

### **The Trespasser by Tana French**

Great characters work together in the murder squad to look at all the angles of a murder of a young attractive girl killed in her own home. Lots of digging and evaluations go on to lead in a roundabout way towards one clue and another with the personalities and actions of the murder squad throwing in detours along the way.

### **The Darkest Promise by Gena Showalter**

Cameo is an attractive woman but is possessed by the demon of misery, she cannot be happy or it wipes away all her memories. Her voice is so caustic that people cover their ears or run away. She searches for Lazarus in the underground who is rumored to be her only hope to release her demon and get back her memories. Lazarus is in a terrible position, he is attracted to Cameo but is permanently weakened with each touch of her, and knows she could inadvertently kill him. Mix in other gods, demons and crazy lands for a great story.

### **The Darkest Torment by Gena Showalter**

The Demon of distrust who is bound to the underworld kidnaps a newly married attractive girl named Katarina. She is kidnapped by a non-human who is bound to the underworld with all its violence and gore. Her new husband is a monster was also a scary man and is furious that his wife was kidnapped right after the wedding ceremony, lots of blood, mayhem and violence mixed in with a new growing relationship.

### **Blood Red Road by Kresley Cole, Larissa Ione and Gena Showalter**

Three different stories involving immortal warlords and relationships with women that they become obsessed with: vampire living as injured werewolf, a viking and a non worldly assassin. Many different non world lives and experiences with strong women characters that have evolved thru their trials. Nice combination of stories.

### **The Darkest Warrior by Gena Showalter**

Puck and his brother Sin have been best of friends for centuries until his brother betrays him, kicking him out of their kingdom and cause Puck to grow horns out of his head and a pelt like a bear. Enter Gillian, a fragile beauty who is friends with William who is her protector. Puck wants Gillian and William try to protect her while both fight thru crazy and dangerous worlds and deadly traps, while going dangerously closer to a battle with Sin. Good book, lots of turns and twists.

### **Too Much And Never Enough by Mary L. Trump PHD**

Enjoyed this book very much. Beginning years explain how Trump evolved into a narcissist with a personality disorder and no consciousness. History starts with Donald's parents and up bringing, with achievements and money the goal with no guilt or consequences, and Donald learned his lesson well. Book continues with Donald's prosperity, declaring himself bankrupt 5 times, and lies to twist the truths with no accountability for anything including morals and outright lies- and becoming president changed nothing.

### **The Ways We Say Goodbye by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig and Karen White**

Very interesting book with one part set in WWII with the French trying to sabotage the Germans and the Germans working with the French with a setting at the hotel Ritz. The second story line is at different time period with 2 different people searching their common histories when they meet in 1964. Great book with lots go adventure and romance that comes together in the end, nicely tying up the loose ends.

### **Quinn by Iris Johansen**

Book begins when Eve Dunkin's daughter Bonnie is kidnapped from a park, the case continues and the FBI is called and the agent assigned is Joe Quinn. They try working together and he develops feelings for her while searching for a serial child killer. Fast forward and Joe and Eve are involved with each other and Eve is still searching for her missing daughter, new info has come in that the possible killer may be Bonnie's biological dad John Gallo. The plot continues to twist and unravel with a surprise ending.

### **Eve by Iris Johansen**

Book begins when Eve Duncan meets the future father of her daughter when Eve was sixteen and very inexperienced, John Gallo the boyfriend was very experienced, and sometimes violent and about to soon enter the military. She had a surprise pregnancy and decided to raise the baby girl Bonnie on her own. The story shifts to years later when her partner Joe, her friend Catherine and John Gallo try to track a man named Black who they think killed Bonnie and has kidnapped a young girl who he has threatened to kill. The book ends with a surprise ending leaving more questions.

### **The Golden Hour by Beatriz Williams**

World War II setting that includes the exiled Duke and Duchess of Windsor (Nassau) after he gave up the throne to marry her. Lulu a young attractive widowed reporter meet a man (Benedict Thorpe) who helps her to get a position to meet and then write about the Windsors who seem to be pro Hitler. Two different plots going on that include war, murder, jail and wartime behind the scene activities.

### **Memoires And Misinformation by Jim Carey and Dana Vachon**

Very strange book form beginning to end. Starts out with Jim Carey lamenting his current status as a star and his prior successes, mix in other famous names like Kelsey Grammer, Niccolas Cage, Quinton Tarantino and Gwyneth Paltrow and a lot of crazy talk and actions, mingle in some hallucinations and aliens and the end of the world. Very different book not at all what I expected.

### **It's In His Kiss by Jill Shalvis**

Young girl hiding out in small town away from her life as former concert pianist and her controlling family. Starts to develop feelings for local man who has his own issues about relationships. Enjoyable summer romance novel.

### **He's So Fine by Jill Shalvis**

Olivia is living in a small town and finds a romantic interest, enjoyable summer romance novel.

### **Bonnie by Iris Johansen**

Eve Duncan and her partner Joe (retired cop and agent) are looking for a mentally ill man who is off his meds and who they believe kidnapped and murdered Eve's daughter. Lots of twists and turns with a lot of other characters involved.

### **The Good, The Bad, And The Undead by Kim Harrison**

This is the second book in the series that I had read. Although I enjoy some characters (Jenks!), others just irritate me with their 'independence' instead of appearing as a lack of common sense. There was so much sexuality in this book that it was distracting. I hope that each novel does not continue to be a power struggle over this.

### **What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty**

Thought-provoking, if not entirely believable.

### **Consolations Of Philosophy by Alain de Botton**

A nice review of philosophy for someone (like me) who never took philosophy 101 in college. Many of the issues the ancient philosophers pondered are as relevant now as ever.

### **Your Perfect Year by Charlotte Lucas**

This was a truly enjoyable rom-com book. Not too fluffy, just predictable enough, likable characters, and of course, the happy ending. :)

### **Peacock Emporium by Jojo Moyes**

This was a light read, enjoyable, but I liked other books by the same author better.

### **Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Beautiful, poetic writing and I liked the story and characters. I'm not a fan of speculative fiction in general, so this wasn't really the book for me, though. Also, I listened to the audio version and didn't really like the narrator.

### **Wesley The Owl: The Remarkable Love Story Of An Owl And His Girl by Stacy O'Brien**

I loved the story, owl anecdotes and factual information on owl behavior/communication in this book. The writing itself was only OK, though.

### **Chasing The Night by Iris Johansen**

Really interesting plot where Eve Duncan and her partner are approached about identifying a picture of a young boy's skull, the one seeking the information is an agent for the US and the potential mother of the victim.

### **Chocolat by Joanne Harris**

An exotic woman arrives in a small French town and upsets the stagnant ways of the town and church by opening up a chocolate shop that welcomes anyone and everyone. In only a short time people are growing and changing much to the distress of the town priest who wants everything to remain the same and people to idolize him. The book integrates chocolate, food and the characters in a way that seems almost magical in their transformations.

### **The Glass Ocean by Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig and Karen White**

Young writer starts to research her relative who was on the Lusitania she searches another famous person who is now embroiled in a messy disgraced divorce, together they start to do research. The other area of the book occurs on the ship before sinking, involving love and espionage. Very interesting book with nice ending.

### **Red Metal by Mark Greaney and H. Ripley Rawling IV**

Long intricate plot of Russian takeover of Poland by Russia involving other countries and varying sites of scrimmage in different countries. Varied responses by Americans involving Marines, Navy, Army and airesponse. It was over 600 pages with lots of characters from different countries.

### **11/22/63 by Stephen King**

This is an entertaining read about a high school teacher who travels back in time to prevent the assassination of JFK. It's a lengthy novel, but well worth the time. I've read it more than once!

### **The Solar War by A.G. Riddles**

This is the second book in the Long Winter trilogy. The Earth is beginning to recover from the Ice Age in the previous novel, but the entity that blocked the sun has not been completely eliminated. It comes back with a vengeance, intent on destroying the remaining civilizations on Earth. Will the civilizations triumph or will the entity cause the final destruction of Earth?

### **Winter World by A.G. Riddle**

This is the first book in a trilogy. It's a fast, intriguing read, best classified as a combination between sci-fi and adventure. For unknown reasons, a new Ice Age is beginning and the citizens of Earth are being forced to relocate to warmer climates. It is discovered that the sun's energy is being absorbed by another entity. A resolution of this problem must be reached.

### **Etiquette And Espionage by Gail Carriger**

Wasn't quite sure what to expect from this book. I'm glad it was not strictly a YA novel occurring in a historical setting. Looking forward to the next in the series.

### **Blue Bistro by Elin Hilderbrand**

Great summer read. Two people who fall in love and yet cannot be together as they want to.

### **28 Summers by Elin Hilderbrand**

A great story about two people whose lives cross one weekend a year. Despite loving each other, they choose their daily lives over their weekend fling. Great quick read.

### **The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold**

Told from the perspective of the murdered child, The Lovely Bones tells an emotional story that shows how her murder effects the lives of her family and friends. Each person evolves differently as a result of how they react and respond to the murder.

### **A Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

Quick read because I couldn't put it down. Reminds me of Brave New World or 1984 -esque type books.

### **The Testaments by Margaret Atwood**

I didn't love this quite as much as A Handmaid's Tale, but overall, was pleased to have a sequel that explained things and had a robust ending.

### **Thick by Tressie McMillan Cottom**

I wanted to like this book, but ultimately I just couldn't get into it.

### **Educated by Tara Westover**

I read this book not knowing what it was about (based off of the mere fact that it was so popular and on several book lists). I wasn't disappointed. The author draws the reader in and tells her story in such a way that made me not want to put the book down.

### **Hidden Valley Road by Robert Kolker**

This was an excellent read. Not only did it provide a detailed story of the family, but also intertwined the history of schizophrenia research and treatment. Thoroughly enjoyed, wish there were more books out there, similar to this one!

### **Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng**

I got this while I waited to borrow "Little Fires Everywhere". I enjoyed the author's style of writing. It captivated me for sure. All-in-all, I enjoyed this book very much.

### **The River Of Souls by Robert R. McCammon**

These books always keep me guessing - no one is safe, you never know when a character may be knocked off. But I really enjoyed this one - less political twists and turns than the prior novel. More of a man vs nature story, which kept me guessing throughout.

### **A Life Without Water by Marci Bolden**

This book is a great example of how life can really work in unexpected ways. The author takes a tragic story and gives it meaning and purpose.

### **Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes**

Another great book by Jojo Moyes! Historical fiction lovers will enjoy this account of women delivering library books on horseback to rural areas of Kentucky as part of a WPA program. Realistic characters and real-life relationships make this a book you can't put down!

### **Cocoa Beach by Beatriz Williams**

Twists and turns with 2 very different brothers. Romance among the days of prohibition and illegal transport of alcohol on the ocean. The roles and morals of the brothers keep changing and the book has a big surprise ending.

### **Camino Winds by John Grisham**

A beach read by John Grisham! A well written but light (especially for John Grisham) murder mystery on an island during a hurricane.

### **Pillars Of The Earth by Ken Follett**

Read for the second time after a gap of more than five years. Found much of the history more understandable this time around and enjoyed the plot more. It is a long book with many complex characters. Far more enjoyable the second time around.

### **Owls Well That Ends Well by Donna Andrews**

I have rarely enjoyed a series as much as this one. The books are light, with quirky characters. This one kept me guessing until the very end. I was happy that the protagonist was back 'home' after her recent adventures which were focused on different locations.

### **Mission Critical by Mark Greaney**

Grey Man is a secret under cover operator who normally works alone, who sometimes has to work to protect himself from people who he works under. He is reunited with former romantic interest who is a former Russian undercover officer who has found out her dead father did not die and lied about her brother's death. Good book with lots of twists and turns of the connected plots.

### **Hansel And Gretel by Neil Gaiman**

Such a wonderful book - especially loved Lorenzo Mattotti's illustrations.

### **The Art Of Racing In The Rain by Garth Stein**

The story of a racecar driver and his family challenges and successes as told through his dog who also loves racing. The dog uses many racing metaphors to teach about life.

### **The Wicked City by Beatriz Williams**

Very involved plot with history, memories, romance and intrigue all mixed all in set in old apartment building filled with music, memories and ghosts.

### **The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir**

Politics exposed with specific and detailed events behind the scene at the white house.

**Agent In Place by Mark Greaney**

Agent works undercover to rescue someone then finds out her child id being held hostage, great adventure.

**Gun Metal Grey by Mark Greaney**

Agent goes under to very dangerous area to rescue old friend with many twists and turns.

**Back Blast By Mark Greaney**

Secret government operative is trying to find out why his friends and fellow agents turned against him and are trying to kill him, he then goes on to try to rescue his old friend.

**A Certain Age by Beatriz Williams**

Older married woman meets and seduces innocent young man who was a decorated flyer' later he meets young girl and begins to have feelings for her.

**Along The Infinite Sea By Beatriz Williams**

Great Book, has two different plot lines that evolve, young girl is convinced by brother to save a gun shot victim then meets a Nazi officer. Story covers years and has a surprise ending after many twists and turns.

**Tiny Little Thing by Beatriz Williams**

Great plot, with young girl getting pregnant by senator, who finds herself falling for senator's cousin who is a military hero.

**The Windup Girl By Paolo Bacigalupi**

What would the world be like after sea levels rise from global warming, and the only food crops not decimated by lab produced bio-terrorism are GMOs produced by the most powerful organizations in the world? Would desperate times produce innovations or bring out the worst in humans?

**Long Range By C. J. Box**

A judge's wife id killed by a snipers bullet as she stands next to the judge at their dining room table. This is not a simple murder, as friends are framed and more shots are fired.

### **The Moonshine War by Elmore Leonard**

There are a lot of characters in this novel set in 1931 who were eager to learn the location where John Martin hid 150 of barrels of top shelf moonshine which was about to be 8 year whiskey worth a fortune. This short book is not short on tension, deep characters or the threat of violence.

### **Ready Player One by Ernest Cline**

This is the best audiobook I have ever purchased. I love the pop culture references and the "futuristic" setting. Not the first book to highlight the potential of future life being lead virtually, but the best plot I have come across!

### **The Hate U Give By Angie Thomas**

Loved this book!

### **Peach Clobbered**

Cute little story. Left some questions unanswered, which was fun. I love that several of the characters were nuns with fun personalities - we don't see that often enough.

### **Silent Night A Spenser Holiday Novel by Robert B. Parker with Helen Brann**

A typical Spenser detective novel with the story taking place at Christmas time with a predictable happy holiday ending. This story was unfinished at the time of Parker's death and was completed by his literary agent, therefore it is lighter than the usual Spenser novels.

### **Interview With A Vampire**

Having read many young adult vampire stories, I was excited to get this one on audiobook. Although it is slow at times, it had a solid plot and an enjoyable main character. Definitely made me interested in New Orleans history!

### **Cleaning Gold by Karin Slaughter and Lee Child**

It does not matter how you you are when you go under cover, you will not catch Jack Reacher napping. Two great characters meet, stumble on and solve a case in this short, but very well written thriller co-written by two successful authors.

### **Wolf Pack by C. J. Box**

Exciting thriller that combines a terrifyingly professional hit squad, with the rugged beauty of Wyoming. You don't need to travel to the west or the past to experience adventure.

### **Dune by Frank Herbert**

Was even better than when I read it 20 years ago. This classic deserves its status. The novel is gripping, thoughtful, is a deep exploration of human nature set sometime in the future, after humanity has learned to no trust AI/computers.

### **Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler**

This book is the part of the Hogarth Shakespeare series which I just learned about. There are books in the series and they are all updated versions of Shakespearean plays. Vinegar Girl is a retelling of Taming of the Shrew. In the capable hands of Ann Tyler the novel is a winner. The setting is Baltimore and Kate is a likable shrew. It's worth to read it, really!

### **Miss Cecily's Recipes For Exceptional Ladies by Zimmerman, Vicky**

A fun read for summer, with just the right amount of heart at the end. Parts of the story drag a bit, but overall I really enjoyed the relationship Kate and Cecily developed.

### **Chicago A Novel by Brian Doyle**

Highly descriptive story about the fantastical five seasons that a young man spends in Chicago after graduating from college. It is loosely based on the author's time spent in Chicago at his first post college job and it is told in the first person. It is essentially a love note to the city and its many fascinating people and neighborhoods.

### **Cam Jansen And The Basketball Mystery by David A. Adler**

I thought that Cam Jansen was 1 point after "okay" because it had a mystery in it that was really cool.

### **Shamed By Linda Castillo**

This novel involves a mystery surrounding the murder of a number of Amish people and the abduction of an Amish child. The Police Chief, who is formerly Amish, must pursue all the leads to rescue the child and bring the killer(s) to justice. The novel explores the world of the Amish and explains some of the common traditions, all while the Chief races to save an innocent child. Entertaining reading!

### **The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett**

In this moving book, twin sisters make different choices about how to live their lives. The book has important themes about racial identity and the meaning of family. It's a thoughtful read that makes one think about the choices we each make, the things we hide from those we love, and the consequences of our life choices on ourselves and those closest to us.

### **Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward**

I was looking for an alternative for literature circles to accompany Toni Morrison's *Beloved* - and this seems to be a great fit. Both sympathetic and unsympathetic characters, complex relationships, and great interwoven stories. The change of narrators is something students often find engaging.

### **The One And Only Bob by Katherine Applegate**

A worthy sequel to the wonderful *The One and Only Ivan*. Bob is the dog friend of Ivan, narrates the story of Ivan and Ruby after they are resettled to a zoo. Charming story, easy to read, a sure hit.

### **How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi**

Examining his own racism, and personal growth, Kendi distinguishes what it means to be racist vs. not racist vs. antiracist. Highly recommend to those wanting to take strides towards racial equity!

### **Pride And Prejudice by Jane Austen**

The story was enjoyable and the characters themselves interesting. Overall, I enjoyed this book.

### **Shelter In Place by Nora Roberts**

The characters find many different ways to cope with the aftermath of an active shooter in a mall. Well written, entertaining, and an interesting read.

### **The Oysterville Sewing Circle by Susan Wiggs**

This was an excellent book that dealt with the sometimes hidden nature of domestic violence. This is explored in depth and a unique way is found to support and empower the women involved.

### **The Other Wes Moore : One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore**

A fascinating comparison between two Wes Moore's born in Baltimore and growing up in single mother households and how life choices led to success for one and jail for the other.

### **The Road Virus Heads North by Stephen King**

I could not get it out of my head. Partly set in MA, I could actually see where it was taking place!

### **The Ten O'clock People by Stephen King**

This short story kept me on the edge of my seat, even though you thought you knew where it was going.

### **Murder At The PTA**

After not having school events for the past 4 months, this one made me crave back to school. Also, the reminder that parents shouldn't just each other too harshly, everyone has a past and struggles.

### **Station Eleven by Mandel**

Very interesting!