

Girl Walks Out of a Bar: a memoir

by Lisa Smith PAT'S PICK (Biography SMITH)

Smith openly shares the lies, secrecy, depression, and isolation that define a life only made "livable" by alcohol and cocaine. She unveils the pressures of her job (20% of lawyers have substance abuse problems, she reports) and the personal costs of addiction. Readers will root for this extraordinary woman as she travels the path to recovery, healing, and triumph over addiction. Her riveting story will inspire both those who have been there and those who have not.

The Velveteen Daughter: a novel

by Laurel Davis Huber LORRI'S PICK (Fiction HUBER)

Huber tells a fictional story of two remarkable women: Margery Williams Bianco, the author of one of the most beloved children's books of all time – *The Velveteen Rabbit* - and her daughter Pamela, a world-renowned child prodigy artist whose fame at one time greatly eclipses her mother's. The novel captivates readers with observations on art, family and the consequences of genius touched by madness.

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine: a novel

by Gail Honeyman PAT'S PICK (Fiction HONEYMAN)

Eleanor Oliphant is a truly original literary creation: funny, touching, and unpredictable. Thirty-year-old Eleanor leads a highly predictable life, working at an office, eating the same meals alone in her apartment, and spending her weekends regularly administering vodka. But when a chance encounter with a local musician sends her into the throes of a full-fledged crush, her carefully constructed world breaks open.

How to Survive a Plague: the inside story of how citizens and science tamed AIDS

by David France LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fiction 362.196 FRA)

Prepare to have your heart buoyed and broken in this riveting account of the response to the AIDS epidemic that's as educational as it is difficult to put down. Based on thorough research and the author's own experience in New York when the disease emerged, this book presents the fear, hope, and civil rights struggles of the 1980s and 1990s.



Heating and Cooling: 52 micro memoirs

by Beth Ann Fennelly LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fiction 811.54 FEN)

Ranging from a single sentence to several pages in length, these micro-memoirs from poet and novelist Fennelly delve into her childhood, motherhood, and her life as a writer and as a wife. Fennelly recounts episodes, events, or earned truths that, given her poignant reflection and graceful, often-funny telling, are sure to stop readers in their tracks.

You Gotta Get Bigger Dreams: my life in stories and pictures

by Alan Cumming LORRI'S PICK (Biography CUMMING)

In these forty-five picture essays, Cumming recounts his real-life adventures (and often, misadventures). From an awkward bonding session with Elizabeth Taylor to poignant stories about his family and friends to some harsh words of wisdom imparted by Oprah, *You Gotta Get Bigger Dreams* is as eclectic, enchanting and alive as its author.

The Wildling Sisters

by Eve Chase ROSA'S PICK (Fiction CHASE)

The summer of 1959 is different from past summers the four Wilde sisters have spent at Applecote Manor in the Cotswolds. This is their first visit since Audrey, their 12-year-old cousin, disappeared without a trace five years earlier. A bewitching gothic tale of sisters and secrets.

Bukowski in a Sundress

by Lisa Kim Addonizio LORRI'S PICK (Biography ADDONIZIO)

A dazzling, edgy, laugh-out-loud memoir from the award-winning poet and novelist that reflects on writing, drinking, dating, and more. At once intimate and outrageous, Addonizio's memoir radiates all the wit and heartbreak and ever-sexy grittiness that her fans have come to love.

More Book Suggestions are found www.ridgewoodlibrary.org

Take a look!

1/12/2018

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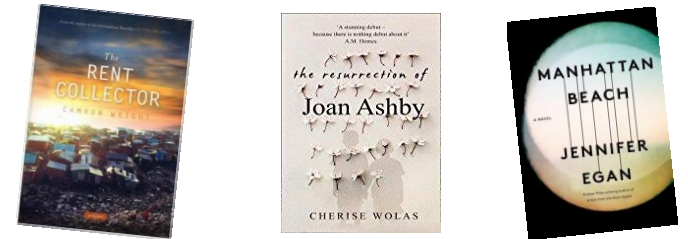
STAFF PICKS

Winter 2018

The Rent Collector

by Camron Steve Wright PAT'S PICK (Fiction WRIGHT)

Based on real characters, and recognizing the power of literacy and literature, the story is of Sang Ly and her husband who earn their living by picking trash at Cambodia's city dump. Sang Ly discovers their cantankerous Rent Collector's secret: she can read. An unlikely friendship blossoms as Sang Ly convinces the Rent Collector to teach her literature.



The Resurrection of Joan Ashby

by Cherise Wolas LORRI's PICK (Fiction WOLAS)

This saga takes place over three decades in the life of a prodigy writer who reverses her decision not to have children. Can you be a mother and also pursue any serious ambition at all? This is the question taken up with urgency and complexity in this debut. Exploring themes of sibling rivalry and individualism and layering short stories within the larger narrative, this is a breathtaking novel.

Manhattan Beach: a novel

by Jennifer Egan VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction EGAN)

In Brooklyn during the Depression, Anna Kerrigan, 12, accompanies her father to the house of gangster Dexter Styles. Years later, her father has disappeared, the country is at war, and Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard. She meets Styles again, and begins to understand why her father vanished. Egan's novel is a mesmerizing exploration of a transformative moment in the lives of women, men, America, and the world.

Clementine: the life of Mrs. Winston Churchill

by Sonia Purnell PAT'S PICK (Biography CHURCHILL)
A portrait of Winston Churchill's extraordinary wife - her lesser-known role in World War II, her relationship to Eleanor Roosevelt, her role in safeguarding Churchill's health, moderating his mood swings, and her controversial family priorities. Purnell does a remarkable job of proving that Clementine had a large impact on Winston's life.

Showa: a history of Japan

by Shigeru, Mizuki CLAIRE'S PICK (Graphic Novel SHOWA)
Mizuki, one of Japan's most celebrated manga artists, was born a few years before the start of the Showa period, one of Japan's most turbulent eras. In this, the first of four volumes, he traces history along two tracks: first - Japan's story, spanning the years between the great Kanto earthquake and the start of WWII; and second - the story of the author growing up in a port town far from the drama taking place in Tokyo.

Do Not Become Alarmed: a novel

by Maile Meloy KERRI'S PICK (Fiction MELOY)
A much-anticipated novel about what happens when two families go on a tropical vacation--and the children go missing. When Liv and Nora decide to take their families on a holiday cruise, everyone is thrilled. What follows is a riveting story told from the perspectives of the adults and the children, as the once-happy parents try to recover their children and their lives.

Her Body and Other Parties: stories

by Carmen Maria Machado ROSA'S PICK (Fiction MACHADO)
Machado demolishes the borders between psychological realism and science fiction, comedy and horror, fantasy and fabulism. She bends genres to shape startling stories that map the realities of women's lives and the violence visited upon their bodies.

On the Road

by Jack Kerouac KRISTEN'S PICK (Fiction KEROUAC)
First published in 1957, Kerouac's perennially hot story continues to express the restless energy and desire for freedom that makes people rush out to see the world. This is the book that launched the Beat Generation and remains the bible of that literary movement.

Leave Me

by Gail Forman PAT'S PICK (Fiction FORMAN)
Humor and insight abound in this masterful adult debut, showing us that sometimes you have to leave home in order to find it again. For every woman who has ever fantasized about driving past her exit on the highway instead of going home to make dinner, or dreamed of boarding a train to a place where no one needs constant attention--meet Maribeth Klein, a harried working mother who's so busy taking care of her husband and twins, she doesn't even realize she's had a heart attack.



The Unspeakable: and other subjects of discussion

by Meghan Daum LORRI'S PICK (Non-Fic 814.6 DAU)
In this collection of ten essays, a Los Angeles Times columnist unflinchingly probes some of her life's themes: death, dogs, romance, children, lack of children and Joni Mitchell, to find respite from "sentimentality and its discontents". An honest and humorously edgy collection.

Small Great Things

By Jodi Picoult PAT'S PICK (Fiction PICOULT)
A woman admitted to a hospital to have a baby, and her husband, request that their nurse be reassigned - they are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is black, to touch their baby. A medical crisis results in the infant's death and a murder charge against the nurse, Ruth Jefferson.

Everything Belongs to Us

by Yoojin Grace Wuertz JIN'S PICK (Fiction WUERTZ)
Taking place at the elite Seoul National University in 1970s South Korea, the novel follows the fates of two women--Jisun, the daughter of a powerful tycoon, who becomes an underground labor activist in Seoul; and Namin, her best friend who has grown up with nothing, and whose singular goal is to launch herself and her family out of poverty.

Strange Weather: four short novels

by Joe Hill KATHY'S PICK (Fiction HILL)
Hill delivers on the "strange" in this collection of four novellas, stretching from horror to magical realism to a straight thriller. Hill's novellas present a foreboding view of our world and contain complicated casts of diverse characters. Fans will be thrilled to take in the author's malevolent mind through these masterfully crafted single-sitting reads reminiscent of the very best of the short works by giants like King and Gaiman.

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood ROBIN'S PICK (Fiction ATWOOD)
It is the US nearly a century from now, its government is a theocracy where religion becomes a tool of repression and social control to force women into the roles of stay-at-home wives, domestic staff, prostitutes, or surrogate mothers. They have no rights to their bodies or property and are completely dependent upon men. A novel to rival Orwell's 1984.

Churchill and Orwell: the fight for freedom

by Thomas E. Ricks KATHY'S PICK (Non-Fiction 941.08 RIC)
Former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was a rotund, boisterous, blue-blooded Conservative who led Britain to victory in World War II. George Orwell was a gaunt, taciturn leftist commoner and author of the classic novels *Animal Farm* and *1984*. What links these contrasting biographies? Ricks presents both Churchill and Orwell as champions of freedom.

The Underground Railroad

by Colson Whitehead ROBERTA'S PICK (Fiction WHITEHEAD)
Whitehead chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Cora is asked by new slave, Caesar, to join his own escape effort. He knows a white abolitionist shopkeeper named Fletcher with connections to the Underground Railroad, and as they flee to Fletcher's house, Cora saves them from capture with an act of violence that puts them in graver danger.

Bel Canto

by Ann Patchett VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction PATCHETT)
Readers curious about the emotional flow between hostages and their takers should like this novel based on the 1996 takeover of the Japanese ambassadorial residence in Lima, Peru. It traces the hostages' adjusting attitudes during the months-long siege. Relief from their tedium takes the form of world-class soprano Roxane Coss, who had been entertaining an international assortment of diplomats and businesspersons when the terrorists took the Peruvian vice-president's house.

A Field Guide to Lies: critical thinking in the information age

by Daniel J. Levitin CLAIRE'S PICK (Non-Fiction 153.42 LEV)
Levitin presents a timely, smart analysis of the current trend in American society toward information and mathematical illiteracy. As Levitin reminds listeners, there is now more information available than was present in all preceding history. Also, broadcast media systems have been overtaken by a profusion of misinformation, half-truths, and outright lies, all protected by the First Amendment. The author here covers the abuse and how to evaluate statements critically, getting to the truth.