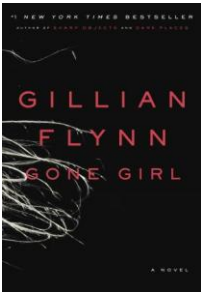
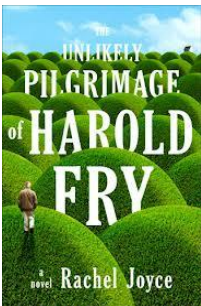


**Nicole Adams***Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn

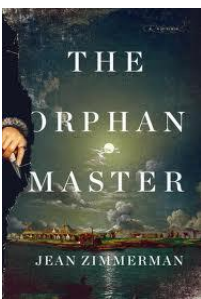
Nick and Amy have been married five years, and to all appearances, they have a happy relationship. All that changes when Amy goes missing. The story is split into two narratives, the first from Nick's point of view, as the husband who is trying to come to terms with his wife's disappearance, and then from Amy's diary, detailing her life leading up to the disappearance. As the story alternates between the two perspectives, we start to get a picture of what their marriage was really like, warts and all.

*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

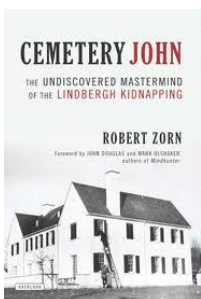
Harold receives a letter from a long lost friend who is ill. He writes a short note in reply and heads off to walk to the nearest post box. The more he thinks about his old friend and things that happened long ago, the more he keeps walking—first across town, then before he knows it, he is on a pilgrimage to walk more than 500 miles to see the ill friend. As he encounters people and has new experiences, he reflects on his life and family. An unexpected gem of a book.

*The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty

Cora Carlyle has led what some would consider a normal, even boring life. However, beneath the surface of this seemingly reserved wife and mother from Wichita lie many surprises. We meet Cora in 1922, just as she has agreed to be the chaperone for 15 year-old Louise Brooks. Louise is destined to become a film star, but at this stage is going to New York City for a summer to study dance. Although Cora is well into her thirties at the novel's outset, this short adventure with Louise begins Cora's coming-of-age story, as she discovers herself and the many layers of the person she is.

*The Orphan master* by Jean Zimmerman

An odd assortment of narrators lead us through this meticulously researched tale. In 1663 New Amsterdam, young children are going missing. The descriptions of life in Peter Stuyvesant's settlement, the politics, and the amount of historical detail woven into this tale make for fascinating reading.

*Cemetery John: The undiscovered mastermind of the Lindbergh kidnapping* by Robert Zorn

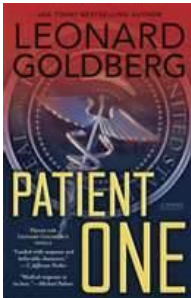
Robert Zorn takes us from the rise of Lindbergh, and his desire to start a family and live a private, undisturbed life, to the horrific crime that put him and his wife at the centre of a media storm that lasted for years. Zorn presents his theory of the identity of the kidnapper, known in the case as Cemetery John, as told by his father, who all his life believed instead that a man the father knew as a teen was the real kidnapper. Zorn painstakingly researches every lead and weaves a tale that I found impossible to put down.

**Pauline Dewan**

*The Anatomist's Apprentice* by Tessa Harris

The year is 1780 and Lady Lydia Farrell finds her brother shaking violently from the poison that soon kills him. Suspecting her husband of murder, Lady Lydia travels from Oxfordshire to London in the hope of persuading the anatomist, Dr. Silkstone, to perform an autopsy on her brother's corpse.

*Patient One* by Leonard Goldberg



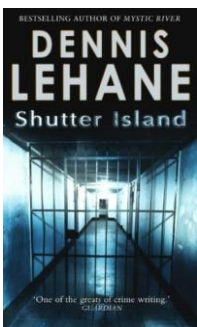
*Patient One* is a stand-alone medical thriller. The U.S. President and 250 distinguished guests are poisoned at a state dinner on the occasion of a new economic pact with Russia. The novel involves Chechen terrorists, hostages, an atomic bomb, fighter pilots, and a rare and life-threatening blood disorder that threatens President John Merrill's life. As a consulting physician and professor of medicine at UCLA, Dr. Leonard Goldberg has the background and expertise to write this medical thriller.

*The Cypress House* by Michael Koryta



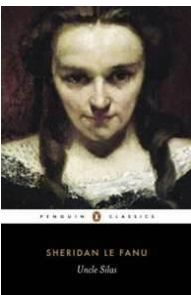
Plagued by a premonition of death on a train ride to the Florida Keys, Arlen Wagner convinces his friend Paul to abort their journey. The pair thus survive the 1935 hurricane that kills all their fellow train travelers. They arrive at the Cypress House, a place filled with its own horrors and deadly secrets. Combining the powerful social forces of a Steinbeck novel and the supernatural touches of a Stephen King book, Michael Koryta's novel will appeal to lovers of thrillers, historical novels, *noir* mysteries, and horror stories.

*Shutter Island* by Dennis Lehane

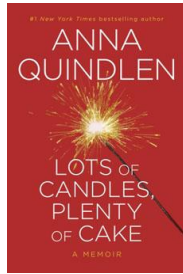


Teddy Daniels and a fellow U.S. federal marshal are sent to an asylum for the criminally insane after a dangerous prisoner escapes—from a heavily guarded room, through three interior checkpoints, and over a wall with electric security wire. As the marshals delve deeper, they discover sinister cover-ups at the island's remote facility. The cold-war McCarthy era is brilliantly evoked and intimately connected with the events of the novel. Dennis Lehane's locked-room mystery is also a disorienting, heart-pumping thriller.

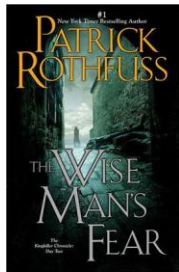
*Uncle Silas* by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu



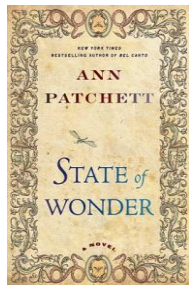
After the death of her single-parent father, 17-year old heiress Maud Ruthynis sent to live with her Uncle Silas in his decaying manor house. Having heard rumours that her uncle once murdered a man, Maud is terrified of what her uncle might do. The enigmatic villain is a *tour de force* of characterization. Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, an Irish writer from the Victorian era, uses the suggestion of the supernatural to create a claustrophobic, menacing atmosphere. Fans of psychological thrillers, Gothic settings, and Victorian mystery novels will find *Uncle Silas* a superbly crafted and highly readable story.

**Kathryn Drury***Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake* by Anna Quindlen

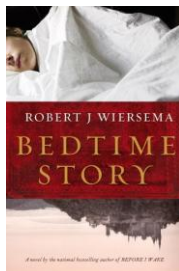
Author of such wonderful novels as *Black and Blue*, *Blessings* and *Every Last One*, Anna Quindlen's latest title is a memoir in which she shares stories about where she's been, where she is now, and where she's going. All women will be able to relate to the various topics Quindlen covers—such as parenting, body image, friends, and marriage. Not just for fans of Anna Quindlen's other writing, this memoir is at turns funny, touching, and insightful.

*The Wise Man's Fear* by Patrick Rothfuss

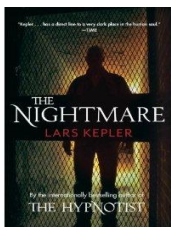
Continuing where *In the Name of the Wind* left off, in this novel author Patrick Rothfuss tells us about Day 2 in the life story of Kvothe. Kvothe leaves the University to travel to foreign lands, where he encounters the mystical Fae and the favour of a king, and continues to search for the elusive Chandrian, and for Denna, the love of his life. This second novel in the expected trilogy will be better appreciated by those who have already read *The Name of the Wind*.

*State of Wonder* by Anne Patchett

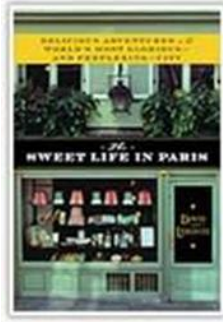
A research scientist with a Minnesota pharmaceutical company, Dr. Marina Singh is sent to the Amazon jungle to check on the progress of the elusive and secretive Dr. Annick Swenson, who is developing a new drug expected to make a fortune for the company. Marina slowly becomes engaged with the community of scientists and the Lakashi tribe while struggling to balance the demands of her company with the extraordinary events of the jungle. Patchett's writing brings the Amazon Rainforest to life.

*Bedtime Story* by Robert J. Wiersema

David is less than thrilled when his father, Chris, gives him a used book for his birthday. We begin reading this gift, *To the Four Directions*, with the father and son during their nightly reading ritual. David becomes so enthralled with the story that when the hero dies, David collapses and ends up in a coma. The only thing that calms David's ongoing seizures is the nightly reading ritual. As he nears the end of the novel, Chris fears what will happen to David if he fails to discover and destroy the secret power the book has over his son.

*The Nightmare* by Lars Kepler

A young woman is found dead in a drifting and abandoned boat in the southern Stockholm archipelago. When Carl Palmcrona fails to show up for a meeting with the foreign minister, the police enter his apartment and discover his body hanging in an empty room. Is it really suicide? Are the two events related? Detective Inspector Joonas Linna's discovery that both cases have connections to arms exports leads him down a dangerous path to the truth.

**Heather Heathcote**

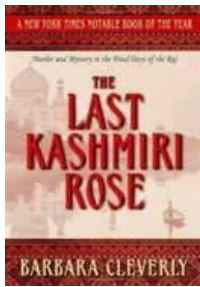
*The Sweet Life in Paris: Delicious Adventures in the World's Most Glorious and Perplexing City* by David Lebovitz

After the death of his partner, David Lebovitz decides to move to Paris. He intersperses his tale of adjusting to life there with wonderful recipes that bring you the tastes of the city. We hear of his escapades in his small apartment, his many trials as he tests his ice cream recipes for his cookbook, and the sights and sounds of his neighbourhood market in the early morning. This book will appeal to those who enjoy memoirs, travel writing, food, and cooking, and especially to those who enjoy the City of Light.



*City of Bones (The Mortal Instruments, #1)* by Cassandra Clare

The fictional world of the Shadowhunters is woven into the setting of modern-day New York City as this book's 15-year-old heroine, Clary Frey, enters a nightclub, witnesses murder and magic, and meets a group of people who will soon become her friends. Clare creates a credible world against a solid background filled with otherworldly creatures. A YA fantasy novel with plenty of intrigue, mystery, plot turns, and some romance.



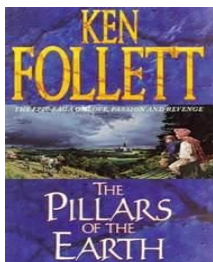
*The Last Kashmiri Rose (Joe Sandilands, #1)* by Barbara Cleverly

Meet Joe Sandilands, Scotland Yard Detective. Joe is readying to leave British India for home when he is asked to investigate the suspicious death of an officer's wife. Joe discovers that there have been other murders. Cleverly gives us a studied introduction to the world of the British in India in the 1920's. She captures the mood and the mores of this society as the story unfolds. If you enjoy historical mysteries, I would highly recommend this novel.



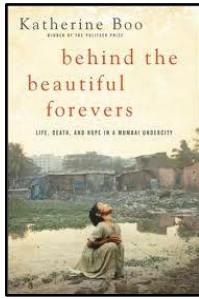
*January First: A Child's Descent into Madness and Her Father's Struggle to Save Her* by Michael Schofield

This book describes Michael Schofield's harrowing journey as the parent of a mentally ill child. At age 6, January is believed to be the youngest person diagnosed with schizophrenia. This book chronicles a father's journey to understand this horrid illness, and to find the right kind of help for his young daughter. He also seeks peace for both January and himself amid the cacophony of their lives. For lovers of memoirs, particularly medical memoirs.

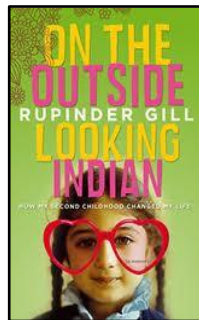


*The Pillars of the Earth (The Pillars of the Earth, #1)* by Ken Follett

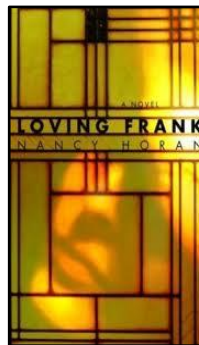
Epic in scope, the book's central story is about the building of a cathedral in 12<sup>th</sup> century England. In addition to learning about the intricacies of building construction, we meet historical and religious figures, as events are woven into the lives and experiences of the novel's characters. This book is for those who enjoy epic sagas, historical fiction, and generational stories.

**Krista Jorgensen***Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo

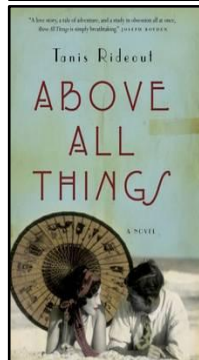
This true story set in the Annawadi slum follows the life of Abdul, a garbage sorter who is supporting his mother, his alcoholic father, and his siblings by purchasing, transporting, and selling recyclables. Tragedy strikes when Abdul is falsely accused of a shocking tragedy. This story will carry readers into a place and into the lives of people that few visit.

*On the Outside Looking Indian* by Rupinder Gill

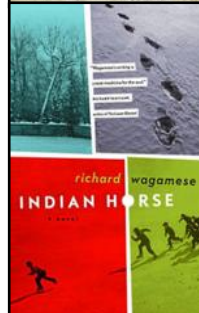
Rupinder was raised in a traditional East Indian home where she felt she was missing out on the experiences her friends were having—everything from slumber parties to movies, and learning how to swim. Instead of complaining, Rupinder eventually makes sure to do all of the things she felt she had missed out on, and in the end she gets to know herself better. Readers will find this light memoir funny and inspiring.

*Loving Frank* by Nancy Hoban

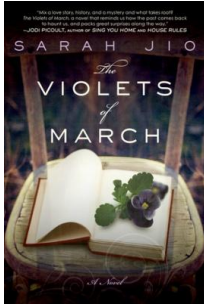
In this novel, historical fact and fiction are blended to tell the story of Mamah Borthwick, who left her husband and children to flee to Europe with Frank Lloyd Wright. This scandalous love affair sparked the public outrage that followed Frank and Mamah throughout their travels, and which threatened to ruin Frank's career. This book, published in 2007, celebrates freedom and its consequences, and would be great for book clubs.

*Above All Things* by Tanis Rideout

Rideout captures the actions and thoughts of George Mallory and his crew on their final attempt to climb Mount Everest. What makes this story different is that the adventure narrative is intertwined with the perspective of Mallory's wife. Although most readers will already be aware of this fateful summit attempt, the journey taken by Mallory's wife really keeps us reading. This book appeals to those who enjoy romance adventure, and is a must-read for those interested in ill-fated expeditions.

*Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese

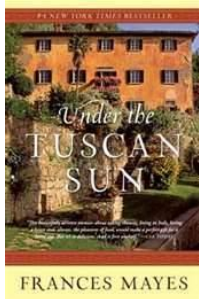
Saul Indian Horse, a former hockey star undergoing treatment for alcoholism, faces the demons of his past as a way to help him overcome his broken spirit. This very powerful fictional biography is about survival, astonishing strength, and resilience in overcoming the deepest wounds one could imagine. Saul will make you laugh and cry and leave you with a sense of hope.

**Diana Krawczyk***The Violets of March* by Sarah Jio

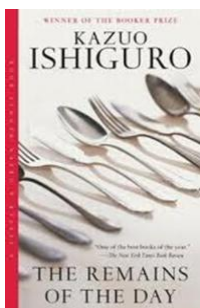
A great seaside read filled with romance, mystery, and atmosphere. Emily's life begins to fall apart after her husband leaves her and she can no longer find the motivation to write, despite her early publishing success. She retreats to her Aunt Bee's place on Banbridge Island in Washington State and finds that her spinster relative has a dark and romantic secret from her past. This book includes elements of classic chick lit, but the uncommon setting and historical elements make it a unique and fresh read.

*The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

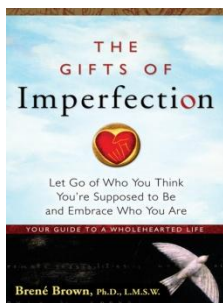
The title of choice at this year's best book clubs, *The Paris Wife* is an enjoyable fictionalized account of Ernest Hemingway's first marriage. Hadley follows her famous husband from a small apartment in Chicago to Paris, where she shares him with people such as F. Scott Fitzgerald and Gertrude Stein. Their relationship becomes exceedingly strained as Hemingway develops as the great novelist history will come to know. Hemingway's Toronto connection is worth a trip to the Toronto *Star's* "Pages of the Past" to view original articles.

*Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy* by Frances Mayes

Published 15 years ago, Mayes' account of her purchase of a Tuscan villa is as readable and glorious as any recent publication. Her clear writing style and episodic turn makes this non-fiction book read much like a novel, with recurring characters and lustrous descriptions. Fans of travel fiction will enjoy this novel as will those who appreciate the tale of a woman reborn at middle age. Reading this book was like carrying around a sunflower in my pocket.

*The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro

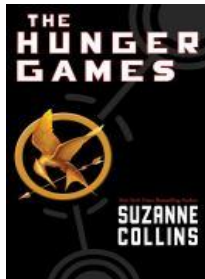
"Downton Abbey" fans take note of this complex account of Mr. Stevens, the butler of Darlington Hall during the Second World War. Stevens serves the leaders of Europe as they come to negotiate the appeasement of the Third Reich. Written in spare and haunting prose, this novel describes the downfall of both the Lord of the Manor and his servant. The Merchant/Ivory film adaptation of this novel is equally excellent and should precede the reading of this novel.

*The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You Are Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Really Are* by Brené Brown

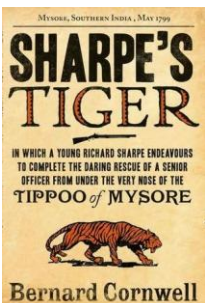
Brown has gained fame in her TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) talks and PBS specials speaking about shame and vulnerability. She posits that we prefer to hide from our mistakes, and refuse to deal with who we really are for fear of rejection. This book provides readers the opportunity to delve into their own reactions. Written in a clear and sincere tone, it rises above most of the self-help variety because of Brown's expertise and experience.

**Chris Sheehy***The Athena Project* by Brad Thor

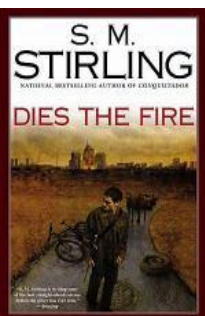
This is a spinoff of Brad Thor's popular Scot Harvath series, and Harvath has a few cameo appearances. The focus of the book is the exploits of an all-female delta force team. Like the Scot Harvath books, there is action, intrigue, and sexual tension, though of a different nature, to keep readers interested in the story, the plot, and the characters.

*The Hunger Games Trilogy* by Suzanne Collins

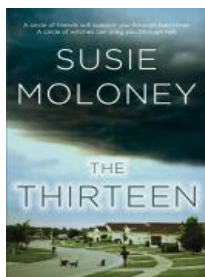
I am cheating a bit by choosing the entire trilogy, but since I downloaded all three at the same time I think it is justified. I must say I thoroughly enjoyed this series, with all the teen angst, PTSD, love, action, and great character development. Right to the end, I had no idea who would be chosen.

*Sharpe's Tiger* by Bernard Cornwell

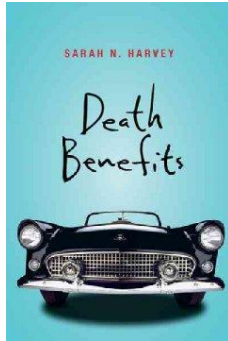
This is the first book in the Sharpe series chronologically, but it was not published until 1997. This book follows Sharpe's early adventures in India, and explains his scars, his rise in the ranks, and how he came to be the man he is in the Napoleonic wars. As in all his books, Cornwell is faithful to the history and feel of the period and place. There is war, there is fighting, and there is some romance thrown in--it would not be a Sharpe novel without these.

*Dies the Fire* by S.M. Stirling

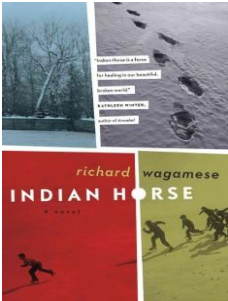
I must admit that I love it when the world as we know it ends, and technology dies and cannot be revived. How does humanity cope? In the stories of *The Change* series by S.M. Stirling, we manage on a scale from "all right" to "outright horrible." Events encountered include cannibalism, feudalism, robbers, plague, and so much more. I enjoyed the first three books in this series that dealt with the first 10 years after The Change, the survivalist mentality, and the way people came together to deal with their changed circumstances.

*The Thirteen* by Susie Maloney

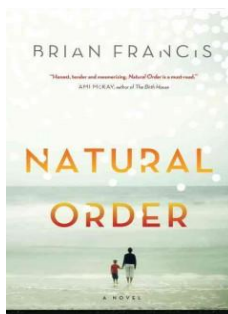
What happens when you break your deal with a demon? There are consequences and restitution must be made. Welcome to Haven Woods, a perfect little suburb, where witches are in charge but things are about to change. One of their number has betrayed the coven and, worse, her death has reduced their numbers. Someone must join and someone must be sacrificed. This is an interesting book that demonstrates what mothers will do to keep their family safe, and what others will do to make their dreams come true.

**Bessie Sullivan***Death Benefits* by Sarah N. Harvey

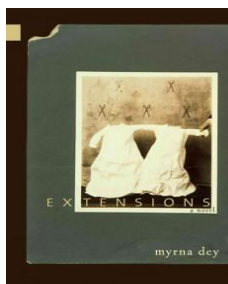
In *Death Benefits*, Royce's mother has relocated the family from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, to oversee the care of her elderly father. Royce's grandfather, a retired world-class cellist, is beyond cranky. When Royce takes on the job of providing daily company for him, Arthur is verbally abusive—and, shockingly, he is also an admirer of the pop group *The Pussycat Dolls* as well as skater shoes. In addition, he owns a classic Thunderbird car, which he allows Royce to drive on the few occasions Arthur is willing to leave his house.

*Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese

Saul Indian Horse is a tough Ojibway boy whose life seems doomed until he discovers hockey and becomes a brilliant skater with a killer wrist shot. But the star of the northern Ontario Indian tournament circuit is goaded by racism into a life of violence and booze, and must come to terms with the painful facts of his childhood. *Indian Horse* is a taut, closely observed character study with fabulous writing.

*Natural Order* by Brian Francis

In this sad and uplifting story, Francis inhabits the mind of Joyce, episodically remembering her life and her coping with her son's sexuality and early death. The novelist is smart enough to enhance our understanding of Joyce's dilemmas by addressing not only the constraints of small-town society in the 1950's and '60's but also the issues facing seniors today.

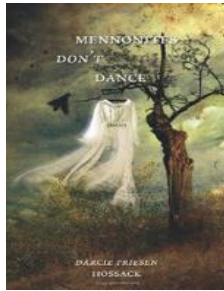
*Extensions* by Myrna Dey

*Extensions* begins when RCMP constable Arabella Dryvynsydes finds an old photograph of her grandmother and her twin sister in a garage sale in Saskatchewan. This leads her to trace her family history back to 1914 British Columbia in order to solve a century-old murder.

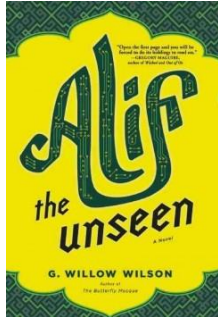
*Divergent* by Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life. This is 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.

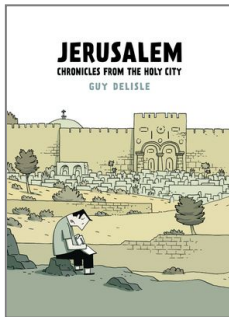


**Lindsay Tyler***Mennonites Don't Dance* by Darcie Friesen Hossack

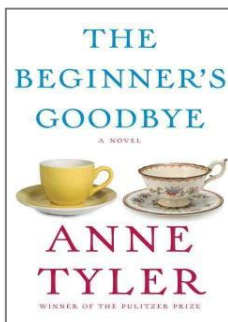
The threads of food and family (especially patriarchal families) run through this collection of stories set in rural Mennonite communities on the prairies. The prose is understated, but the characters and their emotions are vivid and authentic. The title story of a young mother who escapes her restrictive rural upbringing and eventually finds a kind of peace with her mother particularly moved me.

*Alif the Unseen* by G. Willow Wilson

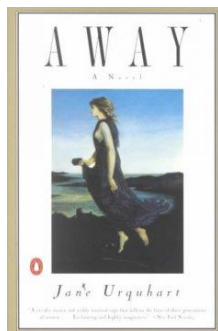
Alif is a young hacker living somewhere in the Middle East who earns a living protecting his clients from the state's digital surveillance. When the woman he loves becomes engaged to another man at her powerful father's behest, Alif creates a program to erase every trace of the man from her life. This program takes on a life of its own, and the consequences lead Alif and his childhood friend Dina into unforeseen danger and places they did not even dream existed.

*Jerusalem* by Guy Delisle

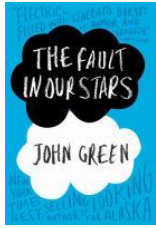
Guy Delisle travels to Jerusalem with his wife, who works for *Médécins Sans Frontières* (MSF), and their two children. While his wife works in the MSF offices, he cares for the kids and draws cartoons of every aspect of his temporary home. The reader accompanies Delisle on visits to holy sites and grocery stores, settlements and Palestinian university classrooms. It is a fascinating journey.

*Beginner's Goodbye* by Anne Tyler

Anne Tyler is known for her acute and witty observation of humans and their eccentricities, and her latest novel is no exception. Here, Tyler tells the touching story of Aaron and Dorothy's marriage, and of Aaron's grief when Dorothy dies in a bizarre accident. The circle of characters surrounding Aaron as he mourns is memorable, from Gil the patient contractor, to Peggy the meddling co-worker.

*Away* by Jane Urquhart

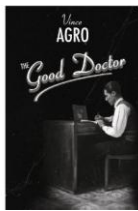
The stunning imagery in this novel caught my attention from the first pages. The story follows Mary, marked by a supernatural encounter with a dying sailor, from potato blight-stricken Ireland to Canada. Once in Canada, she and her husband Brian raise a family on a poor plot of land in Ontario, but the sailor's touch continues to haunt her female descendants. Though *Away* was first published in the 1990's, it is well worth re-visiting for the arresting, lyrical language and a story that is impossible to forget.

**Cecilia Vespa***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

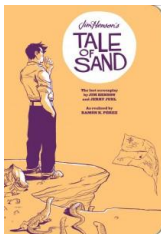
John Green is a core YA author whose books are consistently read and praised by adults. His most recent work is reminiscent of Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*. Told through the eyes of a 16-year-old stage IV cancer patient, this story examines the themes of love, life, and death. This title was on the 2012 YALSA's Teen Top Ten list, and #4 on NPR's 100 Best Ever Teen Novels list. Make sure you have a box of tissues beside you, and be prepared for this story to stay with you long after you finish. A must read!

*Lady Chatterley's Lover* by DH Lawrence

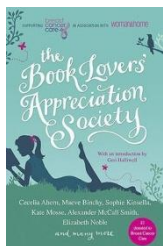
After reading *Fifty Shades of Grey* and viewing the launch of Nancy Pearl's "Book Lust Rediscoveries," I decided to read this classic in the erotic fiction genre. Banned in Canada until 1960 because of concerns about its use of "obscene language" and explicit depiction of sexual intercourse, this infamous title chronicles the physical relationship between a married upper class woman and her gardener. Suggested for library staff who are interested in novels that foreshadowed current trends in RA, and for those with limited time to read, who want a book that encompasses many categories of literature.

*Good Doctor* by Vince Agro

My father was an Italian immigrant who grew up in Hamilton, so this novel really resonated with me. Although Hamilton is the setting, the characters, the Italian community, and the struggles depicted could have been set anywhere in Ontario during WW II. Told with a powerful voice and incredible historical detail, this story gives readers a fresh perspective about immigrants to Canada who originated from nations that were on opposing sides in WW II. A Scotiabank-Giller, top 10 readers' choice pick.

*Jim Henson's Tale of Sand* by Ramon K Perez

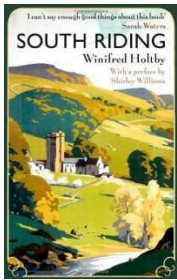
This is the 2012 Eisner Award winner for Best Graphic Album—New, and is an original graphic novel adaptation of an unproduced feature-length screenplay. Using little dialogue, the novel tells of a frenzied Everyman journey across the American Southwest. The art is stunning, capturing the screenplay as Perez visualized it. This is a sturdy book that will require the reader to ponder the deeper meanings implied in its pages. A real trip!

*Book Lover's Appreciation Society* by Alexander McCall Smith *et al.*

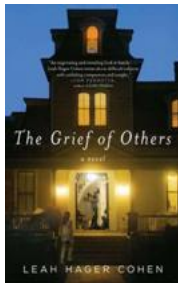
As a readers' advisor, I love collections of short stories that give you the flavour of authors whose work you may not know, require only a short commitment, and can quickly be applied to your existing knowledge base. This particular collection features 34 popular authors, who spin tales of love, friendship, passion, and betrayal. Some authors I had read before, others I have no intention of reading again, and some I cannot wait to seek out to read a lengthier work.

**Alexandra Yarrow***Gold* by Chris Cleave

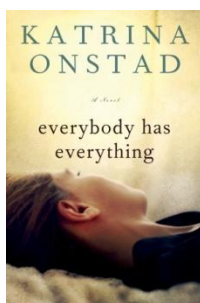
Chris's writing has a way of grabbing you firmly by the heart and pulling, hard. The protagonists here are three Olympic bike racers in their early 30s, facing their last Olympics (London 2012). Despite my lack of interest in competitive sports, I could not put this book down. There is much about competitive sports here, but also there is also a love triangle, a gravely ill child, and a sensitive exploration of the roads less traveled.

*South Riding* by Winifred Holtby

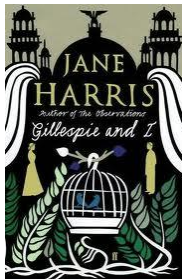
Holtby's sixth and final novel, originally published posthumously in 1936, *South Riding* follows the political and social machinations of local aldermen and community leaders in the titular fictional district in Yorkshire. Holtby's mother was the first woman alderman of the (real) East Riding, and this novel is a loving tribute by a daughter who clearly had admiration (and criticism) for her mother's world. Fans of Muriel Spark or Gwethalyn Graham will enjoy this novel.

*The Grief of Others* by Leah Hager Cohen

The Ryries, parents to two children and a recently-deceased baby boy, are struggling to move forward through their grief when the husband's older daughter from a previous relationship appears at their doorstep unexpectedly. Cohen's writing gave me goose bumps; it is easy to see how this gem of a book made it to the Orange Prize long list. If the past is a foreign country, so too is the grief of others, even those closest to us. This is for readers who enjoy Julia Glass, Kim Edwards, or Elizabeth Strout.

*Everybody Has Everything* by Katrina Onstad

Onstad captures perfectly the human spirit that lurks below a veneer of suits, heels, polished front doors, and shiny car windows in downtown Toronto. Ana and James are muddling toward early middle age, childless and drifting apart. Into this mix falls Finn, the young child of their good friends, left in their care after a car accident that claims Finn's father and leaves his mother in a coma. Thrust into temporary parenthood, Ana and James re-think the choices they have made. Ana's struggles should spark meaningful book club discussions.

*Gillespie and I* by Jane Harris

This puzzle of a book perfectly captures the voice of its Scottish, Victorian-era narrator, nosy spinster Harriet Baxter. Harriet endeavours to "set the story straight" about her relationship with the Gillespie family. As the tale unravels, it begins to look more like something by Wilkie Collins than the gentle memoirs of a thoughtful friend. Harriet reveals only what she wants us to see – with an occasional telling slip. Psychological drama at its best for fans of Iain Pears' *The Portrait* or Sebastian Barry's *The Secret Scripture*.