

**Paying Guests**

**by Sarah Waters** ROBIN'S and DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
It is 1922, London. Ex-servicemen and the unemployed are disillusioned. In a genteel villa, life is about to be transformed, as an impoverished widow and her spinster daughter are obliged to take in lodgers. As life-and-death questions are answered, new ones come up and, until the last page, the reader will have no idea what's going to happen.

**Rules of Civility**

**by Amor Towles** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)  
Manhattan in the late 1930s 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.

**The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace**

**By Jeff Hobbs** ROBIN'S PICK (Biography PEACE)  
A heartfelt, and riveting biography of the short life of a talented young African-American man who escapes the slums of Newark for Yale University only to succumb to the dangers of the streets-and of one's own nature-when he returns home. Hobbs encompasses the most enduring conflicts in America: race, class, drugs, community, imprisonment, education, family, friendship, and love.

**Still Life With Bread Crumbs**

**by Anna Quindlen** ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)  
Quindlen's seventh novel is a detailed exploration of creativity and the need for connection. Rebecca Winter is a 60-year-old photographer, once revered as a feminist icon, whose work isn't selling as briskly as it used to. She needs a fresh start after her marriage falls apart.

**The Storyteller**

**by Jodi Picoult** BRENNAS PICK (Fiction)  
Picoult examines the links between family identity, religion, humanity, and how it all figures in difficult decisions. Sage Singer, a Jew who now considers herself an atheist, begins to think more deeply about faith after meeting the elderly Josef Weber, who shares something shocking from his past.

**Ten Years in the Tub**

**by Nick Hornby** ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)  
Culling the best of his monthly column "Stuff I've Been Reading" the bestselling author presents hilarious observations on a vast array of topics, and provides a reader list that serves as a reminder as to why we read.

**We Are Water**

**by Wally Lamb** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
A searching novel of contemporary manners--and long-buried secrets, exploring the secrets of a Connecticut family on the occasion of mother Annie's remarriage to another woman.

**What Is Visible**

**by Kimberly Elkins** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)  
In this fictional treatment of the life of Laura Bridgman, the first deaf and blind person to learn language, Elkins aims to show how little one can possess of what we think it means to be human while still possessing full humanity.

**Adam**

**by Ariel Schrag** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
A funny and poignant debut novel puts a fresh spin on questions of love, attraction, self-definition, and what it takes to be at home in your own skin. When Adam Freedman goes to stay with his older sister in New York City, he is hopeful that his life is about to change. And it sure does. It is the summer of 2006 and gay marriage and transgender rights are in the air.

**All the Birds Singing**

**by Evie Wyld** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)  
Jake Whyte is living on her own in an old farmhouse on a craggy British island. Her collie and a flock of sheep are her sole companions. Every few nights something picks off one of the sheep and creates a pulse of terror. Whyte is an outsider, haunted by an inescapable past, in a story of loneliness and survival, guilt and loss, and the power of forgiveness.

**Anagrams**

**by Lorrie Moore** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)  
Disillusioned and loveless, an art history professor who spends her spare time singing in nightclubs and tending to her young daughter finds herself pursued by an erratic, would-be librettist. Or does she? This first novel by Moore is clever, funny, and touching. Protagonist Benna and her companions are virtuosos with words, twisting and turning them for pure self-amusement.

**The Baker's Daughter**

**by Sarah McCoy** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)  
An interview with Elsie, an elderly baker, leaves El Paso journalist Reba Adams feeling like she is the one who revealed too much, especially about her Border Patrol husband. As Elsie, Reba, and Riki's lives become more intertwined, all are forced to confront the uncomfortable truths.

**The Boys in the Boat**

**by Daniel Brown** MARILYN'S PICK (Non-Fic 797.123 BRO)  
The long, passionate journey of the nine young Americans from the University of Washington rowing team to the 1936 Berlin Olympics. A touching, fairly uncomplicated portrayal of rowing legends.

**China Dolls**

**by Lisa See** BRENNAS PICK (Fiction)  
Three young women, Grace, Helen, and Ruby, meet and form an unlikely but strong bond in San Francisco in 1938. The novel spans 50 years, following the women's tumultuous personal lives and roller-coaster career choices. Yet the three always find a way back to each other.

**The Circle**

**by Dave Eggers** JIN'S PICK (Fiction)  
A cautionary, plausible tale of subversive power in the digital age packaged as a Silicon Valley social satire. Set in the near future, it examines the inner workings of the Circle, an internet company that is both spiritual and literal successor to Facebook, Google, Twitter and more, as seen through the eyes of Mae Holland, a new hire.

More Staff Suggestions are found

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

"Book and Film Corner" *Take a look!*

## **The Dive From Clausen's Pier**

**by Ann Packer** VICTORIA'S PICK (Fiction)

From short-story author Packer, a reflective and probing first novel about 23 year old Carrie Bell reassessing her life after her fiancé is crippled; a sensitive exploration of the line between selfishness and self-preservation.

## **The Dog Who Could Fly**

**by Damien Lewis** MARILYN'S PICK (Non-Fic 940.5449 LEW)

During WWII, Czech airman Robert Bozdech and his canine companion Antis, found as a puppy, set out on wartime adventures testing the limits of the bond between man and beast. A heartwarming man-and-his-dog story.

## **First Impressions**

**by Charles Lovett** LORRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Sophie Collingwood has recently taken a job at an antiquarian bookshop in London when two different customers request a copy of the same obscure book. Their queries draw Sophie into a mystery that will cast doubt on the true authorship of *Pride and Prejudice*; and ultimately threaten Sophie's life.

## **Fully Alive**

**by Timothy Shriver** ROBIN'S PICK (Non-Fic 796.087 SHR)

A sincere, profound, and deeply satisfying memoir and history by the chairman of the Special Olympics, and a meditation on what one can learn about how to live from people with disabilities.

## **The Guns of August**

**by Barbara Wertheim Tuchman**

PEGGY'S PICK ( Non-Fic 940.421 TUC)

Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Guns of August* re-creates the first month of World War I: thirty days in the summer of 1914 that determined the course of the conflict, the century, and ultimately our present world.

## **The House Girl**

**by Tara Conklin** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

Lina Sparrow is an ambitious lawyer working on a historic class-action lawsuit seeking reparations for the descendants of American slaves. Alternating between antebellum Virginia and modern-day NY, this tale of art and history, love and secrets, explores what it means to repair a wrong.

## **In the Woods**

**by Tara French** DANI'S PICK (Fiction)

The discovery of a body forces a murder-squad detective in Ireland to confront his own horrific past, in an engrossing debut. This mystery, heavy on psycho-drama, is set in the Dublin suburb of Knocknaree and is the first in a sequence to feature detectives Cassie Maddox and Adam Ryan.

## **The Invention of Wings**

**by Sue Monk Kidd** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

Kidd hits her stride and avoids sentimental revisionism with this historical novel about the relationship between a slave and the daughter of slave owners in antebellum Charleston.

## **Juliet's Nurse**

**by Lois Leveen** PEGGY'S PICK (Fiction)

A lusty retelling of Romeo and Juliet from the nurse's perspective. With the largest number of lines in Shakespeare's play after the two lovers, wet nurse Angelica takes center stage in Leveen's second novel, which begins 14 years before the fateful five days spanned by the drama. Angelica's tale is one of poverty and sorrow tempered by a long and happy marriage.

## **The Lady in Gold**

**by Anne Marie O'Connor** PAT'S PICK (Non-Fic 709)

The story of Gustav Klimt's portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, one of the most emblematic portraits of its time; the beautiful, Viennese Jewish salon hostess who sat for it; the notorious artist who painted it; the now vanished turn-of-the-century Vienna that shaped it; and the strange twisted fate that befell it.

## **Leaving Before the Rains Come**

**by Alexandra Fuller** ROBERTA'S PICK (Biography FULLER)

Fuller resumes her memories of growing up in Africa in this wry and captivating memoir. This time, the focus is on the slow unraveling of her marriage to a man she thought would save her from her family's madness and chaos. Except for her father's insistence that his children bathe and dress formally for dinner, a gesture toward discipline that emerged nowhere else, Fuller's childhood was as wild as the Zambian landscape.

## **Little Failure**

**by Gary Shteyngart** ANNALISE'S PICK (Biography SHT)

Novelist Shteyngart looks back at his life in this funny, brash, immigrant's memoir. Born in Leningrad, in 1972, the only child of a kindergarten piano teacher and a mechanical engineer, Shteyngart was a small, anxious, severely asthmatic boy subjected to downright medieval treatments for his ailment.

## **The Lobster Kings**

**by Alezi Zentner** ANNALISE'S PICK (Fiction)

Set in a lobster fishing village, *The Lobster Kings* introduces a fiery and unforgettable heroine, Cordelia Kings. The Kings family has lived on Loosewood Island for three hundred years, blessed with the bounty of the sea. But for the Kings, this blessing comes with a curse: the loss of every firstborn son.

## **My Life in France**

**By Julia Child** VICTORIA'S PICK (Biography CHILD)

In her own words, here is the captivating story of Julia Child's years in France, where she fell in love with French food and found "her true calling."

## **My Year of Meats**

**by Ruth Ozeki** KERRI'S PICK (Fiction)

Ozeki brings the worlds of two women together by utilizing the U.S. meat industry as a link. Alternating between the voices of Jane (in the US) and Akiko, the wife of Jane's boss (in Japan), Ozeki draws parallels in the lives of these two women through beef, love, television, and their desire to have children.

## **The Nature of Water and Air**

**by Regina McBride** KERRI'S PICK (Fiction)

This debut novel, set on the wild Irish coast, is the story of young Clodagh and her mysterious mother, Agatha, who was raised a gypsy but who was rumored to be a selkie, a mythical creature from the sea. The novel is lyrical and sad, infused with fascinating folklore and the chill of the Irish landscape.

## **Nora Webster**

**by Colm Toibin** DEBORAH'S PICK (Fiction)

From one of contemporary literature's bestselling, critically acclaimed and beloved authors, a magnificent new novel set in Ireland, about a fiercely compelling young widow and mother of four, navigating grief and fear, struggling for hope. Toibin's absorbing narrative follows Nora's rebuilding, restoration, and reaffirmation to the point where she can create a new life. A remarkably heart-affecting story.