

The Secret of Raven Point

by **Jennifer Vanderbes** SARAH'S PICK (Fiction)

When her beloved brother is declared missing in action, smart, flinty Juliet Dufresne, training to be a nurse, goes to Italy to find him, in an empathetic, take on the layers of damage done during war. Part mystery, part coming-of-age tale, part World War II novel, Vanderbes' moving latest is written from the perspective of a bright Southern teenager who is forced to become an adult too soon.

If You Follow Me

By **Malena Watrous** ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)

In Watrous's proficient debut, 22-year-old Marina and her girlfriend Carolyn are new residents in a quirky Japanese town where they teach English. Small town Shika is a welcome respite for Marina, who grapples with her father's suicide and although she hopes to move past his death during her year in Japan, he begins to feel more alive to her, as if his presence made the trip as well. Meanwhile, the peculiar absurdities of being a stranger in a strange land abound.

The Incarnations

by **Susan Barker** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Barker produces a page-turning reincarnation fantasy. In modern-day Beijing, Driver Wang receives anonymous letters from a source claiming to have known him in five previous lifetimes over the past 1,000 years. Lush historical detail exhibits Barker's extensive research. These two "souls" have inhabited many rich characters (eunuch, prostitute, slave, concubine, pirate, Red Guard) and have been friends, enemies, parents, and lovers. Every new incarnation reverses their power dynamic, giving one the opportunity to betray the other. Not for the squeamish.

The Evening Spider

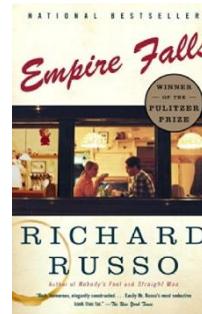
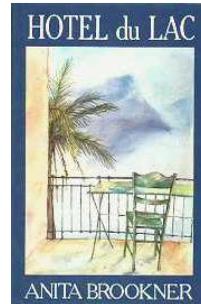
by **Emily Arsenault** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

From the opening pages, it's clear that this will be a haunting novel. A newspaper account of an 1878 murder is followed by a horrible discovery by Abby Bernacki in her college dorm room in 1998. The mystery grows when Abby now the mother of five-month-old Lucy is awakened by strange sounds coming from the baby's room in her home. This leads Abby to research the nineteenth-century Barnett family house that she and her husband, Chad, recently bought.

Hotel du Lac

by **Anita Brookner** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

This novel tells the story of Edith Hope, 40, unmarried and distraught over a failed love, who is persuaded by friends to go to the quiet, respectable Hotel du Lac in Switzerland. A writer of romantic fiction, Hope becomes enmeshed in the lives of the other guests. Poignantly moving.



Everyone Brave is Forgiven

by **Chris Cleave** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

Loosely based on his grandparents' WWII-era lives, Cleave's intensely felt new novel follows the soul-plumbing journeys of four young Londoners fighting their own personal battles as their world breaks apart. They include aristocratic Mary North, her friend Hilda, Tom, Mary's middle-class supervisor and lover, and his roommate, Alistair. Among all the recent fictions about the war, Cleave's novel is a surprising standout, with irresistibly engaging characters who sharply illuminate issues of class, race, and wartime morality.

Empire Falls

by **Richard Russo** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

In a warmhearted novel of sweeping scope, Russo animates the dead-end small town of Empire Falls, Maine, long abandoned by the logging and textile industries that provided its citizens with their livelihood. Miles Roby surveys his hometown with regret from the Empire Grill, owned by a local magnate but run by him ever since he was called home from college to take care of his ailing mother. His daily parade of customers provides him with ample evidence of both the restrictions and forced intimacy of small-town life

More Book Suggestions are found www.ridgewoodlibrary.org
Take a look!



Couple Mechanics

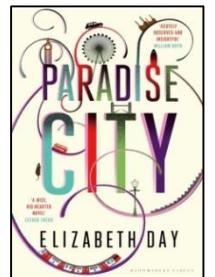
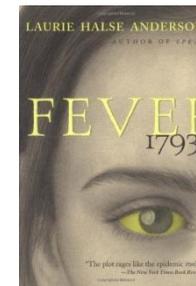
by **Nelly Alard** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

This novel packs a surprising emotional wallop, raising questions about the natures of passion and marriage. Juliette and her husband, Olivier, are the Parisian equivalents of Brooklynites, raising their two adored children in a formerly rough but gentrifying Parisian neighborhood where they are surrounded by a circle of like-minded, urbane friends.

Fever, 1793

by **Laurie Halse Anderson** BRENNNA'S PICK (Fiction)

In 1793 Philadelphia, sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of a yellow fever epidemic.



Paradise City

by **Elizabeth Bell** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

Journalist and author Day connects the lives of four Londoners in this tale of grief, hardship, and hope. Howard Pink is a multimillionaire who rose from humble origins but has since lost his way. Beatrice Kizza is one of his maids, a refugee from Uganda. Esme Reade is a young reporter who has not yet lost her empathy for her subjects and Carol Hetherington is a widow, slowly learning to live her life without her husband.

The Swans of Fifth Avenue

by Melanie Benjamin VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

The dazzling world of the elite in 1950s-1960s New York is the setting for this fourth novel by best-selling historical fiction author Benjamin. Truman Capote delights in the company of his "swans," a circle of wealthy married women attracted to both his impish charisma and his love of good gossip. Fans of vintage New York glamour will relish this chance to experience vicariously the lives (and fashion choices!) of the city's rich and famous.

Notorious RBG: the life and times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

by Irin Carmon ROBIN'S PICK (Biography BADER)

Carmon brings a fresh, appropriately irreverent perspective to scholarship about the justice. Taking its chapter headings from the lyrics of late rapper Notorious B.I.G., it provides a bare-bones biographical narrative and excerpts from a selection of Ginsburg's seminal opinions, while inserting cartoons, photos, poetry, and even opera lyrics.

The Gilded Hour

by Sara Donati SARAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Popular historical novelist Donati turns to 1883 NYC to tell the story of female surgeons Anna and Sophie Savard, descendants of her previous books' characters. The two women battle ignorance while pursuing their medical work. They face particular difficulties in light of Postal Inspector Anthony Comstock's passionate crusade against birth control.

Jane Steele

by Lyndsay Faye LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Set in Victorian England, this intriguing tribute to Jane Eyre reimagines Charlotte Brontë's heroine as a killer. "Of all my many murders, committed for love and for better reasons, the first was the most important," the eponymous narrator notes in the captivating opening.

The Great American Whatever

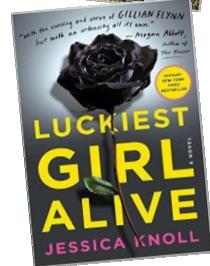
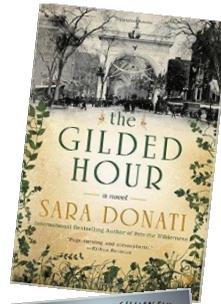
by Tim Federle ASHLEY'S PICK (Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old Quinn is suffering from both the second week of record-high temperatures and the sixth straight month of record-breaking lows. The temperature is due to meteorology; the lows to the death of his older sister in an automobile accident the day before Christmas break. While it has its serious aspects, it is whimsical, wry, and unfailingly funny - a refreshing change from the often dour nature of much LGBTQ literature.

Plain Song

by Kent Haruf VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

Two bachelor farmer brothers, a pregnant high school girl, two young brothers, and two devoted high school teachers is the interesting group of people, some related by blood but most not, featured in the award-winning Haruf's touching new novel. Set in the plains of Colorado, east of Denver, the novel comprises several story lines that flow into one.



The Luckiest Girl Alive

by Jessica Knoll ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)

This riveting debut novel follows a young woman striving to create the perfect life- husband, home, career -until a violent incident from her past threatens to unravel everything and expose her most shocking secret.

We Are Water

by Wally Lamb DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Anna Oh, a middle-age wife, mother, and artist, after twenty-seven years of marriage, divorces her husband to marry Vivica, the Manhattan art dealer who orchestrated her professional success. Lamb excels at delivering unexpected blows to his characters, ratcheting up the suspense to the final page.

The Dive from Clausen's Pier

by Ann Packer VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

Packer's first novel is a sensitive exploration of the line between selfishness and self-preservation. Carrie Bell, 23, is engaged to her boyfriend of eight years and will likely live and die in the same town where she grew up and attended college. Lately, the prospect of such a life has left her feeling unsatisfied and yearning for something different.

Church of Marvels

by Leslie Parry PAT'S PICK (Fiction)

Discovering an abandoned newborn while working behind the tenement houses of late 19th century New York, Sylvan finds his life intertwined with that of a sideshow performer's daughter and a woman wrongly trapped in a lunatic asylum. The novel's compelling mystery takes place among the city's grimy waterfronts, opium dens, and other lowlife regions.

As Close to Us As Breathing

by Elizabeth Poliner ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

Tragedies define lives, and Poliner demonstrates how a tragic accident shatters the extended Syrkin and Liebritsky families during an idyllic summer at a Connecticut beach.

The Violet Hour

by Katie Roiphe LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fic 809 ROI)

In this absorbing and affecting book, Roiphe chronicles how Susan Sontag, Sigmund Freud, John Updike, Dylan Thomas, and Maurice Sendak dealt with what Freud called the "painful riddle of death." Never overly sentimental, this is a poignant and elegant inquiry into mortality.

One More Day

by Kelly Simmons DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

A grieving mother confronts her past in Simmons's strange, wrenching ghost story. It's been over a year since Carrie Morgan's two-year-old son, Ben, disappeared, and she and her husband, John, are no closer to healing. When Ben suddenly reappears in his crib, they're overjoyed, but puzzled that he hasn't appeared to have grown an inch or gained an ounce while he's been gone.

The Summer Before the War

by Helen Simonson ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

Simonson's follow-up to *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* focuses on gender, class, and social mores in the town of Rye in Sussex, England, at the dawn of World War I. Following the death of her father, who raised her to be intelligent and worldly, writer Beatrice Nash looks forward to tutoring three boys in Latin before she begins her position at school in the fall.

The Song of Hartgrove Hall

by Natasha Solomons DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Solomons' engaging novel is the story of the three Fox-Talbot brothers, who return to their ancestral home after World War II to find their world in flux. They are determined to save the manor and bring back better times but with little money, they are forced to do most of the work themselves.

Girl Waits With Gun

by Amy Stewart PAT'S PICK (Fiction)

Hardened criminals are no match for spinster Constance Kopp and her sisters in this tale of suspense, mystery, and wry humor set in 1914 in Paterson and Wyckoff N.J. A crash between the Kopp sisters' horse and buggy and an automobile driven by arrogant factory owner Henry Kaufman begins a disturbing cycle of menacing behavior. Interesting local historical fiction.