon Kay. **Lionheart.** Penman continues her medieval history series with a fascinating novel about King Richard and the Third Crusade.

Peters, Ralph. **The Officer's Club.** Murder on an army base near the Arizona-Mexico border; a superb crime novel.

Phillips, Arthur. **The Tragedy of Arthur.** If a known counterfeiter and ex-con finds an undiscovered Shakespeare play, can we trust that it's real? A delightful romp of a book.

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. **Call Me Irresistible.** Is it ever okay to marry someone you don't love? A funny romance.

Pressfield, Steven. **The Profession.** A chilling military thriller set in 2032; all too plausible mid-east attack scenarios.

Quinn, Spencer. **The Dog Who Knew Too Much.** A delightful continuation of the Chet and Bernie mysteries. Luckily, the dog is the smart one.

Rankin, Ian. **The Complaints.** "Complaints" are cops who investigate other cops; always a difficult situation. One of Rankin's best.

Ray, Shann. **American Masculine.** Exceptional short stories set in the American West.

Robotham, Michael. **The Wreckage: a Thriller.** Billions of dollars are missing from an Iraqi bank which sets off a series of page-turning events.

Rodriguez, Deborah. **A Cup of Friendship.** An American runs an Afghanistan coffee house; the author also wrote the nonfiction **Kabul Beauty School.**

Rosenfelt, David. **On Borrowed Time.** It's bad enough if your lover disappears, but what if you can't prove she ever existed?

Roslund, Anders. **Three Seconds.** A riveting thriller set in Sweden where undercover police are infiltrating the Polish mafia.

Ross, Adam. **Ladies and Gentlemen.** Having made his debut with **Mr. Peanut**, Ross tries his hand at a fine collection of short stories.

Rubinfeld, Jed. **The Death Instinct.** Set in 1920s New York, this history/mystery packs a lot of suspense in a tale of a Wall Street bombing. Can Freud solve the case?

Russell, Karen. **Swamplandia!** Amidst a series of family tragedies, 13-year old Ava must use all her resources to manage a Florida alligator wrestling park with 98 gators.

Sacheri, Eduardo. **The Secret in Their Eyes.** The movie of the same name won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film. Both have everything: mystery, humor, lost love.

Schwartz, John B. **Northwest Corner.** A man trying to rebuild his life finds his estranged son on his doorstep, a son who is fleeing troubles of his own.

See, Lisa. **Dreams of Joy.** A follow-up to her novel **Shanghai Girls** finds Joy living on a commune in Maoist China.

Shaara, Jeff. **The Final Storm: a Novel of World War II in the Pacific.** The final book in Shaara's World War series is based on in-depth research and personal testimonies.

Sharp, Adrienne. **The True Memoirs of Little K.** The story of a ballerina in St. Petersburg's Imperial ballet who witnessed life from Tsarist to revolutionary Russia.

Simmons, Kelly. **The Bird House.** Set in Bryn Mawr, the novel considers the thoughts of a woman struggling against dementia and the troubling memories of her daughter.

Slonczewski, Joan. **The Highest Frontier.** A young woman spends her freshman year in space—a good place to be since aliens are making Earth somewhat uninhabitable.

Steiner, Peter. **The Terrorist.** A CIA agent can't foresee the implications of helping a young Algerian boy obtain a scholarship. Booklist named this a Top 10 crime book.

Stephenson, Neal. **Reamde.** A sprawling technothriller from a science fiction giant.

Stevens, Taylor. **The Informationist.** A woman's past in Africa comes back to haunt her when she starts a new life in Dallas. A riveting tale of kidnapping.

Tillyard, Stella. **Tides of War.** What happens to the women who are left at home during the Napoleonic Wars? Lots, it turns out.

Toibin, Colm. **The Empty Family: Stories.** Kirkus named this one of the best books of short stories of 2011.

Toyne, Simon. **Sanctus.** Ancient secrets are behind a monk's suicide---but what are those secrets and why are they so dangerous?

Trevor, William. **Selected Stories.** A masterpiece of a collection by a master writer.

Unger, Lisa. **Darkness, My Old Friend.** After her divorce, a woman moves to a small town that is clearly hiding a lot of secrets she's not in on.

Urbach, Linda. **Madame Bovary's Daughter.** A sequel to a book that maybe didn't need one, but Urbach pulls it off; its rich characters and Paris setting are fascinating.

Vreeland, Susan. **Clara and Mr. Tiffany.** A young woman creates fabulous designs for Louis Comfort Tiffany, but he is a very difficult employer.

Ward, Jesmyn. **Salvage the Bones.** The National Book Award winner for fiction tells the story of an African American family in the time of Katrina.

Watson, S. J. **Before I go to Sleep.** Creepy in the extreme: a woman recovering from a brain injury is tended by her husband—or someone who claims to be married to her.

Whittle, Tina. **The Dangerous Side of Things.** An Atlanta gun shop owner finds a body in his driveway; a well-constructed plot keeps this story moving.

Wilson, Daniel. **Robopocalypse.** A robot revolt! Read the book before Spielberg's movie comes out.

Wilson, Kevin. **The Family Fang.** An odd bunch to be sure: when the parents disappear no one knows if they've come to harm or this is part of their elaborate performance art.

## **Biography**

Adams, Jad. **Gandhi: The True Man Behind Modern India.** A warts-and-all portrait shows Gandhi could be generous to masses of people, but less so to individuals.

Arkin, Alan. **An Improvised Life.** A candid assessment of the actor's life.

Baker, Jean. **Margaret Sanger: A Life of Passion.** Her mother had eleven children and died young; Sanger went on to found the modern birth control movement.

Bartlett, Rosamund. **Tolstoy: A Russian Life.** The author had access to new information unearthed since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Bartok, Mira. **The Memory Palace.** A woman comes to terms with her schizophrenic mother; a powerful and unforgettable memoir.

Belafonte, Harry. **My Song: a Memoir.** This book covers not only his show business career, but the causes Belafonte has championed for over half a century.

Breslin, Jimmy. **Branch Rickey**. A monumental figure in baseball, Rickey established the modern farm system and, of course, integrated the sport by hiring Jackie Robinson.

Burke, Carolyn. **No Regrets: The Life of Edith Piaf**. A perceptive biography of the beloved French singer who wrote over 100 songs and aided the Resistance in WWII.

Callan, Michael F. **Robert Redford: The Biography**. An actor whose concerns go far beyond his acting career.

Cutie, Albert. **Dilemma: a Priest's Struggle with Faith and Love**. Photographed embracing a woman on the beach, Father Cutie was forced to make a huge decision.

Dench, Judi. **And Furthermore**. Dame Judi Dench talks about her long career as an actress in the theatre, films and television.

Didion, Joan. **Blue Nights**. Frank and powerful, Didion discusses aging and loss.

Ebert, Roger. **Life Itself: a Memoir**. Ebert's cancer has stopped his voice but not his writing. He reveals that for all their differences, Gene Siskel was like a brother to him.

Fey, Tina. **Bossypants**. The television star and comedy writer's life story.

Garner, James. **The Garner Files**. Maverick and Rockford and the man behind them.

Gillies, Isabel. **A Year and Six Seconds: a Love Story**. The author of **Happens Every Day** continues her story of remaking her life after divorce.

Gordon-Read, Annette. **Andrew Johnson**. Another in the American Presidents series.

Greenberg, Keith E. **December 9, 1980: the Day John Lennon Died**. It shocked the world, but the Beatles had feared for their safety for years. Eye-opening.

Harvey, Robert. **Bolivar: The Liberator of Latin America**. Six Latin nations owe their liberation to Bolivar; this is a dramatic biography.

Isaacson, Walter. **Steve Jobs**. Jobs authorized this book, wanting nothing but the truth, and this biography is remarkably balanced and revealing.

Judd, Ashley. **All That is Bitter and Sweet**. Her life as an entertainer and humanitarian.

Ling, Chai. **A Heart for Freedom: The Remarkable Story of a Young Dissident, Her Daring Escape, and Her Quest to Free China's Daughters**. Ling led student protests in Tiananmen Square and barely escaped with her life.

Lithgow, John. **Drama: An Actor's Education**. A short, breezy memoir of a fine career.

Lynch, Jane. **Happy Accidents: a Memoir**. The star of Glee tells how she triumphed over years of self-doubt and anxiety.

Manning, Lauren. **Unmeasured Strength**. Manning was severely burned in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and was given almost zero chance of survival.

Marable, Manning. **Malcolm X: a Life of Reinvention**. A complex and highly significant man who turned his life around only to lose it.

Massie, Robert. **Catherine the Great : Portrait of a Woman**. And what a woman! The author of **Nicholas and Alexandra** brings us another masterpiece in biography.

Matthews, Chris. **Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero**. Matthews promises a more intimate portrait than other Kennedy biographies.

Oates, Joyce Carol. **A Widow's Story: A Memoir**. Oates is one of the most prolific writers of our time and this one of her most powerful books.

Proulx, Annie. **Bird Cloud**. The novelist tells of her decision to move to Wyoming.

Randall, Willard S. **Ethan Allen: His Life and Times**. The revolutionary war hero's first complete biography.

Ribowsky, Mark. **Howard Cosell: The Man, the Myth and the Transformation of American Sports**. Love him or not, there was no one like Howard Cosell.

Rice, Condoleezza. **No Higher Honor**. Rice's earlier biography focused on her family, this one covers her career in the Bush administration.

Saramago, Jose. **Small Memories: A Memoir**. The Portuguese Nobel Prize winner gives an intimate glimpse of his background; exquisitely written.

Scott, Janny. **A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother**. Nothing was predictable about her, from being named Stanley to raising a president.

Shawn, Allen. **Twin: A Memoir**. Shawn's twin sister was institutionalized for autism when they were eight years old and he feels the loss to this day.

Slawenski, Kenneth. **Salinger: A Life**. The reclusive author of **Catcher in the Rye** is revealed in this wide-ranging biography.

Talty, Stephen. **Escape from the Land of Snows: The Young Dalai Lama's Harrowing Flight to Freedom and the Making of a Spiritual Hero**. Riveting.

Van Dyke, Dick. **My Lucky Life In and Out of Show Business**. An amiable actor writes a pleasant biography.

Vecsey, George. **Stan Musial: An American Life**. A somewhat under-appreciated baseball player gets his due.

Vujcic, Nick. **Life Without Limits: Inspiration for a Ridiculously Good Life**. Born without arms or legs, Vujcic has found a way to emphasize what he *does* have.

White, Betty. **If You Ask Me (And of Course, You Won't)**. A fast read from a national treasure.

Wolcott, James. **Lucking Out: My Life Getting Down and Semi-dirty in Seventies New York**. Such fine prose, this critic's book could be used in memoir-writing classes.