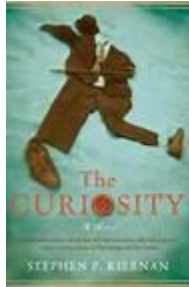


Nicole Adams, Oshawa Public Library



*The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin

The story of Charles Lindbergh is one of great achievement and unimaginable tragedy. Benjamin takes us into the world of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, an accomplished pilot and writer, but constantly overshadowed by her husband's fame. We learn of the heartbreaks, both private and very public that this remarkable woman had to endure. In the spirit of *Loving Frank* and *The Paris Wife*.



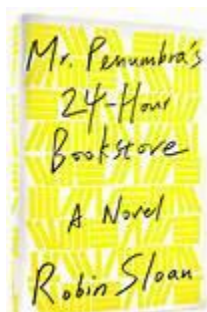
*The Curiosity* by Stephen P. Kiernan

A scientific expedition makes a discovery in the North Atlantic that will challenge every idea people have about mortality and humanity. I hardly know how to categorize this book as it combines so many genres - science fiction, literary fiction, and part thriller and love story. Book clubs will find much to discuss in this updated "Frankenstein" story.



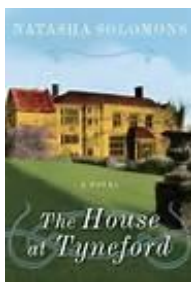
*Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

An unconventional love story, telling the tale of Louisa, a quirky underachiever and Will, a once powerful, now emotionally and physically wounded man. Neither one knows what the other will mean to them over the course of the six months they know each other. This begins like any other romance, but takes you on an unexpected journey.



*Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

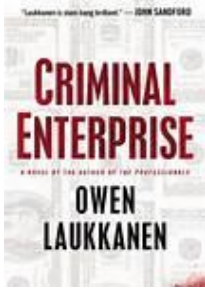
Having come upon a strange bookshop by chance, an aimless young man finds himself working there on the night shift, encountering very eccentric characters among the clientele. Suspecting there is more going on than meets the eye, he delves into the mystery behind this odd shop and its enigmatic owner. A jaunty, surprisingly old-fashioned fantasy about the places where old and new ways of accessing knowledge meet.



*The House at Tyneford* by Natasha Solomons

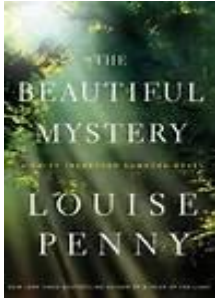
A young Jewish woman travels to England from Vienna to work as a housemaid during the Second World War, leaving her family behind. Having come from a life of privilege, she finds it hard to adjust to her new surroundings and responsibilities but soon comes to love her new home, all the while worrying about the fate of her family under Hitler's regime. This is a love story, a story of loss, and a story about endings. It is beautiful look at English village life in that glorious time before war destroyed and changed things forever.

Pauline Dewan, Wilfred Laurier University



*Criminal Enterprise* by Owen Laukkanen

When accountant Carter Tomlin loses his job and falls deep into debt, he decides that one bank robbery will solve his problems. But once hooked on the danger and excitement, this suburban husband and father starts leading an amazing double life. What distinguishes this novel is the way Canadian novelist Laukkanen depicts the transformation from law-abiding citizen to hardened criminal. Anyone who loves exciting thrillers and explorations of the criminal psyche will enjoy *Criminal Enterprise*.



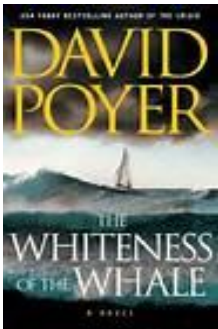
*The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny

In an ancient monastery hidden deep within Quebec's wilderness, a killer lurks. Armand Gamache, Chief Inspector of the Sûreté du Québec, is called in to investigate the startling murder of a monk in this place of spiritual peace and divine Gregorian chants. Like all Penny's narratives, *The Beautiful Mystery* resounds with a sense of deep profundity. Readers who enjoy beautifully written, character-driven mysteries will lose themselves in this novel.



*Six Years* by Harlan Coben

After a whirlwind romance, Jake Fisher is stunned when his beloved Natalie decides to marry a former boyfriend. Six years pass and Natalie's husband is murdered. When Jake attends the funeral, he discovers that the widow is not Natalie. Nothing is what it seems in the novel, and the ground continually shifts under the reader's feet. Coben, the award-winning master of psychological thrillers, is at the top of his game in *Six Years*.



*The Whiteness of the Whale* by David Poyer

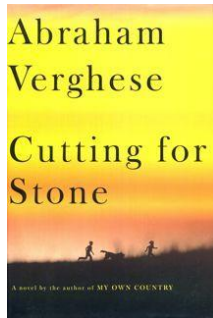
Scientist Sara Pollard and a crew of seven sail a racing yacht to the Antarctic in order to disrupt a Japanese fleet that is killing endangered whales. The crew faces shipwreck, life-threatening storms, killer whales, and a host of imminent dangers as they battle the high seas. Fans of fast-paced nautical adventures and heart-pumping survival stories will find a winning combination in *The Whiteness of the Whale*.



*Cover of Snow* by Jenny Milchman

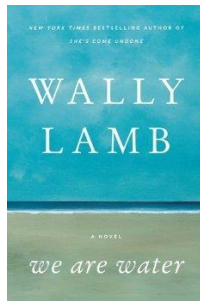
When Jenny wakes up to find her husband Brendan hanging from a noose, she becomes increasingly suspicious of the people around her – and in particular of her husband's colleagues on the police force. A newcomer to the remote Adirondack Mountains community, Jenny soon realizes that she cannot trust anyone. The wintry storms, treacherous mountain roads, and isolated setting are both integral to the plot and key to the characters' psyches. Those who love thrillers with a gripping plot and ominous atmosphere will find it hard to put *Cover of Snow* down.

Kathryn Drury, Brantford Public Library



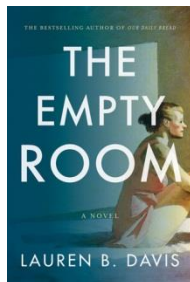
*Cutting For Stone* by Abraham Verghese

Born in tragic circumstances, twin brothers Marion and Shiva Stone share a strong emotional and physical connection. They also share an interest in medicine and in a beautiful girl who ultimately is the cause of the brothers' estrangement. As Marion begins his life away from his extended family in Ethiopia the ties remain. *Cutting for Stone* is a moving story of family in all its forms.



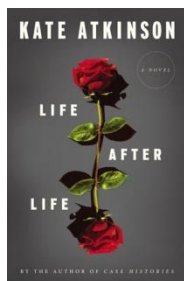
*We are Water* by Wally Lamb

The ebb and flow of family life and relationships are explored in *We are Water*. As Annie prepares to remarry she looks back on her life with her children and ex-husband Orion. All family members share their viewpoint throughout the novel allowing the reader unique insight into significant family issues and how they affect each character. The characters, events and writing are instantly compelling taking the reader on an intense journey to the altar and beyond.



*The Empty Room* by Lauren B. Davis

A day in the life of Colleen Kerrigan begins in a fog as she tries to remember the events of the night before that leave her feeling sick and confused. She's late for work again. She struggles to find clean clothes and vows that today she won't drink. The day goes from bad to worse as her denials about alcoholism become increasingly difficult for even Colleen to believe. *The Empty Room* is intense, powerful and yet hopeful.



*Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson

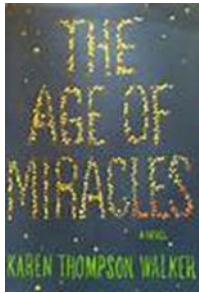
The first time Ursula Todd dies she is a mere few minutes old, not having drawn breath. Born in the midst of a snowstorm in 1910 England, her second attempt at life is more successful as the doctor arrives just in time. In each subsequent arrival Ursula learns more about her family and eventually the world around her. Kate Atkinson brilliantly revisits characters and events again and again while continuing to captivate the reader.



*Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* by David Sedaris

The latest collection of narrative essays by humourist David Sedaris does not disappoint. Told with his trademark intelligence including family related anecdotes, this collection includes stories featuring the author's first colonoscopy, living and visiting dentists abroad, and the pitfalls of telling anyone that you like things, 'Owls' for example.

Andrea Dunn, Markham Public Library



*Age of Miracles* by Karen Walker Thompson

Debut Novelist Karen Walker Thompson introduces us to the world after The Slowing in *The Age of Miracles*, a present day, dystopian coming of age tale. Being a teenager is hard enough but 11 year old Julia must not only deal with family crisis, friends and boys, but also with lack of gravity, and an ever changing length of daylight.



*Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter

*Beautiful Ruins* is a story of one summer in Italy and its consequences. Young Pasquale Tursi, a new innkeeper is working to modernize his family's hotel when glamorous Dee Moray, a Hollywood starlet comes to the hotel, changing both their lives and of those around them. Spanning fifty years, from 1960's Italy to modern day Hollywood, *Beautiful Ruins* is told from multiple perspectives and shows how our actions can come back to haunt us years later.



*The Best Laid Plan* by Terry Fallis

Canadian politics at its most satirical. In order to leave his job with the Opposition Leaders office, Daniel Addison agrees to be campaign manager for a riding association where no one wants to be candidate. Angus McLintock is an Engineering Professor who wishes to find a way out of teaching English to Engineers. Together Daniel and Angus make a deal that may just change how politics is done.



*One Hundred Names* by Cecilia Ahern

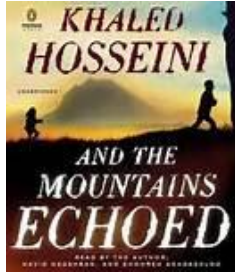
Kitty Logan's life is in chaos, her journalistic career is tainted by scandal, her personal life is in shambles, and Constance, her mentor is dying. Constance provides Kitty an opportunity to work on a story of a lifetime with a list of one hundred names she has composed, but dies before she can fully explain. Now Kitty must work to find the meaning behind the names, why they were chosen and how they can revive her career.



*Someday, Someday, Maybe* by Lauren Graham

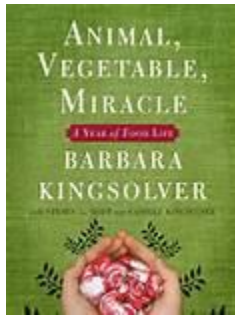
Franny Banks has six months to go on her deadline to become a successful actress or to give up on her dreams and move on. Franny hilariously balances acting classes, auditions and agents with family, relationships and waitressing while learning that Hollywood isn't all that it seems. Actress Lauren Graham is known for her roles on the TV series, *Parenthood* and *Gilmore Girls*, this is her debut novel.

Heather Heathcote, London Public Library



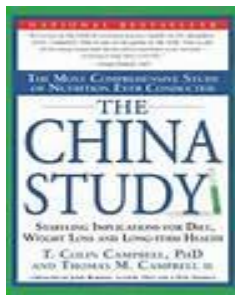
*And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini

I am always gripped by Hosseini's storytelling and this is no exception. We meet little Pari and her big brother Abdullah—Abdullah loves her and cares for her like a parent. And then she is gone. And a new phase of the story begins with Pari and her new life. We follow Pari as she grows up into a young woman, one who does not remember her old life. Hosseini weaves his tale to a satisfying conclusion.



*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: a year of food life* by Barbara Kingsolver

Kingsolver and her family move from their home in Tucson to an old family farm in the Appalachian Mountains that belongs to her husband. Their goal: to sustain themselves for one year from the food they grow, the animals they rear and foodstuffs from their area. This is one family that is not afraid of hard work and they have spent many summers on this particular farm. Kingsolver's story is interspersed with essays from her daughter and her husband that add to and illustrate the topics. A wonderful story told with her delightful prose.



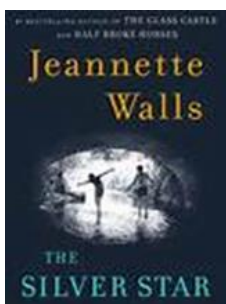
*The China Study: the most comprehensive study of nutrition ever conducted and the startling implications for diet, weight-loss, and long-term health*, by T. Colin Campbell with Thomas M. Campbell II.

I have always been a nutrition buff and food lover and I was fascinated and intrigued by Campbell's work. This man has spent much of his life on this research and I found his work quite compelling. Campbell concludes that by following the diet he recommends (plant-based, vegan) with some additional modifications, one can avoid or reverse developing many illnesses or diseases. Worth reading.



*Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews

Nathaniel Nash is a young CIA operative who runs an American mole—an old, Russian spy, well trusted and hidden in the Kremlin. Dominika Egerova, a retired ballerina turned Russian operative, "the Sparrow" is assigned to cover Nathaniel Nash. These two characters are playing a dangerous game. The book is filled with action, intrigue, plot twists and lots more. If you enjoy spy thrillers, read this! A great new author who is also a veteran CIA man.



*The Silver Star* by Jeannette Walls

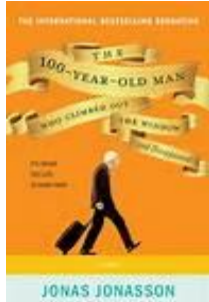
Bean and Liz are sisters who are left alone when mom Charlotte heads off "to find herself". Tired of chicken pies, and not liking the looks of the police car parked outside their door, they take a bus to Virginia to discover their family roots. This story is poignant and heartfelt.



Krista Jorgensen, Georgina Public Libraries

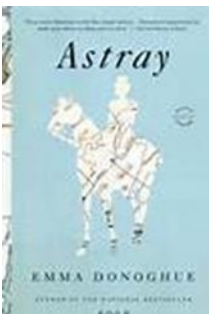
*Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

This literary adventure, mostly set in a hole-in-the wall San Francisco bookstore, tells the tale of global conspiracy, code-breaking and also includes young love. It is like the Da Vinci Code for libraries.



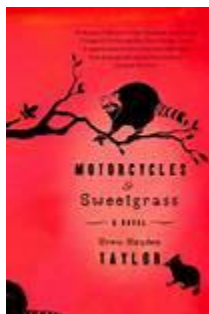
*The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson

This light-hearted, fun, quirky and unusual novel had me in stitches, but it also reminded me of historical events too. Some might compare this story to a Scandinavian dark version of Forest Gump. This is a wonderful, crazy, fun filled book for those that enjoy a bit of history mixed with a good chuckle.



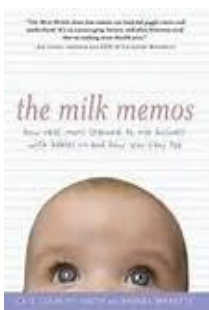
*Astray* by Emma Donoghue

These short stories are all about characters led astray – from slaves, to emigrants, drifters to lovers, gold miners and sculptors. The stories, set mostly in North America – some in Canada - are filled with rich historical details that are surprising and moving to the reader.



*Motorcycles & Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor

Recently I reread this story of a handsome stranger on a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle who turns Otter Lake's Anishnawbe community upside down. I love how this book is fresh, unique and fun – yet steeped in tradition too.



*The Milk Memos: How Real Moms Learned to Mix Business with Babies-And How You Can, Too* by Cate Colburn-Smith and Andrea Serrette

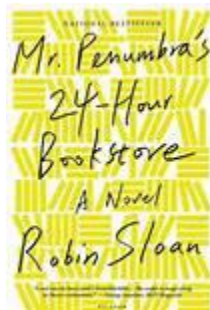
Every nursing mom hoping to continue the breastfeeding relationship while returning to work should pick up a copy of this book – especially if they are returning to work before their one-year maternity/parental leave is up. As a mom returning to work, I really related to these women and appreciated their advice. I only wish we had a Canadian version!

Melanie Kindrachuk, Stratford Public Library



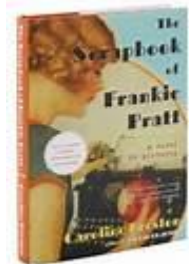
*A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki

Ruth, a writer in B.C. discovers a red diary washed ashore on the currents from the Japanese tsunami. As she reads the pages, her life and the life of the diarist become increasingly entwined. The writer is Nao, a bullied teenager in Japan. This book, recently shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, is a real journey for the reader. It's long, and dense, full of philosophical comments on life and meaning and Zen Buddhism. Yet it's also full of compelling characters and settings, and just a touch of magical realism, too. A great choice for the thoughtful reader.



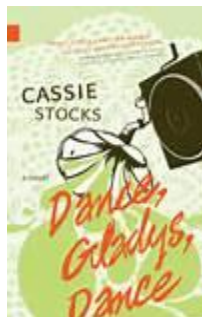
*Mr Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

This fun, bookish adventure features a young, unemployed web designer who takes a job as a night clerk in a very singular bookstore in San Francisco. The mysteries of Mr. Penumbra's lead to the discovery of a secret society of book lovers competing with digital geniuses to decode a secret manuscript... and shows great fondness for both subcultures! It makes for a delightful tale that celebrates nerdy cleverness with energy and enthusiasm. The perfect read for book lovers who also love tech.



*Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt* by Caroline Preston

Visual delight fills this "novel in pictures", the story of Frances "Frankie" Pratt over the 8 years following her high school graduation. Set in the Twenties, it shares a narrative mainly through the collage-style scrapbook pages that Frankie creates, with a few explanatory notes apparently typed out and glued in. It's an engaging way to tell a story, full of joie de vivre and sassy storytelling. Anyone even vaguely interested in scrapbooking, collage, 20's fashions, history, or who simply wants to read a great story of a woman's life, will enjoy this.



*Dance, Gladys, Dance* by Cassie Stocks

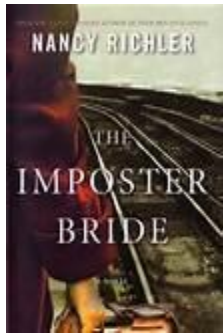
This recent Leacock Prize winner is unexpected: it's set in Winnipeg. With artists, sex shop employees, widowers, master crocheters, and a ghost. And lots of humour, too. Stocks takes Fine Art, domestic craft and feminism and stirs them all into a story that, despite its darker moments and soul-searching, ends up being uplifting and life affirming. The characters are quirky, the setting is well drawn, and the story doesn't conclude in obvious ways. A good choice for readers looking for entertaining stories of women in quarter-life crisis.



*Blood and Salt* by Barbara Sapergia

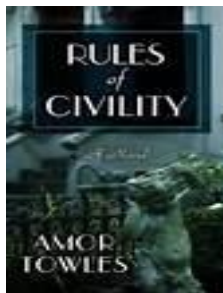
This novel investigates a little known aspect of Canadian history, the internment of Ukrainian Canadians during WWI. It follows Taras Kalyna, a young man who has emigrated from Ukraine to avoid military conscription by the AustroHungarian empire. But when war begins, he is rounded up by a government who believes that these immigrant men are secretly supportive of the regime they had tried to escape in the first place. It's a rich tale that is paced well and reveals injustice and horror, as well as loyalty, friendship and love.

Diana Krawczyk, Mississauga Public Library



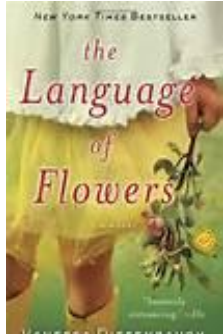
*The Imposter Bride* by Nancy Richler

I was intrigued by the premise of this novel as it was my great-aunt's story as she was a "mail-order" bride rejected at the end of her long journey to Alberta. Richler focuses her narrative in the present but World War II and the Holocaust reaches from the past into the character's lives with dark and powerful memories. From Lily, the title character, who longs for her freedom to her daughter Ruth, who wants to know her distant mother, everyone who inhabits this novel is missing a part of themselves which has been claimed by history.



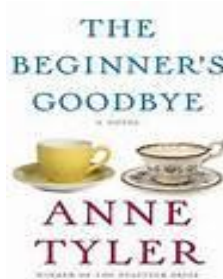
*Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles

Despite a poor performance at the box office, this feels like the year of Gatsby and this novel minded me of Fitzgerald's world. Katey Kontent is drawn into the world of Tinker Grey and is able to pursue a professional secretarial career at a time when being a single career woman was unheard of. Katey experiences joys and heartbreak and must navigate an increasingly complicated world. The novel is well-written and has a number of plot twists that keep you reading.



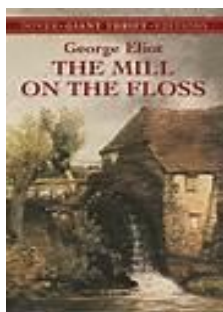
*The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Few readers may be familiar with the Victorian language of flowers, where every flower has a different meaning and could bear a message of forbidden love to another, but I was really fascinated by Victorian culture in the past and I really connected with this book. The main character, Victoria, is a foster child who is now on her own and is recognized by a local florist for her talent. Victoria must face her past and moving forward to her future. The book is very modern and interweaves the traditional floral syntax well into a book that would appeal to any young person.



*The Beginner's Goodbye* by Anne Tyler

The short book is a real treat that looks at grief and how we must learn to say goodbye. Aaron, disabled from childhood, meets and marries Dorothy, a plain, self-assured woman who doesn't underestimate him. Dorothy is killed in a freak accident and Aaron needs to find his own voice to speak his grief and begin again. In addition to giving a glimpse into the world of grief, it also affords a good view of marriage in the raw and who we think we are when in a relationship.

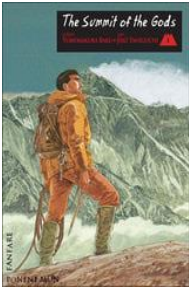


*The Mill on the Floss* by George Eliot

As a lover of classic literature, I always return to my list of favorites to encourage readers to look back for great reads. Maggie is a modern woman living an antiquated life whereby her choices and life is limited by tradition. Maggie feels too deeply and lives too wildly to ever be satisfied with the life that she will be allowed to have. Daughter of the miller, she becomes the object of her father's enemy's son's affection and falls into an improper relationship with an attached man. Written with a tender hand and featuring a new kind of girl, this book is one of my most favorite.



Elsa Ngan, Toronto Public Library



*The Summit of the Gods, volume 1* by Yumemakura Baku and artwork by Jiro Taniguchi

Taniguchi's realistic artworks accompanied by Baku's detailed script bring on the discovery of a camera in Nepal which could potentially belong to George Herbert Leigh Mallory, a well-known English mountaineer from the 1920's. A mystery starts out slow and then grabs readers until the very end. There are five volumes to this series.



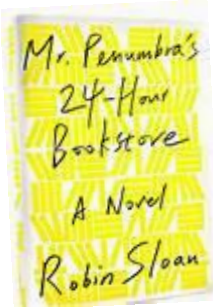
*Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race around the World* by Matthew Goodman

In the late 1800's, two American female journalists took on an exciting challenge. A year after Jules Verne's popular fiction, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, the two adventurers raced around the world in less than eighty days. Bly travelled from East to West while Bisland were to travel from West to East. Both saw the world in a rush but made their footprints. Travelling the world in your armchair is easy with this book but travelling back in time is also just as easy!



*The Scottish Banker from Surabaya: An Ava Lee Novel* by Ian Hamilton

Forensic accountant Ava Lee is on the case again. In this fifth installment, the job takes her to Indonesia where she encounters a Scot banker who is running a front for an elaborate money-laundering operation for some Italian mobsters. The case is one of the most difficult Ava has ever encountered.



*Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan

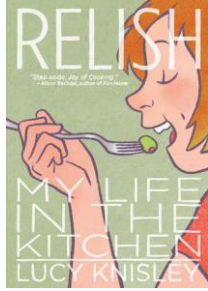
Clay finds himself in Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour bookstore after losing his job as a website designer. As he works the graveyard shift, he starts to meet different readers who only request specific books written in codes. He soon discovers that there is a league of readers trying to use these coded books to achieve immortality.



*Ru* by Kim Thuy

"Ru" means lullaby in Vietnamese and it means a small stream in French. All signifies a flow- of tears, blood and money. A succinct story told by a Vietnamese refugee who escaped from Communism during the Vietnam War and her eventual journey to Canada.

Lindsay Tyler, C.N.I.B. Library



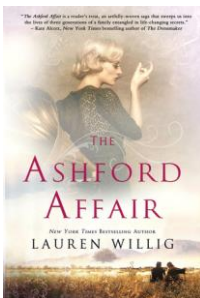
*Relish: My Life in the Kitchen* by Lucy Knisley

For Lucy Knisley food has always been central to her family, forming a link with crucial moments in her life. By her own admission, she is obsessed with food, and passionate about particular dishes, from croissants to pickles. This graphic memoir is a humorous perspective on food and growing up. And it includes recipes!



*The March* by E.L. Doctorow

Seeing the film Lincoln brought me to read this compelling Civil War novel. The novel's large cast of characters, from the widow of a plantation owner to former slaves to General Sherman himself, experience the chaos of Sherman's march through Georgia, North and South Carolina. Lovers of historical fiction will want to read, or re-read, this book.



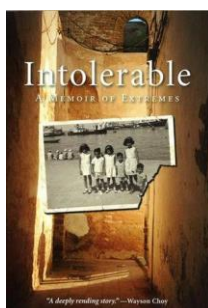
*The Ashford Affair* by Lauren Willig

Present-day Clemmie gradually realizes the truth about her herself and her family's past in this multi-generational saga. As it moves from aristocratic Britain in the 20s to a Kenyan coffee plantation and finally to Manhattan, there is plenty of romance and drama.



*The Restoration Artist* by Lewis DeSoto

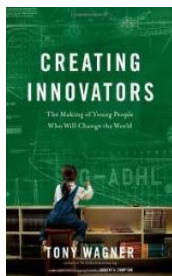
Leo Millar escapes to a remote island off the coast of Normandy to escape his crushing grief and reminders of the happy life the ended when his wife and son died. The tenderness of the story of loss and belonging as well as the beautiful depictions of the island make this a memorable read.



*Intolerable: A Memoir of Extremes* by Kamal Al-Solaylee

This fascinating and touching memoir combines family history, analysis of the politics and culture of the Middle East, and a very personal account of growing up and coming out. Kamal Al-Solaylee tells how he came to find a welcoming home in Toronto even while he watched his Yemeni family's outlook change from secular and culturally rich to pious and pre-occupied with survival.

Celia Vespa, Burlington Public Library



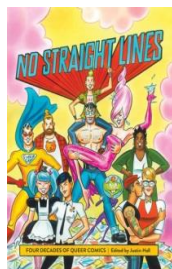
*Creating Innovators* by Tony Wagner

A must read for any library that has innovation as a strategic objective. Wagner outlines five steps to create an environment for innovators to flourish that can be applied to library programs, spaces and services, as well as, detailing characteristics that innovators possess. QR codes are interspersed throughout the book which link to videos that emphasize concepts discussed. Suggested for those that like Malcolm Gladwell, Don Tapscott, Roger Martin and Henry Mintzberg.



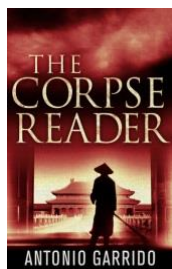
*Where'd You Go Bernadette* by Maria Semple

From one of the writers of *Arrested Development* comes this social satirical, uplifting, witty and highly entertaining novel. Bernadette is a cutting edge architect unhappy with her urban lifestyle and on a trip disappears leaving her daughter Bee to piece together, through a series of correspondence, what happened. Suggested for fans who like Janet Evanovich's quirky characters, Gillian Flynn's exploration of relationships and epistolary novels like Bridget Jones Diary.



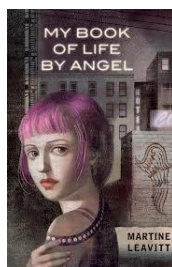
*No Straight Lines: Four Decades of Queer Comics* by Justin Hall

This book is an anthology of the best LGBTQ comics and their creators over the last 40 years. Hall selected works to include based on three criteria; artistic merit, historical importance and representation of queer comics across the LGBTQ community. A multiple award winner and nominee, this is suggested for those that want an introduction or comprehensive history of queer comics or an overview of queer history in general and for those that just want to revisit old favorites and discover new comics to try.



*Corpse Reader* by Antonio Garrido, translated by Tom Bunstead

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century Tsong Dynasty, Song Ci journeys from gravedigger to deciphering corpses to ultimately becoming the father of forensic science. Garrido's well researched title catapults the reader into Ci's life and first mystery; to solve a series of vicious and brutal murders before he falls victim to the killer. This title would appeal to readers who enjoyed Eco's, *The Name of the Rose* and Franklin's, *Mistress of the Art of Death*, as well as, Chinese history fans or mystery lovers.



*My book of Life* by Angel by Martine

Leavitt crafts a beautiful story about child prostitution in downtown Vancouver told through verse. 16 year old Angel gets seduced by a "John" while at the mall, soon he has her moving in and turning tricks but when a younger girl Melli also gets seduced, she feels the need to get both of them out of the trade and away from their "John" for good. Suggested for those readers that enjoyed Patricia McCormick's *Sold*, Ellen Hopkins or gritty novels. Make sure to have a box of tissues beside you because Angel will pull on your heartstrings.