



Book Club Staff Recommendations 2018  
Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**Books are listed in alphabetical order by author's surname.**

***Children of Blood and Bone*** by Tomi Adeyemi

Magic has been banished from the land of Orisha in a genocide ordered by the ruthless king. Zélie and her fellow dinivers (children with the potential for magic) are now considered the lowest caste; they are called maggots because of their snow-white hair. When a rogue princess brings Zélie a scroll that can awaken magic in diviners, they must race to use it before the crown prince catches up to them. Inspired by the myths of West Africa, Adeyemi brings her Nigerian roots to life in this brilliantly imagined world. And she's only twenty-four years old! (Judith)

***The Power*** by Naomi Alderman (2017)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$34.00

How often does a book thrill you? I mean electrify, frighten, excite, and confuse you from the soles of your feet to the top of your head? Imagine a genetic mutation suddenly activated in every woman and girl, giving them the kind of physical primacy over men that men have always had over women? How would that change the world? My absolute favourite book of 2017. (Sarah)

***School for Psychics*** by K.C. Archer (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

A nice cross-over novel suitable for teens and adults. Misfits in society learn that they are psychic, and attend a special school to learn how to handle themselves. For anyone who has ever felt that no one really understands them, and finally finds a group to belong to. This is the first in a series – great for any parent-child book club. (Susan)

***All Grown Up*** by Jami Attenberg (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, 2017

For anyone who wants to live life on their own terms – not by what others expect of you. Andrea Bern is very introspective and honest about her life and who she is – but you'll laugh out loud as she determines what is most important to her. (Susan)

***Bad Endings*** by Carleigh Baker (2017)

Short Stories, Paperback, \$18.00

This collection of short stories ticks all the boxes for well-crafted short fiction. The author lives in B.C. and that local setting figures strongly in her stories. The characters are sharply drawn, the plots are intriguing and surprising. Her connection to nature is powerful and figures greatly in the stories. The endings are not necessarily bad but definitely thought provoking. (Sue Hill)

***The Noise of Time*** by Julian Barnes (2016)

Fiction, Paperback \$19.95

Dmitri Shostakovich survived Stalinist Russia and successive leaders, but at what personal cost? He suffered from depression, was neurotic, and considered himself 'not brave enough' to defect. Yet he was a brilliant composer and pianist and Barnes paints a vivid picture of what he had to do to survive in a totalitarian state. (Michelle)

***The Child*** by Fiona Barton (2017)

Mystery, Paperback, \$16.95

The skeleton of an infant is found during a demolition in London, and journalist Kate Waters covers the story. She digs a little deeper, and connects this to a baby stolen from a hospital years ago. As she gets deeper into the story, she uncovers some unsettling things. (Sandy)

***Hera Lindsay Bird*** by Hera Lindsay Bird (2016)

Poetry, Paperback, \$24.95

In her eponymous debut (because why the hell not?) Hera Lindsay Bird dissects the finer points of 90s sitcom references, exploding helicopters, unembarrassed passions, and genital puns. This book of poetry is just plain gleeful and acutely self-aware. If you've never read a book of poetry before I would highly recommend starting with this one. (Sarah)

***The Figgs*** by Ali Bryan (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.95

Calgary Author

June Figg just wants to enjoy a quiet retirement, perhaps travel a bit with her husband Randy. Yes, she has 3 adult children still living at home, but they will be moving out soon... won't they? Then one, unexpectedly, becomes a single father and all plans are changed. (Michelle)

***Three Things About Elsie*** by Joanna Cannon (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.99

Florence is 84, living in an assisted living complex with her best friend from childhood, Elsie nearby. When she thinks she recognizes a new resident as someone from her past, she is disturbed. Odd things happen, and the staff assume that she is just a dotty old lady, but is someone really out to get her? (Sandy)

***A Long Way from Home*** by Peter Carey (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$32.00

This masterful novel, set shortly after the end of WWII in Australia, tells us the story of Irene and Titch Bobs's attempt to win the Redex Trial cross-country road race. What appears to be a rollicking tale gradually introduces complex themes of aboriginal racial crimes and secrets. Through the dual narrators of Irene and neighbour Willie Bachhuber we share their hopes, dreams and loves while being immersed in the Australian landscape. These two engaging voices are both authentic and lyrical and the strength of the novel. Carey's 14th novel and among his best. (Irene)

***Malagash*** by Joey Comeau

Fiction, Paperback, \$15.99

Sunday's dad is dying. Each time they visit him in the hospital, Sunday records her conversations with her father, because she's been studying computer programming, and has figured out a way for her father to live forever. There's no dramatic family dysfunction to be found here, no savage plot twists, or medical miracles. In *Malagash*, Joey Comeau once again strikes those chords of compassionate realism with a portrait of an ordinary family learning how to say goodbye. (Sarah)

***A Novel Bookstore*** by Laurence Cossé (2009) Translation by Alison Anderson (2010)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.95

Three incidents in three disparate regions of France. On the surface, there is no connection, but the three individuals involved do have one thing in common. They all sit on a committee that chooses book titles for The Good Novel, a bookstore in Paris, which prides itself on only selling 'good' novels. An intricately drawn mystery providing a unique look into the behind-the-scenes workings of a bookstore. (Michelle)

***Galore*** by Michael Crummey (2009)

Fiction, Paperback \$21.00

This novel is part multi-generational saga, part historical fiction, part magical realism. It is set in 18th century Newfoundland and follows two families over the course of two centuries. Crummey has an amazing facility in capturing the language and atmosphere of the world in the fictional outpost of Paradise Deep. From the outset, when a man emerges alive from inside a beached whale the tale only gets more intriguing, compelling and fantastical. (Sue Hill)

***Precious Cargo*** by Craig Davidson (2016)

Memoir, Paperback, \$24.95

Shortlisted for Canada Reads 2018

In this wonderful memoir, Craig Davidson is a writer who has reached rock bottom. After a brief glimpse of what life could have held for him as a successful novelist, his book bombs and he falls into self-pity and doubt. Eventually, he runs out of money and, in desperation, takes a job driving a school bus: a 'short bus', at that. What begins as an impulsive decision, a way simply to make some money, ends up being an experience that will help Davidson grow, like none other. Davidson becomes these kids' driver, their defender and champion, however it is these kids that are the true heroes. This book will keep you laughing, grinning, crying and growing. Without ever being condescending, or sappy, without being depressing, despite its sometimes serious subject matter, Davidson has hit every mark right with his wonderful book. (Tina)

Craig Davidson's latest novel *Cataract City* was short-listed for the Giller Prize and Trillium Book Prize, while his book of stories, *Rust and Bone*, became a Golden Globes-nominated film. He also writes thrillers under the pseudonym Nick Cutter. (Tina)

***I'll Be Your Blue Sky*** by Marisa De Los Santos (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.99

On the morning of her wedding day, Clare has a chance encounter with a stranger, an older woman, that will change her life in remarkable ways. (Sandy)

***The Dark Flood Rises*** by Margaret Drabble (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.95

We meet Fran Stubbs, a seventy something woman who is "...already too old to die young and too old to avoid bunions and arthritis, moles and blebs, weakening wrists, incipient but not yet treatable cataracts, and encroaching weariness". This novel is a very skilled meditation on old age but Fran is feisty and continues to enjoy her job with a charitable trust that involves driving to various sites of sheltered housing for the elderly throughout England. This low-key story with well-drawn characters has its share of tragedy and humour, with a few surprises along the way. The book title was drawn from a D.H. Lawrence poem – "Love on the Farm". (Irene)

***American War*** by Omar El Akkad (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

An intense look at how war affects both individuals and societies. Told both in standard narrative and through "primary sources" written during the Second American Civil War (fought over the use/banning of fossil fuels), El Akkad delivers a warning to us that we should examine what we willing to accept and what we're willing to stand for...or even die for. (Judith)

***Go, Went, Gone*** by Jenny Erpenback (2015) Translation by Susan Bernofsky (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.95

Richard, a Classics Professor, is caught up in finding a way to move forward in his new life as 'retired'. Then he sees a piece on the evening news, about African migrants on a hunger strike. Out of curiosity, he makes contact with the men, and his whole world begins to change. (Michelle)

***The Shoe on the Roof*** by Will Ferguson (2017)

Fiction, Paperback 19.99

Three would-be messiahs wander around Boston, each convinced he's God's only child. Thomas Rosanoff, a brain-research grad student, decides he can fix them all by forcing them to confront one another and thus, their real identities. Unlike most of Ferguson's previous works, don't look for much humour here. Instead, he takes us down a dark philosophical road leading to the investigation of mind, love, reality and faith. (Mike)

***The Woman in the Window*** by A.J. Finn (2018)

Mystery, Paperback, \$24.99

I know. Everyone's reading this psychological thriller. Two reasons. One – it's good! Two – it has overtones that resonate in our current era of 'fake news', and #metoo. Anna Fox, an agoraphobic former psychologist lives alone in her New York city home. She witnesses a crime in the neighbour's house. Or does she? (Mike)

***Here I Am*** by Jonathan Safran Foer (2016)

Fiction, Paperback, \$23.00

It won't matter whether you are Jewish. You just need to be a lover of great literature. A modern family is being torn apart by so much, not the least of which is a sexting affair. At times darkly funny, Foer's passionate dialogue captures the essence of family members from the great grandfather to his great grand-kids. I wonder if Foer is asking if it's possible to prevent the 'family' from disintegrating in a time when the 'individual' reigns supreme. (Mike)

***This is How it Always Is*** by Laurie Frankel (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.50

Happily married Rosie, a doctor, and Penn, a writer and stay-at-home Dad, already live a life without the constraints of gender stereotypes and full of surprise and chaos, raising their four young sons when a fifth son is born. However, young Claude is not like his brothers. One day he puts on a dress, wants to bring a purse to kindergarten and have hair long enough to sit on. This is a novel about secrets, and how keeping a secret can end up with the secret keeping you. It is a novel about how people can change, and then change the world. You will fall in love with this family; cheer for them, cry for them, and grow a little with them. (Tina)

***Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*** by Roxane Gay (2016)

Roxane Gay has written an open and gut-wrenching memoir, looking back over her childhood and teens, including a brutal act of violence that was a turning point in her life. In a world where the last acceptable prejudice falls onto the overweight and obese, Dr. Gay shows us what it is like to live large in a shrinking world, in a body that she describes as "wildly undisciplined". (Judith)

***The Game of Hope*** by Sandra Gulland (2018)

Young Adult Fiction, Hardcover, \$21.99

The author of the fabulous Josephine Bonaparte trilogy returns to Revolutionary France and the Bonaparte family with her first book for teen readers. Hortense de Beauharnais struggles to understand why her mother would choose for a second husband the boorish General Bonaparte. At the same time, she is riddled with guilt, believing that her innocent actions may have contributed to her father's death during the final days of the Terror. (Judith)

***The Marriage Bureau*** by Penrose Halson (2017)

History, Paperback, \$22.99

When Audrey Parson's engagement falls through in 1939, she travels to London. Changing her name to Mary Oliver, she and Heather Jenner, start a matchmaking business called the Marriage Bureau. The onset of WWII is good for business. Using the business archives Halson shows us life in London during the war as well as introducing the interesting characters who used the Bureau. (Michelle)

***The Great Alone*** By Kristin Hannah (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$34.99

In *The Great Alone*, PTSD suffering Vietnam vet, Ernt Allbright, drags his family to a remote corner of Alaska believing living fresh off the land, with few people around, will cure him of his nightmares and violent outbreaks. However, as winter approaches, and the dark sets in, his wife and daughter find themselves in an increasingly dangerous situation. Alaska itself comes alive in what is essentially a coming-of-age story for the protagonist, Leni. The descriptions are so vivid that you feel as though you are there – which at times is exhilarating and at times terrifying. With a wonderful cast of characters, as thoughtful and serious as they are quirky and kind, this book will keep you turning page after page wanting to know what happens to them all. This book, about what it means to belong somewhere, and to someone, will break your heart and lift you up. (Tina)

***Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*** by Yuval Noah Harari (2014)

History, Paperback, \$23.00

Professor Harari has the gift of writing as a novelist might. In this immensely 'readable' work of how we humans tend to make a mess of everything, one can only be left to wonder: will we survive? (Mike)

***Only Killers and Thieves*** by Paul Howarth (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.99

This western takes place in the 1880's on the untamed Australian frontier. It is a very unforgiving place, full of savagery, racism, and injustice, with a harsh landscape and even harder people. A thirst for vengeance is the main action surrounding this novel, as two brothers are faced with the brutal deaths of their family. They turn for help to the wealthiest landowner in their region, a man whom they father disliked, and find themselves caught up in more than they bargained for. The journey will forever impact the youngest brother, Tommy, as he tries to discover what kind of man he wants to become. (Tina)

***The Last Equation of Isaac Severy*** by Nova Jacobs (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$34.00

How could I resist including a mystery about a struggling bookseller in Seattle, Washington. Just days after Isaac Severy dies of an apparent suicide, his adopted daughter Hazel, receives from him, a letter charging her with the responsibility of finding his last equation. An equation with the potential to change the world as we know it. Nova Jacobs first novel is entertaining, fun and challenging. In other words, a perfect respite from all that heavy literature you've been reading. (Mike)

***A Map of Salt and Stars*** by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$24.99

Nour, twelve years old and struggling to understand how to make life go on after the death of her father, has just moved to Syria from New York with her mother and sisters. But the Syria of her mother's youth is changing and all too soon the war and unrest reaches their quiet home in Homs. Losing everything they owned in the bombing, Nour and her family begin the long journey of refugees, seeking safety somewhere away from the fighting. Holding on to the stories her father had told her, Nour must face her fears and find her voice again, discovering what is truly important in life. (Kristi)

***The Summer Tree*** by Guy Gavriel Kay (1987)

Fantasy, Paperback, \$13.99

First book in the Fionavar Tapestry. Canadian author Kay introduces an Arthurian tale that starts off on the University of Toronto campus. What happens if you take a group of contemporary adults and throw them into a world of sacrifice and challenges? A must re-read for me at least every couple of years. (Susan)

***Bellewether*** by Susanna Kearsley (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.99

Another historical/contemporary novel by Canadian star Kearsley. Those who loved *A Desperate Fortune* and *The Firebird* will enjoy this one as well. The contemporary story involves a museum curator (Kearsley's former profession) who investigates the original star crossed lovers of the family home that became the museum. The historical era is 1759, where a prisoner of the French-English conflict is billeted with the family. Fascinating look at the wars that affected North America, and the long lasting fallout of those conflicts. (Susan)

***Napoleon's Last Island*** Thomas Keneally (2015)

Fiction, Paperback, \$23.00

Betsy Balcombe was twelve when Napoleon was exiled to St. Helena. Her father was the provisioner for both the garrison on the island and the British East India Company ships. While his accommodations are being prepared, Napoleon billets with the Balcombes and he and Betsy form an interesting bond. (Michelle)

***The Unquiet Dead*** by Ausma Zehanat Khan (2015)

Ausma Khan's first novel is a mystery set in modern day Toronto. It will appeal to readers of traditional police procedurals. I'm recommending it because of the multi layered political undertones in the casting of a Muslim detective. More importantly is the extremely compelling account of the atrocities committed in the Bosnian wars of former Yugoslavia. As a PhD in international human rights law, Khan substantiates her 'fictionalized' story of the war with many pages of notes. (Mike)

***Deep River Night*** by Patrick Lane (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$34.00

For more than fifty years, Patrick Lane has been one of Canada's pre-eminent poets. His second novel was completed after suffering a mysterious illness. Doctors sent him home and gave him just ten days to live. That was two years ago. His recent reading in Calgary was the best I've seen. Briefly, *Deep River Night* centers around the struggles of a WWII vet who settles in a remote BC sawmill village in the early 1960's. (Mike)

***The Devil in Silver*** by Victor LaValle

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.00

A chilling novel that follows Pepper, a big fellow with a temper, as he's involuntarily committed to an underfunded New York City psychiatric care unit. Drugged into compliance, Pepper and his fellow inmates are united against a creature they believe lives behind the locked silver door at the end of the unit, a creature they believe to be the devil with the body of a man and the head of a buffalo. *The Devil in Silver* explores the phenomenon of mass delusion, a broken health care system, and human dignity stripped away in a horror story that is all too real. (Sarah)

***Jade City*** by Fonda Lee (2017)

Fantasy, Hardcover, \$34.00 (Paperback expected in June 2018)

Former Calgary Author

The Godfather meets Asia meets magic. *Jade City* takes us to Kekon, a small island nation struggling to make its way into the 21st century and take its place in the world after years of war and invasion. Run by the powerful Green Bone families, Kekon has one thing everyone wants: Jade and the ability to wield its magic. With a new drug making the rounds that allows anyone, even foreigners, to use jade magic and political strife between the

Kaul and Ayt families Kekon is about to be shaken to its very core. Fonda Lee makes her debut into adult fantasy fiction with this fresh and exciting new world. (Kristi)

***Pachinko*** by Min Jin Lee (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$20.99

This family saga begins in Korea and shifts to Japan, spanning four generations and much of the 20th century. A very young and pregnant Sunja marries a sympathetic pastor and escapes to Japan. We learn of the difficulties Koreans encounter in Japan and of the tension between attempts to assimilate and fear of rejection. The immigrant experience of trying to carve out a place for self and family is challenged by a society that treats Koreans as outsiders and shuts them out of traditional occupations. The times, the characters and their lives will capture your heart and mind as the book takes you to another time and another place. Chosen by the New York Times as one of the ten best books of 2017. (Irene)

***The Wolf Road*** by Beth Lewis

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Who are you? Who are you really? In a world blasted back to a primitive frontier state after massive nuclear devastation, teenage Elka finds she can no longer trust her memory. All she knows is the man who raised her in the wilderness, the only father she's ever known, is a sadistic murderer. Emma Donoghue's *Room* meets *The Sisters Brothers* in this psychological thriller that will leave you in knots. (Sarah)

***The Substitute*** by Nicole Lundrigan (2017)

Mystery, Paperback, \$19.95

It's true. The semi-retired old guy is reading more mystery/thrillers than before. I loved *The Substitute* in part, because it was presented from two points of view: Warren Botts, the quiet, unusual and quirky substitute teacher, and an unnamed narrator who coldly lays out the events preceding the death of a teenage girl. Finely crafted characters coupled with a chilling ending make this a perfect anecdote to Jordan Tannahill's *Liminal* (see below) where virtually every sentence requires thoughtful contemplation. (Mike)

***The Lies of Locke Lamora*** by Scott Lynch (2007)

Fantasy, Paperback, \$15.99

It's a good time to be a thief. Locke Lamora, thief, confidence man, and all-around scoundrel very much loves his life, working with his crew, the Gentleman Bastards, and robbing the rich of Camorr. Dubbed the Thorn of Camorr, Locke is not the unbeatable swordsman or friend to the poor the tales make him out to be, though he has his own ethical code he lives by. But the life of a scoundrel comes with risks, and when a new player steps onto the board Locke and his crew find themselves fighting for their lives in a clandestine war they never saw coming. Making deals with the unlikeliest of allies Locke will do whatever it takes to protect himself and those he cares for the most. (Kristi)

***The Only Café*** Linden MacIntyre, (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

When Pierre Cormier is declared dead, there is a surprise at the reading of his will. He insists that there be no funeral, just a roast at an east Toronto bar -The Only Café. He also includes a guest list with a person no one has heard of - Ari. Pierre's estranged son Cyril, a journalism intern, is intent on following his father's wishes in hopes of learning something about this very private man that he never really knew. (Michelle)

***Wicked Autumn*** by G. M. Malliet (2011)

Mystery, Paperback, \$9.99

For readers who want something interesting but not too dark, this beginning novel of rural England will strike chords of similarity to Agatha Christie's world. However, Max Tudor is a former secret agent turned village

priest, so he is even less innocent than Miss Marple. Intriguing stories, and even more fascinating characters. (Susan)

***Life on the Ground Floor: Letters from the Edge of Emergency Medicine*** by James Maskalyk

Biography, Hardcover, \$29.95 (Paperback expected August 2018)

Winner of the Hilary Weston Prize for Non-Fiction.

On first examination, this book is a medical memoir by an emergency room physician about his work at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto as well as the Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa. Despite the obvious differences in resources that are available to him and his colleagues at each location, what draws us into his high-adrenaline world are the needs and humanity of the people who come, or are brought, to the emergency room to be mended, have their suffering eased and live longer. Using a chapter for each letter of the alphabet to structure his memoir (A is for Airway, B is for Breathing), Maskalyk begins and ends with his grandfather who lives in northern Alberta. On the whole, a very personal story of idealism and passion, and so incredibly well written. (Irene)

***Birds Art Life: A Year of Observation*** by Kyo Maclear

Biography, Paperback, \$22.00

Kyo Maclear is a well-known children's book author who has written a memoir about how she coped with "anticipatory grief" following her father's strokes and care challenges. By teaming up with a musician to engage in urban birding for a year she grounds herself and finds comfort in the small things in life. Don't be deceived... this book covers a wide range of issues and themes but is deftly woven together by the urban birding experience. The charming black and white bird drawings enhance the reading experience. When life is too large and daunting, read this book. (Irene)

***Woolly: A True Story of the De-Extinction of one of History's most Iconic Creatures*** by Ben Mezrich (2017)

Science, Hardcover, \$35.00 Paperback expected July 2018

A fascinating look at the world of cutting edge geneticist George Church and his team of Harvard researchers. Known for their work on the human genome project, the Church lab is at the forefront of genetics research and technology. The Woolly project is just one of the many. A very readable modern science book that raises lots of great discussion questions. (Michelle)

***Cloud Atlas*** by David Mitchell (2004)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.95

This novel seems to defy simple description. A series of nested stories, *Cloud Atlas* takes us from the nineteenth century, through the interwar period and the Cold War, into a post-apocalyptic future, then turns 180 degrees and takes us back again. An ode to reincarnation, love, and hate, *Cloud Atlas* is not your average beach read, but it is more than worth the extra effort. (Judith)

***Eileen*** by Otessa Moshfeigh

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.00

Eileen is a noir novel to die for. The titular character leads a small unwashed life, coming up with creative reasons to hate the women she works with at the boys juvenile detention centre and going home to care for her alcoholic father, meaning she keeps him from drinking a whole bottle of gin by drinking half of it herself. She's going nowhere fast, until a charismatic and beautiful woman offers her a deal she can't refuse. (Sarah)

***Elmet*** by Fiona Mozley (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$10.99

In a small corner of Yorkshire, England, an unconventional man sets out to rebuild a life for himself and his two children in the hamlet of Elmet. Fiona Mozley's first novel was shortlisted for the 2017 Man Booker Prize. It is a gripping exploration of family bonds, loyalty, and the will to resist power that seeks to corrupt and destroy everything in its wake. (Mike)

***Next Year, For Sure*** by Zoey Leigh Peterson (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$24.95

Kathryn and Chris have been together for years, sharing their lives, their hearts, and confessing secrets to one another in the shower. When Chris confesses having a crush on quirky young Emily, their relationship shifts as they begin to explore modern polyamory. This book is never gratuitous or sensational and treats it's people with care and tenderness. A polyamory story about how love can change and how love changes us.

***The Grand Tour*** by Adam O'Fallon Price (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.00

Richard Lazar is a failed novelist reduced to living in a dilapidated trailer in the desert outside Phoenix, when his latest book, a memoir, is actually published. He is sent on a signing tour, hiring a hapless college student as his driver. The resulting road trip is anything but ordinary. (Sandy)

***Minds of Winter*** by Ed O'Loughlin (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.95

Shortlisted for the 2017 Giller Prize

This ambitious and atmospheric novel introduces us to two modern day characters who meet in the Northwest Territories, Neslon Nillson and Fay Morgan. Each is a "detective" with a mystery to solve – in his case, what has happened to his brother and in hers, information about her grandfather. The link between the two searches is a chronometer that supposedly disappeared with the Franklin expedition in the north. O'Loughlin takes us back in time to previous arctic explorers and expeditions, including Sir John Franklin. (Irene)

***Mrs. Fletcher*** by Tom Perrotta (2017)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$35.00 (Paperback expected in May 2018)

Mrs. Fletcher is a divorcée who has just seen her only child, her son, off to college. After receiving a rather odd text message, she decides to change her life a little, making some bad choices along the way. In the meantime her son is making home bad decisions of his own. (Sandy)

***The Secret History of Jane Eyre: How Charlotte Brontë Wrote her Masterpiece*** by John Pfordresher (2017)

Biography, Hardcover, \$35.95

The title page of Jane Eyre claims that it is an autobiography, edited by "Currer Bell" the pen name of Charlotte Brontë. Though Brontë disavowed the novel being about her own life, there are too many parallels to ignore. Charlotte also attended school and was cruelly treated (the school may have hastened the deaths of her younger sisters Maria and Elizabeth). Charlotte also worked as a governess and fell in love with a married man. Pfordresher recounts Brontë's life through the lens of her best known work. This biography would make an excellent pairing with the novel that inspired it. (Judith)

***The Alice Network*** by Kate Quinn (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

A beautiful story about the role of women during both World War I and World War II.

When Charlotte visits England, she is determined to find out what happened to her cousin Rose during World War II. She finds Eve Gardiner who was recruited to the Alice network of spies during World War I who knew Rose during World War II.

This is an amazing, powerful and sad story about the unsung roles women played during the wars, and the sacrifices they made for their countries. Quinn carefully notes the historical events that she based this book upon. (Susan)

***The Italian Teacher*** by Tom Rachman (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$32.00

Tom Rachman has a special talent for creating characters. Love them or hate them, you can't help but be fascinated by them. Charles "Pinch" Bavinsky, the son of a famous (and famously profligate) painter in 1950s Rome, seeks to find his own way to be remembered by the world. A story about fame, love, art, craft and memory, *The Italian Teacher* is a gem of a novel. (Judith)

***Bellevue Square*** by Michael Redhill (2018)

Fiction, Hardcover, \$32.00 (Paperback expected in September 2018)

Is there such a thing as a 'literary ghost story'? Perhaps not, until Michael Redhill's 2017 Giller Prize winning novel. In its taut span of 262 pages we follow Jean Mason as she seeks out an increasingly sinister doppelganger. It starts slowly but don't be fooled. Soon enough, you will be absorbed by something unreliable, mysterious and haunting. (Mike)

***Shrewed*** by Elizabeth Renzetti (2018)

Essays, Paperback, \$22.95

This is a collection of original essays in which Renzetti takes stock of the state of feminism today. She reflects on the past and muses about where things are going. From the perspective of a respected journalist, these essays are insightful, optimistic and peppered with wry wit and humour. (Sue Hill)

***Son of Trickster*** by Eden Robinson (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$21.00

This novel is the first in what will be a trilogy. It is the coming-of-age story for Jared, an extremely likeable, observant and empathetic indigenous teen in British Columbia. His father has left for another woman, his mother is often on drugs and unhinged, his mother's live-in boyfriend is dangerous, and his grandmother believes he is a dangerous Wee'git, or trickster. When, one day, Jared starts to see purple men following him, coming down into the basement through the floor, talking fireflies who follow others, and river otters with people faces, he has to start to wonder just what is at the root of his family's issues. This novel is an expert of blend of humour and the harsh reality of Jared's life, with magical realism, fantasy, horror and heart. (Tina)

***Autumn*** by Ali Smith (2017)

Fiction, Paperback, \$19.95

In the UK's first post-Brexit novel, Ali Smith conjures a literary stream of consciousness through Elisabeth Demand, a thirty-something sessional college instructor struggling with economic, emotional, and existential insecurity in an England very different from that of her childhood. The story hinges on her relationship with her mother, and daily visits to Daniel Gluck, an elderly gentleman sleeping away his final days. The first in a seasonal quartet, and a finalist for the Booker prize, *Autumn* is an exquisite study of fleeting things. (Sarah)

***Liminal*** by Jordan Tannahill (2018)

Fiction, Paperback, \$22.95

What does it mean to be a person? Canadian Jordan Tannahill's philosophical and highly intelligent debut novel explores the mysteries of consciousness, the body, mind, brain, individuality, science, gender, religion..... He does all this in the span of just a few moments after coming upon the unmoving body of his mother who may or may not be alive. (Mike)

***Bellwether*** by Connie Willis (1997)

Science Fiction, Paperback, \$10.99

One of the funniest books I have ever read, it is about the social research being done at a high-tech company to determine who the bellwethers are in society – the ones that influence everyone else into following fads, etc. A very timely book that was written twenty years ago. (Susan)

***Westlake Soul*** by Rio Youers (2012)

Fiction, Paperback, \$17.95

A novel told from the point of view of a young surfer in a permanent vegetative state after a tragic head injury. His ability to communicate is limited to a telepathic link to his dog, which sucks, because his kind new caregiver is in some serious danger, and his family has decided to pull his feeding tube. *Westlake Soul* is an unlikely hero in this story of love, and death, and letting go. (Sarah)

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