

The Rope Walk

by Carrie Brown DEBORAH'S PICKS (Fiction)

The Rope Walk addresses tolerance and understanding in the dazzling story of a pivotal summer in the life of Alice, a redheaded tomboy and motherless girl who is beloved and protected by her five older brothers and her widower father, a professor of Shakespeare.

The Space Between Us

by Thrity Umrigar ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)

Set in modern-day India, the story of two women and how the strong bonds of womanhood are eternally opposed by the divisions of class and culture. A great companion to "The Help", by Stockett.

Ties That Bind

by Sarah Schulman DEBORAH'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

Schulman, a playwright, novelist, activist, and social critic, considers the nature and consequences of familial homophobia, how homophobia originates with the family, and how this enables it in other relationships and society in general.

Traffic, why we drive the way we do (and what it says about us)

by Tom Vanderbilt MARGARET'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

Tom Vanderbilt takes a fascinating tour through the mysteries of the road. Based on exhaustive research and interviews, Vanderbilt gets under the hood of the everyday activity of driving to uncover the surprisingly complex web of physical, psychological, and technical factors that explain how traffic works, why we drive the way we do, and what our driving says about us.

Welcome to the World, Baby Girl

by Fannie Flagg BARBARA'S PICK (Fiction)

With its colloquial style, focus on family problems, and small-town setting, this novel won't disappoint fans. Flagg's heroine here is a brainy, beautiful, and ambitious rising star of 1970s television. Dena Nordstrom, pride of the network, is a woman whose future is full of promise, her present rich with complications, and her past marked by mystery.

The Yankee Years

by Joe Torre MARGARET'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

This is a thoughtful, utterly honest, and gripping behind-the-scenes look at the Yankees' organization from Joe Torre, the most successful--and most respected--baseball manager of the modern era.

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Book and Film Corner.

Take a look!



32 Candles

by Ernessa Carter ALEXA'S PICK (Fiction)

A Booklist *Starred Review*. A clever romantic comedy, with memorable characters, in which an ugly duckling becomes the swan she always dreamed of and gets the prince--but will she be able to keep him? Carter's captivating debut follows Davie Jones, an African American girl growing up in the 1980s in the small town of Glass, Mississippi who stops speaking and takes refuge in the movies of Molly Ringwald.

The Ask

by Sam Lipsyte CHRIS' PICK (Fiction)

A Booklist *Starred Review*. Lipsyte's third novel, a darkly humorous story of sons and fathers, is his most realistic and hilarious to date. Grasping odd jobs to support his wife and child, university fundraiser Milo Burke is offered one last chance by his former employer: he must reel in a potential donor--a major ask--who turns out to be Milo's sinister college classmate.

The Ballad of Frankie Silver,

by Sharyn McCrumb DANI'S PICK (Mystery)

McCrumb's popular series of mysteries based on Appalachian history continues with this compelling saga of parallel murder cases, one drawn from real life, the other fictional: the story of Frankie Silver, the first woman in North Carolina to be hanged for murder, and "Fate" Harkryder, convicted of murdering two college students on the Appalachian Trail decades ago. A poignant melding of history, Appalachian folklore, and human emotion.

Barchester Towers

by Anthony Trollope NANCY H.'S PICK (Fiction)

In this second Barchester novel of 19th Century England, Trollope creates entertaining characters. Romance thickens the plot as the novel transforms the story of a fight for ascendancy among the clergy and dependants of a great English cathedral into something fundamental and universal.

The Camel Bookmobile

by Masha Hamilton PAT P.'S PICK (Fiction)

Yes, there really is a Camel Bookmobile, which provided inspiration for Hamilton to compose a celebration of the power of the written word. When Fiona, a 36-year-old librarian from Brooklyn, decides she'll do her bit for humanity by bringing books to remotest Kenya, she doesn't know that she will cause a tribe to start feuding.

Clan of the Cave Bear

by Jean Auel PAT P.'S PICK (Fiction)

Auel's first novel in the Earth's Children series is a compellingly readable saga of human survival with complex characters who experience a full range of human emotions. Ayla, an orphaned child, finds refuge with a tribe of prehistoric humans who regard her as an oddity rather than as a step up the evolutionary ladder. (The 6th & final book in this series will be out this Spring.)

Eat Cake

by Jeanne Ray BARBARA'S PICK (Fiction)

Ruth, a Minneapolis wife and mother, bakes to relax the way others do yoga. And it's a good thing she does, because a house full of cantankerous family members seriously challenges her ability to remain serene in this fluffy, enjoyable third novel by Ray.

Elegance of the Hedgehog

by Muriel Barbery MARCIA'S PICK (Fiction)

In a bourgeois apartment building in Paris, we encounter Renée, an intelligent, philosophical, and cultured concierge, and Paloma, the adolescent daughter of a parliamentarian, who has decided to commit suicide on her thirteenth birthday because she cannot bear to live among the rich. A Japanese businessman moves in and brings the two characters together.

Endurance, Shackleton's Incredible Voyage

by Alfred Lansing PEGGY'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton set sail with 27 men on his ship The Endurance, to be the first expedition to cross the Antarctic continent. Marooned on ice, in over 8,000 feet deep water, Shackleton and his crew survived some 635 days and nights.

Fall on Your Knees

by Ann-Marie McDonald DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

This is a richly layered tale of the secrets within several generations of a Canadian family. Both feverishly intense and darkly humorous, the drama of the Piper family emerges amidst a backdrop of racial tension and social change in Canada during the first half of the 20th century.

Gift of Rain

by Tan Twan Eng DEBORAH'S PICK (Historical Fiction)

An epic novel nominated for the Man Booker Prize, this debut tells the story of a young man's journey through the betrayals of war and into manhood. Written in lush, prose, the novel spans decades as it takes readers from the final days of the Chinese emperors to the dying era of the British Empire, and through the mystical temples, bustling cities, and forbidding rain forests of Malaya.

Homer and Langley

by E.L. Doctorow PEGGY'S PICK (Biographical Fiction)

A Booklist *Starred Review*. A tale of New York's fabled siblings Homer and Langley Collyer, who observed the early 20th century from inside their Fifth Avenue mansion, surrounded by newspapers and debris they could not bring themselves to throw away. Doctorow's rich imagining of the brothers' inner lives to explain their hoarding and agoraphobia will mesmerize audiences,

Inn at Lake Devine

by Elinor Lipman DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Lipman celebrates romance grounded in the real world as she wittily details love's rout of prejudice by two young couples. Natalie Marx is the Jewish narrator of this good-humored tale of lovers of different faiths in the early 1960's who manage to be accepted by their initially not-so-happy parents.

Into Thin Air : a personal account of the Mount Everest disaster

by Jon Krakauer PEGGY'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

The author describes his spring 1996 trek to Mt. Everest, a disastrous expedition that claimed the lives of eight climbers, and explains why he survived.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

by Helen Simonson MARCIA'S PICK (Fiction)

From these pages come sharply observed domestic comedy, late-life romance, and culture clash. Major Ernest Pettigrew leads a quiet life in the village of St. Mary, England, until his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village.

Moon Tiger

by Penelope Lively ROBERTA'S PICK (Historical Fiction)

Winner of The Booker Prize. Claudia Hampton is dying and is also writing her last book - a history of the world. Elegant and sexy when younger, she has lived an independent life working as a war correspondent in Egypt during World War. She recalls her memorable past in rich descriptions.

On the Water: discovering America in a rowboat

by Nathaniel Stone MARGARET'S PICK (Non-Fiction)

Here's a real treat for fans of travel writing. As a child, the author had imagined what it would be like to set out in a small boat and follow the U.S. waterways. As an adult he did just that; from the Hudson River, to the Erie Canal, to Ohio, to the Mississippi, across the Gulf and back up along the coastline to Maine. It was a 6,000-mile, 10-month journey.

The Passage

by Justin Cronin AISHA'S PICK (Science Fiction)

A security breach at a secret U.S. government facility unleashes the monstrous product of a chilling military experiment that only a six-year-old orphan can stop. Cronin has written both a suspenseful adventure and an epic chronicle of human endurance in the face of unprecedented catastrophe and unimaginable danger.