

## ***The Killing Trail* by Margaret Mizushima**

When a young girl is found dead in the mountains outside Timber Creek, life-long resident Officer Mattie Cobb and her partner, K-9 police dog Robo, are assigned to the case that has rocked the small Colorado town. With the help of Cole Walker, local veterinarian and a single father, Mattie and Robo must track down the truth before it claims another victim. But the more Mattie investigates, the more she realizes how many secrets her hometown holds. And the key may be Cole's daughter, who knows more than she's saying. The murder was just the beginning, and if Mattie isn't careful, she and Robo could be next. Suspenseful and smart, *Killing Trail* is a gripping read that will have readers clamoring for more Mattie and Robo for years to come. Fans of Nevada Barr and C.J. Box will love this explosive debut. (Amazon review)

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

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. What happens to them--and to the men they love--becomes an unforgettable drama of loyalty, justice, humanity and passion. These heroic women refuse to be cowed by men or by convention. And though they face all kinds of dangers in a landscape that is at times breathtakingly beautiful, at others brutal, they're committed to their job: bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives. Based on a true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is unparalleled in its scope and epic in its storytelling. Funny, heartbreaking, enthralling, it is destined to become a modern classic--a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond. (Amazon review)

## ***Rules For Visiting* by Jessica Kane**

A beautifully observed and deeply funny novel of May Attaway, a university gardener who sets out on an odyssey to reconnect with four old friends over the course of a year. At forty, May Attaway is more at home with plants than people. Over the years, she's turned inward, finding pleasure in language, her work as a gardener, and keeping her neighbors at arm's length while keenly observing them. But when she is unexpectedly granted some leave from her job, May is inspired to reconnect with four once close friends. She knows they will never have a proper reunion, so she goes, one-by-one, to each of them. A student of the classics, May considers her journey a female Odyssey. What might the world have had if, instead of waiting, Penelope had set out on an adventure of her own? *RULES FOR VISITING* is a woman's exploration of friendship in the digital age. Deeply alert to the nobility and the ridiculousness of ordinary people, May savors the pleasures along the way--afternoon ice cream with a long-lost friend, surprise postcards from an unexpected crush, and a moving encounter with ancient beauty. Though she gets a taste of viral online fame, May chooses to bypass her friends' perfectly cultivated online lives to instead meet them in their messy analog ones.

Ultimately, May learns that a best friend is someone who knows your story--and she inspires us all to master the art of visiting. (Amazon review)

## ***The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson**

In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER

LYNTON HISTORY PRIZE WINNER

HEARTLAND AWARD WINNER

DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE FINALIST

From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves.

## ***Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh**

Almost 10 years before *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a 'Whites only' school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California.

## ***Stamped From the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi**

Some Americans cling desperately to the myth that we are living in a post-racial society, that the election of the first Black president spelled the doom of racism. In fact, racist thought is alive and well in America--more sophisticated and more insidious than ever. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues in *Stamped from the Beginning*, if we have any hope of grappling with this stark reality, we must first understand how racist ideas were developed, disseminated, and enshrined in American society. In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. *Stamped from the Beginning* uses the life stories of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists.

### ***Oogy: The Dog Only a Family Could Love* by Larry Levin**

"What happens when one dog is used as bait to inspire another dog to kill? Nothing anyone with a conscience wants to imagine but it happened to Oogy, the puppy torn apart and left to die before being discovered by the police. This is a story about what can happen when the worst in people meets the best in people and the best wins. In spite of its subject, this is a gentle tale of one man's love for his dog and the angels along the way who brought Oogy into his life."—**Susan Richards, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Chosen by a Horse and Saddled***

### ***James Herriots' Animal Stories* by James Herriot (on Hoopla)**

"James Herriot found a gentle, wise and often humorous way to write about animals and to evoke a beautiful but fading way of life in those Yorkshire Hills...I can't say that I have ever quite matched the writing...but he has always inspired me and given me something to aim for." —**Jon Katz, *NYT* bestselling author of *Second Chance Dog***

### ***Cat Daddy: What the World's Most Incurable Cat Taught Me About Life, Love, and Coming Clean* by Jackson Galaxy (on Hoopla and an Overdrive audiobook)**

"Galaxy is not your average animal behaviorist. He speaks Cat. And cats listen. He works miracles in saving death-row cats in shelters by helping them get over their fears and increase their self-esteem, and coaching them to 'work it' with potential adopters."—**mousebreath.com**

### ***The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness* by Sy Montgomery**

"Can an octopus have a mind and emotions, let alone a soul? Sy Montgomery faces these questions head-on in her engaging new book as she explores the world of octopuses, making friends with several and finding heartbreak when they die. They aren't, she discovers, simply brainless invertebrates, but personable, playful, conscious beings. Montgomery's enthusiasm for animals most of us rarely see is infectious, and readers will come away with a new appreciation for what it means to be an octopus." -- Virginia Morell, author of *ANIMAL WISE: How We Know Animals Think and Feel*

### ***H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald**

"An inspired, beautiful and absorbing account of a woman battling grief—with a goshawk. . . . Writing with breathless urgency . . . Macdonald broadens her scope well beyond herself to focus on the antagonism between people and the environment. Whether you call this a personal story or nature writing, it's poignant, thoughtful and moving—and likely to become a classic in either genre." —***Kirkus Reviews*** (starred review)

### ***Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl* by Stacey O'Brien (on Hoopla and an Overdrive audiobook)**

"Stacey O'Brien tells the intriguing story of how her life was changed and rearranged when she attempted to tame and raise Wesley -- a barn owl. She shows us how she was ultimately repaid with his love and devotion, and given glimpses into the mind of an animal that has an unexpected ability to understand human language and to communicate. Fascinating!" -- Stanley Coren, psychologist and author of *How Dogs Think* and *Why Does My Dog Act That Way?*

### ***The Last Policeman* by Ben Winters, Book 1 of a trilogy**

Amazon Best Books of the Month, July 2012: It's not often you hear a book described as a pre-apocalyptic police procedural. But in the hands of Ben Winters (*Sense And Sensibility And Seamonsters*), the mash-up of murder mystery and gloomy end-of-world melodrama works perfectly. Detective Hank Palace knows the world will likely be destroyed in six months by the meteor headed toward earth like a bullet. But unlike those who are giving up, quitting jobs, doing drugs, running away, or killing themselves, Palace has a job to do. He's got a murder to solve. So he keeps plugging away, unwilling to let the looming apocalypse distract him from finding the killer. Palace is an appealingly off-kilter character, more goofball than hard-boiled. So it's a very good thing that this is the first in a planned trilogy. --Neal Thompson

### ***The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson**

Author Erik Larson imbues the incredible events surrounding the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with such drama that readers may find themselves checking the book's categorization to be sure that *The Devil in the White City* is not, in fact, a highly imaginative novel. Larson tells the stories of two men: Daniel H. Burnham, the architect responsible for the fair's construction, and H.H. Holmes, a serial killer masquerading as a charming doctor. Burnham's challenge was immense. In a short period of time, he was forced to overcome the death of his partner and numerous other obstacles to construct the famous "White City" around which the fair was built. His efforts to complete the project, and the fair's incredible success, are skillfully related along with entertaining appearances by such notables as Buffalo Bill Cody, Susan B. Anthony, and Thomas Edison. The activities of the sinister Dr. Holmes, who is believed to be responsible for scores of murders around the time of the fair, are equally remarkable. He devised and erected the World's Fair Hotel, complete with crematorium and gas chamber, near the fairgrounds and used the event as well as his own charismatic personality to lure victims. Combining the stories of an architect and a killer in one book, mostly in alternating chapters, seems like an odd choice but it works. The magical appeal and horrifying dark side of 19th-century Chicago are both revealed through Larson's skillful writing. --John Moe

### ***Spearhead: An American Tank Gunner, His Enemy, and a Collision of Lives in World War II* by Adam Makos**

"The tension, death, and courage that were everyday experiences for American tankers fill the pages of Makos's book. This moving story of bravery and comradeship is an important contribution to WWII history that will inform and fascinate both the general reader and the military historian."

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

### ***The Dead Cat Bounce* by Sarah Graves ( on Hoopla and Overdrive)**

Another mystery series to keep in mind to dive into, so start with *The Dead Cat Bounce* to get the foundation for the series. Jacobia Tiptree buys a fixer upper in Eastport Maine in an attempt to rebuild her life after leaving NYC post divorce. Fixing up her dilapidated house becomes more involved when a dead body is discovered and the small town dislike of outsiders asking questions puts Jacobia in danger.

### ***A Beautiful Blue Death* by Charles Finch**

Set in Victorian England you can almost feel the fog rolling in off the Thames in this mystery series. Starting with *A Beautiful Blue Death*, in which we meet Charles Lenox, a gentleman pursuing what is considered an ungentlemanly career in private enquiry.

### ***Still Life* by Louise Penny (on Hoopla and Overdrive)**

Starting off this series with the first book allows you to meet all the regular characters who you will see throughout the series. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators find themselves investigating a crime in the tiny town of Three Pines. A town so small it isn't on the maps. No one wants to believe it is anything more than a tragic accident when Jane Neal is found dead in the woods. But Gamache and his team soon uncover clues that point to homicide.

### ***Nature Noir: a Park Ranger's Patrol in the Sierra* by Jordan Fisher Smith (on Hoopla)**

A terrific slice of what it is like to be a Park Ranger and off on your own patrolling the wilderness. More than just a nature walk and story, this is about what happens when you are charged with enforcing the laws well off the beaten path, where backup isn't going to be available.

### ***The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce**

A wonderful book about a conventional man doing a most unconventional thing for an old co-worker. When Harold receives a letter it starts a chain of events that spawns a movement as he begins a trip across England by foot to get to the bedside of someone he knew long ago.

### ***The Crossing Places* by Elly Griffiths**

Start off this series right, reading the first book sets the mood and introduces you to the many characters who will carryover from book to book. Ruth Galloway is a forensic anthropologist in the remote Norfolk region of England. Her day to day schedule of teaching is upended when a body is found at an Iron Age site. The detective in charge calls Ruth in on the case because he believes it might be linked to a 10 year old case he handled. But then a second child goes missing, and shadowy characters and taunting letters seem to mix these cases up leading Ruth and Detective Nelson down a winding path that may very well lead to another death. Fans of atmospheric mysteries and believable characters will enjoy this start of the series.

### ***The President's Hat* by Antoine Laurain**

The story of a hat might seem like an unlikely theme for a tale, but what a delightful story ensues in this short book. One evening President Francois Mitterand eats in an elegant restaurant and leaves his hat behind. When another diner sees the hat and takes it with

him, the ensuing events change his life and those who don the chapeau down the line. The ending leaves the reader with a smile at the simple, yet unexpected, twist.

### ***Shortest Way Home* by Pete Buttigieg**

For those who enjoy a contemporary biography with a side of politics. Throughout this book you can feel the history and strong sense of place that drew Pete back to his hometown. Once home and settled he was elected the nation's youngest mayor and set in motion a plan to bring South Bend back from years of decay and being considered just a flyover region. Tempered and well thought out, this book contains no preaching and rhetoric, instead it offers possibilities and options for a country that sorely needs a new direction.

### ***Squeezed* by Alissa Quart**

You are not crazy, this book reassures you of that, and yet it also confirms that you are being squeezed. Whether you are paying for childcare, seeing more robots on the job or feeling as if the dollar isn't going even halfway towards monthly expenses, this book illuminates the problem. It also presents some solutions people are using to try and offset the struggle.

### ***The Invoice* by Jonas Karlsson**

Delightful. There was just something about the author's style of writing that made this very enjoyable to read. What would you expect a bill for your "happiness" to total? How would you begin to assess the value to your life, much less pay the bill. In this story, that is exactly what happens, the main character receives a bill and the ensuing tale unfolds as he looks at his life.

### ***The Red Notebook* by Antoine Laurain**

A short book to be savored, wonderfully written it appears nothing was lost in translation. Just a delight to read. A lost handbag containing a red notebook of personal jottings, found by a passerby who takes it as a mission to locate the owner.

### ***A World Lost* by Wendell Berry**

Wendell Berry is a master at storytelling, this tale is set in 1944 and introduces some of the many characters who populate Port Royal, Kentucky. Young Andy Catlett is the narrator and shares with the reader his emotions and sense of guilt over the murder of his uncle. This is a wonderful book to start with in the Port Royal series