

The Sense of an Ending

by Julian Barnes ROBIN'S and DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)
In Barnes's winner of the 2011 Man-Booker Prize, protagonist Tony Webster has lived an average life with an unremarkable career, a quiet divorce, and a calm middle age. Now in his mid-60s, his retirement is thrown into confusion when he's bequeathed a journal that belonged to his brilliant school-friend, Adrian, who committed suicide.

Shanghai Girls

by Lisa See LOIS' PICK (Fiction)
See's latest fictional exploration of the lives of Chinese women begins in 1937 Shanghai, a cosmopolitan city under imminent threat of Japanese invasion. Two sisters escape war-ravaged Shanghai, only to face discrimination and the threat of deportation in the United States.

Three Daughters of Madame Liang

by Pearl S. Buck DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)
After her husband takes a concubine, Madame Liang sets out on her own, starting an upscale restaurant and sending her daughters to America to be educated, only to be called back to serve the People's Republic. Watching her two daughters grow apart and knowing that her youngest daughter will never return, Madame Liang must also face the challenges of The Cultural Revolution.

The True Story of Hansel and Gretel

by Louise Murphy CHRIS' PICK (Fiction)
In the last months of the Nazi occupation of Poland, two children are left by their father and stepmother to find safety in a dense forest. Combining classic themes of fairy tales and war literature, this haunting novel of journey and survival, of redemption and memory, powerfully depicts how war is experienced by families and especially by children.

We the Animals

by Justin Torres ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)
Three brothers tear their way through childhood - smashing tomatoes all over each other, building kites from trash, hiding out when their parents do battle, tiptoeing around the house as their mother sleeps off her graveyard shift. This beautiful novel reinvents the coming-of-age story in a way that is punch-in-the-stomach powerful, written in magical language with unforgettable images.

Women of the Silk

by Gail Tsukiyama DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)
This sensitively written, impressively researched novel covers 20 years in the life of Pei, a Chinese girl sent to work in a silk factory during the first decades of the 20th century. In delicately evoking the silk workers' world, Tsukiyama has opened a window onto an aspect of China few outsiders ever see.

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Staff Picks

February 2012

Annabel

by Kathleen Winter CHRIS' PICK (Fiction)
A literary gem, Winter's luminous novel is a deeply affecting portrait of life in an enchanting seaside town and the trials of growing up unique in a restrictive environment. Winter's first novel tells the story of an intersex child born in the late 1960s in a small, rural town in Canada and raised as a boy.

Appetite City: a culinary history of New York

by William Grimes DEBORAH'S PICK
(Non-Fic 394.1309 GRI)
Grimes (author and former restaurant critic) fills culinary history of New York City with not just food, but personalities, incidents, and anecdotes to create an accurate picture of the evolution of the city many consider the "food capital of the world."

The Awakening

by Kate Chopin PEGGY'S PICK (Fiction)
Now a classic, *The Awakening* shocked turn-of-the-century readers with its forthright treatment of sex and suicide. Departing from literary convention, Kate Chopin failed to condemn her heroine's desire for an affair with the son of a Louisiana resort owner, whom she meets on vacation.

Beyond Recall

by Robert Goddard DANI'S PICK (Mystery)
As he does so smoothly and so well, Goddard again creates a narrator who uncovers secrets buried in the past that cast grim shadows on later generations. Here he takes a grand old house in Cornwall, a family fortune in dispute, murder and blackmail and concocts an absorbing suspense novel.

The Bondwoman's Narrative

by Hannah Crafts PEGGY'S PICK (Fiction)
An unprecedented historical and literary event, this tale written in the 1850's is the only known novel by a female African American slave, and quite possibly the first novel written by a black woman anywhere. A work recently uncovered by renowned scholar Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., it is a stirring, page-turning story of "passing" and the adventures of a young slave as she makes her way to freedom.

The Cat's Table

by Michael Ondaatje ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)
Starred Review In 1953, an 11-year-old boy's life is permanently upended when he leaves Ceylon to begin a new life in London with his mother. His 21 unsupervised days aboard an ocean liner prove momentous as significant events during the crossing profoundly impact the boy's future.

Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness

by Alexandra Fuller ROBERTA'S PICK (Biography)

Fuller braids a narrative around the Happy Valley-era Africa of her mother's childhood; the grimness of her father's English childhood; and the darker, civil war-torn Africa of her own childhood.

The Cookbook Collector

by Allegra Goodman Annalise's PICK (Fiction)

The *Cookbook Collector* is a novel about getting and spending, and about the substitutions we make when we can't find what we're looking for: reading cookbooks instead of cooking and collecting instead of living. Above all it is about holding on to what is real in a virtual world: love that stays.

Cutting for Stone

by Abraham Verghese LOIS' PICK (Fiction)

A sweeping, emotionally riveting first novel - an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home.

Death Comes to Pemberley

by P.D. James ROBERTA'S PICK (Mystery)

P. D. James, long among the most admired mystery writers of our time, draws the characters of Jane Austen's beloved novel *Pride and Prejudice* into a tale of murder and emotional mayhem.

Fingersmith

by Sarah Waters DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

A spellbinding, twisting tale of a great swindle, of fortunes and hearts won and lost, set in Victorian London among a family of thieves.

First Ladies

by Margaret Truman PEGGY'S PICK (Non-Fic 973.09 TRU)

Truman interviewed the madams Johnson, Ford, Reagan, Carter, Bush, and Clinton and carefully researched all the first ladies. And of them she writes with a practiced, skillful hand.

Founding Mothers:

the women who raised our nation

by Cokie Roberts PAT P.'S PICK (Non-Fic 973.3092 ROB)

Focusing on the wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of the Founding Fathers, this lively book chronicles the dangerous and difficult contributions of these women of the era. While their men were away serving as soldiers or statesmen, the women managed property, raised children, acted as spies, coordinated boycotts, and raised funds for the army.

A Golden Age

by Tahmina Anam MARION'S PICK (Fiction)

In her moving debut novel, Anam tells the story of a young widow who becomes embroiled in the 1971 violent political turmoil that transforms a brutal Pakistani civil war into a fight for Bangladeshi independence.

The House of Mirth

by Edith Wharton BARBARA'S PICK (Fiction)

Edith Wharton depicts the glittering salons of Gilded Age New York with precision and wit, even as she movingly portrays the obstacles that impeded women's choices at the turn of the century.

Intuition

by Allegra Goodman ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)

In another quiet but powerful novel from Goodman, a struggling cancer lab at Boston's Philpott Institute becomes the stage for its researchers' personalities and passions, and for the slippery definitions of freedom and responsibility in grant-driven American science.

The Last Letter From Your Lover

by Jojo Moyes BARBARA'S PICK (Fiction)

Moyes delivers a sophisticated, page-turning modern love story spanning 40 years. In 1960s England, 27-year-old Jennifer Stirling awakens in the hospital after an accident, suffering acute memory loss. As the past makes its slow return, Jennifer employs skillful deception in order to cope, but soon realizes that she doesn't love her husband.

Love and Capital: Karl and Jenny Marx

by Mary Gabriel NANCY H.'S PICK (Non-Fic 355.409 MARX)

Brilliantly researched and wonderfully written, *Love and Capital* is a heartbreaking and dramatic saga of the family side of Karl Marx, whose works would redefine the world after his death.

The Memory Palace

by Mira Bartok PEGGY'S PICK (Biography)

The *Memory Palace* explores the connections between mother and daughter that cannot be broken no matter how much exists--or is lost--between them. It is a poignant observation about the relationship between Mira, her sister, and their mentally ill mother.

Moonwalking with Einstein

by Joshua Foer PAT M.'S PICK (Non-Fiction 153.14 FOE)

This blockbuster phenomenon charts an amazing journey of the mind while revolutionizing our concept of memory. Foer recounts his year-long quest to improve his memory under the tutelage of top "mental athletes".

Our Lady of the Lost and Found

by Diane Schoemperlen DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

The narrator, a single, middle-aged, female, non-Catholic writer contentedly living alone, one day comes upon a modern-day version of the Virgin Mary standing in her living room. Seeking a rest from her spiritual duties, Mary asks if she might be allowed to stay for a few days. The result is a highly intelligent and unique discourse on philosophy and the phenomenon of human faith.

Quattrocento

by James McKean ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)

McKean presents a sweeping love story/time-travel epic situated between the modern-day New York art world and fifteenth-century Tuscany. With twists and turns that are as thrilling as they are unexpected, *Quattrocento* is escapist storytelling at its very finest.

Revenge of the Spellmans

by Lisa Lutz LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Filled with the signature side-splitting Spellman antics, *Revenge of the Spellmans* is an ingenious, hilarious, and disarmingly tender installment in the Spellman series. Private investigator Isabel Spellman is back on the case and back on the couch -- in court-ordered therapy after getting a little too close to her previous subject.

Just Kids

by Patti Smith ROBIN'S PICK (Biography SMITH)

A chance encounter in Brooklyn led two young people on a path of art, devotion, and initiation. Patti Smith would evolve as a poet and performer, and Robert Mapplethorpe would direct his style toward photography. *Just Kids* begins as a love story and ends as an elegy. It serves as a salute to New York City during the late sixties and seventies.

The House at Tyneford

by Natasha Solomans DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

In this poignant tale, it's the spring of 1938 and no longer safe to be a Jew in Vienna. Nineteen-year-old Elise Landau is forced to leave her glittering life of parties and champagne to become a parlor maid in England. She arrives at Tyneford, the great house on the bay, where servants polish silver and serve drinks on the lawn. But war is coming, and the world is changing.

Letters of a Woman Homesteader

by Elinor Pruitt Stewart PEGGY'S PICK (917.87 ST)

In 1909 Pruitt went to work for Clyde Stewart, whose ranch was near Burnt Fork, Wyoming, and within six weeks she married him. She maintained her independence by filing on a quarter section adjacent to her husband's land and proving it up herself. Her delightful letters, written from the time of her arrival until 1913, authentically depict an Old West that is "progressively obscured by those who portray it most often."

Consider the Lobster

by David Foster Wallace LORRI'S PICK (814.54 WAL)

Do lobsters feel pain? Did Franz Kafka have a funny bone? What is John Updike's deal, anyway? And what happens when adult-video starlets meet their fans in person? David Foster Wallace answers these questions, and more, in essays that are enthralling narrative adventures.

Fifth Ave, 5 AM: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's and the Dawn of the Modern Woman

by Sam Wasson PEGGY'S PICK (791.4372 WAS)

Fifth Avenue, 5 A.M. is the first-ever complete account of the making of the classic film "Breakfast at Tiffany's." The flow of Wasson's words carries the reader from pre-production to on-set feuds and conflicts, while also noting Hepburn's impact on fashion (Givenchy's little black dress), Hollywood glamour, sexual politics, and the new morality. Recapturing an era, this "factual re-creation" reads like carefully crafted fiction.

Two Rings

by Millie Werber PEGGY'S PICK (940.5318 WER)

Among Holocaust memoirs, this book stands out for the quality of the spare, honest, passionate narrative of survivor Millie Werber. From Fordham University professor Keller's interviews with Werber comes the expertly-told tragic story of a short-lived and star-crossed marriage during the Holocaust. With writer Keller, Werber tells a story of love, betrayal, and loyalty when she was a Jewish girl in Nazi-occupied Poland. In Auschwitz she witnessed the worst humankind is capable of and was ultimately saved by the kindness of strangers.

Ridgewood Public Library

Staff Picks

June 2012

Deadline Artists

edited by John Avalon PEGGY'S PICK (070.44 DEA)

It is the great American art form, read by millions every day. When these eloquent, compassionate newspaper columns were first delivered, they were treated as individual works of art, almanacs to suit any disposition. Well-catalogued and categorized, this exultant retrospective of American journalism seems ideal for today's attention spans and travel schedules.

This Time Together

by Carol Burnett PEGGY'S PICK (792.7092 BUR)

100 percent Carol Burnett – funny, irreverent, and irresistible. Carol really lets her hair down and tells one funny, touching or memorable story after another – reading it feels like sitting down with an old friend who has wonderful tales to tell.

Sleepers

by Lorenzo Carcaterra DANI'S PICK (364.106 CAR)

Journalist Carcaterra tells, with gripping force, of his days growing up in the tough New York City neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen in the 1960's. He and his three closest buddies engaged in petty crime until the day their tricks got out of hand and they were sent to a juvenile home in upstate New York. Both difficult to read and difficult to put down, this book will garner lots of attention.

Prima Donna

by Megan Chance DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

An erotic thriller full of lively Victorian period detail. Sabine Conrad, an ambitious opera singer, wounded in a violent encounter, flees New York City with her jewels, leaving behind a grisly murder. Months later, the penniless Sabine reaches Seattle where she gets a job as a scrubwoman. *Prima Donna* captures both the glittering decadence of New York and the rough raunchy Seattle waterfront.

The Astral

by Kate Christensen DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Harry Quirk is a man on the brink of losing his wife, Luz, who kicked him out and destroyed every trace of his latest manuscript, and thusly his entire life in the Astral, the giant old memory-cavern of a building in Brooklyn where they've spent their lives together. Harry begins to take charge of his life in a way he clearly never had to before, getting a crummy job and committing to, with his daughter, rescuing his son from the apparent cult he's joined.

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The Poet

by Michael Connolly DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Death is reporter Jack McEvoy's beat. But this time, death brings McEvoy the story he never wanted to write -- and the mystery he desperately needs to solve.

Blue Nights

by Joan Didion PEGGY'S PICK (BIOG Didion)

A work of stunning frankness about losing a daughter. Richly textured with bits of her own childhood and married life with her husband and daughter, Didion examines her thoughts, fears, and doubts regarding having children, illness, and growing old.

Faith

by Jennifer Haigh DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Jennifer Haigh explores the fallout for one devout family, the McGanns, of Boston. A gripping, suspenseful tale of one woman's quest for the truth, *Faith* explores the corrosive consequences of a family's history of silence - and the resilience its members ultimately find in forgiveness.

Mrs. Kimble

by Jennifer Haigh LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

In her masterful first novel Jennifer Haigh delivers the compelling story of three women who marry the same man -- an enigmatic opportunist named Ken Kimble. *Mrs. Kimble* presents a fascinating psychological portrait of a mesmerizing opportunist and the women who believe in him.

Moonlight on Linoleum

by Terry Helwig PEGGY'S PICK (BIOG Helwig)

Terry Helwig and her five sisters were raised by their charismatic, troubled, and very young mother, Carola, who struggled with loneliness and infidelity. Because of their stepfather's roving job in the oil fields, the family moved frequently from town to town in the American West. A moving and motivating portrait of love and perseverance.

Matrimony

by Joshua Henkin LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Matrimony is about love and friendship, about money and ambition, desire, and tensions of faith. It asks what happens to a marriage when it is confronted by betrayal and mortality.

Then Again

by Diane Keaton ROBERTA'S PICK (791.4309 KEATON)

More than the autobiography of a legendary actress, *Then Again* is a book about a very American family with very American dreams. Diane will remind you of yourself, and her bonds with her family will remind you of your own relationships with those you love the most.

Sister

by Rosamund Lupton DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Booklist Starred Review Murder mystery? Psychological thriller? Medical-ethical treatise? Yes to all, but so much more, too. A thrilling story of fierce love between siblings, *Sister* is a suspenseful and accomplished debut with a stunning twist. The powerful, heart-stopping ending lays bare the truth, and even readers who thought they'd guessed the outcome will be shocked.

Born to Run

by Christopher McDougall MARION'S PICK (796.424 MCD)

From the depths of Mexico's Copper Canyon to the heights of the Leadville Trail in Colorado, from the centuries-old running techniques of Mexico's Tarahumara tribe to a research lab at the University of Utah, author McDougall celebrates, in this engaging and picaresque account, humankind's innate love of running.

Ghost Town: tales of Manhattan then and now

by Patrick McGrath DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

A celebrated writer tackles a celebrated city. McGrath presents three stories about NY: the tale of a young boy during the American Revolution whose mother is hanged for defying the British; a wealthy merchant at the time of the Civil War who punishes his son's passion for the arts by denying him the girl he loves; and a disquieting story of a psychiatrist and one of her patients who began visiting a prostitute after 9/11.

A Good Hard Look

by Ann Napolitano PAT P.'S PICK (Fiction)

Crippled by lupus at twenty-five, celebrated author Flannery O'Connor was forced to leave New York City and return home to Andalusia, her family farm in Georgia. This fictionalized version of her later years crafts a powerful argument for living honestly. Napolitano's characters are all forced to look at themselves and face up to Flannery's observation that "the truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

State of Wonder

by Ann Patchett LOIS' PICK (Fiction)

Bestselling author Patchett returns with a provocative novel of morality and miracles, science and sacrifice, set in the Amazon rainforest--a gripping story and a profound look at the difficult choices we make in the name of discovery and love.

In the Shadow of Gotham

by Stefanie Pintoff ANNALISE'S PICK (Mystery)

Detective Simon Ziele and several criminologists track a madman from the Palisades to the Bowery in a mystery set in 1905. With this taut and original story of a haunted man who must search for a killer while on the run from his own demons, Pintoff's *In the Shadow of Gotham* is the first novel in an award-winning mystery series.

A Curtain Falls

by Stefanie Pintoff ANNALISE'S PICK (Mystery)

Following on the heels of Pintoff's acclaimed and award-winning debut (see above), *A Curtain Falls* is a moody and evocative tale that follows Ziele and his partners as they scour the dark streets of early-twentieth-century New York in search of a true fiend.

Secret of the White Rose

by Stefanie Pintoff ANNALISE'S PICK (Mystery)

As the third mystery in her Edgar Award-winning series, Pintoff's combination of vital characters and a fascinating case set amongst turn-of-the-century New York makes for compelling reading.

Unless

by Carol Shields ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)

Until her daughter Norah begins living on the streets of Toronto in the spring of 2000, Reta Winters "thought tragedy was someone not liking my book." Reta is a marvelously inventive character whose commentary on the ties between writing, love, art and family are constantly compelling in this unabashedly feminist novel. The icing on the cake is the ending, which introduces a startling but believable twist .

Strange Fits of Passion

by Anita Shreve DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

In this insightful and moving novel, everyone believes that Maureen and Harrold English, two successful NYC journalists, have a happy marriage. It's the early '70s and no one discusses domestic abuse. But, after Maureen suffers another brutal beating, she flees New York with her infant daughter and seeks refuge in a small town in Maine.

The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster MARION'S PICK (Fiction)

Wonderful for adults as well as children, this book tells the story of Milo, a young boy with little interest in anything, who takes a trip through the Phantom Tollbooth to the Lands Beyond, where he meets an enchanting cast of characters that teaches him the importance of words, numbers, ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm for life.

We Need to Talk About Kevin

by Lionel Shriver LISA'S PICK (Fiction)

Eva tries to come to grips with the fact that her 17-year-old son, Kevin, has killed seven students. In crisply crafted sentences that cut to the bone of her feelings about motherhood, career, family, and what it is about American culture that produces child killers, Shriver yanks the reader back and forth between blame and empathy, retribution and forgiveness.

Cosmopolis

By Don DeLillo LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Eric Packer, a billionaire asset manager at age twenty-eight, emerges from his penthouse triplex and settles into his lavishly customized white stretch limousine. Today he is a man with two missions: to pursue a cataclysmic bet against the yen and to get a haircut across town.

Into the Darkest Corner

by Elizabeth Haynes DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Four years after being brutally attacked by Lee, her boyfriend at the time, Catherine is still suffering from the aftereffects of the crime. It is a testament to Haynes' skill that she is able to create a chilling page-turner out of such unpleasant subject matter. This is perfect for readers who prefer their suspense straight up, no chaser. A runaway hit in England, where it was named an Amazon Best Book of the Year.

Tess of the d'Urbervilles

by Thomas Hardy ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

Tess, whose intense vitality shines against the bleak backdrop of a dying way of life, is on a journey to meet her supposed kin—a journey that will see her victimized by lust, poverty, and hypocrisy. The novel shocked contemporary readers with its honesty and remains a timeless commentary on the human condition.

The Kitchen Counter Cooking School

by Kathleen Flinn ANNALISE'S PICK (Non-Fic 641.5 FLI)

Flinn tells the inspiring story of how she helped nine others find their inner cook. After graduating from Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, she returned with no idea what to do next, until one day at a supermarket she watched a woman loading her cart with ultraprocessed foods. Flinn's "chefternal" instinct kicked in: she persuaded the stranger to reload with fresh foods, offering her simple recipes for healthy, easy meals.

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Staff Picks

October 2012

The Healing

by Jonathan O'Dell DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

This is a warmhearted novel about the unbreakable bonds between three generations of female healers and their power to restore the body, the spirit, and the soul in Antebellum Mississippi. Inspirational and suspenseful, *The Healing* is the kind of historical fiction readers can't put down.

The Sisters Brothers

by Patrick DeWitt LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Filled with a remarkable cast of characters from all stripes of life, this is an odyssey through the underworld of the 1850s frontier that beautifully captures the humor, melancholy, and grit of the Old West and two brothers bound by blood, violence, and love.

The Sheltering Sky

by Paul Bowles ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

One of the great novels of the 20th century. A man and wife, Port and Kit, travel through North Africa with Tunner, a slightly buffoonish man. As the three travel deeper into Africa, further away from the New York intelligentsia, a fever grips the novel and its characters. We recognize this fever as living. *The Sheltering Sky* is the ultimate adventure story.

Turn Right at Machu Picchu

by Mark Adams JIN'S PICK (Non-Fic 985 ADA)

In this delightful, and often humorous travelogue, Adams narrates his unconventional trek to the mysterious Machu Picchu with an irascible Australian guide and a group of Quechua-speaking mule tenders, while sharing stories of the explorer Hiram Bingham III and his three expeditions to Peru.

The Garden of Evening Mists

by TanTwan Eng DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Sequel to *Gift of Rain*, (and best read in order), Tan triumphs again, entwining the redemptive power of storytelling with the search for elusive truth, all the while juxtaposing Japan's war history with glorious moments of Japanese art and philosophy. Readers in search of spectacular writing will not be disappointed.

The Widower's Tale

by Julia Glass ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)

In a historic farmhouse outside Boston, seventy-year-old Percy Darling is settling happily into retirement: reading novels, watching old movies, and swimming naked in his pond. His routines are disrupted, however, when he is persuaded to let a locally beloved preschool take over his barn. Yet again, Glass plumbs the human heart brilliantly, dramatically and movingly.

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The Glass Room

by Simon Mawer LOIS' PICK (Fiction)

Czech newlyweds Victor and Liesel Landauer embrace the future and engage a daring German architect to plan their new home. The story follows the fate of their house as it changes hands through the shifting political tides of Nazism, communism, and a return to democracy.

The Banyan Tree

by Christopher Nolan ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction)

In a saga of rural Ireland spanning the twentieth century, Nolan lovingly details the life and times of a spirited woman who struggles to keep the five fields left to her by her husband for the day when her prodigal younger son will surely return to claim them. Colorful, feisty, and filled with love and humor.

Elizabeth Street

by Laurie Fabiano LISA'S PICK (Fiction)

Fabiano is dead-on in her portrait of the Italian-American immigrant experience. This engrossing cross-generational saga centers on the experiences of Giovanna Costa, from the small Italian fishing village where she is born to the bustling streets of New York's Lower East Side where she struggles to raise her family and make a living.

Walk Across the Sun

by Corban Addison DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Addison leads readers on a chilling, eye-opening journey into Mumbai's seedy underworld--and the nightmare of two orphaned girls swept into the international sex trade. The story is compelling, but the message is greater and will leave an impact on everyone who picks up the book. Readers will mourn the injustices depicted and celebrate the triumphs long after the last page is turned.

Between Shades of Grey

by Ruta Sepetys BRENNNA'S PICK (Fiction)

Sepetys present a story about a little known aspect of history: Stalin's removal of hundreds of thousands of people from Lithuania to work camps in Siberia. This novel is told from the point of view of 15 year old art student, Lina. Lina, her mother, and her younger brother are separated from her father and the only way she can get word to him is by hiding clues in her art.

The Spoiler

by Annalena McAfee DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

A dark comedy set in London in the late 1990s during the last gasp of the newspaper wars just before the dot-com tidal wave--about two female journalists at opposite ends of their life and work who become locked in a fierce tango of wills.

Law of Similars

by Chris Bohjalian DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Fast-paced and absorbing, this riveting medical thriller is about a lawyer, a homeopath, and a tragic death. When one of Carissa Lake's patients falls into an allergy-induced coma, possibly due to her prescribed remedy, Leland Fowler's office starts investigating the case. As love and legal obligations collide, Leland comes face-to-face with an ethical dilemma of enormous proportions.

Room

by Emma Donoghue PAT P.'S PICK (Fiction)

To five-year-old Jack, Room is the entire world. Told entirely in the language of the energetic, pragmatic Jack, *Room* is a celebration of resilience and the limitless bond between parent and child. A brilliant novel about what it means to journey from one world to another.

The Killer Angels

by Michael Shaara NANCY H.'S PICK (Historical Fiction)

Far more than rifles and bullets were carried into battle. There were memories. There were promises. There was love. And bright futures, untested innocence, and pristine beauty were the casualties of war. Shaara's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece is unique, sweeping, and unforgettable--the dramatic story of the battleground for America's destiny.

Nothing to Envy

by Barbara Demick PAT M.'S PICK (Non-Fic 305.8957 DEM)

Demick takes us deep inside North Korea, beyond the reach of government censors. Through meticulous and sensitive reporting, we see average North Korean citizens fall in love, raise families, nurture ambitions, and struggle for survival. *Nothing to Envy* is an eye-opening look at a closed world that is of increasing global importance.

Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

By Junot Diaz ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)

Diaz immerses us in the tumultuous life of Oscar and the history of the family at large, rendering with genuine warmth and dazzling energy, humor, and insight, the Dominican-American experience, and, ultimately, the endless human capacity to persevere in the face of heartbreak and loss.

The Lifeboat

by Charlotte Rogan DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

The Lifeboat is a page-turning novel of hard choices and survival, narrated by a woman as unforgettable and complex as the events she describes. Grace is both a newlywed and a widow, and on trial for her life after a mysterious explosion aboard an ocean liner.

Talk Before Sleep

by Elizabeth Berg PAT M.'S PICK (Fiction)

After years of shared secrets, guilty pleasures, family life and divorce, Ruth and Ann face a crisis that redefines the meaning of friendship and unconditional love when one is diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Sandcastle Girls

by Chris Bohjalian DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Parallel stories of a woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier during the Armenian Genocide and a modern-day New Yorker prompted to rediscover her Armenian past. This is a powerful and moving story based on real events seldom discussed.

Night Circus

by Erin Morgenstern LOIS' PICK (Fiction)

This first novel ushers in a menacing tone with its first sentence: "The circus arrives without warning." To a famous magician is delivered a little girl who, as it turns out, is his child and she is possessed of magical powers. How will their destiny play out? With appeal for readers not particularly geared to fantasy this is a good crossover suggestion.

Brideshead Revisted

by Evelyn Waugh LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Waugh's most celebrated novel is a memory drama about the intense entanglement of the narrator, Charles Ryder, with a great Anglo-Catholic family. Written during World War II, the novel mourns the passing of the aristocratic world Waugh knew in his youth and studies the conflict between the demands of religion and the desires of the flesh.