

Author	Title	Comments
Lome, Steve and Kramer, David	The \$500 Cup of Coffee May 2016	Great money book for Millennials
King, Stephen	11/22/63 July 2015	Time traveler tries to change history; long, easy read; of interest to we who lived through it.
Mann, Charles C.	1491: New Revelations of the America before Columbus	Totally new to most of us history of Indians in North and South America before 1492 and a little after. Everyone should read it.
Mann, Charles C.	1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created	Excellent social history of the world after the discovery of the new world. Everyone should read it.
Boyne, John	The Absolutist	Repressed and barely expressed homosexuality in Britain circa WWI. Well written
Pataki, Allison	The Accidental Empress Nov. 2015	Romantic historical fiction. Sisi's life and family are fascinating. Led me to read more about the Hapsburgs, but this book is a bit trivial.
Fields, Jennie	The Age of Desire	Interesting fictionalization of life of Edith Warton and her secretary, Anna Bahlmann.
Wharton, Edith	Age of Innocence	Period novel – excellent character development. Life among NY's elite at turn of century.
Cornwell, Bernard	Agincourt	Historical fiction about battle of Agincourt. Interesting, but a bit "pot boiler-ish"
Tijpal, Garunj J.	Alchemy of Desire	Tedious love story using sexual desire as the unifying theme
Rowling, J. K.	All the Harry Potter Books	Enjoyed them all.
Doerr, Anthony	All the Light We Cannot See	Contrived, but enjoyable, WWII story. Long book with short chapters.
Ryan, Donal	All We Shall Know June 2017	Excellent book that follows the path of a broken marriage, a scandalous love affair, pregnancy and the birth of a child.
Kidder, Tracy	Among Schoolchildren	What is it like to teach fifth grade – and be passionate about it? Here's the story. Excellent

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Chabon, Michael	The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay	Lives of comic book writers working in the Empire State Building – such an imaginative story.
McEwan, Ian	Amsterdam	Terse tale of revenge, the only likeable character is dead. Good, quick read.
Ishiguro, Kazuo	An Artist of the Floating World	Beautifully written “small” plot about large issues – Japan immediately post WWII.
Boyd, William	An Ice-Cream War	Excellent book about a border town in Africa in WWII when some fight for the British and some for the Germans.
Chacón, Daniel	and the shadows took him	Didn’t know how I felt about it until I read a paper by a JC Latino student who so connected with this story – and that is ideal.
Pepin, Jacques	The Apprentice: My Life in Cooking	Charming memoir, with recipes. Loved it.
Sáenz, Benjamin Alire	Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of The Universe	YA fiction. Liked this so much more than Kentucky Club . Perhaps Sáenz style more suited to YA. About 2 young men (15 – 17) who are best friends and become gay lovers.
Boyd, William	Armadillo	Excellent book about son of immigrants who creates a new successful life for himself, only to lose it – or maybe find it.
Divakaruni, Chitra	Arranged Marriage	Early short stories – 1995 – stunning. I loved every one.
Maugham, W. Somerset	Ashenden: The British Agent Sept 2015	Short stories about WWI British spy. Great writing, contained, informed.
Smiley, Jane	At Paradise Gate	Family story of three daughters who surround mother as father dies. Not her best.
Mathiassen, Peter	At Play in the Fields of the Lord	Read The Cloud Forest , then read this novel based on author’s time in the Amazon. Excellent book.
Chopin, Kate	The Awakening July 2015	Turn of the 20th cen chick lit – nice writing, but vacuous protagonist.
Haas, Scott	Back of the House	Foodie psychologist spends a year at

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	July 2015	Craigie on Main with micro-manager chef, Tony Maws. Interesting, and you learn what not to do.
Wolfe, Tom	Back to Blood	Almost a throwback to Bonfire in style, but not nearly so tightly wrought, nor with such interesting characters.
Wilber-Cruce, Eva Antonia	A Beautiful, Cruel Country	Fascinating memoir written late in life by a pioneer AZ rancher. Time line goes from birth to 10.
Boo, Katherine	Behind the Beautiful Forever	Wonderfully told true story of life in the Mumbai slums.
Trollope, Anthony	The Belton Estate July, 2015	Written in 1860's--proud woman's loves and losses. Trollope a wonderful writer. Listened to Librivox recording.
Grieder, Erica	Big, Hot, Cheap and Right: What America Can Learn from the Strange Genius of Texas	Interesting socio-study of why TX is successful as a state. Grieder seems to take a successful middle-road in her explanations, so all are equally offended or pleased. 5/13
Axelrod, David	Believer: My Forty Years in Politics August, 2015	Listened, read by author. Informative memoir.
de Bernieres, Louis	Birds Without Wings	Excellent book about Greeks and Turks in Anatolia from 1900 through great migration
Hume, Fergus	The Bishop's Secret August 2015	Fun Victorian mystery. Pub in 1880. But not as good as Trollope. Listened from Librevox.
Abt, Thomas	Bleeding Out: The Devastating Consequences of Urban Violence--and a Bold New Plan for Peace in the Streets	Plan to curb urban violence with tools we already have at hand--counseling, focused police presence, follow up. Good plan.
Plame, Valerie	Blowback	Run of the mill spy thriller. Plays off of Plame's CIA background.
Boyd, William	The Blue Afternoon Dec 2015	Romance/mystery set in Philippines after Sp/Am war. Easy read, somewhat preposterous, excellent writer.
Manto, Saadat	Bombay Stories	Mostly excellent stories about low

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Hasam		lives in Bombay before partition. Manto died in 1955, having resettled in Pakistan.
Shepard, Jim	The Book of Aron: a novel	Fictionalized story of Dr. Janusz Korczak, who operated a Jewish orphanage in Warsaw at the time of the Holocaust. Aron is a Jewish boy who loses his family and is saved by Korczak only to die in the camps. Excellent book.
Zusak, Markus	The Book Thief	WWII Germany through the eyes of common, sympathetic Germans. Interesting, but I didn't love it.
McDougall, Christopher	Born to Run Dec, 2014	Fascinating, man as an evolved runner – think ultra-marathon. Great read.
Brown, Daniel James	Boys in the Boat, The	1936 Berlin Olympia gold medalists from U of Washington. Loved the story and the associated history, not so much the way in which it is told.
Ryan, Leslyanne	Braco	Genocide in the Balkans, not an easy book, but well written by a woman who was there as a peacekeeper.
Bloom, JoAnn Gazarek, Maureen Sullivan and Daniel Pogorzekski	Images of America: Bridgeport August 2016	Fun read through the history of one of Chicago's 77 communities.
Mantel, Hillary	Bring Up the Bodies	Sequel to Wolf Hall – an easier read, excellent historical novel
Kadare, Ismail	Broken April	Fascinating fictionalized look at the ancient tradition of blood feuds in Albania – which continue today.
Otsuka, Julie	Buddaha in the Attic Feb. 2014.	Japanese picture brides who immigrate after WWI. Mostly written in first person plural. Poetry-like, sad.
Strout, Elizabeth	The Burgess Boys	Dysfunctional siblings learn lots about each other after nephew throws pig head into a mosque in small Maine town. Good book, but should have ended ¾ way through.
Williams, John	Butcher's Crossing	Presents the horror of the slaying of

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		buffalo herds, circa 1870. Well worth the read.
Corriere, Lala	Bye Bye Bones Jan 2016	Fun to read about local Tucson sites and thinly disguised people.
Brooks, Geraldine	Caleb's Crossing	First Native American to graduate from Harvard – in 1665! A nicely spun novel based on thin historical fact. Brooks does well in factually representing living conditions in MA at the time.
Murphy, Yannick	The Call	Simple, directive, new writing style – warm characters – style slipped away a bit towards end, but I thoroughly enjoyed the read.
Greene, Julie	The Canal Builders: Making America's Empire at the Panama Canal – Feb. 2016	The human side: segregation, women, law and disorder – interesting but droning.
Haley, James L.	Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii Feb, 2015	Told by tracing the history of the royal family. Good information, but tedious and the names are killers.
Atkinson, Kate	Case Histories	Swept me right up into its well-crafted multi-plot. Good writing, fun characters.
Rowling, J. K.	The Casual Vacancy	Overly involved, too many characters, all suffering from dysfunction, but not so the reader would care.
Massey, Robert K.	Catherine the Great	Engrossing history of Catherine from birth to ambitious nobility in Germany, to marrying her awful Russian husband, Peter, to his overthrow with help of Orloffs and her later years as admirer of young men and astounding Emperess. Well told tale.
Ghosh, Amitav	The Circle of Reason	First book by author of Sea of Poppies. Takes title from father and son's love of Pasteur amidst the chaos of Pakistan and India and Tunisia.
McLain, Paula	Circling the Sun: A Novel	Romantic Beryl Markham story. Such an interesting woman, but a

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	Nov 2015	rather soapy book.
Suri, Manil	The City of Devi	Third of a series about urban India. I've read Death of Vishnu, a wonderful book. This is dystopian with a forced love triangle of Muslim/Hindu, gay/straight. I found it insignificant, sorry to say because Suri is a good, perhaps great, writer.
Faulks, Sebastian	Charlotte Gray	British and French resistance in WWII, well-written companion to "Bird Song", but not nearly so harrowing.
De Vaca, Alvar Núñez Cabeza	Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition August 2016	So interesting and easy to read. Original retelling by deVaca of his harrowing nine years traversing the U.S. beginning 1527.
Allan Woodman	The Chemist: How I Survived the Real-Life Breaking Bad	Yes, Woody is the real Walter. Good true crime book. Former client.
McEwan, Ian	The Children Act April, 2014	Taut story of childless couple who separate and reconnect without learning anything.
Black, Benjamin	Christine Falls	First of a series of mysteries set in Ireland. Ok-ish
Lethem, Jonathan	Chronic City	Hated this book and only read about 1/4 then gave it to DBH, who liked it. Deals with worthless people living worthless lives.
Crowley, Roger	City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas	Very engaging history of Venice from 1000 to 1503. I wish it had continued to more modern times.
Halbergs, Garth Risk	City on Fire August 2016	Listened, overly long NYC saga focused on 70's and 80's
Benioff, David	City of Thieves	Clever story about two young men during the Siege of Leningrad who must find 12 eggs to live.
Schiff, Stacey	Cleopatra	Listened to it. Learned a lot about relations between Romans & Egyptians. Good history
Mathiassen, Peter	The Cloud Forest	First person narrative of a huge journey from North America, up the Amazon, around South America and back.

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Cortez, Sarah	Cold, Blue Steel	50 cop-poems. Savvy, heart-breaking, enlightening.
Vidich, Paul	The Coldest Warrior	Spy story based on illegal activities in the 60's and present repercussions. Ok-ish
Balz, Dan	Collision 2012: Obama vs. Romney and the Future of Elections in America	Good read about the election and how the Republicans doomed themselves and how intelligently the Dems used predictive data.
Grisham, John	The Confession	Pretty typical Grisham – this time about the death penalty – easy to skim large chunks.
Goodman, Allegra	The Cookbook Collector	Ok-ish – a bit schmaltzy – includes Sept 11 death in an interesting manner
Franzen, Jonathan	Connections	Christmas homecoming of adult children gone awry. Remarkable first book.
Troncoso, Sergio	Crossing Borders	Collection of essays, some very personal, many about what it means to be a Latino writer who is the stay-at-home dad.
Allende, Isabel	Daughter of Fortune June 2015	First Allende book, ok-ish, easy read, but won't try another.
Gogal, Nilolai	Dead Souls	Wonderful story of an ambitious Russian who amasses "wealth" buying dead souls from landowners who don't want to pay taxes on them.
Cummings, Doug	Deader by the Lake: A Reno McCarthy Thriller	Fun mystery set in Chicago.
Jance, J.A.	Dead to Rights	Fourth in the Joanna Brady series. Not bored yet.
Larson, Erik	Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania May 2015	Excellent creative non-fiction – full of interesting characters and the follies of war politics and policies.
Jance, J.J.	Dead Wrong	#11 in Joanna Brady series – she finally has the baby.
James, P D	Death Comes to Pemberly	Builds on Pride and Prejudice, spins a murder mystery around the Darcys and their families. Ok-ish

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Hamrick, Janice	Death Makes the Cut	Our history teacher sleuths again, becoming tennis coach after her friend, the original coach, is mysteriously murdered.
Hamrick, Janice	Death on Tour	Fun mystery genre featuring a high school history teacher as the sleuth.
Tobar, Héctor	Deep Down Dark	33 Chilean miners underground 69 days. Awesome story, well told.
Theroux, Paul	Deep South Dec 2015	Excellent first hand insight into rural poverty and racism. Good read.
Montoya, Maceo	The Deportation of Wopper Barraza	Reverse plot – protagonist comes of age in Mexico after deportation at age 24. Not great, but very interesting.
Jance, J.A.	Desert Heat	One of her early mysteries. Fun read.
Connell, Evan	Deus lo Volt	Excellent history of crusades – interesting, archaic writing style, but not hard to read once you find the rhythm.
Larson, Erik	Devil in the White City	Excellent fictionalized story about serial killer at time of 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Vivid background about building the fair pavilions.
Jance, J.S.	Devil's Claw	Seventh in the Joanna Brady series. She gets married and captures all the baddies.
Berland, Theodore	The Diabetic Wine Lover's Guide	Most diabetics can drink dry wine in moderation. This little book explains why it's ok. Client
DuBus III, Andre	Dirty Love	Four novellas, good writing, but like most DuBus, are humorless and depressing.
Grande, Reyna	The Distance Between Us: A Memoir	Unsettling story of a severely dysfunctional family, severed by 2000 miles of illegal immigration – and how the children are able to carry on – at least Reyna.
Canin, Ethan	A Doubter's Almanac: A Novel Aug 2016	Mathematicians gone crazy. Loved this book about math, decisions, bad families.
Stoker, Bram	Dracula	Good story. It is gory. Could skim

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		due to 100 year old + writing style.
See, Lisa	Dreams of Joy	Unexpectedly interesting story of headstrong young woman who goes to Mao's new China in the 50's to find her father.
Boyle, TC	Drop City	Hippies invade Alaska – in a school bus. Yet another good read.
Boyle, TC	East Is East	My first Boyle book – about discrimination and self-interest. Fun
Fuhrman, Joel	Eat to Live	Vegan bible
McMorris, Kristina	The Edge of Lost March 2016	Drivel-ish novel about Irish boy coming to NY. Author packed way too much into the book and developed little.
Barbary, Muriel	Elegance of the Hedgehog	Slow start, but it builds – two inhabitants of an exclusive Parisian apartment house; a young girl and the concierge.
Grandin, Greg	The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World	Adds layers upon layers to our meagre understanding of slavery and the financial collateral of slaves. Strong emphasis on South American trade and economic development.
Gwynne, S.C.	Empire of the Summer Moon	Outstanding history of the Comanches in TX and OK
Freely, Maureen	Enlightenment March 2015	By the tedious end, you don't care who killed who, why or how. Quasi-thriller set in Istanbul 1970-2005
Harden, Blaine	Escape from Camp 14: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the US	Informative and horrible. Factual story of a young man born in NK gulag. Able to escape through remarkable luck and persistence.
Perry, Sarah	The Essex Serpent July 2017	Lush Gothic novel set in Victorian Essex. Wonderful characters.
King, Lili	Euphoria Sept. 2015	Well written love triangle based on 1930's New Guinea anthropologists à la Margaret Mead.
Samarasan, Preeti	Evening is the Whole Day	Beautifully crafted family story told in time reverse about a troubled Tamil Indian family living in Malaysia in the 1960's. Good history of race

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		relations in Malaysia – or lack thereof.
Sáenz, Benjamin Alire	Everything Begins & Ends at the Kentucky Club	I so wanted this to be a companion to Our Lost Border because it's about life on <i>la Frontera</i> . But I found it rather dull and overly gay for my taste. 6/13
Barker, Pat	The Eye in the Door	Book 2 of trilogy about WWI and the horrors of war. Clean, sparse writing.
King, Ross	Ex-Libris	17 th century England – all about Prods and Papists, centers on great libraries and the wealth they represented. Too detailed and poor climax.
Pavone, Chris	The Expats	Light spy reading with few surprises.
Mantel, Hilary	An Experiment in Love	Pub in '95 – coming of age story of lower-class Cath girl, ambitious mother, through years at school ending at U of London. Anorexic. OK-ish
Evans, Stephanie Jaye	Faithful Unto Death: A Sugarland Mystery	Charming mystery, set in Sugar Land, TX, where they solver is a minister and family man. Enjoyed it. Stephanie is a client.
Kaye, M.M.	The Far Pavilions	Good, but sappy raj story
Follett, Ken	Fall of Giants	First of trilogy re WWI and WWII. Good characters, epic-ish, quick read, though quite long.
Lively, Penelope	Family Album	Rather dull book about large family – all unsympathetic characters.
Magnuson, James	Famous Writers I Have Known July 2015	Fun, easy read about academic literary world and an impersonator from the underside of NYC.
Tekiela, Stan	Feathers	Beautifully photographed science-lite book about the six types of bird feathers
Alexis, <u>André</u>	Fifteen Dogs: An Apologue October, 2017	Excellent story of gods and men, beautifully written.
Ford, Ford Maddox	The Fifth Queen December 2015	Katherine Howard, 5 th wife of Henry VIII. Elegant historical fiction.

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		Difficult read at first, as Ford uses quasi Tudor English dialogue.
Ainslie, Ricardo C.	The Fight to Save Juarez: Life in the Heart of Mexico's Drug War	Excellent narrative from 2008-2010 of life and death in Juarez, the people who made it hell and those who fought the impossible.
Chabon, Michael	The Final Solution	Novella – homage to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Ghosh, Amitav	Flood of Fire Sept. 2015	Part III, The Ibis Trilogy. Excellent recounting of events leading to First Opium War. Ends in 1842.
Brown, Nic	Floodmarkers	Series of connected short stories about town people in North Carolina as Hurricane Hugo sweeps across their inland town in 1989. Interesting, quick read.
Grisham, John	Ford County May, 2015	Excellent, fun short stories
Franzen, Jonathan	Freedom	Didn't like the characters, and while one reviewer said that the ending "gave you hope", my only hope was the end of the book was in sight.
Boyle, TC	A Friend of the Earth	Great story about the apocalypse coming with global warming.
Troncoso, Sergio	From This Wicked Patch of Dust	Fictionalized memoir of author's family based in El Paso.
Werner, John	The Funny Man	Listened - Met Werner at Printers' Row Lit Fest Chicago. Interesting, declarative writing style. Sad book
Moore, Lorrie	A Gate at the Stairs	Awful book about a college student who nannies a foster/adopted multi-racial child who has to be given back because the "parents" inadvertently killed their own child. Author digresses constantly about race – worthless nonsense.
Weatherford, Jack	Genghis Kahn and the Making of the Modern World	Shines light on the short (about 100 years) empire of the Mongols and the extraordinary systems they shared with the world.
Chabon, Michael	Gentlemen of the Road	10 th century Silk Road tale featuring Jewish bandits! Fun for all in YA genre.

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Moreno-Hinojosa, Hernán	The Ghostly Rider and Other Chilling Stories	Ghostly folk stories from the valley of the Rio Grande – fun.
Howell, Georgina	Gertrude Bell, Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations	Excellent bio of early 20 th cen British adventuress who was instrumental in the creation of Iran following WWI.
Hawkins, Paula	The Girl on the Train December 2015	Well-structured thriller. Mind popcorn.
Lehane, Dennis	The Given Day	Boston at end of WWI – novel of rich and poor. Did not enjoy
Walls, Jeannette	The Glass Castle	Heartbreaking memoir about childish parents and the woe they bring to children. Excellent
Ghosh, Amitav	The Glass Palace	Very good historical fiction about Indians in Burma and Malaya from fall of Burmese monarchy to early 21st century.
Colin, Beatrice	Glimmer Palace	Novel built around film industry during the rise of Hitler. Interesting history, not so much the story.
Atkinson, Kate	A God in Ruins	Excellent WWII RAF story told in KA's impeccable time-shift prose.
Tartt, Donna	The Goldfinch	Dickensian, very long and falls apart in the last 200 pages.
Cortez, Sarah	Goodbye Mexico: Poems of Remembrance	75 poems, 46 poets from the U.S. and their best memories of old Mexico.
Flynn, Gilliam	Gone Girl	Fast read – mystery with twists. Good popcorn for the mind.
Butler, Robert Olen	A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain	Magnificent short stories written by a LA college prof regarding the Vietnamese immigrants living in Louisiana
Boyd, William	A Good Man in Africa	First novel – fun story, verbose but charming.
Gruber, Michael	The Good Son	Good story about US soldier with Afghan heritage and a good/crazy mother who gets in all sorts of trouble
Grisham, John	Gray Mountain	Good read – about coal industry. Nice plot twist in middle
Von Schirach,	Guilt Stories	Riveting true crime based on

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Ferdinand		author's work as a German DA. Short, but not sweet.
Roach, Mary	Gulp August 2016	Travel the digestive path of the body from taste on the tongue through to the smelly end. Listened, grew tired of her wry asides.
Macdonald, Helen	H Is for Hawk April, 2016	Wonderful memoir about falconry, grief and author T.H. White
Walls, Jeannette	Half Broke Horses	Fictionalized memoir about her grandmother, the mother in Glass Castle . Excellent
Boyle, T. C.	The Harder They Come June 2015	Repercussions of 20+ year-old schizophrenic on family and community. Not his best.
Trollope, Anthony	He Knew He Was Right	Soapy - about inflexible man and woman who marry and part because neither will bend over rather small offenses. They ruin each other's lives.
Tomsky, Jacob	Heads in Beds	Much fun story of a young man's experience in the hotel industry. Full of fun insider info.
Lively, Penelope	Heat Wave	Excellent book about love and passion.
Cortez, Sarah	Hit List: The Best of Latino Mystery	Engaging collection by well-known Latino writers.
Wilson, A.N.	Hitler	Good, solid short bio
Kidder, Tracy	Home Town	Life in a small, old industrial town from many POV.
Doctorow, E.L.	Homer and Langley	20 th century story of bachelor hoarders, living on 5 th Ave, NYC. Interesting, but not great.
Chacón, Daniel	Hotel Juarez	Some stories so short, they are vignettes; others connected in a way that leaves you wanting more.
Kidder, Tracy	House	Learn how to build a house using an architect and a builder. Vastly informative. Excellent
Angell, Tony	The House of Owls June 2015	Angell lives surrounded by wild owls in the Pacific NW. Fun stories and good review of species. Excellent illustrations done on scratchboard.
Dubus III, Andre	House of Sand and	Probably his best – about Iranian

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	Fog	immigrants settling in CA.
Cisneros, Sandra	The House on Mango Street August 2015	Surprising, short vignettes. Beautifully crafted, totally approachable by all.
Lively, Penelope	How It All Began	Beautifully choreographed book about how small changes make big differences – good fiction read.
Cortez, Sarah	How to Undress a Cop	Excellent cop-poetry – sexy!
Messud, Claire	The Hunters	Two novellas of dramatically different styles: one about a lonely, elderly immigrant in England and the other about a paranoid academic who seems to create problems where they don't exist – or do they?
Joan Rivers	I Hate Everyone, Starting with Me	Listened, good to hear her voice, but not a funny book. I miss her being in this world.
Ephron, Nora	I Remember Nothing	Light Essays. Fun for oldsters – and then she died.
Ruskovich, Emily	Idaho	Strange, tender, first novel of loss and love and loss.
Turow, Scott	Identical	Exploration of identical twins. Good suspense tale and not too long.
Burton, Gabrielle	Impatient with Desire	Fictionalized memoir/journal of Tamsen Donner and The Donner Party. Short, easy to read and gripping.
Skloot, Rebecca	The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Excellent scientific non-fiction about HeLa cells
Rachman, Tom	The Imperfectionists	Excellent first novel – a collection of related short stories. I loved it. 5/13
Ellis, Brett Easton	Imperial Bedrooms	Typical Ellis about people I don't care about. Same characters as Less Than Zero, 20 years later. 40ish man lusts after young women, ugh.
Buck, Pearl S.	Imperial Woman Dec 2015	Last empress of China, Tzu Hsi, mid-18th century China forced to trade with West. Elegant historical fiction.
Robinson, Peter	In A Dry Season	British murder mystery. Well written, a good "beach read". 5/14
Helprin, Mark	In Sunlight and in Shadow	Disappointing and overly wrought tale of NYC after WWII.

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Larson, Erik	In the Garden of Beasts	Non-fiction story of US Ambassador to Berlin 1934-38. He and his daughter kept extensive journals on which it is based. Excellent early Nazi history.
Atwood, Margaret	In the Wake of the Flood	Dystopian novel, but well told. Not a genre I usually read.
Beha, Christopher	The Index of Self-Destructive Acts 2020	Satisfying read – good family novel
Cortez, Sarah and Liz Martinez	Indian Country Noir	Collection of stories by, and about Native Americans. Short stories are not my favorite genre, but these are good.
Boyle, TC	The Inner Circle	Kinsey's sex studies at Indiana U as told from the POV of an assistant. Such boring people.
Turow, Scott	The Innocent	Good courtroom drama. Sequel to Presumed Innocent .
Kidd, Sue Monk	The Invention of Wings Oct 2015	Historical novel about abolitionist sisters from Charleston, VA. Based on fact. Contrived, but interesting.
Kanon, Joseph	Istanbul Passage	Spy mystery set in post WWII Turkey. OK-ish
Vaillant, John	The Jaguar's Children Dec 2015	Frame story is excellent, horrific. Analeptic corn and NAFTA story not so interesting as I am familiar with that history.
Dyer, Goeff	Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi	A pointless tale of a pointless life. Good writing, humorous and ironic, but Jeff goes nowhere, either in Venice or India.
Rushdie, Salman	Joseph Anton	Listened – long memoir of time spent under fatwa. Fascinating, but not involving. Written in third person...
Greene, Graham	Journey Without Maps October 2015	Early work, travel journal of trip through interior of Liberia. Revealing insights but a bit of a tough read.
Gordimer, Nadine	Jump and other Stories April, 2015	Excellent – slices of life into emerging South Africa.

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Garcia, Christina	King of Cuba	Geriatric look at Castro and an antagonist in Miami. So-so.
Barnes, Margaret Campbell	King's Fool May 2016	Tudor-history lite. Henry's court jester, Will Somers, did live 20 + years with the king, so you see the broad sequence of eight queens and Henry's progress from virile swain to portly invalid.
Lala Corriere	Kiss and Kill	Romantic Mystery about a naive, sexy romance writer. Good beach book.
Duggan, Alfred	Knight with Armour Feb, 2017	Good historical novel of First Crusade. Recommended for history lovers.
O'Connor, Anne-Marie	The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Bloch-Bauer	Ah, to be a rich Jew in Vienna after WWI – and how that changed. Interesting non-fiction. Could use a genealogy
Williams, Naomi J.	Landfalls Sept. 2015	Excellent historical fiction about voyage of French explorer Lapérouse 1785-87.
Diffenbaugh, Vanessa	The Language of Flowers	Novel about a young girl raised in foster care and her almost adopter who teaches her the language of flowers, which forms the weave for the plot. A bit trite, but the foster care info was interesting.
Messud, Claire	The Last Life	Pied-Noirs from Algeria who move to France during revolution and run a large coastal hotel. Interesting
Adiga, Aravind	Last Man in Tower	South Asian story of the cupidity of most men when offered a windfall of money. Lots of good Indian characters. I listened to it and the reader was wonderful. Thought the ending a bit drawn out.
Swift, Graham	Last Orders Aug, 2016	A road story about friendship and death, family and living, and how the middle class in England reconstructed their lives after WWII. A bleak but satisfying read.
Troncoso, Sergio	The Last Tortilla and	Short stories – good ones. My

Author	Title	Comments
	Other Stories	favorite is The Last Tortilla. Excellent expression of life among elderly in the barrio.
Hemon, Aleksander	The Lazarus Project	Chicago story of Russian immigrant Jew accused of attempting to kill police chief. Evocative of Chicago at turn of century.
Day, H. Alan and Day O'Connor, Sandra	Lazy B	How life on a huge southwestern cattle ranch shaped three children with pretty amazing parents.
Kondo, Marie	The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing Sept 2015	Should have been a pamphlet. Good philosophy, good tips, droning.
Grisham, John	The Litigators	Typical Grisham – easy read popcorn for the mind.
Yanagihara, Hanya	A Little Life June, 2016	Long, dark journey into child abuse, friendship, love and loss. Well written
Gant, Lee	Love in Every Stitch: Stories of Knitting and Healing	Former addict shares how she switched her addiction from drugs to wool and knitting. Includes other transformative stories. Client
Frann, David	The Lost City of Z	Excellent non-fiction about British explorer, Percy Fawcett, who was last in the Amazon basin in 1925 looking for a prosperous ancient civilization. Subsequent exploration with modern thermography and x-ray techniques have proven his hypothesis correct.
Atkinson, Kate	Life after Life	Spanning 1910 to end of WWII, Ursula's life repeats. Interesting premise well developed.
Martel, Yann	Life of PI	Interesting, well written. Good look at East Indian life
Smith, Alexander McCall	The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection: No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency March, 2015	Listened, sweet and satisfying book

Author	Title	Comments
Lochery, Neill	Lisbon: War in the Shadows of the City of Light, 1939-1945 Jan, 2014	Fascinating story of how this country remained neutral; ended the war with tons of gold. Smart man, Dictator Salazar.
Cleave, Chris	Little Bee	Nigerian oil war. Story of young woman hunted by thugs for witnessing atrocities – flees to England and escapes detention – re-engages with British couple who helped her in Nigeria. Good book
George, Nina	The Little Paris Bookshop April, 2016	Magical-fiction lite. Too heavy on airy-fairy love and bad choices.
Highsmith, Patricia	Little Tales of Misogyny	Tiny tales of unlikable women by the mistress of concise, dark writing.
Ladha, Gwen	Looking for Lambaréné	Retired East Indian MD, 30+ years in the US. 1/3 medical memoir, 2/3 rational for single payer health care system. More memoir next time. I want a single payer system.
Ainslie, Ricardo C.	Long Dark Road	Tough, about Bill King and Jasper, TX racial murder. RA skillful writer on dark subjects. Client
Kanon, Joseph	Los Alamos	Pretty good pot boiler, especially if you have been to Los Alamos
Banks, Russell	Lost Memory of Skin	Listened – excellent book about a sex offender and the enigmatic man who befriends him – what a character Banks builds.
Lahiri, Jhumpa	The Lowland	Disappointing story of two brothers from Kolkata, then Rhode Island, Maoists and normal folks. Needed more emotional fire. Hard to achieve over 70 years in 340 pages.
Caro, Robert	Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power 2019	The early years of poverty, scorn, struggle, and hardening of Johnson's indomitable ego and drive.
Caro, Robert	Lyndon Johnson: The Means of Ascent 2020	Early eleven years as a U.S. Representative and his unforgettable, stolen, Senate seat in 1948. Compelling reading.
Maugham, W. Somerset	The Magician Oct. 2015	1908 gothic novel, so early work. Predictable. Listened, nothing great

Author	Title	Comments
		to tweet about it!
Simonson, Helen	Major Pettigrew's Last Stand: A novel	Fun book, very British with rather hackneyed social, racial plot.
Hammett, Dashiell	The Maltese Falcon	Interesting classic. You can't skip a word as the plot twists so suddenly.
Powers, Janis	Mama's Got a Brand New Job	30ish career woman learns to have it all after birth of baby.
Moore, Charles	Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography	Vol 1 of 3. Too dense and granular. I struggled to finish 760 pages.
Dutton, Danielle	Margaret the First July 2017	Interesting, but too brief, story about a member of the court of Charles II, exiled in Paris with the court, who marries well and becomes a recognized author, playwright and accomplished social doyenne. Consider to be one of the first successful feminists.
French, Paul	Midnight in Peking	Creative non-fiction about murder in Peking 1938. So evocative of the times, the corruption, the sadness.
Hajari, Nisid	Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition Dec 2016	Excellent overview of 1947, the year of partition.
Burton, Jessie	The Miniaturist	Amsterdam, 1686 – story of young bride and gay husband in moralistic Holland (how times have changed). Well written, but "the miniaturist" not well enough developed.
Roy, Arundhati	The Ministry of Utmost Happiness 2020	A most unhappy book about the Indian-Pakistani conflict in Kashmir.
Hawn, Emilie	Miss Jill June 2015	Pub. 1947, good tale of 30's and 40's in China and Hong Kong. Hawn wrote what she lived. 54 books
Chabon, Michael	A Model World	Interconnected short stories. Good, not great.
Lively, Penelope	Moon Tiger	Won the Booker, but I did not like this book at all.
Lalami, Laila	The Moore's Account August 2015	Historical fiction lite. Story of Moorish slave who survived eight years beginning 1527 with three

Author	Title	Comments
		Spainards, traveling from Florida to Mexico via land.
Kidder, Tracy	Mountains Beyond Mountains	Story of Dr. Paul Farmer in Haiti. Excellent documentary. As usual with Kidder, well written
Connell, Evan	Mr. Bridge	Companion to Mrs. Bridge – fascinating book about controlled and controlling successful man from Kansas City. No contrived plot, just the telling of a life – probably of quiet desperation.
Ross, Adam	Mr. Peanut	Study of marriage wrapped in possible murder. Confusing, difficult plot, including chunk of book written by protagonist. I listened; hard to follow.
Connell, Evan	Mrs. Bridge	Excellent, episodic novel about a wife/mother in 1940's Kansas City. No real plot, just character, or lack thereof.
Sotomayor, Sonya	My Beloved World	Loved it. Proud she is on the Supreme Court. Great audio by Rita Moreno.
Menaker, Daniel	My Mistake	Memoir of New York word and book man who worked at The New Yorker, Editor in Chief at Random House. Interesting slice into publishing world.
Cokley, Kevin	The Myth of Black Anti-Intellectualism: A True Psychology of African American Students July 2015	A researched argument advocating for more ethno-centric education for minorities of color, from earliest through university. Challenging for a non-academic to read, but solid message.
Jin, Ha	Nanjing Requiem	Fascinating story (fictionalized from fact) of Minnie Vautrim, a Christian missionary in Nanking during the rape of the city of the Japanese.
Ferrante, Elena	The Neapolitan Quartet Nov, 2016	Four books, great reads all.
O'Neill, Joseph	Netherland	Good tale of married couple from the UK who witness 9-11 and the

Author	Title	Comments
		conflict it imprints on their lives – even though neither feel they were affected.
Ehrenreich, Barbara	Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting by in America July 2015	14 years old and relevant today – if not more so; the working poor and the high cost of housing. Read it.
Cuthbertson, Ken	Nobody Said Not to Go: The life, Loves and Adventures of Emily Hahn October 2015	What a woman! Fascinating biography of prolific author who always knew who and what she was and acted accordingly.
Ainslie, Ricardo C.	No Dancin' in Anson July '15	Delves into race and social change in small town West Texas. A readable, informative and sad book.
Unsworth, Barry	The Quality of Mercy	Sequel to Sacred Hunger focuses on the beginning of abolition in England. Books should be read in sequence.
Boyd, William	The New Confessions May 2015	Life of narcissistic film director – good read, older book
Morganstern, Erin	The Night Circus	Ethereal, spell binding novel about conjurers and contests. Loved it.
Rice, Condoleezza	No Higher Honor	Apologia for her time with George W Bush. I felt she had recorded every encounter during her White House years and quoted verbatim. She does admit to her mistakes.
Griffin, Kathy	Official Book Club Selection	Funny, honest memoir from a raunchy comic who is just a Chicago Irish girl who loves her parents.
Gardam, Jane	Old Filth Trilogy: Old Filth, The Man in the Wooden Hat, Last Friends May, 2016	Wonderful books about Empire orphans, abandonment, love and old age.
Divakaruni, Chitra	Oleander Girl	Easy read about sheltered, wealthy young Kolkata woman who unearths family secrets in the US.
McEwan, Ian	On Chesil Beach	Small, sad story of impossibly uncommunicative people. Beautifully written, as usual.
Stielstra, Megan	Once I Was Cool	Winning, warm essays by Chicagoan

Author	Title	Comments
	August 2015	who "makes it happen" in just a few pages.
Marrs, John	The One 2020	Enjoyable novel about genetic mates
Divakaruni, Chitra	One Amazing Thing	Canterbury Tales-like. Modern tales told by group trapped in earthquake cave-in. Good, easy-to-read writing.
Brandt, Richard	One Click: Jeff Bezos and the Rise of Amazon	Good bio of an ecommerce pioneer.
Atkinson, Kate	One Good Turn, Jackson Brodie, Book 2	Jackson seems to sort of go along rather than controlling the plot. Not satisfying.
Willan, Anne	One Soufflé at a Time: A Memoir of Food and France May 2015	Good read about the development of a terrific cook, teacher and business woman.
Boyd, William	Ordinary Thunderstorms	Good murder mystery by a skillful writer.
Coats, John R.	Original Sinners: Why Genesis Still Matters	Reviews source theories about writings in the Bible, views Genesis as an historical, metaphorical compilation and compares lessons to his own life story. Tough, but interesting read.
Cortez, Sarah and Troncoso, Sergio	Our Lost Border: Essays on Life amid the Narco-Violence	Bitter essays about the complete loss of a cross-border way of life. Only "Mexican" essay I cared for was by reporter Diego Osorno.
Jance, J.A.	Outlaw Mountain	Seventh in the Joanna Brady series. A bit confusing at times, perhaps because I listened and was distracted.
Divakaruni, Chitra	The Palace of Illusions	Stunning book – retelling of myths from the Mahabharata featuring Panchaali as the narrator.
Jance, J.A.	Paradise Lost	Ninth in the Joanna Brady series. I need a break.
McLain, Paula	The Paris Wife	Fictionalized history of Hemingway and his first wife. Told from her POV. Interesting, not great.
Carey, Peter	Parrot and Olivier in America	Good yarn about foreigner visitors to the US in the early 19 th century.
Jance, J.J.	Partners in Crime	#10 in Joanna Brady series – best

Author	Title	Comments
		yet.
Butler, Robert Owen	Perfume River July, 2017	How families are affected by the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Good story from a great writer, but not his best.
Herta Muller	The Passport	Life in the German community in Romania during Ceausecu's dictatorship. Depressing, at best.
Grissom, James	Peru – A Short History	Skip the first 50 pages which deals in pointless detail with the time of Fujimora.
Lively, Penelope	The Photograph	Excellent book about learning the unknown past about a parent.
Lee, Janice Y K	The Piano Teacher	Hong Kong – WWII and before. Expats and their relations with Chinese. Good story, parts not well developed.
Edrich, Louise	The Plague of Doves	American Indians living in North Dakota, reminiscences of antagonism between whites and Indians, who intermarry and share history. So-so.
Morris, Sylvia Jukes	Price of Fame: The Honorable Clair Boothe Luce	Second half of an outstanding biography. An exceptionally strong and intelligent woman who let no one love her.
Moody, Rick	Purple America	Disjointed, but interesting story of woman suffering severe neurological disease and her son – right to die issues and nuclear energy!
Kadare, Ismail	The Pyramid	Excellent "tale" about the building of the pyramid of Cheops and the nature of despots.
Crace, Jim	Quarantine	Fictionalized back-story of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. Imaginative, surprisingly fun to read.
Grisham, John	The Racketeer	Typical Grisham – listened to it. Why do I keep falling for this guy's books? 6/13.
Doctorow, Cory	Radicalized: Four Tales of Our Present Moment	Four sci-fi novellas about life in near-future U.S. OK-ish 2020
Morris, Sylvia	Rage for Fame: The	Very readable bio – fascinating

Author	Title	Comments
Jukes	Ascent of Clare Boothe Luce	woman, but not lovable or perhaps even likable.
Jance, J.A.	Rattlesnake Crossing	Sixth in the Joanno Brady series. Still enjoying.
Waldman, Ayelet	Red Hook Road	Well written novel about Jewish family that summers in Red Hook Maine and their involvement with locals. Daughters both fall in love with locals, one is killed in auto accident on day of wedding.
Heddon, Mark	The Red House	Hard to follow as pov changes every 3-4 paras. Listened to it and did not enjoy.
Barker, Pat	Regeneration	Book 1 of trilogy about WWI. I learned from this series.
de Montebello, Philippe and Martin Gayford	Rendez-vous with Art	Two famous art connoisseurs discuss painters, paintings, museums and art history as they meet in various museums. Helps you experience art and museums.
Banks, Russell	The Reserve	Novel of rich people who vacation in The Reserve in upstate NY. Prior to WWI. Not his best.
Boyd, William	Restless	Great writing – about a WWII spy and her adult daughter. Story told through flashbacks.
Indridason, Arnaldur	Reykjavik Nights May 2015	Islandic policeman, calmly solves a cold case. Prequel to Inspector Erlendur books. Ok-ish
Rachman, Tom	The Rise and Fall of Great Powers	Bummer – struggled to finish it. Sad, disjointed story of child neglect as Toolie grows from 10 to adulthood and is summarily betrayed (with no hint of mawkishness) by those she loved.
Boyle, TC	The Road to Wellville	Kellogg cereals come to live in central Michigan. Not his greatest.
Ghosh, Amitav	River of Smoke	Part II of trilogy about opium trade in the early 1800s – this set in China. Excellent historical fiction.
Lively, Penelope	Road to Litchfield	Easy read about woman who has an affair while dealing with death of her

Author	Title	Comments
		father.
Grisham, John	Rogue Lawyer January 2016	Grisham plays with bad boy lawyers. Fun read, but I missed a real plot.
Donoghue, Emma	Room	Harrowing story told from pov of 5 yr old boy raised in 12 foot room by mother who was kidnapped at 19. Excellent.
Obejas, Achy	Ruins	A unique trip into the hell that is Havana post-revolution from the pov of a "good soldier".
Unsworth, Barry	Sacred Hunger	Excellent historical novel about shipwreck on FL coast in 18 th cen.
Evans, Stephanie Jaye	Safe From Harm	Charming sequel that made me laugh out loud in places, even though the murder is of a teenager.
Boyle, TC	San Miguel	Second book about Catalina Islands. Interesting, but not gripping.
Carl Hoffman,	Savage Harvest Jan, 2015	Michael Rockefeller, 23, killed, eaten by New Guinea warriors. He was "buying" art. Interesting, too long.
Ghosh, Amitav	Sea of Poppies	Saga of opium growers India 1830's – excellent historical novel
Doig, Ivan	The Sea Runners	Hearty 19 th cen Alaska story of four Swedish indentured servants who flee in a canoe from New Archangel to Astoria. Gripping – unlike most Doig.
Tomlinson, Max	Sendero – A Nina Flores Thriller	Enjoyed it because I recently visited Peru. OK as a thriller, some good plot twists.
Barnes, Julian	Sense of Ending	2011 Booker Prize – dreadful little book, not a prizewinner at all. Memoir of a man and three friends from high school.
Mezrich, Ben	Sex on the Moon Dec, 2014	Tale of Thad Roberts, NASA intern who stole moon rocks and tried to sell them on the internet. Good story, but I'm not personally enriched from knowing Thad.
Young, Wm. Paul	The Shack Nov 2015	Nice if you need God and Trinity explained by a layman who does not write well. Theology is best left to the theologians.

Author	Title	Comments
Jance, J.A.	Shoot, Don't Shoot	Third in the Joanna Brady series. So enjoyable.
HALEY, JAMES L.	The Shores of Tripoli: Lieutenant Putnam and the Barbary Pirates (A Bliven Putnam Naval Adventure) G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016) Jan 2017	Enjoyable historical novel, 1801, early days of the U.S. Navy.
Walbert, Kate	A Short History of Women Jan 2016	Disturbed family legacy of suffragette martyr. Interesting, well written.
Ghosh, Amitav	The Shadow Lines	English and Bengali families intersect over several generations. Not great.
Taha, Lilas	Shadows of Damascus	Interesting romance involving an Iraq and a Syrian refugee – on a WI dairy farm. Good first novel.
Kadare, Ismail	The Siege	Excellent historical fiction about Ottoman siege of Albanian castle – 14 cen.
Farrell, J G	The Siege of Krishnapur	Excellent book about the Indian revolt against the East India Company that led to the British assuming control of India.
Gilbert, Elizabeth	The Signature of All Things	Listened to beautiful recording. Excellent, warm historical-ish novel about female 18th century botanist.
Farrell, J G	Singapore Grip	Excellent book about Singapore prior to WW II – emphasis on British merchant class.
Murphy, Yannick	Signed, Mata Hari	Fictional account of Dutch exotic dancer who spied for Germany in WWI. Flashes between her imprisonment prior to execution and her life. Life was interesting, prison was boring.
Walls, Jeannette	The Silver Star	A favorite memorist delivers a flat first novel.
Jance, J.A.	Skeleton Canyon	Fifth in the Joanna Brady series. Still enjoying them.

Author	Title	Comments
Butler, Robert Olen	A Small Hotel	Excellent written – flows like a stream – flashback story of a marriage breaking up – mostly because husband and wife think silence is the virtue – as a result of their individual relationships with fathers. All's well that ends well.
Boyd, William	Solo	Boyd worked with the Ian Fleming estate to create a thriller in the Fleming style, not the movie style. He succeeded, but the story is not great.
Meyer, Philipp	The Son	Historical novel of Texas. Interesting plot vignettes jumping among generations in the same family. Good read
Latimer, Matthew	Speech-less: Tales of a White House Survivor	Fun book about Republican speech writer for George W.
Ryan, Donal	The Spinning Heart June 2017	Good book about the 2006 recession in Ireland and how it affected rural workers.
Montifiore, Simon Sebag	Stalin: The Court of the Red Czar	Excellent, dense bio from Revolution to death. So many to kill, so little time and so little reason...
Mandel, Emily St. John	Station Eleven June 2015	Twenty years post-apocalypse, a road story about musicians and actors who kill and perform to survive. Good story
Isaacson, Walter	Steve Jobs	Biography – wonderful story of a troubled genius and the company he created.
Holmes, Sheri	A Stolen Tongue	Pilgrims in 14 th cen look to put St. Katherine's many parts back together. Absurdly fascinating – imaginative writing.
Dugard, Jaycee	A Stolen Life	Kidnapped at 11, found at 29 with two daughters by a sex offender. Amazing story of resilience.
Oufkir, Malink	Stolen Lives: 20 Years in a Desert Jail	Lesson: do not fall out of favor with the king of Morocco. Interesting, not great.
Lovesey, Peter	The Stone Wife	Ordinary police procedural – enjoyed

Author	Title	Comments
	June 2015	the Chaucer references
Murakami, Haruki	The Strange Library	Magical little book, bound with beautiful prints – all about finding the way...
Kidder, Tracy	Strength in What Remains	Memoir about Deo Gratias, a Tutsi from Burundi, who raises himself from a farmer/herder family to attend medical school. All comes to an end with genocide. He miraculously escapes to the US, attends Columbia and a year of med school before returning to Burundi to set up a clinic.
Waldman, Amy	The Submission	Plotted around fictional contest for 9/11 Twin Towers memorial. Interesting characters and realistic denouement.
Mahfouz, Naguib	Sugar Street	Third of trilogy (I've not read the first two) about families in Cairo in between WWI and WWII. Sad. Enlightening about Muslim Brotherhood, role of women, why Egypt is doomed.
Hirahara, Naomi	Summer of the Big Bachi	Interesting story of Japanese-Americans in CA post WWII, some of whom were bombed in Hiroshima. First novel.
Schteyngart, Gary	Super Sad True Love Story	The world in 2020 – 1984-ish, good writer but I personally did not like the story.
Buckley, Christopher	Supreme Courtship	Light, didactic novel about a TV judge who is appointed to the Supreme Court. Would make a lovely movie.
McEwan, Ian	Sweet Tooth	About a 23 year old MI5 female. Just not compelling – woman too naïve, could not relate to anyone in the story – bad attempt to write in the female gender – but McEwan's writing style is always fine.
Grisham, John	Sycamore Row May, 2015	Fast read, not his best, reverts back to hackneyed theme of white vs black in rural south.

Author	Title	Comments
Boyle, TC	Talk, Talk	Sort of mystery genre about a deaf woman – makes you appreciate the gift of hearing and communication.
Shona Patel	Teatime for the Firefly	Informative story about life on a tea garden (plantation) in Assam, India 1940-49. First novel, promising author.
Tóibín, Colm	The Testament of Mary	Read by Meryl Streep. Brilliant.
Russo, Richard	That Old Cape Magic	Family story about the pull of Cape Cod on a difficult married couple and their only adult son. So-so
Porter, Andres	The Theory of Light and Matter	Short stories – first book – several scenarios seemed repetitious. Liked Amish story.
Petrushevskaya, Ludmilla	There Once Lived A Woman Who Tried to Kill Her Neighbor's Baby: Scary Fairy Tales May 2016	Excellent, adult tales with a dour Slavic twist. Read one a night and enjoy Petrushenskaya's craftsmanship.
Strycker, Noah	The Thing with Feathers	Delightful natural history tales of why birds are more human than we think.
Nafisi, Azar	Things I've Been Silent About	Bitter memoir about a bitter mother, growing up in Tehran, ending up in the US.
Mitchell, David	Thousand Autumns of Jacob DeZoot	Excellent historical novel about Dutch in Japan at turn of 17 th century.
Larson, Erik	Thunderstruck May 2015	Good history of Marconi and wireless – interwoven with murder/romance. I enjoyed this book.
Vaillant, John	The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival	A murder mystery and the perp is tiger. Good natural history book about Russian Amur tigers, the people who hunt and who save them.
Jance, J.A.	Tombstone Courage	Second in the Joanna Brady series. Love the settings that I recognize.
Boyle, TC	The Tortilla Curtain	For me, his best book. Funny and heartbreaking.

Author	Title	Comments
Dubus III, Andre	Townie	Memoir of his growing up and relationship with father. Too much fighting, but that was his youth.
Barash, Susan Shapiro	Toxic Friends	Waste of time. Might be of use to younger woman – seemed an idea forced into a format.
Hwang, Frances	Transparency	Debut short stories. Well written, ethereal, poignant.
Johnson, Denis	Tree of Smoke	Vietnam masterpiece. Learn what it really means to be lost...I listened to it. Great book.
Matthiessen, Peter	The Tree Where Man Was Born	Written in the 70's about East Africa in the 60's. Haunting, sad, realistic, beautiful prose.
Remini, Leah	Troublemaker Nov 2015	More than I ever wanted to know about Scientology. Remini is brave to leave and publicize this cult. Easy read.
Farrell, J G	Troubles	Excellent book about the Irish "troubles" from the POV of an English aristocrat living in Ireland.
Murphy, Louise	The True Story of Hansel and Gretel	Good writer – turns fairy tale into a Holocaust survival story
Mathis, Anaya	The Twelve Tribes of Hattie June 2015	Listened. Good for 1st novel, but characters stereotypical or not well developed. Did not engage for me.
Cumming, Charles	Typhoon	Spy novel about Uighur militants in China. OK
Hillenbrand, Lauren	Unbroken	Excellent WWII story – Pacific theater
McCall, Guadalupe Garcia	Under the Mesquite	YA memoir of her mother's death from cancer, her family's immigration across the Rio Grande and Lupita's coming of age – all in blank verse. Wonderful book for YA facing family illness, especially Latinos.
Macfarlane, Robert	Underland: A Deep Time Journey	Explorations under the earth, deep and shallow. Excellent non-fiction
Shusterman, Neal	Unwind	Really interesting YA book about how the dystopian world solves the right to life issue.
Harding, Luke	A Very Expensive	Putin is one evil dude. Don't cross

Author	Title	Comments
	Poison: The Assassination of Alexander Litvinenko and Putin's War with the West August 2017	him. Shows how Russian assassins can be both efficient and at other times inefficient and sloppy. They get the job done either way. Interesting info on Russians who have been granted asylum in G.B.
Boyd, William	Waiting for Sunrise	Good WWI military thriller set mostly in England.
Cortez, Sarah	Walking Home: Growing Up Hispanic in Houston	Short fictionalized memoir of four generations and their pervasive Catholic belief – combined with Sarah's poems about her adolescence. Poems will sweep you away.
Boyle, TC	Water Music	Fun read about British explorer in Africa.
O'Brien, Stacey	Wesley the Owl: A Remarkable 19 Year Love Story between a Girl And A Barn Owl May 2015	Amazing story, well told. A must for bird nerds and natural history buffs.
Saunt, Claudio	West of the Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776	Good historical snapshot but not enough interpretation or development of huge US/British/Spanish situation. Perhaps too short a book.
Fowler, Karen Joy	We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves	Big prizewinner that did not grip me. Once the mystery about the sister is solved, book becomes a predictable bore.
Reyn, Irina	What Happened to Anna K	Retelling of Anna Karenina story among orthodox Jews in Queens. So-so.
Flavell, Julie	When London Was Capital of America June 2015	Entertaining American history, mostly ten years pre 1776. Good read for history buffs.
Boyle, TC	When The Killings Done	Novel about the Catalina Islands off CA. Takes no prisoners or sides about wildlife preservation and island biodiversity.
Sedaris, David	When You Are Engulfed in Flames	David takes us through his "change of life" from a cigarette smoking, alcoholic druggie to an almost

Author	Title	Comments
		boring ex-pat writer living in France. The essays are good in small doses.
Morse, Eleanor	White Dog Fell from the Sky	Sad, tortured story about apartheid in the 70's – good read, but probably ends too neatly.
Price, Richard	The Whites	Good police thriller – fast read.
Corriere, Lala	Widows' Row	Fun and informative story about radical surgery in Trinidad, CO.
Lanson, Lori	The Wife's Tale July 2017	Quick and easy read – road story about a fat woman who taken a geographical cure – and it works. A bit too simplistic.
Payton, Brian	The Wind Is Not a River	Aleutian Islands, WWII, novel about rogue reporter who crashes among the Japanese. Only WWII battle fought on US soil. Good, not great.
Cortez, Sarah	Windows into My World: Latino Youth Write Their Lives	Excellent writing by Latino teenagers.
Sansom, C J	Winter in Madrid	How life goes on during Spanish Civil War. Love story of reporter and medical volunteer. Interesting horrors about role of Church and war orphans
Follett, Ken	Winter of the World	Second of the 20 th century trilogy – just too many characters moving too quickly through history.
Mantel, Hillary	Wolf Hall	Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn from the pov of Thomas Cromwell. Excellent historical novel
Boyle, TC	The Women	Wives of Frank Lloyd Wright – all intelligent women and why they loved him is a mystery. Interesting read, but no Tortilla Curtain.
Follett, Ken	World without End	Excellent sequel to Pillars of the Earth. A real page turner
Boyle, TC	World's End	Fun romp in the history of the Hudson River Valley.
McCullough, David	The Wright Brothers Nov. 2015	Excellent biography. Makes me proud to be an American.
Chabon, Michael	The Yiddish Policemen's Union	Such an imagination! At the end of WWII, Jews are sent to Sitka, AK where they create a colony for 50

Author	Title	Comments
		years – and this is the end of its term.
Cortez, Sarah	You Don't Have a Clue: Latino Mystery Stories	Collection by or about Latinos – edited by Sarah. Good tales overall.
Montifiore, Simon Sebag	Young Stalin	Dense but fascinating reading about the impoverished childhood of Joseph Djugashvili. Strong influence of wild west in Georgia on his criminal development – and the refinement of his character in Siberia.
Aslan, Reza	Zealot	Interesting, short, about historical, not spiritual Jesus and early Christianity.
Férey, Caryl	Zulu Feb. 2014	Gripping pot-boiler about contemporary Cape Town, SA