

Women's Fiction

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout

"Though loneliness and loss haunt these pages, Strout also supplies gentle humor and a nourishing dose of hope. People are sustained by the rhythms of ordinary life and the natural wonders of coastal Maine, and even Olive is sometimes caught off guard by life's baffling beauty."

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

"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 grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings."

A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty by Joshilyn Jackson

"... a powerful saga of three generations of women, plagued by hardships and torn by a devastating secret, yet inextricably joined by the bonds of family. Fifteen-year-old Mosey Slocumb-spirited, sassy, and on the cusp of womanhood-is shaken when a small grave is unearthed in the backyard, and determined to figure out why it's there."

I've Got Your Number by Sophie Kinsella

"After she loses her engagement ring and her phone is stolen during a hotel fire drill, Poppy Wyatt, discovering an abandoned phone in a trash can, crashes into the life of the phone's owner, businessman Sam Roxton, when she uses his phone to make her wedding preparations."

The Secret Keeper by Kate Morton

"Jennifer Burns has always had an 'old soul,' but joining the Amish world will challenge her spirit—and her heart—in ways she never expected."



This list was compiled by RUSA, a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Revised 1/22/2014

Mystery

The Alienist by Caleb Carr

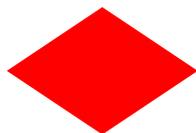
The year is 1896, the place, New York City. On a cold March night New York Times reporter John Schuyler Moore is summoned to the East River by his friend and former Harvard classmate Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, a psychologist, or "alienist." On the unfinished Williamsburg Bridge, they view the horribly mutilated body of an adolescent boy, a prostitute from one of Manhattan's infamous brothels.

Trickster's Point by William Kent Krueger

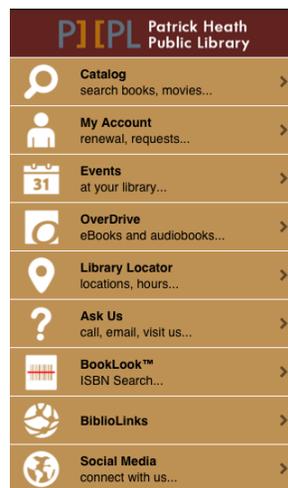
"Cork O'Connor has gone bow-hunting with Jubal Little, Minnesota's first Native American governor-elect, when an arrow out of nowhere slices through Little's heart. Alas, the arrow belongs to O'Connor, and he must find out who framed him for this murder."

The Beautiful Mystery by Louise Penny

"Louise Penny has crafted an almost perfect crime—haunting, puzzling, brilliant and indeed a most beautiful mystery. Chief Inspector Gamache is one of my favorite characters in fiction. Here he must penetrate a cloistered monastery deep in the northern woods of Quebec, where a murdered monk is his ticket to get in. This is a tour-de-force for Penny, and a thrilling, intelligent read."



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Fantasy

***The Rook* by Daniel O'Malley**

"Myfanwy Thomas awakes in a London park surrounded by dead bodies. With her memory gone, her only hope of survival is to trust the instructions left in her pocket by her former self. She quickly learns that she is a Rook, a high-level operative in a secret agency that protects the world from supernatural threats. But there is a mole inside the organization and this person wants her dead."

***The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde**

Imagine this. Great Britain in 1985 is close to being a police state. The Crimean War has dragged on for more than 130 years and Wales is self-governing. The only recognizable thing about this England is her citizens' enduring love of literature. And the Third Most Wanted criminal, Acheron Hades, is stealing characters from England's cherished literary heritage and holding them for ransom.

Horror

***The Ruins* by Scott Smith**

"A classic horror story, told with mounting detail. Smith spins it out relentlessly, piling chill on chill on chill ... what happens, and needless to say it's not good, is something readers will race page after flapping page to discover. When they do, they will find—well, better set aside eight or nine hours reading time, keep the lights on, and make sure the plants are still in their pots."

***Deliverance* by James Dickey**

The setting is the Georgia wilderness, where the states most remote white-water river awaits. In the thundering froth of that river, in its echoing stone canyons, four men on a canoe trip discover a freedom and exhilaration beyond compare. And then, in a moment of horror, the adventure turns into a struggle for survival as one man becomes a human hunter who is offered his own harrowing deliverance.

Historical Fiction

***Bring up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel**

"Marvelous, intoxicating ... read Bring Up the Bodies for its chilling character profile, its period details on jousting and Tudor kitchens, its congregation of the seven deadly sins....Nobody should skip a heady word of Mantel's planned trilogy."

***Mary, the Queen of Scots, and the Murder of Lord Darnley* by Alison Weir**

"One of the most intriguing murder mysteries in European history . . . no stone is left unturned in Weir's investigation, and her book is as dramatic as witnessing firsthand the most riveting court case."

***I, Claudius* by Robert Graves**

It has been over 70 years since Robert Graves wrote: 'I, Claudius' and 'Claudius The God' but they are still relevant and fascinating reading, especially to those who are interested in ancient Roman history and are curious as to where our society began and who structured it. The answers are: in Rome by Romans.

***Sutton* by J.R. Moehringer**

"Moehringer has found an historical subject equal to his vivid imagination, gimlet journalistic eye, and pitch-perfect ear for dialogue. By turns suspenseful, funny, romantic, and sad—in short, a book you won't be able to put down."

***The Cove* by Ron Rash**

"Here is a magnificent tale that captures the wondrous beauty of nature and love—and the darkness of superstition and fear—from one of America's most exciting contemporary novelists."

Science Fiction

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

"Stephen King's new novel, 11/22/63, combines a variety of genres, being a JFK assassination, a story of time travel, a variation on the grail quest, a novel of voyeurism, a love story, a historical novel, a counter-factual historical novel and the chilling tale of a sinister animate universe, a form which can be traced back to the ghost stories of M.R. James."

Suspense/Thriller

***Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn**

"It's her fifth wedding anniversary; where's Amy? Assumptions are dangerous in the chilling psychological thriller. The dark and twisty plot, unbearable levels of tension, and merciless pacing will rivet readers."

***Before I Go To Sleep* by S.J. Watson**

"Imagine drifting off every night knowing that your memories will be wiped away by morning. That's the fate of Christine Lucas, whose bewildering internal world is rendered with chilling intimacy in this debut literary thriller. . . . You'll stay up late reading until you know."

***Defending Jacob* by William Landay**

| Award-winning author William Landay has written the consummate novel of an embattled family in crisis—a suspenseful, character-driven mystery that is also a spellbinding tale of guilt, betrayal, and the terrifying speed at which our lives can spin out of control."

***The Inquisitor* by Mark Allen Smith**

"Information retrieval takes on a sinister cast in Smith's mesmerizing thriller debut. This may be the most unusual thriller of the season."

Romance

***Second Sight* by Amanda Quick**

"Photographer Venetia Milton is a spinster by Victorian standards, and she's also the sole support of her aunt and younger siblings. Things start to look up when she is chosen to photograph a collection of artifacts belonging to a 200-year-old clandestine organization founded by an alchemist. The collection is housed in a gothic mansion, and Venetia finds herself there in the company of handsome, mysterious Gabriel Jones."

***The Black Hawk* by Joanna Bourne**

Attacked on a rainy London street, veteran spy Justine DeCabrillac knows only one man can save her: Hawker, her oldest friend—her oldest enemy. London's crawling with hidden assassins and someone is out to frame Hawker for murder. The two spies must work together to find who's out to destroy them...