

A Big Bag of Books For Your Book Discussion Group

Genesee District Library encourages book discussion groups. We think books are meant to be shared whether reading funny verse to a toddler, talking about something wonderful found in a book, or recommending an author to a friend. A book group is sharing thoughts about a particular book and following the themes wherever they lead the group. Several established groups meet in our libraries. New groups can be started by just talking to a branch librarian.



GDL offers a great resource for book discussion groups anywhere in its service area. Whether you are thinking of starting a reading group or belong to an established group, we have a Big Bag of Books for you! The Library provides your group with a special bag containing:

- Ten copies of a title (see the attached list)
- A folder containing program information and reading guides for the title.

Large Print copies or audio books will be provided whenever available and can usually be requested from our normal online catalog. Many of these titles are also available for download from the GDL Digital Library as well.

Currently available Bags of Books are checked out for six weeks and can be picked up at your local GDL branch. Please call the GDL Programs/Events Coordinator at 810-230-3328 for more information about this program.

Join our e-mail list!

The GDL has set up an e-mail list that you can join for free to keep informed when new titles are added to the collection, when we're having special book club events, and other important announcements. You can subscribe to this list, send messages to the list members, and see an archive of previously sent messages at:<http://mailman.thegdl.org/mailman/listinfo/bagofbooks>

****New** - Art of Racing in the Rain by **Garth Stein** (321 pages)

On the eve of his death, Enzo, a philosopher dog with a nearly human soul and an obsession with opposable thumbs, takes stock of his life. In the end, despite what he sees as his own limitations, Enzo comes through heroically to preserve the Swift family holding in his heart the dream that Denny will become a racing champion with Zoe at his side.

At Home in Mitford by **Jan Karon** (720 pages)

As part of a series of five books, "At Home In Mitford" which introduces the reader to Father Tim, a cherished Episcopalian rector in the town of Mitford. The residents of Mitford will surely come to take up residence in your heart as you read through this heartwarming series of miracles, love, mysteries and everyday life which take you into the lives of Mitford's charming, eccentric, and lovable citizens including Father Tim's big black dog, Barnabas, who can be instructed to behave with a mere verse of scripture!

Atonement by **Ian McEwan** (368 pages)

In 1935 England, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis witnesses an event involving her sister Cecilia and her childhood friend Robbie Turner, and she becomes the victim of her own imagination, which leads her on a lifelong search for truth and absolution.

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress by **Dai Sijie** (184 pages)

During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, two boys are sent to the country for reeducation, where their lives take an unexpected turn when they meet the beautiful daughter of a local tailor and stumble upon a forbidden stash of Western literature.

Bee Season by **Myla Goldberg** (274 pages)

An ordinary girl with an exceptional gift for spelling, young Eliza Naumann embarks on the rough-and-tumble "spelling bee" circuit, where her quirky family will collide with the harsh realities of life.

****New** - Book Thief by **Markus Zusak** (552 pages)

Liesel Meminger is a young girl living near Munich in Nazi Germany. Liesel is scratching out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she discovers something she can't resist--books. Soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever they are to be found.

Chosen by a Horse by **Susan Richards** (256 pages)

The horse Susan Richards chose for rescue wouldn't be corralled into her waiting trailer. But Lay Me Down, a former racehorse with a foal close on her heels, walked right up that ramp and into Susan's life. Weak from malnutrition, Lay Me Down had endured a rough road, but somehow her heart was still open and generous. Then fate brought her into Susan's paddock, where she taught this brokenhearted woman how to embrace the joys of life despite the dangers of living.

****New - Coroners Lunch by Colin Cotterill (257 pages)**

Dr. Siri Paiboun, one of the last doctors left in Laos after the Communist takeover, has been drafted to be national coroner. He is untrained for the job, but this independent 72-year-old has an outstanding qualification for it: curiosity. And he doesn't mind incurring the wrath of the Party hierarchy as he unravels mysterious murders, because the spirits of the dead are on his side.

Crow Lake by Mary Lawson (291 pages)

A simple trip to town to buy their college bound son a suitcase ends in tragedy for the Morrison family. When their parents are killed in an automobile accident, the 4 Morrison children are left to forge ahead with heartbreaking humor, misunderstandings, resentments, and family love.

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon (221 pages)

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Digging to America by Anne Tyler (288 pages)

Two families awaiting the arrival of their adopted infant daughters from Korea meet at the airport. The families lives become intertwined after the Donaldsons, a young American couple invite the Yazdan's, Maryam, her son and his Iranian American wife to an arrival party, which becomes an annual event. Maryam, who came to this country thirty-five years earlier, feels her values threatened when she is courted by a newly widowed Donaldson. A penetrating light on the American way as seen from two perspectives, those who are born here and those who are still struggling to fit in .A chance airport encounter between two families--the Donaldsons, and the Iranian-born Yazdans--as both couples await the arrival of an adopted daughter from Korea, prompts an examination about what it means to be an American.

Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller (301 pages)

Magnificently original and affecting, Fuller's memoir of a childhood dominated by the Rhodesian civil war of 1971-1979 captures the fascinating life of a white family living in one of the most remote regions of Africa. The author sensitively and lovingly conveys the frightening aspects of wartime, her family's personal struggles, and her parents' own racism, all the while retaining a bittersweet sense of humor. 2001.

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert (334 pages)

Charming, gregarious, spiritually curious, and suffering a disastrous divorce, Elizabeth Gilbert picked herself up and took off for a year of travel. The journey took her to Italy to explore Pleasure, to India to study Devotion, and to Indonesia to find Balance. The result of this exploration is an engaging, intelligent, and entertaining memoir rich in spiritual insight.

Evening by **Susan Minot** (264 pages)

Now ailing and surrounded by her children, sixty-five-year-old Ann Grant Lord reminisces about a glorious summer weekend some forty years earlier during which she met and lost the love of her life. By the author of Folly.

Eye Contact by **Cammie McGovern** (290 pages)

In the aftermath of a child's shocking murder, the mother of the only witness, an autistic boy, struggles to work through her son's trauma and his communication disabilities in order to help the police to solve the case.

Firefly Lane by **Kristin Hannah** (479 pages)

Firefly Lane is the poignant, powerful story of two women and the friendship that becomes the bulkhead of their lives. For thirty years, Tully and Kate buoy each other through life, weathering the storms of friendship--jealousy, anger, hurt, resentment. They think they've survived it all until a single act of betrayal tears them apart...and puts their courage and friendship to the ultimate test.

Founding Mothers by **Cokie Roberts** (278 pages)

Focusing mainly on the wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers of the Founding Fathers, this lively and engaging title chronicles the adventures and contributions of numerous women of the era between 1740 and 1797. While their men were away serving as soldiers, statesmen, or ambassadors, the women's lives were fraught with difficulty and danger. Through it all, they corresponded with their husbands, friends, and even like-minded women in England. Readers will enjoy seeing how many of these individuals showed their mettle when they were still in their teens.

French by Heart by **Rebecca S. Ramsey** (304 pages)

Describes how an American family of five moved from South Carolina suburbia to a town in the middle of France and the dramatic changes in their lives as the entire family embraced a whole new culture and language.

****New** - French Lieutenant's Woman by **John Fowles** (467 pages)

Sarah Woodruff lives in the Coastal town of Lyme Regis, as a disgraced woman, supposedly ill-used by a French naval officer who turned out to be married. She soon catches the attention of Charles Smithson, and a clandestine and convention defying relationship begins.

Friday Night Knitting Club by **Kate Jacobs** (345 pages)

As a single mom in her late 30s, Georgia has her hands full juggling the demands of running the Walker & Daughter knitting store with the challenges of raising her spunky teen daughter, Dakota. Georgia's regular customers gather once a week to work on their latest projects and chat.

Girl Named Zippy by **Haven Kimmel** (275 pages)

When Haven Kimmel was born in 1965, Mooreland, Indiana, was a sleepy little hamlet of three hundred people. Nicknamed "Zippy" for the way she would bolt around the house, this small girl was possessed of big eyes and even bigger ears. In this witty and lovingly told memoir, Kimmel takes readers back to a time when small-town America was caught in the amber of the innocent postwar period—people helped their neighbors, went to church on Sunday, and kept barnyard animals in their backyards. Laced with fine storytelling, sharp wit, dead-on observations, and moments of sheer joy, Haven Kimmel's straight-shooting portrait of her childhood gives us a heroine who is wonderfully sweet and sly as she navigates the quirky adult world that surrounds Zippy.

Girl With a Pearl Earring by **Tracy Chevalier** (233 pages)

A poor seventeenth-century servant girl knows her place in the household of the painter Johannes Vermeer, but when he begins to paint her, nasty whispers and rumors circulate throughout the town.

Glass Castle by **Jeannette Walls** (288 pages)

The second child of a scholarly, alcoholic father and an eccentric artist mother discusses her family's nomadic upbringing from the Arizona desert, to Las Vegas, to an Appalachian mining town, during which her siblings and she fended for themselves while their parents outmaneuvered bill collectors and the authorities.

Good Good Pig by **Sy Montgomery** (272 pages)

When author Sy Montgomery brought home the runt of the pig litter as a pet, she never imagined how much he would grow and enrich the lives of all those who came in contact with him. This amazing pig not only thrived, but he reached 750 pounds of exuberance and free spirit. Christopher Hogwood was not just sociable and amusing, but he was also a catalyst for humans around him to help and support each other.

****New** - Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by **Mary Ann Shaffer** (290 pages)

In January of 1946, Juliet Ashton receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German Occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

Haunting of Hill House by **Shirley Jackson** (208 pages)

First published in 1959, Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* has been hailed as a perfect work of unnerving terror. It is the story of four seekers who arrive at a notoriously unfriendly pile called Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of a "haunting"; Theodora, his lighthearted assistant; Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman well acquainted with poltergeists; and Luke, the future heir of Hill House. At first, their stay seems destined to be merely a spooky encounter with inexplicable phenomena. But Hill House is gathering its powers—and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.

Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo by **Paula Huntley** (226 pages)

The author recounts her experiences as an English teacher for Kosovo Albanians and how her students formed a book club that brought them together and helped them work through their painful war experiences.

Jane Austen Book Club by **Karen Joy Fowler** (288 pages)

As six Californians get together to form a book club to discuss the novels of Jane Austen, their lives are turned upside down by troubled marriages, illicit affairs, changing relationships, and love.

Julie and Julia by **Julie Powell** (307 pages)

Nearing 30 and trapped in a dead-end secretarial job, Julie Powell resolved to reclaim her life by cooking, in the span of a single year, every one of the 524 recipes in Julia Child's legendary *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. Her unexpected reward: not just a newfound respect for calves' livers and aspic, but a new life--lived with gusto.

Kindred by **Octavia E. Butler** (264 pages)

Dana, a modern black woman, is celebrating her twenty-sixth birthday with her new husband, when she is abruptly snatched from her home in present California and transported back to the antebellum South. Rufus, the white son of a plantation owner, is drowning; and Dana has been summoned across the years to save him. After this first summons, Dana is drawn back again and again to the plantation to protect Rufus and ensure that he will grow to manhood and father the daughter who is to become her ancestor. Each time, however, the stays grow longer and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not Dana's life will end, long before it has even begun.

Kite Runner by **Khaled Hosseini** (371 pages)

Traces the unlikely friendship of Amir, a wealthy Afghanistani youth, and a servant's son, in a tale that spans the final days of the nation's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by **Bill Bryson** (268 pages)

Bill Bryson re-creates the life of his family and his native city in the 1950s in all its transcendent normality—a life at once completely familiar to us all and as far away and unreachable as another galaxy. It was, he reminds us, a happy time, when automobiles and televisions and appliances (not to mention nuclear weapons) grew larger and more numerous with each passing year, and DDT, cigarettes, and the fallout from atmospheric testing were considered harmless or even good for you. He brings us into the life of his loving but eccentric family, including affectionate portraits of his father, a gifted sportswriter for the local paper and dedicated practitioner of isometric exercises, and of his mother, whose job as the home furnishing editor for the same paper left her little time for practicing the domestic arts at home.

Little Heathens by **Mildred Armstrong Kalish** (290 pages)

Little Heathens offers a loving but realistic portrait of a “hearty-handshake Methodist” family that gave its members a remarkable legacy of kinship, kindness, and remembered pleasures. Recounted in a luminous narrative filled with tenderness and humor, Kalish’s memoir of her childhood shows how the right stuff can make even the bleakest of times seem like “quite a romp.”

Loving Frank by **Nancy Horan** (400 pages)

Drawing on years of research, Horan weaves little-known facts into a compelling narrative, vividly portraying the conflicts and struggles of a woman forced to choose between the roles of mother, wife, lover, and intellectual. Horan’s Mamah is a woman seeking to find her own place, her own creative calling in the world. Mamah’s is an unforgettable journey marked by choices that reshape her notions of love and responsibility, leading inexorably ultimately lead to this novel’s stunning conclusion. Elegantly written and remarkably rich in detail, Loving Frank is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman, a national icon, and their timeless love story.

Madonnas of Leningrad by **Debra Dean** (228 pages)

As a young woman, Marina worked as a museum guide at the Hermitage in Leningrad. When war broke out and the Germans invaded the city, Marina and her comrades were tasked with removing the museum's priceless treasures and storing them safely away. During the 900 days of siege, the city residents faced devastation, starvation, and cold. The Hermitage's basement became Marina's refuge. The empty picture frames gracing its exhibition halls contained echoes of its former art, providing a distraction that helped Marina survive the horrors of war. Now living in Seattle, Marina is an elderly woman who is sinking into dementia. About to attend her granddaughter's wedding, her past overtakes the present and she is living in a muddled world of war, beauty, and the struggle for survival.

Maisie Dobbs by **Jacqueline Winspear** (306 pages)

Private detective Maisie Dobbs must investigate the reappearance of a dead man who turns up at a cooperative farm called the Retreat that caters to men who are recovering their health after World War I.

March by **Geraldine Brooks** (280 pages)

Brooks's luminous second novel, after 2001's acclaimed Year of Wonders, imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. An idealistic Concord cleric, March becomes a Union chaplain and later finds himself assigned to be a teacher on a cotton plantation that employs freed slaves, or "contraband." His narrative begins with cheerful letters home, but March gradually reveals to the reader what he does not to his family: the cruelty and racism of Northern and Southern soldiers, the violence and suffering he is powerless to prevent and his reunion with Grace, a beautiful, educated slave whom he met years earlier as a Connecticut peddler to the plantations.

Memory Keeper's Daughter by **Kim Edwards** (401 pages)

In a tale spanning twenty-five years, a doctor delivers his newborn twin daughter during a snowstorm and, rashly deciding to protect his wife from the baby's affliction with Down Syndrome, turns her over to a nurse, who secretly raises the child.

My Sister's Keeper by **Jodi Picoult** (448 pages)

New York Times bestselling author Jodi Picoult is widely acclaimed for her keen insights into the hearts and minds of real people. Now she tells the emotionally riveting story of a family torn apart by conflicting needs and a passionate love that triumphs over human weakness. My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are, if that quest makes you like yourself less? Should you follow your own heart, or let others lead you? Once again, in My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity.

Nanny Diaries by **Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus** (368 pages)

Nanny, a struggling NYU student, takes a position caring for the son of the rich and glamorous X family, and learns how to juggle a vast array of tasks so that a Park Avenue wife never has to lift a well-manicured finger.

Next Thing on My List by **Jill Smolinski** (288 pages)

After a car accident in which her passenger, Marissa, dies, June Parker finds herself in possession of a list Marissa has written: "20 Things to Do by My 25th Birthday." The tasks range from inspiring (run a 5K) to daring (go braless) to near-impossible (change someone's life). To assuage her guilt, June races to achieve each goal herself before the deadline, learning more about her own life than she ever bargained for.

****New** - Nickel and Dimed by **Barbara Ehrenreich** (244 pages)

This book has fueled nationwide campaigns for a living wage. Funny, poignant, and passionate, this revelatory firsthand account of life in low-wage America- the story of Barbara Ehrenreich's attempts to eke out a living while working as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide, and Wal-Mart Associate, has become an essential part of the nation's political discourse.

No! I Don't Want to Join a Book Club by **Virginia Ironside** (231 pages)

In her first American release, London journalist Ironside slices through the hullabaloo about reclaiming youth. On the cusp of 60, Marie begins keeping a diary, and the approximately 18 months' worth of entries that make up the narrative offer blunt appraisals of the state of the world, matters of health and family, and the good and bad aspects of the Internet age (cut and paste is good; booking travel online is bad).

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by **Alexander McCall Smith** (235 pages)

Working in Gaborone, Botswana, sleuth Precious Ramotswe investigates several local mysteries, including a search for a missing boy and the case of the clinic doctor with different personalities for different days of the week.

****New** - Ocean's Apart by **Karen Kingsbury** (352 pages)

Eight years ago, during a stormy weekend on the shores of Hawaii, Connor Evans broke his vows. He's kept his secret, until the woman from Connor's past dies, leaving behind a young son... Michele never thought her family was perfect, but they were happy. Now her family is on the brink of destruction. Will a lonely child help bridge the distance between them-before it's too late?

****New** - Olive Kitteridge by **Elizabeth Strout** (286 pages)

At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplors the changes in her little town and in the world at large. As the townspeople grapple with their problems, mild and dire, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life with ruthless honesty.

One Thousand White Women by **Jim Fergus** (304 pages)

A vivid portrait of the American West follows May Dodd as she leaves the East Coast asylum to which she had been committed by her high-society family, heads west, and, with the help of a government program, ends up marrying a chief of the Cheyenne nation.

Other Boleyn Girl by **Philippa Gregory** (735 pages)

Sisterly rivalry is the basis of this fresh, wonderfully vivid retelling of the story of Anne Boleyn. Anne, her sister Mary and their brother George are all brought to the king's court at a young age, as players in their uncle's plans to advance the family's fortunes.

Out Stealing Horses by **Per Petterson** (238 pages)

Out Stealing Horses has been embraced across the world as a classic, a novel of universal relevance and power. Panoramic and gripping, it tells the story of Trond Sander, a sixty-seven-year-old man who has moved from the city to a remote, riverside cabin, only to have all the turbulence, grief, and overwhelming beauty of his youth come back to him one night while he's out on a walk. From the moment Trond sees a strange figure coming out of the dark behind his home, the reader is immersed in a decades-deep story of searching and loss, and in the precise, irresistible prose of a newly crowned master of fiction.

Peace Like a River by **Leif Enger** (320 pages)

Equal parts tragedy, romance, adventure yarn, and meditation, Peace Like a River is an inspired story of family love, religious faith, and the lifelong work and trust required of both.

Pilot's Wife by **Anita Shreve** (304 pages)

From the initial knock on the door at 3 a.m. to some five months later, Katharine Lyons finds herself in the grips of extreme emotion. Her pilot husband Jack's plane, with 103 passengers aboard, has exploded off the coast of Ireland.

Red Tent by **Anita Diamant** (336 pages)

The Red Tent tells the little-known Biblical story of Dinah, daughter of the patriarch Jacob and his wife, Leah. In Chapter 34 of the Book of Genesis, Dinah's tale is a short, horrific detour in the familiar narrative of Jacob and Joseph. Anita Diamant imaginatively tells the story from the fresh perspective of its women. In the Biblical tale Dinah is given no voice; she is the narrator of THE RED TENT, which reveals the life of ancient womanhood -- the world of the red tent. Readers of THE RED TENT will view the Book of Genesis in a new light. This guide can help spur creative discussions of the timeless story.

Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman by **Elizabeth Buchan** (341 pages)

Her happy marriage and successful career falling apart after twenty-five years, Rose Lloyd struggles with the prospect of starting over before finding unexpected fulfillment in her new independence and the reappearance of an old flame.

River King by **Alice Hoffman** (344 pages)

There are two things any reader can count on when coming to Alice Hoffman: her prose and a remarkable empathy for those who live on the fringes of society. In her 13th novel, the author turns both to good account. Set in a tony private school located in a small New England town, The River King traces an intricate weave of intersecting lives over the course of a year.

Rocket Boys by **Homer H. Hickam, Jr.** (368 pages)

The author traces the boyhood enthusiasm for rockets that eventually led to a career at NASA, describing how he built model rockets in the family garage in West Virginia, inspired by the launch of the Soviet satellite "Sputnik"

****New** - Sarah's Key by **Tatiana De Rosnay** (293 pages)

Paris, July 1942: Sarah, a ten-year-old girl, is taken with her parents by the French police as they go door-to-door arresting Jewish families in the middle of the night. Desperate to protect her younger brother, Sarah locks him in a bedroom cupboard-their secret hiding place-and promises to come back for him as soon as they are released. Sixty years later, Sarah's story intertwines with that of Julia Jarmond, an American journalist investigating the roundup. In her research, Julia stumbles onto a trail of secrets that link her to Sarah, and to questions about her own romantic future.

Secret Life of Bees by **Sue Monk Kidd** (302 pages)

After her "stand-in mother," a bold black woman named Rosaleen, insults the three biggest racists in town, Lily Owens joins Rosaleen on a journey to Tiburon, South Carolina, where they are taken in by three black, bee-keeping sisters.

Senator's Wife by **Sue Miller** (306 pages)

Meri is newly married and pregnant, and standing on the cusp of life and mother, recognizing with some terror the gap between reality and expectation. Delia, wife of the 2-term Senator Tom Naughton, is Meri's new neighbor in the adjacent town house. Tom's infidelity is an open secret in Washington circles, but despite the complexity of their relationship, the bond between them remains strong. Soon Delia and Meri find themselves leading strangely parallel lives, as they reckon with the mysteries of marriage.

****New** - Shadows of Lancaster County by **Mindy Starns Clark** (326 pages)

Anna Bailey thought she left the tragedies of the past behind when she took on a new identity and moved from Pennsylvania to California. But now that her brother has vanished and his wife is crying out for help, Anna knows she has no choice but to come out of hiding, go home, and find him. Back in Lancaster County, Anna follows the high-tech trail her brother left behind, a trail that leads from the simple world of Amish farming to the cutting edge of DNA research and gene therapy.

****New** - Shroud for a Nightingale by **P.D. James** (363 pages)

The young women of Nightingale House are there to learn to nurse and comfort the suffering. But when one of the students plays patient in a demonstration of nursing skills, she is horribly, brutally killed. Another student dies equally mysteriously, and it is up to Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard to unmask a killer who has decided to prescribe murder as the cure for all ills.

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by **Lisa See** (258 pages)

A story of friendship set in nineteenth-century China follows an elderly woman and her companion as they communicate their hopes, dreams, joys, and tragedies through a unique secret language.

Spies by **Michael Frayn** (261 pages)

When a long-forgotten scent forces Stephen Wheatley to confront his past, he starts to remember a troubling childhood summer in wartime London where an imaginative child's game of playing spies wreaked havoc upon innocent lives.

****New** - Starvation Lake by **Bryan Gruley** (370 pages)

In the dead of a Michigan winter, pieces of a snowmobile wash up near the crumbling, small town of Starvation Lake—the same snowmobile that went down with Starvation's legendary hockey coach years earlier. But everybody knows Coach Blackburn's accident happened five miles away on a different lake. As rumors buzz about mysterious underground tunnels, the evidence from the snowmobile says one thing: murder.

Stop That Girl by **Elizabeth McKenzie** (207 pages)

From the start of Elizabeth McKenzie's beguiling fiction debut, we are drawn into the offbeat worldview of sharp-eyed, intrepid Ann Ransom. *Stop That Girl* chronicles Ann's colorful coming-of-age travails, from her childhood in a disjointed family through her tender adolescence and beyond. Along the way, she discovers the absurdities that lurk around every corner of a young woman's life, by way of oafish neighbors, overzealous boyfriends, prurient vegetable salesmen, sour landlords, and an iconoclast grandmother, known even to her family as Dr. Frost. Keenly funny and highly original, *Stop That Girl* is a brilliant examination of the exigencies of love and the fragile fabric of family, and heralds the emergence of a remarkable new voice in fiction.

****New** - Suspicious of Mr. Whicher by **Kate Summerscale** (372 pages)

In June of 1860, three-year old Saville Kent was found at the bottom of an outdoor privy, his throat viciously cut. The suspicion that fell upon the grieving family and their servants horrified the public. In this true story, Scotland Yard sent its best man, Detective-Inspector Jonathan Whicher to investigate the murder at Road Hill.

These Old Shades by **Georgette Heyer** (384 pages)

When Justin Alastair, the Duke of Avon, rescues a beautiful orphan from life on the streets it is for one reason only--to use her to get revenge on his enemy Comte de Saint Vire. Sure that the street urchin is Comte's illegitimate daughter, Justin plans to present her to society, expose her past, and destroy her father in the process. However, what Justin did not count on was the fact that he would fall in love with her himself.

Thirteenth Tale by **Diane Setterfield** (406 pages)

Now old and ailing, the famous but reclusive writer, Vida Winter, is ready to reveal the truth about her extraordinary existence and the violent and tragic past she has kept secret for 6 decades. Calling on young biographer Margaret Lea, who is also troubled by a painful past, Vida disinters the life she meant to bury for good in this gothic tale of heartache and romance.

Thousand Splendid Suns by **Khaled Hosseini** (420 pages)

Propelled by the same superb instinct for storytelling that made *The Kite Runner* a beloved classic, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is at once an incredible chronicle of thirty years of Afghan history and a deeply moving story of family, friendship, faith, and the salvation to be found in love.

Thread of Grace by **Mary Doria Russell** (430 pages)

Set in the ports and valleys of northeastern Italy during the last 2 years of World War II, Mary Doria Russell tells the story of 43,000 Jews, both native born Italians and refugees from eastern Europe, whose lives were saved by ordinary citizens. This is the story of a father and daughter making their escape from Belgium, a British soldier parachuting into occupied territory, a Catholic priest risking his life shielding refugees, and an emotionally disillusioned, renegade German doctor.

Three Cups of Tea by **Greg Mortenson** (368 pages)

Anyone who despairs of the individual's power to change lives has to read the story of Greg Mortenson, a homeless mountaineer who, following a 1993 climb of Pakistan's treacherous K2, was inspired by a chance encounter with impoverished mountain villagers and promised to build them a school. Over the next decade he built fifty-five schools--especially for girls--that offer a balanced education in one of the most isolated and dangerous regions on earth. As it chronicles Mortenson's quest, which has brought him into conflict with both enraged Islamists and uncomprehending Americans, *Three Cups of Tea* combines adventure with a celebration of the humanitarian spirit.

Time Traveler's Wife by **Audrey Niffenegger** (536 pages)

Caught in an impossible-to-resolve situation that spans the boundaries of temporal reality, this tale of a plucky librarian who is accidentally cast back in time focuses on the romantic complications of time travel.

Tortilla Curtain by **T. Coraghessan Boyle** (355 pages)

The lives of two different couples--wealthy Los Angeles liberals Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher, and Candido and America Rincon, a pair of Mexican illegals--suddenly collide, in a story that unfolds from the shifting viewpoints of the various characters.

Virgin of Small Plains by **Nancy Pickard** (336 pages)

Picard probes the truth behind miracles and the tragedies behind lies in this mesmerizing suspense novel set in Kansas.

Water for Elephants by **Sara Gruen** (331 pages)

Ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski remembers his time in the circus as a young man during the Great Depression, and his friendship with Marlina, the star of the equestrian act, and Rosie, the elephant, who gave them hope.

Welsh Girl by **Peter Ho Davies** (343 pages)

When a POW camp is established near her village in North Wales just after D-Day, 17 year-old Esther Evans finds herself strangely drawn to the camp and its forlorn captives. She is exploring the camp boundary when something astonishing occurs: Karsten, a young German prisoner, calls out to her from behind the fence. From that moment on, the two foster a secret relationship that will put them both at risk. Meanwhile, another foreigner, the German-Jewish interrogator Rotherham, travels to Wales to investigate Britain's most notorious Nazi prisoner, Rudolf Hess. In this thought-provoking work, all will come to question where they belong and where their loyalties lay.

Whistling Season by **Ivan Doig** (352 pages)

Hired as a housekeeper to work on the early 1900s Montana homestead of widower Oliver Milliron, the irreverent Rose and her brother, Morris, endeavor to educate the widower's sons while witnessing local efforts on a massive irrigation project.