

## BOOK GROUP KITS TO GO, ANNOTATED LIST

*Book Group Kits to Go* are canvas bags containing multiple copies of a book that has previously been used by one of the Library's book discussion groups. Some bags also contain resource materials such as discussion questions and author background material.

A representative of your book group may reserve a kit for use on a specific date. The kit will check out for an eight week period in order to give your group time to read the book prior to your meeting and provide time to gather up the copies for return to the library.

To reserve one or more kits, call Rhett Grant at Independence Township Library at (248) 625-2212. The library is currently offering **131** different book kits. Titles currently available are (new titles are in **RED**):

### **THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY** by Irving Stone

As a promising apprentice to the artist for a pope, Michelangelo works in the 15th and early 16th centuries for the pope and others, and paints the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

### **AHAB'S WIFE** by Sena Jeter Naslund

Inspired by a brief passage in *Moby-Dick*, Sena Jeter Naslund has created a compellingly readable saga, spanning a rich, eventful, and dramatic life. At once a family drama, a romantic adventure, and a portrait of a real and loving marriage, **Ahab's Wife** gives new perspective on the American experience.

### **ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT** by Erich Maria Remarque

Five German students are drafted into World War I.

### **AMSTERDAM** by Ian McEwan

In this contemporary morality play, a woman's death has major consequences for three men, all former lovers of the woman.

### **ARC OF JUSTICE: A SAGA OF RACE, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND MURDER IN THE JAZZ AGE** by Kevin Boyle

In 1925, Detroit was in the throes of rising tension from racism, as native-born whites, immigrants, and blacks, jockeyed for jobs and housing. In the jazz-age era of changing social mores, Dr. Ossian Sweet (grandson of a slave), attempted to move into a working-class white neighborhood and was threatened with violent eviction. In self-defense, he and his friends arm themselves and kill a member of the mob. The murder indictment attracts Clarence Darrow as attorney, and also the NAACP.

### **ARE YOU SOMEBODY** by Nuala O'Faolain

This is a vivid journey through the life of an extraordinary "Dublin woman." Married in a grand passion, O'Faolain's parents grew apart as their children grew up: journalist-gossip columnist O'Faolain had affairs and mistresses while his wife read and drank too much, and their children raised themselves. Education was Nuala's outlet and she became one of the first female columnists at her native country's most respected newspaper.

### **ASTRID and VERONIKA** by Linda Olsson (originally published as *Let Me Sing you Gentle Songs*)

Two women, four decades apart in age, share their emotional scars while living next door to each other in a small Swedish town.

### **BALZAC AND THE LITTLE CHINESE SEAMSTRESS** by Dai Sijie

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn. While they are there, they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature.

### **BEEKEEPERS APPRENTICE** by Laurie King

When Mary Russell meets Sherlock Holmes, she discovers that he is also a beekeeper. Soon she finds herself on the trail of kidnappers and discovers a plot to kill both Holmes and herself.

### **BEL CANTO** by Ann Patchett

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxane Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.

### **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: An American Way of Life** by Walter Isaacson

The author has written a chronological biography that pays due tribute to Franklin's genius while revealing his harder edges.

### **THE BIG SLEEP** by Raymond Chandler

Philip Marlowe, a private eye who operates in Los Angeles's seamy underside during the 1930s, takes on his first case. It involves a paralyzed California millionaire, two psychotic daughters, blackmail, and murder.

**THE BIRTH OF VENUS** by Sarah Dunant

Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.

**THE BLIND ASSASSIN** by Margaret Atwood

A multi-layered story of the death of a woman's sister and husband in the 1940's

**THE BLUEST EYE** by Toni Morrison

Eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove, an African-American girl in an America whose love for blonde, blue-eyed children can devastate all others, prays for her eyes to turn blue, so that she will be beautiful, people will notice her, and her world will be different.

**THE BOOK THIEF** by Markus Zusak

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

**BRIDESHEAD REVISITED** by Evelyn Waugh

While at Oxford, Charles Ryder meets boyish, flamboyant Sebastian Flyte, who introduces Charles to a charmed and glamorous way of life that continues until Sebastian's health deteriorates.

**CANNERY ROW** by John Steinbeck

Cannery Row is sentimental in tone while retaining the author's characteristic social criticism. Peopled by stereotypical good-natured bums and prostitutes living on the fringes of Monterey, Calif., the picaresque novel celebrates lowlifes who are poor but happy.

**THE CANTERBURY PAPERS** by Judith K. Healey

The former queen of both England and France, Eleanor of Aquitaine, sends her one-time ward, Alais, sister of the king of France, on a mission to retrieve a cache of dangerous letters hidden in Canterbury Cathedral.

**CHARMS FOR THE EASY LIFE** by Kaye Gibbons

Charlie Kate travels around the country with her herb bag as a midwife and healer, delivering her own daughter Sophia. In 1904, her marriage ends, and she and Sophia live alone until her daughter gives birth to Margaret, the narrator.

**CITY OF GOD** by E. L. Doctorow

The theft and mysterious reappearance of a cross from a Manhattan church precipitates a hunt for the culprits that soon uncover a strange prophecy about a rebirth of the United States.

**COLD MOUNTAIN** by Charles Frazier

After Inman escapes from a war hospital in 1864 and starts walking to Cold Mountain, Ada struggles to save her mountain farm with the help of Ruby, an illiterate but efficient farmer.

**THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER** by William Styron

*In the late summer of 1831, in a remote section of southeastern Virginia, there was a revolt.* It was led by a Negro preacher named Nat Turner, an educated slave who felt himself divinely ordained to annihilate all the white people in the region.

**THE CORRECTIONS** by Jonathan Franzen

What appears as a typical Midwestern family is anything but that. The father is losing his fight to control Parkinson's disease and dementia, his wife is no longer in control of her household, and their three grown children are struggling with their own lives. For this Christmas, their mother is determined to bring them together for the perfect family holiday.

**CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY** by Alan Paton

A Zulu country parson arrives in Johannesburg and finds his sister has become a prostitute and his son a murderer.

**DAUGHTER OF FORTUNE** by Isabel Allende

The story of a young woman's quest for love and fortune during the California Gold Rush in San Francisco.

**THE DA VINCI CODE** by Dan Brown

Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, and French cryptologist Sophie Neveu, work to solve the murder of an elderly curator of the Louvre - a case that leads to clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci and a centuries-old secret society.

**DELTA WEDDING** by Eudora Welty

The Fairchild family, living on their Mississippi delta plantation, plans for the wedding of Dabney, a favorite child.

**DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY** by Erik Larson

Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor.

**THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY** by Jean-Dominique Baudy

The editor-in-chief of the French version of ELLE magazine suffered a debilitating stroke of the brain stem in 1995, leaving him a paraplegic able to communicate by slight facial expressions. He dictated this journal of what it's like to have a "locked-in syndrome."

**ELLA MINNOW PEA** by Mark Dunn

Recounts what happens when the citizens of an island must rely on all their ingenuity to communicate in an increasingly limited language when the government progressively bans letters from the alphabet.

**EMPIRE FALLS** by Richard Russo

Milo Roby tries to hold his family together while working at the Empire Grill in the once-successful logging town of Empire Falls, Maine, with his partner, Mrs. Whiting, who is the heir to a faded logging and textile legacy.

**ENDER'S GAME** by Orson Scott Card

An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes he is engaged in one more computer war game when he is actually commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's destruction.

**EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE** by Jonathan Foer

Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind.

**A FAREWELL TO ARMS** by Ernest Hemingway

Story of an American ambulance driver on the Italian front during World War I and his love for an English nurse.

**FIVE QUARTERS OF THE ORANGE** by Joanne Harris

A sensual novel follows a woman as she returns to the French village where she lived as a girl during the German occupation.

**GALILEO'S DAUGHTER** by Dava Sobel

The retelling of the story of Galileo's battle with the Roman Catholic Church through the letters of his daughter, a cloistered nun.

**GIANT** by Edna Ferber

Leslie comes from Virginia to marry Bick Benedict and live on his huge ranch, but she never adjusts to the Texas way of life.

**THE GIANT'S HOUSE** by Elizabeth McCracken

Befriending an adolescent boy who is ostracized for his unusual height, bereft Cape Cod librarian Peggy Cort finds a soul mate in James and comes to love him as he grows into a man of eight feet.

**GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING** by Tracey Chevalier

A poor 17<sup>th</sup> century servant girl knows her place in the household of painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

**THE GLASS CASTLE: A MEMOIR** by Jeannette Walls

In her memoir, Walls recalls her nomadic life, though she would not want to relive it. The title derives from her father's dream house. Instead of condemning her parents' foibles, she examines how they transformed hardship into family romance and adventure.

**THE GOOD EARTH** by Pearl Buck

A Chinese peasant overcomes nature and the frailties of human nature to become a wealthy landowner.

**THE GOOD GERMAN** by Joseph Kanon

A touching love story and portrayal of the struggle for geopolitical control of postwar Germany. Network correspondent Jake Geismar, who covered Berlin before the war, returns to the city to cover the Potsdam Conference and find the woman he loves.

**GOOD SCENT FROM A STRANGE MOUNTAIN: STORIES** by Robert Olen Butler

Butler's 15 stories, set in the Vietnamese enclaves of suburban New Orleans, capture voices of people who lost their homeland and are trying to adapt to a new culture.

**THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS** by Simon Mawer

A priest commissioned to examine a controversial ancient scroll struggles with his own beliefs and conflicted vows while unraveling the secrets of the supposed "Gospel of Judas."

**THE GRAPES OF WRATH** by John Steinbeck

Forced from their dustbowl home during the Depression, Okie farmers (Joad's) try to find work as migrant fruit pickers in California.

**A GREAT DELIVERANCE** by Elizabeth George  
Detective Sergeant Havers is gets a final chance for a promotion. Because of her abrasive personality, she's unable to work with any detectives at Scotland Yard. Assigned to work with Inspector Lynley, whom she despises, they go to Yorkshire to investigate the murder of a man by his daughter.

*THE GREAT GATSBY* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Jay Gatsby still adores Daisy Buchanan although she has married someone else, and he risks everything to lure her back.

*THE HANDMAID'S TALE* by Margaret Atwood

Offred, a Handmaid, describes life in what was once the United States, now the Republic of Gilead, and a repressive and intolerant monotheocracy, set in the near future.

*A HEARTBREAKING WORK OF STAGGERING GENIUS* by Dave Eggers

In the preface readers are told "many parts have been fictionalized," but it isn't clear how much is "real" and how much is spoof. What could be funny about the final days of Eggers' mother's battle with stomach cancer, just a month after the loss of his father to another form of cancer? Eggers' style allows hilarity to lead the way in a very personal and revealing recounting of the loss of his parents.

*HEART OF DARKNESS* by Joseph Conrad

Two short novels of human savagery in Africa, and the conflicting loyalties of a ship's officer depict man's potential for good and evil.

*HERE'S YOUR HAT, WHAT'S YOUR HURRY* by Elizabeth McCracken

Stories follow characters including a wife who becomes the canvas for her husband's tattoo art and a couple that receives a visit from an aunt they cannot locate on the family tree.

*THE HOUSE OF MIRTH* by Edith Wharton

A young woman struggles to maintain her integrity in a society based on greed and vulgarity.

*IN A SUNBURNED COUNTRY* by Bill Bryson

In Australia, Bill Bryson has a fascinating subject: spaces extreme in their vastness, primeval landscapes and improbable creatures. Stories he favors about encounters with deadly animals, the triumphs & blunders of early explorers, & his exploits are often amusing.

*THE INVISIBLE WALL - THE LOVE STORY THAT BROKE BARRIERS* by Harry Bernstein

Harry Bernstein returns home and takes us with him. We experience with the child Harry all the wonder, thrill, and heartbreak of being a working-class kid learning to navigate the balkanized world of Christians and Jews within a single English mill town.

*THE ISLAND AT THE CENTER OF THE WORLD; THE EPIC STORY OF DUTCH MANHATTAN AND THE FORGOTTEN COLONY THAT SHAPED AMERICA* by Russell Shorto

When the British took New Amsterdam from the Dutch in 1664, the truth about its polyglot society began to disappear into myths about an island purchased for \$24 & a cartoonist peg-legged governor. The story of the Dutch colony of New Netherland was lost, not destroyed: 12,000 pages of its records are now being translated. Shorto has created a gripping story of a wilderness called Manhattan.

*THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB* by Karen Joy Fowler

Six Californians who got together to form a book club, to discuss the novels of Jane Austen, find their lives are turned upside down by troubled marriages, illicit affairs, changing relationships, and love.

*JOHN ADAMS* by David McCullough

This biography depicts many aspects of Adams's life, including his years at Harvard, his early public life in Boston and his role in the first Continental Congress, where he helped shape the philosophical basis for the Revolution. His actions in the second Congress, during which he was the first to propose George Washington to command the new Continental Army is also included, as well as his involvement in pushing through the draft for the Declaration of Independence.

*THE KILLER ANGELS* by Michael Shaara

This novel reveals more about the Battle of Gettysburg than any piece of learned nonfiction on the same subject. Shaara's account of the three most important days of the Civil War features characterizations of the main actors, including Lee, Longstreet, Pickett, Buford, and Hancock. The most inspiring is Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, whose 20th Maine regiment of volunteers held the Union's left flank on the second day of the battle.

*THE KITE RUNNER* by Khaled Hosseini

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

*A LESSON BEFORE DYING* by Ernest Gaines

In the 1940s, a young illiterate African American man witnesses two black robbers kill a white store owner in Louisiana, and he is the one convicted.

*LIFE OF PI* by Yann Martel

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America. When the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.

*LOOK ME IN THE EYE: MY LIFE WITH ASPERGER'S* by John Elder Robison

Robison's book is an account of his life lived according to his gifts rather than his limitations. His story provides ample evidence that individuals on the autistic spectrum are just as capable of rich and productive lives as anyone else."

*THE LOVELY BONES* by 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.

*THE LOVE OF A GOOD WOMAN* by Alice Munro

Eight stories explore such themes as the complexities of love, the implications of passion, and the strange, desires of the human heart.

*LYING AWAKE* by Mark Salzman

Sister John of the Cross, an elderly nun, experiences a series of visions, but she is confronted with a difficult choice between her spiritual gifts and curing the powerful headaches that accompany her visions.

*THE MADONNAS OF LENINGRAD* by Debra Dean

In a novel that moves back and forth between the Soviet Union during World War II and modern-day America, Marina, an elderly Russian woman, recalls vivid images of her youth during the height of the siege of Leningrad.

*MARCH* by Geraldine Brooks

This story was inspired by the father character in "Little Women" and drawn from the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father. A man leaves behind his family to serve in the Civil War and finds his beliefs challenged by his experiences.

*THE MEMORY KEEPER'S DAUGHTER* by Kim Edwards

In this tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twins during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from their baby daughter's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.

*MERMAID CHAIR* by Sue Monk Kidd

Jessie Sullivan is summoned home to Egret Island, where she meets Brother Thomas, a monk who's about to take his final vows. She encounters the legend of a mysterious chair dedicated to a saint who had originally been a mermaid.

*MIDDLESEX* by Jeffrey Eugenides

Calliope's friendship with a classmate, and her sense of identity, are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparent's desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s.

*MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN* by Jonathan Lethem

Lionel Essrog has always respected Frank Minna, who helped him out when he was young. When Frank is found dead, Lionel and his friends, the Minna Men, scour the streets of Brooklyn in search of the killer.

*MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS; THE QUEST OF DR. PAUL FARMER, A MAN WHO WOULD CURE THE WORLD*

*By Tracy Kidder*

The book takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy "the only real nation is humanity"-a philosophy that is embodied in the public charity he founded, Partners In Health.

*MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL* by T.S. Eliot

A dramatization in verse of the murder of Thomas Becket at Canterbury.

*MY NAME IS RED* by Orhan Pamuk

The conflict between East and West in 16<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman Empire has just become a matter of life and death for Istanbul's artists.

*THE NAMESAKE* by Jhumpa Lahiri

A portrait of the immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.

*THE NANNY DIARIES* by E. McLaughlin and N. Kraus

What do you do when you are a nanny to an obscenely rich Park Avenue matron named X? Mrs. X refuses to do anything for herself, including cook, clean, or take care of her four-year-old son. The nanny is expected to do everything."

*NIAGARA FALLS ALL OVER AGAIN* by Elizabeth McCracken

During 30 years together as a famous comedy team, conniving comedian Rocky Carter & his straight man, Mose Sharp, a small-town boy from Iowa, have enjoyed a warm relationship. When Rocky commits a desperate act of betrayal, their friendship is endangered.

**NICKEL AND DIMED** by Barbara Ehrenreich

This exposé puts human flesh on the bones of such abstractions as "living wage" and "affordable housing." Ehrenreich worked, for a month at a time, at "unskilled" jobs to report on how people survive on wages of \$6 or \$7 dollars an hour. In an easy, conversational style, she brings us the daily life of the working poor and shows that their diligence and good nature cannot earn them a place to live.

**A NORTHERN LIGHT** by Jennifer Donnelly

In 1906, sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and fiancé, takes a job at a summer inn where she discovers the truth about the death of a guest. Based on a true story.

**NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD** by Stephen Ambrose

Ambrose honors the men who brought the nation together, East and West. Chinese and Irish, veterans of the Confederate and Union armies, they spanned the prairies, pierced the Rocky Mountains with black powder and by hand.

**ON THE OCCASION OF MY LAST AFTERNOON** by Kaye Gibbons

A woman who loves the South, but hates slavery, goes north after the Civil War ends.

**THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL** by Philippa Gregory

Two sisters compete for the greatest prize: the love of a king.

**OUT STEALING HORSES** by Per Petterson

Trond Sander, a widower nearing seventy, moves to a bare house in remote eastern Norway, seeking the life of quiet contemplation that he has always longed for. A chance encounter with a neighbor causes him to ruminate on the summer of 1948, the last he spent with his adored father, who abandoned the family soon afterward.

**A PAINTED HOUSE** by John Grisham

Racial tension, a forbidden love affair, and murder are seen through the eyes of a seven year old boy in a 1950s Southern cotton-farming community.

**THE PAINTED VEIL** by W. Somerset Maugham

Kitty Fane's affair with Assistant Colonial Secretary Townsend is interrupted when her vengeful bacteriologist husband takes her from Hong Kong to work in cholera epidemic

**PALACE WALK** by Naguib Mahfouz

At the end of World War I, al-Sayyid Ahmad explores Cairo at night while his family stays at home living according to the Qur'an.

**PEACE LIKE A RIVER** by Leif Enger

The 1960s midwestern life of the Land family is upended when Davy kills two teenage boys who have come to harm the family. On the morning of his sentencing, Davy escapes from his cell and the Lands set out in search of him.

**PLAINSONG** by Kent Haruf

An extended family is formed when a high school teacher helps a pregnant student make a home with two elderly bachelor ranchers.

**THE PLEASURE OF MY COMPANY** by Steve Martin

Daniel, a troubled man who lives alone, detached from the world, passes his time filling out contest applications and counting ceiling tiles, until his attachment to Clarissa and Teddy helps him rediscover the outside world.

**THE POISONWOOD BIBLE** by Barbara Kingsolver

The family of a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary--Nathan Price, his wife, and his four daughters--begins to unravel after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo, where they find their lives transformed over the course of three decades.

**THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE** by James M. Cain

Frank Chambers, a drifter, is dropped from the back of a truck at a rundown rural diner. When he spots the owner's wife, he decides to stay. The young woman, married to Nick, a violent and thuggish boor, is equally attracted to the younger man and sees him as her way out of her hopeless, boring life.

**PREP: A NOVEL** by Curtis Sittenfeld

During the late 1980s, 14yr old Lee Fiora leaves behind her close-knit, middle-class Indiana family to enroll in an elite co-ed boarding school in Massachusetts. Eventually, she becomes an observer and participant in their rituals and customs.

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE** by Jane Austen

Wealthy Mr. Darcy and spirited Elizabeth Bennett dislike each other at first sight, and each must contend with their pride and prejudices while Elizabeth's mother plots economically advantageous marriages for all her daughters.

**PRODIGAL SUMMER** by Barbara Kingsolver

Wildlife biologist Deanna is caught off guard by an intrusive young hunter, while bookish city wife Lusa finds herself facing a difficult identity choice, and elderly neighbors find attraction at the height of a long-standing feud.

**READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN** by Azar Nafisi

Western classics are read and discussed by a group of women who met secretly with Nafisi, an instructor at the University of Tehran, until she was expelled in 1997 for shunning the veil and left the country.

**RETURNING TO EARTH** by Jim Harrison

In his new novel, Harrison, chronicler of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, gives eloquent expression to death and grieving through the character of Donald. Donald finds himself compelled to tell his family history after being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease at 45 years of age. His wife, Cynthia, sits at his side recording his words for their children.

**THE ROAD** by Cormac McCarthy

A father & son walk a road in "the ashes of the late world." McCarthy envisions a post-apocalyptic scenario; cities are destroyed, plants & animals have died, & few humans survive. The man remembers the world before but the boy was born after things changed.

**THE RUSSIAN DEBUTANTE'S HANDBOOK** by Gary Shteyngart

Girshkin, a likeable Russian immigrant searches for love, a job and self identity. While floundering in trying to improve his state, he becomes somewhat of a mobster and generally has a good time.

**SAUL AND PATSY** by Charles Baxter

A seemingly happy domestic scene is turned upside down by the obsessive attentions of a troubled sixteen-year-old boy.

**SECOND HAND** by Michael Zadoorian

An uncommon sweetness and charity toward the castoffs of the world animates this book, which is both funny and moving. Michael Zadoorian has written about junk, and those who care for valuable objects, living and dead, that others have thrown away. He owns a secondhand store in Detroit and revels in the junk he sells and with which he adorns his apartment.

**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES** by Sue Monk Kidd

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins her on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

**SHADOW DIVERS** by Robert Kurson

An account of the discovery, by 2 recreational scuba divers, of a German U-boat more than 200 feet below the Atlantic's surface, off the New Jersey coast. Blending history, science, & technology this is a story of discovery and loss, and a looming sense of danger.

**SHADOWS ON THE ROCK** by Willa Cather

Frontenac must negotiate for his control of Quebec.

**THE SHIPPING NEWS** by Annie Proulx

Quoyle retreats to Newfoundland with his daughters after the death of his unfaithful wife. As his family begins anew, Quoyle deals with his personal fears.

**THE SHOPGIRL** by Steve Martin

Mirabelle is the shop girl who sells gloves at Neiman Marcus. She meets Ray Porter, a wealthy businessman twice her age. Together they embark on a relationship and try to decipher the language of love.

**SHORT STORIES OF W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM** by W. Somerset Maugham

Somerset Maugham wrote the most readable, well-plotted, exotic, and interesting short stories. He wrote about infidelity, inter-racial romance, and incest. Maugham is cynical, sarcastic, world weary, and a bit macabre in dissecting society and uncovering seamy, shocking facts about "normal" people.

**SHROUD FOR A NIGHTINGALE** by P.D. James

After two student nurses are murdered at Nightingale House, Dalgleish is called in to investigate.

**SIGHT FOR SORE EYES** by Ruth Rendell

A handsome young man, whose parents never loved him, and a beautiful young woman with deep emotional scars, are brought together in this tale of suspense.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE** by Kurt Vonnegut

A fourth-generation German-American now lives in easy circumstances on Cape Cod. As an American infantry scout hors de combat, and as a prisoner of war, witnessed the fire-bombing of Dresden, Germany and survived to tell the tale.

*THE SPACE BETWEEN* by Kali Vanbaale

On Valentine's Day in Middle America, a mother hears the news that her teenage son has taken a gun to school and killed two other students, a teacher, and himself. His mother must grapple with the extraordinary grief and horror as she struggles to keep her remaining family together as reporters gather, lawsuits loom, and society shuts them out.

*STEALING BUDDHA'S DINNER: A MEMOIR* by Bich Minh Nguyen (a Michigan Notable Book)

Nguyen's humorous coming-of-age tale is about loss and identity through retelling anecdotes in chapters dealing with particular American foods.

*SUITE FRANCAISE* by Irene Nemirovsky

Nemirovsky was a Jewish, Russian immigrant from a wealthy family who fled the Bolsheviks as a teenager. Spending her adult life in France, and writing in French, she still remained an outsider. In 1942 she and her husband were deported to Auschwitz where they both died. Her manuscript, was preserved by her daughters, who left it unread for 60 years.

*THINGS FALL APART* by Chinua Ache

Traces the growing friction between village leaders and Europeans determined to save the heathen souls of Africa. But its hero, a noble man who is driven by destructive forces, speaks a universal tongue.

*THE THIRTEENTH TALE* by Diane Setterfield

A plain girl gets wrapped up in a dark, haunted ruin of a house, which guards family secrets that are not hers, and that she must discover at her peril.

*A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS* by Khaled Hosseini

Two women born a generation apart witness the destruction of their home and family in war torn Kabul. These losses that are incurred over the course of thirty years test the limits of their strength and courage.

*THREE CUPS OF TEA: ONE MAN'S MISSION TO PROMOTE PEACE* by Greg Mortenson and Oliver Relin

Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world.

*THREE JUNES* by Julia Glass

Reveals the interconnected lives, loves, & relationships of different generations of the McLeod family through three crucial summers.

*TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* by Harper Lee

Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930s.

*A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN* by Betty Smith

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

*TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE* by Mitch Albom

A true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil which reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our past.

*WAITING FOR SNOW IN HAVANA* by Carole Eire

With a magical elegance that is entrancing, Carlos Eire re-creates the world of his childhood as revolution engulfs Cuba.

*WATER FOR ELEPHANTS* by Sara Gruen

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

*WE WERE THE MULVANEYS* by Joyce Carol Oates

Judd Mulvaney, age 30, and the youngest of the four Mulvaney children, looks back through his memories to tell the secrets that eventually ripped apart the fabric of his storybook family.

*WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS* by Kazuo Ishiguro

Christopher Banks, an English boy born in early-20th-century Shanghai, is orphaned at age nine when his parents disappear under suspicious circumstances. He becomes a renowned detective and returns to Shanghai to solve the mystery of the disappearances.

*WHITE NOISE* by DeLillo, Don

A Midwestern family maneuvers the rocky passages of family life while a cloud resulting from an industrial accident hovers over them.

**WHITE TEETH** by Zadie Smith

Set in post-war London, this novel of the racial, political, and social upheaval of the last half-century follows two families--the Joneses and the Iqbals, both outsiders from within the former British empire--as they make their way in modern England.

**YA-YAS IN BLOOM** by Rebecca Wells

This novel looks back to the years of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood's origins in Thornton, Louisiana, during which Vivi, Teensy, Caro, and Necie endure crises of faith, lapses in parenting, brushes with alcoholism, and glimpses into racial bigotry.

**YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING** by Joan Didion

A portrayal of personal grief. A documented case study in mourning, Didion's memoir examines her own emotional disintegration.

**THE YOKOTA OFFICER'S CLUB** by Sarah Bird

While living at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Bernadette "Bernie" Root, takes a job as second banana to a third-rate comedian touring Japanese military bases. She is reunited with her family's former maid, Fumiko, and uncovers a painful family secret.

**YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN** by Thomas Wolfe

Webber discovers his quest for truth is not universal when he sees the storm of anger created by his novel about the people in his home town.

List through 6/09 JA as of 11/2/2008