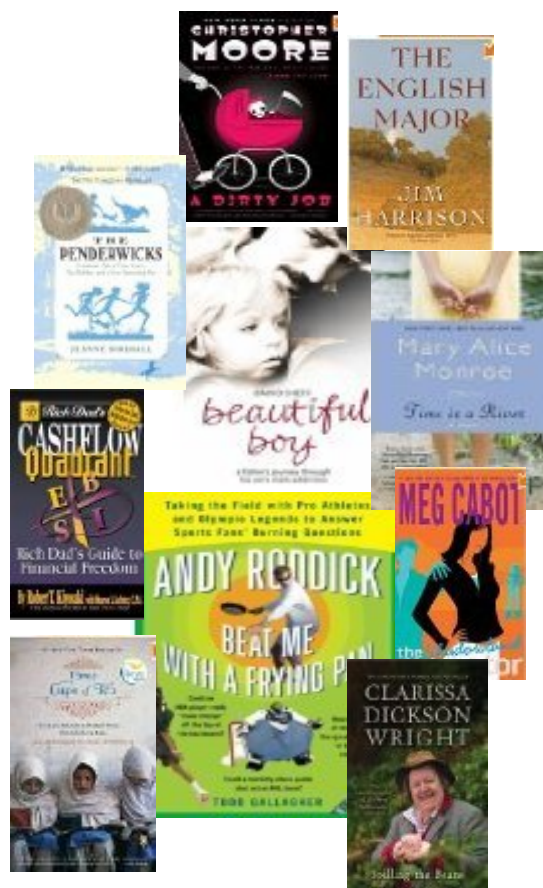




LIBRARY STAFF ARE READING

- ARM – Armada Free Public Library (586) 784-5921
- CLL – Center Line Public Library..... (586) 758-8274
- CHE – Chesterfield Township Library . (586) 598-4900
- CMM – Clinton-Macomb Public Library(586) 226-5000
- CMS – South Branch..... (586) 226-5070
- CMN – North Branch (586) 226-5080
- EPL – Eastpointe Memorial Library (586) 445-5096
- FRA – Fraser Public Library (586) 293-2055
- HPW – Harper Woods Public Library...(313) 343-2575
- LEN – Lenox Township Library (586) 749-3430
- LWM – Lois Wagner Memorial Library(586) 727-2665
 (Richmond)
- MPL – MacDonald Public Library (586) 725-0273
 (New Baltimore)
- MCL—Macomb County Library (586) 286-6660
- MTC – Mount Clemens Public Library.. 586) 469-6200
- RAY - Ray Township Public Library(586) 749-7130
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- ROG – Graubner Library..... (586) 752-0603
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- SCS – St. Clair Shores Public Library . (586) 771-9020
- SBL – Shelby Township Library (586) 739-7414
- SHL – Sterling Heights Public Library.. (586) 446-2665
- TPL – Troy Public Library (248) 524-3538
- UPL – Utica Public Library..... (586) 731-4141
- Warren Public Library
- WAM – Arthur J. Miller Branch (586) 751-5377
- WCV—Warren Civic Center (586) 751-0770
- WDB – Dorothy Busch Branch (586) 755-5750
- WMB – Maybelle Burnette Branch... (586) 758-2115



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Best Books
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2008

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Find your local library on the
Suburban Library Cooperative website:
www.libcoop.net

America's best lost recipes: 121 kitchen-tested heirloom recipes too good to forget / editors of Cook's Country magazine

Not fancy recipes, but they represent some good, basic cooking. The "blueberry boy bait" was VERY tasty. As with most cookbooks, some recipes won't be to everyone's taste.

(Pat E. from RSV)

Andy Roddick beat me with a frying pan: taking the field with pro athletes and Olympic legends to answer sports fans' burning questions / Todd Gallagher

MeLCat

Funny, funny book! This book answers sports fans greatest (and most ridiculous) questions. You'll laugh your way to the end with some of these questions:

Could an average guy start in the WNBA?

Would sumo wrestlers make great NFL linemen?

How good are pro golfers at miniature golf?

Do pro athletes really play drunk or high?

How would a fan hit against a major league pitcher?

(Chris Frezza from SLC)

Beautiful boy: a father's journey through his son's meth addiction / David Sheff

CD, LP, EB

This is a story about a family struggling with the addiction of their son; recommended for anyone who has ever dealt with the addiction of a loved one.

(Mary Jo from MPL)

Bess Hardwick: empire builder / Mary S. Lovell

This is a very engrossing biography of a woman who rose from relatively humble beginnings to become one of the wealthiest and most powerful women in England.

(Rosemary Anderson from FRA and SHL)

Billionaire's vinegar: the mystery of the world's most expensive bottle of wine / Benjamin Wallace

Part mystery, part history, *Billionaire's Vinegar* questions a bottle of wine, reportedly owned by Thomas Jefferson, sold at auction for \$156K. Was it really owned by Jefferson? Where was it hidden? And what exactly is in this bottle?

(Barb from SHL and CHE)

Blood red snow: the memoirs of a German soldier on the Eastern Front / Gunter Koschorrek

MeLCat

One of the best WWII personal accounts of a German soldier fighting in Russia. Told with much horrific detail. It leaves the reader feeling like they too are there experiencing all the ugliness of war.

(Glen Sowles from ROG)

Thirteen reasons why / Jay Asher

CD, EB

High school student Clay receives tapes from Hannah, a girl who committed suicide. Asher succeeds in making you realize that everything you do has an effect on someone else.

(Brandi Ogden from HPW)

Three little words: a memoir / Ashley Rhodes-Courter

A true story of one teen's experience of going through the foster care system.

(Librarian from SCS)

The time paradox (Artemis Fowl series) / Eoin Colfer

CD, EB

The 6th book in the *Artemis Fowl* series, a hilarious and clever set of books. You should definitely read volumes 1-5 first, but this one is my favorite.

(Circulation clerk from SCS)

Twilight / Stephenie Meyer

CD, LP, EB

I do not normally read fantasy; however, I was encouraged to read this book by my teenage step-daughter. The characters were very well developed and the story was captivating.

(Rita Valade from RSV)

Unwind / Neal Shusterman

Shusterman has devised a plan in this book to end the debate between pro-choicers and pro-lifers. I was seriously amazed at the author's ingenuity.

(Brandi Ogden from HPW)

The Wednesday wars / Gary Schmidt

CD

Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood is worried more about his teacher hating him and having to wear tights with feathers covering his...well, you know, than the Vietnam War and taking over the family business.

(Beth from HPW)

When I crossed no-Bob / Margaret McMullan

Recommended for reluctant readers or teens facing a tough choice; a girl is not a victim of her environment but becomes a better person because of it.

(Mary Jo from MPL)

Who ate all the cookie dough? / Karen Beaumont

In the rhyming fashion of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear," various animals help mother kangaroo find her missing dough. Good literacy skill practice with a surprise ending - sure to cause giggles.

(Anne Mandel from MCL)

The mysterious Benedict society / Trenton Lee Stewart

CD, EB

After a series of tests, four gifted children are asked to go on a secret and dangerous mission to save the world. It was a fun read with good character development. I think middle/high school students will enjoy this book.
(Cindy from HPW)

Patron saint of butterflies / Cecilia Galante

The author artfully describes the lives of two friends united and divided by religion, family and friendship.
(Merry Jane Benner from SBL)

The Penderwicks: a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy / Jane Birdsall

CD, EB, PL,

A charming read that tells the story of the four Penderwick sisters and their quest to solve their neighbor Jeffrey's problems.
(Lisa Mulvenna from CMN)

Rapunzel's revenge / Shannon and Dean Hale

Mix a little Brothers Grimm with Mother Goose and add in a dash of the Wild West in this unique retelling of Rapunzel. Rapunzel teams up with Jack (of beanstalk fame) and together they take down the evil Goethel to save the land. Shannon and Dean Hale's first graphic novel is fabulous fun for all ages.
(Lisa Mulvenna from CMN)

The series of unfortunate events / Lemony Snicket

AC, CD, EB

Even though these are children's books, I love this series and I'll never stop reading them.
(Christa Mitchell from RSV)

Shadowland / Meg Cabot

CD, EB

In this first book in the *Mediator* series, 16-year-old Susannah has to cope not only with her new stepbrothers, but also with the handsome ghost sitting in her new bedroom.
(Jennie from CHE)

Smitten / David Gordon

In this adorable picture book, a lost sock and mitten become friends and have adventures together while looking for mates. They finally realize although they are different, they find in each other their other halves.
(Barb from SHL and CHE)

The talented Clementine / Sara Pennypacker

CD

Clementine is the Ramona Quimby for this generation. In this edition, Clementine tries to find her talent for the big talent show at school. Great for beginning chapter book readers and fun for parents to follow along.
(Lisa Mulvenna from CMN)

Born standing up: a comic's life / Steve Martin

CD, LP

Autobiography of the comedic genius who gained popularity for his "spontaneous" stand-up routines...or were they? I've always admired his clever way of making the most mundane things funny. What, you don't agree..."Well excusssseeee me!"
(David Conklin from SBL)

A broom of one's own / Nancy Peacock

Peacock had published two novels but was not "successful" enough to give up her day job. Here she ruminates on the lives of her clients (some of whom are a piece of work) and her quest to find time to write. Eventually she finds that writing full-time isn't productive for her and, by the end of the memoir, she's found fulfillment in teaching other would-be writers. This is extremely readable, thoughtful, and engaging.
(Maria from TPL)

The cashflow quadrant / Robert Kiyosaki

AC, CD

The first time I read this book I got mad! Why? Because this book should have been "required" reading when I was in high school. Find out why the old advice of going to school, getting good grades and getting a safe, secure job isn't working any more.
(Judy Serafano from SCS)

Creating myself: a memoir / Mia Tyler

Mia, one of Steven Tyler's daughters, is best known as a plus-size model. In her biography, she deals with tragedy and memory that most fans couldn't imagine - and she does it in an enthralling way.
(Stacey from WCV)

The devil in the white city: murder, magic, and madness at the fair that changed America / Erik Larson

AC, CD, LP, EB

This a great book! It reads just like a novel. A fascinating tale about the events surrounding the 1893 Chicago Worlds Fair and a serial killer.
(Jennifer from LEN)

Dewey: the small-town library cat who touched the world / Vicki Myron

CD, LP

I picked up this book at my local library because I fell in love with the picture of Dewey on the cover. I enjoy reading stories about how animals touch our lives with their unconditional love. Dewey was one spoiled cat who touches lives in a small Midwestern town. Some readers may disagree, but I also appreciated Vicki Myron's stories about the trials and tribulations of a library director.
(Kathy from MISD)

Emily Post: daughter of the Gilded Age, mistress of American manners / Laura Claridge

This is the first "authoritative" biography about Emily Post, the mother of etiquette. It is an engrossing read that makes you wish you could have known Emily Post in life. Highly recommended!
(Amy from SLC)

The far traveler: voyages of a Viking woman / Nancy Marie Brown

Based on Icelandic sagas, archaeology and DNA analysis, this volume chronicles the travels of a Viking woman, Gudrid, who sailed from Norway to Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland in the 11th century.
(Donald E. Worrell, Jr. from MTC)

The glass castle: a memoir / Jeannette Walls

CD, PL
A great memoir, though it is not about a very pleasant topic. The parents of Jeannette Walls were very negligent of their children and yet those children grew up to love their parents anyway, no matter what had happened in their childhood.
(Vicki from CLL)

Guns, germs and steel: the fates of human societies / Jared Diamond

AC, CD, EB
Diamond weaves a thread of why some societies have advanced and others failed, were destroyed or integrated into others. A fascinating read of past human history that offers real meaning for today's social problems. You'll look at our government's decisions – right or wrong – with much more wisdom and insight.
(D. Parus from HPW)

The Hemingses of Monticello: an American family / Annette Gordon-Reed

CD
The history of the family of Jefferson's mistress, their lives at Monticello, and what happened after Jefferson died. The author makes history so fascinating, it reads like a novel.
(Maria from TPL)

Hitler's empire: how the Nazis ruled Europe / Mark Mazower

A serious history book, not one for the casual reader, and in places not one for the sensitive.
(John Hebert from CHE)

Home: a memoir of my early years / Julie Andrews

CD, LP
Julie Andrews, one of my favorite actresses, always seemed to me to have had a privileged childhood. The book tells a different story.
(Phyllis from RSV)

The color of my words / Lynn Joseph

A coming of age story about a young girl, Ana Rosa, growing up in the Dominican Republic. This softly spoken tale speaks volumes about the dreams, hopes and frustration about the reality of life in the Dominican Republic.
(Lisa from SCS)

The graveyard book / Neil Gaiman

CD, EB
Neil Gaiman always writes about things you'd never think to ask about, which is what makes this newest children's offering, sort of a retelling of *The Jungle Book*, really fascinating.
(Stacey from WCV)

Horseradish: bitter truths you can't avoid / Lemony Snicket

The warped wit and wisdom of the incomparable Lemony Snicket delivers in this darkly humorous guide to life's unpleasant truths.
(Joe Vitale from SHL)

The invention of Hugo Cabret / Brian Selznick

CD, PL
Part juvenile fiction, part graphic novel, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is an extraordinary book filled with spectacular illustrations which tells the intriguing and curious tale of young Hugo Cabret.
(Joe Vitale from SHL)

Keeper of the Grail / Michael P. Spradlin

This book is one of the greatest stories about the Dark Ages and Crusades I have ever read. I encourage young adults to definitely pick this book up.
(Christa Mitchell from RSV)

Life as we knew it / Susan Beth Pfeffer

CD
When a meteor hits the moon, life is threatened on Earth. Miranda has to deal with not finishing high school, hoarding food to survive, and facing the end of life as she knew it. Written as a diary, the reader goes through Miranda's ordeal with her. I had to remind myself that it is just a book and I didn't need to start hoarding food.
(Cindy from HPW)

The loud silence of Francine Green / Karen Cushman

CD
Francine is a totally believable eighth grader trying to figure out what to stand up for during the McCarthy era. Look for the parallels to today's fears and prejudices.
(Beth from HPW)

Alchemyst: the secrets of the immortal Nicholas Flamel / Michael Scott

CD, LP, EB

A great page-turner and good read for Harry Potter fans. Teens Sophie and Josh are truly relatable. A unique take on mythological creatures set in present day San Francisco.

(Anne Mandel from MCL)

Armageddon summer / Jane Yolen

AC, CD

How would you handle your parent joining a church "cult?" Yolen portrays beautifully how easy it is to believe the unbelievable when everyone around you believes it.

(Brandi Ogden from HPW)

The arrival / Shaun Tan

Shaun Tan presents the fantastic journey of an immigrant into a surreal new world in this amazing, allegoric graphic novel.

(Joe Vitale from SHL)

The boy who dared / Susan Campbell Bartoletti

Helmuth is a 17 year old boy who is on death row because he defied Hitler and the Nazis with leaflets that dare to tell the truth about Germany and World War II. This story is based on real events.

(Lisa from SCS)

Briar Rose / Jane

AC

A powerful telling of *Sleeping Beauty* by Gemma to granddaughter Rebecca, stating she is Briar Rose.

Through the fantasy, the horror of being a Holocaust survivor is revealed.

(Loretta from FRA)

City of bones / Cassandra Clare

AC, CD, EB

If you like tales of supernatural people and places, this is for you!

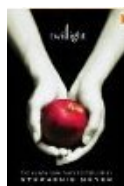
(Kathy Fannon from ROG)

Clemency Pogue: fairy killer / JT Petty

CD, EB

Do you believe in fairies? And if you don't, would you ever say so out loud, knowing that doing so could kill an innocent – or not-so-innocent – fairy somewhere in the world?

(Jennie from CHE)



AC=AUDIO CASSETTE, CD= COMPACT DISC,
LP= LARGE PRINT. EB=eBook

I feel bad about my neck: and other thoughts on being a woman / Nora Ephron

CD, LP, EB

Ephron makes it easy for "women of a certain age" to laugh at the havoc wreaked by the aging process. She describes this universal experience with razor-sharp accuracy and wit. The title says it all!

(C. Federspiel from MCL)

In the footsteps of Marco Polo / Denis Belliveau

An amazing two year journey that not only vindicates Marco Polo's Travels, but takes us into the hearts of the diverse people and the unforgiving terrain of the Middle East and Asia. Beautiful photography.

(Marilena from CMPL)

Still growing: an autobiography / Kirk Cameron

A great biography, and a great testimony of a Christian actor. Everyone should read this book.

(Christa Mitchell from RSV)

Kitchen table wisdom: stories that heal / Rachel Naomi Remen

AC, LP

When faced with life-threatening illness, many people come to see what matters and what doesn't. Rachel companions these people and shares their insights. The book is a treasury of wisdom and soul.

(Pat from SBL)

The last lecture / Randy Pausch

CD LP, EB

If this book does not inspire someone to live life to the fullest and be grateful for each day, I don't know what will. (I read this before Mr. Pausch passed away. A remarkable man!)

(Lisa from SCS)

The late great USA: the coming merger with Mexico and Canada / Jerome R. Corsi

Corsi exposes the hidden truth about the Security and Prosperity Partnership and criticizes the "unfair" trade agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada. The book also makes sense of recent events such as the bailout of 2008.

(Shane from CHE)

Learning to drive: and other life stories / Katha Pollitt

MeLCat

Serious thoughts in a humorous manner.

(Merry Jane Benner from SBL)

AC=AUDIO CASSETTE, CD= COMPACT DISC,
LP= LARGE PRINT. EB=eBook

NON-FICTION

The limits of power: the end of American exceptionalism / A.J. Bacevich

CD

A rational, authoritative and unvarnished look by Bacevich at why the national myth of American indestructibility in world affairs – a false impression that stretches well beyond the current hubris of the Bush Administration - has had unintended consequences in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the destruction of the economy. It is a call to the citizenry to return the nation to the roots that its founders intended, and away from the road that has allowed the transformation of a once great country into an imperial presidency – and a democracy in name only.

(D. Parus from HPW)

The magic of thinking big / David J. Schwartz

CD

If I was only allowed to own one book (other than the Bible) it would be this one. Learn useful methods for getting the most out of your job, your marriage and family life, and your community. Learn and understand the habit of thinking and behaving in ways to attain great success and satisfaction.

(Judy Serafano from SCS)

The post-American world / Fareed Zakaria

CD

I found the author's view on the timely matter of the United States' changing role in the world interesting.

(Librarian from RSV)

Prince of Frogtown / Rick Bragg

EB

The 3rd and final (?) in Pulitzer Prize winner and former NYT columnist Rick Bragg's story of his Southern roots. *All Over But the Shoutin'* and *Ava's Man* preceded this biography in which he examines his father at the same time he puzzles over how to be a step-father. Audio version is read by the author with his southern accent lending an unparalleled lushness/gentleness to his storytelling. Not to be missed.

(Marie from CMM)

Red summer: the danger, madness, and exaltation of salmon fishing in a remote Alaskan village / Bill Carter

The lively individuals of this Alaskan salmon fishing town make the book read like a fiction novel.

(Librarian from SCS)

The revolution: a manifesto / Ron Paul

CD

"Let the revolution begin" with this libertarian plea for a return to "the principles of our Founding Fathers: liberty, self-government, the Constitution, and a noninterventionist foreign policy."

(Shane from CHE)

FICTION

Unaccustomed Earth / Jhumpa Lahiri

CD, EB

Not a word is out of place in these wonderfully written linked short stories. Lahiri's tender treatment of family and relationships, perceptions and feelings is a true pleasure to experience.

(Marie from CMM)

The Wednesday letters / Jason F. Wright

LP

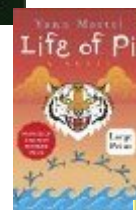
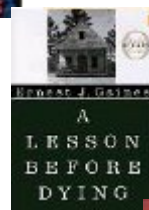
A beautiful story of a couple who die in each others' arms after 39 years of marriage. During the funeral preparations, their three children discover thousands of letters written by their father to their mother each week. In these letters the children come to know and understand their parents and their history.

(Rita from RSV)

The yada yada prayer group / Neta Jackson

The first book in a series that looks at what happens when a group of women turn to prayer and each other when life gets tough.

(Syndi Hawkins from RSV)



FICTION

The tenderness of wolves / Stef Penney

LP

One Canadian pioneer settlement produces a dead recluse and a missing teen. This beautiful, multi-layered story is told through the eyes of its complex characters as they figure out the mystery.

(Leigh Romano from RSV)

The tenth circle / Jodi Picoult

CD, LP, PL

Life disintegrates in surprising twists for the Stone family as their wishes become horrors; dealing with teenagers, rape and comics, they spiral down to the 10th circle in frozen Alaska.

(Loretta from FRA)

Testimony: a novel / Anita Shreve

CD, LP

A sex scandal at a high school prep school is told through the viewpoints of a variety of characters. Suspenseful and fascinating, it ultimately leaves the reader with a surprisingly conflicted view of the unfolding events.

(Margaret Hanes from WCV)

The thirteenth tale / Diane Setterfield

CD, LP

Part mystery, part classic gothic romance. It's the perfect book for book lovers, especially *Jane Eyre* and *Rebecca* fans.

(Circulation clerk from SCS)

A thousand splendid suns / Khaled Hosseini

AC, CD, LP, EB, PL

Although this book is fiction, you become immersed in the culture of Afghanistan. It was interesting reading about the different traditions from this country.

(Vicki from CLL)

Time is a river / Mary Alice Monroe

LP, EB

Not only was this an engaging story set in the Smoky Mountains, but I also learned about a unique support group for breast cancer survivors - Casting for Recovery. Memorable quote: "On the river you feel whole again, ready to say yes to life" (p.277).

(Marilynn from MPL)

Towelhead / Alicia Erian

A sad but funny story about a girl who's trying to grow up and figure herself out, but is hampered by her parents' lack of parenting.

(Circulation clerk from SCS)

NON-FICTION

Rule by secrecy: the hidden history that connects the Trilateral Commission, the Freemasons, and the Great Pyramids / Jim Marrs

An exploration of the role of "secret societies" in world history.

(Shane from CHE)

Running from the devil: a memoir of a boy possessed / Steve Kissing

The author provides a thoughtful and unexpectedly humorous explanation for his childhood epilepsy.

Reminds one of how resourceful and resilient we all can be.

(Barb from SCS)

Slavery by another name: the re-enslavement of Black people in America from the Civil War to World War II / Douglas Blackmon

This book was recommended by syndicated columnist Leonard Pitts and the title says it all. Blackmon follows the misfortunes of one extended family in Alabama through the 19th and 20th centuries and applies their life to the general discrimination of the era. A must read for anyone interested in resolving the racial divide in our generation.

(D. Parus from HPW)

Spilling the beans / Clarissa Dickson Wright

MeLCat

Remember the *Two Fat Ladies* cooking show? You might be interested in this autobiography. A relatively well-to-do British family, a brilliant career in the law, and then the depths of alcoholism and eventually redemption make a fascinating read.

(Nadine from MCL)

Split: a memoir of divorce / Suzanne Finnamore

Finnamore, a chick-lit novelist, takes the reader on her surreal journey from giddy romance with a suave older man, marriage, motherhood and then the dawning suspicions of her husband's infidelity to the inevitable divorce settlement. Her dry, deadpan humor and frank writing make this her best work yet.

(Sue Ferrell from SBL)

Stealing Buddha's dinner / Bich Minh Nguyen

A delightful memoir of a young Vietnamese boat refugee whose family was placed in Grand Rapids. We see her view of American identity through popular fast foods and hit music of the time. Poignant and funny.

(Midge Lusardi from CHE)

NON-FICTION

Strike and hold: a memoir of the 82nd Airborne in World War II / T. Moffat Burriss

MeLCat

Jump into history with a U.S. 82nd Airborne paratrooper in WWII. Experience the thrills and chills of fighting in Normandy, Holland, and the Ardennes.

(Glen Sowles from ROG)

Three cups of tea: one man's mission to fight terrorism and build nations – one school at a time / Greg Mortenson

CD, LP, EB, PL

The author gives us an insider's view of life and attitudes in remote Pakistani villages. If his work in Pakistan and Afghanistan can continue, there is hope for the region.

(Phyllis from RSV)

To America: personal reflections of an historian / Stephen Ambrose

AC, CD, LP

A good reminder of what this country means to most of us.

(John Hebert from CHE)

Touching history: the untold story of the drama that unfolded in the skies over America on 9/11 / Lynn Spencer

This is a riveting account of the monumental task of bringing to the ground the nearly 5,000 commercial/civilian aircraft in the air on 9/11.

(Donald E. Worrell, Jr. from MTC)

Tried by war: Abraham Lincoln as commander in chief / James M. McPherson

CD, EB

With 2009 being the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, this book is an engaging analysis of the sixteenth President as war leader and strategist.

(Donald E. Worrell, Jr. from MTC)

The vegetable dishes I can't live without / Mollie Katzen

With clear instructions, easy preparation, no exotic ingredients, and tasty results, this cookbook actually makes me want to eat my vegetables!

(Leigh Romano from RSV)

When you are engulfed in flames / David Sedaris

CD, LP, EB

I strongly recommend the audio book. Sedaris' reading of his own material adds a unique depth to this hilarious work.

(Ken from SLC)

FICTION

Silent in the sanctuary: a Lady Julia Grey mystery / Deanna Raybourn

Along with enjoying an intelligent and complex mystery, I found the insight into Victorian manor and village life fascinating. What interesting women!

(Beth from CMM)

Sister's choice/ Emilie Richards

CD

In this fifth book in the *Shenandoah Album* series, Richard deftly shows how the difficult life choices we make create each person's story.

(Marilynn from MPL)

Slightly single / Wendy Markham

The first book in the series about Tracey Spadolini, a young woman living in New York City and trying to make her way in the dating world.

(Kara from CMN)

Small favor: a novel of the Dresden files / Jim Butcher

CD, LP

The *Dresden Files*, about a Chicago wizard, is a combination of magic, life-and-death-situations, and pop culture references, worth reading the entire series for.

Bonus: James Marsters, of *Buffy* fame, reads the audio book!

(Stacey from WCV)

Snow Flower and the secret fan / Lisa See

CD, LP, EB

Told through Lily, this story is a brilliantly realistic journey back to an era of Chinese history that is deeply moving; reads like *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

(Mary Jo from MPL)

The somnambulist / Jonathan Barnes

Creepy, full of interesting characters and words you don't normally see in print. It reminded me of Arthur Conan Doyle and Poe.

(Barb from SCS)

Standing in the rainbow / Fannie Flagg

AC, CD, LP

I did not want it to end as I bonded with the characters so closely. I wanted to know about next week and next year in their lives.

(Jean Wilkins from CHE)

Storm front / Jim Butcher

The first book in the *Dresden Files* series. Harry Blackstone Copperfield Dresden is a real-life wizard, staff, spells, trench coat, and all. Humorous, gritty, intense, and addictive.

(Jennie from CHE)

FICTION

Playing for pizza / John Grisham

CD, LP, EB, PL

Not a typical John Grisham story, this novel was interesting because it was set in Italy. The author did a great job of capturing the flavor of the Italian town and its residents.

(Rita Valade from RSV)

Quicker than the eye / Ray Bradbury

LP

Typical "Bradburian" short stories of all sorts.

(John Hebert from CHE)

Rainbow Six / Tom Clancy

AC, CD, LP

John Clark, ex-CIA, becomes head of a new anti-terrorist group that is tasked to go anywhere, any time to defeat a terrorist/hostage situation. Armed with the latest weapons and gadgets, this hand-picked team goes out to defeat terrorism worldwide.

(Charlie from SLC)

A Redbird Christmas / Fannie Flagg

AC, CD, LP

A hapless, hopeless newcomer arrives in a small town in Alabama and becomes the glue that bonds a little lame girl and a little lame bird. The Christmas spirit lives on in new relationships created and old grudges forgotten. The well-defined cast of characters add humor and heart.

(C. Federspiel from MCL)

The secret history of the Pink Carnation / Lauren Willig

CD, LP

This was a great historical fiction novel set in London during both the present day and the late 18th century. The background of espionage allows for suspense as well as romance between characters in both time periods.

(Kara from CMN)

The shadow catcher / Marianne Wiggins

CD

The *Shadow Catcher* crosses the boundary between past and present on two levels: the curious life of photographer Edward Curtis, famous for his Native American images, and a lost father named Curtis Edwards. Marianne Wiggins writes with more passion in a few words than most authors speak in volumes. The book is interspersed with Edward Curtis images.

(Cynthia Bieniek from SCS)

NON-FICTION

A year without made in China: one family's true life adventure in the global economy / Sara Bongiorni

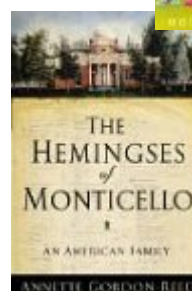
The author recounts her family's attempt to live for one year without buying anything "made in China". An eye-opening endeavor, as almost everything is made in China. (Ellen from CMM)

Your government failed you: breaking the cycle of national security disasters / Richard Clarke

CD

A fascinating but grim description of how arrogant ignorance has affected nearly every aspect of this country's recent history and probably much of its future.

(John Hebert from CHE)



FICTION

The alchemist's daughter / Katharine McMahon

CD

Emilie Selden is raised by her brilliant and eccentric father in the isolated English countryside—which is vividly depicted—and educated in the science and philosophy of alchemy. When she elopes against her father's wishes, it sets in motion a series of events that will leave Emilie reeling. A compelling and fascinating story.

(Maria from TPL)

Beneath a marble sky / John Shors

Historical fiction that chronicles the building of the Taj Mahal and the love and hate that surround it.

(Ellen from CMM)

Blood of flowers / Anita Amirrezvani

CD, LP

This is a mesmerizing debut novel of a very talented young woman maneuvering her way through the carpet designing industry of 17th-century Persia. Historical fiction at its best!

(Ruth from SCS)

Blue heart blessed / Susan Meissner

This women's fiction novel looks at how love can redeem anyone from the depths of despair, and how second chances come in unexpected forms.

(Syndi Hawkins from RSV)

Bright shiny morning / James Frey

CD, LP, EB

Frey redeems himself in this most unique piece of fiction. Frey intertwines snippets of peoples' lives between the historical and social phenomena that is LA. It is compelling and fast paced; if you have ever lived or dreamed of living in LA, it is a "must-read."

(Marie from CMM)

Buffalo soldier / Christopher Bohjalian

AC

You find yourself rooting for Alfred, the foster child, Terry and Laura, the grief-stricken parents, and the people of their small Vermont town in this great story.

(Beth from HPW)

A Cedar Cove Christmas / Debbie Macomber

CD, LP, EB

A very heartwarming story for the holidays.

(Barb from CLL)

FICTION

The natural / Bernard Malamud

AC, LP, EB

This is a thoroughly engaging book for anyone who loves baseball.

(Vicki from CLL)

No country for old men / Cormac McCarthy

CD LP, EB

Written almost perfectly.

(Cory from CLL)

Of human bondage / William Somerset Maugham

Perhaps the greatest piece of fiction I've ever read.

(Cory from CLL)

The outlaw demon wails / Kim Harrison

CD, EB

Plot twists, action, love, and relationships among supernatural beings make the *Hollows* series one to watch out for. One of my favorites.

(Pat E. from RSV)

Oxygen: a novel / Carol Wiley Cassella

LP, EB

Dr. Marie Heaton's tragic mistake in the operating room has devastating consequences. What makes this novel different from the routine medical suspense story is the rich character development and surprising plot twists. A first novel.

(Margaret Hanes from WCV)

People of the weeping eye / Michael Gear

I've read all of the *People of the* series by Gear and enjoyed them. Gear has a way of bringing back pre-historic people and societies with such accuracy that they don't seem different from today's society. These books always have some plot twist that leaves you stunned at the end. I started reading *People of the Weeping Eye* this fall and I'm now waiting for the sequel.

(Kathy from MISD)

The plague tales / Ann Benson

AC

Interesting juxtaposition of a tale set in the near future and one set in medieval times.

(Maureen Swanwick from ROG)

Plainsong / Kent Haruf

AC, CD, LP, EB

A father with two young sons, a pregnant unmarried teen, and two old bachelors on the high plains of Colorado.

Evocative, sad, sweet, and wonderful.

(Pat from SBL)

Life of Pi / Yann Martel

CD, LP, EB, PL

The story follows Pi, the son of a zookeeper in India, as he struggles with religion, losing his family, and being stuck in a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger. I enjoyed reading this book. Yann tells the story so well, I felt like I was with the boy in the boat.

(Cindy from HPW)

The likeness / Tana French

CD, LP

I could hardly put this Irish thriller down. Housemates of the victim don't know she is dead - and the police have an undercover cop who can infiltrate as her double

(Beth from CMM)

The linnet bird / Linda Holeman

A historical romance set in Liverpool, England. The main character is forced into prostitution at age 12. She escapes and ends up in Calcutta, India. The plot moves at a fast pace which, coupled with the exotic locale, leads to an enjoyable read.

(Donna from SCS)

Long walk home: a novel / Will North

This is a beautiful love story, as opposed to a romance, set in Wales. I was drawn in by the characters and their stories.

(Rita Valade from RSV)

Lucia, Lucia / Adriana Trigiani

CD, LP

Interesting to view life in the 1940s and 1950s as women were finding themselves and other options to life, as well as all the pitfalls and responsibilities. I loved all the descriptions of her job and life.

(Jean Wilkins from CHE)

The lucky one / Nicholas Sparks

CD, LP, EB

A good book about the power of destiny and love.

(Barb from CLL)

March / Geraldine Brooks

CD, LP

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott is a timeless classic. The father of the family was absent for much of the story fighting the Civil War. Here is what happened to him.

(Kathy from WCV)

Missy / Chris Hannan

LP

This story of an opium-addicted prostitute in the Old West is both funny and suspenseful and features some of the best descriptive writing I've ever read.

(Lauren Boggs from SLC)

The Christmas train / David Baldacci

AC, CD, LP

Some quirky and suspicious characters, the reappearance of a long-lost love, a bit of railroad lore, and a snowbound train at Christmas time, make for an easy, enjoyable read.

A perfect remedy for easing holiday stress!

(C. Federspiel from MCL)

The cruelest month: a Three Pines mystery / Louise Penny

LP

I love this author's mysteries set in a little village in Quebec, populated with eccentric characters and the wise Chief Inspector of the Surete du Quebec.

(Beth from CMM)

A dirty job / Christopher Moore

CD, EB

Christopher Moore is insane. He is the funniest writer I've ever read. Be sure to check out *Coyote Blue*, *Fluke*, and *Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove* as well for some laugh-out-loud fun.

(Pat from SBL)

Double bind / Chris Bohjalian

CD, EB

A young social worker, recovering from a brutal attack, tries to solve a mystery about a homeless man's photographs. Be prepared for an ending that will knock your socks off!

(Kathy from WCV)

Duma Key: a novel / Stephen King

CD, LP

A dark tale from the master of horror.

(Karen White-Owens from MTC)

The elegant gathering of white snows / Kris Radish

LP

The title alone was intriguing, but the idea of eight women from rural Wisconsin hitting the road at midnight with no preparation or plan was infinitely more intriguing!

Memorable quote: "To take this one moment, they all agreed, was the magic of life, and the bottom line of every single thing they had been walking toward" (p.311).

(Marilynn from MPL)

The English major / Jim Harrison

CD

I enjoyed this humorous story about a 60-year-old, newly divorced former English teacher and farmer from Michigan taking a car trip around the United States to celebrate his new life.

(Librarian from RSV)

FICTION

Envy the night / Michael Koryta

LP

A finely crafted book that will keep you on the edge of your seat throughout.

(Kathy from ROG)

Exit music / Ian Rankin

CD, LP

Follow the hard-drinking Scottish Detective Sergeant John Rebus as he prepares for retirement. This is the last of the Rebus series in which the main character travels all over Scotland, solving crimes that have everyone else stumped.

(Charlie from SLC)

The fiction class / Susan Breen

A warmhearted and funny tale about a woman teaching writing to an adult education class, trying to complete her own novel, and ignore the annoying advice from her mother, a resident in an assisted living center.

(Margaret Hanes from WCV)

For whom the bell tolls / Ernest Hemingway

AV, CD, LP, PL

A classic read. Very inventive and keeps you going through the whole book. Any book by Hemingway is worth reading. In its own little dimension.

(Douglas from RSV)

Frankenstein / Mary Shelley

AV, CD, LP, EB, PL

This is a good book. It is well written for the time period with a vivid world of its own. However, there is a lot of word repetition.

(Douglas from RSV)

Frozen sun: a Nathan Active mystery / Stan Jones

This ethnic literary mystery series stars Alaskan State Trooper, Nathan Active. He must find a missing girl on the dark streets of Anchorage. Wonderful characters and a plot that keeps twisting!

(Ruth from SCS)

Gentlemen and players / Joanne Harris

CD, LP, EB

Cleverly devised mystery set in an exclusive British boys' school. Told from three characters' perspectives. Tension builds as small misfortunes grow into deadly misdeeds.

(Anne Mandel from MCL)



AC=AUDIO CASSETTE, CD= COMPACT DISC,
LP= LARGE PRINT. EB=eBook

FICTION

Gorky Park / Martin Cruz Smith

AC

A mystery that follows Arkady Renko's career as an investigator in the Moscow Prosecutor's office. Subsequent books *Polar Star*, *Red Square*, *Havana Bay* and *Wolves Eat Dogs* detail Arkady's fall and rise in Moscow. Each book is rich in details of Russian politics and daily living.

(Charlie from SLC)

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society / Mary Ann Shaffer

CD, LP, EB

A charming book that gives a glimpse of post-WWII life on the previously Nazi-occupied Channel Islands. Written exclusively in letters and telegrams.

(Syndi Hawkins from RSV)

Head games / Thomas Cavanagh

Not your typical mystery! Mike Garrity, with a brain tumor he names "Bob," comes out of self-pity and retirement to help out an old colleague. Wonderfully crotchety Mike Garrity is a delight!

(Ruth from SCS)

The historian / Elizabeth Kostova

AC, CD, LP, EB

If you are interested in the current vampire craze, consider this book. A woman is drawn into a search for Dracula after she finds a mysterious book in her father's library.

(Kathy from WCV)

The host / Stephanie Meyer

CD, LP, EB

It is a science fiction story about the interaction of alien parasites with their human hosts, the power of love, and acceptance of others. An enjoyable read.

(Pat E. from RSV)

The keepsake / Tess Gerritsen

CD, LP, EB

Absorbing tale of murder, personal tragedy and pain.

(Karen White-Owens from MTC)

The king's persons / Joanne Greenberg

The story gives a picture of another chapter in the history of the persecution of Jews - this time in York, England in the late 12th century. An engrossing read.

(Phyllis from RSV)

A lesson before dying / Ernest J. Gaines

AC, CD, LP

This is my favorite book of all time!

(Jennifer from LEN)

AC=AUDIO CASSETTE, CD= COMPACT DISC,
LP= LARGE PRINT. EB=eBook