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STAFF

PICKS

SPRING 2015

Nightingale

By Kristen Hannah FIC HAN Dot's Pick
In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France, but invade they do. When a German captain requisitions Vianne's home, she and her daughter must live with the enemy or lose everything.

Butterflies In November

By Audur Ava Olafsdottir FIC OLA Hilda's Pick
After being dumped—twice—and accidentally killing a goose, a woman yearns for a tropical vacation far from the chaos of her life. Instead, her plans are wrecked by her best friend's four-year-old deaf-mute son, thrust into her reluctant care. When the boy chooses winning lottery numbers, the two set off on a trip across Iceland with a glove compartment stuffed full of winnings.

Gods of Guilt

By Michael Connelly FIC CON Pat G's Pick
Mickey Haller gets the text, "Call me ASAP - 187," and the penal code for murder igets his attention. He learns the victim was his former client, a prostitute he thought he put on the straight and narrow, until he finds out she was back in the life and far from saving her, he may have put her in danger.

The Fear Cure

By Lissa Rankin, MD 152.4 RAB Alice's Pick
Not many people in the medical world are talking about how fear can make us sick—but fear, left untreated, becomes a serious risk factor for conditions from heart disease to diabetes to cancer. Now Lissa Rankin, M.D., explains why we need to heal ourselves from the fear that puts our health at risk and robs our lives of joy and shows us how fear can ultimately cure us by opening our eyes to all that needs healing in our lives.

Under the Wide and Starry Sky

By Nancy Horan FIC HOR Loretta's Pick
Not long after Fanny Osbourne arrives in Belgium, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her children repair to a quiet artists' colony in France. Emerging from a deep sorrow, she meets a lively Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who falls instantly in love with the earthy, independent, and opinionated "belle Americaine."

Impasse

By Royce Buckingham FIC BUC Annette's Pick
Stu Stark has lost his mojo after being fired from his job as a prosecutor. When his best friend gifts him a trip to the Alaskan wilderness, Stu is excited. After a horrible week, Stu realizes no one is coming back for him. Dying, Stu is found by a hunter who informs that winter has set in, and they're not going anywhere for a while

The Forever Bridge

By T. Greenwood FIC GRE Susan's Pick
Sylvie can't bear to remember how normal her family was two years ago. It all changed on the night an oncoming vehicle forced their car over the edge of a covered bridge. With horrible swiftness, Sylvie's young son was gone, her husband lost his legs, and she was left with shattering blame and grief.

The Language of Flowers

By Vanessa Diffenbaugh FIC DIF Annie's Pick
The Victorian language of flowers was used to convey romantic expressions: honeysuckle for devotion, asters for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones, it's been more useful in communicating mistrust and solitude. After a childhood spent in foster-care, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers.

The Perfume Collector

By Kathleen Tessaro FIC TES Lori's Pick
When socialite Grace Monroe receives an unexpected inheritance from a stranger, she is drawn to uncover the identity of her benefactor. Weaving through 1920s New York, Monte Carlo, Paris, and London, the story Grace uncovers is that of an extraordinary women who inspired one of Paris's greatest perfumers. Eva d'Orsey's history will transform Grace's life forever.

So, Anyway

By John Cleese BIOG CLE Loretta's Pick
Cleese takes readers on a Grand Tour of his ascent in the entertainment world, from his humble beginnings in England and his comedic days at Cambridge University. Twisting and turning with surprising stories and hilarious digressions, this story is a masterly performance by a master performer.

The Magician's Lie

By Greer MacAllister FIC MAC Susan's Pick
The Amazing Arden is the most famous female illusionist of her day, renowned for her notorious trick of sawing a man in half on stage. One night, with policeman Virgil Holt watching, she swaps her trademark saw for a fire ax. Is it a new version of the illusion, or an all-too-real murder?

Finding Jake

By Bryan Reardon FIC REA Dot's Pick
While his successful wife goes off to her law office each day, Simon Connolly takes care of their kids, Jake and Laney. Now that they are in high school, the angst-ridden father should feel more relaxed, but he doesn't. He's seen the statistics, read the headlines. And now, his darkest fear is coming true. There has been a shooting at school.

Season of the Dragonflies

By Sharon Creech FIC CRE Pat G.'s Pick
For generations, the Lenore women have manufactured a perfume unlike any other, and guarded the unique and mysterious ingredients. Their perfumery, hidden in the quiet rolling hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, creates one special elixir that secretly sells for millions of dollars to the world's most powerful—movie stars, politicians, artists, and CEOs. The Lenore's signature perfume is actually the key to their success. But trouble is brewing in the business.

The Great Beanie Baby Bubble

By Zac Bissonnette 338.7 BIS Annie's Pick
Of all consumer crazes, nothing compares to Beanie Babies. In three years, collectors made creator Ty Warner, an eccentric college dropout, a billionaire. With an income of \$662 million—more than Hasbro and Mattel combined. The end of the craze was devastating, with "rare" Beanie Babies deemed worthless as quickly as they'd once been deemed priceless.

The Storyteller

By Jodi Picoult FIC PIC Hilda's Pick
Sage Singer is a baker. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage's grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Everything changes on the day that Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret and asks Sage for an extraordinary favor. He wants her to help him kill himself and his horrific confession would make the decision easy for her.

The Stranger

By Harlan Coben FIC COB Ed's Pick
Adam Price runs into the Stranger. When he learns a devastating secret about his wife, Corinne, he confronts her, and the mirage of perfection disappears as if it never existed at all. Soon Adam finds himself tangled in something far darker than even Corinne's deception, and realizes that if he doesn't make exactly the right moves, the conspiracy he's stumbled into will not only ruin lives—it will end them.

Living the Simple Life: A Guide to Scaling Down and Enjoying More

By St. James, Elaine 179.9 ST.J Alice's Pick
If you've thought about simplifying, but don't know where to begin, LIVING THE SIMPLE LIFE is the blueprint you need. And if you've already started to simplify, it will give you new insights and ideas for what to do next on your journey to a more balanced, peaceful life.

Working Stiff

By Judy Mlinek BIOG MEL Annette's Pick
The fearless memoir of a forensic pathologist's "rookie season" as a NYC medical examiner, and the cases—hair-raising and heartbreaking and impossibly complex—that shaped her as both a physician and a mother.

Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children

By Ransom Riggs YA FIC RIG Lori's Pick
Jacob grew up listening to his grandfather's bizarre tales of levitating girls and invisible boys. Now 16, and reeling from the old man's death, Jacob is given a letter that propels him on a journey to the remote Welsh island where his grandfather grew up. There, he finds the children from the photographs—alive and well—despite the islanders' assertion that all were killed decades ago.