

### American Spy

by **Lauren Wilkinson** LORRI'S PICK

(Fiction WILKINSON)  
Marie Mitchell, a Cold War FBI intelligence officer, joins an undercover task force to undermine Thomas Sankara, the revolutionary Communist president of Burkina Faso, who she secretly admires and comes to love, in a novel inspired by true events.



### Something in the Water

by **Catherine Steadman** LORRI'S PICK

(Fiction STEADMAN)  
One minute newlyweds Erin and Mark are enjoying a honeymoon to die for in Bora Bora and the next they're being sucked into a maelstrom that might actually get them killed, in this captivating debut from Downton Abbey alum Steadman (she played Mabel Lane Fox). What changes everything is the couple's discovery of a locked canvas duffel bag.



### The Nickel Boys: a novel

By **Colson Whitehead** ERICA'S PICK

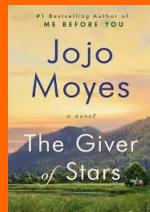
(Fiction WHITEHEAD)  
There were rumors about Nickel Academy, a Florida reform school, but survivors kept their traumas to themselves until a university archaeology student discovered the secret graveyard in a tautly focused and gripping portrait of two African American teens during the last vicious years of Jim Crow.



### The Giver of Stars

by **Jojo Moyes** ROBERTA'S PICK

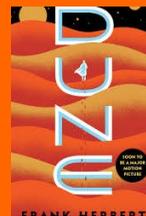
(Fiction MOYES)  
Alice Wright escapes her stifling English family by marrying an American, but this choice leads to further misery in the rural Kentucky household of her unaffectionate husband and his domineering father. She finds respite in riding with the women of the new WPA-sponsored horseback library.



### Dune

By **Frank Herbert** CLAIRE'S PICK

(SciFi HERBERT)  
Science fiction's masterpiece, *Dune*, will be forever considered a triumph of the imagination. Set on the desert planet Arrakis, it is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, who will become the mysterious man known as Muad'Dib. A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism and politics.



### Factfulness: ten reasons we're wrong about the world and why things are better than you think.

by **Hans Rosling** CLAIRE'S PICK  
(Non-Fic 302.12 ROS)

A Professor of International Health and popular TED speaker and his son and daughter-in-law explain how the best guesses, thoughts and concepts we accept as fact are actually tempered and informed by unconscious and predictable biases.



### The Library Book

by **Susan Orlean** JIN'S PICK

(Non-Fic 027.479 ORL)  
New Yorker staff writer Orlean doubles as an investigative reporter and an institutional historian in this sprawling account of the 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Central Public Library. Orlean celebrates libraries as sanctuaries, community centers, and open universities run by people of commitment, compassion, creativity, and resilience.



### Putney

by **Sofka Zinovieff** LORRI'S PICK

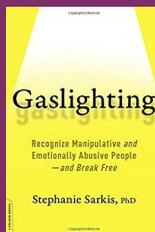
(Fiction ZINOVIEFF)  
An inappropriate bond between the preadolescent daughter of a famous novelist and a rising 1970s London composer twenty years her senior intensifies into a predatory affair, in a tale told from three perspectives.



### Gaslighting

by **Stephanie Moulton-Sarkin** ROBIN'S PICK

(Non-Fiction 158.2 SAR)  
Licensed mental health counselor Sarkin introduces the little-researched phenomenon of gaslighting — manipulating someone by psychological means into questioning their own sanity. This behavior can be found in politics, the boardroom, and personal relationships. A fascinating and necessary study and how to steer clear of being a victim.



**More book suggestions can be found at  
[RidgewoodLibrary.org](http://RidgewoodLibrary.org)  
Take a look!**

Updated 10/11/2019



## Staff Picks

# Fall 2019

### The Storyteller's Secret

by **Sejal Badani** ROBIN'S PICK  
(Fiction BADANI)

Jaya, a New York journalist, decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past. She becomes intoxicated by the culture, but it is Ravi—her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant—who reveals the resilience, secrets, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation.



### Bringing Down the Duke

by **Evie Dunmore** LORRI'S PICK  
(Fiction DUNMORE)

A fiercely independent vicar's daughter takes on a duke in a fiery love story that threatens to upend British social order. Learn about women's suffrage in Britain while enjoying a fluffy romance.

### The Dutch House

by **Ann Patchett** ROBERTA'S PICK  
(Fiction PATCHETT)

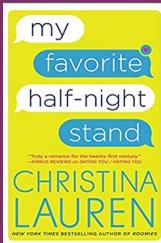
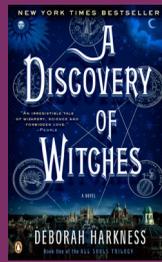
Patchett returns with her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go—the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia.



## A Discovery of Witches

by **Deborah E. Harkness** SARAH'S PICK  
(Fiction HARKNESS)

Diana Bishop is the last of the Bishops, a powerful family of witches, but she has refused her magic ever since her parents died and has turned to academia. When a new project takes her to Oxford, she is looking forward to several months of investigating manuscripts, but her peace is soon interrupted.



## My Favorite Half-Night Stand

by **Christina Lauren** BRITTIN'S PICK  
(Fiction LAUREN)

A criminology professor uses a fake dating profile to flirt with her best friend. This NY Times bestselling author, who hilariously depicts modern dating, provides us with a laugh-out-loud romp.

## The Swallows

by **Lisa Lutz** LORRI'S PICK  
(Fiction LUTZ)

A new teacher in a New England prep school ignites a gender war — with deadly consequences. What do you love? What do you hate? What do you want? It starts with this simple writing prompt from Alex Witt, Stonebridge Academy's new creative writing teacher.



## Red, White, and Royal Blue

by **Casey McQuiston** BRITTIN'S PICK  
(Fiction MCQUISTON)

The much-loved royal romance genre gets a fun update. Alex Claremont-Diaz, son of the American President Ellen Claremont, knows one thing for sure: he hates Henry, the British prince to whom he is always compared. He lives for their verbal sparring matches, but one of their fights at a royal wedding goes a bit too far.



## The Lake House

by **Kate Morton** JIN'S PICK  
(Fiction MORTON)

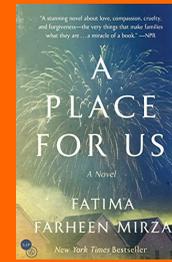
Retreating to Cornwall to pass an enforced leave from the London Metropolitan Police, Det. Constable Sadie Sparrow stumbles upon an estate abandoned 70 years ago after a toddler went missing. Three generations of family secrets are unraveled, rebounding from the horrors of World War I to the 1930s and then on to the present day.



## A Place For Us

by **Fatima Farheen Mirza** JIN'S PICK  
(Fiction MIRZA)

A story of family, identity, and belonging follows an Indian family through the marriage of their daughter, from the parents' arrival in the United States to the return of their estranged son. What Mirza does best is show how family dynamics can shape one's life and how seemingly inconsequential events can have a large impact over time.



## The Ghost Clause

by **Howard Norman** ERICA'S PICK  
(Fiction NORMAN)

The author poignantly examines two marriages from the viewpoint of a ghost. Recently deceased Simon haunts his Vermont farmhouse, which is purchased in the summer of 1994 by a young couple, Muriel and Zachary. Throughout, Simon infuses sharp observations with insights about the joys of living.



## The Flight Portfolio

by **Julie Orringer** SARAH'S PICK  
(Fiction ORRINGER)

Orringer's magnificent novel is centered around American journalist Varian Fry's work helping imperiled refugees out of Nazi-occupied France in 1940. Orringer addresses head-on the moral dilemma of making value judgments on individual lives.



## Daisy Jones and the Six

by **Taylor Jenkins Reid** LORRI'S & ROBERTA'S PICK  
(Fiction REID)

Reid delivers a stunning story of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll in the 1960s and '70s in this expertly wrought novel. Mimicking the style and substance of a tell-all celebrity memoir, the book is narrated by a character whose identity is a secret until the end.



## A Woman is No Man

by **Etaf Rum** ERICA'S PICK  
(Fiction RUM)

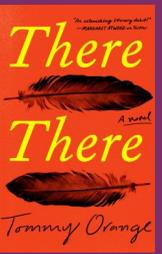
Three generations of Palestinian-American women in contemporary Brooklyn are torn by individual desire, educational ambitions, a devastating tragedy, and the strict mores of traditional Arab culture. The story reads with well-developed characters and a wonderfully paced narrative.



## There There: a novel

by **Tommy Orange** JIN'S PICK  
(Fiction ORANGE)

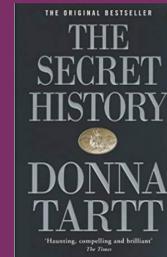
Orange's commanding debut chronicles stories of contemporary Native Americans in Oakland, CA, in the days leading up to the city's inaugural Big Oakland Powwow. Orange presents more than a dozen men, women, and children confronting broken families, and socioeconomic and cultural problems.



## The Secret History

by **Donna Tartt** ROSA'S PICK  
(Fiction TARTT)

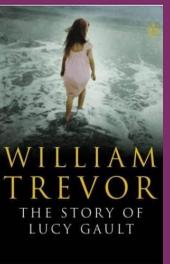
This well-written first novel attempts to be a psychological thriller and a satire of collegiate mores and popular culture. Brilliant students at a posh Vermont school are involved in two murders, one supposedly accidental and one deliberate.



## The Story of Lucy Gault

by **William Trevor** VICTORIA'S PICK  
(Fiction TREVOR)

One night, arsonists attempt to burn down the country home of Colonel Gault, a retired Irish officer in the British army, married to an Englishwoman. Despite the fact that it breaks their hearts to do so, the Gaults decide to leave Ireland. Their little child, Lucy, runs away from home to show her parents her intense aversion to the relocation.



## The Paragon Hotel

by **Lyndsay Faye** PAT'S PICK  
(Fiction FAYE)

In 1921, Alice "Nobody" James, who is white, escapes the New York Mafia with a bullet in her side. She meets African American train porter Max, who guides her to the Paragon Hotel, the only all-black hotel in Portland, OR. So begins Alice's stay at the Paragon, where the residents have their own problems, with the Ku Klux Klan gaining popularity. Historical fiction and a suspenseful mystery.



## The Book of Essie

By **Meghan MacLean Weir** LORRI'S PICK  
(Fiction WEIR)

A debut novel of family, fame, and religion that tells the wildly captivating story of the seventeen-year-old daughter of an evangelical preacher, star of the family's hit reality show, and the secret pregnancy that threatens to blow their entire world apart.

