





# Book Club Kits available from Halifax Public Libraries

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### Fifteen Dogs (fiction) / André Alexis

Gods Apollo and Hermes grant human intelligence and consciousness to fifteen dogs who wrestle with the challenges that arise as the result of their elevated thinking. - Novelist



### Life after life (fiction) / Kate Atkinson

Ursula Todd is born on a cold snowy night in 1910 -- twice. As she grows up during the first half of the twentieth century in Britain Ursula dies and is brought back to life again and again. With a seemingly infinite number of lives it appears as though Ursula has the ability to alter the history of the world, should she so choose. - Novelist



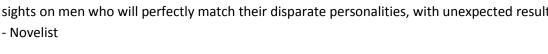
### The Handmaid's tale (fiction) / Margaret Atwood

In this multi-award-winning, bestselling novel, Margaret Atwood has created a stunning Orwellian vision of the near future. This is the story of Offred, one of the unfortunate "Handmaids" under the new social order who have only one purpose: to breed. In Gilead, where women are prohibited from holding jobs, reading, and forming friendships, Offred's persistent memories of life in the "time before" and her will to survive are acts of rebellion. - Overdrive



### Sense and sensibility (fiction) / Jane Austen

Two sisters, one practical and conventional and the other emotional and sentimental, set their sights on men who will perfectly match their disparate personalities, with unexpected results.





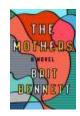






## The mothers: a novel (fiction) / Brit Bennett

It is the last season of high school life for Nadia Turner, a rebellious, grief-stricken, seventeen-year-old beauty. Mourning her own mother's recent suicide, she takes up with the local pastor's son. Luke Sheppard is twenty-one, a former football star whose injury has reduced him to waiting tables at a diner. They are young; it's not serious. But the pregnancy that results from this teen romance--and the subsequent cover-up--will have an impact that goes far beyond their youth. As Nadia hides her secret from everyone, including Aubrey, her God-fearing best friend, the years move quickly. Soon, Nadia, Luke, and Aubrey are full-fledged adults and still living in debt to the choices they made that one seaside summer, caught in a love triangle they must carefully maneuver, and dogged by the constant, nagging question: What if they had chosen differently? - Publisher



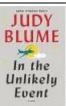
### A week in winter (fiction) / Maeve Binchy

Follows the efforts of a woman who turns a coastal Ireland mansion into a holiday resort and receives an assortment of first guests who throughout the course of a week share laughter and the heartache of respective challenges. – Novelist



### In the unlikely event: a novel (fiction) / Judy Blume

A richly textured and moving story of three generations of families, friends and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed by unexpected events. – Overdrive



### The Orenda (fiction) / Joseph Boyden

Set in 17th-century Ontario during the French conquest of Canada, this sweeping, richly detailed historical epic unfolds through the eyes of three individuals: Huron (Wyandot) warrior Bird, his Iroquois captive Snow Falls, and Jesuit Missionary Père Christophe. As the French exploit long-standing conflicts between the Huron and the Iroquois to gain control of their respective territories, shifting alliances between all three groups irrevocably alter the landscape of North America and the lives of its indigenous people. - Novelist



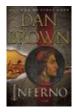






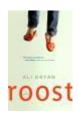
### Inferno: a novel (fiction) / Dan Brown

In the heart of Italy, Harvard professor of symbology, Robert Langdon, is drawn into a harrowing world centered on one of history's most enduring and mysterious literary masterpieces--Dante's Inferno. Against this backdrop, Langdon battles a chilling adversary and grapples with an ingenious riddle. - Novelist



### Roost: a novel (fiction) / Ali Bryan

Claudia, single mom of two, pines for her past independent life. Her ex, after all, has moved on to a new wardrobe, new hobbies and - worst of all - new adult friends. But in Claudia's house she's still finding bananas in the sock drawer, cigarettes taped to wrestling figures, and colourful doodles on her MasterCard bills. Then Claudia receives the unexpected news that her mother has died. Shared through the hilarious, honest, and often poignant perspective of a single mother, Roost is the story of a woman learning about motherhood while grieving the loss of her own mother. - Publisher.



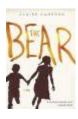
# The painted girls (fiction) / Cathy Marie Buchanan

Following the death of their father, both Marie and Antoinette find their lives change drastically as one girl is sent to become a ballet dancer while the other's line of work moves her lower and lower in Parisian society. – Novelist



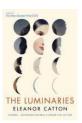
# The Bear: a novel (fiction) / Claire Cameron

Told from the point of view of a six-year-old child, *The Bear* is the story of Anna and her little brother, Stick--two young children forced to fend for themselves in Algonquin Park after a black bear attacks their parents. A gripping and mesmerizing exploration of the child psyche, this is a survival story unlike any other, one that asks what it takes to survive in the wilderness and what happens when predation comes from within. - Overdrive



### The luminaries (fiction) / Eleanor Catton

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









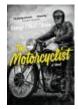
### More (fiction) / Austin Clarke

Struggling to make ends meet, Idora Morrison, a single mother, is devastated to learn of her son BJ's involvement in crime and gang warfare. Taking refuge in her Toronto apartment, Idora reflects on her life and tries to understand how she has spiraled into a tragic place. – Publisher



### The Motorcyclist (fiction) / George Elliott Clarke

Carl Black is an intellectual and artist, a traveller, a reader and an unapologetic womanizer. A motorcyclist. He burns for the bohemian life, but is trapped in a railway porter's prosaic--at times humiliating--existence. Taking place over one dramatic year in Halifax, Nova Scotia, The Motorcyclist vividly recounts Carl's travels and romantic exploits as he tours the backroads of the east coast and the bedrooms of a series of beautiful women. Inspired by the life of George Elliott Clarke's father, the novel tells the story of a black working-class man caught between the expectations of his times and gleaming possibilities of the open road. In vibrant, energetic, sensual prose, George Elliott Clarke brilliantly illuminates the life of a young black man striving for pleasure, success and, most of all, respect. - Publisher.



### Little bee (fiction) / Chris Cleave

The fates of a 16-year-old Nigerian orphan and a well-to-do British couple seeking to repair their strained marriage with a free holiday are joined when the couple decide to stray beyond the walls of their holiday resort on a Nigerian beach. - Novelist



## Hell going (short stories) / Lynn Coady

Equally adept at capturing the foibles and obsessions of men and of women, compassionate in her humour yet never missing an opportunity to make her characters squirm, fascinated as much by faithlessness as by faith, Lynn Coady is quite possibly the writer who best captures what it is to be human at this particular moment in our history. - Publisher



### Sweetland (fiction) / Michael Crummey

A deeply suspenseful story about one man's struggles against the forces of nature and the ruins of memory. For 12 generations, when the fish were plentiful and when they all-but disappeared, the inhabitants of this remote island in Newfoundland have lived and died together. Now, in the second decade of the 21st century, they are facing resettlement, and each has been offered a generous compensation package to leave. But the money is offered with a proviso: everyone has to go; the government won't be responsible for one crazy coot who chooses to stay alone on an island. - Publisher









### Our daily bread (fiction) / Lauren B. Davis

The Erskine clan has lived in isolation on North Mountain for generations. Now, one man decides to come down off the mountain hoping to change the future for his brothers and sisters.

- Novelist



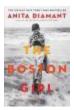
### Moll Flanders (fiction) / Daniel Defoe

Born and abandoned in Newgate Prison, Moll Flanders is forced to make her own way in life. She duly embarks on a career that includes husband-hunting, incest, bigamy, prostitution and pick-pocketing, until her crimes eventually catch up with her. One of the earliest and most vivid female narrators in the history of the English novel, Moll recounts her adventures with irresistible wit and candour—and enough guile that the reader is left uncertain whether she is ultimately a redeemed sinner or a successful opportunist. - Publisher



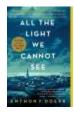
#### The Boston girl (fiction) / Anita Diamant

From the New York Times bestselling author of The Red Tent and Day After Night, comes an unforgettable novel about family ties and values, friendship and feminism told through the eyes of a young Jewish woman growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century. – Novelist



# All the light we cannot see (fiction) / Anthony Doerr

From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, a stunningly ambitious and beautiful novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. – Publisher



### Where I belong: small town to Great Big Sea (non-fiction) / Alan Doyle

Singer-songwriter and front man of the Canadian band Great Big Sea, Alan Doyle paints a vivid picture of growing up in the small coastal fishing community of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland. - Novelist









## Not that kind of girl (non-fiction) / Lena Dunham

From the creator, producer, and star of HBO's Girls and the comedy films Creative Nonfiction and Tiny Furniture comes a wise and candid collection of personal essays. Dunham illuminates the experiences that are part of making one's way in the world: falling in love, feeling alone, being ten pounds overweight despite eating only health food, having to prove yourself in a room full of men twice your age, finding true love, and, most of all, having the guts to believe that your story is one that deserves to be told. - Publisher



## Half-blood blues (fiction) / Esi Edugyan

In the aftermath of the fall of Paris, 1940, Hieronymus Falk, a rising star on the cabaret scene, was arrested in a cafe and never heard from again. He was twenty years old, a German citizen, and black. Fifty years later, Sid, Hiero's bandmate and the only witness that day, is going back to Berlin. - Novelist



### My Secret Sister (non-fiction) / Helen Edwards & Jenny Lee Smith

The powerful story of two sisters separated at birth, one abused and one loved, and their search to understand their past. – Novelist



# Good to a fault (fiction) / Marina Endicott

After Clara Purdy gets into a car crash, the bruises of the mother in the other car turn out to be late-stage cancer, prompting Clara to take in the mother's three children and their grandmother while the mother fights to beat her disease. – Novelist



### The round house: a novel (fiction) / Louise Erdrich

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family. — Novelist









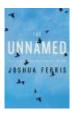
# 419: a novel (fiction) / Will Ferguson

Laura Curtis confronts the Lagos underworld of Internet scams in an attempt to track down her father's killer after he dies as a result of one such swindle. – Novelist



#### The unnamed: a novel (fiction) / Joshua Ferris

Their wealthy lifestyle marred only by a two-time occurrence of a short-lived illness, Tim and Jane Farnsworth are devastated when the illness returns in ways that frighteningly alter Tim's behavior and test Jane's endurance. – Novelist



### Gone girl (fiction) / Gillian Flynn

When beautiful Amy Dunne disappears from her Missouri home, it looks as if her husband Nick is to blame. But though he protests his innocence, it's clear that he's not being entirely truthful. Gone Girl is not only the story of a disappearance, but a truly frightening glimpse of a souring marriage. - Novelist



Marbles: mania, depression, Michelangelo, and me (graphic non-fiction) / Ellen Forney

#### \*RECENT ADDITION\*

An artist describes her bipolar disorder diagnosis and her struggles with mental stability while discussing other creative people throughout history who were also labeled as "crazy," including van Gogh, O'Keeffe, and Plath. - Novelist



### The ocean at the end of the lane (fiction) / Neil Gaiman

Returning to his childhood home in the English countryside for a funeral, the unnamed middle-aged narrator of this haunting, lyrical fable finds himself drawn to an ordinary-looking farmhouse that's anything but. As long-buried memories surface, he recalls events that occurred at Hempstock Farm when he was seven. When the malevolent Ursula Monkton insinuates herself into the fabric of his close-knit family, the farm's inhabitants, especially 11-year-old Lettie, offer their friendship and later their protection to the lonely, abused boy. However, their aid comes at a price, requiring a sacrifice he's unprepared to make. - Novelist









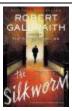
# The cuckoo's calling (fiction) / Robert Galbraith [Written pseudonymously by J.K. Rowling]

A brilliant debut mystery in a classic vein: Detective Cormoran Strike investigates a supermodel's suicide. – Overdrive



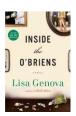
### The silkworm (fiction) / Robert Galbraith [Written pseudonymously by J.K. Rowling]

Cormoran Strike investigates the disappearance of a novelist who, in his most recent book, unflatteringly portrayed people from his life (Cormoran Strike novel #2). – Novelist



## Inside the O'Briens (fiction) / Lisa Genova

Joe O'Brien is a forty-four-year-old police officer from the Irish Catholic neighborhood of Charlestown, Massachusetts. A devoted husband, proud father of four children in their twenties, and respected officer, Joe begins experiencing bouts of disorganized thinking, uncharacteristic temper outbursts, and strange, involuntary movements. He initially attributes these episodes to the stress of his job, but as these symptoms worsen, he agrees to see a neurologist and is handed a diagnosis that will change his and his family's lives forever: Huntington's Disease. —Publisher



# The fault in our stars (fiction) / John Green

Sixteen-year-old Hazel, a stage IV thyroid cancer patient, has accepted her terminal diagnosis until a chance meeting with a boy at cancer support group forces her to reexamine her perspective on love, loss, and life. - Novelist



### Just Beneath My Skin (fiction) / Darren Greer

In the small town of North River, every day that goes by bleeds into the next. Poverty begets hopelessness, hopelessness begets violence, violence begets despair. The only way to change fate, a minister tells his son, is to leave. The minister's son, Jake MacNeil, chooses to ignore his father's advice. Only when he realizes what has become of his life--working a grueling dead end job, living with a drunk, friends with a murderer--does he decide to make something of himself. But nothing comes without a cost: in choosing freedom, Jake abandons his own son, Nathan, to the care of the boy's abusive mother. Years later, a reformed Jake comes back for Nathan, to finally set things right. But in North River, everything comes around again; and when a dangerous figure from the past becomes hell-bent on dragging the new Jake 'back down where he belongs', three generations of MacNeil men must come together to pay the full price of hope. - Publisher









# Gray mountain (fiction) / John Grisham

Losing her job at New York City's largest law firm in the weeks after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, Samantha becomes an unpaid intern in a small Appalachian community where she stumbles upon dangerous secrets. - Novelist



### At the water's edge (fiction) / Sara Gruen

After embarrassing themselves at the social event of the year in high society Philadelphia on New Year's Eve of 1942, Maddie and Ellis Hyde are cut off financially by Ellis's father, a former army colonel who is already embarrassed by his son's inability to serve in WWII due to color-blindness. Ellis decides that the only way to regain his father's favor is to succeed in a venture his father attempted and very publicly failed at: he will hunt the famous Loch Ness monster and, when he finds it, he will restore his father's name and return to his father's good graces (and pocketbook). Joined by their friend Hank, a wealthy socialite, the three make their way to Scotland in the midst of war. Each day, the two men go off to hunt the monster, while another monster, Hitler, is devastating Europe. Meanwhile, Maddie undergoes a social awakening: to the harsh realities of life, to the beauties of nature, to a connection with forces larger than herself, to female friendship, and, finally, to love. - Publisher



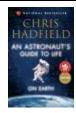
### Homegoing (fiction) / Yaa Gyasi

The unforgettable *New York Times* best seller begins with the story of two half-sisters, separated by forces beyond their control: one sold into slavery, the other married to a British slaver. Written with tremendous sweep and power, *Homegoing* traces the generations of family who follow, as their destinies lead them through two continents and three hundred years of history, each life indeliably drawn, as the legacy of slavery is fully revealed in light of the present day. - Publisher



# An astronaut's guide to life on Earth (non-fiction) / Chris Hadfield

Written with humour, humility and a profound optimism for the future of space exploration, *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth* offers readers not just the inspiring story of one man's journey to the ISS, but the opportunity to step into his space-boots and think like an astronaut—and renew their commitment to pursuing their own dreams, big or small. - Publisher



### The art of fielding (fiction) / Chad Harbach

At Westish College, a small school on the shore of Lake Michigan, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big-league stardom. But when a routine throw goes disastrously off course, the fates of five people are upended. – Publisher









## The silent wife: a novel (fiction) / A.S.A. Harrison

Jodi and Todd are at a bad place in their marriage: he is a committed cheater, she lives and breathes denial. But when Todd decides to play for keeps she has nothing left to lose as the couple heads for catastrophe. – Novelist



## The girl on the train (fiction) / Paula Hawkins

Three women, three men, connected through marriage or infidelity. Each is to blame for something. But only one is a killer in this nail-biting, stealthy psychological thriller about human frailty and obsession.



## Alone in the classroom (fiction) / Elizabeth Hay

In a small prairie school in 1929, Connie Flood helps a backward student, Michael Graves, learn how to read. Observing them and darkening their lives is the principal, Parley Burns, whose strange behaviour culminates in an attack so disturbing its repercussions continue to the present day. - Overdrive



### His whole life (fiction) / Elizabeth Hay

At the outset, ten-year-old Jim and his Canadian mother and American father are on a journey from New York City to a lake in eastern Ontario during the last hot days of August. What unfolds is an enveloping story that spans a few pivotal years of Jim's youth and sets out competing claims on everyone's love: for Canada over New York; for a mother over a father; a friend over a husband; one son over another. With her trademark honesty, wisdom, vivid sense of place, and nuanced characters, Hay deftly charts the deepening bond between mother and son even as the family threatens to come apart. - Publisher



### Late nights on air (fiction) / Elizabeth Hay

Accepting a position at a northern Canadian radio station in 1975, Dido Paris disarms a hard-bitten broadcaster with her beauty and vocal talents before controversy surrounding a proposed gas pipeline triggers call-in-listener debates on the air. – Novelist









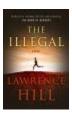
## The book of negroes (fiction) / Lawrence Hill

Lawrence Hill's nationally bestselling novel has garnered praise and awards around the world. The Book of Negroes has won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and CBC Canada Reads, among many others. Lawrence Hill—and his remarkable character Aminata Diallo—have become household names throughout Canada. — Overdrive



### The illegal: a novel (fiction) / Lawrence Hill

A literary thriller that addresses the fate of undocumented refugees who struggle to survive in nations that do not want them. Keita Ali is on the run. He is desperate to flee Zantoroland, a mountainous black island that produces the fastest marathoners in the world. Keita signs on with notorious marathon agent, Anton Hamm, who provides Keita with a chance to run the Boston marathon. But when Keita fails to place among the top finishers, rather than being sent back to his own country, he goes into hiding. - Publisher



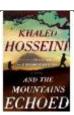
## The dovekeepers: a novel (fiction) / Alice Hoffman

A tale inspired by the tragic first-century massacre of hundreds of Jewish people at Masada presents the stories of a hated daughter, a baker's wife, a girl disguised as a warrior, and a medicine woman who keep doves and secrets while Roman soldiers draw near. - Novelist



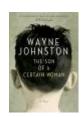
# And the mountains echoed (fiction) / Khaled Hosseini

The best-selling author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns presents a story inspired by human love, how people take care of one another and how choices resonate through subsequent generations. – Novelist



### The son of a certain woman (fiction) / Wayne Johnston

Percy Joyce is afflicted from birth with a congenital disfigurement but a regular boy on the cusp of teenage-hood, filled with yearning, wild with hormones, longing for what he can't have, for wanting to be let in...and let out; and his disturbingly alluring mother, Penelope, whose sex appeal fairly leaps off the page. Every man in St. John's lusts after her, including her sister-in-law Medina, her paying border, Pops MacDougall, with whom she carries on an affair of convenience - and Percy. - Novelist









# The 100-year-old man who climbed out the window and disappeared (fiction) / Jonas Jonasson

On his 100th birthday, reluctant centenarian Allan Karlsson climbs out the window of his nursing home and embarks on a hilarious and entirely unexpected journey. – Novelist



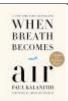
### Small wars (fiction) / Sadie Jones

After career soldier Hal Treherne is transferred to the British colony of Cyprus, his wife, Clara, and two daughters follow, but Clara becomes fearful of her increasingly distant husband and the atrocities that take him further from her. — Novelist



# When Breath Becomes Air (Non-fiction) / Paul Kalanithi

For readers of Atul Gawande, Andrew Solomon, and Anne Lamott, this inspiring, exquisitely observed memoir finds hope and beauty in the face of insurmountable odds as an idealistic young neurosurgeon attempts to answer the question "What makes a life worth living?" - Overdrive



### Born weird (fiction) / Andrew Kaufman

Annie gave her five grandchildren special powers at the moment of their births. But now, all those blessings have turned into curses. Now, Angie must find her siblings so that Annie can lift these blessings-turned-curses. – Novelist



## The invention of wings (fiction) / Sue Monk Kidd

The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid. "The Invention of Wings" follows the next thirty-five years of their lives. Inspired in part by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke (a feminist, suffragist and, importantly, an abolitionist), Kidd allows herself to go beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives of all the characters, both real and imagined. - Publisher.



# Flight behavior (fiction) / Barbara Kingsolver

Dellarobia Turnbow is a discontent farmwife engaging in a flirtatious relationship with a younger man when she discovers an unsual fire in a forested valley behind her house. This curiosity causes a stir in the scientific and local communities, garnering a great deal of media attention and leads to Dellarobia confronting and questioning everything she thought she believed in. - Novelist









### **Great house (fiction) / Nicole Krauss**

Connected solely by a desk of enormous dimension and many drawers that exerts a power over those who possess it or give it away, three people--a lonely American novelist clinging to the memory of a poet who has mysteriously vanished in Chile, an old man in Israel facing the imminent death of his wife of 51 years, and an esteemed antiques dealer tracking down the things stolen from his father by the Nazis--struggle to create a meaningful permanence in the face of inevitable loss. - Novelist



### The blue tattoo (fiction) / Steven Laffoley

It's a compelling tale of love and loss, despair and hope, based on real people and real events, that brings to life one of the most extraordinary stories of our time — The Halifax Explosion of 1917. — Publisher



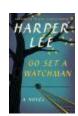
### Sons and lovers (fiction) / David Herbert Lawrence

The refined daughter of an old family, Gertrude Coppard meets a rough-hewn miner at a Christmas dance and falls into a whirlwind romance. But soon after her marriage to Walter Morel, she realizes the difficulties of living off his meager salary in a rented house. The couple fight and drift apart and Walter retreats to the pub after work each day. Gradually, Mrs. Morel's affections shift to her sons. - Publisher



### Go set a watchman (fiction) / Harper Lee

Originally written in the mid-1950s, "Go Set a Watchman" was the novel Harper Lee first submitted to her publishers before "To Kill a Mockingbird". Assumed to have been lost, the manuscript was discovered in late 2014. "Go Set a Watchman" features many of the characters from "To Kill a Mockingbird" some twenty years later. Returning home to Maycomb to visit her father, Jean Louise Finch - Scout - struggles with issues both personal and political, involving Atticus, society, and the small Alabama town that shaped her. Exploring how the characters from 'To Kill a Mockingbird ' are adjusting to the turbulent events transforming mid-1950s America, 'Go Set a Watchman ' casts a fascinating new light on Harper Lee's enduring classic. Moving, funny and compelling, it stands as a magnificent novel in its own right. - Publisher.









## Adult onset (fiction) / Ann-Marie MacDonald

A stay-at-home mom, juggling the inherent insanity of caring for small children, experiences a flare-up of a childhood illness that causes her to question her own upbringing and the way she is raising her family. – Novelist



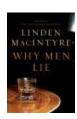
### Punishment (fiction) / Linden MacIntyre

Corrections officer Tony Breau has limped back to the village where he grew up after divorce and forced to retire early from Kingston Penitentiary. His past is waiting for him in the form of his teenaged love, and the presence of a convict he'd known in Kingston reminds him that he can't let go of his present day problems either. - Novelist



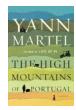
### Why men lie (fiction) / Linden MacIntyre

Why Men Lie is about Effie, the fascinating sister of the troubled priest at the heart of *The Bishop's Man*. Effie has had her fair share of lovers and husbands, including the Gillis cousins from Cape Breton, who have been a source of as much guilt as joy. She first married John, then ran away to Toronto with the charismatic Sextus, who is still in her life despite her having divorced him years ago. But she's more or less given up on being swept away by love, until, in a chance encounter, she meets a person who might very well be the perfect man. And love once again rears its thorny head, with all its troublesome illusions, at an age when maintaining illusions is hard. - Publisher



# The High Mountains of Portugal (fiction) / Yann Martel

The High Mountains of Portugal—part quest, part ghost story, part contemporary fable—offers a haunting exploration of great love and great loss. Filled with tenderness, humor, and endless surprise, it takes the reader on a road trip through Portugal in the last century—and through the human soul. - Publisher



### The twelve tribes of Hattie (fiction) / Ayana Mathis

Ayana Mathis tells the story of the children of the Great Migration through the trials of one unforgettable family. – Novelist









## The miracle at speedy motors (fiction) / Alexander McCall Smith

In the ninth installment of this infinitely enjoyable and bestselling series, Precious Ramotswe is doing what she does best--solving crimes and taking care of business: her own and everybody else's. – Overdrive



# Virgin cure (fiction) / Ami McKay

In 19th century New York, a destitute woman sends her 12-year-old daughter, Moth, to become a live-in servant of a wealthy woman. To escape her employer's cruelty, Moth flees to the streets and finds herself in the Bowery, a place filled with thieves, beggars and pickpockets. Her only escape from this desperate situation may be to find shelter in a nearby brothel. - Novelist



#### Twenty-six (fiction) / Leo McKay Jr. (One Book Nova Scotia 2012 title)

Inspired by the Westray mining disaster, Twenty-Six tells the story of the Burrows family as they deal with the aftermath of mining disaster and its impact on their lives. Brothers Ziv and Arvel became miners for different reasons; their father is a former union organizer; Zivs ex-girlfriend is living in Japan; and Arvels wife, hopes for a better life in the city. Now they must come to terms with their feelings in the aftermath of the disaster. - Novelist



### Us conductors (fiction) / Sean Michaels

A beautiful, haunting novel inspired by the true life and loves of the famed Russian scientist, inventor and spy Lev Termen--creator of the Theremin. – Novelist



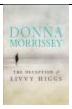
# The night circus (fiction) / Erin Morgenstern

A fierce competition is underway, a contest between two young magicians, Celia and Marco, who have been trained since childhood to compete in "a game," in which each must use their powers of illusion to best the other. Unbeknownst to them, this game is a duel to the death, and the circus is but the stage for a remarkable battle of imagination and will. - Novelist



### The deception of Livvy Higgs (fiction) / Donna Morrissey

For two traumatic days, Livvy Higgs is besieged by a series of small heart attacks while the ghost of her younger self leads her back through a past devastated by lies and secrets. - Publisher









## The lake house (fiction) / Kate Morton

Decades after Alice's little brother goes missing during a Midsummer's Eve party, a young London policewoman sets off a series of events that reveal shocking truths. – Novelist



### The secret keeper (fiction) / Kate Morton

Withdrawing from a family party to the solitude of her tree house, sixteen-year-old Laurel Nicolson witnesses a shocking murder that throughout a subsequent half century shapes her beliefs, her acting career, and the lives of three strangers from vastly different cultures. – Novelist



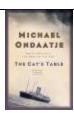
### Born a Crime: stories from a South African childhood (non-fiction) / Trevor Noah

Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of *The Daily Show* began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. - Publisher



# The cat's table (fiction) / Michael Ondaatje

In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. Looking back from adulthood, the narrator relates a tale about the magical, often forbidden, discoveries of childhood and a lifelong journey that begins unexpectedly with a sea voyage. – Novelist



# 1984 (fiction) / George Orwell

In 1984, London is a grim city in the totalitarian state of Oceania where Big Brother is always watching you and the Thought Police can practically read your mind. Winston Smith is a man in grave danger for the simple reason that his memory still functions. Drawn into a forbidden love affair, Winston finds the courage to join a secret revolutionary organization called The Brotherhood, dedicated to the destruction of the Party. Together with his beloved Julia, he hazards his life in a deadly match against the powers that be. — Overdrive



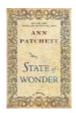






## State of wonder (fiction) / Ann Patchett

A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years--a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past. – Novelist



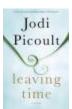
#### How the light gets in (fiction) / Louise Penny

In Three Pines Chief Inspector Armand Gamache investigates the disappearance of a woman who was once one of the most famous people in the world and now goes unrecognized by virtually everyone except the mad, brilliant poet Ruth Zardo. - Novelist



# Leaving time (fiction) / Jodi Picoult

The gripping story of a daughter searching for her missing mother - and one of her most powerful and affecting novels yet. Alice Metcalf was a devoted mother, loving wife and accomplished scientist who studied grief among elephants. Yet it's been a decade since she disappeared under mysterious circumstances, leaving behind her small daughter, husband, and the animals to which she devoted her life. All signs point to abandonment... or worse. Still Jenna - now 13 years old and truly orphaned by a father maddened by grief - steadfastly refuses to believe in her mother's desertion. - Publisher



#### The storyteller (fiction) / Jodi Picoult

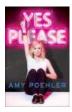
Becoming friends with Josef Weber, an old man who's particularly loved in her community, Sage Singer is shocked when one day he asks her to kill him and reveals why he deserves to die, causing her question her beliefs--and to wonder if his request would be murder or justice.

- Novelist



### Yes Please (non-fiction) / Amy Poehler

The actress best known for her work on "Parks and Recreation" and "Saturday Night Live" reveals personal stories and offers her humorous take on such topics as love, friendship, parenthood, and her relationship with Tina Fey. – Novelist



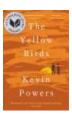






## The yellow birds (fiction) / Kevin Powers

In the midst of a bloody battle in the Iraq War, two soldiers, bound together since basic training, do everything to protect each other from both outside enemies and the internal struggles that come from constant danger. – Novelist



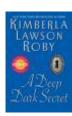
#### Standing in another man's grave (fiction) / Ian Rankin

Two Scottish detectives investigate the disappearance of a hitchhiking teenage girl, their only clue a photo sent from the missing girl's cell phone in this new novel from the internationally best-selling author of The Impossible Dead. – Novelist



# A deep dark secret (fiction) / Kimberla Lawson Roby

In the outside, twelve-year-old Jillian Maxwell is the perfect child. She's helpful with chores around the house, gets straight A's in school, has plans for college, and stays out of trouble. She seems to have everything a girl could want: a beautiful new home, an adoring little sister, a mother who cares about her, and an attentive stepfather. But inside, Jillian harbors a terrible secret. - Novelist



## Divergent (fiction) / Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. - Novelist



### The casual vacancy (fiction) / J. K. Rowling

The early death of a small town councilman reveals deep-rooted conflicts in the seemingly idyllic community of Pagford, which rapidly deteriorates in the face of cultural disputes, generation clashes, and a volatile election. – Novelist









# The folded earth (fiction) / Anuradha Roy

The award-winning author of An Atlas of Impossible Longing presents the story of a young widow who seeks refuge in a remote India mountain village teaching job where she helps a young girl to secretly correspond with a lover until outside forces hijack local elections and violently threaten the villagers. - Novelist



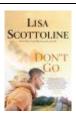
### The catcher in the rye (fiction) / J.D. Salinger

The story of three days and nights spent in New York City by Holden Caulfield, a sensitive, intelligent 16-year-old, who confronts the ``phony'' values of the adult world. — Booklist



# Don't go (fiction) / Lisa Scottoline

Fleeing home from his military service in Afghanistan when his wife dies in an apparent freak household accident, Dr. Mike Scanlon struggles with the tragedy, his inability to bond with his new baby daughter and a downsizing in his medical practice only to discover a shocking secret that changes his understanding of everything. - Novelist



### The lovely bones (fiction) / Alice Sebold

Looking down from heaven, 14-year-old Susie Salmon recounts her rape and murder and watches her family as they cope with their grief and "the lovely bones" growing around her absence.

- Novelist



### The stone diaries (fiction) / Carol Shields

Daisy Goodwill Flett, whose mother died during Daisy's birth in 1905, moves from Canada to Indiana with her stonecutter father and lives an ordinary life against the backdrop of 20th-century events. – Novelist



#### The Summer Before the War (fiction) / Helen Simonson

[Helen Simonson] has created another engaging novel full of winsome characters, this time set during the summer before the outbreak of World War I. Follow the story of headstrong, independent Beatrice Nash and kind but stuffy surgeon-in-training Hugh Grange along with his formidable Aunt Agatha. Make a cup of tea and prepare to savor every page! - Novelist









## The Rosie project (fiction) / Graeme Simsion

Don Tillman, a brilliant geneticist, thinks that having women fill out a six-page, double-sided questionnaire before a date is logical and reasonable. Rosie Jarman, an impetuous barmaid, thinks Don should loosen up and learn to live a little. Follow the unlikely pair in this laugh-out-loud, feel-good story of unexpected joys, discovery and love. - Novelist



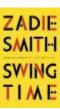
### A tree grows in Brooklyn (fiction) / Betty Smith

A young girl in a shabby neighborhood lives with dreams in an innocent time before the war. - Novelist



### Swing time (fiction) / Zadie Smith

Two brown girls dream of being dancers--but only one, Tracey, has talent. The other has ideas: about rhythm and time, about black bodies and black music, about what constitutes a tribe, or makes a person truly free. It's a close but complicated childhood friendship that ends abruptly in their early twenties, never to be revisited, but never quite forgotten, either. Dazzlingly energetic and deeply human, Swing Time is a story about friendship and music and stubborn roots, about how we are shaped by these things and how we can survive them. Moving from northwest London to West Africa, it is an exuberant dance to the music of time. – Publisher.



### The purchase (fiction) / Linda Spalding

In 1798, Daniel Dickinson, a young Quaker father and widower, leaves his home in Pennsylvania to establish a new life. He sets out with two horses, a wagonful of belongings, his five children, a 15-year-old orphan wife, and a few land warrants for his future homestead. When Daniel suddenly trades a horse for a young slave, Onesimus, it sets in motion a struggle in his conscience that will taint his life forever, and sets in motion a chain of events that lead to two murders and the family's strange relationship with a runaway slave named Bett. - Novelist



#### The light between oceans: a novel (fiction) / M. L. Stedman

A novel set on a remote Australian island, where a childless couple live quietly running a lighthouse, until a boat carrying a baby washes ashore. – Novelist









# What I learned about politics (non-fiction) / Graham Steele

On October 8, 2013, Nova Scotia's NDP government went down to a devastating election defeat. Premier Darrell Dexter lost his own seat, and the party held the dubious distinction of being the first one-term majority government in over 100 years. In this new memoir, former NDP finance minister and MLA Graham Steele tries to make sense of the election result and shares what he's learned from a fifteen-year career in provincial politics. In his trademark candid style, Steele pulls no punches in assessing what's right - and what's often wrong - with our current political system. -Publisher.



## Wild: from lost to found on the Pacific Crest Trail (non-fiction) / Cheryl Strayed

A powerful, blazingly honest, inspiring memoir: the story of a 1,100 mile solo hike that broke down a young woman reeling from catastrophe--and built her back up again. - Novelist



### The Goldfinch (fiction) / Donna Tartt

A young boy in New York City, Theo Decker, miraculously survives an accident that takes the life of his mother. Alone and abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by a friend's family and struggles to make sense of his new life. In the years that follow, he becomes entranced by one of the few things that reminds him of his mother: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the art underworld. Composed with the skills of a master, 'The Goldfinch' is a haunted odyssey through present-day America, and a drama of almost unbearable acuity and power. It is a story of loss and obsession, survival and self-invention, and the enormous power of art. - Publisher.



### Certainty (fiction) / Madeleine Thien

Haunted by the secrets of her father's Asian past, Gail Lim returns to Malaysia to unravel the mysteries of her parents' lives and her father Matthew's relationship with Ani, the other woman in his life, with whom he shared a childhood growing up under the shadow of war and the Japanese occupation. - Novelist









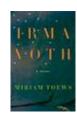
## All my puny sorrows (fiction) / Miriam Toews

Elfrieda, a world-renowned pianist, glamorous, wealthy, happily married: she wants to die. Yolandi, divorced, broke, sleeping with the wrong men as she tries to find true love: she desperately wants to keep her older sister alive. But Elf's latest suicide attempt is a shock: she is three weeks away from the opening of her highly anticipated international tour. Can she be nursed back to "health" in time? Does it matter? As the situation becomes ever more complicated, Yoli faces the most terrifying decision of her life.- Novelist



### Irma Voth (fiction) / Miriam Toews

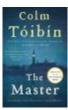
Irma Voth, eighteen and longing for more than the stifling life offered in her reclusive Mennonite community in the Mexican desert, secretly marries, and is shunned. After her husband inexplicably disappears, she discovers unexpected friendships among the strangers who descend on the community to make a film, which leads to confrontations with her domineering father.



Novelist

# The master (fiction) / Colm Tóibín

Nineteenth-century writer Henry James is heartbroken when his first play performs poorly in contrast to Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" and struggles with subsequent doubts about his sexual identity. – Novelist



### Common ground (non-fiction) / Justin Trudeau

Justin Trudeau's candid memoir will reveal to its readers the experiences that have shaped him over the course of his life and show how his passion for Canada and its people took root. Covering the years from his childhood at 24 Sussex to his McGill days during the tumultuous time of the Charlottetown Accord to his first campaign in Papineau to his role as Liberal leader today, the book will capture the foundational moments that have formed the man we have come to know and informed his vision for the future of Canada. - Publisher



### The slap (fiction) / Christos Tsiolkas

At a festive barbecue in a Melbourne suburb a man slaps the child of another couple, triggering a court case and a variety of confrontations within the lives of the the families and friends present. – Novelist



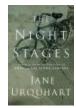






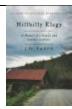
# The night stages (fiction) / Jane Urquhart

After a tragic accident leaves Tamara alone on the most westerly tip of Ireland, she begins an affair with a charismatic meteorologist named Niall. It's the 1950s, and Tamara has settled into civilian life after working as an auxiliary pilot in World War II. At first her romance is filled with passionate secrecy, but when Niall's younger brother, Kieran, disappears after a bicycle race, Niall, unable to shake the idea that he may be to blame, slowly falls into despondency. Distraught and abandoned after their decade-long relationship, Tamara decides she has no option but to leave.



## Hillbilly elegy (non-fiction) / J.D. Vance \*RECENT ADDITION\*

Shares the poignant story of the author's family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included the author, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle-class life and the collective demons of the past. -Novelist



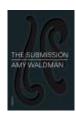
### Indian horse (fiction) / Richard Wagamese

Saul Indian Horse, having hit rock bottom in a treatment centre for alcohol addiction, wants peace. He sees the only way to find it is to tell his life story as a Northern Ojibway with all its joys and sorrows. As he journeys back he comes to recognize the influence of everyday magic on his life. - Novelist



# The submission (fiction) / Amy Waldman

Selected for a jury that must choose an appropriate memorial for September 11 victims, Claire Burwell struggles to navigate a media firestorm when the winning designer is revealed as an enigmatic Muslim-American. – Novelist



# The age of miracles (fiction) / Karen Thompson Walker

The rotation of the earth has begun to slow and the environment is thrown into disarray. Julia is also coping with the fissures in her family, the loss of friends, the hopeful anguish of love and other normal disasters of everyday life. – Novelist









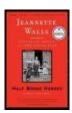
## The glass castle: a memoir (non-fiction) / Jeannette Walls

The child of an alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing, during which she and her siblings fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities. – Novelist



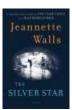
#### Half broke horses: a true-life novel (fiction) / Jeannette Walls

Presents a novel based on the life of the author's grandmother, Lily Casey Smith, who learned to break horses in childhood, journeyed five hundred miles as a teen to become a teacher, and ran a vast ranch in Arizona with her husband while raising two children. – Novelist



# The silver star: a novel (fiction) / Jeannette Walls

Abandoned by their artist mother at the age of 12, Bean and her older sister, Liz, are sent to live in the decaying antebellum mansion of their widowed uncle, where they learn the truth about their parents and take odd jobs to earn extra money before an increasingly withdrawn Liz has a life-shattering experience. — Novelist



### The paying guests (fiction) / Sarah Waters

The year is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned, the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. In South London, in a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants, life is about to be transformed, as Mrs Wray and her daughter Frances are obliged to take in lodgers. With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, the routines of the house and the lives of its inhabitants will be shaken up in unexpected ways. - Publisher



### If this is freedom (fiction) / Gloria Ann Wesley

If This Is Freedom continues the story of struggle for Loyalist settlers in Nova Scotia after the American Revolutionary War. In the black settlement of Birchtown, times are especially hard for the former slaves. They face the difficulties of a hardscrabble existence and continued discrimination from their white counterparts... At once a stand-alone story and a companion to Gloria Ann Wesley's previous novel, Chasing Freedom, this story about moral courage and the enduring strength of dreams shares history with us in a way that is both honest and emotional. - Publisher









## The Best Kind of People (fiction) / Zoe Whittall

An affable teacher and beloved husband and father is arrested for sexual impropriety at the school where he teaches, sending his family into turmoil. -Novelist



### Fanny: a fiction (fiction) / Edmund White

A fictional account based on the life of Fanny Wright is presented from the perspective of social critical and biographer Frances Trollope, who remembers young Wright's utopian idealism, move to mid-nineteenth-century America, and witness to the nation's political turmoil. – Novelist



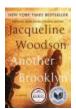
### The underground railroad (fiction) / Colson Whitehead

The National Book Award Winner and #1 New York Times bestseller from Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. – Publisher



#### Another Brooklyn (fiction) / Jacqueline Woodson

For August, running into a long-ago friend sets in motion resonant memories and transports her to a time and a place she thought she had mislaid: 1970s Brooklyn, where friendship was everything. August, Sylvia, Angela, and Gigi shared confidences as they ambled their neighborhood streets, a place where the girls believed that they were amazingly beautiful, brilliantly talented, with a future that belonged to them. But beneath the hopeful promise there was another Brooklyn, a dangerous place where grown men reached for innocent girls in dark hallways, where mothers disappeared, where fathers found religion, and where madness was a mere sunset away. -Publisher



### Fauna (fiction) / Alissa York (One Book Nova Scotia 2013 title)

A wildlife officer discovers a sanctuary that protects waifs and strays, both human and animal.

- Novelist



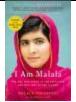






# I am Malala (non-fiction) / Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb

Describes the life of a young Pakistani student who advocated for women's rights and education in the Taliban-controlled Swat Valley who survived an assassination attempt and became the youngest nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. — Novelist



# The Storied Life of A.J.Fikry (fiction) / Gabrielle Zevin

A middle-aged bookseller mourning his lost wife, a feisty publisher's rep, and a charmingly precocious abandoned child come together on a small island off the New England coast in this utterly delightful novel of love and second chances. - Novelist



# The book thief (fiction) / Markus Zusak

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors. — Novelist



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