

## **Strange But True**

**by John Searles** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Searles crafts a second novel about a family shocked by the loss of a son-and his girlfriend's announcement years later that she is bearing the young man's child. Their desperate search for answers takes them on a poignant and emotional journey, ultimately placing them in the path of murder and revenge. At once, a moving story of redemption and a heart-stopping work of suspense.

## **Tabloid City**

**by Pete Hamill** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

**\*Starred Review\*** Hamill is as New York City as the Empire State Building and the Bowery, a classic newspaperman schooled in the old days of several daily newspapers. With a murder as the actual centerpiece of the plot, Hamill moves this story around and around through a cycle of characters all related in some fashion to the central event, each visitation to each character adding layers to the author's knowing depiction of New York's varied lifestyles.

## **Tunneling to the Center of the Earth**

**by Kevin Wilson** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Wilson's captivating debut collection of stories paints an everyday world filled with characters obsessed by weird impulses. Four mutually loathing brothers fold hundreds of paper cranes for a contest to determine who will own the family plantation house. Three new BAs spend months after graduation tunneling beneath the hometown of one of them. Laced with humor and pathos, these wonderfully inventive stories explore the relationship between loss and death and the many ways we try to cope with both.

## **The Twelfth Angel**

**by Og Mandino** MARILYN'S PICK (Fiction)

The heartbroken head of a multizillion-dollar corporation finds peace of mind, thanks to the world-class spunk of a gutsy-but-doomed, freckle-faced, Little Leaguer. John teaches Tim to hit, but Tim teaches John lessons a trillion times more important. Another positive-thinking parable from a master of inspirational and self-help wisdom.

## **The Unshelved Collection**

**by Bill Barnes & Gene Ambaum** AISHA'S PICK (YAComics)

Welcome to *Unshelved*, the world's only daily comic strip set in a public library! Writer Gene Ambaum and co-writer and artist Bill Barnes have been publishing since February 16, 2002. Some of the stories are made up and some of them are based on real life. And the stranger the story, the more likely it is to be true. Enjoy any or all in the Unshelved Collection.

## **The Warden**

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

Poor Mr. Harding, honest and decent to a fault, has been accused by hotheaded reformers of misappropriating church funds allocated to his running of Hiram's Hospital with its 12 indigent old men. This is the first of the Barchester Towers novels and may inspire a look at the second in the series, Barchester Towers.

More Staff Suggestions are found on our website:

[www.ridgewoodlibrary.org](http://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org)

Pull down the Reference tab on the homepage.

**"Book and Film Corner"**

*Take a look!*



## **The Arrival**

**by Shaun Tan** ALEXA'S PICK (Fiction)

Few will remain unaffected by this timeless stunner which depicts a man's poignant departure from his wife and daughter to find a better future for his family. With this haunting, wordless sequence about a lonely emigrant in a bewildering city, Tan finds in the graphic novel format an ideal outlet for his sublime imagination.

## **Blood, Bones, and Butter**

**by Gabrielle Hamilton** DEBORAH'S PICK

(Non-Fic 641.5092 HAM)

In this provocative debut, a renowned chef finds her fulfillment as a writer in this lusty, rollicking, engaging-from-page-one memoir of the chef-owner of Prune restaurant in New York's East Village.

## **The Buddha in the Attic**

**by Julie Otsuka** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

**\*Starred Review\*** Otsuka tells the stories of Japanese mail-order brides at the start of the 20th century in a first-person-plural narrative voice, the choral we. This creates a haunting group portrait of diverse women who make the arduous ocean journey to California, full of hope, only to marry strangers nothing like the handsome young men in the photographs.

## **Die For You**

**by Lisa Unger** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

What if the man you love, the one sleeping beside you, is a stranger? Isabel Raine thought she had everything—a successful career, a supportive family, and a happy marriage. Then one morning, her husband, Marcus, picks up his briefcase, kisses her good-bye, and simply vanishes.

## **Effie**

**by Suzanne Fagence Cooper** NANCY H.'S PICK

(Non-Fic 700.92 COO)

A fresh look at Victorian society as seen through the eyes of an early defender of women's rights, Effie Gray, combining biography with a social history of the period.

## **The Forgotten Garden**

**by Kate Morton** MARCIA'S PICK (Fiction)

A four-year-old girl abandoned aboard a ship newly arrived to Australia from England, touches off a century-long inquiry into her ancestry. An intricate family puzzle spanning generations.

## **The Hour I First Believed**

**by Wally Lamb** ALEXA'S PICK (Fiction)

Lamb's third novel tackles the Columbine high school shooting head on as he places his fictional protagonists into the horrific

events of April 1999. He draws listeners into this fascinating tale with nothing more than raw emotion and honesty.

### **I Think I Love You**

**by Allison Pearson** ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)  
Poignant, hilarious, joyful, profoundly moving and uplifting, *Think I Love You* captures what girls learn about love through the universal experience of worshipping a teen dream. It will resonate with readers everywhere.

### **Ice Trap**

**by Kitty Sewell** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
**\*Starred Review\*** Young Welsh doctor Dafydd Woodruff made a terrible mistake that nearly cost the life of a child. Filled with remorse, he decides to get as far away from Wales as he can and accepts a position in remote Canada. Sewell's thriller features a devilishly clever plot, unforgettable characters, and vivid descriptions of life in the Arctic.

### **In His Sights**

**by Kate Brennan** MARILYN'S PICK (Non-Fic 364.15 BRE)  
**\*Starred Review\*** Brennan's life as a stalking victim is carefully detailed in this compelling memoir. We feel her inner strength, the resilience that allows her to endure what seemed an eternity of looking over her shoulder without losing her sense of self. A remarkable and very powerful story.

### **Infidel**

**by Ayaan Hirsi Ali** PAT P.'S PICK (Biography Hirsi Ali)  
In this memoir from the internationally renowned author Hirsi Ali tells her astonishing life story, from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya, to her intellectual awakening and activism in the Netherlands, and her current life under armed guard in the West.

### **Johanna**

**by Claire Cooperstein** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
This assemblage of letters and journal excerpts, nearly all of them fictional, tells the story of Johanna Bonger-van Gogh, the young widow who preserved and promoted the legacy left by her brother-in-law, Vincent van Gogh. Cooperstein has created a compelling novel about a remarkable woman.

### **Kissing in Manhattan**

**by David Schickler** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)  
Hilarious, sexy, and deeply tender, 11 loosely connected stories follow a troupe of love-hungry urbanites through a charmed metropolis and into the Preemption -- a mythic Manhattan apartment building.

### **The Lost Art of Keeping Secrets**

**by Eva Rice** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)  
London in the 1950s comes to life in this captivating debut novel of historical chick lit, about a group of friends in postwar London's glamorous and daring young society.

### **The Lost Gate**

**by Orson Scott Card** ALEXA'S PICK (Sci-Fan)  
First of a new fantasy series from the author of *Hidden Empire*. Danny North comes from an unusual family where magical abilities are the norm. He discovers that he is capable of creating gates between one world and another.

### **Lyric's Alley**

**by Leila Aboulela** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
This evocative story of an affluent Sudanese family shaken by the shifting powers in their country and the near-tragedy that threatens the legacy they've built for decades offers a

delightfully quixotic view of northern Sudan in the 1950s on the brink of its independence from Britain and Egypt.

### **Mr. Peanut**

**by Adam Ross** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
**\*Starred Review\*** in this powerful first novel, Ross delivers one scorching scene after another, showing the dark side of marriage. Mesmerizing, exhilarating, and profoundly moving, *Mr. Peanut* is a police procedural of the soul and a poignant investigation of the mysterious human heart.

### **Poorer Richard's America**

**by Tom Blair** MARILYN'S PICK (Non-Fic 973.3092 BLA))  
With his signature intelligence and wit, Benjamin Franklin, through Tom Blair, moves from the national deficit to Wall Street, from health care to marital bliss. The result is electrifying.

### **The Red Garden**

**by Alice Hoffman** ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction)  
**\*Starred Review\*** The lush and haunted wild lands of Massachusetts provide fertile ground for Hoffman's endlessly flowering imagination. *The Red Garden*, a sequence of beguiling, linked stories, is rooted in colonial times and reaches into the present.

### **The Road**

**by Cormac McCarthy** MARSHA'S PICK (Fiction)  
A profoundly moving story of a journey, imagining a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son are sustained by the love and tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

### **Rules of Civility**

**by Amor Towles** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
Manhattan in the late 1930's is the setting for this saga of a bright, attractive and ambitious young woman whose relationships with her insecure roommate and the privileged Adonis they meet in a jazz club are never the same after an auto accident.

### **Sarah's Key**

**by Tatiana de Rosnay** BARBARA'S PICK (Fiction)  
Pivotal to this novel is the key in ten-year-old Sarah's pocket. It opens the cupboard in which she has hidden her younger brother from the French police, who are rounding up Jews in Paris during July, 1942. We learn what Sarah discovers when she finally returns ten years later with the key - knowledge so traumatic that it changes lives forever.

### **Sister**

**by Rosamund Lupton** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
A literary psychological thriller of fierce love between siblings. Written in the form of a letter from Beatrice, the older, more substantial sister, to her younger, bohemian sibling, Tess, the narrative reveals that Tess has gone missing and is found dead. *Sister* is a suspenseful and accomplished debut with a stunning twist.

### **Still Missing**

**by Chevy Stevens** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
Annie O'Sullivan, a 32-year-old realtor with a nice boyfriend and a demanding mother, describes her year-long ordeal as the captive of a rapist. Steven's impressive debut, a thriller set on Vancouver Island, pulsates with suspense and includes a jaw-dropping, but credible closing twist.