

### **18 Tiny Deaths by Bruce Goldfarb**

Frances Glessner Lee, born to a wealthy Chicago family in the 1870s, developed a fascination with the investigation of violent crimes and made it her life's work. She created the Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death, a series of dioramas that appear charming-until you notice the macabre details. She later developed a system that used the dioramas to train law enforcement officers to investigate violent crimes – methods that are still used today.

### **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie**

Junior is a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, he leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

### **The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**

The mystical story of a shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure, but his quest will lead him to riches far different than he ever imagined.

### **All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr**

A stunningly ambitious and beautiful novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

### **American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang**

This graphic novel tells the story of three characters: Jin Wang, who discovers that he's the only Chinese-American student at his new school; the Monkey King, subject of one of the oldest Chinese fables; and Chin-Kee, a personification of the ultimate negative Chinese stereotype, who is ruining his cousin Danny's life with his yearly visits. Their lives and stories come together with an unexpected twist in this action-packed modern fable.

### **And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie**

First, there were ten—an assortment of strangers summoned as guests to a private island off the coast of Devon. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal--and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. One by one they fall prey. Before the weekend is out, there will be none.

### **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver**

The author and her family vowed that, for one year, they'd only buy food raised in their own neighborhood or learn to live without it. Part memoir, part journalistic investigation, this is a story that will open your eyes in new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat.

### **The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker**

When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears, neither his wife nor his daughter have any idea where he might be until they find a love letter he wrote years ago, to a Burmese woman. Intent on solving the mystery, his daughter travels to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion.

### **Austenland by Shannon Hale**

Jane Hayes is a seemingly normal young New Yorker, but she has a secret. Her obsession with Mr. Darcy is ruining her love life: no real man can compare. But when a relative bequeaths her a trip to an English resort catering to Austen-crazed women, Jane's fantasies of meeting the perfect Regency-era gentleman suddenly become more real than she ever could have imagined.

### **Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Henry Callahan **NEW!****

When writer Joy Davidman began writing letters to C. S. Lewis she was looking for spiritual answers, not love. Everything about New Yorker Joy seemed ill-matched for an Oxford don, yet their minds bonded over their letters. Embarking on the adventure of her life, Joy traveled from America to England and back again, facing heartbreak and poverty, discovering friendship and faith, and finding a love that even the threat of death couldn't destroy.

### **Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo**

A landmark work of narrative nonfiction that tells the dramatic and sometimes heartbreaking story of families striving toward a better life in one of the twenty-first century's great, unequal cities.

**The Big Finish by Brooke Fossey NEW!**

For Duffy Sinclair, life boils down to one thing: maintaining his residence at the idyllic Centennial Assisted Living. So, he keeps his shenanigans to the minimum with the help of his straight-laced roommate, Carl. But when Carl's granddaughter climbs through their window, Duffy's faced with trouble that's hard to hide. In this funny, insightful, and life-affirming novel, *The Big Finish* delivers an unflinching look at growing old, living large, and loving big, as told by a wise-cracking man who didn't see it coming.

**The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich**

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

**Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolpho Anaya**

Antonio is six years old when Ultima comes to stay with his family in New Mexico. She is a curandera, one who cures with herbs and magic. Under her wise wing, Tony will probe the family ties that bind and rend him, and he will discover himself in the magical secrets of the past.

**The Book Charmer by Karen Hawkins NEW!**

New York Times bestselling author Karen Hawkins crafts an unforgettable story about a sleepy Southern town, two fiercely independent women, and a truly magical friendship.

**The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships--or, as they would say, because of them--they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

**The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown**

The dramatic story of the American rowing team that stunned the world at Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics.

### **Braving the Wilderness by Brené Brown**

In *Braving the Wilderness*, social scientist Brené Brown redefines what it means to truly belong in an age of increased polarization. With her trademark mix of research, storytelling, and honesty, Brown will change the cultural conversation while mapping a clear path to true belonging.

### **The Broken Girls by Simone St. James**

Vermont, 1950. There's a place for the girls whom no one wants. It's called Idlewild Hall. Four roommates bond over their whispered fears - until one of them disappears. Vermont, 2014. When journalist Fiona Sheridan discovers that Idlewild Hall is being restored by an anonymous benefactor, she decides to write a story about it. But a discovery during the renovations will link the loss of her sister to secrets that were meant to stay hidden in the past - and a voice that won't be silenced.

### **The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka**

The story of a group of young women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" nearly a century ago.

### **Calypso by David Sedaris**

Personal essays share the author's adventures after buying a vacation house on the Carolina coast and his reflections on middle age and mortality.

### **The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger**

Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school.

### **The Cellist of Sarajevo by Steven Galloway**

Inspired by a true story, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* explores how war can change one's definition of humanity, the effect of music on our emotional endurance, and how a romance with the rituals of daily life can itself be a form of resistance.

### **Chosen By a Horse: A Memoir by Susan Richards**

When she agrees to take on the care of abused horses rescued by the local SPCA, a new chapter opens in Susan Richards's difficult life. She lost her mother at five and was raised by uncaring relatives; married unhappily and divorced; and suffered from alcoholism. While Susan is trying to capture the horse assigned to her, Lay Me Down, a skeletal mare, walks into Susan's horse trailer of her own volition. Susan already owns one mare and two geldings - but it is with Lay Me Down that she forges a special, healing relationship that alters her life.

### **Circe by Madeline Miller**

Follow Circe, the banished witch daughter of Helios, as she hones her powers and interacts with famous mythological beings before a conflict with one of the most vengeful Olympians forces her to choose between the worlds of the gods and mortals.

### **City of Thieves by David Benioff**

A writer visits his retired grandparents in Florida to document their experience during the infamous siege of Leningrad. His grandmother won't talk about it, but his grandfather reluctantly consents. The result is the captivating odyssey of two young men trying to survive against desperate odds.

### **Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland**

Hoping to honor his father and the family business with innovative glass designs, Louis Comfort Tiffany launches the iconic Tiffany lamp as designed by women's division head Clara Driscoll, who struggles with the mass production of her creations.

### **Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin**

In the 1970s, Larry and Silas were friends in a small town in Mississippi. One night Larry took a girl to a movie and she was never heard from again. He never confessed and was never charged. Twenty years later, he lives a solitary, shunned existence, never able to rise above the whispers of suspicion. Silas has become the town constable and now another girl has disappeared, forcing two men who once called each other "friend" to confront a past they've buried for decades.

### **Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon**

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

### **Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese**

Twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, Marion and Shiva Stone come of age in an Ethiopia on the brink of revolution, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

### **The Dance Boots by Linda LeGarde Grover**

This stirring collection of linked stories portrays an Ojibwe community struggling to follow traditional ways of life in the face of a relentlessly changing world.

### **Dark Matter by Blake Crouch**

In the world he's woken up to, Jason's life is not the one he knows. His wife is not his wife. His son was never born. And Jason is not an ordinary college physics professor, but a celebrated genius. Is it this world or the other that's the dream? And even if the home he remembers is real, how can Jason possibly make it back to the family he loves?

### **Dead Wake by Erik Larson**

The book looks at the sinking of Lusitania during World War I and the events surrounding the sinking.

### **Dear Life: Stories by Alice Munro**

In these stories, Munro pinpoints the moment a person is forever altered by a chance encounter, an action not taken, or a simple twist of fate.

### **Dear Mrs. Bird by A. J. Pearce **NEW!****

This charming, irresistible debut novel set in London during World War II tells of a young woman who longs to be a war correspondent and inadvertently becomes a secret advice columnist.

**Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine by Hector Tobar**

Recounts the collapse of the San José mine outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, which trapped thirty-three miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for a record-breaking sixty-nine days.

**Defending Jacob by William Landay**

Andy Barber has been an ADA in his Massachusetts county for more than 20 years. He is respected in his community and happy at home with his wife, Laurie, and son, Jacob. But after a shocking crime shatters their New England town, Andy is blindsided by what happens next: His 14-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student.

**Devil in the White City by Eric Larson**

A gripping tale about two men -- one a creative genius, the other a mass murderer -- who turned the 1893 Chicago World's Fair into their playground. Set against the dazzle of a dream city whose technological marvels presaged the coming century, this real-life drama of good and evil unfolds with all the narrative tension of a fictional thriller.

**A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron**

Heartwarming and insightful, A Dog's Purpose is not only the emotional and hilarious story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend.

**Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman**

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: she struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, but everything changes when Eleanor meets Raymond, the bumbling IT guy from her office. When she and Raymond save Sammy, an elderly gentleman, the three become the kind of friends who rescue each other from the lives of isolation they have each been living.

### **The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery**

Renée, the concierge of an elegant Paris apartment building, is witness to the lavish but vacuous lives of her numerous employers. With humor and intelligence, she scrutinizes the lives of the building's tenants, who for their part are barely aware of her existence.

### **Everything You Want Me To Be by Mindy Mejia**

When high school senior, Hattie Hoffman, is found stabbed to death on the opening night of her high school play, the tragedy rips through the fabric of her small-town community. Sheriff Del Goodman vows to find her killer but trying to solve her murder yields more questions than answers. It seems that Hattie's acting talents ran far beyond the stage.

### **Exit West by Mohsin Hamid NEW!**

In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people embark on a furtive love affair, thrust into premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, they begin to hear whispers about doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price.

### **Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer by Novella Carpenter**

When Novella Carpenter moved to a ramshackle house in Oakland and discovered a weed-choked, abandoned lot next door, she closed her eyes and pictured heirloom tomatoes, a beehive, and a chicken coop. What started out as a few chickens soon led to turkeys, geese, and ducks. Every day on this strange and beautiful farm, urban meets rural in surprising ways.

### **The Fate of Mercy Alban by Wendy Webb**

Grace Alban has spent more than twenty years avoiding her childhood home, the stately Alban House on the shores of Lake Superior, for reasons she would rather forget. But when her mother's unexpected death brings Grace and her teenage daughter back, she finds more is haunting the halls and passageways of Alban House than her own personal demons.

### **Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson**

In *Furiously Happy*, a humor memoir tinged with just enough tragedy and pathos to make it worthwhile, Jenny Lawson examines her own experience with severe depression and a host of other conditions, and explains how it has led her to live life to the fullest.

### **A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles**

When, in 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, he is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

### **The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins**

After witnessing something shocking, Rachel offers what she knows to the police, and becomes inextricably entwined in what happens next, as well as in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

### **Girl in Translation by Jean Kwok**

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, she begins a double life: schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker at night. Disguising the difficult truths of her life - like the degree of her poverty and the weight of her family's future resting on her shoulders - Kimberly learns to translate not just her language but herself between the worlds she straddles.

### **The Girl with the Louding Voice by Abi Dare **NEW!****

The unforgettable, inspiring story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can find her "louding voice" and speak up for herself. *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about the power of fighting for your dreams.

### **Girls Like Us Fighting For a World Where Girls are Not For Sale: A Memoir by Rachel Lloyd**

Rachel Lloyd's riveting survivor story is the true tale of her hard-won escape from the commercial sex industry and her bold founding of GEMS, New York City's Girls Education and Mentoring Service, to help countless other young girls escape "the life." Lloyd's unflinchingly honest memoir is a powerful and unforgettable story of inhuman abuse, enduring hope, and the promise of redemption.

### **The Good Lord Bird by James McBride**

Henry Shackleford is a slave living in the Kansas Territory in 1857. When John Brown, the abolitionist, arrives, an argument between Brown and Henry's master turns violent. Henry is forced to leave town with Brown, who believes he's a girl. Over the ensuing months, Henry conceals his true identity as he struggles to stay alive. Eventually, he finds himself with Brown at the historic raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859--one of the great catalysts for the Civil War.

### **The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

A dashing, enigmatic millionaire is obsessed with an elusive, spoiled young woman.

### **The Great Pretender by Susannah Cahalan **NEW!****

For centuries, doctors have struggled to define mental illness. In the 1970s, in search of an answer, a psychologist named David Rosenhan and seven other people went undercover into asylums around America. Forced to remain inside until they'd "proven" themselves sane, all emerged with alarming diagnoses and troubling stories of their treatment. The study broke open the field of psychiatry and closed down institutions - but little in this saga is as it seems. What really happened behind those closed asylum doors?

### **The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian**

When the bachelor party her husband is hosting goes wrong, Kristin finds her life spiraling into a nightmare of accusations and betrayal while a girl hired to provide entertainment at the party flees for her life from gangsters

### **H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald**

When Helen Macdonald's father died suddenly, she was devastated. An experienced falconer, she'd never been tempted to train one of the most vicious predators, the goshawk, but in her grief, she saw the goshawk's fierce and feral temperament mirrored her own. Resolving to raise the creature as a means to cope with her loss, she adopted Mabel and turned to the guidance of author T.H. White's chronicle *The Goshawk* to begin her challenging endeavor.

### **Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

The lives of three characters are swept up in the turbulence of Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria in the 1960s.

### **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling**

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches.

### **Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson**

After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, 16 year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

### **Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo**

When Colton Burpo made it through an emergency appendectomy, his family was overjoyed at his miraculous survival. What they weren't expecting was the story that emerged in the months that followed—a story as beautiful as it was extraordinary, detailing their little boy's trip to heaven and back.

### **Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly**

The true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA at the leading edge of the feminist and civil rights movement, whose calculations helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.

### **The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom**

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work, they were sent to a Nazi death camp.

### **Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance**

From a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class.

### **Homer & Langley by E.L. Doctorow**

Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers - one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion. Even though they want nothing more than to shut out the world, history seems to pass through their house in the persons of immigrants, prostitutes, society women, government agents, gangsters, jazz musicians . . . and their housebound lives are fraught with peril as they struggle to survive and create meaning for themselves.

### **I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. For this, she was shot in the head while riding the bus home from school and few expected her to survive. Instead, her recovery has taken her from Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations, and at sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

### **I Found You by Lisa Jewell**

East Yorkshire. Alice Lake finds a man on the beach outside her house. He has no name, no jacket, no idea what he is doing there. Surrey. Lily Monroe has only been married for three weeks. When her new husband fails to come home one night, she is left stranded in a new country where she knows no one. Then the police tell her that her husband never existed.

### **I'll Be Gone in the Dark by Michell McNamara**

A masterful true crime account of the Golden State Killer-- the elusive serial rapist turned murderer who terrorized California for over a decade-- from Michelle McNamara, the gifted journalist who died tragically while investigating the case.

### **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot**

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells--taken without her knowledge in 1951--became one of the most important tools in medicine. A riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

### **In the Woods by Tana French**

As dusk approaches a Dublin suburb, mothers begin to call their children home from the nearby woods. But this evening, three children do not return. When the police arrive, they find only one of them and he is unable to recall a single detail. Twenty years later, that boy is a detective and keeps his past a secret. But when a girl is found murdered in those same woods, he and his partner find themselves investigating a case similar to the previous unsolved mystery.

### **The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd**

The story follows Hetty "Handful" Grimke, a Charleston slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. The novel begins on Sarah's eleventh birthday when she is given ownership over Handful, who is to be her handmaid. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd allows herself to go beyond the record to flesh out the inner lives these characters.

### **An Irish Country Doctor by Patrick Taylor**

Barry Laverty is the proud owner of a spanking new medical degree and little else. He jumps at the chance to secure a position as an assistant in a small rural practice. At least until he meets Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, who has his own way of doing things. Through O'Reilly, Barry gets to know all of the village's colorful residents who make every day an education for the young doctor. With pluck and compassion and only the slightest touch of blarney, he will find out more about life—and love—than he ever imagined back in medical school.

### **Iron Lake by William Kent Krueger**

Part Irish, part Anishinaabe Indian, Corcoran "Cork" O'Connor is the former sheriff of Aurora, Minnesota. Embittered by his "former" status, Cork gets by on heavy doses of caffeine, nicotine, and guilt. Once a cop on Chicago's South Side, there's not much that can shock him. But when the town's judge is brutally murdered, and a young Eagle Scout is reported missing, Cork takes on a mind-jolting case of conspiracy, corruption, and scandal.

### **Jane Steele by Lyndsay Faye**

Orphaned Jane Steele suffers cruelly at the hands of her aunt and schoolmaster. Like Jane Eyre, they call her wicked - but in her case, she fears the accusation is true. A fugitive navigating London's underbelly, Jane rights wrongs on behalf of the have-nots whilst avoiding the noose until an advertisement catches her eye. Her aunt has died and the new master at Highgate House seeks a governess. Jane takes the position and is soon caught up in the household's strange spell.

### **Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson**

Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the Equal Justice Initiative. One of his first cases was that of Walter McMillian, a man who was sentenced to die for a murder he insisted he didn't commit. The case drew Bryan into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination, and legal brinksmanship-- and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever.

### **The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan**

Anthony Peardew is the keeper of lost things. Forty years ago, he carelessly lost a keepsake from his beloved fiancée, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Brokenhearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing lost objects—the things others have dropped, misplaced or accidentally left behind—and writing stories about them. Now, in the twilight of his life, Anthony worries that he has not fully discharged his duty to reconcile all the lost things with their owners. As the end nears, he bequeaths his life's mission to his assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and all its lost treasures, including an irritable ghost.

### **Killers of the Flower Moon by David Gran NEW!**

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. As the death toll passed twenty-four, the newly created F.B.I. took up the case. The young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery. White put together an undercover team and together with the Osage they began to expose one of the most sinister conspiracies in American history.

### **The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom**

Orphaned during her passage from Ireland, Lavinia arrives on the steps of the kitchen house at a plantation in Virginia, and is placed as an indentured servant under the care of Belle, the master's illegitimate slave daughter. In time, Lavinia is accepted into the big house, caring for the master's opium-addicted wife and befriending his dangerous yet protective son. She attempts to straddle the worlds of the kitchen and big house, but her skin color sets her apart from Belle and the other slaves.

### **The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh**

The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions, but for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings. When a local florist discovers her talents, Victoria realizes she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them.

### **Letters from Skye by Jessica Brockmole**

March 1912: Elspeth Dunn, a published poet and a fisherman's wife, has never seen the world beyond her home on the Isle of Skye. So she is astonished when a fan letter arrives from an American college student, David Graham. They strike up a correspondence that blossoms into love. June 1940: After a nearby bomb rocks Elspeth's house, and hidden letters are released from their hiding place, Elspeth disappears. Only a single letter remains as a clue to her whereabouts...

### **The Life We Bury by Allen Eskens**

College student Joe Talbert has the modest goal of completing a writing assignment for an English class. His task is to interview a stranger and write a brief biography of the person. With deadlines looming, Joe heads to a nearby nursing home to find a willing subject. There he meets Carl Iverson, and soon nothing in Joe's life is ever the same.

### **The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman**

After WW1, Tom Sherbourne returns to Australia and takes a job as the lighthouse keeper on Janus Rock. He brings his wife, Isabel, and years later, Isabel hears a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. Tom wants to report them immediately, but Isabel has taken the baby to her breast. Against Tom's judgment, they claim her as their own. When she is two, they return to the mainland and are reminded that there are other people in the world and their choice has devastated one of them.

### **The Little French Bistro by Nina George NEW!**

Marianne is stuck in a loveless, unhappy marriage. After forty-one years, she has reached her limit, and one evening in Paris she decides to take action. Following a dramatic moment on the banks of the Seine, Marianne leaves her life behind and sets out for the coast of Brittany where she learns it's never too late to begin the search for what life should have been all along.

### **The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules by C. Ingelman-Sundberg**

Martha may be 79 years old and live in a retirement home, but that doesn't mean she's ready to stop enjoying life. So when the management of Diamond House starts cutting corners to save money, Martha and her four closest friends won't stand for it. Their solution? White-collar crime. What begins as a relatively straightforward robbery of a nearby hotel escalates into an unsolvable heist at the National Museum.

### **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott**

This classic story of the March family women and their lives in New England during the Civil War has remained enduringly popular since its publication in 1868. Poor, argumentative, loving, and optimistic, the March sisters struggle to supplement their family's meager income and realize their own dreams.

**Locally Laid by Lucie B. Amundsen**

How a Midwestern family with no agriculture experience went from a few backyard chickens to a full-fledged farm--and discovered why local chicks are better.

**The Long-shining Waters by Danielle Sosin**

Lake Superior, the north country, the great fresh-water expanse. Frigid. Lethal. Wildly beautiful. Here are three stories whose characters are separated by centuries and circumstance, yet connected across time by a shared geography.

**A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley**

At five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read, write, or recall his own last name, he survived for weeks on the streets of Calcutta before being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. Despite his gratitude, the author wondered about his origins; one day, after years of searching, he found what he was looking for and sets off to find his family.

**Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear**

Maisie Dobbs, Psychologist and Investigator, began her working life as a servant in a Belgravia mansion, only to be discovered reading in the library by her employer. Fearing dismissal, she is shocked when her thirst for education is supported by her employer and a family friend, Dr. Maurice Blanche. Years later, having apprenticed to Dr. Blanche, Maisie sets up her own business. Her first assignment, a seemingly tedious inquiry involving a case of suspected infidelity, takes her not only on the trail of a killer, but back to the war she had tried so hard to forget.

**A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman**

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon; the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. One morning a couple with two daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox. It is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul.

### **The Martian by Andy Weir**

Astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive.

### **The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy**

A braided narrative of force and originality, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* is at once a love story and a provocation. Its heroes, both present and departed, have been broken by the world we live in - and then mended by love. For this reason they will never surrender.

### **Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce **NEW!****

In 1950, London is still reeling from WW II and Margery Benson is trying to get through life, surviving on scraps. One day, she quits her job to set out on an expedition in search of an insect that may or may not exist--the golden beetle of New Caledonia. When she advertises for an assistant, she ends up with fun-loving Enid Pretty, who seems to attract trouble wherever she goes. Together they are drawn into an adventure that exceeds all expectations and delivers something neither of them expected: the transformative power of friendship.

### **The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman**

The story of an electric and impassioned love between two vastly different souls in New York during the volatile first decades of the twentieth century.

### **My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante**

A rich, intense and generous-hearted story about two friends, Elena and Lila, that is also the story of a nation and a touching meditation on the nature of friendship.

### **The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander**

Law professor Alexander argues that the War on Drugs and policies that deny convicted felons equal access to employment, housing, education, and public benefits create a permanent under caste based largely on race.

### **News of the World by Paulette Jiles**

In the aftermath of the Civil War, an itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex novel that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust.

### **The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah**

Viann and Isabelle have always been close despite their differences. Younger, bolder sister Isabelle lives in Paris while Viann lives in the French countryside with her husband and daughter. Then World War II strikes and as the war progresses, it's not only the sisters' relationship that is tested, but their individual senses of right and wrong.

### **The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith**

Precious Ramotswe has opened Botswana's first and only detective agency staffed by women.

### **Normal People by Sally Rooney **NEW!****

Connell and Marianne grew up in the same small town, but the similarities end there. At school, Connell is popular and well liked, while Marianne is a loner. But when the two strike up a conversation—awkward but electrifying—something life changing begins. A story of mutual fascination, friendship and love, *Normal People* takes us from that first conversation to the years beyond, in the company of two people who try to stay apart but find that they can't.

### **Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman**

A man returns to his childhood home to attend a funeral. Although the house he lived in is long gone, he is drawn to the farm at the end of the road, where, when he was seven, he encountered a remarkable girl, Lettie Hempstock, her mother and grandmother. He hasn't thought of her in decades, and yet as he sits by the pond (a pond that she'd claimed was an ocean) behind the ramshackle old farmhouse, the unremembered past comes flooding back.

### **One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

The story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women -- this novel is a masterpiece of fiction by a Nobel Prize-winning author.

### **The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin**

In her haunting debut novel, Amanda Coplin evokes a powerful sense of place, mixing tenderness and violence as she spins an engrossing tale of a solitary orchardist who provides shelter to two runaway teenage girls in the untamed American West, and the dramatic consequences of his actions.

### **Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger**

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently. Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family, he finds himself suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

### **Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline**

Between 1854 and 1929, orphan trains ran regularly from the East Coast to the Midwest, carrying children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Vivian Daly was one such child. Returning east later in life, she leads a quiet life on the coast of Maine, but in her attic are vestiges of a turbulent past. Seventeen-year-old Molly knows that a community-service position helping Vivian clean out her attic is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as she helps Vivian sort through her possessions, she discovers that they aren't as different as they appear.

### **The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff**

Sixteen-year-old Noa has been cast out in disgrace after becoming pregnant by a Nazi soldier and being forced to give up her baby. She lives above a small rail station, which she cleans in order to earn her keep. When she discovers a boxcar containing dozens of Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp, she is reminded of the child that was taken from her, and in a moment that will change the course of her life, she snatches one of the babies and flees into the night.

### **Oryx and Crake by Margaret Atwood**

Snowman, known as Jimmy before mankind was overwhelmed by a plague, is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx whom they both loved. In search of answers, Snowman embarks on a journey through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride.

### **Pachinko by Min Jin Lee **NEW!****

In this page-turning saga, four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan, exiled from a home they never knew.

### **The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde**

Dorian Gray, a remarkably handsome young man, meets Lord Henry Wotton and is corrupted into a life of terrible evil that is reflected only in his portrait.

### **Please See Us by Caitlin Mullen **NEW!****

Summer has come to Atlantic City, but the boardwalk is empty of tourists, the casino lights have dimmed, and two Jane Does are laid out in the marshland behind the Sunset Motel, just west of town. Clara, a boardwalk psychic, struggles to attract clients when she begins to experience disturbing visions that she suspects are related to the recent cases of missing women.

### **The Power by Naomi Alderman**

When a new force takes hold of the world, people from different areas of life are forced to cross paths in an alternate reality that gives women and teenage girls immense physical power that can cause pain and death.

### **The Red Address Book by Sofia Lundberg **NEW!****

Follow 96-year-old Doris, who writes down the memories of her eventful life as she pages through her decades-old address book. But the most profound moment of her life is still to come...

### **Red at the Bone by Jaqueline Woodson **NEW!****

Moving forward and backward in time, *Red at the Bone* uncovers the role that history and community play in the experiences, decisions, and relationships of families, and in the life of a new child.

### **Red Rising by Pierce Brown **NEW!****

Darrow is a Red, a member of the lowest caste in the color-coded society of the future. Like his fellow Reds, he works all day, believing they are making the surface of Mars livable for future generations. But they have been betrayed - humanity reached the surface generations ago. Darrow—and Reds like him—are nothing more than slaves to a ruling class. Soon, Darrow sacrifices everything to infiltrate the legendary Institute, a proving ground for the dominant Gold caste, where the next generation of humanity's overlords struggle for power.

### **The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion**

Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially challenged professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. And so, in the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner.

### **The Round House by Louise Erdrich**

One Sunday in the spring of 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to relive what happened, either to the police or to her husband and son, Joe. When Joe becomes frustrated with the official investigation, he sets out with friends to get some answers. Their quest takes them to the Round House, a sacred space and place of worship for the Ojibwe.

### **The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis**

A classic satire on human weakness features Screwtape, an elderly devil, who writes a series of letters to Wormwood, his apprentice and nephew.

### **The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton**

During a party at the family farm, Laurel Nicolson has escaped to her treehouse. She spies a stranger coming up the road and watches as her mother speaks to him. Before the afternoon is over, Laurel will witness a shocking crime. Fifty years later, Laurel is an actress living in London and the family is gathering at the farm for her mother's birthday. Realizing that this may be her last chance, Laurel searches for answers to the questions that still haunt her from that long-ago day.

### **The Secrets of Love Story Bridge by Phaedra Patrick **NEW!****

Mitchell Fisher hates all things romance. He relishes his job cutting off the padlocks that couples fasten to the famous "love story" bridge. Only his daughter, Poppy, knows that behind his prickly veneer, Mitchell still grieves the loss of her mother. When Mitchell rescues a woman who falls from the bridge, he is surprised to feel a connection to her, but she disappears before he can ask her name. Desperate to find her, he is shocked to learn she's been missing for almost a year, so he teams up with her sister on a quest to find her again.

### **Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse**

A young man leaves his family for a contemplative life, then discards it for one of the flesh. He conceives a son, but bored and sickened by lust and greed, moves on again. Near despair, Siddhartha comes to a river where he hears a unique sound. This sound signals the true beginning of his life -- the beginning of suffering, rejection, peace, and, finally, wisdom.

### **The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert**

Spanning the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the novel follows the fortunes of the Whittaker family led by the enterprising Henry Whittaker. Born in 1800, his daughter, Alma, becomes a botanist. As her research takes her deeper into the mysteries of evolution, she falls in love with a man who draws her in the exact opposite direction--into the realm of the spiritual, the divine, and the magical.

### **Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward**

Jojo and his sister, Kayla, live with their grandparents and their drug-addicted mother, Leonie, on a farm on the Coast of Mississippi. Leonie is both tormented and comforted by visions of her dead brother, which only come to her when she's high; Mam is dying of cancer; and Pop tries to run the household and teach Jojo how to be a man. When the father of Leonie's children is released from prison, she sets out with them across the state on a journey rife with danger and promise.

### **Some Luck by Jane Smiley**

An epic novel that spans thirty years in the lives of a farm family in Iowa, telling a parallel story of the changes taking place in America from 1920 through the early 1950s.

### **The Son by Jo Nesbo**

Sonny Lofthus has been in prison for nearly half his life. The other inmates don't know that Sonny has a serious heroin habit--or where or how he gets his supply of the drug. Or that he's serving time for other peoples' crimes. But when he learns a secret concerning his father, he makes a brilliantly executed escape from prison--and from the person he'd let himself become--and begins hunting down those responsible for the crimes against him.

### **Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel**

One snowy night a famous actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time—from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains—this suspenseful, elegiac, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people.

### **Still Life by Louise Penny**

Chief Inspector Gamache of the Surêté du Québec is called into the scene of a suspicious death in a village south of Montreal. Jane Neal has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a hunting accident, but Gamache is certain that Jane died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter.

### **Still Life with Breadcrumbs by Anna Quindlen**

Meet Rebecca Winter, a photographer whose work made her an unlikely heroine for many women. Her career is now descendent, her bank balance shaky, and she has fled the city for the middle of nowhere. There she discovers, in a tree stand with a roofer named Jim Bates, that what she sees through a camera lens is not all there is to life.

### **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin**

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over--and see everything anew.

### **The Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel**

In 1986, Christopher Knight drove to Maine and disappeared into the woods. Drawing on interviews with Knight, journalist Michael Finkel shows how Knight lived in a tent in a secluded encampment, developing ingenious ways to store provisions and stave off frostbite during the winters. A former alarm technician, he broke into nearby cottages for food, books, and supplies, taking only what he needed but sowing unease in a community plagued by his mysterious burglaries. Since returning to the world, he has faced unique challenges--and compelled us to reexamine our assumptions about what makes a good life.

### **The Sugar Queen by Sarah Addison Allen**

Josey Cirrini is sure of three things: winter is her favorite season, she's a sorry excuse for a Southern belle, and sweets are best eaten in the privacy of her closet. Josey has settled into an uneventful life in her mother's house, until she finds her closet harboring Della Lee Baker, a local waitress who is one part nemesis--and two parts fairy godmother. With Della Lee's tough love, Josey's narrow existence quickly expands.

### **The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo**

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

### **The Taxidermist's Daughter by Kate Mosse **NEW!****

Sussex, 1912. Residents gather in a misty churchyard. It is St. Mark's Eve, the night when the ghosts of those fated to die in the coming year are said to materialize. Standing alone is Constantia Gifford, the taxidermist's daughter. As the last peal of the midnight bell fades, a woman is found dead. Who is the victim, and why has her death affected Connie so deeply? And why is she watched by a mysterious figure who has suddenly appeared? As Connie struggles to discover who is responsible, she soon finds herself under suspicion.

### **Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston**

Fair, long-legged and independent, Janie Crawford sets out to be her own person - no mean feat for a black woman in the '30s. Janie's quest for identity takes her through three marriages and on a journey back to her roots.

### **The Travelling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa NEW!**

With simple yet descriptive prose, this novel gives voice to Nana the cat and his owner, Satoru, as they take to the road on a journey with no other purpose than to visit three of Satoru's longtime friends. Or so Nana is led to believe...

### **There There by Tommy Orange**

A novel that follows 12 characters from Native communities who are traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow. Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to make it back to her family; Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death; and fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform for the first time. Together, they tell of the plight of the urban Native American--grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.

### **They Did It With Love by Kate Morgenroth**

Sofie and her husband have left Manhattan in search of a more tranquil life in the suburbs. But when a member of Sofie's new neighborhood book club turns up dead, things get messy. She discovers that everybody has something to hide, including her own husband.

### **Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe**

A classic narrative about Africa's encounter with Europe as it establishes a colonial presence on the continent. Told through the experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, Things Fall Apart explores one man's resistance to the devaluing of his traditions by British forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order.

### **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith**

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

### **Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt**

A family accidentally stumbles upon a spring with water endowing them with the gift of eternal life. Seventy years later, without having grown a day older, a young girl discovers them and learns their secret.

### **Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand**

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

### **Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead**

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. When Caesar, a recent arrival, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to escape. Though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted. Their first stop is South Carolina, in a city that initially seems like a haven. But the city's placid surface masks an insidious scheme designed for its black denizens.

### **The Vanishing by Wendy Webb**

Recently widowed and rendered penniless by her husband, Julia Bishop is eager to start anew. So when a stranger appears on her doorstep with a job offer, she finds herself accepting the position: caretaker to his mother, Amaris Sinclair, the famous horror novelist whom Julia has always admired and who the world believes is dead. When she arrives at the Sinclairs' enormous estate on Lake Superior, Julia begins to suspect that there may be sinister undercurrents to her "too-good-to-be-true" position.

### **Virgil Wander by Leif Enger **NEW!****

Virgil Wander is a sweeping story of new beginnings against all odds that follows the inhabitants of a hard luck town in their quest to revive its flagging heart.

### **When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi**

At the age of thirty-six, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. *When Breath Becomes Air* chronicles his transformation from a medical student into a neurosurgeon at Stanford, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.

### **Where'd You Go, Bernadette by Maria Semple**

To her husband, Bernadette is a fearlessly opinionated partner; to fellow private-school mothers in Seattle, she's a disgrace; to design mavens, she's a revolutionary architect; and to 15-year-old Bee, she's a best friend and, simply, Mom. Bee has aced her report card and claimed her reward: a family trip to Antarctica. For Bernadette, who has become increasingly agoraphobic, such a trip is problematic. Then Bernadette disappears.

### **Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed**

At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything – her mother, her family and her marriage. Four years later, with nothing to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, she would hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail from the Mojave Desert through California and Oregon to Washington State--and she would do it alone.

### **Will to Murder: The True Story Behind the Crimes & Trials Surrounding the Glensheen Murders by Gail Feichtinger**

On June 27, 1977, an intruder entered a manor built along the Lake Superior shore. Before leaving, the intruder smothered Elisabeth Congdon, and killed her nurse, Velma Pietila -- crimes set in motion by a hastily hand-written will penned just days before the killings. For the first time the story of the Glensheen mansion killings and the crimes and trials surrounding Marjorie Caldwell Hagen, Elisabeth Congdon's notorious adopted daughter, is told.

### **The Wind and the Drum by Katharine Johnson**

In the Arctic lands of the Midnight Sun, the winters are long and harsh. It is the 1670s. The Saami migrate with the reindeer they depend on for food, clothing, and shelter like the American Plains Indians relied on the buffalo. Tuuli was marked from birth to be the next noaidi of her people. She will be wind listener and keeper of their most sacred drum. But the wind whispers to Tuuli that strangers are coming--strangers who threaten the reindeer and demand the Saami give up their drums and ancient beliefs. Tuuli refuses, hiding one of the drums and setting off on a series of perilous journeys to save her people, their way of life, and herself.

### **The Woman in Black by Susan Hill**

Arthur Kipps is a London solicitor who is sent to attend the funeral and settle the affairs of a client, Mrs. Alice Drablow of Eel Marsh House. The routine business trip he anticipated quickly takes a horrifying turn when he finds himself haunted by a series of mysterious sounds and images and, most terrifying of all, a ghostly woman dressed all in black.

### **The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware**

Lo Blacklock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a cruise with only a handful of cabins. At first, her stay is pleasant, but as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck and Lo witnesses a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for, so, the ship sails on as if nothing has happened, despite Lo's desperate attempts to convey that something (or someone) has gone wrong.

### **Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid--but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

### **Writers & Lovers by Lily King NEW!**

Blindsided by her mother's death and wrecked by a recent love affair, Casey Peabody moves to Massachusetts without a plan. At thirty-one, she is still clutching onto something all her friends have let go of: the determination to live a creative life. When she falls for two very different men, her world fractures even more. Casey's fight to fulfil her creative ambitions and balance the demands of art and life is challenged in ways that push her to the brink.

### **The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman**

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner, socializing, and, during rare moments of calm, piano concerts. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants.

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