

### The Chilbury Ladies' Choir

by **Jennifer Ryan** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction RYAN)

Letters and journals reveal the struggles, affairs, deceptions, and triumphs of five members of a village choir during World War II as they band together to survive the upheavals of war and village intrigue on the English home front.

### Books for Living

by **Will Schwalbe** LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fic 028.9 SCH)

The right book at the right time can change your life, Schwalbe (*The End of Your Life Book Club*) argues as he distills a lifetime of reading recommendations down to this personal list of books for many moods and occasions.

### Hope in the Dark: untold histories, wild possibilities

by **Rebecca Solnit** LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fic 303.4 SOL)

Solnit makes a radical case for hope as a commitment to act in a world whose future remains uncertain. Drawing on her decades of activism and environmental, cultural, and political history, Solnit argues that the positive consequences of our acts are not always immediately seen.

### Without Reservations: the travels of an independent woman

by **Alice Steinbach** KRISTEN C.'S PICK (Biography STEINBACH)

In a travel-book-memoir set against a glamorous background of European cities, Pulitzer-winning journalist Steinbach describes the nine months she spent traveling after she took a 1993 sabbatical from her job as columnist for the Baltimore Sun.

### Mothering Sunday

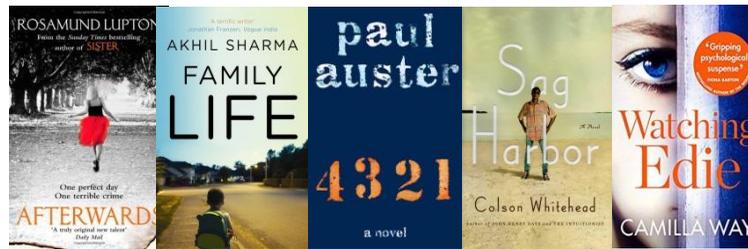
by **Graham Swift** LORRI'S and VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction SWIFT)

Set in 1924, in an England still reeling from the loss of young men to the Great War, this tale offers a haunting portrait of lives in a world in transition. Its events unfold from the viewpoint of Jane Fairchild, a 22-year-old maid at the Berkshire estate Beechwood.

### Hillbilly Elegy

by **J.D. Vance** VICTORIA'S and ERICA'S PICK (Biography VANCE)

Growing up in Appalachia, Vance delves into his childhood and upbringing to make a distinction between perception and reality. Vance ended a cycle of poverty, abuse, and drug use after becoming a U.S. Marine and Yale Law School graduate. His memoir is less about his triumph and more about exposing the gritty truth of how a culture fell into ruin.



### Afterwards

by **Rosamund Lupton** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction LUPTON)

A blaze at a suburban London school takes on sinister overtones in Lupton's superb follow-up to *Sister* (2010). Grace runs headlong into the inferno, determined to rescue her 17-year-old daughter, Jenny, but both end up in critical condition in the hospital. A cozy scenario of suburban family accord morphs into a full-throttle psychological thriller.

### Family Life

by **Akhil Sharma** JIN'S PICK (Fiction SHARMA)

Via the voice of protagonist Ajay Mishra, we travel from New Delhi to New York as his father, mother, brother Birju, and he arrive and settle in America. The family's misfortunes become extreme, but Sharma's prose transcends any disbelief, and his characters and their experiences will linger in the mind's recesses long after the last page is read.

### 4321: a novel

by **Paul Auster** ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction AUSTER)

A sweeping family saga (with a twist) about the life and loves of Archie Ferguson, a Jewish boy born to second-generation immigrants just after World War II. The "twist" is that four identical Fergusons made of the same DNA, go on to lead four parallel and entirely different lives.

### Sag Harbor

by **Colson Whitehead** ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction WHITEHEAD)

In a classic entering-manhood tale framed within the summer of 1985, Benji, 15, skinny, nerdy, and well-meaning reports on life in an African American enclave in Sag Harbor, Long Island. He and his brother attend private school in Manhattan and spend each summer here with a circle of friends, making for a generous, wisely funny novel.

### Watching Edie

by **Camilla Way** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction WAY)

For fans of *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train*: A dazzling work of psychological suspense that weaves together the past and present of two women's twisted friendship. Beautiful, creative, a little wild

More Book Suggestions are found [www.ridgewoodlibrary.org](http://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org)

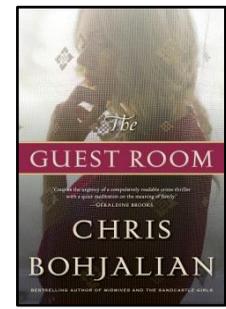
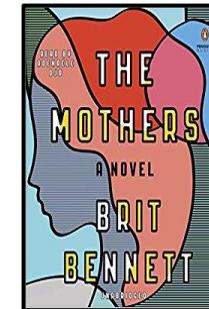
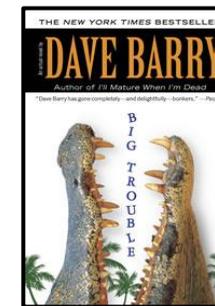
*Take a look!*



### Big Trouble

by **Dave Barry** KRISTEN'S PICK (Fiction BARRY)

This first novel by the popular humorist won't fail to disappoint his numerous fans because it's a delightful romp through the less noble side of Miami life. With its kooky characters, this novel boils down to comic relief, a great source of diversion, and even chuckles. Hats off to Barry's cleverness.



### The Mothers

by **Brit Bennett** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction BENNETT)

Bennett's brilliant debut novel is about a trio of young people coming of age under the shadow of harsh circumstances in a black community in Southern California. Deftly juggling multiple issues, Bennett addresses infidelity, religious faith, hypocrisy, and race-head-on. The story is narrated in part by "the mothers" – a chorus of elder church women.

### The Guest Room

by **Chris Bohjalian** KATHY'S PICK (Fiction BOHJALIAN)

Bohjalian's cautionary tale concerns a very poorly planned bachelor party. Richard Chapman, a middle-aged banker, makes one mistake that will upend his life: he hosts a bachelor party at his suburban Bronxville home for his younger brother, Philip. Richard's wife, Kristin, a good sport about the impending high jinks, is spending the weekend at her mother's with their 9-year-old daughter, Melissa, to allow the boys to be boys.

## Moon Palace

**by Paul Auster** JORDAN'S PICK (Fiction AUSTER)

M. S. Fogg is a "love child" who graduates from Columbia University and almost dies while living on handouts in Central Park. After his rescue, he becomes the live-in companion of an old, eccentric, blind cripple. Auster's narrative takes the reader out of the chaos of New York and into the silence of Utah, leading Fogg to his until-then unknown father.

## How to Set a Fire and Why

**by Jesse Ball** CLAIRE'S PICK (Fiction BALL)

Lucia, a teenage girl who has lost everything and will burn anything, has been kicked out of school, again. Her father is dead; her mother is in a mental institute; and she's living in a garage-turned-bedroom with her aunt. Lucia's fascination with arson becomes a riveting story of family, loss, misguided friendship, and destruction.

## Celine

**by Peter Heller** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction HELLER)

Celine is a licensed PI, living near the Brooklyn Bridge with her partner/husband Pete. The main plot centers on a daughter's quest for her father, who "disappeared" at Yellowstone many years back, supposedly mauled by a grizzly, but his body was never found. Celine and Pete head West and launch an investigation, venturing into international cover-ups, and culminating in hilarious showdowns in which wit is the mightiest.

## To the Bright Edge of the World

**by Eowyn Ivey** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction IVEY)

Set in the wilds of her native Alaska, Ivey portrays a fictional 1885 expedition, led by Colonel Allen Forrester of the U.S. Army, into the newly acquired Alaska Territory to map the area's rivers and gather information about the Native populations. By means of the colonel's journal entries and letters between him and his wife, Sophie, Ivey deftly draws the reader into the perils of the journey.

## Better: the everyday art of sustainable living

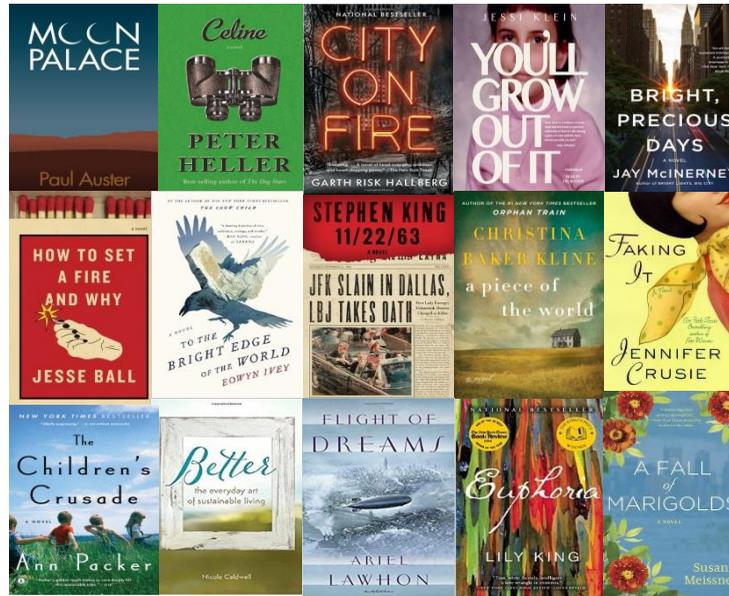
**by Nicole Caldwell** KRISTEN'S PICK (Non-Fic 640 CAL)

The key to the author's "Better Theory" is that every experience, good or bad, is an opportunity for growth. She presents stories of people who have started communities to serve those with physical disabilities, homeless veterans, and others, but her vision expands to all who desire a more fulfilling life.

## City on Fire

**by Garth Risk Hallberg** JIN'S PICK (Fiction HALLBERG)

This magnificent first novel is full to bursting with plot, character, and emotion, all set within an exquisitely grungy 1970s New York City. Sam Ciccario heads to Central Park on New Year's Eve and is found hours later barely clinging to life after being shot in the head. Why this charismatic punk-rock fan was shot is just one of the many plot strands in this sprawling but completely engrossing novel.



## Faking It

**by Jennifer Crusie** KRISTEN'S PICK (Fiction CRUSIE)

Bestseller Crusie takes readers on another smooth ride in her latest romantic caper. At the wheel this time is art forger Matilda Goodnight, whose chance encounter in a closet with cute con man/thief Davy Dempsey leads to madcap mayhem and breathless romance.

## 11/22/1963

**By Stephen King** JORDAN'S PICK (Fiction KING)

Maine restaurant owner Al tells high school English teacher Jake Epping that there's a time portal to 1958 in his diner. Al has terminal cancer and asks Jake to grant his dying wish: go back in time and prevent the 1963 assassination of JFK. Alternate-history buffs will enjoy the twist ending.

## Euphoria

**by Lily King** ERICA'S PICK (Fiction KING)

The love lives and expeditions of anthropologists Margaret Mead, Reo Fortune, and Gregory Bateson are fictionalized and reimagined in King's entrancing book. Set in the 1930s in Papua New Guinea, the fascinating descriptions of tribal customs and rituals, paired with the characters' insatiable appetites for scientific discovery, all contribute to a thrilling read.

## You'll Grow Out of It

**by Jessi Klein** LORRI'S PICK (Biography KLEIN)

Comedian Klein hilariously navigates the world of 21st-century adulthood, adding levity to the difficult stage of life for millennial women in the thick of it. From mundane topics (lingerie) to more significant ones (childbirth), Klein's refreshing anecdotes explore the facets of being a modern woman with raw honesty and indelible wit.

## A Piece of the World

**by Christina Baker Kline** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction KLINE)

Kline takes Andrew Wyeth's iconic and enigmatic painting Christina's World as the inspiration for her new novel. The story knits together the period in the 1940s when Wyeth sets up a studio in an old farmhouse in Maine, where 46-year-old Christina Olson lives with her brother Alvaro.

## Flight of Dreams

**by Ariel Lawhon** SARAH'S PICK (Fiction LAWHON)

Lawhon fictionalizes the transatlantic flight of the German passenger airship Hindenburg before it exploded on May 6, 1937. The author escalates the tension with a variety of subplots involving ill-fated romance, increasing prejudice against the Jewish passengers, dark revenge schemes, and a hapless cabin boy who ends up in all the wrong places.

## Under the Influence

**by Joyce Maynard** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction MAYNARD)

An emotionally fragile woman falls under the spell of a glamorous wealthy couple in the latest from Maynard. A recovering alcoholic still mourning the misstep that cost her custody of her young son, Helen is working odd jobs to make ends meet when she encounters Ava and Swift Havilland. The reader be absorbed by this beguiling, compulsively readable yarn.

## Bright Precious Days

**by Jay McInerney** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction MCINERNEY)

McInerney's continuation of his New York City saga will pull in his many fans as he observes the passage of life's seasons with indelible clarity. McInerney's tale is a powerful portrait of the ebbs and flows of a marriage in tumultuous times in a city ravaged by drugs, terrorism, economic depression and in the shadow of the looming subprime mortgage crisis.

## A Fall of Marigolds

**by Susan Meissner** PAT'S PICK (Fiction MEISSNER)

A scarf ties together the stories of two women as they struggle with personal journeys 100 years apart in Meissner's historical novel. In 1911, Clara Wood witnesses the traumatic death of the man she loves in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Interwoven into Clara's tale is the story of widow Taryn Michaels who does her best to avoid the overwhelming emotions she's felt since she witnessed the destruction of the World Trade Towers.

## The Children's Crusade

**by Ann Packer** ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction PACKER)

This compassionate tale spans 30 years and follows a doctor, his wife, and their four children. Bill Blair is a gifted healer who worries that his wife Penny's unhappiness will traumatize their children. With the birth of their fourth child, Penny is suddenly deeply unhappy with her domestic role and opts to turn their garden shed into an art studio, where she spends most of her time. The children, meanwhile, feel her absence deeply and try to lure her back into the fold, with mixed results.